

6L00692

WILDERNESS STUDY AREA DECISIONS

Nevada BLM Intensive Wilderness Inventory





United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Nevada State Office
300 Booth Street
P.O. Box 12000
Reno, Nevada 89520

IN REPLY REFER TO

8500
(N-930)

November 15, 1980

After two years of hard work and a tremendous amount of assistance and cooperation from the public, the Bureau of Land Management in Nevada is now at the end of the inventory phase of the wilderness review program and ready to announce its decisions on wilderness study area designations. These decisions will become final in 30 days.

They are based upon an intensive inventory of the public lands under wilderness consideration done by BLM staff people and thousands of comments received by groups and individuals in response to our earlier recommendations. I have carefully reviewed all this information in making these final decisions.

Like any decision under consideration, there were pros and cons from those involved and the many people who offered their data and opinions on the best choice for each particular unit. However, the key question at the inventory stage is whether or not the wilderness characteristics identified by Congress exist in that unit. These are size, naturalness, and outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. Supplemental values are also inventoried.

In making these determinations, all of us in the Bureau were as fair and objective as possible. Since public opinion varied widely on most of the areas under consideration, few, or perhaps none, of these decisions will probably satisfy everyone who commented.

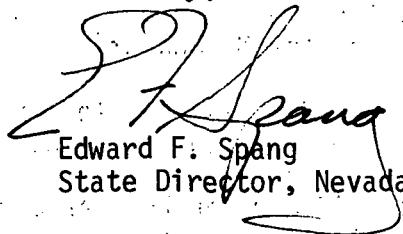
For those who still disagree with our factual assessment of the presence or absence of wilderness characteristics in a particular area, there are procedures for protests and appeals. These are explained in the introduction portion of this book. There may also be those who accept our factual assessment but strongly feel that an area should not become wilderness because of the presence of other important resources. The next phase, the study or planning phase, will give them, as well as those supporting wilderness for that area, many opportunities to express their preferences. This phase, explained in detail later in the book, will consider all possible land uses for a given area and will lead to our recommendation to Congress on the suitability or unsuitability of the area for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Throughout the inventory process, public involvement has been a very high priority. Dozens of meetings were held, thousands of letters, books, and maps were mailed, and countless telephone and personal conversations took place in an effort to make sure the public was kept informed about the process, our

progress, and the recommendations and subsequent decisions. We hope all this effort has been useful to you; we know it has been invaluable to us in making these difficult, but critical inventory decisions.

I hope you find time to review these decisions in detail. Additional copies of this book and larger scale maps are available from all BLM offices in Nevada. We certainly appreciate your cooperation and request your continued interest and involvement in the BLM's wilderness review program.

Sincerely,



Edward F. Spang
State Director, Nevada

INTRODUCTION

This book contains summary information about the Bureau of Land Management's intensive wilderness inventory conducted in Nevada due to a requirement of the 1976 Federal Land Policy and Management Act. In addition to the Bureau's inventory findings, the State Director's decisions on which public land areas in the State are designated wilderness study areas and which areas are dropped from further wilderness review are also included in this document. These decisions will be implemented in 30 days (Dec. 15, 1980). Provisions for protests and appeals to these decisions are described below. Detailed reports on the intensive inventory conducted on each area are available for review at the BLM District office that administers the land. Reports on all areas inventoried in the State are available for review at the Nevada State Office in Reno.

The Bureau's direction from Congress was to inventory all public land under its jurisdiction for the following characteristics:

1) Size--Congress said a wilderness area should have at least 5,000 acres or more of contiguous public land or be of a size to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition;

2) Naturalness--Congress said a wilderness area must be substantially natural or generally appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable;

3) Outstanding Solitude or Recreation--Congress said a wilderness area must have either outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation;

4) Supplemental Values--Congress said a wilderness area may have supplemental values, which include ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value. However, the presence or absence of supplemental values could not make or eliminate an area as a wilderness area.

In order to qualify as a wilderness study area, a roadless area must meet the above criteria. The presence of supplemental values is optional and need not be present to qualify an area.

Over the past two years, the BLM in Nevada has been reviewing all the land under its jurisdiction in Nevada for these characteristics. The public has been extremely helpful in accomplishing this heavy workload. A year ago, the Bureau announced its initial or first cut inventory decisions, eliminating from consideration areas that obviously lacked these characteristics. The remaining lands were carried forward into this final intensive inventory for a closer look. In addition, intensive inventories on some public land acreage were accelerated to facilitate planning for high priority projects that couldn't wait until now for a conclusive wilderness decision. Details on these special inventories are discussed later in this book.

The BLM is now at the end of the intensive inventory phase. In all but a very few special cases explained later in this book, the inventory is complete and a decision has been made. However, the public does have the right to protest any of the individual inventory decisions explained in this book. A formal 30-day protest period began on Nov. 15 with publication of these decisions and concludes Dec. 15, 1980. Protests must be received in writing by State Director Ed Spang no later than Dec. 15 to be considered. Protests received after that date will be rejected.

Protests must be written and specifically state why the unit does or does not contain the wilderness characteristics cited earlier. Additional information must include the name and number of the unit as well as the name and address of the person protesting. The State Director will carefully analyze each protest and will notify the person involved of his action on the protest. Decisions on units under protest will not be implemented until the protest is resolved and all rights of appeal have been exhausted. Appeals to these decisions may be filed with the Interior Board of Land Appeals within 30 days after the person protesting is notified of the State Director's action on the protest. Exact appeals procedures will be explained at the time of the notification on the protest action.

If no protests are filed, these decisions will become final Dec. 15. Areas designated wilderness study areas will continue to be managed under special guidelines directed by Congress to preserve wilderness values until a final determination on wilderness suitability or unsuitability is made. Areas not possessing wilderness characteristics and dropped from further wilderness consideration are relieved of such special guidelines and normal management will be resumed on that date.

Once the wilderness study area designations are final, the Bureau moves into the next phase of the wilderness review program. Called the study or land use planning phase, this involves an area by area comparison of the wilderness resource within that wilderness study area to other resources that exist in the same area. Public involvement is also critically important to this phase of the program, since this data will be the basis for the Bureau's eventual recommendations to Congress on which of these wilderness study areas are suitable and which are unsuitable for Congressional designation and inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Details on this next phase are included later in this book.

This book covers other information on wilderness that may be useful to you in understanding this program. Also included is feedback on the thousands of responses the Bureau received to its inventory recommendations published April 1, 1980. The bulk of this document is individual narrative summaries of each of the 408 public land units inventoried in Nevada.

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STATEWIDE SUMMARY OF INTENSIVE
INVENTORY DECISIONS

Total Public Land Acreage in Intensive Inventory	Acreage Under Appeal- Decision Deferred	Acreage Dropped from Further Wilderness Consideration	Acreage Designated as Wilderness Study Areas
14,107,935 acres (408 units)	103,285 acres (6 units)	10,616,134 acres (331 units)	3,388,516 acres (71 units)

Special notes:

- 1) The balance of public lands in Nevada has either been dropped as a result of the initial inventory or has already been intensively inventoried because of a special public land project demanding early attention. A summary of these areas is contained in the recap chart later in this book.
- 2) Non-federal lands may be present within or along the boundaries of the inventory unit but was not included in the acreage totals and was not subjected to an inventory.
- 3) Details on the units under appeal are noted in the narratives that follow in this book.
- 4) These figures differ from the Bureau's earlier estimates because of more accurate acreage assessments and the limitation of acreage listed for interstate units to Nevada acreage only.

DISTRICT/UNIT LIST
OF INTENSIVE INVENTORY
ACREAGE DECISIONS*

UNIT NUMBER	UNIT NAME	TOTAL PUBLIC ACRES IN NEVADA	ACRES RELEASED FROM FURTHER WILDERNESS CONSIDERATION	ACRES DESIGNATED WSA
<u>Elko District</u>				
NV-010-002	Maverick Springs	84,840	84,840	0
NV-010-002-A	Maverick Springs	6,360	6,360	0
NV-010-002-B	Maverick Springs	5,760	5,760	0
NV-010-002-C	Maverick Springs	7,040	7,040	0
NV-010-002-D	Maverick Springs	7,700	7,700	0
NV-010-002-E	Maverick Springs	5,800	5,800	0
NV-010-002-F	Maverick Springs	31,360	31,360	0
NV-010-002-G	Maverick Springs	10,900	10,900	0
NV-010-002-J	Maverick Springs	7,700	7,700	0
NV-010-004	High Bald Peaks	31,560	31,560	0
NV-010-004B	High Bald Peaks	16,000	16,000	0
NV-010-016	Spruce Mountain	35,960	35,960	0
NV-010-016B	Spruce Mountain	8,150	8,150	0
NV-010-017	Spruce Ridge	46,600	46,600	0
NV-010-017C	Spruce Ridge	6,500	6,500	0
NV-010-022	Hogan	15,460	15,460	0
NV-010-023	Collar & Elbow	10,000	10,000	0
NV-010-023A	Collar & Elbow	8,300	8,300	0
NV-010-025	Leppy Peak	10,840	10,840	0
NV-010-027	Bluebell	66,130	2,980	63,150
NV-010-032	Morgan Basin	12,160	12,160	0
NV-010-033	Goshute Peak	101,340	12,900	88,440
NV-010-035	South Pequop	46,660	6,760	39,900
NV-010-035-B	South Pequop	6,100	6,100	0
NV-010-036	Boone Springs	8,320	8,320	0
NV-010-037	Brush Creek	13,320	13,320	0
NV-010-044	Antelope	33,020	33,020	0
NV-010-045	Currie Hills	27,640	27,640	0
NV-010-045-A	Currie Hills	7,760	7,760	0
NV-010-045-B	Currie Hills	5,200	5,200	0
NV-010-047	Kingsley	21,800	21,800	0
NV-010-047-D	Kingsley	8,160	8,160	0
NV-010-049	Sugarloaf	17,600	17,600	0
NV-010-050	Ferguson Mountain	6,960	6,960	0
NV-010-052	Lead Mine Hills	11,520	11,520	0
NV-010-053	Dead Cedar Wash	13,340	13,340	0
NV-010-054/ UT-020-044	Ferber Wash	6,900	6,900	0
NV-010-058	Deadhorse	10,800	10,800	0
NV-010-060	White Sage Flat	19,540	19,540	0
NV-010-061/ UT-020-050	Ferber Flat	6,300	6,300	0
NV-010-062/ UT-020-046	Utah Peak	5,700	5,700	0

*Narratives summarizing each of these decisions are presented later in this book.

UNIT NUMBER	UNIT NAME	TOTAL PUBLIC ACRES IN NEVADA	ACRES RELEASED FROM FURTHER WILDERNESS CONSIDERATION	ACRES DESIGNATED WSA
NV-010-070	Cortez	33,260	33,260	0
NV-010-074	Florio	12,100	12,100	0
NV-010-081	Smith Creek Mountains	20,850	20,850	0
NV-010-085	Diamond Hills	56,320	56,320	0
NV-010-102/ ID-12-56A	Little Owyhee	53,280		Under Appeal
NV-010-102-A NV-010-103/ ID-16-53	Little Owyhee Devil's Corral	5,800 8,960	5,800	0 Under Appeal
NV-010-103-A/ ID-16-53	Devil's Corral	10,880		Under Appeal
NV-010-104	Hat Peak	49,800	49,800	0
NV-010-105	Forklift	17,280	17,280	0
NV-010-106	Owyhee Canyon	17,520	350	17,170
NV-010-106-A	Owyhee Canyon	7,360	7,360	0
NV-010-106-B	Owyhee Canyon	43,520	43,520	0
NV-010-107	Airstrip #1	42,240	42,240	0
NV-010-108	Star Valley Cabin	32,000	32,000	0
NV-010-109	Silver Lake	41,470	41,470	0
NV-010-109-A	Silver Lake	43,650	43,650	0
NV-010-110	Milligan Creek	121,360	121,360	0
NV-010-111	Winter Creek	59,780	59,780	0
NV-010-112	Bullhead	55,150	55,150	0
NV-010-113	Burner Hill	16,770	16,770	0
NV-010-114	Cornucopia	28,760	28,760	0
NV-010-115	Big Cottonwood Canyon	56,140	56,140	0
NV-010-116	Sulfer	15,000	15,000	0
NV-010-129	Six Mile Hill	42,680	42,680	0
NV-010-130	Rock Creek	37,080	37,080	0
NV-010-131	Snowstorm	12,130	12,130	0
NV-010-132	Little Humboldt River	96,320	56,220	40,100
NV-010-133	Three Mile Creek	28,440	28,440	0
NV-010-134	Chino Creek	9,680	9,680	0
NV-010-135	Bull Run	8,700	8,700	0
NV-010-143	Adobe	11,230	11,230	0
NV-010-147	Double Mountain	36,740	36,740	0
NV-010-148	Beaver Creek	22,240	22,240	0
NV-010-149	Lookout Mountain	44,960	44,960	0
NV-010-150	Table Mountain	47,300	47,300	0
NV-010-151	Rough Hills	6,300	0	6,300
NV-010-152	Charleston Reservoir	5,120	5,120	0
NV-010-153	Mahala Creek	10,240	10,240	0
NV-010-160/ UT-020-009,011, 012	Wagon Box Pass	16,330	16,330	0
NV-010-160-B	Wagon Box Pass	6,000	6,000	0
NV-010-161	Bald Mountain	16,620	16,620	0
NV-010-162	Tee Pee Rock #2	11,000	11,000	0

UNIT NUMBER	UNIT NAME	TOTAL PUBLIC ACRES IN NEVADA	ACRES RELEASED FROM FURTHER WILDERNESS CONSIDERATION	ACRES DESIGNATED WSA
NV-010-164/ ID-22-1/ UT-020-001	Little Goose Creek #1	7,695		Under Appeal
NV-010-167	Little Goose Creek #4	5,300	5,300	0
NV-010-167-B	Little Goose Creek #4	6,100	6,100	0
NV-010-170	Bedke Well	26,880	26,880	0
NV-010-171	Delano	7,400	7,400	0
NV-010-171-A	Delano	10,450	10,450	0
NV-010-171-B	Delano	10,540	10,540	0
NV-010-174	Ninemile	21,120	21,120	0
NV-010-177	Tijuana John	12,840	12,840	0
NV-010-177-B	Tijuana John	12,990	12,990	0
NV-010-177-F	Tijuana John	6,560	6,560	0
NV-010-177-J	Tijuana John	6,320	6,320	0
NV-010-177-L	Tijuana John	14,400	14,400	0
NV-010-178	Granite	8,300	8,300	0
NV-010-178-A	Granite	15,420	15,420	0
NV-010-178-C	Granite	9,900	9,900	0
NV-010-178-F	Granite	7,900	7,900	0
NV-010-179/ ID-107-26/ ID-17-26	Cottonwood-Salmon Falls	11,790		Under Appeal
NV-010-181	Ellen and Dee	6,010	6,010	0
NV-010-181-C	Ellen and Dee	6,000	6,000	0
NV-010-181-E	Ellen and Dee	5,340	5,340	0
NV-010-183	Fort Yoho	12,350	12,350	0
NV-010-184	Bad Lands	72,480	63,480	9,000
NV-010-185	Canyon Creek	35,760	35,760	0
NV-010-187	Cottonwood	15,490	15,490	0
NV-010-188	Beaver Ponds	17,320	17,320	0
NV-010-193	Anderson Creek	8,920	8,920	0
NV-010-197	Hank's Creek	37,640	37,640	0
NV-010-198	Coyote	9,580	9,580	0
NV-010-199	Stag Mountain	40,240	40,240	0
<u>Winnemucca District</u>				
NV-020-001/ CA-020-919	Tenmile Spring	11,470	11,470	0
NV-020-004/ CA-020-813-A&B	Hog Ranch Mountain	9,980	9,980	0
NV-020-006/ CA-020-914-A	Warm Springs Canyon	65,369	65,369	0
NV-020-006-A/ CA-020-914	East Fork High Rock Canyon	53,920	0	53,920
NV-020-007	High Rock Lake	72,396	9,869	62,527
NV-020-008/ CA-020-913	Little High Rock Canyon	53,573	1,430	52,143
NV-020-009/ CA-020-823	Leadville	27,023	27,023	0
NV-020-010/ CA-020-816/				

UNIT NUMBER	UNIT NAME	TOTAL PUBLIC ACRES IN NEVADA	ACRES RELEASED FROM FURTHER WILDERNESS CONSIDERATION	ACRES DESIGNATION WSA
CA-020-821/ CA-020-820	Crutcher	52,745	52,745	0
NV-020-012/ CA-020-621, 618	Poodle Mountain	137,160	9,331	127,829
NV-020-014	Fox Mountain Range	81,424	9,077	72,347
NV-020-018	Division Peak	27,927	27,927	0
NV-020-019	Calico Mountains	67,931	2,070	65,861
NV-020-021/ CA-020-822-A&B/ CA-020-823	No Name	5,230	5,230	0
NV-020-200	Selenite Mountain	34,731	2,811	31,920
NV-020-201	Mt. Limbo	24,512	386	24,126
NV-020-204	Nightingales	56,549	56,549	0
NV-020-209	Razorback	67,467	67,467	0
NV-020-212	Lava Beds	69,605	69,605	0
NV-020-216	South Shawavee Mtns.	20,541	20,541	0
NV-020-217	Shawavee Mountains	65,757	65,757	0
NV-020-222	Blue Wing Mountains	43,711	43,711	0
NV-020-235	North Lava Bed	87,747	87,747	0
NV-020-406	Tobin Range	86,872	64,920	21,952
NV-020-408	Jersey Valley	55,710	55,710	0
NV-020-410	Table Mountain	64,518	64,518	0
NV-020-436	Granite Mountain	20,269	20,269	0
NV-020-600	Blue Lakes	33,224	9,827	23,397
NV-020-601	Alder Creek	30,467	30,467	0
NV-020-602	Mahogany Mountains	26,115	26,115	0
NV-020-603	South Jackson Mtns.	69,314	7,606	61,708
NV-020-604	Trident Peak	69,718	69,718	0
NV-020-606	North Jackson Mtns.	26,423	643	25,780
NV-020-609/ OR-2-80	Maggie Creek	20,894	20,894	0
NV-020-610	Sentinel Peak	28,060	28,060	0
NV-020-612	Bilk Creek	21,072	21,072	0
NV-020-615	Wood Canyon	6,681	6,681	0
NV-020-617	Middle Spring	11,460	11,460	0
NV-020-618	Texas Springs	10,853	10,853	0
NV-020-620	Black Rock Desert	551,300	218,189	333,111
NV-020-621	Pahute Peak	55,472	420	55,052
NV-020-621-A	Pahute Peak	32,240	32,240	0 0
NV-020-622	North Black Rock Range	94,356	64,411	29,945
NV-020-637	McGee Mountain	25,406	0	25,406
NV-020-641	Paiute Meadows	16,349	16,349	0
NV-020-642	Pueblo Mountains	640	640	0
NV-020-800	Long Ridge	12,430	12,430	0
NV-020-809A/ OR-3-172	Deer Flat	1,200	1,200	0
NV-020-810/ OR-3-191	Carin "C"	3,700	3,700	0
NV-020-811/ OR-3-159/ ID-16-70-E	Tent Creek	10,680		
NV-020-827	No. Fork Little Humboldt	114,021	32,701	81,320

Under Appeal

UNIT NUMBER	UNIT NAME	TOTAL PUBLIC ACRES IN NEVADA	ACRES RELEASED FROM FURTHER WILDERNESS CONSIDERATION	ACRES DESIGNATED WSA
NV-020-830	Sugar Loaf Hill	35,901	35,901	0
NV-020-835	Forks Ranch	21,998	21,998	0
NV-020-836	Little Owyhee River	34,883	34,883	0
NV-020-838	Lone Willow	24,597	24,597	0
NV-020-839/ ID-16-56B	Calico Ranch	33,043	33,043	0
NV-020-840	No Springs	11,174	11,174	0
NV-020-843	Raven Creek	21,436	21,436	0
NV-020-859/ OR-3-153/ OR-2-78	Disaster Peak	37,335	19,135	18,200
<u>Carson City District</u>				
NV-030-102	Clan Alpine Mtns	257,000	63,880	193,120
NV-030-104	Stillwater Range	113,310	21,257	92,053
NV-030-105	New Pass Range	61,500	61,500	0
NV-030-106	Shoshone Meadows	53,000	53,000	0
NV-030-108	Augusta Mountains	96,000	2,800	93,200
NV-030-110/ NV-060-288	Desatoya Mountains	78,160	30,010	48,150
NV-030-117	Diamond Canyon	65,000	65,000	0
NV-030-118	Desatoya South	30,240	30,240	0
NV-030-125	Desatoya North	55,500	55,500	0
NV-030-127	Job Peak	115,120	24,098	91,022
NV-030-136	Mount Annie	19,500	19,500	0
NV-030-323	Wassuk Range	57,600	57,600	0
NV-030-402	Gillis Range North	51,580	51,580	0
NV-030-407	Gabbs Valley Range	81,120	3,790	77,330
NV-030-409	Stewart Valley Hills	44,410	44,410	0
NV-030-425	Excelsior Mountains	66,850	66,850	0
NV-030-430	Basalt	55,450	27,890	27,560
NV-030-432	Hontone Mine	2,570	1,000	1,570
NV-030-435	Truman Meadows	7,560	7,560	0
NV-030-436	Queen Valley North	7,640	7,640	0
NV-030-437	Queen Valley Ranch	610	610	0
NV-030-439	Orchard Spring	760	760	0
NV-030-517	Rawe Peak	49,480	49,480	0
NV-030-520	Lyon Peak	36,000	36,000	0
NV-030-525	East Pine Nuts	38,785	38,785	0
NV-030-525-A	Burbank Canyons	14,490	1,095	13,395
*NV-030-531/ CA-010-105	Slinkard	5,440	0	5,440
*NV-030-532	Carson-Iceberg	550	0	550
NV-030-603/ CA-020-403	Fort Sage Mountain	22,990	22,990	0
NV-030-605	Virginia Mountains	89,275	89,275	0
NV-030-610	Peterson Mountain	17,170	17,170	0

*This acreage is actually in California, but is administered by the Carson City BLM District.

UNIT NUMBER	UNIT NAME	TOTAL PUBLIC ACRES IN NEVADA	ACRES RELEASED FROM FURTHER WILDERNESS CONSIDERATION	ACRES DESIGNATED WSA
<u>Ely District</u>				
NV-040-001/ UT-020-053,054	Northeast Corner	26,950	26,950	0
NV-040-004	Chin Creek	16,000	16,000	0
NV-040-007	Lehman Creek	17,300	17,300	0
NV-040-007-A	Lehman Creek	7,700	7,700	0
NV-040-008	Antelope Range	13,100	13,100	0
NV-040-009	Warm Springs	18,400	18,400	0
NV-040-015	Goshute Canyon	190,680	155,580	35,100
NV-040-016	Willow Spring	19,200	19,200	0
NV-040-019	Egan Basin	20,900	20,900	0
NV-040-021	Butte Mountains	47,860	47,860	0
NV-040-021-A	Butte Mountains	33,460	33,460	0
NV-040-034	Buck Mountain	41,180	41,180	0
NV-040-042	Maple Syrup Well	20,400	20,400	0
NV-040-043	Robber's Roost	48,400	48,400	0
NV-040-047	Frank's Well	20,500	20,500	0
NV-040-048	Toner Spring	20,900	20,900	0
NV-040-048-A	Heusser Mountain	32,940	32,940	0
NV-040-048-B	Toner Spring	6,940	6,940	0
NV-040-049	Telegraph Canyon	20,020	20,020	0
NV-040-050	Hot Springs	8,900	8,900	0
NV-040-065	Golden Springs	16,200	16,200	0
NV-040-070	Red Hills	12,800	12,800	0
NV-040-078	Grass Valley Reservoir	11,100	11,100	0
NV-040-079/ UT-050-019	Kern Mountains	7,500	7,500	0
NV-040-079-A	Kern Mountains	7,300	7,300	0
NV-040-081	White Cloud Basin	25,100	25,100	0
NV-040-081-A	White Cloud Basin	17,800	17,800	0
NV-040-085	Yelland Ranch	9,900	9,900	0
NV-040-086/ UT-050-029	Granite Spring	93,100	69,700	23,400
NV-040-100	Colorado Gulch	38,200	38,200	0
NV-040-100-C	John's Wash	3,000	3,000	0
NV-040-107	Kious Spring	2,900	2,900	0
NV-040-109	Snake Creek Cave	2,400	2,400	0
NV-040-110	Big Wash	1,000	1,000	0
NV-040-123	Martin Spring	24,800	24,800	0
NV-040-129	Copper Flat	42,600	42,600	0
NV-040-130-A	Deadman Gulch	9,800	9,800	0
NV-040-130-AA	Deadman Gulch	8,200	8,200	0
NV-040-130-AB	Deadman Gulch	11,900	11,900	0
NV-040-153	West Pancakes	317,820	317,820	0
NV-040-154	Park Range	50,600	4,100	4,6500
NV-040-155	South Pancakes	140,400	140,400	0
NV-040-159	Manzone Well	30,000	30,000	0
NV-040-159-A	Manzone Well	9,100	9,100	0
NV-040-159-B	Manzone Well	8,240	8,240	0
NV-040-166	Riordan's Well	190,700	133,900	56,800

UNIT NUMBER	UNIT NAME	TOTAL PUBLIC ACRES IN NEVADA	ACRES RELEASED FROM FURTHER WILDERNESS CONSIDERATION	ACRES DESIGNATED WSA
NV-040-184	Big Spring Wash	12,500	12,500	0
NV-040-185	Lexington Creek	4,900	4,900	0
NV-040-197	Table Mountain	57,260	21,660	35,600
NV-040-202/ UT-040-216	White Rock Range	33,370	13,780	19,590
NV-040-203	Burnt Canyon	7,860	7,860	0
NV-040-204	Camp Valley	16,000	16,000	0
NV-040-217	Black Cone	24,100	24,100	0
NV-040-226	Gap Mountain	9,800	9,800	0
NV-040-229	Scofield	10,200	10,200	0
NV-040-231	Bruno Creek	4,500	4,500	0
NV-040-234-A	South Badger Gulch	440	440	0
NV-040-235	Barton Spring	13,460	13,460	0
NV-040-241	Griswold	23,900	23,900	0
NV-040-241-A	Griswold	31,880	31,880	0
NV-040-242	Worthington Mtns	62,400	15,300	47,100
NV-040-243	Garden Valley Reservoir	99,580	99,580	0
NV-040-246	Weepah Spring	191,700	130,700	61,000
NV-040-247	Fossil Peak	88,900	88,900	0
NV-040-249	North Pahrana- gat Range	55,900	55,900	0
NV-040-249-A	North Pahrana- gat Range	21,500	21,500	0
NV-040-250	Southpaw	34,900	34,900	0
<u>Las Vegas District</u>				
NV-050-0100	Quinn Canyon	12,810	12,810	0
NV-050-0107	North Pahroc	28,847	28,847	0
NV-050-0108	Nesbitt	20,931	20,931	0
NV-050-0109	Seep Springs	15,149	15,149	0
NV-050-0112	Timpahute Range	52,800	52,800	0
NV-050-0113	Pahroc Summit Pass	61,737	61,737	0
NV-050-0114	Pahroc Spring	15,950	15,950	0
NV-050-0116	Chief Mountain	12,673	12,673	0
NV-050-0127	Swirl Cake Rock	8,690	8,690	0
NV-050-0131	East Pahrana- gat	152,458	136,258	16,200
NV-050-0132	South Pahroc/Hiko	71,055	42,455	28,600
NV-050-0154	Medsker Pass	11,462	0	11,462
NV-050-0165	Lower Pahrana- gat Lake	3,350	0	3,350
NV-050-0302	Cedar Mountain	10,577	10,577	0
NV-050-0304	Relay Station	23,379	23,379	0
NV-050-0305	Far North	11,905	11,905	0
NV-050-0306	Pilot Peak	59,274	59,274	0
NV-050-0308	Monte	7,637	7,637	0
NV-050-0311	Devils Gate	36,332	36,332	0
NV-050-0312	Rock Hill	41,392	41,392	0
NV-050-0317	Lone Mountain	38,239	38,239	0

UNIT NUMBER	UNIT NAME	TOTAL PUBLIC ACRES IN NEVADA	ACRES RELEASED FROM FURTHER WILDERNESS CONSIDERATION	ACRES DESIGNATED WSA
NV-050-0319	Montezuma Valley	12,047	12,047	0
NV-050-0320	Weepah Hills	29,153	29,153	0
NV-050-0323	Emigrant Peak	25,337	25,337	0
NV-050-0324	Volcanic Hills	25,444	25,444	0
NV-050-0325	Pinchot Creek	15,254	15,254	0
NV-050-0327	The Sump	30,693	30,693	0
NV-050-0328	Emigrant Pass	30,583	30,583	0
NV-050-0330/				
NV-050-0330-A	Monocline	20,150	20,150	0
NV-050-0331	The Choice	23,676	23,676	0
NV-050-0335	Misplaced	49,040	49,040	0
NV-050-0336	Clayton Ridge	106,593	106,593	0
NV-050-0337	Company Spring So.	25,206	25,206	0
NV-050-0337-A	Company Spring No.	10,880	10,880	0
NV-050-0338	Silver Peak Range No.	72,779	38,879	33,900
NV-050-0338-A	Silver Peak Range So.	54,845	54,845	0
NV-050-0339	Aiken	1,279	1,279	0
NV-050-0340	Red Mountain Triangle	33	33	0
NV-050-0341	Furnace Creek	1,050	1,050	0
NV-050-0342	Palmetto Mountains	30,165	30,165	0
NV-050-0344	Mount Jackson No.	33,720	33,720	0
NV-050-0344-A	Mount Jackson So.	6,184	6,184	0
NV-050-0345/				
NV-050-0345-A	Chispa Hills	30,599	30,599	0
NV-050-0349	Magruder Mountain	19,651	19,651	0
NV-050-0350	Pigeon Spring	6,977	3,402	3,575
NV-050-0351	Uncle Sam	24,223	24,223	0
NV-050-0352	Slate Ridge West	28,874	28,874	0
NV-050-0352-A	Slate Ridge East	8,813	8,813	0
NV-050-0353	Hell's Gate	19,596	19,596	0
NV-050-0354	Queer Mountain	88,729	7,179	81,550
NV-050-0355	Bonnie Claire Flat	81,776	12,776	69,000
NV-050-0358	Can You Believe	32,327	32,327	0
NV-050-0368	Porter Mine	6,689	600	6,089
NV-050-0369	Amargosa	12,526	73	12,453
NV-050-0370	Nothing Flats	12,055	2,545	9,510
NV-050-0372	Crater Flat	37,242	37,242	0
NV-050-0373	Black Marble	28,864	28,864	0
NV-050-0375	Big Dune	21,900	21,900	0
NV-050-0376	Dry Well	21,732	21,732	0
NV-050-0377	Jokersville	4,625	4,625	0
NV-050-0386	Claw	820	820	0
NV-050-0387	Old McNett Ranch	23,661	23,661	0
NV-050-03R-11-A	Fish Lake Valley	165	165	0
NV-050-03R-12	Pinto Hill	16,712	16,712	0
NV-050-03R-15-A	Lida Valley	852	852	0
NV-050-03R-22	Gem	2,193	40	2,153
NV-050-03R-23	Von Schmidt	2,786	2,786	0
NV-050-0401	Mount Stirling	203,000	133,350	69,650
NV-050-0406	Lost Cabin Spring	68,421	68,421	0

UNIT NUMBER	UNIT NAME	TOTAL PUBLIC ACRES IN NEVADA	ACRES RELEASED FROM FURTHER WILDERNESS CONSIDERATION	ACRES DESIGNATED WSA
NV-050-0410	Shoemaker Spring	82,917	82,917	0
NV-050-0414	Pine Creek	34,761	10,761	24,000
NV-050-0416	Wheeler	7,282	7,282	0
NV-050-0421	Clark Canyon	7,880	7,880	0
NV-050-0450	Striped Hills	20,698	20,698	0
NV-050-0451	Specter Range	34,340	34,340	0
NV-050-0457	Mount Montgomery	45,193	45,193	0
NV-050-0459	Ash Meadows	9,770	9,770	0
NV-050-0460	Resting Springs Range	21,058	17,208	3,850
NV-050-0461	Last Chance Range	27,079	27,079	0
NV-050-0462	High Peak	10,872	10,872	0
NV-050-0463	Grown	7,064	7,064	0
NV-050-04R-03-A				
B&C	Pahrump	10,958	10,958	0
NV-050-CDCA276	Dead Mountains	750	750	0

Battle Mountain District

NV-060-019	Kawich	39,000	11,640	27,360
NV-060-059	Rawhide Mountain	75,400	11,040	64,360
NV-060-069	Empire Canyon	17,620	17,620	0
NV-060-078	Stone Cabin	24,000	24,000	0
NV-060-079	Hot Creek	45,970	45,970	0
NV-060-086	Monarch	11,700	11,700	0
NV-060-089	Woods Canyon	25,900	25,900	0
NV-060-112	South Reveille	114,500	8,300	106,200
NV-060-113	Quinn Canyon	105,570	105,570	0
NV-060-120	East Kawich	18,100	18,100	0
NV-060-130	Castle Rock	22,300	22,300	0
NV-060-132	North Reveille	65,000	65,000	0
NV-060-136	Quinn Range	23,703	23,703	0
NV-060-142/162	Palisade Mesa	117,000	17,450	99,550
NV-060-158/199	Blue Eagle	72,900	13,340	59,560
NV-060-163	The Wall	43,300	5,300	38,000
NV-060-166	Grant Range	6,490	650	5,840
NV-060-174	Black Rock	25,500	25,500	0
NV-060-176	Big Round Valley	6,200	6,200	0
NV-060-183	North Pancake I	17,200	17,200	0
NV-060-184	North Pancake III	19,200	19,200	0
NV-060-188	Morgan	9,000	9,000	0
NV-060-190	Fandango	48,600	7,660	40,940
NV-060-191	Morey	29,700	9,580	20,120
NV-060-192	Slanted Buttes	23,900	23,900	0
NV-060-194	North Pancake II	26,400	26,400	0
NV-060-201/211	Sixmile	12,600	12,600	0
NV-060-212	Rhyolite Hills	34,300	34,300	0
NV-060-213	Red Ring Mountain	6,200	6,200	0
NV-060-219	Milton Ranch	9,300	9,300	0
NV-060-231/241	Antelope	148,300	60,900	87,400
NV-060-258	Buzanes	10,900	10,900	0
NV-060-278	Haypress	2,900	2,900	0
NV-060-279	White Rock	26,400	26,400	0

UNIT NUMBER	UNIT NAME	TOTAL PUBLIC ACRES IN NEVADA	ACRES RELEASED FROM FURTHER WILDERNESS CONSIDERATION	ACRES DESIGNATED WSA
NV-060-347	Diana's Punchbowl	14,700	14,700	0
NV-060-407	Bates Mountain	77,930	77,930	0
NV-060-415	Callaghan	79,300	79,300	0
NV-060-422	White Sage	16,400	16,400	0
NV-060-428	Simpson Park	51,500	1,830	49,670
NV-060-432	Willow Creek	35,300	35,300	0
NV-060-433	Manhattan Mountain	31,300	31,300	0
NV-060-442	Sage	10,900	10,900	0
NV-060-459	Rocky Hills	57,360	57,360	0
NV-060-461	South Fish Creek	104,500	104,500	0
NV-060-464	Elephant Head	44,200	44,200	0
NV-060-465	Carico Ranch	8,000	8,000	0
NV-060-467	Francis Cabin	5,700	5,700	0
NV-060-474	Red Rock	14,100	14,100	0
NV-060-478	Caetano Ranch	9,560	9,560	0
NV-060-482	North Fish Creek	52,400	52,400	0
NV-060-504	Diamond Mountains	73,470	73,470	0
NV-060-530	Rutabaga Creek	13,800	13,800	0
NV-060-531	Henderson	12,700	12,700	0
NV-060-541	Roberts	57,800	42,710	15,090
NV-060-554	North Diamond	43,800	43,800	0

District Totals

Elko	2,600,495	2,243,830	264,060
(under appeal)	(92,605)		
Winnemucca	2,856,579	1,679,355	1,166,544
(under appeal)	(10,680)		
Carson City	1,594,660	951,270	643,390
Ely	2,529,240	2,204,150	325,090
Las Vegas	2,427,188	2,051,846	375,342
Battle Mountain	2,099,773	1,485,683	614,090
State Totals	14,107,935	10,616,134	3,388,516

SPECIAL SITUATIONS

INTERSTATE AREAS:

The Bureau's wilderness inventory procedures* direct that roadless areas managed by the BLM which overlap state administrative boundaries will be jointly inventoried by the BLM districts in each state responsible for administration of these lands. One uniform inventory decision will be issued by the affected BLM State Directors for each such roadless area.

The summary tables in the beginning of the book indicate which areas overlap state administrative boundaries by listing both state inventory numbers. For example, Ferber Wash unit in the Elko District is listed as NV-010-054 and UT (for Utah)-020-044. Acreages on these interstate units are broken out in the tables in Appendix 2 of this book.

INTERSTATE AREAS UNDER APPEAL:

Initial wilderness inventory decisions (issued Sept. 30, 1979) on several interstate areas shared by Nevada with Idaho and Oregon are currently under appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, and their inventory decisions are pending a review by the board. In all cases, the appeals were filed on land in the adjoining state, but since the status of the entire roadless area will be affected by the appeal decisions, the inventory decisions on the Nevada land is also deferred.

The following lands in Elko and Winnemucca districts are affected by these appeals:

NV-010-102 Little Owyhee
NV-010-103 Devil's Corral
NV-010-103A Devil's Corral
NV-010-164 Little Goose Creek #1
NV-010-179 Cottonwood-Salmon Falls
NV-020-642 Pueblo Mountains
NV-020-811 Tent Creek

The Pueblo Mountains unit was identified as a wilderness study area in a previously conducted accelerated inventory. All of the other areas were listed in Nevada's intensive inventory recommendation book issued April 1, 1980. When a ruling is issued by the Interior Board of Land Appeals on these areas, the public will be notified of the decision and the inventory status of each area. As described in the narrative for each of these units that follows later in this book, public comments received on these units will be considered once a ruling by the board is made.

* The Bureau's inventory procedures are explained in these primary documents:
1) The Wilderness Inventory Handbook
2) Organic Act Directive No. 78-61, changes 1, 2, and 3
3) Instruction Memorandum 80-236

INTER-AGENCY AREAS:

The National Park Service, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U. S. Forest Service are other federal agencies conducting wilderness reviews on the roadless lands under their jurisdiction. Many of these agencies are further along in their wilderness review programs because their directive from Congress to inventory for wilderness values came much earlier than BLM's.

In some cases, a single roadless area of contiguous federal land overlaps the administrative boundary between the public land administered by BLM and other federally administered land. In these cases, the administrative boundary is unmarked on the ground, and visitors to the area would not be able to tell if they were on public land, national forest land, or any other jurisdictional category. These interagency areas and the situation in each particular case are noted in the narrative summaries of this book.

In some cases, the public land portion is a large, roadless block with inherent wilderness values that can stand alone, regardless of the outcome of the other agency's wilderness proposal or study.

In other cases, the land comprises an outer fringe of a large roadless area administered by another agency and identified as having wilderness values. If the public land portion is unnatural, it is eliminated from further wilderness consideration. If it is in a substantially natural state, the unit is further evaluated for the other wilderness characteristics.

In many of these situations, the Bureau recognizes that these remaining wilderness characteristics (opportunities for outstanding solitude and primitive recreation) identified on the larger roadless area are shared by the BLM-administered public land. The reason is, that in many cases, if outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation exist in an area, they do not stop or start at an administrative boundary that is unmarked on the ground. Where this situation exists, the Bureau will make every effort to conduct joint wilderness studies with the other agencies involved so that the proposal can be considered as a whole by Congress and the President. However, the Congress and the President could choose to consider the other agency's proposal separately, before considering the BLM's proposal. If this occurs and they should decide to eliminate the other agency's proposal from further wilderness consideration, the public land portion on its own may not contain sufficient wilderness characteristics to warrant further consideration or preservation. In this case, the Bureau should reconsider the wilderness study area status for the following areas:

NV-020-637	McGee Mountain
NV-030-430	Teel's Marsh
NV-030-432	Hontone Mine
NV-030-523	Carson-Iceberg
NV-040-086	Granite Spring
NV-050-0131	East Pahrnagat
NV-050-0154	Medsgger Pass
NV-050-0165	Lower Pahrnagat Lake
NV-050-0368	Porter Mine
NV-050-0369	Amargosa
NV-050-0370	Nothing Flats
NV-050-03R-22	Gem
NV-060-166	Grant Range

WILDERNESS INVENTORY
RECAP CHART

<u>Inventory Process</u>	<u>Acres</u> <u>Eliminated</u> (Areas)	<u>WSA</u> <u>Acres</u> (Areas)
Initial	25,140,136 (1,010)	0 (0)
Accelerated	7,008,909 (224)	1,326,780 (31)
Intensive	10,616,134 (331)	3,388,516 (71)
Under Appeal (decision deferred)	103,285 (6) (not included in totals)	
Totals	<hr/> 42,765,179 (1,565)	<hr/> 4,715,296 (102)

Special Note:

The total acreage does not include public lands in Nevada managed by the Susanville, California, BLM District and the Boise, Idaho, BLM District. It does include some lands in California which are managed by the Carson City, Nevada, BLM District.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED IN THE INTENSIVE INVENTORY

BACKGROUND:

As discussed earlier by State Director Spang, public involvement was a high priority in the wilderness inventory. Extensive efforts were made to publicize and explain the Bureau's purpose and recommendations. A large mailing list was developed during the initial inventory which grew dramatically during the intensive inventory phase as more people became aware of the program and wanted to be kept informed of the progress. To facilitate this effort, the Bureau began developing and sending out Wilderness Bulletins to keep people updated on the program, key dates for comments, meetings, availability of detailed materials, etc. In addition, the news media throughout the state were very cooperative in carrying stories on the continuing effort.

Once the Bureau announced its intensive inventory recommendations in April, 1980, contacts increased as district and state office BLM personnel began making presentations to officials and groups throughout the state. Twenty-three formal meetings were also held to reach any remaining interested publics. All of these contacts and meetings stressed the fact that the Bureau was searching for factual information on the presence or absence of wilderness characteristics. It was explained that later in the process people would get opportunities to state their preference for wilderness or other resources that may exist in the same area.

The Bureau's involvement efforts and the widespread interest in the program in the public sector resulted in a tremendous response to the Bureau's wilderness inventory. The BLM received about 3,200 pieces of mail on this issue.

Because it was important to carefully consider each response, the Bureau devised a content analysis system to code the comments received. Under this system each comment (called an input) was broken out into various levels of detail to give the decisionmakers the benefit of not only the factual details supplied but also the various opinions and supporting reasons included as well. It also enabled the Bureau to statistically summarize demographic data to show who commented, where they were from, and other important details that could help to understand the comment better. Finally, the system allowed each comment to be tracked to individual inventory units so that decisions could be made individually, unit by unit, using the public comments supplied.

A summary and certain portions of this analysis material, which amounted to several thousand pages, are included in this book. The remainder of this section will narratively summarize the total response received. Statistical tables showing the demographic information, the general opinions received, and their supporting reasons are provided in Appendix 1 of this book. This Appendix also contains a checklist of comments spread throughout the inventory units. In addition, under each of the more than 400 unit summaries in this book, there is a short summary of the comments received which specifically or generally mentioned that unit. The remaining data, including more detailed individual unit comments which were used by the decisionmakers, are available for review at the BLM State Office in Reno. Each district office also has the same information that applied to its jurisdiction.

SUMMARY ANALYSIS:

Between the end of the initial inventory comment period (July 31, 1979) and the end of the intensive inventory comment period (June 30, 1980) 2,756 submissions (called inputs in this analysis system) were made by 2,975 people, groups, etc. (called signatures in this system). The signatures exceed the inputs because sometimes the input was signed or endorsed by more than one person or group. That is about six times the amount of inputs/signatures submitted during the earlier initial inventory (495 inputs and 595 signatures).

About 80 percent of this voluminous input was received during the last week (June 22 through June 30, 1980) of the 90-day public comment period. In addition, 70 comments were received after that date but were in time to be coded. However, another 485 were received after the coding was concluded and could not be included in this analysis. This "last minute rush" is not unusual, as many agencies seeking public comment on proposals report most of the inputs are received at the end of the comment period. Nevada's last-week input level was so high mainly due to about 2,000 individual coupons received in bulk from national conservation groups in Washington, D. C. A more detailed discussion of these inputs, classified as coupons in our system, follows later in this analysis. About six percent (157) of the inputs were received prior to the commencement of the comment period because of the Bureau's open-ended invitation to the public to submit information on the intensive inventory any time after announcement of the initial inventory decisions on September 30, 1979.

Although almost 3,000 individual submissions may seem like a substantial number, it is necessary to point out that nearly all (99 percent) of these inputs discussed individual units. In fact, some of the inputs received discussed a dozen or more individual units in detail. A substantial number of respondents (138) supplied photographs, maps, etc. to document their opinions. Under our coding system, if an individual or a group discussed 100 units, those unit comments were separated and summarized so that all comments relating to a single unit could be easily isolated and reviewed. Therefore, the system actually handled thousands of individual comments relating to specific units. About half (2,462) were specific comments mentioning by number or describing in detail units under consideration. The 2,109 coupons received each referred to support of a proposal by several conservationist groups to include 200 units as Wilderness Study Areas in Nevada. Personal letters were also received in support of the 200 conservationist units. Therefore, the system handled 4,571 individual comments covering 380 of the 408 units under consideration.

If the public was broad in its discussion of specific units, it was also broad in the geographic spread of its opinions relating to units. All districts except Las Vegas received comments on more than 90 percent of their units. Battle Mountain was the highest with 98 percent of its units receiving comments. About 82 percent of the Las Vegas units received comments. This variance is probably attributable to the fact that Las Vegas has had considerable accelerated wilderness activity due to the Overthrust Belt/Intermountain Power Project efforts. Because of this accelerated effort, many of the District's controversial areas close to urban areas have already been designated or dropped from consideration as Wilderness Study Areas.

Before discussing the demographics of the input received, the matter of the wilderness coupons should be explained, since their number (2,109 plus 179 individual letters written in the same vein) tend to have a tremendous impact on the statistical summaries. A coalition of national conservation groups sent flyers to its membership and other conservation memberships encouraging support of 200 units in Nevada identified by conservationists as desirable for WSA status.

Even though the coupons were general in nature, they do refer to specific units. In addition, about 32 percent (692) of the coupon submissions included individual comments about wilderness in general. These general opinions are tallied in Appendix 1. In addition, conservationists in Nevada targeted 49 areas proposed for release to receive special emphasis toward a revised WSA proposal. (These are also included in the national 200 target.) These 49 Nevada conservationist proposals were referred to by 39 inputs.

To more clearly indicate the origin of the comments received, the analysis broke out the inputs in three ways: 1) by Nevada counties; 2) by States surrounding Nevada; and 3) by other States. Since the large bulk of the coupons were from the other states, it is not surprising that 81 percent of the total inputs fell into the other state category, with Nevada inputs representing only 11 percent of the total. If the coupons are subtracted from the total, Nevada's share of the inputs climbs to 49 percent; an additional 13 percent comes from California; a combined six percent from other States surrounding Nevada (Arizona, Idaho, Oregon, and Utah); and 32 percent from other States. Few (10 or less inputs) comments were received from many rural Nevada counties. Counties with 10 or less inputs include Churchill, Douglas, Esmeralda, Eureka, Lander, Lincoln, Lyon, Mineral, Nye, and Storey. An exact breakdown is found in Appendix 1.

An objective effort was made to try and ascertain the interest of the person or groups responding. Since the coupons expressed environmental viewpoints, about 86 percent of all inputs were categorized as coming from environmentalists. In about eight percent (208) of the inputs, the exact interest could not be determined and the coders were instructed not to guess. Of the other interests categorized, the minerals industry led with three percent (95) of the inputs, ranchers with two percent (52) and rockhounds, sportsmen, wildlife, and other interests coming up with one percent each or less.

Predictably, coupons led the list of types of forms used by respondents, commanding 77 percent (2,109) of the total input. Second place in favored form of inputs was personal letters, comprising 15 percent (417) of the total. Response forms that the Bureau sent out to the public and handed out at offices and public meetings amounted to four percent (115), form letters (which include duplicates of other inputs) weren't far behind at three percent (93), followed by reports at one percent (11); verbal forms (which BLM uses to document a telephone or personal contact where opinions are expressed) accounted for one percent or seven inputs and petitions drew only four inputs (less than one percent) but amounted to 94 signatures (or three percent of the total signatures).

Submissions by individuals dominated the responses received, amounting to 92 percent (2,553) of the total input. Informal groups (one or more signatures, such as a family) were second with four percent (85), followed by companies with two percent (61), formal, organized groups with one percent (37), and government agencies also with one percent (20 inputs). It should be pointed out that although many of the coupon submissions were generated by specific conservation groups, the people sending them in did not say they represented any particular group, but were writing as individuals.

The analysis system used allows easy cross-referencing of demographic information. For example, residence information can be cross-sorted by interest to find out where the various interests represented reside or work. The environmental interests were heavily concentrated in States outside the West (93 percent). The bulk of the remainder were from Oregon (four percent or 82 inputs), California (two percent or 45), and Washoe County, Nevada (one percent or 22). In addition to surrounding States like Arizona, Idaho, and Utah, the only other environmental interests identifiable listed Clark County and Carson City as their residence. The rural Nevada counties had no identifiable environmental representation.

Nevada counties were listed as home for most of the mineral industry representation (61 percent). Washoe County led the group, followed by Clark, Lander, Carson City, Elko, Churchill, White Pine, and Pershing. The remainder is spread throughout the other counties. The only other large interest group represented were the ranchers. These concentrated in the rural counties of Humboldt (13 inputs or 25 percent), Elko (eight inputs or 14 percent), Washoe (five inputs/10 percent, most from the Gerlach area or corporate Reno offices of large ranches), Nye, Lincoln, Churchill, Eureka, Lander, or Mineral (listed in declining number order). The only ranchers coming from other states were from California, Idaho, and Oregon. The "unknown" interest group was dominated by inputs from Pershing and Washoe Counties. Seventy-three inputs, amounting to 32 percent, came from Pershing County with no definite indication of interest and 26 inputs or 12 percent came from Washoe. The rest were scattered through the other residence categories.

A cross-reference was also done to show how the interests represented submitted their inputs. The largest interest, the environmentalists, overwhelmingly submitted their inputs (89 percent) through the coupons. Another 10 percent (246 inputs) came in personal letters, followed by response forms, reports, and petitions. The minerals industry submitted most comments through personal letters (55 percent or 52 inputs), followed by response forms (33 percent or 31 inputs), reports (five percent or five inputs), verbal forms (four percent) and form letters (three percent). Ranchers almost evenly split their input between personal letters (48 percent) and response forms (46 percent). The remainder came in reports or verbal comments. The "unknown" category also evenly split its input between personal letters (38 percent) and form letters (40 percent) with an additional 21 percent (46 inputs) coming in through response forms.

Even though the Bureau's emphasis during the inventory phase was on specific comments relating to the individual units, many people still made a general comment about wilderness or other related topics. Thirty-two percent of the

inputs (882) made a general statement either pro or con about wilderness. The larger number of those comments were pro (865) with 17 stating a negative opinion about wilderness. A large percentage (80 percent) of those were from the wilderness coupons. The reasons were many and varied, but four major concerns came to the surface: (1) that the public lands belong to all Americans and their opinions supporting wilderness should be equally considered; (2) that wilderness should be saved for future generations; (3) that more wilderness should be preserved in this country; and (4) that Nevada's fragile desert environment should be preserved through wilderness designation. The con comments concentrated on a general dislike of wilderness as a resource use, anticipated restrictions on the local rural economies of Nevada, and wilderness as a discriminatory use enjoyed by few at the expense of many.

A few people (one percent) also discussed the Bureau's wilderness inventory procedures. All 18 inputs involved voiced negative opinions about those procedures, with the most mentioned objection being the problem of screening criterion for judging solitude being used inappropriately in desert areas.

A larger number (53 inputs or two percent) commented on the way the BLM applied those procedures on public lands in Nevada. Opinions on this subject were fairly evenly split with 47 percent feeling the Bureau did a good job in Nevada and 53 percent citing a broad spectrum of objectionable applications. Topping the list with 15 references was the complaint that the Bureau was using "sights and sounds" outside of an area to judge wilderness characteristics within the area.

A few respondents (four) also commented on the Bureau's Interim Management Policy (IMP) guidelines. Most made negative comments about the guidelines, stating that vehicular use should be eliminated in WSAs, the IMP should apply to sensitive areas under consideration for other designations such as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, and the IMP should allow for utility corridor expansion along boundaries. A few (five) respondents made comments about the Bureau's public involvement methods during the intensive inventory, with two stating the Bureau had done a good job and three saying the Bureau had done a poor job.

Some (29 inputs) also discussed issues outside the wilderness question, but related to public land management. Topping the list with 19 times mentioned was the opinion that wilderness designation is preferable to MX deployment in Nevada. Other comments included eliminating clear-cutting of timber, banning poison in predator control programs, disagreement with the Sagebrush Rebellion, and various site-specific problems.

The final subject discussed in the comments received was other resource values. In much of the Bureau's literature, it was stressed that the inventory involved looking only at the presence or absence of the wilderness resource, not a comparison with other resource values. That, it was explained, would be handled during the planning or study phase. Even so, many comments involved other resource values, either generally (24 total inputs) or related to specific units (893 comments directed at 328 individual units). Mineral values were the most frequently mentioned, followed by grazing values. Rights-of-way, off-road vehicle use, rockhounding, water resources, and wildlife habitat were also mentioned.

Although other resource values were often mentioned in relation to a specific unit, most of the specific unit comments addressed the presence or absence of wilderness characteristics such as size, roadlessness, naturalness, outstanding opportunity for solitude and primitive recreation, and supplemental values. The Statewide checklist in Appendix 1 illustrates the span of these comments. A unit-by-unit summary of the comments made is included in each narrative description in this book.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The Bureau is directed by two Federal laws in its wilderness review program. One was passed by Congress in 1964 called the Wilderness Act. The other, passed in 1976, called the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, placed the Bureau of Land Management under the 1964 Act which originally applied only to the Forest Service, the National Park Service, and the Fish and Wildlife Service. Copies of these laws are available from the BLM. For your assistance, several pertinent passages are outlined below:

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976:

"Sec. 603.(a) Within fifteen years after the date of approval of this Act, the Secretary shall review those roadless areas of five thousand acres or more and roadless islands of the public lands, identified during the inventory required by Section 201(a) of this Act as having wilderness characteristics described in the Wilderness Act of September 3, 1964 . . . and shall from time to time report to the President his recommendation as to the suitability or nonsuitability of each such area or island for preservation as wilderness: Provided, That prior to any recommendations for the designation of an area as wilderness the Secretary shall cause mineral surveys to be conducted by the Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines to determine the mineral values, if any, that may be present in such areas"

The Wilderness Act of 1964:

"Sec. 2.

(c) A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his 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. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act 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 five thousand 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."

THE WILDERNESS REVIEW PROCESS IN CHART FORM

PHASE	PURPOSE	TIMEFRAME
1. Inventory	To review all public land for wilderness characteristics. (A flow chart to illustrate the inventory phase is attached to the back of this fact sheet. Procedures for accomplishing this phase are detailed in BLM's <i>Wilderness Inventory Handbook</i> of September 27, 1978. Copies are available at any BLM office.)	Entire inventory complete by September, 1980.
(a) Initial	Based on existing information, take an initial look at the public lands and determine which obviously and clearly do NOT meet the mandated wilderness criteria . These areas are removed from any further study and all management restrictions imposed by law are lifted.	Initial inventory complete by September, 1979.
(b) Intensive	All the remaining lands are intensively field surveyed to determine if they contain the wilderness characteristics described in the Wilderness Act. If wilderness characteristics do exist, the areas are designated Wilderness Study Areas. If they do not exist, the areas are removed from any further study and all wilderness related management restrictions imposed by law are lifted.	Intensive inventory complete by September, 1980.
2. Study	Once Wilderness Study Areas are designated and the wilderness resource is identified, that resource is weighed against all other values, resources, and uses of the public lands such as off-road vehicle use, mineral values, livestock forage, wild horses, wildlife habitat, energy development, etc., in the BLM's land use planning system. In some cases, wilderness preservation may be in direct conflict with another resource, but in other situations wilderness may be compatible with other resource needs. Comparing wilderness values with other resource values is an important part of the study phase. During this phase, BLM, with the public's help, will consider and resolve whether orderly land development or preservation within the National Wilderness Preservation System is the best use of these Wilderness Study Areas.	The study phase will be completed according to the statewide land use planning schedule. Some plans are being completed this year and all will be updated and completed no later than 1989.
3. Reporting	During the study phase, recommendations are made on whether each Wilderness Study Area is suitable or unsuitable for designation as a Wilderness Area by Congress. During the reporting phase, these recommendations are forwarded through the Secretary of the Interior and the President to Congress. Mineral surveys, environmental statements, and other data are also submitted with these recommendations.	All recommendations must be submitted to the President no later than October 21, 1991

NOTE: Only Congress can designate an area as part of the Wilderness Preservation System.

INTERIM MANAGEMENT POLICY

In the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, Congress was very specific about how areas were to be managed while the inventory was being conducted and once wilderness study areas were identified:

"(c) During the period of review of such areas and until Congress has determined otherwise, the Secretary shall continue to manage such lands according to his authority under this Act and other applicable law in a manner so as not to impair the suitability of such areas for preservation as wilderness, subject, however, to the continuation of existing mining and grazing uses and mineral leasing in the manner and degree in which the same was being conducted on the date of approval of this Act: Provided, That, in managing the public lands the Secretary shall by regulation or otherwise take any action required to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of the lands and their resources or to afford environmental protection."

Needless to say, carrying out such a mandate requires a great deal of specific management policy and direction. Recognizing the importance of such an interpretation, the Bureau published a draft interim management policy in January 1979 and requested public comments. After reviewing those comments a final IMP was published in December, 1979. Copies are available from all BLM offices.

One aspect of that policy that has been very controversial in Nevada and needs continued reinforcement is the question of air quality standards. Essentially, wilderness study areas or even eventual Wilderness Areas designated by Congress have no impact on the area's air quality designation. Air quality designations or standards are governed by the Clean Air Act (as amended, 1977). That law declared all public lands managed by BLM as Class II, which allows moderate air quality deterioration associated with moderate, well-controlled industrial and population growth. The BLM will continue to manage wilderness study areas as Class II. In addition, the Department of Interior has stated many times that it will not seek or recommend reclassification of these areas to the more restrictive Class I in connection with further wilderness recommendations resulting from BLM's wilderness review. The two processes are separate and distinct and they should not be confused. Recommendations for wilderness designation are made by the BLM through the Secretary of the Interior and the President to Congress. Air quality reclassification is the prerogative of the states and it must follow a process mandated by the Clean Air Act, including studies, public hearings, and reports to the Environmental Protection Agency.

WILDERNESS STUDY AND MANAGEMENT

THE STUDY PHASE:

As has been discussed with the public many times, the designation by the BLM of a wilderness study area does not mean the area automatically becomes part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. It simply means that the characteristics identified by Congress (i.e. size, naturalness, and outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation) are present in that particular area. Congress reserved to itself the final determination of what areas will and will not become designated wilderness and part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

However, the Bureau's job in the wilderness program is not yet complete. The inventory phase is only one of three steps that must be accomplished before the proposal is submitted to Congress. The chart included earlier in this section outlines the wilderness review components of inventory, study, and reporting. Each wilderness study area will be analyzed in detail during the wilderness study phase. The Bureau's established land use planning system will compare the importance of preserving the wilderness values identified in each WSA with other potential land uses in the same area. The result of the study and planning phase will be the basis for a recommendation to Congress on the suitability or unsuitability of each area for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The public will have many opportunities during the planning phase to voice their opinions. The final phase, the reporting phase, is actually forwarding these recommendations through the Secretary of the Interior and the President to Congress. Mineral surveys required by law, environmental statements, and other data gathered during the study phase will also be submitted with these recommendations.

The exact process of the study and reporting phases will be detailed in a draft document soon to be issued by the BLM for public review. A public comment period will be announced when the draft is issued and a final document is expected to be released sometime during 1981. Anyone on the BLM's wilderness mailing list will be notified when this draft is available.

WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT:

Ultimately, Congress and the President will make their decisions on which public land areas become part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. Although this is sometime off in the future, it is critical to public understanding of what wilderness means that wilderness management policies be explained as quickly as possible. These lands will be managed under the guidance and authority of the Wilderness Act of 1964. Each wilderness area will be preserved in its roadless and natural state under policies outlined in the law.

Like any law, these policies need to be expanded into detailed procedures that the agency and the public can understand. The Bureau is presently drafting a wilderness management policy document that will explain the goals and objectives and the "nitty gritty" specifics of wilderness management on the public lands. This document will also be issued in draft form for public review before it is finalized sometime during 1981. Again, all those on the BLM's wilderness mailing list will be notified when that draft is issued.

ACCELERATED INVENTORIES

During the initial and intensive wilderness inventory phases, it has sometimes become necessary to speed up or accelerate the overall inventory process to accommodate certain high priority public land projects. Often, these accelerated inventories were initiated by a public land user who requested a permit or lease of some kind to perform an activity on the public lands that may have an impact on the area's possible wilderness values. So that high priority uses were not held up by the two-year inventory process, the Bureau's personnel completed early inventories on those areas to determine if wilderness characteristics were or were not present on the area in question. If the answer was negative, the area was released from further wilderness consideration and the use allowed. If the answer was positive and wilderness characteristics were found, the area was declared a wilderness study area. Quite often, portions of the area did possess wilderness characteristics and portions did not. With close coordination between the BLM and the user involved, the use requested was usually accommodated in non-WSA areas. WSAs continue to be preserved in their natural state.

These special, accelerated inventories stretched over the two-year effort. Decisions on these areas have already been made with the help of public comments and no further inventory is required. A summary of these areas follows:

<u>Name of Special Inventory</u>	<u>Total Acreage</u>	<u>Acres Dropped</u>	<u>Acres WSA</u>
Oil & Gas Lease Lands	1,871,470	1,855,640	15,830
Rip Rap Site (Highway Dept.)	11,200	11,200	-
Sierra Pacific Powerline	255,434	255,434	-
Valmy Power	92,600	92,600	-
Gund Ranch Transfer	102,300	102,300	-
Dolly Varden/Victoria	62,720	62,720	-
Mineral Hill	13,640	13,640	-
Intermountain Power Project #1	2,877,980	2,268,358	609,622
Intermountain Power Project #2	101,000	50,300	50,700
Mt. Wheeler Powerline	82,000	82,000	-
Oil Well Drilling Permit	118,900	118,900	-
Ely Prison Site	16,000	16,000	-
Las Vegas Prison Site	48,900	48,900	-
Mormon Mesa Drilling Permit	81,200	81,200	-
American Selco et.al.	379,920	379,920	-
San Antonio Molybdenum	88,200	88,200	-
Hickison Molybdenum	23,400	23,400	-
Overthrust Belt	2,098,665	1,448,637	650,028
Pueblo Mountains	10,160	9,560	600 *
	<u>8,335,689</u>	<u>7,008,909</u>	<u>1,326,780</u>

* The decision on this unit has been appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals and the final decision is still pending.

INSTANT STUDY AREAS

In the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, Congress made a special provision for inventories on areas previously designated by BLM as natural or primitive areas. It stated that recommendations on these areas must be submitted much earlier than on other areas. It specified a early deadline of July 1, 1980, for BLM through the Secretary of Interior to have recommendations on these areas to the President. The President has two years to present them to Congress.

In Nevada, there are no agency-designated primitive areas. There are 11 natural areas, designated to identify a particular resource value that is unique or outstanding. They range in size from 150 to 7,650 acres. During the course of the accelerated inventories and the initial inventory, six of these areas were within public land units that were found to lack wilderness characteristics and were dropped from further consideration. This does not mean that the protection and recognition afforded these natural areas was removed. They remain designated natural areas. It means that the Bureau's inventories found that these areas and the land surrounding them did not contain wilderness characteristics and were not designated wilderness study areas. Reports on these areas, as required by Congress, have been forwarded to the Secretary of Interior.

As for the remaining five areas, the Bureau submitted status reports to Congress essentially stating that the areas themselves because of size or other factors, did not contain wilderness characteristics. A public comment period was allowed and general public support of this conclusion was received. However, these natural areas fall within larger roadless public land areas that were intensively inventoried and the decisions resulting from that inventory are included in this book.

A summary of the status of these areas follows:

NATURAL AREAS INCLUDED IN INTENSIVE INVENTORY DECISIONS ISSUED IN THIS BOOK

<u>District</u>	<u>Natural Area</u>	<u>Within Unit No.</u>	<u>Unit Decisions</u>
Winnemucca	Lahontan-Cutthroat Trout	NV-020-622	A portion (29,945 acres) of the unit is designated a WSA including a part of the natural area.
Ely	Bristlecone Pine	NV-040-048A	Unit is dropped from further consideration.
Ely	Goshute Canyon	NV-040-015	A portion (31,000 acres) of the unit is designated a WSA, including a part of the natural area.
Las Vegas	Pine Creek Canyon	NV-050-0414	A portion (24,000 acres) of the unit is designated a WSA, including the entire natural area.
Las Vegas	Pinyon-Joshua Tree Transition	NV-050-0337 and NV-050-0338A	Both units are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

Final reports will now be prepared for transmittal to the Secretary of the Interior on the two areas eliminated from wilderness consideration (Bristlecone Pine and Pinyon-Joshua Tree Transition Natural Areas). The remaining three natural areas (Lahontan-Cutthroat Trout, Goshute Canyon, and Pine Creek Canyon) will be studied through the Bureau's land use planning process before a wilderness suitability recommendation for each area is transmitted to the Secretary of the Interior. A schedule for these studies is currently being developed.

A summary of the six areas already dropped from consideration through initial or accelerated inventories follows:

NATURAL AREAS ALREADY REVIEWED
BY THE PUBLIC
DECISION-FINAL

<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>NATURAL AREA</u>	<u>WITHIN UNIT NO.</u>	<u>DECISION</u>
Ely	Swamp Cedar	NV-040-089	No Wilderness Characteristics
Ely	Shoshone Ponds	NV-040-180	No Wilderness Characteristics
Ely	Pygmy Sage	NV-040-099	No Wilderness Characteristics
Las Vegas	Virgin Mountain	NV-050-0222	No Wilderness Characteristics
Las Vegas	Sunrise Mountain	NV-050-0420	No Wilderness Characteristics
Battle Mountain	Mountain Meadow	NV-060-221	No Wilderness Characteristics

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

- BLM DISTRICT OFFICE
- BLM STATE OFFICE

WILDERNESS
COORDINATORS
IN NEVADA

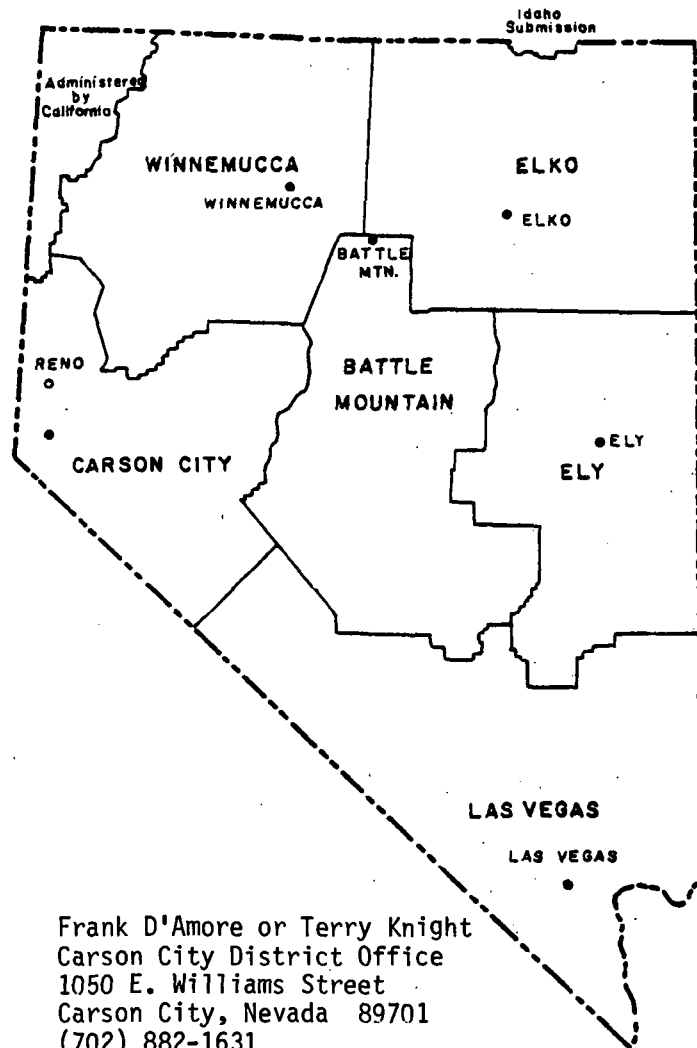
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FORMAT OF UNIT SUMMARIES

Each unit summary is listed in numerical order according to district boundaries. The district codes shown are Elko (NV-010); Winnemucca (NV-020); Carson City (NV-030); Ely (NV-040); Las Vegas (NV-050); and Battle Mountain (NV-060). The units listed are only those that underwent intensive inventory. All other public land units not listed have already been dropped through the initial or accelerated inventories or have already been designated wilderness study areas after public comment during the accelerated inventories. Any exceptions are explained in the "special situation" section included earlier in this book. Unit numbers listed are coded and shown on the statewide map included with this book.

The format of each summary is as follows:

- Area Description: This includes a brief discussion of where the area is and what it looks like.
- Characteristics Inventoried: This includes the wilderness characteristics discussed in the introduction part of this book, including size, naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation, and supplemental values.
- Original Recommendation: This includes the original recommendation published by BLM for public review on April 1, 1980. Occasionally, acreage figures have been amended to correct errors discovered since April.
- Summary of Public Comments: This includes a brief description of the public comments received on this particular unit. Summary information on public comment analysis is included at the beginning and in Appendix 1 of this book.
- Final Decision: This includes the final decision as issued by the State Director. It may or may not be the same as the earlier recommendation.
- Rationale for Decision: This includes the State Director's rationale or reasons for the final decision.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-002

UNIT NAME: Maverick Springs

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko and White Pine Counties about 50 miles southeast of Elko, Nevada. The Maverick Springs Range runs through the center of the unit with valleys on both sides. The vegetation is pinyon-juniper on the range and sagebrush elsewhere.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 84,840 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: Ten miles of dead-end roads penetrate the unit, and while outside the unit, parallel each other and affect the naturalness of the adjacent areas. There are also 60 miles of ways, a developed spring and windmills, and four miles of bladed fence line. Because these are separated by such large distances, they are not substantially noticeable giving the unit apparent naturalness.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Topographic and vegetative screening in the Maverick Springs range is good. Elsewhere in the unit it is poor. Although the feeling of solitude would be good in the range, it is not considered outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Possible activities include hiking, backpacking, camping, hunting, and rockhounding. The quality and diversity of these activities are less than outstanding. No water is available in the unit.
4. Supplemental Values: Parts of the area have some scenic value.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

84,840 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit. One noted mining impacts, and the other mentioned naturalness and good screening potential. Supplemental values and other resource values were also mentioned.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

84,840 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-002-A

UNIT NAME: Maverick Springs

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 50 miles southeast of Elko, Nevada. It is very flat and the dominant form of vegetation is low-growing big sagebrush.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 6,360 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: The area is essentially natural, although four miles of ways are in it.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Because the area is so flat, there is little topographic screening. In addition, the low-growing big sagebrush offers little vegetative screening. Therefore, the user would have difficulty finding solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Possible activities include hiking, hunting, and horseback riding. The opportunities are limited because the area as a whole offers few features that would attract primitive recreationists. Because of the area's uninteresting terrain, lack of vegetative cover, and poor scenery, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined type of recreation.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

6,360 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit. It noted outstanding recreation opportunities, possible rehabilitation of roads, and supplemental values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

6,360 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though a comment was received supporting WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-002-B

UNIT NAME: Maverick Springs

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko and White Pine Counties about 50 miles southeast of Elko, Nevada. It is completely flat with a few drainages running through it. The dominant vegetation is low-growing big sagebrush.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 5,760 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: The unit is essentially natural, although there is a half-mile way in it.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude do not exist because there is no topographic or vegetative screening.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Possible activities include hiking, horseback riding, and hunting. The opportunities are limited because the area as a whole offers few features that would attract primitive recreationists. Because of the area's uninteresting terrain, poor vegetative cover, and poor scenery, outstanding recreation opportunities do not exist. Water is also lacking.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

5,760 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit. It noted outstanding recreation opportunities, possible road rehabilitation, and supplemental values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

5,760 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though a comment was received supporting WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-002-C.

UNIT NAME: Maverick Springs

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in the Elko and White Pine Counties about 50 miles southeast of Elko, Nevada. It is part of Ruby Valley and is fairly flat with a butte in the southwest portion. The dominant vegetation is low-growing big sagebrush.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 7,040 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: The area is essentially natural, although there are six miles of ways in it.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: There is practically no topographic screening in the unit, nor is there very much vegetative screening. Therefore, the opportunities for solitude are low.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Possible activities include hiking, hunting, and horseback riding. Because of the area's small size, uninteresting terrain, lack of vegetative cover, and poor scenery, the area does not offer outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

7,040 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit. It noted outstanding recreation opportunities, possible road rehabilitation, and supplemental values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

7,040 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though a comment was received supporting WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-002-D

UNIT NAME: Maverick Springs

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 45 miles southeast of Elko, Nevada. It is part of Ruby Valley and is mostly flat, with a knoll in the southeast part. The dominant vegetation is low-growing big sagebrush.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 7,700 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: The area is essentially natural, although there are six miles of ways and fenceline.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: It is unlikely a sense of solitude would be experienced in this unit because of the presence of man's works and poor or non-existent topographic or vegetative screening.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Possible activities include hiking, hunting, and horseback riding. Because of the area's small size, uninteresting terrain, lack of vegetative cover, and poor scenery, it is unlikely the area would offer an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

7,700 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit. It noted outstanding recreation opportunities, possible road rehabilitation, and supplemental values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

7,700 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though a comment was received supporting WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-002-E

UNIT NAME: Maverick Springs

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 45 miles southeast of Elko, Nevada. It is almost totally flat, with a few small rolling hills in the extreme south of the unit. The dominant vegetation is low-growing big sagebrush.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 5,800 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: The area is essentially natural because of four miles of ways, a well, windmill, and three miles of fenceline are substantially unnoticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: There is no topographic screening and very little vegetative screening. This, combined with the impacts of man's works and the small size of the unit, does not give the user a high sense of solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Possible activities include hiking, hunting, and horseback riding. The opportunities are limited because the area as a whole offers few features that would attract primitive recreationists. Because of the area's uninteresting terrain, lack of vegetative cover, poor scenery, and small size, it does not offer an outstanding opportunity for primitive recreation.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

5,800 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit. One noted mining impacts and the other mentioned outstanding recreation opportunities and possible road rehabilitation. Also mentioned were supplemental values and other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

5,800 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-002-F

UNIT NAME: Maverick Springs

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit lies in Elko and White Pine Counties about 50 miles southeast of Elko, Nevada. The Maverick Springs Range runs through the center of the unit with flat valleys on either side. The vegetation is pinyon-juniper on the range with sagebrush on either side.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 31,360 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: An 18,550-acre portion was deleted because it lacked naturalness; it had 37 miles of ways and two developed springs that are substantially noticeable. The other 12,810 acres are in a natural condition.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Within the natural portion, topographic and vegetative screening in the Maverick Springs Range is good. Elsewhere in the remaining portion it is poor. Although opportunities for solitude would be good in the range, they are not considered outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Possible activities include hiking, backpacking, camping, hunting, and rockhounding. The quality and diversity of these activities are not considered outstanding. Water is difficult to locate in the unit.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

31,360 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit. It noted outstanding recreation opportunities, possible road rehabilitation, and supplemental values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

31,360 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though a comment was received supporting WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-002-G

UNIT NAME: Maverick Springs

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko and White Pine Counties about 50 miles southeast of Elko, Nevada. The southern portion is a flat valley with drainages running through it, and the northern portion contains some low hills consisting of the lower portion of the Medicine Range. Vegetation consists of low sagebrush on the flats and juniper in the hills.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 10,900 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: The area is essentially natural, although there are about three miles of ways in it.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Topographic screening is moderate in the north and poor in the south. Vegetative screening is poor in the south and fair in the north. Because of the unit's relatively small size and the poor to moderate screening, the opportunities for solitude are only fair.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Activities available include hiking, hunting, and horseback riding. The opportunities are marginal because the area as a whole offers few features that would attract primitive recreationists. Another negative factor is the configuration of the unit, since it is narrow (one to three miles) and only seven miles long.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

10,900 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit. It noted outstanding recreation opportunities, possible road rehabilitation, and supplemental values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

10,900 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though a comment was received supporting WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-002-J

UNIT NAME: Maverick Springs

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 55 miles southeast of Elko, Nevada. The area is fairly flat in the east and has low rolling hills in the west. The dominant vegetation is low-growing big sagebrush with some pinyon-juniper in the hills.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 7,700 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: The unit is essentially natural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The low foothills offer moderate topographic screening. The vegetative screening from the juniper stands is moderate and the trees are sparse and short. Therefore, opportunities for solitude are not considered outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Possible activities include hiking, hunting, and horseback riding. These activities would only be average in quality, since there are no spectacular or unusual features to enhance these experiences. There is no water available.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

7,700 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit. It noted outstanding recreation opportunities, possible road rehabilitation, and supplemental values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

7,700 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though a comment was received supporting WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-004

UNIT NAME: High Bald Peaks

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 50 miles southeast of Elko, Nevada. The High Bald Peaks and the northern portion of the Medicine Range are in the central portion, while the rest of the area is flat. The vegetation mainly consists of pinyon-juniper, with big sage on the flatlands.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 31,560 acres of public land. Three parcels totaling 6,020 acres were separated by documented roads and do not meet the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: The 25,540 acres remaining are essentially natural, although 13 miles of ways, a mine, and several small prospects do exist in the unit.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The topographic screening provided by the High Bald Peaks is good but is not considered outstanding. The remaining part of the Medicine Range also provides moderate screening as well as the pinyon-juniper stands. However, solitude is not considered outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Recreational opportunities available include hiking, backpacking, sightseeing, camping, horseback riding, hunting, and wildlife observation, and all are less than outstanding. There are no spectacular or unusual features to enhance these activities.
4. Supplemental Values: Some parts of the area have good scenic quality.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

31,560 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit. One noted mining impacts, the other mentioned naturalness, good screening, and possible rehabilitation of existing ways. One also noted supplemental values and the other listed other resource values. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

31,560 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-004-B

UNIT NAME: High Bald Peaks

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 50 miles southeast of Elko, Nevada. A chain of low foothills is in the central portion of the unit, with flat lands surrounding the hills. Big sagebrush is dominant in most of the unit with some sparse pinyon-juniper on the hills.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 16,000 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: The unit is essentially natural, even though 16-miles of ways crisscross the area.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The topographic screening in the foothills is moderate, and the vegetative screening provided by the pinyon-juniper is also moderate. The vegetative and topographic screening in the rest of the unit is poor. The solitude provided is only moderate.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Recreational opportunities include hiking, horseback riding, hunting, backpacking, and camping. Opportunities are less than outstanding because the unit contains no spectacular or unusual features to attract recreationists.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

16,000 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit. It mentioned mining impacts and other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

16,000 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by the public comment, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-016

UNIT NAME: Spruce Mountain

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit lies approximately 60 air miles southeast of Elko, Elko County, Nevada. The unit consists of moderate slopes falling away from a main ridge line comprised of the Spruce Mountains. The main ridge runs approximately three miles in a generally southern direction. The vegetation in this unit runs from a small sage-juniper association to small numbers of coniferous trees in the higher elevations. Elevation varies from 6,500 feet to 10,200 feet.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 35,960 acres of public land. One parcel totaling 4,300 acres is separated by roads and intrusions. The remaining 31,660 acres meet the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: One 1,700 acre parcel is covered by a vegetative manipulation project and lacks apparent naturalness. The remaining 29,960 acres are essentially natural. The 26 miles of ways, two miles of pipeline, and several mining scars are substantially unnoticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The western half contains Spruce Mountain, the highest elevation point in the unit. The ridge is two miles wide at the northern end and fans to four miles wide at the southern end. The slopes are steep and do not have great diversity. The vegetation provides moderate screening. Solitude on the northern end of the ridge is greatly affected by the mining developments outside the edge of the unit. Overall, solitude opportunities are not outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Backpacking, hiking, horseback riding, and photography are some activities possible within the unit. Backpacking, hiking, and photography would be good on the ridges. Horseback riding would be limited to the lower slopes. Screening and diversity allow for only a moderate recreational experience in this unit.
4. Supplemental Values: About five acres of bristlecone pine exist at higher elevations.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

35,960 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 14 specific comments on this unit. A few noted roads, intrusions, and suggested boundary changes, but the majority mentioned outstanding opportunities for solitude and recreation. Many noted supplemental values and a few listed other resource values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

35,960 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-016-B

UNIT NAME: Spruce Mountain

AREA DESCRIPTION: This unit is about 50 miles southeast of Elko, Nevada. It is generally flat with very little topographic relief. The west and north sides consist of shallow drainages leading north. The south and east portions have more slope and rise in elevation toward the southeast. The vegetation consists of low forms of sagebrush and scattered juniper trees.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 8,150 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: The entire 8,150 acre unit lacks naturalness. There are 15 miles of ways, 400-600 acres of chained and down juniper trees resulting from vegetative manipulation techniques, and about seven miles of fence line near the western boundary. All of these impacts are substantially noticeable. No further evaluation is necessary.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

8,150 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: None received.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

8,150 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: No public comments were received, and the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-017

UNIT NAME: Spruce Ridge

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit lies about 60 miles southeast of Elko, Nevada. The unit consists of a main ridge line running north-south. Elevations run from nearly 6,000 feet at the north end to about 9,000 feet on the south. The vegetation consists of low sagebrush on the outer fringes to juniper-pinyon pine on the ridges and slopes.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 46,600 acres of public land. Three parcels totaling 9,200 acres of land have been separated by roads and impacts. They do not meet the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: Two parcels totaling 37,400 acres are essentially natural because of seven miles of ways and several mining excavations are not substantially noticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The parcel on the south end (17,000 acres) has a main ridge line through the center. The topographic diversity is not outstanding as the ridge line drops off sharply to more shallow side canyons. The sage-juniper vegetation is not thick and provides only moderate screening. Users on the ridge would be in view of others. Mining activities have left pits and excavations that detract from the solitude in the unit. The entire south end of the unit and ridge line is greatly affected by mining activities just outside the south end of the unit. The northern parcel contains 20,400 acres that is characterized as an oblong-shaped singular ridge which trends north and south. The topography offers moderate screening. The ridge has a sparse cover of pinyon-juniper whereas the side slopes and the lower elevations have sage-juniper and big sagebrush cover, respectively.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Backpacking, hiking, horseback riding, and hunting are possible uses of both parcels. The steep rise of the main ridge and the only moderate topographic and vegetative screening lessen these experiences. Recreationists would tend to concentrate on the main ridge line. This ridge line is narrow and devoid of vegetative types that would provide screening. Therefore, outstanding opportunities for solitude are absent. Water accessibility is limited.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

46,600 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received eight specific comments on this unit. A few comments discussed roads and naturalness, but the majority mentioned outstanding solitude and recreation opportunities. One mentioned the air was polluted above Federal standards. Most noted supplemental values and one mentioned other resource values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

46,600 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-017-C

UNIT NAME: Spruce Ridge

AREA DESCRIPTION: This unit lies about 30 miles southeast of Elko, Nevada. This unit is flat to slightly rolling. The vegetative composition is small sagebrush. There is very little topographic or vegetative diversity within the unit. The unit is about five miles long and two miles wide.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 6,500 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: There are 900 acres of vegetative manipulation in the form of a seeding and five miles of ways that are substantially noticeable. Therefore, the entire unit lacks naturalness and no further evaluation is necessary.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

6,500 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: None received.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

6,500 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: No public comments were received, and the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-022

UNIT NAME: Hogan

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 30 air miles southeast of Wells, Nevada. A portion of the Pequop Mountains runs north-south through the unit. This is a single ridge with moderate juniper cover. The foothills and flatlands on both sides of the ridge are comprised of low growing big sagebrush.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 15,460 acres of public land. One 350-acre portion is separated by a road and does not meet the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: The remaining 15,110 acres are essentially natural because 10 miles of ways and the foundation of an old house found in the unit are substantially unnoticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The topographic and vegetative screening of the Pequop Mountains and junipers in the northern half of the unit provide moderate screening. The southern half is less diverse and has less vegetative cover. The southern half is also greatly affected by the Western Pacific Railroad track that borders the unit to the east, south, and west. Trains can be seen and heard from the entire southern portion. No opportunities for outstanding solitude were identified in the unit. Although not normally considered during inventory, these "outside" impacts were considered so extremely imposing that they could not be ignored.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Possible activities include backpacking, hiking, rock climbing, and rockhounding. Day hiking would be of moderate quality, since the size of the unit limits the duration of backpacking. Some rock climbing and rockhounding is possible in the southern half of the unit. Outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation do not exist. Water is also not available in the unit.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

15,460 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit. One mentioned the area was unnatural due to air pollution. The other noted other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

15,460 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-023

UNIT NAME: Collar & Elbow

AREA DESCRIPTION: This unit is in Elko County, about 80 miles east of Elko, Nevada. The unit is basically flat with small knob-like hills in several locations. The very shallow drainages are all off to the west. Vegetation consists of low sagebrush with an occasional juniper.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 10,000 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: The shallow drainages have several major ways and cut survey lines. These impacts are very apparent from any high point and render the entire 10,000 acre unit unnatural. No further evaluation is necessary.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

10,000 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit, noting other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

10,000 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by the public comment, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-023-A

UNIT NAME: Collar & Elbow

AREA DESCRIPTION: This unit is in Elko County, about 80 miles east of Elko, Nevada. This unit consists of gently rolling hills that drain off to the west. Vegetation consists of big sagebrush with scattered juniper.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 8,300 acres of public land. One parcel of 2,300 acres is separated by a road and does not meet the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: The remaining 6,000 acres have apparent naturalness. There are about four miles of ways within the unit, but they are substantially unnoticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The terrain is gently rolling and drops off from a rather flat area on the east to a definite slope on the west edge. The topographic relief is not outstanding. The vegetative screening from the juniper stands is not good since the trees are not tall and are well spaced. The vegetative and topographic screening would provide only a moderate, not outstanding, experience of solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Possible recreation in this unit includes hiking, horseback riding, photography, and hunting. The experience of hiking, horseback riding, and photography would be only average. The low topographic relief and thin vegetation do not allow for screening of users. There are no spectacular or unusual features to enhance the recreation experiences. Hunting would be good in late season due to deer moving through to winter grounds. The quality and diversity of these recreational opportunities are not considered outstanding.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

8,300 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: None received.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

8,300 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: No public comments were received, and the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-025

UNIT NAME: Leppy Peak

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about a mile northwest of Wendover, Utah. It is a grass-covered area with rolling hills and some sharp ridges.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 10,840 acres of public land. One 1,300-acre parcel is separated by roads and does not meet the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: The remaining 9,540 acres includes six miles of ways and three communication towers. Since these are substantially unnoticeable, the entire unit is essentially natural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The only diversity in topography offered is one narrow ridge running lengthwise through the unit. The ridge has no valleys or canyons and provides little screening. The flats on either side of the ridge or the low grasses also offer no seclusion. Outstanding opportunities for solitude do not exist.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Activities available include hiking, horseback riding, hunting, sightseeing, and photography. These activities are limited because of the lack of interesting terrain and photographic subjects. No outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation were identified.
4. Supplemental Values: Geological interest in some areas is high because of visual evidence of prehistoric lakes and volcanic activity.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

10,840 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit, noting other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

10,840 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by the public comment, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-027

UNIT NAME: Bluebell

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 15 miles southwest of Wendover, Utah. The Goshute Mountains run north-south through the unit. Vegetation includes big sagebrush and pinyon-juniper with some fir and mountain mahogany. The vegetative cover is fairly dense. Many drainages exist in the unit which wind their way to the top of the mountains.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 66,130 acres of public land. Two parcels totaling 2,780 acres are separated by roads and do not meet the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: One parcel of 200 acres includes physical evidence of past mining activities and is not natural. The remaining 63,150 acres contain nine reservoirs, 18 miles of ways, three corrals, and a mile of fenceline. These are separated by large distances and are not substantially noticeable. Therefore, the remaining acreage is essentially natural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The remaining 63,150 acre subunit is about 12 miles long and six miles wide. The topographic screening afforded by the mountains is excellent. Several drainages lead toward the ridge from both sides. The ridge-line has diverse topographic relief and provides superior screening. Vegetative cover is low-growing big sagebrush in the flats and fairly dense pinyon-juniper in the higher elevations. Outstanding opportunities for solitude exist.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Possible activities in the 63,150-acre subunit include backpacking, camping, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, sightseeing, photography, and collecting. Good hiking and camping are available in the drainages and along the ridge. The unit's large size provides a backpacking experience of several days and good horseback riding. Sightseeing and photography subjects are good in the unit. Altogether, opportunities for these activities are outstanding.
4. Supplemental Values: Both wild horses and archaeological values exist in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

63,150 acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

2,980 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 16 specific comments on this unit. A few noted range improvements, roads, and lack of outstanding opportunities. The majority mentioned outstanding recreation and solitude as well as other wilderness characteristics. Several noted supplemental values and two listed other resource values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

63,150 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

2,980 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates that a portion of the area does possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation. The portion eliminated from WSA consideration was found not to possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-032

UNIT NAME: Morgan Basin

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 15 miles southwest of Wendover, Utah. The unit covers a portion of the foothills of the Goshute Mountains. Two dry drainages, the largest known as Spring Gulch, trend south-easterly through the unit. The vegetation includes low sagebrush with some stands of denser pinyon-juniper at the higher elevations. A natural arch is found in the unit.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 12,160 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: The entire 12,160 acres are essentially natural; 15 miles of ways within the unit are substantially unnoticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The topographic and vegetative screening are generally good but not outstanding in the unit. This is especially true in Spring Gulch and in areas adjacent to a dead-end road leading west into the middle of the unit.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Possible activities include backpacking, camping, hiking, wildlife observation, sightseeing, and photography. A natural arch is located in Spring Gulch. Recrea-

tional activities are hampered by the presence of the ways in the unit since these will be periodically observed. The quality and diversity of these recreational opportunities are not considered outstanding.

4. Supplemental Values: Two areas of geological interest exist in the unit. One is a red rock area and the other is the natural arch in the Spring Gulch.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

12,160 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit, noting other resource values. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

12,160 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-033

UNIT NAME: Goshute Peak

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 20 miles southwest of Wendover, Utah. The unit includes the Goshute Mountains that run north-south through the unit. These mountains have dense stands of pinyon-juniper with small populations of fir and mountain mahogany. The unit includes many rocky outcrops, including sheer rock faces. Goshute Peak stands in the middle of the unit and rises to 9,611 feet.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 101,340 acres of public land. One parcel of 1,300 acres is separated by a road and does not meet the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: Four parcels totaling 11,600 acres are not natural. They include 20 miles of ways, four miles of telephone lines, and a gravel pit. The remaining 88,440 acres include 28 miles of ways and a hunting cabin. These are separated by such large distances that they are substantially unnoticeable. Therefore, the 88,440 acres is essentially natural.

3. Outstanding Opportunities for:

A. Solitude: In the natural portion, many canyons lead toward the ridgeline. These and the ridgeline have excellent topographic diversity. The vegetative cover is dense throughout most of the subunit and offers excellent screening from others. The large size also enhances experiences of solitude, making solitude opportunities outstanding.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Possible activities include backpacking, camping, hiking, hunting, sightseeing, and photography. The unit's large size lengthens the possible duration of backpacking and hiking excursions. The canyons have game trails to hike and forests for shelter. The ridgeline provides more difficult travel. Water is available in springs throughout the unit but is difficult to locate. The subunit provides excellent scenery such as canyons, trees, rocky outcrops, cliffs, and wildlife. Outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation exist in the 88,440-acre portion.

4. Supplemental Values: Wild horses exist in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

88,440 acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

12,900 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 18 specific comments on this unit. A few noted intrusions and lack of outstanding opportunities. The majority mentioned the area was roadless and natural with outstanding recreation and solitude. Several noted supplemental values and three listed other resource values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

88,440 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

12,900 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates that a portion of the area does possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation. The portion eliminated from WSA consideration was found not to possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-035

UNIT NAME: South Pequop

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 20 miles south of Wells, Nevada. The southern end of the Pequop Mountains forms the backbone of the unit. The southwestern portion of the unit is densely forested with pinyon-

juniper, mountain mahogany, limber pine, and white fir. The northern portion has less vegetative cover and more rocky outcrops than elsewhere. The general terrain of the area is rugged with some flatter areas interspersed throughout.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 46,660 acres of public land. Two parcels totaling 5,060 acres are separated by roads and do not meet the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: A 1,700-acre crested wheatgrass seeding lies southwest of one of the parcels separated by roads. This area is substantially noticeable and considered unnatural. The remaining 39,900 acres are in an essentially natural condition.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The original recommendation indicated that while the topographic and vegetative screening provide good opportunities for solitude in places, the unit was not considered to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. After review of public comments, the State Director has concluded that the rugged topography and ample woodland areas in the unit combine to offer outstanding opportunities.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The original recommendation stated that primitive recreational opportunities are not outstanding in the unit; however, public comments pointed out that numerous opportunities are present. The State Director has concluded that the diversity of hiking and camping opportunities along with the scenic values associated with the unit combine to offer an outstanding opportunity.
4. Supplemental Values: The Pequop area has a high scenic value.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

46,660 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received five specific comments on this unit. One noted the air was polluted above Federal standards. Another suggested a boundary change. The remaining comments discussed the presence of wilderness values, with most noting supplemental values. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

39,900 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

6,760 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates that a portion of the area does possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation. The portion eliminated from WSA consideration was found not to possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-035-B

UNIT NAME: South Pequop

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 20 miles south of Wells, Nevada. The extreme southern end of the Pequop Mountains is in the western portion, while the eastern two-thirds is totally flat. Vegetative types include big sagebrush and pinyon-juniper.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 6,100 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: Four miles of ways occur in the unit but are relatively unnoticeable. Therefore, the entire 6,100 acres are essentially natural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The topographic and vegetative screening are only moderate in this unit and provide only a moderate, not outstanding, opportunity for solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Activities include hiking, camping, and hunting. The quality and diversity of these opportunities are not considered outstanding. Water is also unavailable.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

6,100 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: None received.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

6,100 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: No public comments were received, and the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-036

UNIT NAME: Boone Springs

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 45 miles southeast of Wells, Nevada. The area is characterized by a mountainous ridge in the western portion with sparse pinyon-juniper and sagebrush vegetation and is flat to gently sloping in the eastern portion.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 8,320 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: Six miles of ways exist within the unit, but they are substantially unnoticeable; therefore, the unit has apparent naturalness.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The ridgeline and the pinyon-juniper vegetation on it provides moderate screening. Little screening is available in the rest of the unit. No outstanding opportunities for solitude exist in the unit.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Possible activities include hiking, sightseeing, backpacking, camping, hunting, and horse-back riding. The quality and diversity of these activities are not considered outstanding. No water sources exist in the unit.
4. Supplemental Values: Interesting geology exists within the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

8,320 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit. One mentioned the air was polluted above Federal standards and one noted other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

8,320 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-037

UNIT NAME: Brush Creek

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 40 miles south of Wells, Nevada. The unit consists of a narrow ridge in the north and a flat area in the south.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 13,320 acres of public land.

2. Naturalness: There is some mining activity and eight miles of ways in the unit but these are substantially unnoticeable. The 13,320-acre area is essentially natural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The vegetative screening is moderate and the topographic screening is low to moderate. The narrowness of the ridge combined with the moderate screening make solitude less than outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Possible activities include hiking, camping, horseback riding, and hunting. These activities are limited by the narrow configuration of the unit and are considered less than outstanding. Water is not available in the unit.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

13,320 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit. One mentioned the air was polluted above Federal standards and one noted other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

13,320 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-044

UNIT NAME: Antelope

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 20 miles east of Currie, Nevada. The Antelope Range runs north and south through the unit. The remaining areas are fairly flat.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 33,020 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: There are 15 miles of ways in the unit, but they are substantially unnoticeable; thus, the 33,020-acre area is generally natural.

3. Outstanding Opportunities for:

A. Solitude: Opportunities for solitude are less than outstanding because there is moderate topographic screening and little vegetative screening.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Possible activities include hiking, backpacking, and hunting. No specific attractions in the area enhance recreational activities. The quality and diversity of these opportunities are considered less than outstanding. Water is also unavailable.

4. Supplemental Values: Antelope can be seen in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

33,020 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit. One mentioned roads, intrusions, and lack of outstanding opportunities, and one noted other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

33,020 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-045

UNIT NAME: Currie Hills

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about one mile southeast of Currie, Nevada. It is very flat in the southern and western portions where the dominant plant is low sage. The northeast portion consists of low rolling hills with some scattered juniper stands.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 27,640 acres of public land. Two portions totaling 7,300 acres were separated by roads and do not meet the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: One 9,300 acre portion had 10 miles of ways and a well which are very noticeable. Therefore, the area is unnatural. The remaining 11,040 acres are essentially natural despite the presence of several ways and a corral.

3. Outstanding Opportunities for:

A. Solitude: Because of the narrowness of the 11,040-acre portion and the low to moderate vegetative and topographic screening, the opportunities for solitude are less than outstanding.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Activities available in the 11,040-acre portion include hiking, horseback riding, and hunting. The unit's narrowness and the lack of topographic and vegetative diversity make recreational opportunities only marginal, not outstanding. Water is also lacking.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

27,640 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit. One mentioned roads, intrusions, and lack of outstanding opportunities, and one noted other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

27,640 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-045-A

UNIT NAME: Currie Hills

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko and White Pine Counties about six miles southeast of Currie, Nevada. It is very flat; the dominant plant is low sagebrush.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 7,760 acres of public land.

2. Naturalness: The 7,760-acre area is essentially natural even though it has a one-mile way.

3. Outstanding Opportunities for:

A. Solitude: Since there is virtually no topographic or vegetative screening, any sense of solitude is less than outstanding.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Possible activities in the unit include hiking, horseback riding, and hunting. These activities are marginal since there is no topographic or vegetative diversity and the area is so small. No specific attractions enhance hiking. The quality and diversity of recreational opportunities are less than outstanding. Water is not available.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

7,760 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: None received.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

7,760 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: No public comments were received, and the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-045-B

UNIT NAME: Currie Hills

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko and White Pine Counties about 10 miles southeast of Currie, Nevada. It is very flat; the dominant plant is low sagebrush.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 5,200 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: The unit is essentially natural, even though there are two miles of ways.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Since there is very little topographic or vegetative screening in the unit and the area is so small, the opportunities for solitude are not outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Possible activities include hiking, hunting, and horseback riding. The activities are marginal in quality since there is no topographic or vegetative diversity and the area is so small. No outstanding opportunities exist. Water is also unavailable.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

5,200 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: None received.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

5,200 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: No public comments were received, and the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-047

UNIT NAME: Kingsley

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 20 miles east of Currie, Nevada. It consists of a narrow ridge on the east side with relatively flat areas on either side.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 21,800 acres of public land. Three parcels totaling 1,000 acres are separated by roads and do not meet the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: The area is not natural. There are 52 miles of ways and 40-50 mines and prospects in the area, including three tungsten and lead mines. All of these are substantially noticeable and combine to make the area unnatural. No further evaluation is necessary.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

21,800 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit. One mentioned mining impacts and both noted other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

21,800 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-047-D

UNIT NAME: Kingsley

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 20 miles east of Currie, Nevada. The western half has some low rolling hills and the eastern half is mostly flat. Low sagebrush is the dominant vegetation.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. **Size:** The unit contains 8,160 acres of public land.
2. **Naturalness:** Twelve miles of ways crisscross the area and one reservoir is also in the unit. These are substantially unnoticeable, so this 8,160-acre unit is essentially natural.
3. **Outstanding Opportunities for:**
 - A. **Solitude:** The topographic screening in the unit ranges from poor to moderate. The vegetative screening ranges from zero to poor. Therefore, the opportunities for solitude are not outstanding.
 - B. **A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation:** Possible activities include hiking, hunting, sightseeing, and photography. Little of interest for photography can be found. These factors combine to offer less than outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. No water is available.
4. **Supplemental Values:** No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

8,160 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: None received.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

8,160 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: No public comments were received, and the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-049

UNIT NAME: Sugarloaf

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 90 miles southeast of Elko, Nevada. A portion of the Goshute Mountains exists in the unit, characterized by steep cliffs falling off to flats on the western side and pinyon-covered hills and drainages in the eastern portion.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 17,600 acres of public land. Three parcels totaling 1,700 acres are separated by roads or unnatural areas and do not meet the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: The remaining area (15,900 acres) is essentially natural even though eight miles of ways and two prospect pits are present.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Short pinyon-covered drainages and ridgelines provide areas of moderate topographic and vegetative screening in the remaining 15,900 acres. Several boulder fields with trees also provide areas of moderate screening. The extreme western portion with low vegetation and rolling topography provides poor opportunities for solitude. Though areas of good solitude exist in the unit, these are not considered outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Possible activities within the 15,900 acres include backpacking, rock climbing, camping, hiking, horseback riding, sightseeing, hunting, and photography. The terrain would force most users into the short drainages so the duration and scope of the activities would be limited. Opportunities for primitive recreation are considered less than outstanding. There is also a lack of water.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

17,600 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received seven specific comments on this unit. Two mentioned roads and mining intrusions. Several discussed naturalness and outstanding solitude and recreation. Many noted supplemental values and two listed other resource values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

17,600 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-050

UNIT NAME: Ferguson Mountain

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 20 miles southwest of Wendover, Utah. The area is characterized by a mountainous ridge with sparse vegetation of sagebrush and pinyon-juniper.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 6,960 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: Two areas totaling 2,200 acres include roads, mining shafts, and ways and are unnatural. The remaining 4,760 acres include two miles of ways and a mine but still are essentially natural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: There are a few areas in the remaining 4,760-acre unit which provide moderate solitude because of topographic screening and thicker pinyon-juniper cover. However, opportunities for solitude are less than outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Possible activities in the natural portion include hiking, backpacking, camping, hunting, and horseback riding. The small area greatly limits the duration of these activities. These factors combine to make opportunities for primitive recreation less than outstanding. No perennial streams or springs exist.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

6,960 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit. Both noted other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

6,960 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-052

UNIT NAME: Lead Mine Hills

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County next to the Utah state line about 20 miles south of Wendover, Utah. The area is characterized by flat areas surrounding hills. The dominant vegetation is low sagebrush with some widely scattered junipers on the hills.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 11,520 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: The area is predominantly natural even though there are four miles of ways, two shafts, and a prospect pit in the area. Two dead-end roads, although not part of the unit, intrude into the area.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Solitude is only moderate, not outstanding, in this unit due to the very low vegetative and poor topographic screening.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Hiking, horseback riding, hunting, backpacking, and camping are available. The lack of topographic diversity and general character of the land detract from their quality making opportunities for primitive recreation less than outstanding. There also is no water available in the unit.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

11,520 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit, noting other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

11,520 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by the public comment, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-053

UNIT NAME: Dead Cedar Wash

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 25 miles south of Wendover, Utah. There are isolated rock outcroppings in the middle and northern parts of the unit. The eastern part consists of an alkali flat with rounded mounds.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 13,340 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: There are about 13 miles of ways in this 13,340-acre unit, but they are substantially unnoticeable. Therefore, the unit is essentially natural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The topography is not diverse in the unit, nor does the vegetation (mostly low sagebrush) provide screening from other individuals. Therefore, the opportunities for solitude are only moderate, not outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Possible activities include hiking, hunting, sightseeing, and photography. Little of interest for photography can be found and the topography limits the opportunities identified. Opportunities for primitive recreation are less than outstanding. No water is available.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

13,340 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit, noting other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

13,340 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by the public comment, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-054/UT-020-044 UNIT NAME: Ferber Wash

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko, Nevada, and Tooele, Utah, Counties, about 25 miles south of Wendover, Utah. The area is basically the western edge of the Great Salt Lake Desert, which is very flat and has little vegetation. The vegetation includes saltbrush, winterfat, and sweetsage, none of which provides much screening. The unit is managed by the Elko BLM District in Nevada the the Salt Lake BLM District in Utah.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 10,240 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: The area is essentially natural. Two wells and eight miles of ways in the unit are substantially unnoticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: There are few opportunities for solitude because the low hills and vegetation provide little topographic screening. Opportunities for outstanding solitude do not exist.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Possible activities include camping, hiking, geological sightseeing, and rock climbing. The small area available is confining. These factors combine to make opportunities for primitive recreation less than outstanding. Water is also unavailable.
4. Supplemental Values: Some geological sightseeing is available in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

6,900 acres in Nevada should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

3,340 acres in Utah should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit. noting other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

6,900 acres in Nevada are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

3,340 acres in Utah are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by the public comment, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-058

UNIT NAME: Deadhorse

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit lies about 70 miles southeast of Elko, Nevada. The terrain is rolling with a central ridge line running north-south. The elevation varies by less than 1,000 feet. The vegetation consists of low-growing forms of sagebrush and shrubs with scattered juniper.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 10,800 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: The 10,800-acre unit is essentially natural. There are 10 miles of ways that are not noticeable. An Air Force tower installation actually outside of the unit on top of the highest point is noticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The topographic diversity is not outstanding. The canyons are very shallow and wide. The topography offers little or no screening. The physical shape of the unit, three miles wide in the center and tapering to a quarter mile at the ends, does not lend itself to solitude. The vegetation is of a low-growing form and offers little screening. The large Air Force tower on the highest peak hinders the feeling of solitude. Opportunities for outstanding solitude do not exist in the unit.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Possible activities available include hiking and horseback riding. The lack of topographic diversity and the lack of topographic screening reduce the quality of these primitive recreation experiences. The configuration confines recreational activities, making opportunities less than outstanding. There is no available water in the unit.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

10,800 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit, noting other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

10,800 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by the public comment, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-060

UNIT NAME: White Sage Flat

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 100 air miles southeast of Elko, Nevada. The area is characterized by low rolling hills with some sparse stands of juniper, white sage, and grasses with the exception of sandstone formations and desert washes in the southwest corner. Some flora typical of deserts exist here.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 19,540 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: The area is essentially natural because of the 10 miles of ways, two reservoirs, a gravel pit, and a prospect pit are not substantially noticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Users will find it difficult to find a secluded spot because of poor vegetative screening and only moderate topographic screening. Low rolling hills and sparse juniper cover allow users to observe others in the unit. Moderate solitude is experienced in the washes and rugged terrain that the southwest corner of the unit provides. The opportunities for solitude are considered less than outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Primitive recreation opportunities include hiking, backpacking, camping, horseback riding, sightseeing, hunting, and wildlife observation. The scenic sandstone and desert wash area in the southwest corner of the unit provides some moderate hiking and sightseeing opportunities. However, flat and barren terrain, limited shelter, and the absence of significant recreation attractions make recreation opportunities less than outstanding.

4. Supplemental Values: The southwest portion of the unit contains an interesting ecological, geological, and scenic area. Numerous sandstone formations and dry arroyos provide opportunities for observation of an arid desert ecosystem.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

19,540 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received five specific comments on this unit. Two mentioned roads and intrusions. Several discussed naturalness and outstanding solitude and recreation. A few noted supplemental values and two listed other resource values. Also received were 40 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

19,540 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-061/UT-020-050 UNIT NAME: Ferber Flat

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko, Nevada and Tooele, Utah Counties about 35 miles south of Wendover, Utah. The northern half is made up of what appears to be a heavily eroded peak with a hill-and-gully system extending in a 180 degree arc, north to south. Ferber Wash curls through the southern half of the unit, its tributaries meeting at the state line and flowing into the Deep Creek drainage. The unit is managed by the Elko BLM District in Nevada and the Salt Lake BLM District in Utah.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 10,240 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: The northern portion of the area has some mining impacts and the southern portion has evidence of man's vehicular activity, but the area is still essentially natural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Some moderate topographic screening occurs in the low hills of the northern section, but there is little vegetative screening anywhere in the unit. Thus the opportunities for solitude are only moderate, not outstanding.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The activities available include hiking, hunting, sightseeing, camping, and rock-hounding. The area is relatively small and mining impacts, although substantially unnoticeable, have a significant effect on the desirability of primitive recreation in the unit. The quality and diversity of primitive recreation opportunities are not outstanding. Water sources are also lacking.

4. Supplemental Values: Some geological sightseeing is available.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

6,300 acres in Nevada should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

3,940 acres in Utah should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit. One mentioned mining impacts and both noted other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

6,300 acres in Nevada are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

3,940 acres in Utah are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-062/UT-020-046 UNIT NAME: Utah Peak

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is about 40 miles east of Currie, Nevada, in Elko, Nevada and Tooele, Utah Counties. It consists of flat areas on the north, west, and south with isolated hills such as Utah Peak on the east. The unit is managed by the Elko BLM District in Nevada and the Salt Lake BLM District in Utah.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 7,040 acres of public land.

2. Naturalness: Fourteen miles of ways are included in the unit, as well as several prospect pits. These impacts are substantially unnoticeable, making the entire 7,040 acres essentially natural.

3. Outstanding Opportunities for:

A. Solitude: The principle range is so narrow that it limits solitude. Vegetative screening is very low due to the short nature of the shrubs in the area. The size and the configuration of the unit limit the solitude available to less than outstanding.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Activities available include hiking, hunting, and wildlife observation. The quality and diversity of these opportunities are less than outstanding. No water is available in the unit.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

5,700 acres in Nevada should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

1,340 acres in Utah should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: None received.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

5,700 acres in Nevada are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

1,340 acres in Utah are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: No public comments were received, and the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-070

UNIT NAME: Cortez

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Eureka County about 50 miles southwest of Elko, Nevada. The eastern half of the unit has gently sloping terrain and the western half contains some large ridges and canyons. Vegetation includes mostly low sagebrush.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 33,260 acres of public land. Two parcels totaling 8,200 acres are separated by roads and man-made impacts and do not meet the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: Three parcels totaling 7,900 acres are unnatural, as ways and mining activity are easily seen. The remaining 17,160 acres are essentially natural because the only man-made impacts consist of four prospect pits, which are substantially unnoticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The topography of the remaining 17,160-acre area includes Mule and Brock Canyons. They provide some moderate solitude but are straight and relatively short in length. Users on the ridgelines above the canyons could easily see one another and visitors in the canyon. These factors make opportunities for solitude less than outstanding.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Possible activities include backpacking, camping, horseback riding, hunting, and photography. Recreationists would remain either in the canyons or on the ridgelines. The quality and diversity of these activities are less than outstanding. Water would not be available outside the canyons.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

33,260 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received nine specific comments on this unit. Several cited roads and mining impacts. One mentioned the unit was in a military operating area. Several discussed naturalness and outstanding opportunities for solitude and recreation. One noted supplemental values and four listed other resource values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

33,260 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-074

UNIT NAME: Florio

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Eureka County about 50 miles southwest of Elko, Nevada. The unit includes mountainous terrain running generally east-west. The northern part of the unit is the main ridge line. The canyons and ridges lead mainly to the south. The unit's vegetative composition is primarily big sagebrush.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 12,100 acres of public land. One parcel of 1,400 acres is separated by a road and does not meet the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: The entire 10,700-acre unit is essentially natural although 12 miles of ways exist within it.

3. Outstanding Opportunities for:

A. Solitude: The drainages all lead away from one central ridge and are generally shallow in relief. The unit's narrow configuration and the vegetative and topographic screening are insufficient to allow for an outstanding experience of solitude.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Recreational opportunities within this unit would be hiking, hunting, sightseeing, photography, and horseback riding. Low topographic variety and narrow configuration detract from these opportunities. Low vegetative cover is also a detracting factor. There are no opportunities that would be considered outstanding.

4. Supplemental Values: A few wild horses are found within the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

12,100 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: None received.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

12,100 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: No public comments were received, and the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-081

UNIT NAME: Smith Creek Mountains

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 35 miles southwest of Elko, Nevada. The unit consists of multiple mountains and ridges running north-south with most of the ridges and drainages leading easterly. Vegetation consists of big sagebrush in a low-growing form. Some stands of aspen are present in the higher elevations.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 20,850 acres of public land. A road divides the unit into parcels of 9,800 and 11,050 acres, both of which meet the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: Both areas are essentially natural. Substantially unnoticeable man-made impacts include 21 miles of fence line, 16 miles of ways, two reservoirs, three developed springs, and several stock tanks.

3. Outstanding Opportunities for:

A. Solitude: The topographic relief in these parcels is not outstanding and allows visitors to easily see each other. The drainages are shallow, relatively wide, and straight. The vegetation is primarily low-growing and provides no screening. These factors make opportunities for solitude less than outstanding.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Possible activities in these areas include backpacking, camping, horseback riding, hunting, and possibly photography. The gentle rolling and shallow ridges and hills present little challenge to a user in most of these activities. These factors make opportunities for solitude less than outstanding.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

20,850 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received four specific comments on this unit. Several noted intrusions and lack of solitude. One mentioned naturalness and outstanding recreation. Two noted other resource values. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

20,850 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-085

UNIT NAME: Diamond Hills

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 35 miles south of Elko, Nevada. The northern portion is flat and has been seeded with crested wheatgrass. There is a chain of low-rolling hills in the south. Vegetation is mainly sagebrush with some sparse juniper stands.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 56,320 acres of public land. Three parcels totaling 4,600 acres are split from the unit by bladed roads and do not meet the size criterion.

2. Naturalness: One area of 23,820 acres is unnatural; it contains a 9,600-acre seeding, two pipelines, two wells, three reservoirs, 15 miles of fenceline, a developed spring and trough, 13 miles of ways, and a windmill. Two areas of 22,100 and 5,800 acres have apparent naturalness even though they do have 26 miles of ways and four miles of fenceline.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: There is little topographic screening in either natural subunit because much of the area is flat and the rest is only slightly rolling. The dominant vegetative cover is big sagebrush which provides little vegetative screening. Outstanding opportunities for solitude do not exist.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Activities available in both areas include backpacking, camping, horseback riding, hunting, and photography. The opportunities are limited because the area as a whole offers few features that would attract primitive recreationists. Because of the area's uninteresting terrain, lack of vegetative cover, and poor scenery, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

56,320 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received six specific comments on this unit. One mentioned outstanding recreation opportunities, but most noted intrusions and lack of solitude. Three noted other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

56,320 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-102/ID-12-56A UNIT NAME: Little Owyhee

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County, Nevada and Owyhee County, Idaho, 95 miles northwest of Elko, Nevada. The canyon of the Little Owyhee River

trends north in the western portion of the unit. This canyon is joined by the drainages of Lake Creek in the central portion of the unit and Willow Creek in the northwestern corner of the unit. The rolling hills of Star Valley Ridge dominate the eastern portion of the unit. Big sagebrush and grasses are the primary vegetative types. The unit contains 57,589 acres of public land of which 53,280 acres are in Nevada and 4,309 acres are in Idaho.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 26 specific comments on this unit. A few noted intrusions and lack of outstanding opportunities. Naturalness was mentioned, but most comments discussed outstanding recreation and solitude. Many noted supplemental values and one listed other resource values. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION: The decision to intensively inventory this unit was appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals. Until that Board issues its ruling, no final decision on this unit can be made. Public comments received on this unit will be utilized at that time.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-102-A

UNIT NAME: Little Owyhee

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County, 92 miles northwest of Elko. The terrain is generally flat with some low hills. Several dry lakes and numerous shallow drainages characterize the area. Big sagebrush and grasses are the primary vegetative covers.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 5,800 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: The entire 5,800 acres appear natural; three miles of ways and two reservoirs present are substantially unnoticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The unit's small size, low vegetative screening, and flat topography do not enhance opportunities for outstanding solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The unit's small size, monotonous terrain and vegetation, and lack of any other interesting features make the primitive recreation opportunities poor, not outstanding. Water supplies are undependable.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

5,800 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit which mentioned outstanding solitude and supplemental values. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

5,800 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received supporting WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-103/ID-16-53 UNIT NAME: Devil's Corral

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County, Nevada and Owyhee County, Idaho about 95 miles northwest of Elko, Nevada. The unit is characterized by level terrain covered with big sagebrush. The unit contains 12,060 acres of public land of which 8,960 acres are in Nevada and 3,100 acres are in Idaho.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received three specific comments on this unit. One said the unit has wilderness values and the others noted intrusions and lack of solitude. One mentioned other resource values. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION: The decision to intensively inventory this unit was appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals. Until that Board issues its ruling, no final decision on this unit can be made. Public comments received on this unit will be utilized at that time.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-103-A/ID-16-53 UNIT NAME: Devil's Corral

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County, Nevada and Owyhee County, Idaho about 100 miles northwest of Elko, Nevada. The unit is generally rectangular in shape and is about five miles wide by 20 miles long. The unit is generally flat in terrain except for the South Fork of the Owyhee River Canyon. This perennial stream flows northwest through the unit for 25 miles. The unit is managed by the Elko, Nevada, BLM District and the Boise, Idaho, BLM District. The unit contains 55,740 acres of public land of which 10,880 acres are in Nevada and 44,860 acres are in Idaho.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received nine specific comments on this unit. One cited range improvements and one mentioned the lack of outstanding opportunities. Most discussed naturalness and outstanding solitude and recreation. Several noted supplemental values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION: The decision to intensively inventory this unit was appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals. Until that Board issues its ruling, no final decision on this unit can be made. Public comments received on this unit will be utilized at that time.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-104

UNIT NAME: Hat Peak

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County, 80 miles northwest of Elko, Nevada. The topography of the unit is characterized by low rolling hills with the exception of mesas and broad drainages in the vicinity of Hat Peak. Shallow drainages occur between the hills. Low-growing big sagebrush and grasses are the predominant vegetative covers.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 49,800 acres of public land. Roads and unnatural areas around Josephine Reservoir separate the unit into seven parcels. Three parcels totaling 9,120 acres do not meet the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: One parcel comprising 480 acres includes Josephine Reservoir and is in an unnatural condition. The remaining three areas of 8,900, 9,000, and 22,300 acres are in an apparently natural condition even though six miles of ways, a corral, and nine small reservoirs are present. The ways, corral, and two of the reservoirs are not substantially noticeable. The remainder of the reservoirs, though large and substantially noticeable, have a minimal impact on the three areas' naturalness because of their close proximity to the border roads.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The two larger areas are almost totally flat and provide little topographic screening. The 8,900-acre portion contains Hat Peak, and therefore, a moderate degree of topographic diversity and screening. All of the areas have mainly big sagebrush and grass vegetative cover. None of the areas possess outstanding opportunities for solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Primitive recreation activities available in all three areas include hunting, camping, backpacking, hiking, horseback riding, and general photography. All three units would provide poor, not outstanding, opportunities for primitive recreation because of their monotonous terrain and little vegetative diversity. Water is also unavailable.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

49,800 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received eight specific comments on this unit. One noted intrusions, but most discussed naturalness and outstanding solitude and recreation. Several noted supplemental values and one listed other resource values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

49,800 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-105

UNIT NAME: Forklift

AREA DESCRIPTION: This unit is in Elko County about 85 miles northwest of Elko, Nevada. It is part of the Owyhee Desert and is basically part of a very flat plain covered by big sagebrush.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 17,280 acres of public land. One 200-acre portion is separated by roads and does not meet the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: The two remaining areas of 7,940 and 9,140 acres are essentially natural because the one stock reservoir, two gravel pits, and 11 miles of ways within them are not substantially noticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: It is unlikely that a sense of solitude would be experienced in either area because of the poor to non-existent topographic or vegetative screening in both areas. Outstanding opportunities for solitude do not exist.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Possible activities in both areas include hiking, horseback riding, and hunting. There are no spectacular or unusual features to enhance the recreation experiences. Opportunities for primitive recreation are less than outstanding in both subunits. Water is not available in the unit.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

17,280 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria. No specific comments were received.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

17,280 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received supporting WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-106

UNIT NAME: Owyhee Canyon

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 80 miles northwest of Elko, Nevada. The dominant features are the 20 miles of the Owyhee Canyon and associated South Fork of the Owyhee River which trend north-south through the unit. The canyon and the river are of exceptional scenic quality. The river provides rafting in the early summer. The general terrain except for the canyon is flat and sagebrush-covered.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 17,520 acres of public land. Three parcels totaling 220 acres are separated by roads and do not meet the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: About 130 acres are unnatural. These contain a bladed fenceline and associated way, a reservoir, and the Southwest Gas Corporation Pipeline from the canyon rim to the river on either side. The remaining 17,170-acre subunit is essentially natural. Man-made impacts that are substantially unnoticeable include an airstrip and two and a half miles of ways.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The subunit includes 20 miles of the Owyhee Canyon and associated South Fork of the Owyhee River. They are extremely winding, making it difficult to see more than a mile in either direction from within the canyon. Screening from other visitors is exceptional. The sheer rock cliffs of the canyon isolate a visitor within the canyon from the outside world, making opportunities for solitude outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Possible activities in the natural subunit include backpacking, camping, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, sightseeing, photography, and rafting. Camp sites exist throughout the canyon. Ample water and shelter from the elements

is available. Hiking along the river is easy because game and stock trails exist. Sand bars also provide enjoyable hiking. Rafting is possible throughout the unit for a short period in the spring and early summer. The size of the unit provides backpacking, horseback riding, and rafting activities of several days' duration, making opportunities for primitive recreation outstanding.

4. Supplemental Values: The unit contains at least one archaeological site and scenic values of exceptional quality.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

17,170 acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

350 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 14 specific comments on this unit. A few noted roads, intrusions, and lack of outstanding opportunities. One mentioned an access problem. Outstanding recreation and solitude were mentioned most, followed by naturalness. Several noted supplemental values and two listed other resource values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

17,170 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

350 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates that a major portion of the area does possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation. The portion eliminated from WSA consideration was found not to possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-106-A

UNIT NAME: Owyhee Canyon

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 65 miles northwest of Elko, Nevada. The unit is characterized by sagebrush-covered gently rolling hills and flats.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 7,360 acres of public land. The bladed fenceline and associated documented roads divide the 7,360 acres into two parcels that do not meet the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: Both parcels are essentially natural.

3. Outstanding Opportunities for:

A. Solitude: Because of the small size of the two parcels, outstanding solitude could not be experienced.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Because of the small size of the two parcels, outstanding primitive recreation does not exist.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

7,360 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria. No specific comments were received.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

7,360 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received supporting WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-106-B

UNIT NAME: Owyhee Canyon

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 65 miles northwest of Elko, Nevada. The unit is generally flat with some mesa areas interspersed. The typical vegetation is low-growing big sagebrush. Short sections of the South Fork Owyhee River and Wilson Creek flow through the unit.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 43,520 acres of public land. Nine portions totaling 12,040 acres were separated by roads and unnatural areas and do not meet the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: Three areas totaling 10,950 acres are not natural. One is a large reservoir and the other two contain seedings, fencelines, and reservoirs. The remaining two areas of 6,000 and 14,530 acres contain two reservoirs, four miles of fenceline, and six miles of ways. Since these are not substantially noticeable, these two subunits are essentially natural.

3. Outstanding Opportunities for:

A. Solitude: The small area contains gently rolling hills that slope generally toward the South Fork of the Owyhee River outside the northeast border of the unit. The larger portion consists of gently rolling terrain separated by level drainages. Bluffs are found in the northwestern corner which, outside the unit, drop off sharply to Fourmile Creek. Vegetation in both areas is composed of about three-foot high sagebrush. This terrain and vegetation do not provide outstanding solitude.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Possible activities in both subunits include backpacking, hiking, camping, horseback riding, hunting, sightseeing, and photography. No specific attractions in the area enhance recreational activities. The quality and diversity of these opportunities are less than outstanding.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

43,520 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria. No specific comments were received.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

43,520 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received supporting WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-107

UNIT NAME: Airstrip #1

AREA DESCRIPTION: This unit is in Elko County about 85 miles northwest of Elko, Nevada. It is part of the Owyhee Desert, which is very flat and covered by big sagebrush.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: This unit contains 42,240 acres of public land. One portion totaling 1,920 acres, separated by a road, is deleted due to size.

2. Naturalness: The remaining 40,320-acre unit is essentially natural, although there is an airstrip and a half-mile of fence line in the unit. These impacts, however, are substantially unnoticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: There is very little topographic screening and no vegetative screening in the unit. It would be very difficult to gain a sense of solitude in this flat, monotonous area. No opportunities for outstanding solitude exist.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Possible activities include hiking, horseback riding, and hunting. The experience of hiking, horseback riding, and hunting would only be average, not outstanding, because there are no spectacular or unusual features to enhance the recreational experiences. Water is not available.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

42,240 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received three specific comments on this unit. Most mentioned roads, intrusions, and lack of outstanding opportunities. One noted other resource values. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

42,240 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-108

UNIT NAME: Star Valley Cabin

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 90 miles northwest of Elko, Nevada. It is part of the YP Desert, a very flat, sagebrush-covered area.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 32,000 acres of public land. Three parcels divided by roads totaling 9,340 acres were deleted due to size.

2. Naturalness: The two remaining areas of 5,060 and 17,600 acres are essentially natural despite the presence of four miles of fenceline, a six-mile way, and a cabin that are substantially unnoticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: There is very little topographic or vegetative screening in either area. It would be difficult to gain a sense of solitude in either of these flat, monotonous areas. Outstanding opportunities for solitude do not exist.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Possible activities in the subunits include hiking, horseback riding, and hunting. These would only be average, not outstanding, because of the dull, monotonous country, and the fact that there are no spectacular or unusual features to enhance the recreational experiences. Water is also not available.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

32,000 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit. One noted roads and lack of outstanding opportunities and the other said the unit is natural. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

32,000 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-109

UNIT NAME: Silver Lake

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County, 85 miles northwest of Elko, Nevada. The topography is characterized by a series of knolls and hills in the north portion that fall off to several basins. These basins contain several alkali lakes that are usually dry. The vegetative cover consists of low-growing big sagebrush and some grasses.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 41,470 acres of public land. Roads delete two portions totaling 4,200 acres that do not meet the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: The remaining 37,270 acres are essentially natural despite the presence of two reservoirs, a bladed six mile fenceline, a half mile section of pipeline, a stocktank, and eight miles of ways. These impacts are substantially unnoticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The 37,270-acre subunit's large size and scattered hills and knolls provide some limited screening, enabling users to find a few secluded areas. No vegetative screening of any consequence exists because only low-growing sagebrush and grasses are found. These factors limit solitude opportunities to less than outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Types of primitive recreation available include hiking, camping, backpacking, horseback riding, hunting, wildlife observation, and photography. The monotonous terrain detracts from all forms of primitive recreation making the quality and diversity of these activities less than outstanding. Water will be available only in the early spring in natural sinks.
4. Supplemental Values: Wild horses and antelope exist in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

41,470 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received eight specific comments on this unit. A few noted roads, intrusions, and lack of outstanding opportunities. Most discussed outstanding recreation and solitude. Several noted supplemental values and one listed other resource values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

41,470 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-109-A

UNIT NAME: Silver Lake

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 80 miles northwest of Elko, Nevada. The topography of the unit is rolling to flat. Several dry alkali lakes are contained in the unit. The vegetative cover consists of low sagebrush and some grasses.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 43,650 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: The entire 43,640 acres are essentially natural. A corral, three reservoirs, and four miles of ways are present but substantially unnoticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The unit's large size and randomly scattered hills provide some screening, enabling users to find areas of seclusion. Vegetative screening is uniformly poor because only low sagebrush and grasses exist in the area. The lower one third of the unit provides poor opportunities for solitude because it is very narrow in width and offers little diversity of terrain and sparse vegetative cover. Opportunities for solitude in the unit are less than outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Types of primitive recreation available include hunting, camping, backpacking, hiking, wildlife observation, and photography. Monotonous terrain and vegetation detract from the primitive recreation opportunities. The quality and diversity of primitive recreation opportunities are less than outstanding. Water will be available in the natural sinks only in the early spring for a short period.
4. Supplemental Values: Wild horses and antelope exist in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

43,650 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received five specific comments on this unit. One noted intrusions and the rest stated the unit has wilderness characteristics. Several mentioned supplemental values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

43,650 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-110

UNIT NAME: Milligan Creek

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko and Humboldt Counties about 72 miles northwest of Elko, Nevada. Rolling hills, flats, and alkali lake beds characterize the north and east central portions while several large mesas and the narrow passages of Milligan and Wolf Creeks dominate the south and southwest areas. Big sagebrush and grasses are the predominant vegetative covers.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 121,360 acres of public land. Roads, substantially noticeable fencelines, and unnatural areas divide the unit into 16 parcels. Seven of these parcels totaling 14,280 acres do not meet the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: Eight parcels of 10,100, 14,700, 32,000, 9,600, 6,900, 12,900, 10,820, and 8,800 acres are essentially natural. The existing ways and 16 reservoirs are not substantially noticeable or are in close proximity to border roads. One parcel of 1,260 acres is not natural because a pipeline and storage tank are substantially noticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: A few areas of moderate solitude exist within the 32,000 acre unit because of its large size and the presence of shallow drainages. This and the other areas all have low or nonexistent vegetative and topographic screening, making opportunities for solitude less than outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities exist in all areas for hiking, backpacking, camping, horseback riding, wildlife observation, and photography. The units generally have monotonous terrain and vegetation, and primitive recreation opportunities are not considered outstanding in any of the eight parcels. Water is also unavailable.
4. Supplemental Values: Wild horses and antelope can be observed.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

121,360 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received three specific comments on this unit. The presence and absence of intrusions and outstanding opportunities were noted. A suggestion for a boundary change was made. Supplemental values and other

resource values were each noted once. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

121,360 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-111

UNIT NAME: Winter Creek

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County, 75 miles northwest of Elko, Nevada. Topographic features include Chimney Creek Canyon which runs south to north on the western side of the unit. It is shallow in the south, growing deeper as it nears Chimney Creek Reservoir. The central portion of the unit is dominated by a large mesa, rising to a series of hills in the southeast corner.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 59,780 acres of public land. One parcel totaling 320 acres is separated by a road and does not meet the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: A parcel of 5,400 acres is unnatural because a large seeding and a pipeline are substantially noticeable. Most of the area is surrounded by a fence. The 1,100 acre Chimney Creek reservoir area also is unnatural. The remaining 52,960 acres are essentially natural because seven reservoirs, an abandoned well, two miles of fenceline, and one corral are substantially unnoticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Users could locate a few areas of moderate solitude because of the 52,960-acre subunit's large size, especially in portions of Chimney Creek. The poor vegetative screening and lack of diversity in terrain limit solitude potential in the remainder of the unit. No outstanding opportunities for solitude exist in the subunit.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities exist in the subunit for hiking, backpacking, camping, horseback riding, wildlife observation, and photography. However, the quality and diversity of these opportunities are not considered outstanding.
4. Supplemental Values: Wild horses, coyote, antelope, and several types of aquatic birds can be seen in the unit. Moderate scenic values exist in the canyon area.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

59,780 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 17 specific comments on this unit. A few noted roads, intrusions, and lack of recreation opportunities. The majority of comments mentioned naturalness and outstanding recreation and solitude. Many noted supplemental values and one listed other resource values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

59,780 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-112

UNIT NAME: Bullhead

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is about 70 miles northwest of Elko, Nevada. The topography of the unit can be described as basically flat. Elevations vary only by a few hundred feet. The vegetation is predominantly low-growing sagebrush.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit totals 55,150 acres of public land. Three parcels totaling 8,000 acres divided by man-made impacts do not meet the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: The remaining three parcels of 26,300, 15,300, and 5,550 acres are essentially natural. The five miles of ways and several shallow reservoirs existing in the unit are substantially unnoticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The topography of the three areas is nearly flat and has little diversity. The vegetation is a low-growing form and does not provide screening. Even with moderate distances allowed in the two larger areas, users there would have visual contact. Outstanding opportunities for solitude do not exist.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Possible activities in all three areas include hiking, hunting, horseback riding, and possible cross country skiing. Recreationists would find little challenge in any of the activities listed. The flat topography would be a detriment to most forms of primitive recreation. Outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation do not exist. There is no surface water known to be available within the unit.

4. Supplemental Values: Wild horses are readily seen within the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

55,150 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received four specific comments on this unit, all dealing with roads, intrusions, or lack of outstanding opportunities. Most noted other resource values. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

55,150 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-113

UNIT NAME: Burner Hill

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 65 miles northwest of Elko, Nevada. The western portion of the unit is a flat basin except for the drainage of Willow Creek. This drainage trends northwest through the western portion. The rolling Burner Hills dominate the eastern portion. Big sagebrush is the predominant vegetative cover.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 16,770 acres of public land. One parcel totaling 2,800 acres was removed because it is separated from the unit by a highly noticeable way.
2. Naturalness: Substantial mining activities affect the naturalness of 700 acres in the eastern portion of the unit. The remaining 13,270-acre portion is natural.

3. Outstanding Opportunities for:

A. Solitude: Low vegetative screening and limited topographic diversity do not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Primitive recreation opportunities include hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, camping, hunting, and wildlife observation. The lack of significant natural features make primitive recreation potential less than outstanding. Water is scarce.

4. Supplemental Values: Wild horses are the only significant supplemental value.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

16,770 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received four specific comments on this unit, several dealing with roads, intrusions, or lack of outstanding opportunities. Two noted other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

16,770 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-114

UNIT NAME: Cornucopia

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 55 miles northwest of Elko, Nevada. The unit is characterized by flat terrain and rolling hills covered with big sagebrush.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 28,760 acres of public land. Two areas totaling 5,080 acres are separated by roads and the Cornucopia Mining District and do not meet the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: The entire 23,680 acres are in an unnatural condition. The unit includes the following substantially noticeable man-made impacts: eight reservoirs, extensive prospect pits, two developed springs, 11 miles of ways, and 12 miles of bladed fenceline. Further evaluation is unnecessary.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

28,760 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received seven specific comments on this unit. Most cited intrusions and lack of outstanding opportunities. The majority also noted other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

28,760 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-115

UNIT NAME: Big Cottonwood Canyon

AREA DESCRIPTION: This unit is about 50 miles northwest of Elko, Nevada. The topography of the unit is rolling with four major drainages. These drainages flow north and south. Low-growing forms of sagebrush comprise the vegetation. There are small stands of aspen in the larger canyons.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. **Size:** The unit contains 56,140 acres of public land. Three parcels totaling 7,730 acres have been divided by roads and intrusive ways and do not meet the size criterion.
2. **Naturalness:** The remaining 48,410 acres are essentially natural. There are about 25 miles of ways and four miles of fenceline within the unit. None of these are substantially noticeable.
3. **Outstanding Opportunities for:**
 - A. **Solitude:** The topography of the unit generally is not diverse; however, two large canyons have some diversity. The vegetation is low-growing and uniform. Solitude in the larger canyons or in proximity to the canyons is moderate to high. The narrow configuration created by boundaries consisting of long blocks of private in-holdings create problems of orientation and freedom of movement. A user's movement will be restricted and constant orientation will be required to remain on public land. All these factors make outstanding solitude experiences nonexistent.
 - B. **A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation:** Possible activities include hiking, hunting, horseback riding, camping, and photog-

raphy. Topography would allow for a moderate experience in hiking and horseback riding. Water is available in the unit, though there is some distance between sources. Hunting would be average for the area. There are no outstanding features to make photography a high quality experience. The quality and diversity of primitive recreation opportunities are not outstanding.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

56,140 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received four specific comments on this unit. Several cited roads, intrusions, or lack of outstanding opportunities. Most noted other resource values. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

56,140 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-116

UNIT NAME: Sulphur

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is about 55 miles north of Elko, Nevada. The topography is rolling with the drainages running north and south. The vegetation consists mainly of low-growing big sagebrush. The Skull Creek drainage has some diversity and topography and some riparian vegetation.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 15,000 acres of public land. Two parcels totaling 6,100 acres have been separated by significant impacts and do not meet the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: The remaining 8,900 acres are unnatural because of a large seeding, associated ways, and fences which are substantially noticeable. Further evaluation is unnecessary.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

15,000 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received four specific comments on this unit, most mentioning intrusions or lack of outstanding opportunities. Two noted other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

15,000 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-129

UNIT NAME: Six Mile Hill

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 55 miles northwest of Elko, Nevada. The area is fairly mountainous; low-growing big sagebrush is its dominant vegetative cover. The predominant feature is Six Mile Hill in the southern region of the unit.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 42,680 acres of public land. Two portions totaling 2,220 acres are separated by roads and a pipeline and do not meet the size criterion. Two areas of 15,700 and 24,760 acres meet the size criterion.

2. Naturalness: Both areas are essentially natural because the nine reservoirs and six miles of fenceline within the unit are substantially unnoticeable.

3. Outstanding Opportunities for:

A. Solitude: The mountainous terrain provides good diversity and moderate solitude in both the northern and southern subunits. The low vegetative cover provides no screening from other visitors. The Valmy coal-fired power plant, about 15 miles southwest, constitutes a major man-made impact outside the subunits. This greatly hampers the feeling of solitude experienced in both areas. The large transmission line for this plant is also a significant man-made impact outside the unit. It approaches within two miles of the southern unit and is easily seen. Opportunities for solitude are less than outstanding.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Possible activities in both subunits include backpacking, hiking, horseback riding, rock climbing, and hunting. Movement would be difficult because the terrain is rugged. This will particularly affect horseback riding. The Valmy power plant can be seen from both units and affects the quality of those recreational activities available, making them less than outstanding. The transmission line also affects the quality of recreation in the southern area. The quality and diversity of all recreational activities in these subunits are less than outstanding. Water is also unavailable.

The imprints of man found outside the unit boundary were considered in the evaluation of both opportunities from solitude and primitive recreation in this unit. Normally, exterior developments would not be considered during the inventory process. In the exceptional situation found in this unit, outside impacts are so extremely imposing that they cannot be ignored, and if not considered, reasonable application of inventory guidelines would be questioned.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

42,680 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received three specific comments on this unit, mentioning roads, mining, and ranching impacts.

Most noted other resource values. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

42,680 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-130

UNIT NAME: Rock Creek

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 60 miles northwest of Elko, Nevada. The unit is characterized by rolling hills covered with low-growing sagebrush. Some areas have cliffs that fall away to flats below. Rock Creek flows south through the unit within Rock Creek Canyon. Some willows are found along Rock Creek.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 37,080 acres of public land. Five portions totaling 4,200 acres are separated by roads and bladed fencelines and do not meet the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: Two areas totaling 8,700 acres are unnatural. They contain four reservoirs, several prospect pits, seven miles of caterpillar cut firelines, and a 3,800-acre crested wheatgrass seeding. These are easily noticeable. The remaining 24,180 acres are essentially natural because the two reservoirs, seven miles of ways, and 10 miles of fireline within the unit are substantially unnoticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Good topographic screening exists among the rolling hills, cliffs, and within Rock Creek Canyon. Moderate solitude is found in these areas. Vegetation consists of low-growing sagebrush, grasses, and some willows. These provide little screening from others.

Recreationists will congregate within Rock Creek Canyon because of its interesting terrain and water availability. Opportunities for solitude would be less than outstanding.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Possible activities include backpacking, camping, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, sightseeing, and photography. These activities will be concentrated within the eight-mile stretch of Rock Creek Canyon, where water is available. Some hiking and sightseeing will take place outside the canyon area to gain views of the surrounding terrain. The quality of these activities is considered less than outstanding.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical values were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

37,080 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 12 specific comments on this unit. A few noted mining and ORV activity. The majority of comments discussed outstanding recreation and solitude. One mentioned an illegally cut fireline. Several noted supplemental and other resource values. Also received were 2,328 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

37,080 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-131

UNIT NAME: Snowstorm

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 60 miles northwest of Elko, Nevada. The unit is composed of rolling hills and ridges in the east and a flat valley bottom in the west. Dominant vegetation is big sagebrush.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 12,130 acres of public land. Four areas totaling 5,730 acres are separated by roads and do not meet the size criterion.

2. Naturalness: The remaining 6,400 acres include two miles of fence-line, one mile of ways, and three reservoirs. These are not substantially noticeable, leaving the area essentially natural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The hills in the northern part of the unit provide moderate topographic screening. Users would see one another from the hill tops. Vegetative screening is almost non-existent. Opportunities for solitude are less than outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Possible activities include backpacking, camping, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, sightseeing, and photography. No attractions exist to enhance hiking or sightseeing. The quality and diversity of these primitive recreation opportunities are not outstanding. Water is also unavailable.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

12,130 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received eight specific comments on this unit. Two mentioned roads, mining impacts, and other resource values. Six stated the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

12,130 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-132

UNIT NAME: Little Humboldt River

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 65 miles northwest of Elko, Nevada. The unit is composed of generally rolling hills in the eastern portion and is more diverse and canyon-like in the western regions. The Little Humboldt River flows north-northwest within a canyon through the unit. Several tributaries such as Winters Creek, Snowstorm Creek, and First Creek flow north-easterly and form side canyons that enhance the scenic quality of the unit. The dominant vegetation is low-growing big sagebrush.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 96,320 acres of public land. Thirteen parcels totaling 20,080 acres are separated by roads and bladed fence-lines and do not meet the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: Two portions totaling 12,300 acres lack naturalness. They contain 12 miles of bladed fenceline and five miles of ways that are substantially noticeable. The remaining three areas of 7,000, 16,840, and 40,100 acres contain seven miles of ways, four reservoirs, and seven miles of fenceline. These are separated by large distances and are not substantially noticeable, leaving the three subunits essentially natural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The two smaller portions totaling 23,840 acres provide moderate screening. Here topography consists of gently rolling hills covered by low-growing big sagebrush. Persons can be seen from throughout these areas, making solitude opportunities less than outstanding. The western portion contains 40,100 acres. It has excellent topographic screening, including the Little Humboldt River Canyon and Castle Ridge. The canyon is winding and offers excellent solitude. Exceptional solitude can also be attained in the side canyons. Opportunities for solitude in this portion are outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Possible activities in all three areas include backpacking, camping, hiking, horse-back riding, hunting, sightseeing, and photography. In the two smaller portions, activities are hampered by a lack of interesting terrain and features for sightseeing. Opportunities for outstanding solitude do not exist. Water is also unavailable. The 40,100 acre portion contains perennial water from the Little Humboldt River. Shelter is also provided by the canyon walls. Hiking and backpacking are exceptional because of the stock and game trails present as well as the spectacular scenery. The size of the unit provides activities of several days duration, making primitive recreational opportunities outstanding in this subunit.
4. Supplemental Values: Excellent opportunities for viewing wild horses exist in the unit. Scenery in the unit is also excellent.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

40,100 acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

56,220 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 12 specific comments on this unit. Several noted intrusions and lack of outstanding opportunities. Most comments discussed outstanding solitude and recreation.

Many noted supplemental and other resource values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

40,100 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

56,220 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates that a portion of the area does possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation. The portion eliminated from WSA consideration was found not to possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-133

UNIT NAME: Three Mile Creek

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 60 miles northwest of Elko, Nevada. The unit is characterized by rolling sagebrush covered hills. Some steep ridges and dry washes also exist in the area.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 28,440 acres of public lands. Eight parcels totaling 9,320 acres are separated by roads and do not meet the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: One portion of 7,900 acres lacks naturalness due to four miles of bladed fenceline, one mile-long way, and a reservoir which are substantially noticeable. The remaining 11,220 acres are essentially natural and include a reservoir and six miles of ways which are substantially unnoticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The topography of the remaining natural portion is gently rolling hills covered with low-growing big sagebrush and grasses. The combined topographic and vegetative screening are very low, making opportunities for solitude less than outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Possible activities in the 11,220-acre subunit include backpacking, camping, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, sightseeing, and photography. No specific attractions exist in the unit to enhance these activities. Outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation do not exist. Water is not available in the unit.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

28,440 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit. One mentioned roads and lack of outstanding opportunities and one noted other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

28,440 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-134

UNIT NAME: Chino Creek

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 60 miles northwest of Elko, Nevada. The unit is characterized by rolling hills with low-growing sagebrush as the dominant cover.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 9,680 acres of public land. Roads divide the unit into three parcels. Two of these, totaling 4,660 acres, do not meet the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: The remaining 5,020 acres are essentially natural. The one reservoir and the four miles of fence line in the unit are substantially unnoticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The terrain in the remaining 5,020 acres is relatively flat and is covered typically by low-growing sagebrush. Users would easily be seen from throughout the area, providing less than outstanding opportunities for solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Activities available include hiking, camping, hunting, and sightseeing. The terrain offers little of interest to enhance these activities. Opportunities

for primitive recreation are less than outstanding. No water is available.

4. Supplemental Values: Wild horses exist within the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

9,680 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received four specific comments on this unit. Several mentioned roads, intrusions, or lack of outstanding opportunities. Most noted other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

9,680 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-135

UNIT NAME: Bull Run

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 60 miles northwest of Elko. The unit consists of the Bull Run Mountains which run north to south and contain peaks rising up to 8,510 feet. Steep canyons contain aspen groves, bitterbrush, sagebrush, and snowberry. White fir and whitebark pine occur on the higher slopes.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 8,700 acres of public land. Two parcels totaling 760 acres were deleted because of roads or significant intrusions.
2. Naturalness: Several prospect pits and associated roads mar the area northeast of Wilson Peak affecting the natural character of 440 acres. The remaining 7,500 acres are essentially natural because the three miles of fence line and two miles of ways are substantially unnoticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Opportunities for solitude are poor because of the unit's narrow width and limited screening. The topography of the narrow ridgeline exposes users on the summit and sides to others.

Opportunities for solitude are less than outstanding.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Hiking, backpacking, sightseeing, photography, camping, mountain climbing, hunting, and wildlife observation are potential primitive recreation uses. The duration of these activities would be short. Primitive recreation opportunities are considered less than outstanding.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

8,700 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received four specific comments on this unit. Most noted roads, intrusions, or lack of outstanding opportunities. Two noted other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

8,700 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-143

UNIT NAME: Adobe

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 35 miles north of Elko, Nevada. The western and southern regions are characterized by rolling hills and shallow drainages whereas the eastern portion, with the North Fork of the Humboldt River flowing through it, is more diverse. The dominant vegetation throughout the unit is low-growing big sagebrush.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 11,230 acres of public land. One parcel of 1,400 acres was separated by a bladed fenceline, a way, and a road and does not meet the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: The remaining 9,830 acres include two miles of ways. Since these are substantially unnoticable, the 9,830-acre portion is essentially natural.

3. Outstanding Opportunities for:

A. Solitude: The terrain in the 9,830 acre subunit is generally rolling except for the areas immediately adjacent to Cottonwood Creek and the North Fork Humboldt River. Along these rivers good solitude can be experienced but it is not considered outstanding.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Activities available include hiking, camping, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, hunting, sightseeing, and photography. The general terrain of the subunit does not lend exceptional character to these activities. The quality of these opportunities are less than outstanding.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

11,230 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit, noting other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

11,230 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by the public comment, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-147

UNIT NAME: Double Mountain

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 35 miles north of Elko, Nevada. The area offers generally rolling terrain interspersed with washes. The dominant vegetative cover is low-growing big sagebrush.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 36,740 acres of public land. Five parcels totaling 14,620 acres and divided by roads do not meet the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: Nineteen miles of ways, four developed springs, and eight miles of fenceline within the remaining three areas of 5,600, 7,300, and 9,220 acres are substantially unnoticeable, making these areas essentially natural.

3. Outstanding Opportunities for:

A. Solitude: The smallest area is generally flat with a few rolling hills. The two larger areas consist of gently rolling hills separated by dry drainages. All three areas have sagebrush cover. Solitude is not considered outstanding in any of the three areas.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Activities available in all of the areas include backpacking, camping, horseback riding, and hiking. Because of the narrowness of the areas, these activities are not considered outstanding.

4. Supplemental Values: Parts of the area are scenic.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

36,740 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received three specific comments on this unit. Two mentioned intrusions and lack of outstanding opportunities. All three noted other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

36,740 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-148

UNIT NAME: Beaver Creek

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 45 miles north of Elko, Nevada. The unit includes rolling hills covered with low-growing big sagebrush and two perennial streams which flow through the southern portion of the unit.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 22,240 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: One parcel covering 7,800 acres is unnatural because it contains 10 miles of ways and 11 miles of fenceline that are easily noticeable. The remaining 14,440 acres contain three miles of fenceline and a one mile way that are substantially unnoticeable. Therefore, 14,440 acres are essentially natural.

3. Outstanding Opportunities for:

A. Solitude: The 14,440-acre subunit includes some canyon and rocky areas in which screening allows for moderate seclusion. However, the general terrain and low-growing sagebrush do not allow for outstanding solitude.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Hiking, camping, horseback riding, hunting, and sightseeing/photography are available in the subunit. The lack of topographic diversity and general character of the land detract from their quality. Outstanding opportunities do not exist. No drinkable water is available.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

22,240 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit, noting other resource values. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

22,240 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-149

UNIT NAME: Lookout Mountain

AREA DESCRIPTION: The area is 30 miles north of Elko, Nevada. It consists of rolling hills with several deeper drainages. The main vegetative type is big sagebrush. Some willows and small patches of aspen are present. The greatest topographic diversity lies in the northern part with the least diversity on the east side of the unit.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 44,960 acres of public land. Five parcels, totaling 14,400 acres, are separated by roads and do not meet the size criterion.

2. Naturalness: Two parcels totaling 13,850 acres are unnatural. This acreage has seven reservoirs, two improved springs, 19 miles of ways, and 15 miles of fences that are substantially noticeable. The remaining two parcels are 6,800 and 9,910 acres and are essentially natural. There are five miles of ways and six miles of fencelines within these areas, but they are substantially unnoticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The 6,800-acre portion has slightly rolling topography with little diversity. The larger area has more topographic diversity and provides moderate screening. Both areas have poor vegetative screening. Users on ridges, and similarly in canyon bottoms, would notice each other in both areas. Outstanding opportunities for solitude are lacking in both areas.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Activities in both areas include hunting, horseback riding, cross country skiing, photography, and hiking. Hunting opportunities are considered only average. Horseback riding would be the best activity one could undertake. There is available perennial water in the east portion of the unit, however, this portion is very low in diversity. None of these activities would be of high value or duration. Outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation do not exist.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

44,960 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit, noting other resource values. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

44,960 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-150

UNIT NAME: Table Mountain

AREA DESCRIPTION: This unit is in Elko County, Nevada, about 60 miles north of Elko, Nevada. The unit consists of numerous ridges running north-south. The terrain is generally rolling with several scattered steeper slopes. The main vegetative type is big sagebrush. There are scattered, small patches of aspen and willows associated with springs and water developments.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 47,300 acres of public land. Roads separate the original unit into nine parcels. Seven units, totaling 24,700 acres, do not meet the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: One parcel of 9,900 acres lacks naturalness because it contains five reservoirs, six developed springs, 12 miles of fence-line, two miles of telephone-telegraph line, and 10 miles of ways. These are substantially noticeable. The remaining 12,700 acres are essentially natural. The unit has six reservoirs, 12 developed springs, eight miles of fence-line, one mile of telephone-telegraph line, and 15 miles of ways. These impacts, however, are spread out and separated by enough distance so that they are substantially unnoticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The 12,700-acre subunit has some topographic features and relief that would provide moderate screening. Vegetative screening is poor. The opportunities for solitude are limited to shallow canyons. The narrow configuration of the unit does not allow for high degrees of solitude. Opportunities for solitude are less than outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Recreation opportunities within the subunit include hunting, hiking, horseback riding, sightseeing, and perhaps cross country skiing. The narrow configuration would limit the activities to a certain direction and limit the duration. Water is scattered and limited to noticeable improvements. The low topographic relief as well as the low vegetation offer less than outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

47,300 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit, noting other resource values. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

47,300 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-151

UNIT NAME: Rough Hills

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 30 miles north of Elko, Nevada. It is composed of a singular mountainous ridge running north-south. Some drainages flow to both the east and west. The Bruneau River flows north-west for about two miles through the northeast corner of the unit.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 6,300 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: the entire 6,300 acres are natural. A way one mile long exists in the unit but is substantially unnoticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Generally the topography is mountainous and is dominated by the Rough Hills which trend north and south near the western border of the unit. Much topographic diversity is found in the middle and eastern portions of the area in drainages such as Bear Creek and Dam Gulch. The northeastern corner provides extreme topographic changes within and near Copper Creek and Bruneau River Canyons. Although vegetative screening provided by big sagebrush is typically poor to average throughout the unit, opportunities for solitude afforded by the topographic relief in the unit are outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Activities available in the unit include fishing, hiking, backpacking, camping, hunting, horseback riding, and wildlife observation. Fishing was found to be outstanding in the northeastern portion of the unit. This same area offers excellent hiking, camping, and photographic experiences. The drainages on the eastern side of the Rough Hills provide outstanding areas for hiking, camping, and horseback riding. The ridgeline can be hiked with difficulty and provides good scenic photography to the recreationist. Horseback riding is probably limited to experienced riders because the rugged terrain makes movement hazardous. Even though users could become concentrated within the drainages, the opportunities for primitive recreation are considered outstanding within the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

6,300 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 11 specific comments on this unit. A few noted intrusions. The majority noted the area was completely natural and had many outstanding opportunities for recreation and solitude. Several noted supplemental and other resource values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

6,300 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

Zero acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates that the entire area does possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-152

UNIT NAME: Charleston Reservoir

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 55 miles north of Elko, Nevada. The unit is characterized by rugged rocky terrain. It is more diverse topographically along its eastern edge and at the northern end. Willow Creek flows east-west through a scenic canyon in the northern part of the unit.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 5,120 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: One portion covering about 100 acres includes Charleston Reservoir. This is substantially noticeable and not natural. The remaining 5,020 acres include one reservoir, five miles of fence line, three miles of ways, and an irrigation ditch about a half mile long. These are not easily noticeable, rendering the 5,020 acres essentially natural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Topographic screening is good in the eastern and northern portions of the unit. Isolation within the canyons will be difficult because visitors would tend to concentrate in small areas. Opportunities for solitude are considered less than outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Activities available include camping, hiking, rock climbing, and horseback riding. Previous evidence of camping is found in the aspen grove in the north-

east corner of the unit. Day hiking is possible from there to Willow Creek Canyon. Horseback riding would require experience because of the rugged terrain. The diversity and quality of primitive recreation opportunities are not outstanding.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

5,120 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit, noting other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

5,120 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by the public comment, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-153

UNIT NAME: Mahala Creek

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 35 miles north of Elko, Nevada. The terrain is generally rolling except for steep terrain along the North Fork of the Humboldt River that flows easterly through the unit. Devil's Gap, a narrow gap with cliffs on either side through which the North Fork flows, is in the unit. Vegetation is composed of low-growing big sagebrush with some riparian growth along the stream.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 10,240 acres of public land. The entire unit is separated by roads and substantial intrusions into three portions, none of which meets the minimum size criterion.
2. Naturalness: The entire 10,240 acres lack naturalness because the 10 miles of ways, three miles of fenceline, and two miles of telephone and power lines are substantially noticeable. Further evaluation is unnecessary.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

10,240 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit, noting other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

10,240 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by the public comment, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-160/UT-020-009,011,012 UNIT NAME: Wagon Box Pass

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County, Nevada and Box Elder County, Utah, about 90 miles northeast of Elko, Nevada. The unit contains a small mountain range that runs north-south through the eastern area. Otherwise, the unit is generally rolling hills covered with heavy sagebrush and sparse juniper vegetative types. The unit is managed by the Elko BLM District in Nevada and the Salt Lake BLM District in Utah.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 21,300 acres of public land of which 16,330 acres are in Nevada and 4,970 acres are in Utah. One parcel of 1,600 acres is separated by a road and does not meet the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: The unit contains three reservoirs, three miles of pipeline, 12 developed springs, 12 miles of fence line, and 20 miles of ways. These impacts are scattered throughout the unit and are substantially unnoticeable. Therefore, the remaining 19,700 acres are essentially natural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The generally rolling terrain in combination with the moderate vegetative cover does not provide outstanding solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Activities available include hiking, camping, horseback riding, hunting, and photography. The quality and diversity of these primitive recreation activities are considered less than outstanding in this unit.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

16,330 acres in Nevada should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

4,970 acres in Utah should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit, noting other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

16,330 acres in Nevada are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

4,970 acres in Utah are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by the public comment, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-160-B

UNIT NAME: Wagon Box Pass

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 60 miles northeast of Elko, Nevada. The unit is flat with a few rolling hills. The dominant vegetation is low-growing big sagebrush with a few juniper trees scattered throughout the unit.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 6,000 acres of public land. One 650-acre portion is separated by a bladed fenceline and does not meet the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: One 790-acre portion has been plowed and seeded with crested wheatgrass. Since the seeding is substantially noticeable, the area is unnatural. The remaining 4,560 acres are essentially natural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The flat terrain of the 4,560-acre subunit with a few rolling hills provides little topographic screening. The scattered junipers provide only a moderate amount of vegetative screening. Visitors will be easily seen from throughout the unit, making opportunities for solitude less than outstanding.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Activities available include backpacking, hiking, hunting, and wildlife observation. The size of the unit would allow activities of only short duration. The quality and diversity of the primitive recreation opportunities are not outstanding. Water is also unavailable.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

6,000 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: None received.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

6,000 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: No public comments were received, and the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-161

UNIT NAME: Bald Mountain

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 60 miles northeast of Elko, Nevada and is about four miles west of the Utah border. The unit contains gently rolling hills with mostly big sagebrush in the south and some scattered junipers in the north.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 16,620 acres of public land. Roads separate five parcels totaling 11,500 acres which did not meet the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: The 5,120-acre subunit contains four miles of fenceline, a way, two reservoirs, and a stock tank. These are substantially unnoticeable, making the unit essentially natural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The topographic relief of the remaining subunit is poor. The vegetation is strictly low-growing and provides no screening. Persons on the lower slopes can easily see others on higher ground and vice versa. Overall, opportunities for solitude are not outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Activities available include backpacking, camping, horseback riding, hunting, and photography. The opportunities are limited because the area is so small and it offers few features that would attract primitive recreationists. Because of its uninteresting terrain, lack of vegetative cover, and poor scenery, the area offers less than outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

16,620 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit. One mentioned roads and range improvements. Both noted other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

16,620 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-162

UNIT NAME: Tee Pee Rock #2

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 30 miles southeast of Jackpot, Nevada. The unit is composed of rolling hills with low-growing sagebrush and stands of pinyon-juniper. Tee Pee Rock is a reddish brown color and stands above the surrounding landscape in the northwestern corner of the unit.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. **Size:** The unit contains 11,000 acres of public land.
2. **Naturalness:** The entire 11,000 acres are essentially natural because the 14 miles of ways, three miles of pipeline, and eight miles of fence-line are substantially unnoticeable.
3. **Outstanding Opportunities for:**
 - A. **Solitude:** The topography of the area is rolling and provides for some degree of solitude. Generally, the juniper cover provides most of the screening between users. As persons move about in the unit they will become visible to others as they move into clearer areas. Opportunities for solitude are less than outstanding.
 - B. **A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation:** Activities available include hiking, camping, hunting, and sightseeing. The terrain provides moderate quality hiking and camping experiences. No specific attractions exist to enhance sightseeing and photography. Opportunities for primitive recreation are not outstanding. Water is also unavailable.
4. **Supplemental Values:** No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

11,000 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit, noting other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

11,000 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by the public comment, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-164/ID-22-1/UT-020-001 UNIT NAME: Little Goose Creek #1

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is about 90 miles northeast of Elko, Nevada. The topography consists of gently rolling hills. The vegetation consists of low-growing big sagebrush with scattered juniper and pinyon pine at the higher elevations. Elevations vary from 5,200 feet to 6,300 feet. A 1,330-acre parcel lies in Utah and two portions totaling 2,325 acres lie in Idaho. The remaining 7,695 acres are in Nevada.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit, noting other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

The decision to intensively inventory this unit was appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals. Until the board issues its rulings, no final decision on this unit can be made. Public comment received on this unit will be utilized at that time.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-167 UNIT NAME: Little Goose Creek #4

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 60 miles northeast of Elko, Nevada, on the Idaho border. It is a series of rolling hills interspersed with a few creeks covered with low sage with a few widely scattered stands of aspen.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 5,300 acres of public land. One parcel of 1,100 acres is separated by a road, leaving a 4,200-acre parcel. Neither parcel meets the minimum size criterion.
2. Naturalness: Overall the area is essentially natural, although it does contain five miles of ways which are substantially unnoticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Because of the unit's small size, outstanding opportunities are not available.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Because of the unit's small size, outstanding opportunities are not available.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

5,300 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit, noting other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

5,300 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by the public comment, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-167-B

UNIT NAME: Little Goose Creek #4

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 70 miles northeast of Elko, Nevada and could be characterized as mostly flat with some gently rolling hills covered with sagebrush and some juniper.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 6,100 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: There is a one and a half mile long way; however, the 6,100 acre unit is essentially natural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: No outstanding opportunities for solitude exist in the unit due to the poor or non-existent topographic or vegetative screening.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Activities available include backpacking, camping, horseback riding, hunting, and photography. The opportunities are limited because the area as a whole offers few features that would attract primitive recreationists. Because of uninteresting terrain, lack of vegetative cover, and poor scenery, the area offers less than outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

6,100 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: None received.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

6,100 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: No public comments were received, and the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-170

UNIT NAME: Bedke Well

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 25 miles southeast of Jackpot, Nevada. The unit varies from low rolling hills to flat areas. The typical vegetation is low-growing big sagebrush with some isolated junipers occurring places.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 26,880 acres of public land. Two portions totaling 6,600 acres were separated by roads and do not meet the minimum size criterion.
2. Naturalness: Six miles of pipeline with associated stocktanks remain in the unit along with nine miles of fenceline, 12 miles of ways, and a windmill. Although some of these are noticeable, the 20,280 acre unit is essentially natural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The vegetative screening is basically very low growing. The topography consists of low-rolling hills that do not provide much screening. The opportunities for solitude are only moderate, not outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Activities available include hiking, horseback riding, and hunting. The opportunities available are limited because the area as a whole offers few features that would attract primitive recreationists. Because of the area's uninteresting terrain, lack of vegetative cover, and poor scenery, it offers less than outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation.

4. Supplemental Values: A portion of the Goose Creek-Fort Hall Emigrant Trail passes through the area.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

26,880 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit. One mentioned roads and range improvements and both noted other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

26,880 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-171

UNIT NAME: Delano

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is about 50 miles northeast of Elko, Nevada. The unit is rolling and has a northwesterly slope. Elevations vary from 5,500 feet to 7,300 feet. Vegetation consists of big sagebrush and sagebrush-juniper on the slopes.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 7,400 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: The 7,400-acre unit is essentially natural. However, there is a 1,100-acre seeding in the northwest corner. There are also a well and a windmill on the west boundary. All are substantially unnoticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The topographic diversity of this unit is low to moderate. The vegetative diversity is also low to moderate. Neither the vegetation nor the topography offers high screening. Users would readily contact other users, making opportunities for solitude less than outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Primitive recreation activities include hiking, hunting, photography, and possibly rockhounding. The recreation experiences would only be moderate. No particular attractions exist to enhance hiking or photography. Therefore, opportunities for solitude are less than outstanding.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

7,400 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit. One mentioned roads and range improvements and both noted other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

7,400 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-171-A

UNIT NAME: Delano

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit lies 50 miles northeast of Elko, Elko County, Nevada. The terrain is gently rolling with a southwest aspect. The elevation varies from 6,000 feet to about 7,400 feet. The vegetation varies from low-growing big sagebrush to sage-juniper in the middle elevations.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 10,450 acres of public land. A parcel of 1,200 acres has been separated by accumulated impacts and does not meet the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: The remaining 9,250 acres is essentially natural. It contains 15 miles of ways, one developed spring, one well, and numerous mining scars that are substantially unnoticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The topographic diversity is not high. The canyons are shallow and the ridges are rounded. The vegetation is a very low-growing form in the south and west portions. The juniper growth is only found at the middle of the slopes and is sparse. The tops of the ridges consist of grasses and other low-growing plants. A user would find it difficult to not be seen by another user. Therefore, outstanding opportunities for solitude do not exist.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Primitive recreation activities include hunting, hiking, horseback riding and possible rock-hounding. The vegetation and topography do not provide for good screening. Primitive recreation opportunities are less than outstanding.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

10,450 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit, mentioning roads and other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

10,450 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by the public comment, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-171-B

UNIT NAME: Delano

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is about 60 miles northeast of Elko, Nevada. The terrain is mostly rolling with the drainages running south. The elevation varies from 5,200 feet to near 6,400 feet. The vegetation is composed of low forms of big sagebrush with juniper occurring at the high elevations.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 10,540 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: The 10,540-acre unit is essentially natural. There are about five miles of ways and one well within the unit, but they are substantially unnoticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The terrain comprises shallow drainages leading to the south. The topographic relief is low and provides little screening. The vegetation is low-growing and is not dense, making screening poor. Throughout the unit users would find it difficult to avoid another visitor, making opportunities for solitude less than outstanding.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Activities available include hiking, horseback riding, photography, hunting, and perhaps rock-hounding. The low value of the vegetative and topographic diversity diminishes the quality of these activities. Opportunities for primitive recreation are less than outstanding.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

10,540 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit, mentioning roads and other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

10,540 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by the public comment, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-174

UNIT NAME: Ninemile

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 40 miles northeast of Wells, Nevada. The unit is characterized as a broad valley between two ridge lines. The dominant vegetation is low-growing big sagebrush with some pinyon-juniper stands.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 21,120 acres of public land. Three parcels totaling 8,900 acres are separated by bladed fencelines and do not meet the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: The 12,220 acres are essentially natural since the 10 miles of ways and four miles of fenceline within the unit are substantially unnoticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:

A. Solitude: The small portion of Ninemile Ridge in the unit and Tony Mountain provide a moderate degree of topographic screening. The same is true for vegetative screening in areas of pinyon-juniper. In general, however, other visitors can easily be seen from throughout the unit and opportunities for solitude are less than outstanding.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Activities available include backpacking, camping, hiking, hunting, horseback riding, and rockhounding. The quality and diversity of these opportunities are less than outstanding. Water is also unavailable.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

21,120 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received three specific comments on this unit. Two cited roads and range improvements while one noted other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

21,120 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-177

UNIT NAME: Tijuana John

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 12 miles southeast of Jackpot, Nevada. The topography of the unit is diverse in the south and flat in the north. Dominant vegetation is big sagebrush.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 12,840 acres of public land. One 3,000-acre parcel is separated by a road and does not meet the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: The 9,840 acres remaining include a reservoir, two miles of fence line, and three miles of ways. These are substantially unnoticeable. Therefore, the entire 9,840 acres are essentially natural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Topographic screening is moderate in Cow and Willow Creeks. The remainder of the unit offers little topographic diversity. The entire unit is covered with low-growing big sagebrush and sparse juniper stands. Outstanding opportunities for solitude do not exist.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Activities available include backpacking, camping, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, sight-seeing, and photography. Little shelter or water is available except along Cow and Willow Creeks. A dead-end road along Willow Creek hampers the recreational experience. The unit provides less than outstanding opportunities for solitude.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

12,840 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received four specific comments on this unit. Most mentioned roads and intrusions. One noted the area had low-flying military aircraft. Lack of outstanding opportunities was also discussed and most listed other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

12,840 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-177-B

UNIT NAME: Tijuana John

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 12 miles southeast of Jackpot, Nevada. The area offers generally rolling terrain interspersed with washes leading north. The dominant vegetative cover is low-growing big sagebrush.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 12,990 acres of public land. Two parcels totaling 5,140 acres are separated by bladed fencelines and do not meet the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: The remaining 7,850 acres have apparent naturalness because the two reservoirs, a mile and a half of fenceline, eight miles of ways, and an improved spring are substantially unnoticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The topography is not diverse in the unit nor does the vegetation provide screening from other individuals. No outstanding opportunities for solitude exist in the unit.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Activities available include hiking, hunting, sightseeing, and photography. Little of interest for photography can be found. The quality and diversity of the remaining opportunities are also less than outstanding. No water is available in the unit.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

12,990 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit. It noted roads, a variety of intrusions, and a lack of solitude and recreation. Other resource values were also listed.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

12,990 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONAL FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by the public comment, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-177-F

UNIT NAME: Tijuana John

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 12 miles southeast of Jackpot, Nevada. It generally consists of mountainous terrain covered by big sagebrush and pinyon-juniper.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 6,560 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: Of the 6,560 acres, 460 are not natural because past mining activities are evident. The remaining 6,100 acres include about a mile and a half of ways and a developed spring. Since these are substantially unnoticeable, the 6,100 acres are essentially natural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Topographic screening is good only in the middle and southeastern parts of the unit. Vegetative cover includes low-growing sagebrush and moderately dense stands of pinyon-juniper in the higher elevations. Solitude can be experienced in the unit but is not of outstanding quality.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Activities available include backpacking, camping, hiking, hunting, sightseeing, and photography. The quality and diversity of these opportunities are less than outstanding. Water is not available in the unit.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

6,560 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit mentioning roads, intrusions, low-flying military aircraft, lack of outstanding opportunities, and other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

6,560 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by the public comment, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-177-J

UNIT NAME: Tijuana John

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County 12 miles southeast of Jackpot, Nevada. The unit is characterized by fairly rugged terrain with big sagebrush and juniper.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 6,320 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: The unit includes four miles of ways, three reservoirs, and some prospect pits. These are scattered throughout the unit and are substantially unnoticeable. Therefore, the entire 6,320 acres are essentially natural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Peaks and small canyons exist where a moderate degree of solitude can be felt. Travel for more than a mile without entering surrounding private land is difficult. Outstanding opportunities for solitude are non-existent.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Activities available include hiking, hunting, sightseeing, and photography. The quality and diversity of these activities are less than outstanding.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

6,320 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit, mentioning roads, intrusions, low flying military aircraft, and lack of outstanding opportunities. Other resource values were also listed.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

6,320 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-177-L

UNIT NAME: Tijuana John

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in the Elko County about 12 miles southeast of Jackpot, Nevada. The unit includes rugged terrain to the north and flat areas to the south. Vegetation consists of low-growing big sagebrush and sparse stands of pinyon-juniper.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 14,400 acres of public land. Three parcels totaling 8,600 acres were separated by a road, a pipeline, and bladed fenceline. These do not meet the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: The remaining 5,800 acres includes two reservoirs and four miles of ways. These are substantially unnoticeable, making the entire 5,800 acres essentially natural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Topographic screening is good in the northwest part of the unit. Fairly dense stands of juniper provide a moderate degree of solitude in the western region as well. However, opportunities for solitude are less than outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Activities available include backpacking, camping, hiking, horseback riding, spelunking,

sightseeing, and photography. The unit's size hinders the duration of backpacking, hiking, and horseback riding experiences. The quality and diversity of these activities are less than outstanding. No water is available.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

14,400 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit, mentioning roads, intrusions, low-flying military aircraft, and lack of outstanding opportunities. Other resource values were also listed.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

14,400 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by the public comment, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-178

UNIT NAME: Granite

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is about 80 miles northeast of Elko, Nevada. The topography consists of a central mountain range running north-south with ridges sloping away to the east and west. The elevations vary from 5,600 feet to 7,900 feet. Vegetation is mainly sagebrush with aspen patches in the drainages.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 8,300 acres of public land. One parcel of 3,100 acres is separated by a road and does not meet the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: The remaining 5,200-acre parcel is not natural. There are six miles of ways and one mile of fenceline which are substantially noticeable. No further evaluation is necessary.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

8,300 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received five specific comments on this unit. Several dealt with roads and intrusions. Low flying aircraft and lack of outstanding opportunities were also mentioned. All noted other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

8,300 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-178-A

UNIT NAME: Granite

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is about 80 miles northeast of Elko, Nevada. The topography is mountainous with Middle Stack Mountain centered in the unit. The drainages from Middle Stack slope off sharply in all directions. The shortest slopes lie to the south. This south side drops only 1,000 feet to a high saddle. The vegetation consists of sagebrush and other low-growing shrubs and bushes.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 15,420 acres of public land. One parcel of 2,230 acres is separated from the main body by a fenced seeding and does not meet the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: The remaining 13,190 acres are essentially natural. About 5,000 acres are affected by several mining cuts and five miles of roads. However, because of distance and space, these are substantially unnoticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Middle Stack Mountain dominates the unit. On and around it a moderate degree of solitude is felt. The remainder of the unit has low-growing vegetation, shallow drainages, and gradual slopes. These factors produce poor screening. Since poor screening is available in most of the unit and solitude is only moderate on the mountain, opportunities for solitude are less than outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Recreation activities include hiking, horseback riding, and hunting. Good recreation experiences can be enjoyed throughout the unit. However, the terrain does not offer outstanding hiking, horseback riding, or hunting as it is generally unchallenging. There are no outstanding features that enhance these activities. Opportunities for primitive recreation are less than outstanding.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

15,420 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit, mentioning roads, range improvements, and lack of solitude. Other resource values were also listed.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

15,420 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by the public comment, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-178-C

UNIT NAME: Granite

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is about 80 miles northeast of Elko, Nevada. The topography is rolling with all drainages flowing east. The elevation ranges from 5,800 feet to around 7,000 feet. The vegetation is mostly low-growing big sagebrush with aspen stands in the wet areas.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 9,900 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: The unit is essentially natural. The 14 miles of ways, one reservoir, and three improved springs within the unit are substantially unnoticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The highest elevations are along the west side of the unit with a general slope off to the east. The drainages are rather shallow and the ridges are somewhat flattened. The vegetation is low to medium and provides only moderate screening. The aspen patches are small and associated with only a few of the drainages. The screening provided by topography and vegetation is only moderate over the entire unit, making opportunities for solitude less than outstanding.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Activities available for recreation are: hiking, horseback riding, hunting, and photography. The terrain contributes to an average experience. Water is available and would enhance some of the activities. No outstanding features exist that provide an unusual photographic subject. Hunting would be average for the area. No recreational opportunities would be considered outstanding.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

9,900 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit. Roads, intrusions, and lack of outstanding opportunities were mentioned. It was pointed out that the area was an aircraft corridor. Both noted other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

9,900 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-178-F

UNIT NAME: Granite

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is about 80 miles northeast of Elko, Nevada. The topography consists of a central ridgeline crossing east-west across the northern edge of the unit. Shallow drainages descend from this main ridge. Vegetation consists mainly of big sagebrush.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 7,900 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: The unit has seven miles of ways that are visually centered in the unit. There are also several machine-cut mining scars. All of these impacts are substantially noticeable from most portions of the unit, making the entire 7,900 acres unnatural. No further evaluation is necessary.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

7,900 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit. Roads, intrusions, and lack of solitude were mentioned. Both noted other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

7,900 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-179/ID-107-26

UNIT NAME: Cottonwood-Salmon Falls

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County, Nevada and Twin Falls County, Idaho. The unit is about a mile and a half west of Jackpot, Nevada. The topography consists of generally flat to rolling terrain with Cottonwood Creek and Salmon Falls Creek trending north through the unit. These total about 10 miles of perennial streams. The canyons created by these streams are relatively shallow but somewhat steep. The unit is managed by the Elko BLM District in Nevada, and the Burley and Boise Districts in Idaho. The unit contains 17,767 acres of public land of which 11,790 acres are in Nevada and 5,977 acres are in Idaho.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 11 specific comments on this unit. One mentioned intrusions. The remainder of the comments discussed the area's naturalness and outstanding solitude and recreation. The majority noted supplemental values and one listed other resource values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION: The decision to intensively inventory this unit was appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals. Until the Board issues its ruling, no final decision on this unit can be made. Public comments received on this unit will be utilized at that time.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-181

UNIT NAME: Ellen and Dee

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 18 miles southwest of Jackpot, Nevada. The unit is comprised of rolling mountainous terrain with sparse grasses and low-growing sagebrush. L and D Mountain is in the northeast corner and Bonanza Canyon is in the southern portion of the unit.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 6,010 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: One area covering 450 acres is unnatural because numerous prospect pits are substantially noticeable. The remaining 5,560 acres are essentially natural because the few improved springs are not substantially noticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The topographic screening is good in the unit, especially the western and northern portions. The vegetation is low or almost nonexistent and, therefore, provides no screening. Other visitors would be visible if on the same or adjacent ridgelines to one another. The unit offers less than outstanding opportunities for solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Activities available include hiking, hunting, wild horse observation, and camping. The terrain would offer interesting day hiking. Hunting is considered moderate. The quality and diversity of these activities are less than outstanding. No water is available.
4. Supplemental Values: Wild horses exist in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

6,010 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit. One mentioned roads, range improvements, and lack of solitude. Both noted other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

6,010 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-181-C

UNIT NAME: Ellen and Dee

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 10 miles southeast of Jackpot, Nevada. The unit is irregular in shape and is characterized by flat areas and rolling hills. The predominant vegetation is low sagebrush.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 6,000 acres of public land. One 940-acre parcel is separated by roads and does not meet the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: The remaining 5,060 acres are essentially natural because the four miles of fence line, four miles of ways, and the stock tank within the unit are substantially unnoticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Little solitude can be attained as other recreationists could easily be seen. The gently rolling hills with low sagebrush would offer no seclusion. No outstanding opportunities for solitude exist.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Activities available include hiking, backpacking, camping, hunting, and wildlife observation. The size of the unit allows only activities of short duration. The quality and diversity of these activities are not outstanding.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

6,000 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit, mentioning roads, intrusions, and lack of solitude. Other resource values were also noted.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

6,000 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by the public comment, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-181-E

UNIT NAME: Ellen and Dee

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 10 miles southeast of Jackpot, Nevada. The western part of the unit includes rocky cliffs. As one travels eastward, the terrain becomes rolling hills and then flats. Some running streams exist.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 5,340 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: The unit contains two miles of ways, a reservoir, a developed spring, and some mining claim evidence. Since these are substantially unnoticeable, the entire 5,340 acres are essentially natural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: A small degree of solitude is possible in the western regions in and around the rocky cliffs. Generally, however, persons can easily be seen throughout most of the unit. The low-growing sagebrush provides little screening, making the unit less than outstanding for solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Activities available include backpacking, camping, horseback riding, and wildlife observation. The size of the unit makes the duration of these activities short. No specific attractions can be found to enhance hiking. No outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation exist.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

5,340 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit. Roads, intrusions, and lack of outstanding opportunities were mentioned. Both noted other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

5,340 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-183

UNIT NAME: Fort Yoho

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is about 80 miles north-northeast of Elko, Nevada and about 30 miles due west of Jackpot, Nevada. The topography consists of

rolling hills with long high ridges and two deep canyons. The drainages are to the south. The vegetation consists of sagebrush-juniper with aspen found in the canyons.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 12,350 acres of public land. The unit has been divided by roads into four parcels, all less than 5,000 acres and not meeting the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: There are 10,300 acres that are essentially natural. The remaining 2,050 acres contain one large reservoir, eight miles of ways, and one mile of fenceline that are substantially noticeable, rendering this area unnatural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Because of the small size of the parcels, the opportunity for outstanding solitude does not exist.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The small size of the parcels does not allow for an outstanding opportunity for primitive recreation.
4. Supplemental Values: Partial tools and arrowhead chips were found indicating archaeological values.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

12,350 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit, noting other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

12,350 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by the public comment, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-184

UNIT NAME: Bad Lands

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 25 miles southwest of Jackpot, Nevada. It is characterized by sparse vegetative covered rocky terrain. The rocky areas in the unit are extremely diverse and offer good

sightseeing opportunities. Salmon Falls Creek flows southeast through a canyon in one portion of the unit. The North Fork of Salmon Falls Creek flows south through another portion.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 72,480 acres of public land. Seven parcels totaling 13,800 acres are separated by roads and a telephone line. These do not meet the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: Three portions totaling 17,900 acres are in an unnatural condition. They contain 30 miles of ways, 14 reservoirs, 11 miles of fenceline, and a 200-acre crested wheatgrass seeding. The remaining four areas of 5,400, 9,000, 11,100, and 15,280 acres include two miles of ways, a reservoir, and a mile of fence. These are substantially unnoticeable leaving each of the areas natural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The portion totaling 9,000 acres offers outstanding topographic screening and solitude. It includes the Salmon Falls Creek and Canyon and the surrounding rugged rocky terrain. The canyon is winding and offers good seclusion from others. The smallest area is flat and only offers moderate screening along the North Fork of Salmon Falls Creek. The two largest areas have rolling hills with some flat mesas. Their vegetative cover is low-growing big sagebrush. In these and the smallest unit, solitude is difficult to attain as other users are easily seen.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Activities available include backpacking, camping, hiking, horseback riding, fishing, hunting, sightseeing, and photography. The portion containing 9,000 acres has outstanding recreational opportunities. Usable camp sites exist along Salmon Falls Creek, where rainbow and German brown trout up to four pounds exist. Hiking is pleasant in this area as well. Sightseeing and photography are excellent both in the canyon and in the rocky areas to the northeast.

The 5,400 acre northern portion offers good fishing for small trout. The North Fork of Salmon Falls Creek is small and brushy. Even foot access for either fishing or hiking is extremely difficult and slow going. The remainder of this smallest area has little of interest for hiking, sightseeing, or photography.

The two larger areas have areas such as Salmon Falls Creek, Big Devil's Table, and Cold Springs Mountain for scenic photography. Little shelter from the elements is available in either unit. Water is available only in the northeastern corner in the largest unit and not at all in the 11,100 acre parcel. Primitive recreation opportunities are considered good but not outstanding in the 5,400, 11,100, and 15,280 acre portions.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

9,000 acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

63,480 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 16 specific comments on this unit. Most of the comments dealt with outstanding solitude and recreation and remarkable naturalness of the area. One noted intrusions and quite a few discussed the lack of outstanding opportunities. A few noted supplemental and other resource values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

9,000 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

63,480 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates that a portion of the area does possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation. The portion eliminated from WSA consideration was found not to possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-185

UNIT NAME: Canyon Creek

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 55 miles northeast of Elko, Nevada. It consists of rolling hills and flat areas cut by two canyons. Big sage is the dominant plant in the unit, with some aspen and mountain mahogany in the canyons.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 35,760 acres of public land. Five parcels divided by roads totaling 7,500 acres were deleted because they fail to meet the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: A total of 17,300 acres is unnatural due to the numerous stocktanks, pipelines, ways, fencelines, and developed springs in two areas divided by roads. The remaining 10,960 acre area has five miles of ways and a developed spring but is, overall, in a natural condition.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The narrow canyon provides good screening, but the rest of the area offers poor vegetative and topographic screening. While

the opportunity for solitude in the canyon is good, it is not considered outstanding. In the rest of the area it is poor. No outstanding opportunities for solitude exist.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Activities available include hiking, horseback riding, hunting, and camping. Visitors would concentrate in the canyon, where the natural portion is only three miles long; hence the activities would be of a very short duration and are not considered outstanding. Water is available in the creek.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

35,760 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit, mentioning other resource values. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

35,760 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-187

UNIT NAME: Cottonwood

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 55 miles northwest of Elko, Nevada. It is all flatland covered by big sage and bunchgrass. It is also contiguous to the Forest Service's RARE II area 4-372, recommended for further planning. The Forest Service indicated the BLM unit would not enhance the wilderness values of its planning area and should be evaluated separately.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 15,490 acres of public land. The entire unit is divided into eight parcels by roads. All of these are less than 5,000 acres and do not meet the size criterion.

2. Naturalness: This subdivided unit has 10 miles of ways, four miles of buried pipeline and associated stocktanks, 30 reservoirs, two developed springs, and 15 miles of fencelines. These are substantially noticeable, making all eight parcels unnatural. No further evaluation is necessary.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

15,490 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit, mentioning roads and range improvements. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

15,490 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation for this area which is contiguous to lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service that are recommended for further wilderness planning. Evidence available to the Bureau indicates that the adjacent public land portion is not natural and does not possess the other necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-188

UNIT NAME: Beaver Ponds

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 40 miles north-northeast of Elko, Nevada. The unit's topography consists of a series of rolling hills and valleys running to the north and east. The largest drainages are at the south end. Vegetation consists of big sagebrush. Aspen is found along the larger drainages near the south end of the unit.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 17,320 acres of public land. Five parcels totaling 11,480 acres are divided by roads and do not meet the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: The remaining 5,840 acre parcel is essentially natural. The parcel contains eight miles of ways, four miles of power line, and three developed springs. However, these are substantially unnoticeable.

3. Outstanding Opportunities for:

A. Solitude: Vegetative and topographic screening run from low to moderate. The narrow configuration combined with the poor screening would provide for only moderate solitude. Users would easily be seen from the ridges. No outstanding opportunities for solitude exist.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Activities that would be available in this unit are hiking, hunting, horseback riding, and perhaps photography. The short distances and lack of topographic relief would allow only moderate experiences in most of these activities. Hunting would be good to fair. Any of the activities would be of short duration. There are no slopes or formations that are challenging. No outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation exist.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

17,320 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit, noting other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

17,320 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by the public comment, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-193

UNIT NAME: Anderson Creek

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 40 miles northwest of Wells, Nevada. The unit is characterized as a narrow low ridge surrounded by flat lands. The major vegetative type is big sagebrush.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 8,920 acres of public land. Four parcels totaling 2,780 acres are separated by roads and do not meet the size criterion.

2. Naturalness: The remaining 6,140 acres include eight miles of fence-line, 14 reservoirs, four developed springs, a two-mile pipeline, and several ways. These make the entire area unnatural. No further evaluation is necessary.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

8,920 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit, noting other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

8,920 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by the public comment, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-197

UNIT NAME: Hank's Creek

AREA DESCRIPTION: This unit is about 30 miles north of Elko, Nevada. The terrain is rolling with some diversity exhibited. The vegetation consists mainly of big sagebrush with some aspen associated with a few drainages. Hank's Creek is the main drainage and flows through the southern portion.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 37,640 acres of public land. A parcel containing 7,400 acres has been separated by a road. The remaining 30,240 acres is intact. Both parcels meet the basic size criterion.

2. Naturalness: The entire 37,640 acres are essentially natural. The 20 miles of ways, nine miles of fence, seven developed springs, and three reservoirs are substantially unnoticeable.

3. Outstanding Opportunities for:

A. Solitude: The smaller unit is primarily gently rolling hills on the eastern side and has some high hills that trend, in a broken line, north and south through the unit. Vegetation is comprised generally of low growing sagebrush in both areas. The larger unit has moderately diverse topography in all areas except in the major drainages and near the outer edges of the unit. The main ridgeline that trends north and south provides views of other recreationists nearly anywhere in the unit. A moderate degree of solitude could be felt along Hank's Creek because of its sinuosity. Outstanding opportunities of solitude are not present in either unit.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Activities available in both areas include hunting, hiking, horseback riding, and fishing. Hunting and fishing are fair to good. Hiking would be a good experience. Horseback riding would be good in the southern portion due to available water in the Hank's Creek drainage. Topography and vegetation would not enhance recreational activities in the units. These opportunities are not outstanding in either area.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

37,640 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received seven specific comments on this unit. One comment mentioned intrusions. The remaining comments discussed the area's naturalness and outstanding opportunities for solitude and recreation. Several noted supplemental values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

37,640 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-198

UNIT NAME: Coyote

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 50 miles north of Elko, Nevada. The unit includes two ridges running north-south that are divided by about one mile. The vegetative cover is mainly low sagebrush with some aspen and mountain mahogany. A portion of the unit is contiguous to the Forest Service's RARE II area 4-372, recommended for further planning. The Forest Service indicated the BLM unit would not enhance the wilderness values of its planning area and should be evaluated separately.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 9,580 acres of public land. It is divided into four parcels by roads, a bladed fenceline, and a substantially noticeable way. None of the parcels meet the size criterion.

2. Naturalness: The 3,460 acres contiguous with the Forest Service is natural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The 3,460-acre area is very small making solitude difficult to attain. The topography of the area is fairly constant rolling hills. This affords little chance for screening from other individuals. Vegetative cover includes low-growing sagebrush which also provides little screening. No opportunities for outstanding solitude exist.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Activities available in the 3,460 acre area include hunting, hiking, horseback riding, sightseeing, and photography. The small size of the area would make these of extremely short duration. Some water is available from a small creek. No spectacular attractions exist for photographic subjects. Opportunities for primitive recreation are less than outstanding.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

9,580 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit, noting other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

9,580 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: A public comment was received opposing WSA designation for this area, which is contiguous to lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service that are recommended for further wilderness planning. Evidence available to the Bureau indicates that one public land portion appears natural but does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-010-199

UNIT NAME: Stag Mountain

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Elko County about 40 miles northeast of Elko, Nevada. The area is characterized by rolling hills covered by low-growing sagebrush. There are scattered stands of aspen in the area.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 40,240 acres of public land. Five parcels totaling 9,400 acres are separated by roads and do not meet the minimum size criterion. Two areas of 7,500 and 23,340 acres remain.
2. Naturalness: There are 18 miles of fencelines, 10 miles of ways, and a developed spring with a pipeline in these remaining areas, but these are substantially unnoticeable. Therefore, both remaining areas have apparent naturalness.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The 7,500-acre portion is mostly flat with a few gently rolling hills. The larger area is also mostly flat but some steeper hills exist in its eastern portion. Both areas have low-growing big sagebrush as the dominant vegetation. No outstanding opportunities for solitude exist in either subunit.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Activities available in both areas include hiking, backpacking, camping, horseback riding, and hunting. The quality and diversity of these activities are not considered outstanding. Water is available but may not be potable.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

40,240 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit, noting other resource values. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

40,240 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-020-001/CA-020-919

UNIT NAME: Tenmile Spring

AREA DESCRIPTION: The interstate area is in the northwestern corner of Nevada, about 13 miles northwest of Soldiers Meadow Ranch-Airport. The unit is about two miles in length and nine miles in width. A number of dead-end roads deeply cut into the unit, creating an irregularly shaped area. It is jointly managed by the Winnemucca BLM District in Nevada and the Susanville BLM District in California.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The roadless area contains 11,470 acres of public land. 1,620 acres were separated from the bulk of the unit by roads and do not meet the minimum size criterion.
2. Naturalness: Several small water structures, a developed spring, and a reservoir, along with a few miles of low profile fencelines are in the western half of the unit; however, they do not significantly impact the remaining area's natural condition.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Opportunities for solitude are limited. The flat-to-low rolling sagebrush terrain characterizing the eastern half of the area would provide few opportunities for solitude. The few rocky knolls and small rock rims broken by an occasional extremely shallow intermittent drainage and widely scattered thin clumps of mountain mahogany in the western-half would provide some opportunities for solitude, but the opportunities would be limited to a few small areas. Additionally, the unit's small size and irregular configuration further negates its capability to provide solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The rather featureless, non-challenging terrain would not provide exceptional opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation. Furthermore, the area's small size and configuration would restrict free movement.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

11,470 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received three specific comments on this unit. Two stated the area has outstanding recreation, outstanding solitude, and/or supplemental values. One listed other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

11,470 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-020-004/CA-020-813A&B

UNIT NAME: Hog Ranch Mountain

AREA DESCRIPTION: The interstate inventory area is about 22 miles southwest of Soldiers Meadow Ranch-Airport. Prominent features in the mountainous landscape unit are Hog Ranch Mountain in the south and Hog Ranch Canyon in the north. Numerous knolls and drainages of varying widths and depths radiate from these features. Vegetation includes Great Basin shrubs and some patches of juniper, aspen and mountain mahogany. It is jointly managed by the Winnemucca BLM District in Nevada and the Susanville BLM District in California.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The small, narrow, elongated area totals about 9,980 acres of public land. The roadless area consists of 6,620 acres as 3,360 acres were separated from the bulk of the unit by roads and do not meet the minimum size criterion.
2. Naturalness: Numerous man-made structures exist in the small area. Many miles of ways, mining excavations, livestock watering facilities, and a fenceline significantly impact the unit's natural condition. The impacts are widespread.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Despite the presence of somewhat broken topography, outstanding opportunities for solitude do not exist. The unit's narrow configuration and small size seriously restrict the availability of solitude opportunities.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The unit's small size and narrow configuration negates opportunities for unconfined types of primitive recreation. Such primitive recreational activities as hiking, horseback riding, and camping would be limited to an extremely small, confined area.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

9,980 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received four specific comments on this unit. Some comments mentioned intrusions and no outstanding solitude or recreation. One noted the presence of solitude. One noted supplemental values and two listed other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

9,980 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-020-006/CA-020-914A

UNIT NAME: Warm Springs Canyon

AREA DESCRIPTION: The interstate unit lies just northwest of Soldier Meadows Ranch. The unit covers a gentle rolling terrain which flattens out to form scattered small mesas with rock bluffs. Vegetation is sparse, consisting of low and big sagebrush with some scattered clumps of mountain mahogany along the unit's northern border. It is jointly managed by the Winnemucca BLM District in Nevada and the Susanville BLM District in California.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 65,369 acres of public land. Documented roads split the original unit into seven subunits of 21,841, 6,149, 22,550, 8,025, 2,116, 2,777 and 1,911 acres. Three of the subunits do not meet the minimum size criterion.
2. Naturalness: The four remaining subunits were found to be in a natural condition.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Opportunities for solitude within the remaining four subunits is limited. The subunits' terrain is characterized by gently rolling hills with small plateau-like knolls and small rock rims covered with low-lying sagebrush. Such terrain offers a marginal amount of screening and few isolated localities.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The subunit's un-diverse topography is rather featureless and the terrain is somewhat non-challenging. Such features do not provide outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation.

4. Supplemental Values: Wildlife and possible archaeological values were identified.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

65,369 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received three specific comments on this unit. One noted naturalness and one noted solitude. One also noted supplemental values and another listed other resource values. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

65,369 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-020-006A/CA-020-914

UNIT NAME: East Fork High Rock Canyon

AREA DESCRIPTION: The interstate area is in northwestern Nevada about six miles west of Soldiers Meadows Ranch and Airport. It is about eight miles wide and 13 miles long. The area is rich in topographic features varying from rolling hills and small plateaus with minor canyons to deep, rugged canyons and rocky bluffs. Vegetation includes sparsely scattered juniper stands, willows in drainage bottoms, and low desert shrubs. The unit is jointly managed by the Winnemucca BLM District in Nevada and the Susanville BLM District in California.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The roadless area contains about 53,920 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: A variety of man-made features are widely scattered about the area. They include short bulldozed fencelines, one extending for eight miles, a few small low profile water structures (springs and reservoirs) located mostly along the unit's edge, and a few miles of ways. These unnatural features are well screened by topographic features and widely scattered about the area. They do not have a significant impact on the area, leaving it in a substantially natural condition.

3. Outstanding Opportunities for:

A. Solitude: Opportunities for outstanding solitude abound in the extremely diverse landscape. The numerous canyons and rocky rim provide many places for individuals to feel alone and they are natural barriers that will keep users separated from other visitors.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The diverse landscape could provide limitless opportunities for a variety of primitive recreational activities. The massive canyonland complex would provide challenging outdoors skills in such activities as hiking, rock climbing and rappelling.

4. Supplemental Values: The area contains a wealth of cultural and historical values plus a substantial raptor (birds of prey) population.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

53,920 acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

Zero acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 13 specific comments on this unit. Several comments noted boundary changes; adequate size; and naturalness. Most comments mentioned outstanding solitude and recreation. Some comments noted roads and intrusions, and one noted outstanding opportunities. Most noted supplemental values. Also received were 40 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

53,920 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

Zero acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates that the entire unit does possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-020-007

UNIT NAME: High Rock Lake

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is south of the Soldier Meadows Ranch, occupying the north end of the Calico Mountain Range. To the east lies the Black Rock Desert and to the west is Little High Rock and Big High Rock canyons. Much of the area consists of a moderate mesa which slants on its east side. The west side is a rim rock bluff. The northwest corner is occupied by High Rock Lake. Willow Creek gorge crosses the north end of the unit, offering the greatest amount of topographical relief within the area. Vegetation consists primarily of low-lying sagebrush, big sagebrush, and rabbitbrush.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 72,396 acres of public land. Documented roads and private land parcels split the original unit into six subunits of which only two, 7,664 and 62,527 acres, met the minimum size criterion.
2. Naturalness: Of these two subunits the 7,664 acre area appeared to be in a less than natural condition. A predominant bladed fenceline which cuts through the center of the subunit is substantially noticeable as the area's topography and vegetation does little to conceal it's intrusiveness. The larger subunit appears to be in a primarily natural condition as the works of man are substantially unnoticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The 62,527-acre subunit offers an outstanding opportunity for solitude as it contains numerous secluded and isolated spots and broken and varied topography. Outstanding opportunities for solitude are not present in the 7,664 acre subunit because of its limited vegetative and topographic screening, general lack of secluded spots, and extremely irregular configuration.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The larger subunit offers outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation because of the area's unique geological features, varied topography, various points of interest, and unique zoological and scenic features. The smaller subunit contains no unique points of interest or challenges that would offer outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation.
4. Supplemental Values: Historical, archaeological, and geological values were identified.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

72,396 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.
(This figure differs from the Bureau's earlier recommendation due to a more accurate acreage assessment.)

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 14 specific comments on this unit. Some comments noted naturalness and adequate size. Most comments mentioned outstanding solitude and recreation. Several comments noted roads and intrusions and a few mentioned no outstanding opportunities. Most noted supplemental values and one listed other resource values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

62,527 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

9,869 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates that a portion of the area does possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation. The portion eliminated from WSA consideration was found not to possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-020-008/CA-020-913

UNIT NAME: Little High Rock Canyon

AREA DESCRIPTION: The interstate area is in the northwestern corner of Nevada about seven miles southwest of Soldiers Meadow Ranch and Airport. The roadless area is a large canyonland complex with various small mountain peaks. Little High Rock Canyon, the most dramatic of the canyons in the unit, reaches depths greater than 700 feet. Vegetation consists mainly of low-profile desert shrubs. The unit is jointly managed by the Winnemucca BLM District in Nevada and the Susanville BLM District in California.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The inventory area contains about 53,573 acres of roadless public land in a broad shaped unit extending 10 miles wide and 12 miles long. 430 acres were separated from the bulk of the unit by roads and do not meet the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: The remaining area contains a number of man-made features but most are widely scattered, very low profile, and effectively screened by the broken canyonland landscape. A concentration of past mining activities coupled with a number of reservoirs and ways render two small portions totaling 1,000 acres of the area unnatural in character. The rest is substantially natural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Solitude could be easily achieved within the highly varied landscape. The numerous canyons and drainages provide unlimited places for one to feel alone. The deep canyons and precipitious walls are significant natural barriers that would help keep visitors separated from one another. Outstanding opportunities for solitude definitely exist within the area.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The mountainous canyonland landscape provides many opportunities for visitors to participate in a variety of primitive recreational pursuits. The diverse terrain challenges outdoor skills and the presence of a variety of supplemental resource values further enhance opportunities for primitive types of recreation.
4. Supplemental Values: The area contains a variety of raptors and other wildlife species and cultural resource values.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

52,143 acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

1,430 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 17 specific comments on this unit. One comment suggested a boundary change. A few comments mentioned naturalness. Most comments noted outstanding recreation and solitude. Several discussed intrusions and lack of outstanding opportunities. Most noted supplemental values and one listed other resource values. Also received were 40 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

52,143 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

1,430 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates that a portion of the area does possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation. The portion eliminated from WSA consideration was found not to possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-020-009/CA-020-823

UNIT NAME: Leadville

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is 20 miles north of Gerlach and just south of the old mining site of Leadville. A high plateau-like basin consisting of gentle rolling hills with scattered rock outcrops and numerous shallow drainages characterizes the unit. The dominant vegetation consists of high and low sagebrush and scattered juniper. The unit is jointly managed by the Winnemucca BLM District in Nevada and the Susanville BLM District in California.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 27,023 acres of public lands. The roadless area consists of 26,224 acres as 799 acres were separated from the bulk of the unit by roads and private land. These do not meet the minimum size criterion.
2. Naturalness: The unit appears to be in a natural condition with the works of man substantially unnoticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The absence of vegetative screening and lack of topographic diversity provide the unit with less than an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Undiversified topography and vegetation, lack of natural screening, no significant points of interest or challenge, and unavailability of water result in an absence of outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

27,023 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received six specific comments on this unit. A few comments noted outstanding recreation and solitude. Most comments discussed intrusions and lack of outstanding opportunities. One noted supplemental values and three listed other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

27,023 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-020-010/CA-020-816/
CA-020-821/CA-020-820

UNIT NAME: Crutcher

AREA DESCRIPTION: The interstate inventory unit is about 25 miles northwest of Gerlach, Nevada. The moderately elevated, irregular-shaped unit consists of a gently rolling landscape in the north and central portion increasing to steeper slopes in the south. A few scattered intermittent drainages form small to moderately sized open canyons. Vegetation is dominated by sagebrush with a light scattering of juniper. The unit is managed by the Winnemucca BLM District and the Susanville BLM District in California.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The area consists of 52,745 acres of contiguous public land. Roads documented during the intensive inventory separated the original unit into subunits of 14,150, 26,490, 5,495, 1,190, 160, 860, and 4,400 acres. Four of the subunits do not meet the minimum size criterion. The remaining subunits were assessed for their wilderness qualities.

2. Naturalness: Most of the area appears to be less than natural as the work's of man are substantially noticeable with 17 miles of ways, numerous fencelines, a powerline running through the area's center, and a communication station atop Fox Mountain.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Opportunities for solitude exist but they are not considered outstanding. The northern half of the unit lacks both the topographic and vegetative features that would enable visitors to find a secluded spot and increases one's chances for avoiding the sights and sounds of other visitors to the area. The more broken topography in the southern portion possesses only a few natural features that would provide solitude; the drainages and canyons are few in number and small featured, and the vegetation that is sufficient for providing screening is only lightly scattered.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The slightly mountainous landscape would provide only limited occasions for primitive recreation. It would not challenge outdoor skills or afford many chances to indulge in a variety of recreational activities. Upland and big game hunting is considered moderate to poor along with recreational opportunities.
4. Supplemental Values: A small deer and antelope population along with some predators exist in the area.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

52,745 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received four specific comments on this unit. One comment mentioned solitude. Other comments noted roads and intrusions, and one mentioned lack of solitude. One noted supplemental values and two listed other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

52,745 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-020-012/CA-020-621 and 618

UNIT NAME: Poodle Mountain

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is northwest of Gerlach, Nevada. It is jointly managed by the Winnemucca BLM District in Nevada and the Susanville BLM District in California. The unit consists of gentle rolling terrain giving way to numerous buttes and mesas with rim rock bluffs. The western portion of the unit contains three finger-like steep rocky canyons which run in a east-west direction. Another steep canyon runs north and south bordering the unit's west side. Vegetation consists mainly of low and big sagebrush and juniper.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 137,160 acres of public land. Documented roads split the original unit into eight subunits of which six did not meet the minimum size criterion. The remaining two subunits, 5,633 acres and 127,829 acres were assessed for their wilderness qualities.
2. Naturalness: The 5,633 acre subunit appears to be in less than a natural condition as the man-made features within the area are substantially noticeable. They consist of several cherrystem roads and ways, reservoirs, and a bladed fence line. The subunit's small size and undiverse topography does little to screen these man-made intrusions. The 127,829 acre subunit appears to be in a natural condition.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The remaining 127,829 acres consist of a varied and diverse terrain with deep rocky canyons, wide-open gently rolling hills and numerous buttes and mesas. The landscape is blanketed with low and big sagebrush and juniper. The area's unique and varied terrain provides ample screening and numerous isolated spots and localities. Opportunities for solitude are outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The unit's terrain and natural screening offer an outstanding opportunity for backpacking, hiking, and sightseeing. The abundance of deer provides outstanding hunting. Overall, the unit provides an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.
4. Supplemental Values: The unit's unique topographical features, wildlife, and possible archaeological finds offer supplemental values.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

127,829 acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

9,331 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 16 specific comments on this unit. One comment suggested a boundary change. Most comments mentioned naturalness and outstanding solitude and recreation. Several noted roads, intrusions, and one noted lack of outstanding opportunities. Most noted supplemental values and two listed other resource values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

127,829 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

9,331 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates that a portion of the area does possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation. The portion eliminated from WSA consideration was found not to possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-020-014

UNIT NAME: Fox Mountain Range

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is southwest of Gerlach, Nevada and is bordered by the Smoke Creek Desert to the west and the San Emidio and Black Rock Desert to the east. The area consists of varied terrain and vegetation. Most of the unit includes gently rolling terrain with rocky outcrops and some fairly high peaks. Both the east and west sides contain large canyons and deep drainages. The western portion of the unit gives way to a dark volcanic-like terrain interlaced with a multitude of colors in red and orange hues. At the southern end of the unit the terrain is steep and rocky with numerous narrow colorful rocky canyons and drainages. Vegetation consists mainly of big and low sagebrush and juniper.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 81,424 acres of public land. Documented roads and unnatural man-made features split the original unit into eight subunits, six of which did not meet the minimum size criterion. The remaining two subunits are 60,777 and 11,570 acres.
2. Naturalness: These two subunits appear to be in a natural condition with the works of man substantially unnoticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The unit's size, diverse topography and vegetation, numerous isolated spots, and abundant natural screening provide the area with an outstanding opportunity for solitude in both subunits.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The area's unique and varied landscape of steep colorful rock canyons to gentle rolling hills provides many opportunities for visitors to participate in a variety of primitive recreational activities. The diverse terrain challenges outdoor skills and the variety of supplemental resource values and scenic qualities further enhances opportunities for an outstanding primitive recreational experience.

4. Supplemental Values: Archaeological, zoological, and geological values were identified within the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

70,943 acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

10,481 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 16 specific comments on this unit. Two suggested a boundary change. Several comments mentioned naturalness and outstanding solitude and recreation. Most comments noted roads, intrusions, and lack of outstanding opportunities. Several noted supplemental values and four listed other resource values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

72,347 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

9,077 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates that a portion of the area does possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation. The portion eliminated from WSA consideration was found not to possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-020-018

UNIT NAME: Division Peak

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is at the north end of Hualapai Valley and west of Division Mountain. Gentle rolling terrain and occasional rock outcrops gradually rise to a moderate elevation to form a single crested ridgeline. Vegetation consists mainly of big and low sagebrush.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit consists of 27,927 acres of roadless public land.
2. Naturalness: A field review of the area confirmed that a portion of the unit appeared to be in less than a natural condition as the eight miles of bladed fenceline was substantially noticeable.

3. Outstanding Opportunities for:

A. Solitude: The unit's undiverse terrain and limited vegetative cover provide little screening or few secluded or isolated localities.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Undiversified topography and vegetation, lack of natural screening, and no significant points of interest or challenge result in an absence of outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. In addition, water is unavailable.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

27,927 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received four specific comments on this unit. All comments said the unit lacks wilderness values. Two also noted other resource values. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

27,927 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-020-019

UNIT NAME: Calico Mountains

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is about 15 miles north of Gerlach and west of the Soldier Meadows road. The Calicos are a large mountain range bordered by valley bottoms to the east, west, and south. The southern end of the range consists of steep rugged rocky terrain with deep colorful rock canyons. The northern end of the unit contains more rolling terrain with large rock outcrops. Division Mountain, at the unit's north end, is the highest peak, reaching almost 8,500 feet. Vegetation consists of big sagebrush and greasewood in the flats and lower elevations, thinning out in the higher elevations. Several of the deeper drainages contain large stands of aspen and willow.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 67,931 acres of public land. The roadless area consists of 66,467 acres as 1,464 acres were separated from the bulk of the unit by roads and did not meet the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: The natural portion of the unit contains 65,861 acres; an unnatural portion contains 606 acres due to mining activity.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The unit's varied topography and limited accessibility make for an easily achieved solitude experience. The steep rugged canyons and deep drainages provide unlimited isolated spots. The varied terrain provides the natural barriers needed to keep visitors separated from one another. Outstanding opportunities for solitude definitely exist within the area.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The unit's varied colorful topography provides the visitor with outstanding opportunities for hiking, camping, backpacking, and sightseeing. Wildlife is abundant, providing a high quality of antelope and deer hunting. The area is also frequented with raptors, mountain lions, and bobcats. The outstanding rock formations provide for challenging and varied degrees of rock climbing. Outstanding opportunities for a primitive unconfined type of recreation exist within the area.
4. Supplemental Values: The area contains a variety of geological features and wildlife species. In addition, a threatened plant, Astragalus pterocarpus, is known to exist in the area.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

65,861 acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

2,070 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 16 specific comments on this unit. Most comments mentioned naturalness and outstanding opportunities. Several comments noted roads and intrusions and two stated no outstanding opportunities. Most noted supplemental values and other resource values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

65,861 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

2,070 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates that a portion of the area does possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation. The portion eliminated from WSA consideration was found not to possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-020-021/CA-020-822A&B
CA-020-823

UNIT NAME: No Name

AREA DESCRIPTION: This interstate unit is about 18 miles north of Gerlach, Nevada. The area consists of gentle rolling terrain with scattered rock outcrops. The north end of the North Fork of Negro Creek gorge runs through the southeast end of the area. Vegetation is dominated by low-growing sagebrush. It is jointly managed by the Winnemucca BLM District in Nevada and the Susanville BLM District in California.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 5,230 acres of public land, split by documented roads into several subunits, each less than the minimum 5,000 contiguous acres of public land. Therefore, further wilderness evaluation is unnecessary.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

5,230 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: None received.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

5,230 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: No public comments were received, and the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-020-200

UNIT NAME: Selenite Mountain

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is just southeast of Gerlach, standing steep and rugged along the southern end of the Black Rock Desert. The northern portion of the unit is made up of numerous rocky ridges and deep rocky drainages. The unit is heavily populated with juniper in the higher, more rugged, rocky terrain. The southern portion of the unit changes from steep rugged terrain to gently rolling hills blanketed with low-growing sagebrush.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 34,731 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: The very southern tip of the unit (2,811 acres) was found to be in less than a natural condition because of the combined impact of intruding roads and ways. A substantial way separates the natural portion from the unit's unnatural portion. The remaining 31,920 acres are primarily natural with the works of man substantially unnoticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The varied and broken topography and vegetation, many secluded spots, and isolated localities provide the unit with outstanding opportunities for solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The area's diversified topography and vegetation, abundance of natural screening, and significant points of interest and challenge offer outstanding opportunities for hiking, riding, backpacking, sightseeing, and camping.
4. Supplemental Values: The unit's geological features could be of scientific and educational value.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

34,731 acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

Zero acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 21 specific comments on this unit. Several comments noted naturalness and outstanding opportunities. One suggested a boundary change. Most comments noted roads, intrusions, and lack of outstanding opportunities. Three noted supplemental values and most listed other resource values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

31,920 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

2,811 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates that a portion of the area does possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation. The portion eliminated from WSA consideration was found not to possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-020-201

UNIT NAME: Mt. Limbo

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is about 15 miles south of Gerlach along the east side of Highway 34. From the unit's east, west, and north sides, the area's topography changes abruptly from a gentle rolling terrain to a steep rocky single-crested mountain. The southern portion of the unit consists of a somewhat rolling type of terrain which levels off to a mesa-like plateau along the southwest border. The steep rocky slopes are covered with mountain juniper and low-lying sagebrush. Within the deep rocky drainages riparian vegetation becomes more abundant, with willows, bitterbrush, and a limited amount of aspen. The gentle rolling terrain in the lower elevations is blanketed with low-lying sagebrush.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 24,512 acres of public land. The roadless area consists of 24,126 acres as 386 acres were separated from the bulk of the unit by roads and did not meet the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: The roadless area appears to be in a natural condition with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The roadless and natural portion of the area does possess an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The varied and broken topography offers many secluded spots and isolated localities.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The area's diversified topography and vegetation, abundance of natural screening, availability of water, and significant points of interest and challenge offer outstanding opportunities for hiking, riding, and sightseeing.
4. Supplemental Values: The unit's geological features could be of scientific and educational value.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

24,126 acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

386 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 18 specific comments on this unit. Several comments mentioned naturalness and outstanding opportunities. Most comments noted roads, intrusions, and lack of outstanding opportunities. Most also noted supplemental values and three listed other resource values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

24,126 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

386 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates that a portion of the area does possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation. The portion eliminated from WSA consideration was found not to possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-020-204

UNIT NAME: Nightingales

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is north of the townsite of Nixon and east of Winnemucca Lake. The topography of the area consists of a single-crested flat top mountain that runs north and south. The range gives way to scattered rock bluffs and moderate rocky peaks. Vegetation is sparse consisting mainly of sagebrush. The two main drainages that lie at the northern and southern end of the unit contain an extensive amount of mining, which is visible from atop the ridge for some distance.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 56,549 acres of public land. Roads have split the unit into five subunits, two of which did not meet the minimum size criterion. The remaining subunits of 17,390, 15,020, and 14,493 acres were evaluated further.
2. Naturalness: All three remaining subunits were found to be in a natural condition.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The subunits' configuration and lack of natural screening provide them with less than an outstanding opportunity for solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Lack of natural screening and no significant points of interest or challenge result in an absence of outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. Water is also unavailable.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

56,549 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received seven specific comments on this unit. All comments noted a lack of wilderness values. Four noted other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

56,549 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-020-209

UNIT NAME: Razorback

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is just southeast of Gerlach along the southern border of the Black Rock Desert. A small single-crest mountain (Razorback) lies at the northwest corner of the unit surrounded by roads. The southern and middle portion of the area is made up of a flat desert barren-type terrain, consisting mainly of low-lying sagebrush. Along the northeast border lies a single crest of gentle rolling hills. Vegetation consists mainly of low sagebrush with a few scattered juniper near the ridge line.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 67,467 acres of public land. Roads and intrusions split the original unit into six subunits of 53,545, 6,624, 3,593, 1,962, 890 and 853 acres, two of which meet the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: The remaining two subunits totalling 60,169 acres were found to be in a natural condition.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The absence of vegetative screening and lack of topographic diversity provide the subunits with less than an outstanding opportunity for solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Undiversified topography and vegetation, lack of natural screening, and no significant points of interest or challenge result in an absence of outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. Water is also unavailable.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

67,467 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: None received.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

67,467 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: No public comments were received, and the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-020-212

UNIT NAME: Lava Beds

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is about 25 miles south of Sulphur and the southern edge of the Black Rock Desert. The topography within the northern portion of the unit is gentle rolling terrain with moderate drainages. Scattered rock outcrops occupy the ridgeline and peaks. The southern portion of the unit changes to a slight undulating desert valley type of terrain. Vegetation is sparse throughout the entire unit, consisting mostly of sagebrush, rabbitbrush, and some scattered juniper in the higher elevations.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 69,605 acres of public lands. Documented roads have split the original unit into seven subunits of 29,244, 2,491, 11,411, 9,917, 6,366, 5,099 and 3,090 acres. Two do not meet the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: All five remaining subunits totalling 62,037 acres, were found to be in a natural condition.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Absence of vegetative screening and lack of topographic diversity provide less than an outstanding opportunity for solitude within the remaining 62,037 acres.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Even though there are some geological features in the unit, uninteresting topography and vegetation, lack of natural screening, and no significant points of interest or challenge result in an absence of outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. Water is also unavailable.

4. Supplemental Values: There are geological values within the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

69,605 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received three specific comments on this unit. All comments stated the unit lacks wilderness values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

69,605 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-020-216

UNIT NAME: South Shawavee Mountains

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is between the Nightingale Mountains and the Trinity Mountain Range. It is bordered by roads to the north and west. The southern portion of the unit is bordered by checkerboard land (interspersed public and private land). The topography of the unit is a gentle rolling terrain with some scattered rock outcrops along the ridges and moderate peaks. Vegetation is dominated by low-lying sagebrush and desert shrubs.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 20,541 acres of public land. The roadless area consists of 19,243 acres as 1,298 acres were separated from the bulk of the unit by roads and did not meet the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: The roadless portion of the unit appears to be natural with the works of man substantially unnoticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The unit's configuration, absence of vegetative screening, and lack of topographic diversity provide less than an outstanding opportunity for solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Undiversified topography and vegetation, lack of natural screening, and no significant points of interest or challenge result in an absence of outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. Water is unavailable.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

20,541 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit. Both said the unit lacks wilderness characteristics. One also noted other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

20,541 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-020-217

UNIT NAME: Shawavee Mountains

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is southwest of Lovelock on the western edge of Granite Spring Valley. Gentle rolling terrain occupies the western, southern, and eastern portion of the area. From the foothills the terrain rises to a moderate single-crested mountain consisting of a rocky ridgeline. Vegetation is predominantly juniper and sagebrush in the rocky terrain and sparse low-lying sagebrush within the lower elevations and rolling hills.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 65,757 acres of public land. The roadless area consists of 56,234 acres as 9,523 acres were separated from the bulk of the unit by roads and split into five subunits all smaller than 5,000 acres.
2. Naturalness: The remaining unit is primarily in a natural condition with the works of man substantially unnoticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The unit's topographical and vegetative screening would only offer a limited amount of seclusion on isolated localities, providing less than an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Marginal topographic diversity, limited natural screening, and no significant points of interest or challenge result in an absence of outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. Water is unavailable.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

65,757 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: None received.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

65,757 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: No public comments were received, and the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-020-222

UNIT NAME: Blue Wing Mountains

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is southwest of Lovelock, Nevada, between Interstate 80 and Highway 34. The western portion of the unit is basically flat, as it is part of a dry lake bed. Moving towards the unit's center, the terrain becomes rolling and begins to increase gradually in elevation. Two separate single-crested mountains cross the unit, one runs across the area's center, the other runs along the eastern boundary. The area is somewhat barren, marked by a few scattered clumps of low-lying sagebrush.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 43,711 acres of public land. The roadless area consists of 40,965 acres as 2,746 acres were separated from the bulk of the unit by roads into subunits which did not meet the minimum size criterion.
2. Naturalness: The natural portion of the unit contains 32,745 acres. 8,220 acres were eliminated due to existing mining scars and intrusions.

3. Outstanding Opportunities for:

A. Solitude: The lack of topographic and vegetative features provide the unit with less than an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Undiversified topography and vegetation, lack of natural screening, and no significant points of interest result in an absence of outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. Water is also unavailable.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

43,711 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 82 specific comments on this unit. All comments stated the unit lacks wilderness values. All 82 noted other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

43,711 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-020-235

UNIT NAME: North Lava Bed

AREA DESCRIPTION: This unit is south of the townsite of Sulphur and borders the southeast end of the Black Rock Desert. Two distinct single-ridged gently rolling mountains lie within the unit. They are both of a moderate elevation, offering some relief to the area's topography. The surrounding topography is primarily a low-rolling type of terrain with sparse vegetation. Vegetation includes low-lying sagebrush and a few scattered juniper within and around the rock outcrops.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 87,747 acres of public land. The roadless area consists of 83,716 acres as 4,031 acres were separated from the bulk of the unit by roads and split into subunits which did not meet the minimum size criterion.

2. Naturalness: 78,558 acres of the roadless area were found to be in a natural condition. 5,158 acres were deleted because of extensive mining.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The absence of vegetative screening and lack of topographic diversity provide the unit with less than an outstanding opportunity for solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Undiversified topography and vegetation, lack of natural screening, and no significant points of interest or challenge result in an absence of outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. Water is unavailable.
4. Supplemental Values: Historical, scientific, and educational values were identified within the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

87,747 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received three specific comments on this unit. All comments stated the unit lacks wilderness values. Two noted other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

87,747 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-020-406

UNIT NAME: Tobin Range

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is a long north-south running mountain range about 35 miles southeast of Winnemucca. The area consists of a flat plateau-like mountain on the range's north end rising to 8,800 feet. Vegetation is sparse as the terrain is extremely rocky. Along the eastern portion of the north end there are two large canyons that are lined with steep rim rock bluffs. Moving south the terrain takes on a more gentle rolling appearance. Mt. Tobin, which rises to some 9,000 feet, is a round-top mountain with juniper and low-lying sagebrush. The deeper drainages give way to scattered clumps of aspen.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 86,872 acres of roadless public land.
2. Naturalness: Extensive mining activity and numerous cherrystem roads within the area cause 20,809 acres to be unnatural. The remaining 66,063 acres were found to be in a substantially natural condition.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Two areas, 406P (9,886 acres) and 406Q (12,066 acres), were found to have outstanding opportunities for solitude. The remainder of the unit's narrow configuration is not conducive to solitude because of the numerous dead-end roads protruding into the unit, the location of private lands bordering the unit, and the intrusive locations of existing and past mining activities.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Only subunit 406P was found to have outstanding opportunities for backpacking and hiking due to topographical variation. The remainder of the unit offers high quality deer hunting, backpacking, hiking, and sightseeing. Outstanding opportunities are present in 406P.
4. Supplemental Values: Geological and zoological features were identified in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

86,872 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 26 specific comments on this unit. Most comments noted naturalness and outstanding opportunities. Several comments mentioned roads, intrusions, and lack of outstanding opportunities. Most noted supplemental values and six listed other resource values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

21,952 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

64,920 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates that a portion of the area does possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation. The portion eliminated from WSA consideration was found not to possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-020-408

UNIT NAME: Jersey Valley

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is about 40 miles south of Winnemucca on the east side of Grass Valley Road. The northern portion of the unit is gentle rolling terrain with scattered rock outcrops along the ridge line and peaks. Vegetation consists of scattered juniper and low-lying sagebrush. The southern portion of the unit takes on more of a gentle rolling effect with low-growing sagebrush being the dominant vegetation. Numerous dead-end roads protrude into the area from all around the unit. The northern portion of the unit has been heavily mined, leaving the landscape extensively marred with cat cuts, assessment piles, old buildings, and mine shafts.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 55,710 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: 53,487 acres were found to be in a natural condition. 2,223 acres were deleted due to lack of naturalness caused by mining scars.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The wide visibility of man-made features and works and lack of secluded and isolated spots due to the area's undiverse vegetation and topography provide the natural portion of the unit with less than an outstanding opportunity for solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Limited diverse topography and vegetation, lack of screening, and no significant points of interest or challenge, result in an absence of outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. Water is unavailable.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

55,710 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received eight specific comments on this unit. All comments stated there were no wilderness values. Two noted other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

55,710 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.



RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-020-410

UNIT NAME: Table Mountain

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is 35 miles south of Winnemucca. The area takes in the northern portion of the East Range which runs along the west side of Grass Valley Road. The area consists of a moderate type of plateau with numerous rim rock bluffs. The east and west sides give way to large drainages filled with stands of aspen. The northern end of the unit becomes more of a gentle rolling terrain with scattered rock outcrops. Junipers dominate the higher elevations with big and low sagebrush covering the entire unit.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 64,518 acres of roadless public land.
2. Naturalness: 62,223 acres were found to be in a natural condition. 2,295 acres were deleted due to lack of naturalness because of mining scars and a powerline.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The unit's configuration is not conducive to solitude due to the scattered parcels of private land bordering the unit and intruding dead-end roads. The area's terrain is mostly flat and open leaving few isolated or secluded spots. Overall, the area offers less than an outstanding opportunity for solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The unit offers a marginal amount of deer and upland game hunting. Hiking and backpacking opportunities are available but at a limited degree due to the area's limited natural screening and configuration.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

64,518 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received four specific comments on this unit. Two comments noted intrusions. Several comments mentioned naturalness and recreation values. Two noted supplemental values and two listed other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

64,518 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-020-436

UNIT NAME: Granite Mountain

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is 35 miles south of Winnemucca just west of Grass Valley Road. The area consists of a large rugged single mountain that contains numerous drainages and canyons. Vegetation consists of mountain juniper and big and low sagebrush. The large drainages on the north side of the unit are lined with stands of aspen and willow trees.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 20,269 acres of roadless public land.
2. Naturalness: 19,949 acres were found to be in a natural condition. 320 acres were deleted due to mining activity.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The surrounding mining activity and continuous air traffic limit a visitor's solitude experience. The area's vegetative and topographic features do not effectively screen out the sights and sounds of these activities. No outstanding opportunities for solitude exist in the unit. Although not normally considered, the evidence of man's activities outside of the unit were considered so extremely imposing that they cannot be ignored.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The steepness and ruggedness of the terrain limits recreational opportunities. Hiking, backpacking, and geological sightseeing, the only activities identified as possible in the unit, would offer less than outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation.
4. Supplemental Values: The unit offers mineral and geological features that are of high value.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

20,269 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received ten specific comments on this unit. Several comments noted roads, intrusions, and lack of outstanding opportunities. Most comments noted naturalness and outstanding opportunities. Many noted supplemental values. One comment stated the unit lacks wilderness characteristics. Also received were 39 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

20,269 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-020-600

UNIT NAME: Blue Lakes

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is 30 miles south of Denio Junction, occupying the middle portion of the Pine Forest Range. The northern portion of the unit consists of high rugged rocky terrain with several of the peaks rising to 9,000 feet. A glacial lake is at the northern end of the unit surrounded by a 9,000 foot peak and rocky ridgeline. The higher elevations provide wet and dry meadows and clumps of quaking aspen and curleaf mountain mahogany. The highest elevations offer two species of pine: white bark and limber. The southern portion of the unit takes on a more gentle rolling terrain with scattered rock outcrops and a drier type of vegetative cover of shadscale and low-lying sagebrush.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 33,224 acres of public land. Additional roads, ways, and unnatural features identified from public comment split the unit into five subunits. Two of the subunits do not meet the minimum size criterion. The remaining subunits are 18,630, 9,569 and 4,767 acres. The 4,767-acre subunit is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition and is therefore further evaluated.
2. Naturalness: The remaining three subunits appear to be primarily in a natural condition with the works of man substantially unnoticeable. Those features that are visible do not detract from the naturalness of the areas.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The 18,630-acre subunit and the 4,767-acre subunit offer outstanding opportunities for solitude as they contain many secluded and isolated spots, broken and varied topography, and ample natural screening. Outstanding opportunities for solitude are not present in the remaining 9,569 acre subunit because of its limited topographic and vegetative screening, and general lack of secluded and isolated spots.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The 18,630-acre and 4,767-acre subunits also provide outstanding opportunities for hiking, backpacking, sightseeing, and hunting. The areas offer unique and varied terrain, botanical and wildlife features; numerous points of interest and challenges and outstanding scenery that makes for exceptional primitive recreation experiences. The 9,569 acre subunit offers less than an outstanding opportunity for primitive recreation because of its lack of points of interests or challenges and undiverse terrain and vegetation.

4. Supplemental Values: The unit offers botanical, geological, archaeological, and wildlife values.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

17,500 acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

14,469 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 19 specific comments on this unit. Four comments suggested a boundary change. Most comments mentioned naturalness and outstanding opportunities. Several comments noted roads, intrusions, and two noted no outstanding opportunities are present. Most noted supplemental values and three listed other resource values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

23,397 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

9,827 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates that a portion of the area does possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation. The portion eliminated from WSA consideration was found not to possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-020-601

UNIT NAME: Alder Creek

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is long and slender in shape, and lies between Knott Creek Reservoir and Knott Creek Ranch. The northern portion of the unit is gentle rolling terrain with sparse low-lying vegetation. The southern portion of the unit levels out into a moderate-type mesa with scattered rock outcrops. Vegetation is primarily low-lying sagebrush giving way to some aspen and willow within the drainages.

1. Size: The unit includes 30,467 acres of public land. Documented roads and unnatural features split the original unit into four subunits, three of which did not meet the minimum size criterion. The remaining subunit is 24,487 acres.

2. Naturalness: The 24,487-acre subunit is primarily natural, with the works of man substantially unnoticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The absence of natural screening and lack of topographic diversity and relief provide less than an outstanding opportunity for solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Even though there are some geological features, lack of natural screening, no significant points of interest or challenge, and limited opportunity for seclusion or isolation result in an absence of outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation.
4. Supplemental Values: Geological features that offer educational and scientific values were identified within the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

30,467 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received three specific comments on this unit. A few comments mentioned naturalness. One noted several roads and intrusions. One comment also suggested a boundary change. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

30,467 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-020-602

UNIT NAME: Mahogany Mountains

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is 10 miles south of Denio Junction and west of Highway 140. It is of an irregular shape and size due to the numerous man-made intrusions, protruding dead-end roads, and blocks of private land bordering the unit. It offers some variation in topographic and vegetative features. The eastern and western portions along the borders are both part of valley floors, giving way to gently rolling terrain. From the valley floor, the terrain rises somewhat abruptly in elevation, becoming steep and rocky within the core of the unit. The topography along the unit's southwest end is more of a gentle rolling terrain with scattered rock outcrops. Vegetation in the lower elevations contain scattered clumps of mountain mahogany. The drainages contain some aspen and willow.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 26,115 acres of public land. Documented roads split the original unit into seven subunits, six of which do not meet the minimum size criterion. The remaining subunit is 24,525 acres.
2. Naturalness: Extensive mining activity, numerous cherrystem roads, and distinct range developments are prevalent throughout the unit detracting from the area's naturalness. The entire area does not appear to be in a natural condition and further wilderness evaluation is not required.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

26,115 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 11 specific comments on this unit. Several comments noted roads, intrusions, and lack of outstanding opportunities. Two suggested a boundary change. Most comments noted naturalness and outstanding opportunities. Most noted supplemental values and one listed other resource values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

26,115 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-020-603

UNIT NAME: South Jackson Mountains

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Southern Jackson range is north of the townsite of Sulphur and borders the east side of the Black Rock Desert. The area is characterized by high relief and rugged topography. The west side is particularly rugged with deep canyons, rock outcrops, and slopes. The highest peak in this range almost exceeds 9,000 feet. Desert Valley flanks the range on the east and the Black Rock Desert on the west. Vegetation is a complex mosaic consisting of riparian (streambank) vegetation along the creeks, big sagebrush and shadscale in the mid-elevations, and juniper, mountain mahogany, snowberry, and gooseberry in the higher elevations.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 69,314 acres of public land. Documented roads and unnatural features split the original unit into 11 subunits. Ten of these subunits did not meet the minimum size criterion. The remaining subunit is 61,708 acres.
2. Naturalness: This subunit was found to be in a primarily natural condition, with the works of man substantially unnoticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The natural portion of the unit offers an extensive size, varied and broken topography, and remote locations, many secluded spots, and isolated localities. These characteristics provide the area with an outstanding opportunity for solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The unit's diverse topography and vegetation, availability of natural screening and water, and significant points of interest and challenge provide outstanding opportunities for hiking, backpacking, horsepacking, sightseeing, chukar, and deer hunting.
4. Supplemental Values: The unit's geologic, topographic, and botanical features offer educational and scientific values.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

61,708 acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

7,606 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 29 specific comments on this unit. Most comments noted roads, intrusions, and lack of outstanding opportunities. Several comments mentioned naturalness and outstanding opportunities. Four noted supplemental values and most listed other resource values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

61,708 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

7,606 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates that a portion of the area does possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation. The portion eliminated from WSA consideration was found not to possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-020-604

UNIT NAME: Trident Peak

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is 10 miles southeast of Denio Junction and east of Highway 140. The area is comprised of a varied topography from gentle rolling hills along the east and west borders to rough rock peaks and deep drainages. Vegetation consists of sagebrush and scattered mountain mahogany with aspen and willow occupying the drainages. The scattered parcels of large blocks of private lands bordering the unit and the numerous dead-end roads cause a definite breakup of the area's landscape, giving it a chopped-up appearance.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 69,718 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: The area contains numerous man-made features in the form of cherrystem roads, ways, spring developments and a communication site which are substantially noticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The unit's configuration and inadequacy of the natural screening to hide the numerous man-made intrusions make the area less than outstanding in opportunities for solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Inadequate natural screening and the presence of obtrusive man-made intrusions provide the unit with less than outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

69,718 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit. One mentioned the area is natural and one stated the area lacks wilderness characteristics. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

69,718 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-020-606

UNIT NAME: North Jackson Mountains

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is at the north end of the Jackson Mountain Range along the northeast side of the Black Rock Desert. The area's high relief and rugged topography gives way to deep rugged canyons, rock outcrops, and talus slopes. The vegetation of the unit presents a complex mosaic. Big sage occupies the mid-elevations from about 5,000 to 8,000 feet. Along the rolling to very steep terrain, presence of juniper is predominant. Clumps of aspen are also found within the deeper drainages.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 26,423 acres of public land. The roadless area consists of 25,780 acres as 643 acres were separated from the bulk of the unit by roads and did not meet the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: The entire roadless portion of the unit is substantially natural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The natural portion of the unit offers varied and broken topography and many remote locations offer secluded spots. These characteristics provide the area with an outstanding opportunity for solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The unit's diverse topography and vegetation and availability of natural screening, water, significant points of interest and challenge provide outstanding opportunities for hiking, backpacking, horsepacking, sightseeing, and chukar and deer hunting.
4. Supplemental Values: The unit's geological, topographic, and botanical features offer educational, scientific, and scenic values.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

25,780 acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

643 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 26 specific comments on this unit. Several comments mentioned naturalness and outstanding opportunities. Most comments noted intrusions, roads, and lack of outstanding opportunities. Six noted supplemental values and most listed other resource values. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

25,780 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

643 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates that a portion of the area does possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation. The portion eliminated from WSA consideration was found not to possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-020-609/OR-2-80

UNIT NAME: Maggie Creek

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit occupies public land within the Burns, Oregon District and the Winnemucca, Nevada District. Just south of Fields, Oregon and east of Denio, Nevada, the area is composed of rolling hills with rock outcrops and a flat valley occupied by the Crescent Sand Dunes. Vegetation consists mainly of sagebrush and some scattered pockets of aspen along the deeper drainages.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The interstate unit includes 35,584 acres of public land. Documented roads have split the original unit into six subunits of 1,145, 703, 2,425, 850, 9,377 and 21,084 acres. Four of the subunits do not meet any of the minimum size criterion.
2. Naturalness: The remaining two subunits are laced with numerous ways, bladed fencelines, and reservoirs. Most of these are substantially noticeable and can be seen from great distances as the unit's topography provides a minimal amount of screening. Therefore, both of the remaining subunits are substantially unnatural.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

20,894 acres in Nevada should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

14,690 acres in Oregon should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received three specific comments on this unit. Two mentioned wilderness values and one noted other resource values. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

20,894 acres in Nevada are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

14,690 acres in Oregon are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-020-610

UNIT NAME: Sentinel Peak

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is an irregular-shaped area between Highway 140 and the Pine Forest Mountain Range. Sentinel Peak rises to a sharp point in the center of the unit with the remaining portion made up of gentle rolling terrain and low plateau-like mesas. Vegetation is sparse consisting of low-lying shrubs and sagebrush and scattered pinyon-juniper along the unit's east side.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 28,060 acres of public land. Roads split the unit into two subunits of 27,760 acres and 300 acres. The smaller subunit does not meet the minimum size criterion.
2. Naturalness: The remaining subunit has signs of mining along its southern border, however, the majority of the unit is in a natural condition with the works of man substantially unnoticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Absence of vegetative screening and lack of topographic diversity provide less than an outstanding opportunity for solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Undiversified topography and vegetation, lack of natural screening and no significant points of interest or challenge, result in an absence of any outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

28,060 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit. One comment noted roads and other resource values. One was a general comment stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

28,060 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-020-612

UNIT NAME: Bilk Creek

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is of an irregular shape, wide at the north end and tapering off towards the southern end. Two distinct drainages run north and south through the area, giving way to a plateau like mesa in between them. There is little relief to the area with the vegetation being predominantly sagebrush and rabbitbrush.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 21,072 acres of public land. Documented roads split the original unit into five subunits, four of which did not meet the minimum size criterion. The remaining subunit is 18,643 acres.
2. Naturalness: The remaining subunit was found to be in a natural condition, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The subunit's configuration, absence of vegetative screening, and lack of topographic diversity provide less than outstanding opportunities for solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Undiversified topography and vegetation, lack of natural screening and no significant points of interest or challenge result in an absence of outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

21,072 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit, stating the unit has no wilderness values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

21,072 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by one public comment, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-020-615

UNIT NAME: Wood Canyon

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is just north of Onion Valley Reservoir on the north end of the Pine Forest Range. Somewhat of a circular shape, the terrain is gently rolling hills and rugged rocky ridges and peaks. Two distinct drainages cross the area, containing clumps of aspen, willow, and some juniper. The lower elevations host low-lying shrubs such as sagebrush and rabbitbrush.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. **Size:** The unit contains 6,681 acres of public land.
2. **Naturalness:** The area is less than natural, with the imprint of man's work noticeable, as a cherrystem road extends into the area nearly cutting it in half.
3. **Outstanding Opportunities for:**
 - A. **Solitude:** The unit's configuration, lack of vegetative screening, and topographic diversity provide less than an outstanding opportunity for solitude.
 - B. **A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation:** Lack of natural screening and no significant points of interest or challenge result in an absence of outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation.
4. **Supplemental Values:** No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

6,681 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.
(This figure differs from the Bureau's earlier recommendation due to a more accurate acreage assessment.)

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received four specific comments on this unit. One comment mentioned boundary change. A few comments noted naturalness. One comment sited an intrusion. Two noted other resource values. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

6,681 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-020-617

UNIT NAME: Middle Spring

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is along the eastern border of the Sheldon Antelope Range and north of the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Natural Area. The unit consists of a gently rolling terrain giving way to scattered butte-like knolls. Vegetation is sparse including mainly low sagebrush.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 11,460 acres of public land. Documented roads and parcels of private inholdings, split the original unit into five subunits, four of which did not meet the minimum size criterion. The remaining subunit is 7,150 acres.
2. Naturalness: The subunit is primarily natural with the works of man substantially unnoticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The subunit's configuration and absence of natural screening provide less than an outstanding opportunity for solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Undiversified topography and vegetation, lack of natural screening, and no significant points of interest or challenge result in an absence of outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. Water is unavailable.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

11,460 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received three specific comments on this unit. Two noted naturalness. One mentioned intrusions and other resource values. One also noted boundary change.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

11,460 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-020-618

UNIT NAME: Texas Springs

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is somewhat oval in shape located at the southern end of the Bilk Creek Mountains and just north of the Bilk Creek Reservoir. The entire unit consists of a gently rolling and undiversified terrain giving way to one significant drainage that cuts vertically through the area. The vegetation is reflective of the unit's topography and elevation, limiting the dominant species to low-lying shrubs and sagebrush.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 10,853 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: The area is primarily natural with man's work substantially unnoticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The unit's configuration, absence of vegetative screening, and lack of topographic diversity provide less than an outstanding opportunity for solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Undiversified topography and vegetation, lack of natural screening, and no significant points of interest or challenge result in an absence of outstanding primitive recreational opportunities. Water is also unavailable.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

10,853 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit, noting either other resource values or lack of wilderness characteristics. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

10,853 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-020-620

UNIT NAME: Black Rock Desert

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Black Rock Desert is an immense flat playa directly east of Gerlach, Nevada. The playa forms somewhat of a U-shape around the Black Rock mountain range. The Quinn River flows down through the center of the unit keeping the area wet during the winter and spring months. During summer and fall the playa is dry, serving as the main thoroughfare from Winnemucca to Gerlach. Vegetation is sparse and consists mainly of big and low sagebrush.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 551,300 acres of public land. Roads, ways, and unnatural portions were documented which split the original unit into 17 subunits, 13 of which did not meet the minimum size requirements. The remaining four subunits consist of 333,111, 50,094, 31,347 and 124,929 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: Of the remaining four subunits only the 124,929-acre subunit appears to be in less than a natural condition because of the impacts made by the numerous ways that cross the area. The three remaining subunits are primarily in a natural condition with the works of man substantially unnoticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Only the 333,111-acre subunit offers an outstanding opportunity for solitude. This is primarily due to its extreme size. The area is 42 miles long and 20 miles wide at its longest and widest portions. The majority of the area is of a flat playa except for the middle portion of the subunit which consists of a rugged rocky basalt terrain and the subunit's northern portion which consists of a hummock type of terrain. Outstanding opportunities for solitude are not present in the two remaining subunits because of their limited topographic and vegetative screening and general lack of secluded and isolated spots.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: A portion of the 333,111-acre subunit offers outstanding opportunities for hiking, backpacking, and sightseeing because of the varied points of interests and challenges, along with the area's outstanding scenic qualities. The two remaining subunits offered no outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation because of their lack of diverse topography and no significant points of interest or challenge.

4. Supplemental Values: The unit contains botanical, archaeological, and historical features of supplemental value.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

333,111 acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

218,189 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

(This acreage figure differs from the Bureau's earlier recommendation due to a more accurate acreage assessment.)

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 31 specific comments on this unit. Most comments noted roads, intrusions, and lack of outstanding opportunities. Six comments suggested a boundary change and several mentioned the unit is in a natural condition and noted outstanding opportunities. Most noted supplemental values and other resource values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

333,111 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

218,189 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates that a portion of the area does possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation. The portion eliminated from WSA consideration was found not to possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-020-621

UNIT NAME: Pahute Peak

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is directly southeast of the Soldier Meadows Ranch. Surrounded by the Black Rock Desert, the unit encompasses the southern portion of the Black Rock mountain range. The terrain is gently rolling hills with scattered rock outcrops and sparse vegetation. A rocky basalt landscape provides the unit with a limited vegetative cover of shadscale and low-lying sagebrush. At the northern end of the unit sits the gently curving Pahute Peak, which rises to some 8,000 feet. On the north side of the peak, the deeper drainages provide enough moisture for the growth of a few scattered clumps of aspen.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 55,472 acres of public land. Review of the area identified additional roads and ways splitting the unit into sub-units of 55,332 acres and 140 acres. The 140 acre subunit did not meet the minimum size criterion.
2. Naturalness: 55,052 acres were found to be in a natural condition, as 280 acres were deleted from the area because of substantially noticeable mining activity.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The area offers an outstanding opportunity for solitude as it contains numerous secluded and isolated spots, as well as broken and varied topography which provides ample natural screening.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The area offers outstanding opportunities for sightseeing and rockhounding because of its unique geological features and scenic values. The area's topographical and historical features also provide points of interest and challenges for hikers and backpackers.
4. Supplemental Values: The area contains the threatened plant species Astrogalus pterocarpus (winged milk-vetch) and Caulanthus barnetyi (Barneby's wild cabbage). Additional supplemental values are the unique geological and historical features within the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

55,472 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 22 specific comments on this unit. Two comments suggests boundary change. Most comments mentioned naturalness and outstanding opportunities. A few noted roads, intrusions, and lack of outstanding opportunities. Most noted supplemental values and three listed other resource values. One comment stated the unit lacks wilderness criteria. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

55,052 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

420 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates that a portion of the area does possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation. The portion eliminated from WSA consideration was found not to possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-020-621A

UNIT NAME: Pahute Peak

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is just east of the Soldier Meadows Ranch and northwest of Pahute Peak. The area is of a gentle rolling terrain with sparse vegetation consisting of low-lying sagebrush and shadscale.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 32,240 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: The entire unit is essentially natural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The unit's configuration, absence of vegetative screening, lack of topographic diversity, and limited isolated and secluded spots provide the area with less than an outstanding opportunity for solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Undiversified topography and vegetation, lack of natural screening, no significant points of interest or challenge, and unavailability of water result in an absence of outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

32,240 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 11 specific comments on this unit. One comment listed an intrusion and a few mentioned lack of outstanding opportunities. Most comments discussed naturalness and outstanding opportunities. Most noted supplemental values. One comment stated the unit lacks wilderness criteria. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

32,240 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-020-622

UNIT NAME: North Black Rock Range

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is just north of Pahute Meadows Ranch and includes the 12,316-acre Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Natural Area. The unit is large and widespread. Topography and vegetation are varied ranging from gentle rolling hills with low-growing sagebrush and shadscale. The center portion of the unit contains most of the high country with deep drainages and rocky outcrops. The drainages in the western portion of the unit are heavily laden with pockets of aspen and mahogany.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 94,356 acres of public land. About 20,471 acres were eliminated from evaluation since documented roads split that acreage into subunits of less than 5,000 each. The remaining 73,885 acres were divided into four subunits: 32,139, 29,945, 6,072 and 5,729.
2. Naturalness: All of the remaining four subunits were found to be in a natural condition.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Only the 29,945-acre subunit offers an outstanding opportunity for solitude. This subunit offers diverse topography with deep drainages pocketed with aspen and mountain mahogany. Secluded and isolated spots are unlimited as the abundance of natural screening blocks the sights and sounds of man. Outstanding opportunities for solitude are not present in any of the remaining subunits because of their limited topographic and vegetative screening and general lack of secluded spots.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The 29,945-acre subunit offers outstanding opportunities for hunting deer and upland game birds, backpacking, camping, sightseeing, and hiking. It also offers diverse topography and vegetation, an abundance of natural screening, significant points of interest and challenge that provide the setting for outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. The quality and diversity of the primitive recreation opportunities within the other subunits were not found to be outstanding.

4. Supplemental Values: The unit contains zoological, botanical, and archaeological features, including the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Natural Area.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

29,945 acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status, including 600 acres within the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Natural Area.

64,411 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 20 specific comments on this unit. Two comments suggest a boundary change. The majority of comments listed naturalness and outstanding opportunities. Several noted roads, intrusions, and lack of outstanding opportunities. Four noted supplemental values and most listed other resource values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

29,945 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

64,411 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates that a portion of the area does possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation. The portion eliminated from WSA consideration was found not to possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-020-637

UNIT NAME: McGee Mountain

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in the northwest corner of the Winnemucca District, and contiguous with the Sheldon Antelope Range along its western border. The southeastern portion of the unit is contiguous with a 20,000-acre wilderness proposal in the Antelope Range, managed by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 25,406 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: The entire unit was found to be in a natural condition with the works of man substantially unnoticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The unit's configuration, natural screening, and topographic relief provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude only when considered in conjunction with the large contiguous land administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service. Opportunities for solitude do not stop at the administrative boundary.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: When considered in conjunction with the contiguous roadless lands administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service, the BLM portion of the unit shares the same outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

25,406 acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

Zero acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 13 specific comments on this unit. One comment suggests a boundary change. Many comments mentioned the natural condition and outstanding opportunities. One comment noted roads and intrusions and several discussed lack of outstanding opportunities. Several noted supplemental values and other resource values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

25,406 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

Zero acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation for this area, which is contiguous to lands managed by the Fish and Wildlife Service that previously were determined to have wilderness characteristics. Evidence available to the Bureau indicates that the public land portion appears natural, and when combined with the adjoining agency unit, also possesses the other necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-020-641

UNIT NAME: Paiute Meadows

AREA DESCRIPTION: Located between Paiute Meadows and Soldier Meadows Ranches, the unit is small and rectangular consisting of a flat, bowl-like basin on the west side, giving way to moderate mesa-like ridges on the east. Vegetation is low-growing sagebrush and grass.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 16,349 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: Much of the area is natural with the works of man substantially unnoticeable. The only noticeable man-made intrusion is a large seeding which occupies 1,600 acres within the southwest corner of the unit.

3. Outstanding Opportunities for:

A. Solitude: The natural portion of the unit lacks adequate screening and topographic diversity, thus providing less than outstanding opportunities for solitude.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The natural portion of the unit offers no outstanding or challenging points of interest or topographic, scenic, or zoological features that would provide for an outstanding opportunity for primitive recreation.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

16,349 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received four specific comments on this unit. One said the area had wilderness characteristics. One comment discussed preservation of naturalness and two listed other resource values. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

16,349 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-020-642

UNIT NAME: Pueblo Mountains

AREA DESCRIPTION: The area is a small subunit of the original unit 642. This portion of the unit is at the southern end along the Sheldon Antelope Range's eastern border. As the subunit was separated from the original unit, it was not inventoried with the portions of the unit contiguous with Oregon for an earlier accelerated intensive inventory.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit consists of 640 acres of public land. The area did not meet the minimum size criterion.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

640 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: None received.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

640 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: No public comments were received, and the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-020-800

UNIT NAME: Long Ridge

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is a rectangular-shaped area consisting of wave-like topography, located between Disaster Peak and the town site of McDermitt, Nevada, near the Oregon-Nevada border. Two drainages cross the area horizontally, providing the unit with some topographical diversity. Vegetation is predominantly a low-lying shrub type and sagebrush, giving way to some scattered clumps of willow in the drainages.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 12,430 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: The area is primarily natural with the works of man substantially unnoticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The unit's configuration, absence of vegetative screening, and the lack of topographic diversity provide less than outstanding opportunity for solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Undiversified topography and vegetation, lack of screening, and no significant points of interest or challenge result in an absence of any outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. Water is unavailable.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

12,430 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit, noting other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

12,430 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by one public comment, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-020-809A/OR-3-172

UNIT NAME: Deer Flat

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is located along the Nevada-Oregon border immediately east of the Fort McDermitt Indian Reservation. It consists of a high plateau, gently sloping to the east. The area is dissected on several small drainages lined with rimrocks. Sagebrush, native grasses, and some riparian vegetation along the drainages make up the majority of the vegetation in the unit.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 12,400 acres of public land (1,200 acres in Nevada and 11,200 acres in Oregon). The remaining subunit meets the size criterion and contains 10,100 acres, including 600 acres of Oregon state land in the process of being acquired.
2. Naturalness: Developments in the subunit include springs, reservoirs, a fenceline, and ways. All of the intrusions are substantially unnoticeable. Their impact upon the landscape is minor, and they are screened by the undulating terrain.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Due to the relatively small size of the subunit and the absence of any significant vegetative or topographic screening there are no outstanding opportunities for solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Although some opportunities to view wildlife exist, the subunit does not provide outstanding opportunities for recreation because of lack of diversity, challenging features, or any unusual points of interest.

4. Supplemental Values: Populations of antelope, deer, sagegrouse, and wild horses exist in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

1,200 acres in Nevada should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

11,200 acres in Oregon should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: The Burns District in Oregon received one comment agreeing with the proposed decision of not recommending the unit for WSA.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

1,200 acres in Nevada are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

11,200 acres in Oregon are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by one public comment, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-020-810/OR-3-191

UNIT NAME: Carin "C"

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is six miles south of Anderson Crossing at the Little Owyhee River. The unit consists of low-rolling hills and flats with little change in topography except for a few narrow ravines and shallow drainages lined with rimrock. Vegetation is predominantly sagebrush and native grasses. The unit is jointly managed by the Winnemucca BLM District in Nevada and the Vale BLM District in Oregon.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 11,660 acres of public land. The roadless area consists of 11,500 acres as 160 acres were separated from the bulk of the unit by roads and did not meet the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: The unit generally appears to be natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The unit does not provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude because of the absence of vegetation and topographic screening and its relatively small size.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The lack of diversity in topography and vegetation results in the unit not offering any interesting, challenging, or unique points of interest. There is no outstanding opportunity for primitive recreation within this unit.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

3,700 acres in Nevada should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

7,900 acres in Oregon should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: The Nevada BLM received one specific comment on this unit, noting other resource values. The Oregon BLM received one comment which agreed with the proposed decision.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

3,700 acres in Nevada are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

7,900 acres in Oregon are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-020-811/OR-3-159/ID-16-70-E

UNIT NAME: Tent Creek

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in the corner of Oregon, Idaho, and Nevada, occupying portions of land in all three states. The Nevada portion is 10,680 acres. The topography consists of flat to gently rolling tablelands. Oregon and Mahogany Butte along with Tent and Mahogany Creek provide the only noticeable diversity of relief. The vegetation consists of sagebrush and native rangeland grasses.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit, citing intrusions, lack of solitude, and other resource values. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION: The decision to intensively inventory this unit was appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals. Until the Board issues its ruling, no final decision on this unit can be made. Public comments received will be utilized at that time.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-020-827

UNIT NAME: North Fork Little
Humboldt

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is at the southern end of the Owyhee Desert near the Winnemucca-Elko District boundary line. The unit is unique in that it has a 12-mile steep gorge running the entire length of the area. Out of the gorge, the unit takes the typical appearance of the Owyhee Desert of gently rolling terrain made up of sand and sagebrush.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 114,021 acres of public land. 5,495 acres were separated from the bulk of the unit by roads and split into subunits less than 5,000 acres. The two remaining subunits are 81,320 and 27,206 acres.
2. Naturalness: The subunits are primarily natural with the works of man substantially unnoticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The 81,320 acre subunit, the North Fork of the Little Humboldt River, offers outstanding opportunities for solitude. It offers diverse topography with many secluded and isolated spots. The remaining subunit lacks topographic and vegetative screening.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The river gorge is the only subunit that offers the natural screening, diverse topography and vegetation, significant points of interest and challenge, available water, scenic features, and other supplemental values to provide outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation.
4. Supplemental Values: Geologic features, wildlife, and possible endangered plant species were identified in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

81,320 acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

32,701 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 13 specific comments on this unit. Two comments suggest a boundary change. One mentioned a natural condition and most discussed outstanding opportunities. Several noted roads, intrusions, and one listed no wilderness values. Two noted supplemental values and two listed other resource values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

81,320 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

32,701 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates that a portion of the area does possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation. The portion eliminated from WSA consideration was found not to possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-020-830

UNIT NAME: Sugar Loaf Hill

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is long and narrow, made up of gently rolling terrain rising to moderate basalt mesas. It is east of the Santa Rosa Mountain Range and northeast of the community of Paradise.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. **Size:** The area contains 35,901 acres of public land.
2. **Naturalness:** The area contains numerous works of man in the form of range improvements. The combined impact of the bladed fencelines, numerous man-made reservoirs, cherrystem roads, and sprayed areas within the unit results in a less than a natural condition.
3. **Outstanding Opportunities for:**
 - A. **Solitude:** The unit is of a long narrow configuration, consisting of gentle rolling terrain covered with low-lying sagebrush and range grasses. The area's lack of vegetative screening and minimal topographic relief provide few secluded or isolated localities. Opportunities for solitude would be less than outstanding.
 - B. **A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation:** The unit is a high range use area, containing numerous man-made improvements. The area's uniform landscape offers no unique points of interest that would provide a backpacker or hiker with a unique experience. Hunting for upland game and antelope would be of a moderate quality. The area offers less than an outstanding opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation.
4. **Supplemental Values:** No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

35,901 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received three specific comments on this unit. One comment suggests a boundary change. A few cited roads and intrusions, lack of solitude, and other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

35,901 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-020-835

UNIT NAME: Forks Ranch

AREA DESCRIPTION: Located between the Forest Service boundary of the Santa Rosas and the Owyhee road, the area consists of flat desert land along its eastern border, a single crested mountain, and a moderate river gorge running vertically along its western border. Vegetation is predominantly low and big sagebrush with some willow and rabbitbrush located along the drainage and scattered mountain mahogany near the mountain top.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 21,998 acres of public land. Documented roads have split the original unit into three subunits of 402 acres, 6,954 acres and 14,642 acres. One does not meet the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: Both of the remaining subunits appear to be in primarily a natural condition as the works of man are substantially unnoticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Neither of the subunits offer outstanding opportunities for solitude as the area's lack of vegetative screening and unvaried topography provide a user few isolated or secluded localities.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: At best the area offers a limited amount of upland game hunting and fishing as the unit's limited topographic relief and vegetation provide only a marginal amount of wildlife habitat.
4. Supplemental Values: The unit's geological features could be of scientific, educational, and ecological value.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

21,998 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received three specific comments on this unit. One comment mentioned naturalness and outstanding opportunities. The other noted roads, intrusions, lack of solitude, or other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

21,998 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-020-836

UNIT NAME: Little Owyhee River

AREA DESCRIPTION: Situated between the Santa Rosa Mountain range and the Elko County line, the unit lies south of the Oregon-Nevada border in the Owyhee Desert. With flat sagebrush terrain, the area offers little variation to the landscape except for the Little Owyhee River gorge, which cuts its way across the unit.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 34,883 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: The area is primarily natural with the works of man substantially unnoticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The entire unit consists of a flat, undiversified landscape giving way to one moderately cutting drainage along the southern border. The area's dominant vegetation is low-lying sagebrush, with some scattered clumps of willow along the drainage. The area's undiversified topography and sparse low-lying vegetation provides little screening and few isolated or secluded localities.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Undiversified topography and vegetation, lack of screening, and no significant points of interest or challenge result in an absence of any outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. Water is also unavailable.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

34,883 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received three specific comments on this unit. A few comments cited roads, intrusions, and lack of solitude. One comment mentioned natural condition and outstanding opportunities. One noted supplemental values and one listed other resource values. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

34,883 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-020-838

UNIT NAME: Lone Willow

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is between the Santa Rosa Range and the Owyhee Road, just below the Oregon-Nevada border. The unit is practically split in two by a cherrystem road that crosses the unit, making the area's configuration uncondusive to solitude. The topography of the unit is somewhat varied: the eastern portion is relatively flat and increasing in elevation and varying in contour moving west, and the unit's western boundary crosses the east side of the Calico Mountains just below the ridge line. Vegetation is mostly sage with some scattered clumps of willow and aspen in the deeper drainages.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 24,597 acres of public land. Documented roads and large parcels of private land have split the original unit into three subunits of 789 acres, 13,243 acres and 10,565 acres. The 789-acre subunit does not meet the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: The 10,565 acre subunit appears to be in less than a natural condition as two cherrystem roads protrude into the area nearly cutting it in half. The remaining subunit appears to be in more of a natural condition with the works of man substantially unnoticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Neither remaining subunit contains the varied topography or vegetative screening needed to provide visitors with isolated localities hidden from the sights and sounds of others. The unnatural features of the 10,565 acre subunit also hinder the solitude opportunities available within the area.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Minimal amount of topographic and vegetative diversity, lack of natural screening, and no significant points of interest or challenge result in an absence of outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

24,597 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received three specific comments on this unit. One comment mentioned naturalness and outstanding opportunities. Others noted roads, intrusions, and a lack of solitude. One noted supplemental values and one listed other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

24,597 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-020-839/ID-16-56B

UNIT NAME: Calico Ranch

AREA DESCRIPTION: Located just east of the Santa Rosa Mountains and south of the Oregon border, the unit lies within the Owyhee Desert as a rectangular shape, consisting of flat sagebrush terrain. The areas of topographic relief come from the Raven Creek drainage which crosses the center of the unit. This is a shallow basalt rock drainage that provides little water or riparian (streambank) vegetation.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 34,366 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: The area is primarily natural with the works of man substantially unnoticeable.

3. Outstanding Opportunities for:

A. Solitude: The unit's configuration, absence of vegetative screening, and lack of topographic diversity provide less than outstanding opportunities for solitude.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Undiversified topography and vegetation, lack of screening, and no significant points of interest or challenge, result in an absence of any outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. Water is unavailable.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

33,043 acres in Nevada should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

1,323 acres in Idaho should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received three specific comments on this unit. Two comments noted intrusions and a lack of solitude. One comment stated the unit is natural and has outstanding opportunities. One also noted supplemental values and one listed other resource values. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

33,043 acres in Nevada are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

1,323 acres in Idaho are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-020-840

UNIT NAME: No Springs

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is just east of the Santa Rosa Mountain Range and south of the Oregon border in the Owyhee Desert. The unit lies on the Winnemucca-Elko BLM District line and encompasses land in both Districts. The topography and vegetation is typical of the Owyhee Desert: flat with sagebrush and no topographic relief.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 11,174 acres of public land.

2. Naturalness: The area is primarily natural with the works of man substantially unnoticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The unit's configuration, absence of vegetative screening, and lack of topographic diversity provide less than outstanding opportunities for solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Undiversified topographic and vegetation, lack of screening, and no significant points of interest or challenge result in an absence of any outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. Water is also unavailable.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

11,174 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit. One comment noted naturalness, outstanding opportunities, and supplemental values. One listed other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

11,174 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-020-843

UNIT NAME: Raven Creek

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is east of the Santa Rosa Mountain Range and south of the Oregon border on the Owyhee Desert. The unit encompasses portions of the Winnemucca and Elko Districts. Raven Creek drainage runs along the unit's western boundary to give the area a small amount of topographic relief. Other than that, the unit's vegetation and topography is typical of the Owyhee Desert.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 21,436 acres of public land.

2. Naturalness: The area is primarily natural with the works of man substantially unnoticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The unit's configuration, absence of vegetative screening, and the lack of topographic diversity provide less than an outstanding opportunity for solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Undiversified topography and vegetation, lack of screening, and no significant points of interest or challenge result in an absence of any outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. Water is unavailable.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

21,436 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit. One comment mentioned roads, intrusions and no outstanding opportunities. One noted other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

21,436 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-020-859/OR-3-153/OR-2-78

UNIT NAME: Disaster Peak

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is at the north end of the Kings River Valley, encompassing portions of Nevada and Oregon public lands. The central and eastern portions of the unit consists of steep rugged terrain with deep drainages and a variety of vegetation. The southern portion of the unit that lies within Nevada flattens out, creating a high mesa with sheer rimrock bluffs. Vegetation is more sparse in this portion, consisting mainly of low-lying shrubs and sagebrush. Along the unit's western border terrain becomes more rolling with sparse vegetative cover and little topographic relief. The unit is jointly managed by the Winnemucca BLM District in Nevada and the Vale and Burns BLM Districts in Oregon.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 58,815 acres of public land. Documented roads and parcels of private land split the original unit into 11 subunits. Seven subunits did not meet the minimum size criterion. The remaining subunits are 27,642, 10,190, 7,513 and 6,000 acres.
2. Naturalness: Of the remaining subunits one (10,190 acres) appeared to be in less than a natural condition due to the combined impact from the numerous range developments and intruding cherrystem roads. The remaining three subunits appeared to be in a natural condition.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Of the remaining natural acreage, only the 27,642-acre and the 7,513-acre subunits provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. The two subunits' diverse vegetation and topography, along with their size and naturalness offer numerous isolated spots and essential screening. The 6,000-acre subunit provides less than an outstanding opportunity for solitude due to its undiverse topographic and vegetative features which offer limited isolated locality for secluded spots and insufficient natural screening to block the sights and sounds of man and his activities.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The 27,642-acre and the 7,513-acre subunits also offer outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. The subunits' diverse topography of high rimrock bluffs, mesas, granite pinnacles, and deep aspen lined drainages provide hikers and backpackers with numerous points of interest, varied terrain, and scenic qualities which would support an outstanding recreational experience. The 6,000-acre subunit, although it has some geological and zoological features, lacks scenic values, or any points of interest or challenge that could provide an outstanding opportunity for primitive recreation.
4. Supplemental Values: Geological and zoological values were identified.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

- 17,335 acres in Nevada are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.
- 16,020 acres in Oregon are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.
- 20,000 acres in Nevada should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.
- 5,460 acres in Oregon should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 18 specific comments on this unit. Many comments stated the unit has roads, intrusions, and lacks outstanding opportunities. One comment suggests a boundary change and potential for road rehabilitation. Many mentioned natural condition and outstanding opportunities. Two noted supplemental values and most listed other resource values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

19,135 acres in Nevada are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

16,020 acres in Oregon are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

18,200 acres in Nevada are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

5,460 acres in Oregon are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

(The WSA acreage is split into two WSAs: 859 is 11,622 acres in Nevada and 16,020 acres in Oregon; 859B is 7,513 acres in Nevada.)

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates that a portion of the area does possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation. The portion eliminated from WSA consideration was found not to possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-030-102

UNIT NAME: Clan Alpine Mountains

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Clan Alpine Mountains are a major north-south trending volcanic range in west-central Nevada, on the east side of Dixie Valley. The range has an impressive variety of landscapes, vegetation, and animal life. It also contains several small perennial and intermittent streams, numerous springs, steep canyons, high ridges and peaks, colorful rock and soil formations, aspen lined drainages, and pinyon-covered hills. Elevations range from 3,760 feet in Dixie Valley to 9,966 feet at the highest point, Mt. Augusta. The unit runs about 36 miles in length north and south, and is about 12 miles wide.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The original 257,000 acre unit was divided into 11 separate subunits due to documented roads or substantially noticeable intrusions. Four subunits of 11,560 acres, 11,240 acres, 26,260 acres and 193,120 acres meet the size criterion and were subjected to additional wilderness characteristics analysis. The figure for the proposed WSA (193,120 acres) differs from the original recommendation due to a public comment that resulted in the documentation of a road which decreases the WSA by 400 acres.
2. Naturalness: The 11,560 acre subunit and the 11,240 acre subunit were found to contain such substantially noticeable intrusions that they do not meet the naturalness criterion. Two subunits totalling 219,380 acres remain essentially natural and were subjected to further evaluation.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Opportunities for solitude are outstanding in the 193,120-acre subunit due to the area's large size, varied topography, and large number of secluded spots. The remaining 26,260-acre subunit lacks these attributes and does not provide an outstanding solitude opportunity.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for primitive recreation are outstanding in the 193,120-acre subunit because of the area's varied landscape, the ability to hike along drainages and ridges and at high elevations for long distances, and a number of good primitive activities including hunting, photography, viewing animals, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, and camping near water. Conversely, the 26,260-acre subunit lacks these characteristics and does not provide outstanding recreation opportunities.
4. Supplemental Values: The area is highly scenic and contains significant ecological and geological features.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

193,520 acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

63,480 should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 40 specific comments on this unit. One suggested a boundary change and one said the area lacked sufficient size. Most noted roads, intrusions, and lack of outstanding solitude and primitive recreation opportunities. Sixteen noted presence of wilderness characteristics. Many said the area was within a military operating area. Several noted supplemental values and a substantial number listed other resource values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

193,120 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

63,880 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates that a portion of the area does possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation. The portion eliminated from WSA consideration was found not to possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-030-104

UNIT NAME: Stillwater Range

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Stillwater Range unit contains rugged, mountainous terrain stretching more than 17 miles in length and flanked on both the east and west by broad, sagebrush covered flats. It is about 30 miles northeast of Fallon, Nevada and is bounded on the north by the White Rock and Copper Kettle roads, on the west by county road 399, on the south by the Job Canyon road, and on the east by county road 380.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The Stillwater Range unit contains 113,310 acres of public land. Three subunits totalling 1,388 acres, were separated by documented roads and do not meet the size criterion. The remaining 111,922 acres consist of two roadless subunits of 92,053 acres and 17,860 acres, and four small subunits totalling 2,009 acres.
2. Naturalness: The two large subunits of 92,053 acres and 17,860 acres were determined to be in an essentially natural condition and were fully evaluated. The four small subunits totalling 2,009 acres were deleted from additional study due to the fact that they are heavily impacted by mining activity and roads.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Solitude opportunities in the 92,053-acre subunit were deemed outstanding due to (a) the configuration and immense size of the unit, (b) the excellent natural screening afforded by the mountainous portion of the unit, and (c) the numerous opportunities for a visitor to find a secluded spot in which to experience a feeling of solitude and isolation. The 17,860-acre subunit lacks these attributes and does not provide an outstanding solitude opportunity.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Both backpacking and sightseeing opportunities were found to be outstanding in the 92,053 acre subunit. Day hiking, horseback riding, hunting, and mountain/rock climbing opportunities also are present. The diversity of opportunities also contributes to an outstanding primitive and unconfined recreation experience. The 17,860 acre subunit lacks these attributes and does not provide outstanding recreation opportunities.

4. Supplemental Values: Geologic, historic, and limited ecological supplemental values were found to exist within the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

110,133 acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

3,177 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 36 specific comments on this unit. Seven suggested boundary changes. Most noted various intrusions and cited lack of outstanding opportunities. Some said the area was substantially natural and possessed outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. Many said the area was within military airspace and one said the area's air was polluted above federal standards. Some noted supplemental values and a substantial number listed other resource values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

92,053 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

21,257 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates that a portion of the area does possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation. The portion eliminated from WSA consideration was found not to possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-030-105

UNIT NAME: New Pass Range

AREA DESCRIPTION: The New Pass Mountain Range is an arid range about 14 miles long by five miles wide. The main peak reaches an elevation of nearly 9,000 feet, and is flanked by a number of low rolling pinyon woodland covered hills.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 61,500 acres of public land. Documented roads and substantially noticeable intrusions have divided the original unit into five separate subunits of 44,940 acres, 4,300 acres, 920 acres, 10,640 acres, and 700 acres.

2. Naturalness: One 10,640-acre subunit covering the east side of New Pass Peak was eliminated due to mining activity. The remaining four subunits (44,940 acres) are substantially natural and contain only a few ways and a fence line.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Opportunities for solitude are not outstanding in any of the five subunits because of their narrow configuration, penetrating roads, and limited opportunity to avoid roads and mining.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: None of the five subunits contain many interesting or attracting features, and as a result the opportunity to participate in primitive recreation activities is limited.
4. Supplemental Values: The relative quality and quantity of ecological, geological, scenic and other features are of low value, and do not enhance the unit's wilderness character.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

61,500 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received five specific comments on this unit, all citing roads, intrusions, and lack of outstanding opportunities. One stated the area was within a military operating area. A few listed other resource values. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

61,500 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-030-106

UNIT NAME: Shoshone Meadows

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Shoshone Meadows unit is in the northern foothills of the Clan Alpine Mountain Range, about 65 miles northeast of Fallon, Nevada. It is separated from the main Clan Alpine Range by the Shoshone Pass Road, and from the south end of the Augusta Mountains by the Hole-in-the-Wall Pass Road. The west and east boundaries are documented roads. Vegetation is primarily sagebrush community-desert scrub, with pinyon woodland covering about 6,000 acres around the highest point, McCoy Peak.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 53,000 acres of public lands. Documented roads separated one 400-acre parcel, leaving 52,600 acres for further evaluation. The remaining unit is further divided from west to east by a bladed fenceline right-of-way, separating it into one 14,000-acre subunit north of the line and a 38,600-acre subunit to the south.
2. Naturalness: Only one mile-long vehicle way penetrates from the north boundary road into the northern subunit. The southern subunit has about 10 miles of ways and about five acres of surface disturbance due to recent prospecting or mining activities. Both subunits appear essentially natural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Pinyon woodland combined with the mountainous terrain around McCoy Peak offers some screening, and a few secluded spots can be found among the peaks and canyons in the south portion. Neither subunit provides an outstanding opportunity for solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The south subunit offers some sightseeing, hiking, hunting, and camping opportunities. There are no significant features that would attract or sustain primitive recreation use in either subunit.
4. Supplemental Values: Geological formations give the north and west side of the unit a layered appearance with colorful bands of rock. Wild horse herds are abundant. No other significant values were identified.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

53,000 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 12 specific comments on this unit. One suggested a boundary change. The majority stated the area did qualify for wilderness study. The rest cited roads, intrusions, and lack of outstanding opportunities. One noted the area is within a military operating area. Several noted supplemental values and two listed other resource values. One stated the area did not meet the criteria. Also received were 2,326 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

53,000 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-030-108

UNIT NAME: Augusta Mountains

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Augusta Mountains unit consists of rugged desert mountain topography surrounding 8,409 foot Cain Peak. Vegetation is mostly sagebrush-grass community with pinyon-juniper woodland covering much of the intermediate elevations. The unit centers around the common junction of Churchill, Pershing, and Lander County lines, about 75 miles northeast of Fallon, Nevada.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The Augusta Mountains unit contains 96,000 acres of public land. Three subunits totaling 1,600 acres do not meet the size criterion, and were separated from the original unit by documented roads, leaving 94,400 roadless acres for evaluation.
2. Naturalness: Vehicle ways total four miles. Mining exploration along the dead-end roads creates a significant visual impact on the otherwise natural landscape. Barbed-wire livestock fences penetrate five miles into the unit from two locations on the boundary. The unit also contains two developed livestock waters. 93,200 acres appear essentially natural. An additional 1,200 acres in one subunit were eliminated during the comment period due to identification of mining disturbances.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Public comments on the recommended decision prompted a review of this criterion. The rugged topography and juniper woodland does provide excellent screening. When combined with the large size, and the diverse topographic and vegetative screening in the natural portion of the unit, opportunities for solitude are considered outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The unit does offer some sightseeing opportunities for geological features, wild horses, and scenery. Backpacking, hiking, and primitive camping could be done throughout the unit; however, there are no significant features that would attract recreation use or provide an outstanding experience.
4. Supplemental Values: Several canyons and cliffs in the northeast portion of the unit have colorful geological displays, bedded rock layers, and wind caves. Except for the visual resources, no other significant supplemental values were identified.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

96,000 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 12 specific comments on this unit. The majority stated the area did meet the wilderness criteria, with the rest noting roads, intrusions, and lack of outstanding opportunities. One said the unit was within a military operating area. Several noted supplemental values and two listed other resource values. One stated the area did not meet the criteria. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

93,200 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

2,800 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates that a portion of the area does possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation. The portion eliminated from WSA consideration was found not to possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-030-110/060-288

UNIT NAME: Desatoya Mountains

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit consists of scenic, mountainous, steep topography dissected by numerous ridges and small aspen lined drainages. The unit is 60 miles east of Fallon, Nevada and is bounded by U.S. Highway 50 on the northwest, "Old U.S. 50 Alternate" on the south and BLM dirt roads to the east and north. The unit is contiguous with NV-060-288 and that unit is included in this inventory.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The original inventory unit contains 78,160 acres of public land. One subunit of 800 acres was separated due to documented roads. A 250-acre subunit was separated along an electrical transmission line. 77,110 acres meet the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: Three subunits of 25,600 acres, 1,000 acres, and 2,360 acres were separated due to the effects of roads, and brush control, and grass seeding projects on naturalness. One subunit of 48,150 roadless acres appears essentially natural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: A portion of the 48,150-acre subunit contains outstanding opportunities for solitude because of highly dissected topography and good vegetative screening on the lower slopes and in the drainages.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Portions of the 48,150-acre subunit contain a good variety of landscape features and opportunities for hiking, camping, photography, and cross-country skiing.

4. Supplemental Values: Historic and scenic qualities are high.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

48,150 acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

30,010 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration. (This figure differs from the Bureau's earlier recommendation due to a more accurate acreage assessment.)

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 23 specific comments on this unit. Three suggested a boundary change. Most said the area contained wilderness characteristics and the others mentioned roads, intrusions and lack of outstanding opportunities. Two said the unit was within a military operating area. Many noted supplemental values and several listed other resource values. Also, received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

48,150 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

30,010 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates that a portion of the area does possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation. The portion eliminated from WSA consideration was found not to possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-030-117

UNIT NAME: Diamond Canyon

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit consists of dry desert hills dissected by shallow washes. The Sand Mountain dunes are in the southeastern portion of the unit. The unit varies in elevation from 3,890 feet to 6,015 feet. Vegetation is low desert shrubs and grasses. Boundaries are a transmission line and U.S. 50 on the south, and official Churchill County roads and BLM maintained roads.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The original 65,000 acre unit was split into six subunits due to documented roads and substantially noticeable intrusions. Five of the subunits do not meet the minimum size criterion. The remaining subunit is 60,500 acres.

2. Naturalness: The majority of the 60,500-acre subunit appears to be natural. Sand Mountain is a popular off-road vehicle area. The dunes, despite heavy recreation use, retain their natural character due to wind-initiated movements that frequently erase temporary impacts caused by off-road vehicle activity.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: None of the subunits possess significant topographic and vegetative diversity. Most users would concentrate at the only dominant feature of the area, Sand Mountain, which is readily accessible by vehicle to other recreationists. Although visitors could readily experience solitude due to the area's large size, the opportunities are not considered outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Sand Mountain, the only interesting recreational feature of the area, shows a high capability to attract recreational visitors. However, it is easily accessible from nearby Highway 50 and the main recreational pursuit is off-road vehicle use on the dunes. Therefore, opportunities for primitive recreation were not found to be outstanding.
4. Supplemental Values: Sand Mountain is recognized as an outstanding geological feature of scientific and educational interest.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

65,000 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received six specific comments on this unit, the majority citing roads, intrusions, or lack of outstanding opportunities. One said the unit was within a military operating area and another said the unit's air was polluted above federal standards. One listed other resource values. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

65,000 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-030-118

UNIT NAME: Desatoya South

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is rolling mountainous topography ranging in elevation from 5,400 feet to 8,287 feet. Vegetation is a mixture of pinyon pine and desert shrubs. The unit is located 60 miles east of Fallon, just south of Carol Summit on State Highway 2.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The original 30,240 acre inventory unit was divided into five separate subunits of 350 acres, 640 acres, 600 acres, 800 acres, and 27,850 acres due to the effects of documented roads and substantially noticeable intrusions.
2. Naturalness: The area does not appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature because of mining activity and documented roads that penetrate into the center of the unit from all sides.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

30,240 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.
(This figure differs from the Bureau's earlier publication due to a revised calculation.)

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received six specific comments on this unit. One said the area was appealing because it was close to urban recreationists. Several cited roads, and intrusions. One said the area is within a military operating area and several listed other resource values. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

30,240 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-030-125

UNIT NAME: Desatoya North

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Desatoya North unit, located about 70 miles east of Fallon, Nevada, is mountainous, ranging in elevation from 5,500 to 8,800 feet. Vegetation consists mainly of pinyon pine and low desert shrubs. The north-west side is bounded by a wood-pole transmission line; all other boundaries are documented roads.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The original 55,500-acre inventory unit was subdivided into three separate subunits of 350 acres, 400 acres, and 54,750 acres due to the effects of documented roads and substantially noticeable intrusions.
2. Naturalness: The 54,750-acre subunit contains a few minor intrusions such as spring developments, fences and jeep trails, but generally appears to be natural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Pinyon woodlands and broken topography provide good natural screening, but the narrowness of the range and penetrating roads limit outstanding opportunities throughout all subunits.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The area does contain some isolated interesting features, but none of the subunits contain outstanding landscape variety or provide the variety of resources necessary to offer an outstanding primitive recreation opportunity.
4. Supplemental Values: The scenic quality of the area is good.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

55,500 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration. (This figure differs from the Bureau's earlier publication due to a revised calculation.)

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received four specific comments on this unit. One said the area was appealing because it's close to urban recreationists. One said the area was within a military operating area and the rest cited roads, intrusions, or lack of outstanding opportunities. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

55,500 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-030-127

UNIT NAME: Job Peak

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Job Peak unit is about 25 miles northeast of Fallon, Nevada. Topography within the unit ranges from rugged, mountainous terrain to broad, sagebrush-covered flats. The boundaries of the unit are county roads on the east and west, BLM maintained roads, a county road on the south, and the Job Canyon road on the North.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The Job Peak unit contains 115,120 acres of public land. Four subunits, totalling 2,050 acres, were deleted during the inventory due to the documentation of roads. Careful checking of new aerial photos received during the public comment period showed that the Dixie Valley Road actually lies to the west of the location shown on topographic maps of this area. Consequently, a new subunit has been formed which deletes 1,308 acres from the unit due to the documentation of roads and the existence of substantially noticeable bladed drainage ditches intersecting the Dixie Valley Road. A total of 111,762 acres, rather than the originally cited 113,070 acres, were actually evaluated. This was divided into five subunits of 1,280 acres, 2,780 acres, 7,360 acres, 9,320 acres and 91,022 acres.
2. Naturalness: Three subunits of 91,022, 9,320 and 7,360 acres were determined to be in an essentially natural condition. A 2,780-acre subunit and a 1,280-acre subunit were deleted due to a lack of size and naturalness. Three subunits were fully evaluated.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Solitude opportunities were deemed outstanding in the 91,022-acre subunit due to (a) the configuration and large size of the subunit, (b) the excellent natural screening afforded by the mountainous portion of the subunit, and (c) the numerous opportunities for a visitor to find a secluded spot in which to experience a feeling of solitude and isolation. The 7,360 and 9,320 acre subunits do not have outstanding opportunities for solitude due to their lack of natural screening, relatively small size, and lack of opportunities to find a secluded spot.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Backpacking, horse-back riding, and sightseeing opportunities were found to be outstanding in the 91,022 subunit. Day hiking, hunting, and mountain/rock climbing opportunities also are present. The diversity of opportunities also contributes to an outstanding primitive and unconfined recreation experience. The 7,360 and 9,320 subunits lack any outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.
4. Supplemental Values: Limited geological and ecological supplemental values were found to exist within the 91,022 acre subunit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

92,330 acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

22,790 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 25 specific comments on this unit. The majority cited roads, intrusions, and lack of outstanding opportunities. The rest said the area contains wilderness characteristics. Many noted the impact of a nearby bombing range. One said the unit's air was polluted. A substantial number noted supplemental values and many listed other resource values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

91,022 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

24,098 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates that a portion of the area does possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation. The portion eliminated from WSA consideration was found not to possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-030-136

UNIT NAME: Mount Annie

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Monte Cristo Mountains consist of steep, rugged peaks and ridges, with Mount Annie the highest point at an elevation of 6,908 feet. The inventory unit is bounded on the west, east, north, and south by BLM roads. Vegetation is low growing desert shrub.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 19,500 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: The inventory unit is essentially in a natural state with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The inventory unit lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude due to minimal size and a lack of topographic and vegetative screening. It is very unlikely a visitor to the area would avoid the sights, sounds, and evidence of other people within the unit.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Primitive and unconfined types of recreation are limited to day hikes, sightseeing, and horseback riding. None are considered individually outstanding, nor would they provide an outstanding opportunity through a diversity of activities.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in this unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

19,500 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received four specific comments on this unit, all noting lack of wilderness characteristics. One said the area is impacted by military operations. Two listed other resource values. One stated the unit lacks wilderness quality. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

19,500 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-030-323

UNIT NAME: Wassuk Range

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Wassuk Range is directly west of Walker Lake, about 15 miles northwest of Hawthorne, Nevada. A high-voltage transmission line bounds the unit on the north, U.S. Highway 95 on the east, and the Army Ammunition Depot on the south. An irregular western boundary consists of 20 miles of roads and four miles of fenceline. Vegetation varies from low desert scrub and shade-scale on the lower elevations to pinyon pine woodland above 6,000 feet.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The Wassuk Range contains 57,600 acres of public lands. One subunit totalling 3,200 acres was separated from the main unit by prospecting access roads which penetrate from the west boundary and nearly meet on the summit above Copper Canyon. 54,400 acres remain for further evaluation.

2. Naturalness: The two subunits show evidence of past and recent prospecting and mining activity in the vicinity of the existing roads and along numerous ways. BLM fenceline penetrates about two miles into the northwest side of the 54,400-acre subunit. Except for these intrusions both subunits appear essentially natural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Twelve miles of roads were removed from the unit, creating narrow spaces between them and reducing solitude opportunities in at least 10 locations. The canyons on Bald Mountain, north of the radio facility and transmission line, offer the most significant screening and secluded spots in the unit. Opportunities are not outstanding due to narrow configuration, combined with relatively few locations where recreational solitude could be experienced.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Hiking and camping opportunities are good in the north half of the unit among tree-lined canyons. Although some opportunity for primitive recreation exists, narrow configuration hinders free movement, limits hikes to short trips, and generally reduces the quality of opportunities to less than outstanding.
4. Supplemental Values: Desert bighorn sheep were reintroduced and are established in the Wassuk Range. Scenery values are relatively good; however, views are degraded by the mining roads bladed into the central portion of the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

57,600 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration. (This figure differs from the Bureau's earlier recommendation due to a more accurate acreage assessment.)

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 17 specific comments on this unit. Most stated the area is roadless, natural, or contains outstanding opportunities. The rest cited roads, intrusions, and lack of opportunities. Many noted supplemental values and five listed other resource values. One stated the unit does not meet the wilderness criteria. Also received were 2,326 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

57,600 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-030-402

UNIT NAME: Gillis Range North

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Gillis Range North unit is in Mineral County, nine miles northeast of the town of Hawthorne. The unit boundaries are formed on the west and north by the Walker River Indian Reservation, and on the east and south by county roads.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The Gillis Range North unit contains 51,580 acres of public land. Documentation of roads resulted in forming 16 subunits 15 of which were less than 5,000 acres. These reductions left an area of 19,465 acres for further evaluation.
2. Naturalness: The 19,465-acre subunit is essentially in a natural state. About 10 acres were deleted due to mining activity. The resulting area appears to have been primarily affected by the forces of nature and the imprint of man's work is substantially unnoticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Opportunities for solitude are determined not to be outstanding due to (a) poor to nonexistent natural screening, (b) lack of secluded areas in which to experience a feeling of solitude and isolation, and (c) topography not conducive to solitude in any of the subunits.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Both backpacking and sightseeing opportunities are present, but they are not outstanding. This is due to (a) lack of exceptional features, hence no destination points and (b) no exceptional scenic values. No single nor combination or opportunities could contribute to provide an outstanding primitive experience in any of the subunits. In addition, water is lacking.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

51,580 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received five specific comments on this unit, all citing roads, intrusions, or lack of outstanding opportunities. One cited impacts from military operations. Three listed other resource values. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

51,580 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-030-407

UNIT NAME: Gabbs Valley Range

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit covers a major portion of the Gabbs Valley Range in Mineral County, Nevada, 25 miles east of Hawthorne. Its boundary is formed by paved and graded roads. Topography varies from alluvial fans with very little relief on the outer edges of the unit, to mountainous peaks and canyons. Vegetation also varies from desert scrub and extensive pinyon woodland to willows and aspen trees along moist drainages.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The original 81,120 acre inventory unit was split into eight subunits due to documentation of roads and substantially noticeable intrusions. Seven of the subunits do not meet the size criterion. The remaining subunit is 77,330 acres.
2. Naturalness: The 77,330-acre subunit is in a generally natural condition. However, 14 miles of ways and three spring developments were documented which are not substantially noticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Size and shape of the unit along with topographic and vegetative screening contribute to an outstanding opportunity for solitude in the 77,330 acre subunit only.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Excellent opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, hunting, sightseeing, camping, and nature appreciation in the unit constitute an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation in the 77,330-acre subunit.

4. Supplemental Values: Wildlife, wild horses, scenery, and limited cultural resources are in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

77,330 acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

3,790 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 19 specific comments on this unit. Most cited roads, intrusions, or lack of outstanding opportunities. Three said the area's solitude was affected by military operations. The rest said the area was roadless, natural, and has outstanding opportunities. A substantial number noted supplemental values or other resource values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

77,330 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

3,790 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates that a portion of the area does possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation. The portion eliminated from WSA consideration was found not to possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-030-409

UNIT NAME: Stewart Valley Hills

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in Mineral County, Nevada, 30 miles east of Hawthorne. It is a hilly area between the Gabbs Valley Range and Stewart Valley. The boundary is formed by paved and graded roads.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: Total public acreage is 44,410. 1,092 acres are separated from the rest of the unit by documented roads.
2. Naturalness: 34,855 acres are in a generally natural condition. 8,463 acres were deleted because of numerous ways, a fence, and associated impacts.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The opportunity for solitude is not outstanding in any of the subunits because of the lack of vegetative and topographic screening.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Travel by foot and horseback is facilitated by lack of vegetative and topographic obstacles. The opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation is not outstanding in any of the subunits. No sources of water are present.

4. Supplemental Values: Supplemental values include wildlife and wild horses.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

44,410 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received five specific comments on this unit, three noting roads, intrusions, or lack of outstanding opportunities. One cited the unit's location within a military operating area and one said the unit's air was polluted above federal standards. One also noted other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

44,410 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-030-425

UNIT NAME: Excelsior Mountains

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Excelsior Mountain unit is in Mineral County, about 25 miles southeast of Hawthorne, Nevada. The unit is generally mountainous in character and surrounded by sagebrush covered flats on all sides except the northeast and southwest. Its boundaries are formed by a county road, two BLM maintained roads, documented roads, and private lands.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The Excelsior Mountains unit contains 66,850 acres of public land. Acreage deleted due to roads totaled 1,140 acres, resulting in a subunit of 65,710 acres.
2. Naturalness: An area of 65,560 acres was determined to be in an essentially natural condition. About 150 acres were deleted from the subunit due to a lack of naturalness.

3. Outstanding Opportunities for:

A. Solitude: Solitude opportunities were not deemed outstanding due to the configuration of the roadless subunit, numerous intrusions in the unit, and the presence of several mines, including some active ones within the center of the unit.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: While some activities, notably day hiking and sightseeing, are possible within the subunits, outstanding opportunities do not exist. The presence of roads and mines deep within the 65,710 acre subunit restricts both the types and quality of recreational opportunities available to a visitor. In addition, water supplies are scarce.

4. Supplemental Values: Limited ecological and historical supplemental values were found to exist within the unit. Historic values are those relating to the extensive mining activity.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

66,850 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received seven specific comments on this unit, all citing roads, intrusions, or lack of outstanding opportunities. Five listed other resource values. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

66,850 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-030-430

UNIT NAME: Basalt

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Basalt unit is south of the Excelsior Mountains and west of State Route 10, about 35 miles southeast of Hawthorne, Nevada. It is bordered on the south and west by a 16-mile common boundary with the Toiyabe National Forest proposed Excelsior Wilderness unit 4-989. Mineral County and BLM roads form all other boundaries. Topography is hilly and broken along the RARE II wilderness unit, with long, narrow basalt bluffs and ridges separating nearly flat valley bottoms. Numerous canyons drain north toward Teels Marsh basin. Terrain in the northern portion has little or no topographic relief. Vegetation varies from dense stands of pinyon woodland to sagebrush, with low-growing salt scrub around the alkali flat.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 55,450 acres of public land. Documented roads split the unit into seven subunits. Two of these subunits, totaling 1,570 acres, were dropped because they were less than 5,000 acres. Three additional subunits were also less than 5,000 acres but were retained for evaluation because they are adjacent to the proposed Excelsior Wilderness Study Area managed by the U.S. Forest Service. These three areas, combined with the two remaining subunits that are larger than 5,000 acres, total 53,880 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: 2,240 acres around the East Side mine were eliminated due to extensive mining and associated road-building. Three subunits totaling 5,550 acres have roads and ways penetrating in such concentration that the lands no longer retain their natural character. Two subunits of 27,560 acres and 19,300 acres appear to be in a substantially natural condition.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The Basalt subunit (27,560 acres) has rugged topography, extensive basalt cliffs and mesas, dense pinyon stands, as well as sufficient size, configuration, isolation, and remoteness to offer a multitude of secluded spots. However, opportunities for solitude are considered outstanding only in conjunction with adjoining Forest Service RARE II lands. The Teels Marsh North subunit (19,300 acres) contains little vegetative screening, topographic relief, and insufficient opportunities for seclusion to offer an outstanding solitude opportunity.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Only one subunit possesses any significant recreation values that would attract or sustain primitive-type use. The Basalt subunit offers primitive camping, hiking, natural history study, geological and wildlife sightseeing opportunities in an undisturbed setting. These opportunities are considered outstanding only in conjunction with adjoining Forest Service RARE II land.
4. Supplemental Values: The Basalt subunit contains a variety of visual, ecological, geological, and cultural values. The other five analyzed have some similar attributes, but to a far lesser degree.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

27,560 acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

27,890 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

(These figures differ from the Bureau's earlier recommendation due to a more accurate acreage assessment.)

(The name of this unit has been changed from Teel's Marsh to Basalt to more accurately reflect the geological features since Teel's Marsh is no longer within the unit boundary.)

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 11 specific comments on this unit, split almost evenly between those citing presence of wilderness characteristics and those citing absence of wilderness characteristics. Several noted supplemental values and one listed other resource values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

27,560 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

27,890 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation for this area, which is contiguous to lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service that previously were determined to have wilderness characteristics. Evidence available to the Bureau indicates that one public land portion is natural and when combined with the adjoining agency unit, also possesses the other necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-030-432

UNIT NAME: Hontone Mine

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Hontone Mine unit is on the southeast side of the Excelsior Mountains, in Mineral County, Nevada. The unit is triangular in shape bordered by the Toiyabe National Forest on the north and west sides and bordered on the east by a county road. It is approximately 30 miles south of Hawthorne, Nevada and 45 miles east of Bridgeport, California. This unit is contiguous to a Forest Service RARE II unit consisting of 163,670 acres.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The Hontone Mine unit contains 2,570 acres, 500 of which were dropped due to road documentation. The size of this unit is sufficient for further consideration since it is contiguous with the RARE II lands.
2. Naturalness: An area in the northwest corner of the unit, adjacent to the Forest Service RARE II unit, 4-989 and consisting of 1,570 acres, was determined to be in a natural condition. On the east side, 500 additional acres were deleted due to the impact of mining activity and the lack of naturalness.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The solitude opportunities of the Hontone Mine unit were deemed poor primarily due to its size. The solitude opportunities, however, of this unit and the contiguous RARE II unit combined were deemed outstanding due to (a) the immense size of the two units merged together, and (b) the excellent natural screening afforded by the rugged, mountainous terrain.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The opportunities for backpacking and sightseeing are limited when only the Hontone Mine unit is considered. These opportunities, however, were deemed outstanding when considered in conjunction with the RARE II unit.

4. Supplemental Values: Ecological, geological, and scenic supplemental values were found in the area.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

1,570 acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

1,000 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received nine specific comments on this unit. Some noted that the area is natural, roadless, and has outstanding opportunities and some noted inadequate size, roads, intrusions, and lack of outstanding opportunities. Two noted supplemental values and 39 general comments were received stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

1,570 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

1,000 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation for this area, which is contiguous to lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service that previously were determined to have wilderness characteristics. Evidence available to the Bureau indicates that the one public land portion appears natural, and when combined with the adjoining agency unit, also possesses the other necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-030-435

UNIT NAME: Truman Meadows

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Truman Meadows unit is near the southern end of Mineral County, Nevada, about five miles north of the junction of U.S. Highway 6 and the California-Nevada border. It is bordered on the north and west by a Toiyabe National Forest Wilderness Study Area unit 5-989 for seven miles and by six miles of the south boundary with a Inyo National Forest Wilderness Study Area, both of which were recommended for wilderness designated through the RARE II process. The east boundary is a BLM road. Vegetation is primarily low sagebrush-rabbitbrush community with scattered stands of pinyon woodland. Topography is rolling hills, flat meadows, and canyons draining the southern foothills of the Excelsior Mountains north by Jack's Spring Canyon, and south toward Benton Valley.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 7,560 acres of public land. Due to boundary changes by the U.S. Forest Service on its adjacent wilderness proposals, the Sagehen - McBride Springs Road was adopted as the revised east boundary for the Truman Meadows unit, eliminating 1,530 acres, leaving 6,030 for further evaluation. Subunit A contains 330 acres, subunit B has 660 acres, and subunit C has 5,040 acres.
2. Naturalness: None of the three subunits evaluated appear primarily natural. Subunit C is laced with a network of jeep trails and the heavy influence of grazing improvements and apparent vehicle-based recreation dominate the views on the BLM acreage. Subunits A and B also are heavily impacted by surrounding developments and boundary roads.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Solitude opportunities cannot be termed outstanding anywhere in the unit. Secluded spots are few, vegetative and topographic screening is minimal, and the size and configuration of the undisturbed portions are not conducive to an outstanding solitude opportunity, even when considered as an extension of those within the RARE II units.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: There are some opportunities for hiking, camping, sightseeing, and nature appreciation; however, the overall quality of available recreation resources do not add up to an outstanding opportunity.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

7,560 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria. No specific comments were received.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

7,560 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received supporting WSA designation for this area, which is contiguous to lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service that previously were determined to have wilderness characteristics, evidence available to the Bureau indicates that the public land portion does not appear natural. Even when combined with the adjoining agency unit, it does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-030- 436

UNIT NAME: Queen Valley North

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Queen Valley North unit is comprised of a narrow, hilly ridge at the south end of the Excelsior Mountains in Mineral County, Nevada. An alluvial fan slopes toward U.S. Highway 6 and Queen Valley, which forms the south boundary. The Toiyabe National Forest borders on the west end; all other boundaries are documented roads. Vegetation varies from pinyon woodlands on the hill tops and upper canyons to low sage-rabbitbrush aspect on the lower slopes and valley bottoms.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 7,640 acres of public land. An abandoned railroad grade connects U.S. 6 with the south boundary road, separating a narrow, 500-acre strip and a loop access road to Queen Canyon Springs dropped another parcel of 250 acres. Dead-end penetrating roads were redrawn to form "cherry-stem" boundary configuration and subtract another 20 acres. The remaining 6,870 acres were evaluated.
2. Naturalness: Prospecting pits and bulldozer tracks have disturbed about 15 acres in several acres of concentration, notably around West Queen Canyon and the dead-end roads. The rest of the unit appears essentially natural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Opportunities for solitude are far less than outstanding due to the unit's relatively small size, very narrow configuration, and narrow spaces between penetrating roads and mining intrusions. Secluded spots are few, and screening is minimal in all subunits.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: All three subunits have some hunting, sightseeing, and hiking potential, but overall primitive recreation opportunities are less than outstanding.
4. Supplemental Values: The unit has moderate scenic values and some potential for historical or cultural values.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

7,640 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit, both noting lack of wilderness characteristics. One also noted other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

7,640 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-030-437

UNIT NAME: Queen Valley Ranch

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Queen Valley Ranch unit is between U.S. Highway 6 and the Inyo National Forest, just southwest of Montgomery Pass in southern Mineral County, Nevada. The Hereford Valley Ranch road forms the west boundary, private land borders on the east. Topography and vegetation vary from pinyon-covered foothills of the White Mountains, to low sagebrush-rabbitbrush community.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The initial decision to conduct an Intensive Inventory was based on the rationale that the unit was contiguous to a RARE II Area proposed for further study. However, the Inyo National Forest has since relocated the wilderness study area line away from the BLM-FS common boundary. Subsequently, the 610-acre roadless area no longer meets the size criterion.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

610 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received three specific comments on this unit, all citing lack of wilderness characteristics. Two listed other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

610 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-030-439

UNIT NAME: Orchard Spring

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Orchard Spring unit is just south of U.S. Highway 6 in Queen Valley, in southern Mineral County, Nevada. The unit is composed of two separate parcels. The west parcel is bounded by the California-Nevada border on the west, a documented road on the north, and the Inyo National Forest on the south and east. The east unit is adjacent to the Inyo National Forest on the south and is bordered by a documented road. Topography is nearly flat and vegetation is low-growing sage, rabbitbrush, and cholla cactus.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The west portion contains 760 acres, at one time directly adjacent to an Inyo National Forest RARE II Area (White Mountains). The east parcel has only 200 acres, also adjacent to the original RARE II boundary. Since the decision was made to conduct an Intensive Inventory, Inyo Forest moved its proposed wilderness boundary away from the common BLM-USFS boundary. Subsequently, the original rationale and initial size determination no longer apply. Both units, therefore, are less than the 5,000-acre minimum criterion.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

760 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: None received.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

760 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: No public comments were received, and the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-030-517

UNIT NAME: Rawe Peak

AREA DESCRIPTION: Rawe Peak is at the far northern end of the Pine Nut Range, east of Carson City. The perimeter of the unit is along power lines, roads, and private lands. The unit is mountainous, with deep canyons near the center and pinyon woodland covered hill systems giving way to sagebrush flats on the outer edges.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: Public lands in the original intensive inventory unit total 49,480 acres. Four subunits of 520 acres, 880 acres, 280 acres, and 40 acres were removed after road documentation, and 47,760 acres remain for evaluation.
2. Naturalness: 47,760 acres are in a generally natural condition. The four subunits that do not meet the size criterion also lack naturalness.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The 47,760 acre subunit boundary is deeply indented due to the presence of penetrating roads. Natural screening and secluded spots are very limited. The opportunity for solitude is not outstanding in any of the subunits.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Possible uses of the area include hiking, horseback riding, and hunting, but even together they do not constitute an outstanding opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation in any of the subunits.
4. Supplemental Values: Supplemental values include wildlife, wild horses, scenery, and limited cultural resources.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

49,480 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received seven specific comments on this unit, all but one stating the area contains roads, intrusions, and lack of outstanding opportunities. One said most of the area qualified for study and has outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. One noted supplemental values and three listed other resource values. One stated the unit did not meet the wilderness criteria. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

49,480 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-030-520

UNIT NAME: Lyon Peak

AREA DESCRIPTION: Lyon Peak and Eldorado Canyon in the northern Pine Nut Range east of Carson City, are the main features of this unit. The area is between the roads of Brunswick Canyon, Churchill Canyon, Sunrise Pass, and a power line near Como.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The original 36,000 acre unit was subdivided into five separate subunits of 360 acres, 1,840 acres, 640 acres, 200 acres and 32,960 acres. Only the 32,960 acre subunit meets the size criteria; 3,040 total acres were eliminated for lack of required size.
2. Naturalness: 32,950 acres in the largest subunit are in a generally natural condition. Abandoned vehicle routes which are impassible to vehicles, but which are substantially noticeable intrusions, eliminated 10 acres from the 32,960 acre subunit. The other four subunits contain substantially noticeable imprints of man's work, and do not appear essentially natural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The unit boundary is deeply indented due to the presence of several penetrating roads or substantially noticeable intrusions. Vegetative and topographic screening and secluded spots are limited. The opportunity for solitude is not outstanding in any of the five subunits.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Possible uses of the area include hiking, horseback riding, hunting, and camping, but the overall recreational opportunity is less than outstanding in all of the five subunits.
4. Supplemental Values: Supplemental values include wildlife, wild horses, scenery, and limited cultural resources.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

36,000 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 24 specific comments on this unit, some citing roads, intrusions, and lack of outstanding opportunities. Some cited lack of roads meeting definition or roads with rehabilitation potential. Many said the area was natural and most said it contains outstanding opportunities. A substantial number noted supplemental values and a few listed other resource values. Also received were 2,326 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

36,000 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-030-525

UNIT NAME: East Pine Nuts

AREA DESCRIPTION: The East Pine Nuts unit is along the major ridge in the Pine Nut Range east of Carson City and Carson Valley. It is about 17 miles long from north to south, and from one-half to five miles wide. Mt. Como and Oreana Peak are the highest points in a narrow, rugged system of peaks, canyons, and foothills. Vegetation varies, but is typical of the Great Basin pinyon woodland community.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. **Size:** Public land totals 38,785 acres. Documentation of roads resulted in six separate subunits, five of which did not meet the minimum size criterion. The remaining subunit is 34,850 acres.
2. **Naturalness:** The 34,850-acre subunit is in a generally natural condition. Minor intrusions included two ways and an abandoned livestock fence.
3. **Outstanding Opportunities for:**
 - A. **Solitude:** The 34,850-acre subunit boundary is deeply indented due to the presence of several penetrating roads. Natural screening and secluded spots are very limited. The opportunity for solitude is not outstanding in any of the subunits.
 - B. **A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation:** Possible uses include hiking, horseback riding, camping, hunting, and cross-country skiing, but even taken together, these do not constitute an outstanding opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation in any of the subunits.
4. **Supplemental Values:** Supplemental values include wildlife, wild horses, scenery, and limited cultural resources.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

38,785 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.
(This figure differs from the Bureau's earlier recommendation due to a more accurate acreage assessment.)

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 17 specific comments on this unit, most stating the area contains wilderness characteristics. Some cited roads, intrusions, or lack of outstanding opportunities. Many noted supplemental values and three listed other resource values. Also received were 2,326 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

38,785 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-030-525A

UNIT NAME: Burbank Canyons

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Burbank Canyons unit consists of five major canyons, well vegetated valley bottoms, generally mountainous terrain and relatively diverse flora and fauna. It is fifteen miles southeast of Gardnerville, Nevada, and is bounded by documented roads and patented lands.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The Burbank Canyons unit contains 14,490 acres of public land. Acreage deleted due to roads totaled 110 acres, resulting in a unit of 14,380 acres remaining for evaluation.
2. Naturalness: An area of 13,395 acres was determined to be in an essentially natural condition. About 985 acres were deleted from the unit due to numerous ways and mining intrusions resulting in a lack of naturalness.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The 13,395 acre subunit was reevaluated and determined to contain outstanding opportunities for solitude due to the number of secluded spots to be found in the canyon bottoms, the broken and varied topography and the ample natural screening in the canyons and along many of the canyon slopes.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: No single primitive recreation opportunity was found to be outstanding. However, several activities do provide good opportunities and it is felt that the diversity in the number of these activities thus provides outstanding opportunities.

4. Supplemental Values: Limited ecological and historical supplemental values exist within the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

14,490 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 19 specific comments on this unit. Three suggested a boundary change. Some said the area is roadless, is of sufficient size, and is substantially natural. The majority said it contains outstanding opportunities. Some noted roads, intrusions, and lack of opportunities. Many noted supplemental values and one listed other resource values. One stating the unit does not meet the wilderness criteria. Also received were 2,326 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

13,395 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

1,095 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates that a portion of the area does possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation. The portion eliminated from WSA consideration was found not to possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-030-531/CA-010-105

UNIT NAME: Slinkard

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Slinkard unit generally covers a very steep, rugged ridge between Bagley Valley and Slinkard Valley, California, and is bisected north-south by the Alpine-Mono County line. Those public lands in Alpine County are administered by the Carson City BLM District; those in Mono County by the Bakersfield District Office. The unit shares a one and one-quarter mile common boundary on its south end with the adjacent Carson-Iceberg wilderness proposal unit 4-986 administered by the Toiyabe National Forest. The east boundary is private lands leased to California Fish and Game Department for wildlife management; the west side fronts on private lands except for about five miles of roads. The north boundary is divided between private lands and State Route 89 through Monitor Pass. Vegetation is primarily mature stands of ponderosa pine and fir trees mixed with aspen groves, mountain mahogany and undergrowth of various mountain shrubs, grasses, and bushes.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The Carson City District portion contains 2,240 acres and the Bakersfield District portion contains 3,200 acres of public lands, for a total of 5,440 acres.

2. Naturalness: No man-made improvements are located inside the unit. There is some evidence of sheep and cattle grazing, particularly among the aspen-lined drainages. The general appearance is one of undisturbed alpine mountain ecosystem free of works of man.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: In spite of the relatively narrow, two and one-half by six mile configuration of the unit, it shares the same dense forests and rugged topography as the Carson-Iceberg RARE II wilderness proposal it adjoins. Both vegetative and topographic screening are uncommonly superior and offer numerous opportunities for seclusion. The opportunity for solitude is outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Sufficient snow-cover has been present for the two winter seasons during the wilderness inventory process to provide significant cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and snow camping opportunities. Because State Routes 89 and 4, which allow vehicle access to the Carson-Iceberg wilderness are often closed to traffic, the Slinkard unit offers an access route to the Carson River, Silver King Valley, and the spectacular Carson-Iceberg beyond. Hiking, rock climbing, hunting, sightseeing, backpacking, nature study, and photography opportunities are of excellent quality throughout the unit. Especially when considered in conjunction with the adjacent Carson-Iceberg wilderness study proposal, the overall recreation opportunity is outstanding.
4. Supplemental Values: The unit contains interesting geological, scenic, botanical and ecological features. Historical evidence center around past ranching or mining activities; no archaeological sites were documented.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

5,440 acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

Zero acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 14 specific comments on this unit, most stating the area contains wilderness characteristics. A few noted roads, intrusions, or lack of outstanding opportunities. Several noted supplemental values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

5,440 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

Zero acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation for this area, which is contiguous to lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service that previously were determined to have wilderness characteristics. Evidence available to the Bureau indicates that the public land portion appears natural and also possesses the other necessary criteria for WSA designation, especially when combined with the adjoining agency unit.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-030-532

UNIT NAME: Carson-Iceberg

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Carson-Iceberg unit is on the northeast border of the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness Study Area unit 4-986 proposed for wilderness designation by the Forest Service. The unit is bordered on the west end and south by the WSA, which is administered by the Toiyabe National Forest. The north boundary is private land; the northeast side is bounded by a vehicle way separating this unit from Silver King Valley. The southeast corner borders on non-public land. About one and one-half miles of the east fork of the Carson River winds from southeast to northwest through the unit, which is comprised of a steep river canyon slope isolated from Bagley Valley by a pine-forested hill. Vegetation is ponderosa and jeffery pine, with aspen and willows along canyon drainages and undergrowth of sagebrush and grasses.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: Carson-Iceberg contains 550 acres of public lands administered by the Carson City District. Combined with the contiguous Forest Service land, it exceeds the 5,000 minimum acreage criterion.
2. Naturalness: No man-made intrusions are in the unit. Cattle grazing is evident along the wet riverbanks, but is not substantially noticeable or detrimental to the overall natural appearance.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Excellent screening is afforded by the topographic relief on both sides of the river canyon. The many bends in the river as it winds through the unit and the irregular topography along the tree-lined banks offer numerous secluded spots. Hikers on the abandoned way on the northeast edge are screened from those inside the unit itself. When considered in conjunction with the Forest Service wilderness proposal, opportunities for solitude are outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Recreation opportunities are outstanding within the unit when considered in conjunction with the Forest Service lands. Numerous camping spots, abundant clean water, excellent fishing, sightseeing, and hiking opportunities exist, and the unit is capable of providing a variety of quality recreation experiences. The roads leading to the unit are either closed to vehicle traffic or use is restricted by both the Forest Service and the adjacent landowner.

4. Supplemental Values: The unit has significant fisheries, scenery, ecological, and wildlife values.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

550 acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

Zero acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 13 specific comments on this unit, most stating the area is roadless, natural, and contains outstanding opportunities. Several cited roads, insufficient size, intrusions, and lack of opportunities. A few noted supplemental values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

550 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

Zero acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Public comments received both supporting and opposing WSA designation for this area, which is contiguous to lands managed by the Forest Service that previously were determined to have wilderness characteristics. Evidence available to the Bureau indicates that the public land portion appears natural, and when combined with the adjoining agency unit, also possesses the other necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-030-603/CA-020-403

UNIT NAME: Fort Sage Mountain

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is two miles east of Doyle, California and contains about 22,990 acres of public land. The mostly mountainous landscape, varying in elevation from 4,000 feet to 7,990 feet, contains a number of scattered steep prominent peaks, associated ridgelines, small canyons and hills. Juniper, sagebrush, and bitterbrush are the dominant vegetative species within the unit, with grass and appearing at the lower elevations.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The inventory area contains about 22,990 acres of public land managed by the Carson City and Susanville District Offices. Three separate subunits of 2,200 acres, 200 acres, and 20,590 acres were delineated along documented roads. The two smaller subunits were eliminated since they did not meet the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: The cumulative effects of a large number of man-made impacts (vehicle ways, dead-end roads, motorcycle trails, water developments and mining activity scars) leave the 20,590-acre subunit unnatural in appearance.

3. Outstanding Opportunities for:

A. Solitude: The mountainous landscape would provide some opportunities for visitors to achieve a sense of solitude, however, outstanding opportunities are negated by the subunit's irregular configuration and the existence of a number of closely spaced dead-end roads cutting deeply into its core.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The varied landscape, in conjunction with its supplemental values could provide some opportunities for primitive recreation. However, the subunit's configuration, in concert with the numerous man-made structures, limits free movement and the quantity and quality of primitive recreation opportunities in the subunit were less than outstanding.

4. Supplemental Values: Small populations of deer and chukar can be observed along with some eagles and hawks. The area is also noted for varied and interesting rock formations.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

22,990 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit, one citing presence of wilderness characteristics and one citing the absence of wilderness characteristics. One noted supplemental values and one listed other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

22,990 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-030-605

UNIT NAME: Virginia Mountains

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Virginia Mountains unit is about 25 miles north of Reno via State Highway 33. Topography is fairly level at the lower elevations around the perimeter of the unit, and rises to steep mountainous terrain which is dissected by deep canyons within the unit's interior. Vegetation is considered fair in density and is typical of the Northern Great Basin shrub type community. The inventory unit is bounded on the south, west, and on the north by Washoe County roads and on the east by the Pyramid Lake Indian Reservation.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The Virginia Mountains contains 89,275 acres of public land. Boundary readjustments along interior roads separated out 11 subunits, all of which are under 5,000 acres, which total 9,785 acres, leaving five subunits totalling 79,490 acres for evaluation. The subunits evaluated are 6,315 acres, 22,220 acres, 6,600 acres, 21,370 acres, and 22,840 acres.
2. Naturalness: 79,490 acres are essentially in a natural state with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. Some minor impacts such as ways, some mining activity, fences, water developments, and corrals were documented. The 11 subunits which lack the minimum size requirement also lack apparent naturalness.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: None of the sixteen subunits evaluated are considered to have outstanding opportunities for solitude due to their limited size and configuration, and limited topographic and vegetative screening. There are few opportunities for a visitor to find a secluded spot due to inadequate screening, size and configuration.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: There are limited opportunities for day hikes, hunting, photography, camping, horseback riding, mountain and rock climbing. None of these activities is considered individually outstanding and their cumulative effect would not be outstanding through a diversity of activities in any of the subunits.
4. Supplemental Values: Scientific and educational values are limited to scenery, natural vegetative and wildlife species common throughout the Great Basin region. Seven archaeological sites were identified.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

89,275 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 34 specific comments on this unit, all but four stating the area is of sufficient size, roadless according to the definition, essentially or potentially natural, and contains outstanding opportunities. Four noted roads and intrusions. Many noted supplemental values. One stated the unit does not meet the wilderness criteria. Also received were 2,326 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

89,275 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-030-610

UNIT NAME: Petersen Mountain

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Petersen Mountain unit is in Washoe County, Nevada, and Lassen County, California, about 20 miles northwest of Reno, Nevada. The unit consists of a long narrow mountain on the east and sparsely vegetated flats on the west. Its boundaries are formed by U.S. 395, the Red Rock Canyon Road, two documented roads, and an extensive amount of private land.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 17,170 acres of public land. Acreage deleted due to roads totaled 540 acres, leaving an area of 16,630 acres for evaluation.
2. Naturalness: An area of 16,610 acres was determined to be in an essentially natural condition. About 20 acres were deleted from the unit due to a lack of naturalness.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Solitude opportunities were not deemed outstanding due to the long, narrow configuration of the unit, numerous intrusions, and the small number of secluded spots within the unit.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: While some activities, notably day hiking and sightseeing, are possible within the unit, outstanding opportunities do not exist. Water supplies are scarce, and the presence of ways, mining activity and numerous range improvements throughout the unit severely restricts both the types and quality of recreational opportunities available to a visitor.
4. Supplemental Values: Limited archaeological supplemental values were found to exist within the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

17,170 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 12 specific comments on this unit. The majority said the area contains wilderness characteristics and the rest cited roads, intrusions, and lack of vegetative screening. Several noted supplemental values and a few listed other resource values. Also received were 2,326 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

17,170 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-040-001/UT-020-053,054 UNIT NAME:Northeast Corner

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit includes the rolling foothills of the south end of the Goshute Mountains and, on the west side, a small portion of Antelope Valley. The unit varies in size from three to nine miles in width and from two to six miles in length. Topographically it consists of rolling, sage-covered foothills with individual junipers in sheltered hill areas.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains about 27,400 acres of roadless public land.
2. Naturalness: About 11,500 acres of the unit are in a substantially natural condition except for one dead-end way about a mile in length which enters the area from the border road. The remainder has been severely impacted by the presence of facilities associated with ranching, including several ways, and a reservoir.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The small size, poor configuration, and limited topographic and vegetative screening make opportunities for solitude less than outstanding in this unit.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Neither the diversity nor the quality of primitive recreation, nor a combination of these factors, offers outstanding opportunities for activities which can be pursued in this area, such as hunting and nature study.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

26,950 acres in Nevada should be dropped from further wilderness consideration. 450 acres in Utah should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit, noting other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

26,950 acres in Nevada are dropped from further wilderness consideration. 450 acres in Utah are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-040-004

UNIT NAME: Chin Creek

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit lies on the east slope of the Antelope Range and is mountainous but not rugged. Low grasses and bushes cover the higher elevations with pinyon-juniper covering the lower slopes.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 16,000 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: An unnatural portion of 3,200 acres contains an unreviewed way. The remaining 12,800 acres are in an essentially natural condition.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Small size and limited screening restrict opportunities for solitude to less than outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Hiking, dry camping, hunting, and other recreation opportunities exist in the area but do not provide outstanding quality or diversity.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

16,000 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit. One noted roads and lack of outstanding opportunities and the second noted other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

16,000 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-040-007

UNIT NAME: Lehman Creek

AREA DESCRIPTION: This unit includes mountains with some rolling foothills. Vegetative types are primarily shrub and pinyon-juniper with some limber and bristlecone pine in the upper elevations.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 17,300 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: The entire 17,300 acres is in an essentially natural condition.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Poor configuration and somewhat limited topographic and vegetative screening provide less than outstanding opportunities for solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Some common recreation activities such as hiking, dry camping, and nature study are available in the unit, but overall quality and diversity are not outstanding.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

17,300 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received four specific comments on this unit. Two cited intrusions, and the rest noted other resource values. One said the air was polluted above Federal standards.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

17,300 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-040-007A

UNIT NAME: Lehman Creek

AREA DESCRIPTION: This unit is generally rolling bench and foothills with some flat valley portions. Vegetative types include mainly shrubs and some pinyon-juniper.

CHARACTERSITICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 7,700 acres of public land.

2. Naturalness: The entire unit is in a substantially natural condition.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Small size, poor topographic screening, and limited vegetative screening make opportunities for solitude less than outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Although some recreation activities are available in this unit, overall quality and diversity are not outstanding.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

7,700 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit which noted the air is polluted above Federal standards.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

7,700 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by the public comment, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-040-008

UNIT NAME: Antelope Range

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is a mountainous area on the west slope of the Antelope Range. Maximum elevation is 8,457 feet. Vegetative cover is primarily low grasses and bushes with some pinyon and juniper throughout the unit.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 13,100 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: An unnatural portion of 1,700 acres contains several dead-end roads of less than a mile in length, two springs, two reservoirs, and a corral. The remaining 11,400 acres are essentially in a natural condition.

3. Outstanding Opportunities for:

- A. Solitude: Because of the limited topographic and vegetative screening in the natural portion, opportunities for solitude are not outstanding.
- B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Difficult hiking and poor scenery detract from the overall quality and diversity of recreation opportunities and such opportunities cannot be considered outstanding.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

13,100 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received three specific comments on this unit. Two comments mentioned intrusions and lack of outstanding opportunities, and one noted other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

13,100 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-040-009

UNIT NAME: Warm Springs

AREA DESCRIPTION: This intensive inventory unit is a mountainous area on the east slope of the Antelope Range and reaches 9,133 feet in elevation. Vegetative types include pinyon pine, juniper, mountain mahogany, and fir.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 18,400 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: Portions of the unit totaling 3,300 acres contain several unreviewed ways and water troughs. The remaining 15,100 acres are in a substantially natural condition.

3. Outstanding Opportunities for:

- A. Solitude: Poor to good vegetative screening, poor to fair topographic screening, and small size make opportunities for solitude less than outstanding.
- B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Although backpacking, day hiking, and other recreation activities are available, the quality and diversity of opportunities cannot be considered outstanding.

4. Supplemental Values: Portions of the unit lie in the winter ranges of the bald eagle. Archaeological values also exist.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

18,400 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received three specific comments on this unit. Two comments noted intrusions and lack of solitude, and one noted other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

18,400 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-040-015

UNIT NAME: Goshute Canyon

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in the northern and central end of the Cherry Creek Range. The topography ranges from the rugged mountains and foothills of the Cherry Creek Range to relatively flat portions of Butte and Steptoe Valleys. Major vegetative types range from white fir, bristlecone pine, mountain mahogany, and pinyon-juniper on the higher elevations to cottonwood, willow, and sagebrush in the canyons and valley portions. The Goshute Canyon Natural Area, established by Executive Order in 1970, is within the inventory unit.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

- 1. Size: The unit contains 190,680 acres of public land.
- 2. Naturalness: The unnatural portions, containing many roads, ways, water tanks, developed springs, corrals, and other intrusions related to ranching and mining activities, total 64,720 acres. The remaining

125,960 acres are substantially natural and are divided into five natural portions (NV-040-015 of 35,100 acres, NV-040-015B of 64,000 acres, NV-040-015C of 16,460 acres, NV-040-015D and NV-040-015E of 5,200 acres each).

3. Outstanding Opportunities for:

- A. Solitude: In subunit 015, physical characteristics such as size, screening, and configuration combine to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. In the remaining subunits, these characteristics do not support an evaluation of outstanding solitude.
- B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: In subunit 015, good to excellent opportunities for nature study, hunting, photography, rock climbing, hiking, winter sports, and spelunking are all possible. Considered together the quality and diversity of primitive and unconfined recreation are outstanding in this subunit. In the remaining subunits, opportunities for other activities range from good to poor, but none could be considered of outstanding quality or diversity.

4. Supplemental Values: Archaeological, natural, and geological values were noted in the area. The Goshute Canyon Natural Area is also within the unit. This natural area is under special management guidelines to protect an endangered fish species.

5. Rehabilitation: An unauthorized access route was bladed by a mining company into subunit NV-040-015 in violation of the Bureau's Interim Management Policy for wilderness. The Bureau will take steps to rehabilitate the area to its natural condition by whatever means necessary.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

31,000 acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

159,680 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 16 specific comments on this unit. Four comments suggested a boundary change. Most mentioned natural condition and outstanding opportunities. Many comments noted intrusions and lack of outstanding opportunities. Two comments stated the unit lacks wilderness criteria. A substantial number noted supplemental values and other resource values. Also received were 2,326 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

35,100 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

155,580 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates that a portion of the area does possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation. The portion eliminated from WSA consideration was found not to possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-040-016

UNIT NAME: Willow Spring

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is characterized by two peaks in the center with rolling hills in the northern portion. Vegetation is sagebrush on the rolling hills with pinyon pine and juniper on the higher elevations.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 19,200 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: The unit is in an essentially natural condition although it contains some works of man.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Open park-like stands of juniper and pinyon pine and rolling topography in the northern portions of the unit provide some opportunities for solitude. However, the unit does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Recreation opportunities such as hiking, backpacking, camping, hunting, and snowshoeing are available in this unit. The diversity and quality of these opportunities are not considered outstanding.
4. Supplemental Values: Archaeological values exist in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

19,200 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit, noting other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

19,200 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-040-019

UNIT NAME: Egan Basin

AREA DESCRIPTION: Covering a portion of the southern end of the Cherry Creek Range, this inventory unit is quite mountainous and reaches an elevation of 9,253 feet. The major vegetative types include pinyon-juniper, mountain mahogany, and fir which cover almost the entire area.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 20,900 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: An unnatural portion of 7,000 acres containing seedings and unreviewed ways is within the unit. The remaining 13,900 acres are essentially in a natural condition.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Vegetative and topographic screening provide good opportunities for solitude. However, the size and configuration of the unit tend to limit solitude to less than outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Hiking, backpacking, dry camping, hunting, and sightseeing are all available in this unit and can be considered good opportunities. Overall, however, the quality and diversity of recreational opportunities are not judged to be outstanding.
4. Supplemental Values: Two historic sites, the Fort Pierce Graveyard and Egan Canyon, exist in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

20,900 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 11 specific comments on this unit. The majority of comments cited roads, intrusions, and lack of outstanding opportunities. One comment noted naturalness and several mentioned outstanding opportunities. One comment stated the unit lacks wilderness criteria. Two noted supplemental values and a few listed other resource values. Also received were 39 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

20,900 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-040-021

UNIT NAME: Butte Mountains

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Butte Mountains area (which includes units 021 and 021A) covers about two-thirds of the Butte Mountain Range and portions of Butte and Long Valleys. The range is single ridge in character with peaks of 9,007 and 9,032 feet. The valleys contain foothills and flat lands. Several alkali flats lie in the valleys adjacent to the range.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 47,860 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: 44,700 acres are in a natural condition; 3,160 acres are in an unnatural condition, created by roads, ways, and imprints of man associated with ranching activities.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Only fair topographic and vegetative screening combine with an irregular border to make opportunities for solitude in this unit less than outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Hiking, camping, horseback riding, and other forms of recreation can be pursued in this unit. Neither the diversity nor the quality of the opportunities for these forms of primitive recreation is outstanding.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

47,860 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received eight specific comments on this unit. The majority of comments mentioned naturalness and outstanding opportunities. One comment noted no wilderness values. Two comments stated the unit lacks wilderness criteria. Several noted supplemental values and one listed other resource values. Also received were 2,326 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

47,860 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-040-021A

UNIT NAME: Butte Mountains

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Butte Mountains area (which includes units 021 and 021A) covers about two-thirds of the Butte Mountain Range and portions of Butte and Long Valleys. The range is single ridge in character with peaks of 9,007 and 9,032 feet. The valleys contain foothills and flat lands. Several alkali flats lie in the valleys adjacent to the range.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. **Size:** The unit contains 33,460 acres of public land.
2. **Naturalness:** The review area is substantially natural and only a few ways associated with ranching remain.
3. **Outstanding Opportunities for:**
 - A. **Solitude:** Though there is some good vegetative screening, opportunities for solitude in this unit are not considered outstanding.
 - B. **A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation:** Though mule deer hunting is considered good in this unit, it is not outstanding. Opportunities for other forms of primitive recreation are also less than outstanding.
4. **Supplemental Values:** No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

33,460 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received seven specific comments on this unit. Several comments mentioned naturalness and outstanding opportunities. One comment noted lack of wilderness values. One comment stated the unit lacks wilderness criteria. Several also noted supplemental values. Also received were 39 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

33,460 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-040-034

UNIT NAME: Buck Mountain

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Buck Mountain area is a north-south mountain ridge having a maximum elevation of 9,160 feet. Vegetative cover in this four by 15 mile area is sagebrush with stands of pinyon-juniper on some of the steeper slopes and lower elevations.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. **Size:** The unit contains 41,180 acres of public land.
2. **Naturalness:** An unnatural portion of 25,080 acres contains numerous unreviewed ways, stock tanks, a corral, and two fences. The remaining tract of about 16,100 acres remains essentially in a natural state.
3. **Outstanding Opportunities for:**
 - A. **Solitude:** Because of the poor vegetative and topographic screening, opportunities for solitude are not outstanding.
 - B. **A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation:** Common recreation activities such as dry camping and hiking are available but the overall quality and diversity of recreation opportunities cannot be considered outstanding.
4. **Supplemental Values:** Seven archaeological sites and three historical sites are within the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

41,180 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received five specific comments on this unit. One comment mentioned outstanding opportunities and other wilderness characteristics. The majority of comments cites intrusions and lack of outstanding opportunities. One noted supplemental values and one listed other resource values. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

41,180 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-040-042

UNIT NAME: Maple Syrup Well

AREA DESCRIPTION: This unit is north of Highway 50, in the foothills of the White Pine Range. The topography is generally gentle and rolling, with a high point of 7,879 feet and a low elevation of around 7,000 feet. Vegetation is open pinyon-juniper and sagebrush cover. Ranching is the primary existing use in the unit.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 20,400 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: The unit is split by unnatural features into two natural portions, 042 and 042C. These natural portions are 10,400 and 5,000 acres in size, respectively. 5,000 acres have been eliminated from further consideration because they are in a substantially unnatural condition.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The topographic screening and vegetative screening in both subunits are insufficient to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for hiking, hunting, camping, photography, and nature study are present in the subunits, but these are insufficient in diversity or quality to be considered outstanding.
4. Supplemental Values: Subunit NV-040-042 is a crucial winter grazing area for mule deer.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

20,400 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit. One comment noted roads, intrusions, and lack of solitude; the second noted other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

20,400 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-040-043

UNIT NAME: Robber's Roost

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Robber's Roost intensive inventory unit is at the north end of Jake's Valley in the foothills of the Butte Mountains. Vegetation is pinyon-juniper and desert shrub. The topography is a mixture of bench-bud, foothills, and low mountains, with a high point of 8,227 feet. The primary uses in the area are ranching and mining.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. **Size:** The unit contains 48,400 acres of public land.
2. **Naturalness:** Numerous imprints of man's work exist in the unit, leaving two subunits which are in a generally natural condition. These are subunit 043, about 10,000 acres, and subunit 043E, about 14,600 acres. About 23,800 acres are in a generally unnatural condition.
3. **Outstanding Opportunities for:**
 - A. **Solitude:** Characteristics including size, topographic or vegetative screening, and configuration provide less than outstanding opportunities for solitude in the subunits.
 - B. **A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation:** Hiking, camping, nature study, photography, and hunting are possible in the subunits. Neither the diversity nor the quality of these opportunities for recreation is outstanding in either unit.
4. **Supplemental Values:** No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

48,400 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit, noting other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as Wilderness Study Area.

48,400 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by the public comment, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-040-047

UNIT NAME: Frank's Well

AREA DESCRIPTION: This unit lies at the southern end of the Cherry Creek Range. The high point in the unit is 8,706 feet. Vegetation on the unit is primarily pinyon-juniper. The topography consists of mountains and foothills. The unit is used for ranching and mining.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. **Size:** The unit contains 20,500 acres of public land.
2. **Naturalness:** About 15,000 acres are in a generally natural condition, and about 5,500 acres are in an unnatural condition.
3. **Outstanding Opportunities for:**
 - A. **Solitude:** Open stands of pinyon-juniper and the low mountains of the Cherry Creek Range provide a good measure of screening, but the opportunities for solitude which they provide are less than outstanding. The configuration of the natural portion of the unit also limits opportunities for solitude.
 - B. **A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation:** Hiking, camping, hunting, photography, and nature study are all possible in the natural portion of the unit. These opportunities are not outstanding in either diversity or quality.
4. **Supplemental Values:** No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

20,500 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received three specific comments on this unit. Two noted the area is unnatural and lacks outstanding opportunities and cited other resource values. One said the air is polluted above Federal standards.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

20,500 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-040-048

UNIT NAME: Toner Spring

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is west of the Monte Neva Hot Springs in the Egan Range. The topography is mostly mountains and the vegetation consists of pinyon-juniper and sagebrush. Portions of the unit are used for sheep ranching.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. **Size:** The unit contains 20,900 acres of public land.
2. **Naturalness:** About 17,100 acres are in a generally natural condition and about 3,800 acres are in an unnatural condition, intruded by ground disturbances associated with mining activity.
3. **Outstanding Opportunities for:**
 - A. **Solitude:** Although good topographic and fairly good vegetative screening exist in the unit, the configuration of the natural portion severely affects the opportunities for solitude. Opportunities for solitude are not outstanding.
 - B. **A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation:** Opportunities for hiking, camping, hunting, photography, nature study, and limited rock climbing are present in the unit. These opportunities are less than outstanding in both diversity and quality.
4. **Supplemental Values:** Historical values exist in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

20,900 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received six specific comments on this unit. Five mentioned intrusions or lack of outstanding opportunities. One comment noted the air is polluted above Federal standards. One comment stated the unit lacks wilderness criteria. Several also noted other resource values. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

20,900 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-040-048A

UNIT NAME: Heusser Mountain

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Heusser Mountain unit is a long, narrow portion of the Egan Range. Its highest point is Heusser Mountain, which is in the southern portion of the area and is 9,411 feet tall. The unit is of a single, ridgeline character, with very steep slopes. Ranching use occurs on the foothills of both the east and west slopes. The Heusser Mountain Bristlecone Pine Natural Area (480 acres) is within this unit.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. **Size:** The unit contains 32,940 acres of public land.
2. **Naturalness:** Only a few intrusions exist within the unit and all of these make parts of the unit substantially unnatural. A remaining 24,400 acre portion is entirely natural.
3. **Outstanding Opportunities for:**
 - A. **Solitude:** Although the unit is of a fair size, its narrow configuration and the necessity of traveling along the ridgeline where vegetative screening is sparse means that opportunities for solitude are poor.
 - B. **A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation:** There is a good, but not outstanding, diversity of recreation opportunities in the review area. The quality of each type of opportunity is less than outstanding, and is further lessened by the periodic occurrence of heavy smog from the McGill smelter.
4. **Supplemental Values:** No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit, other than the Natural Area and associated bristlecone pines.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

32,940 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 11 specific comments on this unit. Most comments mentioned natural condition and outstanding opportunities. Some comments cited intrusions and lack of solitude. One comment stated the unit lacks wilderness criteria. Several noted supplemental values and two listed other resource values. Also received were 2,326 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

32,940 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-040-048B

UNIT NAME: Toner Spring

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Toner Spring unit, a subunit of NV-040-048, is west of the Monte Neva Hot Springs in the Egan Range. The topography is mostly mountainous, with a maximum elevation of about 9,900 feet. The vegetation consists of pinyon-juniper and sagebrush. Portions of the unit are used for sheep ranching.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 6,940 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: About 5,800 acres are in a generally natural condition, and about 1,140 acres are in an unnatural condition.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Only fair topographic and vegetative screening combines with the relatively small size of the subunit to provide less than outstanding opportunities for solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Several common types of recreational opportunities exist in the subunit, but neither their quality nor their diversity is outstanding.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

6,940 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration. (This figure differs from the Bureau's earlier recommendation due to a more accurate acreage assessment.)

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit, noting no outstanding opportunities exist in the unit.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

6,940 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-040-049

UNIT NAME: Telegraph Canyon

AREA DESCRIPTION: Located at the north end of the Egan Range, this rugged mountainous unit reaches an elevation of 10,173 feet. The major vegetation is pinyon-juniper on the slopes with short grass and bushes on the ridge lands.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 20,020 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: Of the total 20,020 acres, 7,220 acres contain mines, water tanks, and a reservoir which make them unnatural. The remaining 12,800 acres are in a substantially natural condition.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The relatively small size of the unit and sparse vegetation preclude outstanding opportunities for solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Common activities such as hiking, hunting, and dry camping are available in the unit but the overall diversity and quality of recreation are not outstanding.
4. Supplemental Values: Archaeological sites were identified within the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

20,020 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received five specific comments on this unit, all citing lack of size, roads, intrusions, lack of outstanding opportunities, or other resource values. Also received were 2,288 comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

20,020 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-040-050

UNIT NAME: Hot Springs

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Hot Springs unit is due west of the Monte Neva Hot Springs and contains some of the mountains, foothills, and benchland of the Egan Range. Vegetation is mainly pinyon-juniper, sagebrush, and greasewood.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 8,900 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: Several major imprints of man's work, mostly due to mining activity, are contained in the unit, leaving no portion larger than 5,000 acres in a generally natural condition.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Some vegetative and topographic screening is present in the unit, but it is insufficient to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Hiking, camping, hunting, nature study, and photography are possible in the unit, but their quality and diversity are insufficient to provide outstanding opportunities.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

8,900 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received five specific comments on this unit. One comment noted the air is polluted above Federal standards. Most mentioned intrusions, lack of solitude, or other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

8,900 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-040-065

UNIT NAME: Golden Springs

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is at the southern tip of the Antelope Range and has a maximum elevation of 8,516 feet. Major vegetative types include low grasses and bushes on the lower elevations with pinyon and juniper in the foothills.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 16,200 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: The entire unit is in an essentially natural condition with two short unreviewed ways in the northern end of the unit.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The broad but single ridgeline nature of the unit combines with the light to moderate vegetation to provide less than outstanding opportunities for solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Although hiking, dry camping, hunting, nature study, and horseback riding are available, the overall quality and diversity of opportunities cannot be considered outstanding.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

16,200 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit. One comment cited roads and lack of outstanding opportunities. The second noted other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

16,200 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-040-070

UNIT NAME: Red Hills

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is at the northern end of Spring Valley, west of the Kern Mountains. It is mainly flat with a few isolated hills. Vegetation is mostly shadscale.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 12,800 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: Major imprints of man's work exist in the unit, mostly due to mining and ranching activities. About 4,000 acres are in an unnatural condition, leaving 8,800 acres in a natural condition.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Because there is very little vegetative or topographic screening in the unit, opportunities for solitude are not outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Hiking, camping, nature study, and photography are possible in the unit. These are not outstanding in either quality or diversity.
4. Supplemental Values: An occasional bald eagle has been observed in the area.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

12,800 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received four specific comments on this unit. Most comments listed intrusions; one noted no outstanding opportunities; one stated lack of wilderness criteria; and two also noted other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

12,800 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-040-078

UNIT NAME: Grass Valley Reservoir

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Grass Valley Reservoir unit is on the west side of the Kern Mountains. The unit is mostly mountainous, with a maximum elevation of 9,630 feet. Vegetation in the unit includes pinyon-juniper and spruce-fir.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 11,100 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: About 9,200 acres are in a natural condition, and about 1,900 acres are in an unnatural condition.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Although the unit has fairly good topographic screening and scattered areas of good vegetative cover, opportunities for solitude are short of outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation in the unit are less than outstanding in both diversity and quality.
4. Supplemental Values: The unit contains a portion of the Blue Mass Scenic Area.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

11,100 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received five specific comments on this unit. The majority of comments listed roads, intrusions, and a lack of outstanding opportunities. Others mentioned natural condition and outstanding opportunities. A few noted supplemental values or other resource values. Also received was one comment stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria and one comment stating the unit lacks wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

11,100 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-040-079/UT-150-019 UNIT NAME: Kern Mountains

AREA DESCRIPTION: This unit is basically a flat area with scattered ridges and some large washes. Vegetative cover is limited to sagebrush and isolated stands of juniper, with some barren areas.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 35,400 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: An unnatural portion of 7,200 acres contains corrals, unreviewed ways, troughs, and other intrusions required by local ranching activities. The remaining 28,200 acres are in a substantially natural state and are divided into two portions (NV-040-079 of 20,900 acres and NV-040-079D of 7,300 acres).
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The flat topography and poor vegetative cover combine to eliminate any opportunities for solitude in these subunits.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Uninteresting terrain severely reduces the quality and diversity of recreation in these subunits. Drinkable water is also lacking.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

7,500 acres in Nevada should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.
27,900 acres in Utah should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received five specific comments on this unit. All noted roads, intrusions, lack of outstanding opportunities, or other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

7,500 acres in Nevada are dropped from further wilderness consideration.
27,900 acres in Utah are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-040-079A

UNIT NAME: Kern Mountains

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit lies along the north-eastern edge of the Kern Mountains and is a subunit of NV-040-079. Pinyon-juniper is the major vegetative type to be found in the unit.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 7,300 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: An unnatural portion of 2,800 acres contains several unreviewed ways. The remaining 4,500 acres are in a substantially natural condition but do not meet the minimum size criterion.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Although moderate topographic and vegetative screening exist, the unit is less than outstanding for solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Deer hunting and hiking, plus other common recreation opportunities exist but opportunities are not outstanding in quality or diversity.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

7,300 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received three specific comments on this unit. All listed roads, intrusions, and lack of outstanding opportunities. Two also noted other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

7,300 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-040-081

UNIT NAME: White Cloud Basin

AREA DESCRIPTION: The inventory unit is at the northern end of the Snake Range and covers mountains, foothills, and portions of Spring Valley. Vegetation includes pinyon, juniper, sagebrush, mountain mahogany, spruce, fir, and shadscale.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 25,100 acres of public land.

2. Naturalness: A portion of the unit totaling 4,100 acres and containing many intrusions (including reservoirs, tanks, and other intrusions associated with ranching) is unnatural. The remaining 21,000 acres are in an essentially natural condition.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Many good opportunities for solitude exist in the unit but combined with only marginal vegetative screening, opportunities for solitude are not outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Activities such as hiking, camping, and hunting are available in the unit and are considered of good but not outstanding quality and diversity.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

25,100 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received four specific comments on this unit. Most comments cited roads, intrusions, and a lack of outstanding opportunities. One comment mentioned a natural condition and outstanding opportunities. Supplemental values and other resource values were also mentioned. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

25,100 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-040-081A

UNIT NAME: White Cloud Basin

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit (a subunit of NV-040-081) is primarily a broad, rolling ridge with washes on both sides. Primary vegetative types are pinyon-juniper with some sagebrush, mountain mahogany, spruce, fir, and shadscale.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 17,800 acres of public land.

2. Naturalness: A portion of the unit totaling 2,100 acres is in an unnatural condition with some intrusions. The remaining 15,700 acres are in a substantially natural condition.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: An irregular configuration, limited topographic screening, and limited vegetative screening provide less than outstanding opportunities for solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Recreation activities such as hiking, camping, and hunting are of good quality in this unit, but overall quality and diversity are less than outstanding.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

17,800 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit. Both noted roads, intrusions, and a lack of outstanding opportunities. One also noted other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

17,800 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-040-085

UNIT NAME: Yelland Ranch

AREA DESCRIPTION: Benchland and flat land are the major topographic features of the unit. Vegetative types include shadscale, sagebrush, and rabbitbrush. This unit was kept in the intensive inventory because it is contiguous to a U.S. Forest Service RARE II "continued study" area (unit 4-352). It has subsequently been determined that further consideration of this unit would not enhance any future wilderness proposal that may eventually be made on the adjoining Forest Service lands.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 9,900 acres of public land.

2. Naturalness: Only very small portions of the unit are in a natural condition. The vast majority of the unit contains unreviewed ways, mining prospects, and other intrusions.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Poor vegetative and topographic screening provide less than outstanding opportunities for solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Although some recreation activities may be available in this unit, overall quality and diversity of opportunities are less than outstanding.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

9,900 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received four specific comments on this unit. Several listed roads, intrusions, and a lack of outstanding opportunities. Two noted other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

9,900 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Public comments were received opposing WSA designation for this area, which is contiguous to lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service that is still under study for wilderness consideration. Evidence available to the Bureau indicates that the public land portion does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-040-086 /UT-050-029 UNIT NAME: Granite Spring.

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit consists of basically flat land, the only exception being the foothills and low mountains in the northern end. Vegetative cover includes pinyon-juniper and mountain mahogany on the higher elevations, with shadscale and sagebrush found on the lower elevations. This unit is contiguous with a Forest Service RARE II "continued study" area (unit 4-352).

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 119,500 acres of public land.

2. Naturalness: An unnatural portion of 88,100 acres contains numerous intrusions including ways, mines, fences, powerlines, pipelines, and other intrusions related to ranching and mining activities. The remaining 31,400 acres are divided into two essentially natural portions (NV-040-086 of 23,400 acres and NV-040-086A of 8,000 acres).
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The overall quality of topographic and vegetative screening in subunit 086 is outstanding only when considered in conjunction with the large contiguous unit administered by the Forest Service. Outstanding opportunities for solitude are lacking in subunit 086A due to limited topographic and vegetative screening.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Common recreational activities including hiking, camping, and horseback riding are available in subunit 086, and are outstanding only when considered in conjunction with the large contiguous Forest Service unit. The opportunities available in subunit 086A are not considered outstanding in quality or diversity.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the natural portions of the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

19,400 acres in Nevada are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

73,700 acres in Nevada should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.
26,400 acres in Utah should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 14 specific comments on this unit. A majority of comments cited roads, intrusions, and lack of outstanding opportunities. The remainder mentioned naturalness and outstanding opportunities. One comment stated the unit lacks wilderness criteria. Several noted supplemental values or other resource values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

23,400 acres in Nevada are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

69,700 acres in Nevada are dropped from further wilderness consideration.
26,400 acres in Utah are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation for this area, which is contiguous to lands managed by the U. S. Forest Service that are still under study for wilderness consideration. Evidence available to the Bureau indicates that one public land portion appears natural, and when combined with the adjoining agency unit, also possesses the other necessary criteria for WSA designation. The portion eliminated from WSA consideration was not found to possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-040-100

UNIT NAME: Colorado Gulch

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is generally flat with some benchland. Pinyon-juniper and sagebrush are the major vegetative types. This unit was kept in the intensive inventory because portions of it are contiguous to two U.S. Forest Service RARE II "continued study" areas (units 4-359 and 4-391). It has subsequently been determined that further consideration of this unit would not enhance any future wilderness proposal that may eventually be made on the adjoining Forest Service lands.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 38,200 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: Although there are small natural portions of the unit contiguous to a Forest Service RARE II "continued study" area, the vast majority of the area is heavily intruded and generally unnatural in character.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Small size of natural portions, poor overall topographic screening, and generally poor vegetative screening severely limit opportunities for solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Although hiking, photography, horseback riding, and other activities are possible in the unit, overall quality and diversity are not outstanding.
4. Supplemental Values: The unit contains a portion of the Weaver Creek Scenic Area. It also has three historical sites.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

38,200 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received four specific comments on this unit. Most comments noted roads, intrusions, and lack of outstanding opportunities. Two noted other resource values. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

38,200 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation for this area, which is contiguous to lands managed

by the U.S. Forest Service that are still under study for wilderness consideration. Evidence available to the Bureau indicates that the public land portion does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-040-100C

UNIT NAME: John's Wash

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is contiguous to the U.S. Forest Service Snake Division and a RARE II "continued study" area (unit 4-391). It was kept in the intensive inventory because of this fact. It has subsequently been determined that further consideration of this unit would not enhance any future wilderness proposal that may eventually be made on the adjoining Forest Service lands.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 3,000 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: The unit contains several unreviewed ways and is in an unnatural condition.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Small size, minimal topographic screening, and poor vegetative screening severely limit opportunities for solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Although some diversity is available, overall quality and diversity of recreation opportunities is poor.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

3,000 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit, stating the unit has roads, intrusions, and no outstanding opportunities. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

3,000 acres are deopped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation for this area, which is contiguous to lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service that are still under study for wilderness consideration. Evidence available to the Bureau indicates that the public land portion, even when combined with the adjoining agency unit, does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-040-107

UNIT NAME: Kious Spring

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit was kept in intensive inventory because it is contiguous to a U.S. Forest Service RARE II "continued study" area (unit 4-359). It has subsequently been determined that further consideration of this unit would not enhance any future wilderness proposal that may eventually be made on the adjoining Forest Service lands.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 2,900 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: The entire unit is in an essentially natural condition.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Very small size, minimal topographic screening, and only fair vegetative screening severely limit opportunities for solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Activities such as photography, hiking, dry camping, and others are possible in the unit, but overall quality and diversity are not outstanding.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

2,900 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received three specific comments on this unit. Most comments noted roads, intrusions, and a lack of outstanding opportunities. Two also noted other resource values. Also received were 2,288 comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

2,900 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation for this area, which is contiguous to lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service that are still under study for wilderness consideration. Evidence available to the Bureau indicates that the public land portion, even when combined with the adjoining agency unit, does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-040-109

UNIT NAME: Snake Creek Cave

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in the eastern foothills of the Snake Creek Range on the western edge of Hamlin Valley. Primary vegetation is pinyon-juniper and sagebrush associated with bunchgrass in the foothills and sagebrush elsewhere in the unit. Although the area does not meet the size criterion, it remained in the intensive inventory because it was contiguous to a U.S. Forest Service RARE II "further study" area (unit 4-359). It has subsequently been determined that further consideration of this unit would not enhance any future wilderness proposal that may eventually be made on the adjoining Forest Service lands.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 2,400 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: Although the entire unit is only 2,400 acres, a portion of the unit totaling 900 acres is in an essentially natural condition. The remaining portion (1,500 acres) is intruded by two unreviewed ways, a powerline, and a fence.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Because of the limited size of the natural portion, no outstanding opportunities for solitude exist.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Fishing, hunting, spelunking, photography, and other potential recreation pursuits taken as a group provide unusual diversity for an area of this extremely small size. However, this diversity is not considered outstanding.
4. Supplemental Values: The unit contains Snake Creek cave, an archaeological site. Two areas possess geologic and archaeological sight-seeing potential.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

2,400 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received three specific comments on this unit. Two cited roads, intrusions, and a lack of outstanding opportunities. Two also

noted other resource values. Also received were 2,288 comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

2,400 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation for this area, which is contiguous to lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service that are still under study for wilderness consideration. Evidence available to the Bureau indicates that the public land portion, even when combined with the adjoining agency unit, does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-040-110

UNIT NAME: Big Wash

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is generally flat with vegetative cover of sagebrush and scattered pinyon-juniper. The unit was kept in the intensive inventory because it is contiguous to a U.S. Forest Service RARE II "continued study" area (unit 4-391). It has subsequently been determined that further consideration of this unit would not enhance any future wilderness proposal that may eventually be made on the adjoining Forest Service lands.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 1,000 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: The entire unit is in a substantially natural condition.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Poor vegetative screening, flat topography, and size severely limit opportunities for solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The small size of this unit severely limits quality and diversity of even common recreation activities such as camping and hiking.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

1,000 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit noting other resource values. Also received were 2,288 comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

1,000 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation for this area, which is contiguous to lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service that are still under study for wilderness consideration. Evidence available to the Bureau indicates that the public land portion, even when combined with the adjoining agency unit, does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-040-123

UNIT NAME: Martin Spring

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit covers a mountainous portion of the Egan Range, east of the community of Lund. Primary vegetative types are pinyon-juniper and sagebrush. Two peaks in the unit rise slightly higher than 10,000 feet, around which are high mountain sagebrush meadows. Opening to the west are several steep, rocky canyons.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 24,800 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: A portion of the unit totaling 5,100 acres is in an unnatural state intruded by roads, ways, and grazing facilities. The remaining 19,700 acres are in an essentially natural condition.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Generally moderate and in some instances very good topographic screening and fair vegetative screening do provide some opportunity for solitude, but to a degree which is less than outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Some opportunities for primitive recreation activities exist in this unit, but quality and diversity are not outstanding.
4. Supplemental Values: Archaeological values and an endangered species were noted in the area.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

24,800 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 13 specific comments on this unit. One suggested a boundary change. The majority of comments listed naturalness and outstanding opportunities. The remainder noted roads, intrusions, and a lack of wilderness values. One listed air pollution above Federal standards and one stated the unit lacks wilderness criteria. Many noted supplemental values and two listed other resource values. Also received were 39 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

24,800 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-040-129

UNIT NAME: Copper Flat

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is west of Ely and contains fairly rugged mountains. Pinyon, juniper, sagebrush, bunchgrass, and rabbitbrush are the major vegetative types.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 42,600 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: An unnatural portion of 10,700 acres containing unreviewed ways, corrals, fencelines, and other intrusions is within the area. The remaining 31,900 acres are in an essentially natural condition and have been further divided into two natural portions (NV-040-129 of 24,100 acres and NV-040-129C of 7,800 acres).
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Vegetative and topographic screening range from good to limited in the subunits, but opportunities for solitude are not outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Some opportunities for hiking, camping, hunting, and photography exist in the subunits, but quality and diversity are not outstanding.
4. Supplemental Values: A wildlife species proposed for the endangered species list is found in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

42,600 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received four specific comments on this unit. Most listed roads or intrusions. Two also listed other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

42,600 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONAL FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-040-130A

UNIT NAME: Deadman Gulch

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is just south of Jakes Wash and is characterized by low rolling hills. Vegetation on the lower elevations is short grasses and forbs with stands of pinyon pine and juniper on the higher elevations.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 9,800 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: Only a small portion of the unit contains an unreviewed way and a fence is in an unnatural condition.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The limited vegetative and topographic screening severely limit opportunities for solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Only common recreation opportunities such as hiking, dry camping, horseback riding, and nature study exist in the unit. The diversity and quality of these activities are not considered outstanding.
4. Supplemental Values: Archaeological sites were identified in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

9,800 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit, both cited roads, intrusions, or other resource values. One also noted lack of outstanding opportunities.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

9,800 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-040-130AA

UNIT NAME: Deadman Gulch

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit (a subunit of NV-040-130A) is just south of Jakes Wash and is characterized by low rolling hills. Vegetation on the lower elevations is short grasses and bushes with stands of pinyon pine and juniper on the higher elevations.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 8,200 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: Only a very small portion containing an unreviewed way and a fence is in an unnatural condition.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The small size and limited vegetative and topographic screening severely limit opportunities for solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Only common recreation opportunities such as hiking, dry camping, horseback riding, and nature study exist in the unit. The diversity and quality of these activities are not considered outstanding.
4. Supplemental Values: Archaeological values were identified in this unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

8,200 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit, noting roads, intrusions, other resource values, and lack of outstanding opportunities.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

8,200 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-040-130AB

UNIT NAME: Deadman Gulch

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit (a subunit of NV-040-130A) is just south of Jakes Wash and is characterized by low rolling hills. Vegetation on the lower elevations is short grasses and brush with stands of pinyon pine and juniper on the higher elevations.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. **Size:** The unit contains 11,900 acres of public land.
2. **Naturalness:** Only a very small portion of the unit containing an unreviewed way is in an unnatural state.
3. **Outstanding Opportunities for:**
 - A. **Solitude:** The size and limited vegetative and topographic screening severely limit opportunities for solitude.
 - B. **A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation:** Only common recreation opportunities such as hiking, dry camping, horseback riding, and nature study exist in the unit. The diversity and quality of these activities cannot be considered outstanding.
4. **Supplemental Values:** Archaeological values were identified in this unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

11,900 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit, which noted roads, intrusions, other resource values, and a lack of outstanding opportunities.

area. When considered in combination, these factors still do not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

- B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The limited diversity and the lack of features create less than ideal opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

- 4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

24,100 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received three specific comments on this unit. Two cited roads and intrusions and one listed other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

24,100 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-040-226

UNIT NAME: Gap Mountain

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is a mountainous area at the southern end of the Egan Range. The major vegetative type is pinyon-juniper.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 9,800 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: The entire unit is in an essentially natural condition.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Good topographic screening exists in the drainages as well as moderate vegetative screening in other places. These do not, however, provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Activities such as hiking, camping, hunting, and horseback riding are available, but quality and diversity are not outstanding.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

9,800 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit, which listed other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

9,800 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by the public comment, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-040-229

UNIT NAME: Scofield

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is generally flat with some benchland in the west. Vegetative cover is primarily sagebrush. This unit is contiguous to the U. S. Forest Service Quinn Canyon Division RARE II "instant" wilderness proposal (unit 4-371) and was kept in the intensive inventory because of this fact. It has subsequently been determined that further consideration of this unit would not enhance the wilderness proposal on the adjoining Forest Service land.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 10,200 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: The unit is highly intruded with unreviewed ways and is in an unnatural state.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Small size and poor vegetative and topographic screening provide little opportunity for solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Small size and limited recreation activities severely limit the quality and diversity of recreation opportunities.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

10,200 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria. No specific comments were received.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

10,200 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Public comments were received supporting WSA designation for this area, which is contiguous to lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service that previously were determined to have wilderness characteristics. Evidence available to the Bureau indicates that the public land portion does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-040-231

UNIT NAME: Bruno Creek

AREA DESCRIPTION: Topography is rolling benchlands with sagebrush the major vegetative type. The unit is contiguous to the U.S. Forest Service Quinn Canyon Division and a RARE II area (unit 4-371) and was kept in intensive inventory for that reason. It has subsequently been determined that further consideration of this unit would not enhance the wilderness proposal on the adjoining Forest Service land.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. **Size:** The unit contains 4,500 acres of public land.
2. **Naturalness:** The entire inventory unit is heavily intruded with unreviewed ways and a corral.
3. **Outstanding Opportunities for:**
 - A. **Solitude:** Due to the small size and poor vegetative cover, opportunities for solitude are poor.
 - B. **A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation:** Due to the small size, quality and diversity of recreation opportunities are very poor.
4. **Supplemental Values:** No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

4,500 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria. No specific comments were received.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

4,500 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Public comments were received supporting WSA designation for this area, which is contiguous to lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service that previously were determined to have wilderness characteristics. Evidence available to the Bureau indicates that the public land portion does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-040-234A

UNIT NAME: South Badger Gulch

AREA DESCRIPTION: This unit was kept in the intensive inventory because it is contiguous to a U.S. Forest Service RARE II area (unit 4-360) in the Quinn Canyon Division of the Humboldt National Forest. It has subsequently been determined that further consideration of this unit would not enhance the wilderness proposal on the adjoining Forest Service land.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 440 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: The unit is in an unnatural condition with several unreviewed ways.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Due to the extremely small size, solitude is nearly nonexistent.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Due to the extremely small size, quality and diversity of recreation opportunities are poor.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

440 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: None received.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

440 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: No public comments were received for this area, which is contiguous to lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service that previously were determined to have wilderness characteristics. Evidence available to the Bureau indicates that the public land portion does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-040-235

UNIT NAME: Barton Spring

AREA DESCRIPTION: The review area is in the foothills of the Quinn Canyon Range. The unit consists primarily of benchland with pinyon-juniper cover and flatland with sagebrush cover.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 13,460 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: Although a small portion (5,400 acres) of the review area appears to be in a natural condition, intrusions associated with area ranching are highly visible and intrusive throughout most (8,060 acres) of the unit.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude within the review area do not exist, due to the size and poor topographic and vegetative screening in the unit.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The area clearly does not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation because of the lack of diversity and the low quality of opportunities.
4. Supplemental Values: Archaeological and historical values exist in the area.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

13,460 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit, citing roads and intrusions in the area.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

13,460 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by the public comment, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-040-241

UNIT NAME: Griswold

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit lies between the southern end of the South Egan Range and the northern end of the Seaman Range. It is an area of rolling foothills and flatlands. Primary vegetative types include sagebrush, pinyon-juniper, rabbitbrush, and winterfat.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 23,900 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: Unreviewed ways and associated ranching facilities are included in a 7,300 acre unnatural portion. The remaining 16,600 acres are further divided into two natural portions (NV-040-241 of 6,800 acres and NV-040-241F of 9,800 acres).
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Poor vegetative and topographic screening result in less than outstanding opportunities for solitude in the subunit.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Hiking, dry camping, hunting, photography, and other activities are possible in the subunits, but overall quality and diversity are not outstanding.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

23,900 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit, which listed other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

23,900 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by the public comment, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-040-241A

UNIT NAME: Griswold

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit (a subunit of NV-040-241) is between the southern end of the South Egan Range and the northern end of the Seaman Range. Vegetative types include juniper, sagebrush, rabbitbrush, and winterfat.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 31,880 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: A corral and several unreviewed ways create an unnatural portion of 10,780 acres. The remaining 21,100 acres are in an essentially natural condition and are divided into three natural portions (NV-040-241A of 5,400 acres, NV-040-241D of 10,600 acres, and NV-040-241E of 5,100 acres).
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Moderate to poor vegetative and topographic screening limit opportunities for solitude in the subunits.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Hiking, dry camping, photography, and nature study are all possible in the area, but overall quality and diversity of recreation opportunities are less than outstanding in the subunits.
4. Supplemental Values: Archaeological values exist in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

31,880 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: None received.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

31,880 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: No public comments were received, and the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-040-242

UNIT NAME: Worthington Mountains

AREA DESCRIPTION: This 62,400 acre unit is made up of portions of the Spring and Garden Valleys and the steep, single ridgeline Worthington Mountains. Low vegetation exists in the valleys; woody growth is dominant on the flanks of the range; and a very open forest occurs on the ridge. Vegetation is predominantly pinyon-juniper and sagebrush, with some bristlecone pine and ponderosa pine occurring at higher elevations.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 62,400 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: Two natural portions exist: NV-040-242 (47,100 acres) and NV-040-242D (14,100 acres). Unnatural portions totaling 1,200 acres were identified in the area.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The valley portions of the subunit 242 provide only poor screening. The mountain portion provides better topographic screening but combined with fair to good vegetative screening, opportunities for solitude are less than outstanding. In subunit 242D poor vegetative and topographic screening severely limit opportunities for solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Various forms of recreation such as hiking, camping, nature study and spelunking are all possible in both subunits. In subunit 242D, neither the quality nor the diversity of these is outstanding. In the original recommendation, outstanding opportunities for spelunking in Leviathan Cave, a large wild cave in the southern portion of subunit 242, were identified but the conclusion was that these isolated opportunities did not qualify the entire natural area on the basis of outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. The State Director has reviewed the numerous comments received for this area, and has concluded that the identified and potential spelunking opportunities within the unit combined with the diverse recreational opportunities of hiking, climbing, and nature study found throughout this scenic area all contribute to outstanding primitive and unconfined recreational opportunities.
4. Supplemental Values: The Leviathan Cave Geologic Area is within the unit. Also of supplemental interest is Lavender Cave.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

62,400 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration. (This figure differs from the Bureau's earlier recommendation due to a more accurate acreage assessment.)

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 28 specific comments on this unit, most identifying presence of wilderness characteristics. Many of those commented on the outstanding solitude and outstanding primitive recreation, especially spelunking or cave exploration. The rest cited roads, intrusions,

Lack of outstanding opportunities or other resource values. A large number noted supplemental values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

47,100 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

15,300 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates that a portion of the area does possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation. The portion eliminated from WSA consideration was found not to possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-040-243

UNIT NAME: Garden Valley Reservoir

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit consists of two principal areas, the Golden Gate Range which runs southwest to northeast through the eastern portion of the unit, and Garden Valley which comprises the western portion of the unit. The Golden Gate Range is not extremely rugged; its highest peak is just over 8,000 feet. Garden Valley is flat and open with a large playa running down the center. A small portion of the western edge of Coal Valley makes up the southeastern corner of the unit. Vegetation at lower elevations is black sage and other common desert shrubs, such as white sage, shadscale, and rabbitbrush, as well as some bunchgrasses. Vegetation at higher elevation consists primarily of pinyon-juniper with some scattered occurrences of ponderosa pine.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 99,580 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: The Golden Gate Range is substantially natural and free from man-made intrusions. The valley areas surrounding the Golden Gates, however, are highly intruded by mining and ranching activities including fencelines, routes, corrals, pipelines, reservoirs, improved springs, prospects, and structures. About 37,080 acres are in an unnatural state. About 62,500 acres are in a natural condition. This acreage has been divided into three subareas NV-040-243 (50,200 acres), NV-040-243A (6,200 acres), and NV-040-243B (6,100 acres).
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Although the Golden Gate Range provides good opportunities for solitude, opportunities in subunit 243 are less than outstanding. Poor topographic and vegetative screening in the other subunits also restrict solitude opportunities.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Although opportunities such as hiking and rock climbing range from good to very good quality in the subunits, quality and diversity are less than outstanding.

4. Supplemental Values: Archaeological values exist and there is a possibility of the existence of an endangered species.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

99,580 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 21 specific comments on this unit. The majority cited presence of wilderness characteristics and noted supplemental values. Seven noted roads, intrusions, lack of outstanding opportunities, or other resources. Two stated the unit does not meet the wilderness criteria. Also received were 2,326 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

99,580 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-040-246

UNIT NAME: Weepah Spring

AREA DESCRIPTION: This inventory unit covers the Seaman Range and its foothills. Vegetation types range from pinyon-juniper and some ponderosa at higher elevations to sagebrush and other common desert shrubs and grasses on the lower mountains, hills, and benchland.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 191,700 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: A portion totaling 84,700 acres is in an unnatural condition. The remaining 107,000 acres are essentially natural and are divided into three subunits (NV-040-246 of 61,000 acres, NV-040-246A of 40,000 acres and NV-040-246B of 6,000 acres).
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: A combination of excellent topographic screening, good vegetative screening, size, and configuration result in outstanding opportunities for solitude in subunit 246. Good to poor topographic and vegetative screening in the other subunits make opportunities for solitude less than outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Although several opportunities for recreation exist in subunit 246, the overall quality is not outstanding. The same situation exists in the other subunits.

4. Supplemental Values: Archaeological values are known to exist in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

69,400 acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

122,300 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 10 specific comments on this unit. One suggested a boundary change, and the others were divided between those citing the presence of wilderness characteristics and those mentioning roads, intrusions, and lack of outstanding opportunities. A few noted supplemental values and a few listed other resource values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

61,000 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

130,700 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates that a portion of the area does possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation. The portion eliminated from WSA consideration was found not to possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-040-247

UNIT NAME: Fossil Peak

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit consists of an alkali flat in the northern half and low mountains and rolling hills of the Seaman Range in the southern half. Vegetation consists of shadscale, rabbitbrush, pinyon-juniper, winterfat, and sagebrush.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 88,900 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: An unnatural portion of 18,800 acres containing unre-viewed ways, an irrigation ditch, a fence, and several mining claims is within the unit. The remaining 70,100 acres are in an essentially natural condition and has been divided into five natural portions (NV-040-247 of 6,300 acres, NV-040-247B of 8,700 acres, NV-040-247C of 12,400 acres, NV-040-247D of 24,800 acres, and NV-040-247E of 17,900 acres).
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Topographic and vegetative screening range from very poor to moderate in the subunits providing less than outstanding opportunities for solitude.

- B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Although opportunities exist for several forms of recreation activities, quality and diversity are not outstanding in any of the subunits.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

88,900 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit, one citing roads and intrusions and the other listing other resource values. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

88,900 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-040-249

UNIT NAME: North Pahrnagat Range

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is in the North Pahrnagat Range and consists of low rolling hills and mountains. Major vegetative types are pinyon-juniper and black sagebrush.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit totals 55,900 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: An unnatural portion of 15,100 acres contains a power-line and several unreviewed ways. An essentially natural portion of 40,800 acres remains.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Moderate to good topographic screening coupled with fair vegetative screening provide less than outstanding opportunities for solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Activities such as hiking, hunting, and dry camping exist in the unit, but quality and diversity are not outstanding.

4. Supplemental Values: Archaeological values are known to exist in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

55,900 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit which listed other resource values. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

55,900 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-040-249A

UNIT NAME: North Pahrnagat Range

AREA DESCRIPTION: The inventory unit (a subunit of NV-040-249) is in the North Pahrnagat Range and consists of low rolling hills and mountains. Major vegetative types are pinyon-juniper and black sagebrush.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 21,500 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: The unit contains an unnatural portion of 9,900 acres with unreviewed ways. The remaining 11,600 acres are in an essentially natural condition.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Some good topographic screening is available in the foothills and generally good vegetative screening exists in the unit. However, these factors result in less than outstanding solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Only common recreation activities are available in this unit and quality and diversity are less than outstanding.
4. Supplemental Values: A threatened and endangered species is known to exist in the area.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

21,500 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit, which noted mining impacts and mineral potential.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

21,500 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by the public comment, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-040-250

UNIT NAME: Southpaw

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is just east of Mount Irish. Topography ranges from flat in the southeast to low mountains in the central portion. Pinyon-juniper and sagebrush are the major types of vegetation.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 34,900 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: An unnatural portion of 6,600 acres containing unreviewed ways, a pipeline, and developed springs is found in the unit. The remaining 28,300 acres are in an essentially natural condition.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: With the exception of a portion of the central mountains where some opportunity for solitude exists, vegetative and topographic screening is generally poor and limits opportunities for solitude. In the mountainous portion, opportunities for solitude are fair but not outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Although common recreation activities such as camping, hiking, and horseback riding are possible, the quality and diversity of these opportunities are not outstanding.
4. Supplemental Values: Historical values exist in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

34,900 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received three specific comments on this unit, which cited roads, intrusions, or listed other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

34,900 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0100

UNIT NAME: Quinn Canyon

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Quinn Canyon unit is in Lincoln County, Nevada. It measures about seven miles by three miles. The southern half of the unit is flat and covered by plants of the sagebrush community, the northern half is hilly and contains some scattered stands of pinyon-juniper.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 12,810 acres of public land. Documented roads separate 7,610 acres into small areas. Each is less than 5,000 acres and does not meet the size criterion. The remainder of the unit contains 5,200 acres.
2. Naturalness: 5,200 acres were found to be in a natural condition.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The roadless and natural portion of the area does not possess an outstanding opportunity for solitude because of its small size and limited natural screening.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The area does not offer an outstanding opportunity for primitive and unconfined type of recreation due to its lack of diversity and features of interest.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

12,810 acres should be dropped from further wilderness study consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: None were received on the intensive inventory, but nine comments received during the initial inventory that could not be checked earlier due to accelerated inventory priorities were considered. Details on these comments can be found in the BLM's Initial Inventory Decision book.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

12,810 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received citing the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0107

UNIT NAME: North Pahroc

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is located 25 miles northwest of Caliente and contains the North Pahroc Range. The southwestern boundary is the Boulder Wash road, and the remainder of the unit boundary is formed by parts of several range access roads.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 28,847 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: There are numerous ways, fencelines, reservoirs, spring developments, and other range improvements. These impact 13,847 acres of the unit. The remainder, 15,000 acres, appears natural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The topography is a long, narrow ridgeline with a few short canyons. The vegetation is primarily low desert shrubs with scattered pinyon-juniper on the ridge slopes. The extremely narrow configuration of the natural area and the limited natural screening available limit the opportunity for solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, sightseeing, and nature study were identified. Because of the restrictive configuration of the natural area, the opportunity for primitive recreation was considered less than outstanding.
4. Supplemental Values: There are significant archaeological values documented in the unit, and the peregrine falcon may nest in the area.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

28,847 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit. One mentioned mining impacts and the second noted other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

28,847 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0108

UNIT NAME: Nesbitt

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is 25 miles northwest of Caliente. It has flat sloping topography, vegetated with sagebrush. The western boundary is State Highway 38 and the rest of the unit boundary is formed by parts of several range access roads.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 20,931 acres of public land. Documented roads separate two small areas, totaling 4,560 acres, from the main unit. Each is less than 5,000 acres and does not meet the size criterion. The remainder of the unit contains 16,371 acres.
2. Naturalness: There are several range improvements along the edges of the unit and an unobtrusive way bisects it. These do not impact the naturalness of the unit and it appears unaffected by man.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The topography is a sloping, outwash plain with a series of bluffs to the east. The vegetation is sagebrush and other low desert shrubs. Availability of secluded spots is extremely limited and the opportunity for solitude would not be outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, camping, and nature study were identified. The opportunity for primitive recreation is limited by the lack of vegetative and topographic diversity and lack of objectives or attractions to seek out.
4. Supplemental Values: The unit is contiguous along its western boundary to the White River, an area of high archaeological sensitivity.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

20,931 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: None received.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

20,931 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: No public comments were received, and the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0109

UNIT NAME: Seep Springs

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is eight miles northeast of Tempiute and south of the Worthington Mountains. It contains a northern extension of the Timpahute Range and is vegetated primarily with sagebrush. The eastern boundary is the Wild Horse Valley road, the southwestern boundary is a BLM road, and the remaining boundaries are unnamed range access roads serving Mode Hole, Seep, and Penoyer Springs.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 15,149 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: No intrusions were observed in this unit. It appears natural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Natural screening is adequate in a small central portion to offer some secluded spots, but the opportunity for solitude was not found to be outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for horseback riding, camping, hiking, and nature study were identified but the opportunity for primitive recreation was found to be less than outstanding because of a lack of objectives and points of interest, and small area of topographic and vegetative diversity.
4. Supplemental Values: The area has good potential for archaeological values and may provide habitat for the peregrine falcon and spotted bat.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

15,149 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: None received.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

15,149 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: No public comments were received, and the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0112

UNIT NAME: Timpahute Range

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is just northeast of Tempiute and contains the Timpahute Range. The eastern boundary is the Wild Horse Valley, the southern and western boundaries are mining and range access roads to the Tempiute area, and the northern boundary is a range access road serving Penoyer Springs.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 52,800 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: There are several intrusions around the unit boundary, including roads, ways, mining impacts, and range improvements. One intrusion road runs to Tunnel Spring in the center of the unit, but it is not substantially noticeable. These intrusions impact 13,580 acres, which should be dropped from further wilderness consideration because of unnaturalness. The interior and remainder of the unit, 39,220 acres, appear natural and qualified for further evaluation.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The topography consists of the Timpahute Range in the center, sloping outward to alluvial fans. Screening in the center is provided by pinyon-juniper vegetation and several ridges and canyons. The sagebrush vegetation on the flat alluvial fans is not adequate to screen visitors from each other. A number of secluded spots were available in the mountainous interior, but the opportunity for solitude was considered to be less than outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for horseback riding, hiking, camping, hunting, and nature study were identified, but the opportunity for primitive recreation was not found to be outstanding because of the lack of recreational challenge and lack of objectives or points of interest.
4. Supplemental Values: Archaeological values are known to exist in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

52,800 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit during the intensive inventory. One mentioned impacts and the second noted other resource values. Eleven additional comments were received during the initial inventory that could not be checked earlier due to accelerated inventory priorities. These were considered along with those noted above. Details on these comments can be found in the BLM's Initial Inventory Decision book.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

52,800 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received citing the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0113

UNIT NAME: Pahroc Summit Pass

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is five miles northeast of Hiko and contains the western edges of the North Pahroc Range and the northern end of the Hiko Range. The western boundary is defined partially by State Highway 38 and partially by the boundary between BLM and private land in the Pahrangat Valley. The eastern boundary is the Pahroc Canyon road, the southern boundary is the road running from Hiko Canyon east to Pahroc Summit, and the northern boundary is a range access road.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 61,737 acres of public land. A documented road was found to cross the southeastern corner, separating an area of 1,505 acres from the original unit. This area is less than 5,000 acres and therefore, of insufficient size for further wilderness consideration. The remainder of the unit, 60,232 acres, meets the size criterion and is qualified for further evaluation.
2. Naturalness: The southern portion of the unit, Sixmile Flat, has been heavily impacted by roads, ways, and range improvements. The northern and northeastern portions have similar intrusions. The unnatural areas contain 31,072 acres and should be dropped from further consideration. The natural area, 29,160 acres, is a crescent shaped area along the western and north central portions.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The North Pahroc and Hiko Ranges provide some topographic screening along the eastern and western edges of the unit. Hills to the north provide some secluded spots, but the opportunity for solitude is limited to less than outstanding by the lack of vegetative screening and the restrictive configuration of the natural area.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for hiking, camping, horseback riding, and nature study were identified, but they are confined to the northern hills because of the inaccessible mountain slopes. The opportunity for primitive recreation was not found to be outstanding.

4. Supplemental Values: The western edge of the unit is contiguous to the White River, an area of high archaeological value. The steep slopes of the North Pahroc and Hiko Ranges may provide nesting habitat for the peregrine falcon.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

61,737 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit. One noted roads, intrusions, and lack of outstanding opportunities. The second noted other resource values. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria. Seven additional comments were received during the initial inventory that could not be checked earlier due to accelerated inventory priorities. These were considered along with those noted above. Details on these comments can be found in the BLM's Initial Inventory Decision book.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

61,737 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received citing the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0114

UNIT NAME: Pahroc Spring

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is 15 miles northeast of Hiko and contains the southern end of the North Pahroc Range, vegetated with pinyon-juniper and sagebrush. The northeastern boundary is the Boulder Wash road, the western boundary is the Pahroc Canyon road, and the remainder of the boundary is formed by parts of several range access roads.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 15,950 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: Several range improvements are located in the unit, including corrals, fences, water developments, and their access roads. These intrusions impact 8,150 acres, leaving the south central portion of the unit, 7,800 acres, appearing natural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Natural screening is adequate to provide some opportunity for solitude, but a limited number of secluded spots results in a less than outstanding opportunity.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, camping, sightseeing, and nature study were identified. The opportunity for primitive recreation was not found to be outstanding because of a lack of objectives or attractions to seek out, the excessively steep slopes of the North Pahrocs, and the lack of vegetative or topographic diversity.

4. Supplemental Values: Archaeological analysis predicts that primitive campsites occurred at the springs in this area; wild horses are known to inhabit the unit; and the topography may provide habitat for the peregrine falcon and/or the spotted bat.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

15,950 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit noting other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

15,950 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by the public comment, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0116

UNIT NAME: Chief Mountain

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is 10 miles southwest of Panaca and contains the southern end of the Chief Range. The vegetation is pinyon-juniper at the higher, central peaks, and changes to low sagebrush on the alluvial fans. The western boundary is formed by range access roads serving Klondike Spring and George Roger Well. The southern boundary skirts the mining areas in Cobalt and Chief Canyons, and the northern boundary is defined by range access roads and the boundary between BLM and private lands.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 12,673 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: No intrusions were observed in the unit. It appears natural.

3. Outstanding Opportunities for:

A. Solitude: Natural screening in the mountainous interior is adequate to offer some secluded spots, however, the opportunity for solitude was not found to be outstanding because of the limited availability of these spots.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for horseback riding, hiking, camping, sightseeing, nature study, and hunting were identified, but the opportunity for primitive recreation was not found to be outstanding because of the lack of objectives or attractions to seek out.

4. Supplemental Values: Wild horses are known to inhabit the area.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

12,673 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit. One mentioned mining impacts and both noted other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

12,673 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0127

UNIT NAME: Swirl Cake Rock

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is 30 miles northwest of Caliente. The topography is a low ridge along the eastern boundary, sloping into an outwash plain over the rest of the unit. The vegetation is primarily low brush with some pinyon-juniper in protected spots along the ridgeline. The northwest boundary is State Highway 38 and the rest of the unit boundary is formed by parts of several range access roads.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 8,690 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: A large borrow pit, a way, and a road impact a small portion of the unit, 1,190 acres. The majority, 7,500 acres, remains natural and qualified for further evaluation.

3. Outstanding Opportunities for:

A. Solitude: There would be some secluded spots to the east, but these are limited and the opportunity for solitude is less than outstanding.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, camping, and nature studies were identified. The opportunity for primitive recreation is limited by the lack of vegetative and topographic diversity and the lack of objectives or attractions to seek out.

4. Supplemental Values: The unit's proximity to the White River Petroglyphs, a National Register Site, suggests that it is an area of high archaeological sensitivity.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

8,690 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit. Roads, intrusions, and a military operating area within the unit were mentioned. One noted other resource values. Six additional comments were received during the initial inventory that could not be checked earlier due to accelerated inventory priorities. These were considered along with those noted above during the intensive inventory. Details on these comments can be found in the BLM's Initial Inventory Decision book.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

8,690 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received citing the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0131

UNIT NAME: East Pahrnagat

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is adjacent to and west of Alamo. It contains the East Pahrnagat and Southern Pahrnagat Ranges and is contiguous on the south to the Desert National Wildlife Refuge wilderness proposal, Unit V, Hole-in-the-Rock, 115,700 acres. To the southwest, it is contiguous to Nellis Air Force Range. The western boundary is the road running along Dog Bone Dry Lake to the south. The northern boundary is formed partially by the Groom Mine Road and partially by State Highway 25. The eastern boundary is formed by the land ownership pattern between BLM and private, State, and Pahrnagat National Wildlife Refuge lands. The southeastern boundary follows BLM road 5219 to Medsger Pass and drops south into the Desert Game Range via the Alamo Road.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 152,458 acres of public land. Several roads were documented and discovered to split seven small areas away from the original unit. Each of these small areas is less than 5,000 acres. The total acreage not meeting wilderness size criterion is 12,400 acres, leaving 140,058 acres to be further evaluated.
2. Naturalness: Numerous intrusions in this unit include several ways, two communication sites, two reservoirs, and a number of mines. The area not meeting the naturalness criterion is 52,058 acres. Four natural areas remain, totaling 88,000 acres.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The northeastern, 20,000 acres, and western, 39,000 acres, natural areas are predominantly flat, sparsely but uniformly vegetated with blackbrush. There were no secluded spots available, and the slope of the land prevents more than a few users from achieving any solitude. The small piece of the Pahrnagat Range included in the western natural area offers the best screening and opportunity for solitude, but the opportunity is not outstanding. The southeastern (12,800 acres) and southern (16,200 acres) natural areas have rolling topography with large rock outcrops and are vegetated with blackbrush and scattered joshua trees. Several secluded spots can be found in these areas. The southern subunit (16,200 acres) does have outstanding opportunities for solitude when considered in conjunction with the large contiguous unit administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for horseback riding, hiking, hunting, and camping were identified. Hiking and camping are of best quality in the small central portion of the unit. Hunting in this area and further north appears of good quality, and there are large areas of level terrain to enhance horseback riding. The unit generally appears to have good opportunities for primitive recreation. The southern natural area (16,200 acres) has outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation when considered with the contiguous Fish and Wildlife wilderness proposal.
4. Supplemental Values: A threatened and endangered plant is believed to be located in the northeastern unit corner, and the entire eastern boundary, Pahrnagat Valley, is of archaeological significance.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

16,200 acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

136,258 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received nine specific comments on this unit. Two mentioned roads and lack of outstanding opportunities. The majority discussed outstanding solitude and recreation and the area's naturalness. One

suggested a boundary change. A few noted supplemental values and one listed other resource values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria. Ten additional comments were received during the initial inventory that could not be checked earlier due to accelerated inventory priorities. These were considered along with those noted above during the intensive inventory. Details on these comments can be found in the BLM's Initial Inventory Decision book.

FINAL DECISION:

16,200 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

136,258 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Public comments were received citing the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics in this area, which is contiguous to lands managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that previously were determined to have wilderness characteristics. Evidence available to the Bureau indicates that one public land portion appears natural, and when combined with the adjoining agency unit, also possesses the other necessary criteria for WSA designation. The portion eliminated from WSA consideration was not found to possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0132

UNIT NAME: South Pahrocs/Hiko

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is 10 miles northeast of Alamo and contains both the Hiko Range and the South Pahroc Range. The northern boundary is primarily U.S. Highway 93, the eastern boundary is a range and mining access road, the southern boundary is primarily the Eightmile Valley road, and the western boundary is formed by range and mining access roads and private lands.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. **Size:** The unit contains 71,055 acres of public land.
2. **Naturalness:** Numerous roads, ways, and range improvements impact several areas of the unit. Two natural areas, 12,200 acres in the Hiko Range and 28,600 acres in the South Pahroc Range, were identified. A large portion of the unit, 30,255 acres, did not meet the naturalness criterion.
3. **Outstanding Opportunities for:**
 - A. **Solitude:** Both natural areas are single ridgelines sloping away to valleys, the South Pahroc area being higher in elevation. Vegetation changes from low desert shrubs in the valley to ponderosa in the South Pahrocs. The natural screening in the Hiko area was found inadequate to offer an outstanding opportunity, but the large boulders and vegetation in the South Pahrocs area enable it to offer many secluded spots and an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for camping, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, trapping, sightseeing, rock climbing, and nature study were identified. The South Pahrocs were found to offer an outstanding opportunity for recreation because of the excellent vegetative and topographic diversity and large natural area for extended trips. The opportunity in the Hiko Range was found to be less than outstanding.

4. Supplemental Values: Scenic qualities and a strong likelihood of archaeological sites are supplemental values in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

28,600 acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

42,455 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 15 specific comments on this unit. Intrusions and lack of outstanding opportunities were mentioned many times. Three suggested a boundary change to increase the WSA. Several discussed outstanding solitude and recreation and the area's naturalness. A few noted supplemental values and three listed other resource values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria. Ten additional comments were received during the initial inventory that could not be checked earlier due to accelerated inventory priorities. These were considered along with those noted above during the intensive inventory. Details on these comments can be found in the BLM's Initial Inventory Decision book.

FINAL DECISION:

28,600 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

42,455 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though public comments were received citing both the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates that a portion of the area does possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation. The portion eliminated from WSA consideration was not found to possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0154

UNIT NAME: Medsger Pass

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is 10 miles south of Alamo. It contains the southern end of the East Pahrangat Range and is vegetated with low desert shrubs. The northwestern boundary is a BLM road, the western boundary is the Alamo Road, the eastern boundary is the Pahrangat National Wildlife Refuge, and the southeastern boundary is an unnamed access road into the Desert National Wildlife Refuge. The unit is contiguous on the south to the Desert National Wildlife Range wilderness proposal, Unit III, Sheep Range, 440,000 acres.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 11,462 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: There were no intrusions observed in this unit. It appears natural and qualified for further evaluation.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The dominant topographic feature is the south end of the East Pahrnagat Range in the western side of the unit. The central/eastern area is alluvial fan. Topographic screening to the west would provide several secluded spots. This unit has outstanding opportunities for solitude when considered in conjunction with the large contiguous unit administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for horseback riding, hiking, backpacking, camping, and nature study were identified. These opportunities are outstanding when considered in conjunction with the contiguous Fish and Wildlife Service land.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

11,462 acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

Zero acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received seven specific comments on this unit. Most discussed outstanding solitude and recreation and the area's naturalness. Several mentioned lack of outstanding opportunities and one, inadequate size. Other resource values were noted once. Also received were 40 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

11,462 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

Zero acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation for this area, which is contiguous to lands managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that previously were determined to have wilderness characteristics. Evidence available to the Bureau indicates that the public land portion appears natural, and when combined with the adjoining agency unit, also possesses the other necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0165

UNIT NAME: Lower Pahrana gat Lake

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is 10 miles south of Alamo and contains a southern ridge of the East Pahrana gat Range. The vegetation consists of low desert shrubs. The eastern boundary is the Pahrana gat National Wildlife Refuge and the western boundary is an unnamed access road into the Desert National Wildlife Range. The unit is contiguous on the south to the Desert Range wilderness proposal, Unit III, Sheep Range, 440,000 acres.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 3,350 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: The unit appears natural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The topography is part of a single, steep ridge of the East Pahrana gat Range. Topographic screening provides several secluded spots. This unit does have outstanding opportunities for solitude when considered in conjunction with the large contiguous unit administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for hiking, backpacking, camping, and nature study were identified. The unit shares the outstanding wilderness character already determined to exist in the contiguous wilderness proposal.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

3,350 acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

Zero acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received eight specific comments on this unit. Inadequate size was mentioned by two. Several noted lack of outstanding opportunities. The remainder supported the existence of various wilderness characteristics. A few noted supplemental values and one listed other resource values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

3,350 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

Zero acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation for this area, which is contiguous to lands managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that previously were determined to have

wilderness characteristics. Evidence available to the Bureau indicates that the public land portion appears natural, and when combined with the adjoining agency unit, also possesses the other necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0302

UNIT NAME: Cedar Mountains

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is about 35 miles northwest of Tonopah, in the northern tip of Esmeralda County. It contains the northern end of the Cedar Mountains, which is vegetated exclusively with a desert shrub community. The west, north, and east boundaries are formed by unnamed mining and range access roads. The southern boundary skirts some heavy mining impacts along a roaded canyon.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 10,577 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: The unit appears to be in a natural state.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Topographic screening is provided by the Cedar Mountains in the central and southern portions, and by rolling hills to the north. The east and west are alluvial terraces sloping down toward broad valleys. Vegetative screening is minimal and limits the location of secluded areas to the canyons and draws in the Cedar Mountains. This opportunity for solitude was found to be less than outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for horseback riding, hiking, camping, rockhounding, and nature studies were identified. Hiking and horseback riding in the Cedar Mountains were felt to be the activities of best quality. However, neither the diversity nor the quality of primitive recreation opportunities in this unit were found to be outstanding.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

10,577 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received three specific comments on this unit. Two mentioned roads, intrusions, and lack of outstanding opportunities. All noted other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

10,577 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0304

UNIT NAME: Relay Station

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is about 30 miles northwest of Tonopah, in the northern tip of Esmeralda County. It contains the southern end of the Cedar Mountains and is vegetated primarily with blackbrush. The western, southern, and eastern boundaries are defined by unnamed range and mining access roads and a powerline on the southeast. The northern boundary skirts heavy mining impacts in a roaded canyon.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 23,379 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: The unit is impacted noticeably by mining and mineral assessment work along its boundaries, especially in the northern and southern areas. The central and northeastern areas appear to remain natural. The portion of the unit impacted by man's activities and appearing unnatural contains 12,679 acres. The remainder, 10,700 acres, appears natural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The natural area contains the southern end of the Cedar Mountains, and has a moderate amount of topographic screening. The scant blackbrush vegetation provides only minimal vegetative screening which limits the opportunity to find a secluded spot. The overall size and natural screening are not adequate to provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for horseback riding, hiking, camping, nature study, and rockhounding were identified. Hiking, camping, and rockhounding were recommended as being the highest quality activities, but the lack of recreational challenge, vegetative diversity, and objectives or points of interest limit the opportunity for primitive recreation to less than outstanding.
4. Supplemental Values: Wild horses are known to inhabit the area. Archaeological values may exist in the dry lake area to the west.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

23,379 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received three specific comments on this unit. Two mentioned roads, intrusions, and lack of outstanding opportunities. All noted other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

23,379 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0305

UNIT NAME: Far North

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is 30 miles northwest of Tonopah and is just east of the Cedar Mountains. The southern boundary is a utility line and access road; the eastern and western boundaries are unnamed mining and range access roads.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 11,905 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: There is an assessment ditch along the western boundary and the utility line to the south has a significant visible impact on that end of the unit. These intrusions and their impacts result in 1,655 acres being unnatural. The remainder of the unit, 10,250 acres, is natural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Except for a few small hills, the topography of the unit is extremely flat, and the vegetation consists of low desert shrubs. The lack of natural screening and the narrow configuration allow activities on the boundary roads to be seen from anywhere in the unit and there are no secluded spots available. The opportunity for solitude was not found to be outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, camping, nature study, and sightseeing were identified but were found to be less than outstanding because of the lack of vegetative and topographic diversity, lack of recreational challenge, lack of objectives or points of interest, and the restrictive configuration.

4. Supplemental Values: Wild horses are known to inhabit part of this area.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

11,905 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received three specific comments on this unit. Two mentioned roads, intrusions, and lack of outstanding opportunities. All three noted other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

11,905 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0306

UNIT NAME: Pilot Peak

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is 10 miles north of Coaldale Junction and contains the northwestern end of the Monte Cristo Range. Most of the topography consists of rolling hills with the low peaks of the Monte Cristo Range to the center and southeast. The vegetation is primarily blackbrush and other low desert shrubs. The western boundary is a powerline paralleling U.S. Highway 95, the northern boundary is unnamed spring and mining access roads, the northeastern boundary is the road from Monte Mountain to Gilbert, the eastern boundary skirts numerous mining impacts in the Gilbert area, and the southern boundary is the road running from Gilbert west to Rock Hill on U.S. 95.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 59,274 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: There are mining and mineral assessment impacts in the southwestern and southeastern corners. Because of their locations, these intrusions are visible for a great distance. There is another intrusion road in the northeast. There is an unnatural portion of 25,374 acres. The remainder of the unit, 33,900 acres, appears natural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Topographic screening provides the only available secluded spots, but these are not numerous enough to provide outstanding opportunity for solitude.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for horseback riding, hiking, camping, and rockhounding were identified in the unit. Hiking and horseback riding were recommended as the highest quality activities because of the rolling terrain. The lack of vegetative diversity and lack of challenge to the recreationist makes the opportunity for primitive recreation less than outstanding.

4. Supplemental Values: Wild horses are known to inhabit the area.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

59,274 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received seven specific comments on this unit. Most mentioned roads, intrusions, and lack of outstanding opportunities. One discussed naturalness and six noted other resource values. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

59,274 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0308

UNIT NAME: Monte

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is 30 miles northwest of Tonopah, at the north end of the Monte Cristo Range. It is an area of rolling to flat terrain with low desert shrubs. The northern boundary is formed by a powerline maintenance road, the eastern boundary is a main access road to Gilbert, the southern boundary is the road running by Monte Mountain to Gilbert, and the western boundary is a range access road.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 7,637 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: There is a corral area at the northwestern corner of the unit. Because of this minor impact, 37 acres are unnatural. The remainder of the unit, 7,600 acres, appears natural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: There are small hills in the eastern portion of the unit, sloping down to an alluvial plain on the west. Vegetation is low desert shrubs. The natural screening and size provide very few secluded spots and the opportunity for solitude was not found to be outstanding.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for horseback riding, nature study, and hiking were identified but found to be less than outstanding because of the lack of vegetative and topographic diversity, lack of recreational challenge, and lack of objects or points of interest.

4. Supplemental Values: Wild horses are known to inhabit the area.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

7,637 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received five specific comments on this unit. All five mentioned roads, intrusions, lack of outstanding opportunities, or other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

7,637 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0311

UNIT NAME: Devils Gate

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is 25 miles west of Tonopah and contains the north-eastern end of the Monte Cristo Range. Its southeastern boundary is U.S. Highway 95, the western boundary is the Devils Gate and Cook Spring roads, the eastern boundary is the Crow Spring road, and the northern boundary is the Gilbert road.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. The unit contains 36,332 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: A powerline runs just within the southeastern boundary and numerous mining impacts, including assessment pits, tailings, and access roads, are visible from the boundary roads. The area impacted by these intrusions, 13,682 acres, does not meet the naturalness criterion. The remainder of the unit, 22,650 acres, appears natural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The vegetation is low desert shrubs, with scattered pinyon-juniper at the higher elevations. The Monte Cristo Range forms the topography of most of the unit, sloping outward to broad valleys. Topographic screening offers some good opportunities for seclusion, but the opportunity for solitude is limited to less than outstanding.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for horseback riding, hiking, camping, nature study, and rockhounding were identified. Their quality was not found to be outstanding because of the lack of challenge to the recreationist and limited vegetative diversity.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

36,332 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received five specific comments on this unit. All five mentioned roads, intrusions, lack of outstanding opportunities, or other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

36,332 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0312

UNIT NAME: Rock Hill

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is 30 miles west of Tonopah. It contains the western end of the Monte Cristo Range and is just east of Columbus Salt Marsh. The topography is dominated by the low peaks of the Monte Cristo Range, sloping down to alluvial fans to the west and south. The vegetation is low desert shrubs, with a few pinyon-juniper on the highest peaks. The northern boundary partly follows the road from Rock Hill to Gilbert and partly skirts mining impacts. The western boundary is a powerline paralleling U.S. Highway 95, the southern and eastern boundary follow several mining access roads.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 41,392 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: The western boundary powerline has a great impact and mining and road intrusions impact the northeastern and southern portions. A portion, 24,442 acres, was identified as unnatural. The remainder of the unit, 16,950 acres, appears natural.

3. Outstanding Opportunities for:

A. Solitude: Topographic screening provides a number of secluded spots, but these are few and the overall opportunity for solitude was not found to be outstanding.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for horseback riding, hiking, camping, rockhounding, and nature study were identified, but their quality was limited to less than outstanding by the lack of vegetative diversity, lack of objectives or points of interest, and lack of recreational challenge.

4. Supplemental Values: Wild horses are known to inhabit the area.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

41,392 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received seven specific comments on this unit. All seven mentioned roads, intrusions, lack of outstanding opportunities, or other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

41,392 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0317

UNIT NAME: Lone Mountain

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is about 15 miles west of Tonopah and contains Lone Mountain (elevation 9,108 feet). Vegetation ranges from blackbrush and shadscale, to pinyon-juniper on the mountain itself. The northern boundary is primarily a powerline access road, the western boundary is partially the Coaldale Substation-Weepah road, the southern boundary is an unnamed mining and range access road, and the eastern boundary is formed by parts of several roads, including the Paymaster Canyon road.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 38,239 acres of public land. Documented roads were found to divide the unit into six portions. Three of these, totaling 1,450 acres, are each less than 5,000 acres and do not meet the size criterion. The remaining three portions each meet the size criterion: NV-050-0317, 23,703 acres; NV-050-0317A, 5,806 acres; and NV-050-0317B, 7,280 acres.

2. Naturalness: There are many intrusions around and just outside the unit boundaries, including roads, ways, shafts, pits, scraped areas, and tailings. All three units were impacted: 0317, 9,553 acres unnatural, 14,150 acres appeared natural; 0317A, 3,056 acres unnatural, 2,750 acres appeared natural; 0317B, 430 acres unnatural, 6,850 acres appeared natural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The topography in the area consists of Lone Mountain with its short steep-sided canyons, surrounded by rolling hills sloping outward to broad plains. The vegetation is primarily low desert shrubs with some pinyon-juniper on Lone Mountain. The size and natural screening of 0317A and B were inadequate to offer secluded spots. Some areas of seclusion were available in 0317, but the opportunity for solitude was not found to be outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for horseback riding, rock collecting, hiking, camping, and nature study were identified in the three natural areas. The small sizes of 0317A and B severely limited the opportunity for unconfined recreation. In 0317, the opportunity for primitive recreation was not found to be outstanding because of the lack of recreational challenge, lack of specific attractions to seek out, and lack of vegetative diversity.
4. Supplemental Values: Wild horses are known to inhabit the area, ruins to the southwest may be of historical value, and archaeological sites are believed to exist. 0317A and B are not known to have supplemental values.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

38,239 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received five specific comments on this unit. All five discussed roads, intrusions, lack of outstanding opportunities, or other resource values. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria. Thirteen additional comments were received during the initial inventory that could not be checked earlier due to accelerated inventory priorities. These were considered along with those noted above during the intensive inventory. Details on these comments can be found in the BLM's Initial Inventory Decision book.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

38,239 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received citing the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0319

UNIT NAME: Montezuma Valley

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is five miles southwest of Tonopah. Its topography is the level floor of the Montezuma Valley, vegetated with low desert shrubs. The eastern boundary is a powerline access road, and the remaining boundaries are range and mining access roads.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 12,047 acres of public land. Documented roads were found to divide the unit into six portions. Five of these portions, totaling 5,635 acres, are each less than 5,000 acres and do not meet the size criterion. The remainder of the unit contains 6,412 acres.
2. Naturalness: No intrusions were observed within this unit. It appears natural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Natural screening is insufficient to provide any secluded spots and the opportunity for solitude is less than outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for horseback riding and nature studies were identified but were found to be limited by the lack of vegetative and topographic diversity, lack of challenge to the recreationist, and lack of objectives of attractions to seek out.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

12,047 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received three specific comments on this unit. Two mentioned roads and intrusions and all three listed other resource values. Seven additional comments were received during the initial inventory that could not be checked earlier due to accelerated inventory priorities. These were considered along with those noted above during the intensive inventory. Details on these comments can be found in the BLM's Initial Inventory Decision book.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

12,047 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received citing both the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0320

UNIT NAME: Weepah Hills

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is 20 miles southwest of Tonopah. It contains the Weepah Hills, vegetated with low desert shrubs. The eastern boundary is the Paymaster Canyon road, and the remainder of the unit boundary is parts of several range and mining access roads.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 29,153 acres of public land. Documented roads separate a small area from the northern end of the unit. It contains 4,456 acres and, because it is less than the minimum 5,000 acres, it does not meet the size criterion. The remainder of the unit contains 24,697 acres.
2. Naturalness: There are mines, mineral assessment works, and their access roads throughout the unit. They are concentrated, however, in the Weepah Hills. These intrusions impact 19,443 acres, leaving two areas totaling 9,710 acres appearing natural and qualified for further evaluation. The northern area contains 4,940 acres, and the southern natural area, 4,770 acres.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The topography of the unit consists of a central flat valley, rising toward the east to the gently rolling Weepah Hills. The vegetation is low desert shrubs, including blackbrush and shadscale. Topographic screening would provide some secluded spots to the east, but the opportunity for solitude in both natural areas is less than outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for horseback riding, hiking, camping, rockhounding, and sightseeing were identified in both natural portions, but are limited by the lack of environmental diversity and lack of challenge to the recreationist.
4. Supplemental Values: Wild horses are known to inhabit the unit and the developments of the old Weepah mining area may be of historic interest.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

29,153 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received three specific comments on this unit. All noted lack of wilderness characteristics and two listed other resource values. Three additional comments were received during the initial inventory that could not be checked earlier due to accelerated inventory priorities. These were considered along with those noted above during the intensive inventory. Details on these comments can be found in the BLM's Initial Inventory Decision book.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

29,153 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0323

UNIT NAME: Emigrant Peak

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is just southwest of Coaldale Junction and contains the northern end of the Silver Peak Range. The terrain is mountainous and vegetated with low desert shrubs. The southern and eastern boundaries are formed by the Emigrant Pass road and private lands, the western boundary is partially State Highway 3A and partially a Fish Lake Valley road, and the northern boundary is a Coaldale Junction road.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 25,337 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: There are several intrusion roads, many leading to mining activity. These intrusions impact 20,712 acres, leaving an area of 4,625 acres appearing natural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Topographic screening provides some secluded spots, but these are not easily available and the opportunity for solitude is less than outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for horseback riding, hiking, camping, nature study, sightseeing, and hunting were identified. Their quality was limited by a lack of vegetative diversity, lack of attractions to seek out, and lack of challenge to the recreationist.

4. Supplemental Values: Cordylanthus tecopensis, an endangered plant, is thought to exist in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

25,337 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received four specific comments on this unit. Three listed intrusions or roads, and one noted lack of outstanding opportunities. All four listed other resource values. Twelve additional comments were received during the initial inventory that could not be checked earlier due to accelerated inventory priorities. These were considered along with those noted above during the intensive inventory. Details on these comments can be found in the BLM's Initial Inventory Decision book.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

25,337 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received citing both the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0324

UNIT NAME: Volcanic Hills

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is five miles west of Coaldale Junction and contains the Volcanic Hills. The topography is rolling hills with rock outcrops and a few small canyons. The vegetation is sparse blackbrush and other low growing shrubs. The northern boundary is U.S. Highway 6, the eastern boundary is State Highway 3A, and the western boundary is the Volcanic Hills road.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 25,444 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: There are several material sites, mining sites, and intrusion ways and roads. A cement plant is adjacent to the northwest corner. These intrusions impact 15,534 acres, leaving an area of 9,910 acres appearing natural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Topographic screening would provide only a few secluded spots, and the opportunity for solitude is less than outstanding.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for horseback riding, hiking, camping, nature study, sightseeing, and hunting are available, but they are limited by the lack of vegetative diversity and lack of objectives or attractions to seek out.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

25,444 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received four specific comments on this unit. Most noted roads, intrusions, and lack of outstanding opportunities. Three listed other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

25,444 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0325

UNIT NAME: Pinchot Creek

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is 20 miles west of Coaldale Junction. It has a flat to gently rolling terrain, vegetated with low growing shrubs. The western boundary is the Sand Spring Canyon road, the southern boundary is the Rock Creek road, the eastern boundary is a range access road, and the northern boundary is U.S. Highway 6.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 15,254 acres of public land. Documented roads were found to split the unit into six portions, all less than the minimum 5,000 acres. None of these portions meets the minimum size criterion, so further wilderness evaluation is unnecessary.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

15,254 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received five specific comments on this unit. Most mentioned roads, intrusions, and lack of outstanding solitude. Four listed other resource values. Ten additional comments were received during the initial inventory that could not be checked earlier due to accelerated inventory priorities. These were considered along with those noted above during the intensive inventory. Details on these comments can be found in the BLM's Initial Inventory Decision book.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

15,254 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received citing the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0327

UNIT NAME: The Sump

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is at the northern end of Fish Lake Valley. The topography is flat to gently rolling hills, vegetated with low desert shrubs. The western boundary is State Highway 3A, the eastern boundary is the road from Gap Spring to The Crossing, and the southern boundary runs from highway 3A to The Crossing.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 30,693 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: There are several intrusion roads, heavy mining to the south, and small developments along the boundary roads. These intrusions impact 19,543 acres, leaving 11,150 acres appearing natural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The topography varies from rolling hills to broad flat expanses. The vegetation is blackbrush and other desert shrubs. The topographic screening would provide only a few secluded spots and the opportunity for solitude is not outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for horseback riding, hiking, camping, nature study, sightseeing, hunting, and rockhounding are available, but their quality is limited by the lack of vegetative diversity and lack of challenge to the recreationist.
4. Supplemental Values: Wild horses are known to inhabit the area, and The Sump, a unique geological area, is within the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

30,693 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit. One mentioned roads, intrusions, and lack of outstanding opportunities. The second listed other resource values. Nine additional comments were received during the initial inventory that could not be checked earlier due to accelerated inventory priorities. These were considered along with those noted above during the intensive inventory. Details on these comments can be found in the BLM's Initial Inventory Decision book.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

30,693 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received citing the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0328

UNIT NAME: Emigrant Pass

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is 12 miles northwest of the town of Silver Peak, and contains the northern end of the Silver Peak Range, vegetated with pinyon-juniper and desert shrubs. The western boundary is the Silver Peak road, the southern boundary is the Rhyolite Ridge road, and the northern boundary is the Emigrant Pass road.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 30,583 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: Intrusion roads extend from all of the unit boundaries, and mining and mineral assessment activities are evident in all but the central and northeastern portions of the unit. These intrusions impact 23,483 acres, leaving 7,100 acres appearing natural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: A large part of the natural area is mountainous with scattered pinyon-juniper. The remainder is a flat alluvial fan vegetated with low desert shrubs. Topographic screening would provide some secluded spots, but the opportunity for solitude is not outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities are available for horseback riding, hiking, camping, nature study, sight-seeing, and hunting, but their quality is limited by the low vegetative diversity and the lack of objectives or attractions to seek out.

4. Supplemental Values: Wild horses are known to inhabit the area.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

30,583 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received five specific comments on this unit. Most mentioned roads, intrusions, and lack of outstanding opportunities. All five listed other resource values. Eleven additional comments were received during the initial inventory that could not be checked earlier due to accelerated inventory priorities. These were considered along with those noted above during the intensive inventory. Details on these comments can be found in the BLM's Initial Inventory Decision book.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

30,583 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received citing the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0330/NV-050-0330A UNIT NAME: Monocline

AREA DESCRIPTION: The two units are 10 miles north of the town of Silver Peak and contain the far western edge of the Weepah Hills. The central boundary separating the two units is a powerline with a maintenance road. The western boundary is State Highway 47, the southern boundary is an unnamed mining and range access road, the eastern boundary is the Weepah road, and the northern boundary is partially a powerline road and partially skirts mining impacts.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 20,150 acres of public land split into two sections: 0330 (13,173 acres) and 0330A (6,977 acres).
2. Naturalness: There are impacts from mining and mineral assessment work located in the southeast and eastern portions of 0330 and 0330A. The portion of 0330 that remains natural contains 7,630 acres, the portion not meeting the naturalness requirement contains 5,543 acres. The portion of 0330A that appears natural contains 2,650 acres, leaving 4,327 acres unnatural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The topography of the natural portions of both 0330 and 0330A is low rolling hills, part of the western edge of the Weepah Hills. The vegetation is exclusively low desert shrubs. Natural

screening provides very few spots of seclusion, and together with the size and configuration of the two natural areas, provides a less than outstanding opportunity for solitude.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for horseback riding, hiking, and rockhounding were identified. Because of the lack of vegetative and topographic diversity, lack of challenge to the recreationist, and lack of objectives or attractions to seek out, neither the diversity nor the quality of the available recreational activities was found to be outstanding.

4. Supplemental Values: Wild horses are known to inhabit unit 0330.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

20,150 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received six specific comments on this unit. Most mentioned roads, intrusions, and lack of outstanding solitude. Five listed other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

20,150 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0331

UNIT NAME: The Choice

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is 10 miles northwest of Goldfield and includes part of the Paymaster Ridge. The western boundary is the Paymaster Canyon road, the southern boundary is partially the Pearl Spring road, and the remainder of the unit boundary is formed by parts of several unnamed mining and range access roads.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 23,676 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: Roads extend into the center of the unit from the eastern boundary, a powerline parallels the southern boundary, and there are range improvements and gravel pits along the boundary roads. These intrusions impact 13,486 acres, leaving a natural portion on the west of 10,190 acres.

3. Outstanding Opportunities for:

A. Solitude: The topography consists of Paymaster Ridge, a steep ridge along the western side of the unit, sloping down to foothills and an alluvial fan to the east. The vegetation is sparse, low-growing desert shrubs. The short canyons within the ridgeline would provide some secluded spots, but the unit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for horseback riding, hiking, camping, nature study, and sightseeing were identified, but these are limited by the unit's lack of vegetative diversity and lack of challenge to the recreationist.

4. Supplemental Values: Wild horses are known to inhabit this unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

23,676 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received six specific comments on this unit. Most noted roads, intrusions, or lack of solitude. One discussed naturalness and four listed other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

23,676 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0335

UNIT NAME: Misplaced

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is just west of Goldfield and includes the northern end of the Montezuma Range. The southern boundary is partially the Jackson Wash road, the eastern boundary is a powerline paralleling U.S. Highway 95, and the remainder of the unit boundary is formed by parts of several unnamed powerline, range, and mining access roads.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 49,040 acres of public land. Documented roads divide the unit into six sections. One of these sections, 1,289 acres, is less than the minimum 5,000 acres and does not meet the size criterion. The five remaining sections are: 0335, 20,732 acres; 0335A, 5,069 acres; 0335B, 6,344 acres; 0335C, 9,235 acres; and 0335D is 6,371 acres.

2. Naturalness: All five subunits are impacted by roads, mining, mineral assessment work, and range improvements. These intrusions impact a total of 16,951 acres. A natural area remains in each of the subunits: 0335, 11,130 acres; 0335A, 2,480 acres; 0335B, 4,110 acres; 0335C, 7,620 acres; and 0335D, 5,460 acres.

3. Outstanding Opportunities for:

A. Solitude: The vegetation and topography of the 0335 natural area ranges from sparse pinyon-juniper on the foothills of the Montezuma Range, northward to low desert salt shrubs on a flat alluvial terrace. Availability of secluded spots is limited. The size and thin crescent configuration of the 0335A natural area are inadequate to offer an opportunity for solitude. The 0335B natural area is a flat mesa, vegetated primarily with blackbrush. Natural screening severely limits the availability of secluded spots. The 0335C natural area is a flat alluvial terrace with low desert shrub vegetation except for a small area of dense joshua trees to the west. Natural screening is inadequate to offer secluded spots. The 0335D natural area contains Montezuma Mountain. Shallow, short canyons surrounding the mountain provide a limited number of secluded spots. Vegetation consists of scattered pinyon-juniper and desert shrubs. Overall, none of the natural areas offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for horseback riding, hiking, camping, nature study, sightseeing, and rock-hounding were identified, but were limited in all five natural areas by the lack of environmental diversity, the lack of objectives or attractions to seek out, and the relatively small size of the 0335A, B, and D natural areas.

4. Supplemental Values: Archaeological values are documented in the unit and wild horses inhabit the area.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

49,040 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received three specific comments on this unit. Two mentioned roads and intrusions and all three listed other resource values. Nine additional comments were received during the initial inventory that could not be checked earlier due to accelerated inventory priorities. These were considered along with those noted above during the intensive inventory. Details on these comments can be found in the BLM's Initial Inventory Decision book.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

49,040 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received citing the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0336

UNIT NAME: Clayton Ridge

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is just east of the town of Silver Peak and includes Clayton Ridge and the southern end of the Montezuma Range. The northern boundary is a powerline road, the southern and western boundaries are the Railroad Pass road, and the remainder of the unit boundary is formed by parts of several county and range access roads.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 106,593 acres of public land. Documented roads were found to divide this unit into four sections. One of these sections, 585 acres, is less than the minimum 5,000 acres and therefore, does not meet the size criterion. Unit 0336, 87,959 acres; unit 0336F, 8,840 acres; and unit 0336G, 9,209 acres are of sufficient size.
2. Naturalness: Unit 0336 is heavily impacted by intrusion roads, mining, and the evaporation ponds adjacent to but outside the unit. These intrusions impact 39,329 acres, leaving two areas of 19,470 acres to the north and 29,160 acres to the south appearing natural. Units 0336F and 0336G are impacted by a number of range improvements and mining developments. Unit 0336F is entirely unnatural. Unit 0336G has a natural area of 4,670 acres and an unnatural portion of 4,539 acres.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The topography of both natural areas in unit 0336 consists of the Clayton Ridge and the Montezuma Range running north-south, separated and surrounded by flat, sloping alluvial fans and gently rolling hills. The vegetation is primarily low desert shrubs, with some pinyon-juniper in the Montezuma Range on the eastern edge. Topographic screening provides a small number of secluded spots in the short canyons, but the unit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The natural portion of unit 0336G consists almost entirely of the Clayton Ridge, vegetated solely with low desert shrubs. The few draws cutting into the ridgeline offer a small number of secluded spots, but the opportunity for solitude is less than outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for horseback riding, hiking, camping, nature study, sightseeing, and rock-hounding were identified. The large size of the southern natural portion of unit 0336 enhances the quality of all activities, but the opportunity for primitive recreation is limited by the lack of objectives or attractions to seek out and the poor vegetative diversity.
4. Supplemental Values: Wild horses are known to inhabit the area.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

106,593 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received seven specific comments on this unit. The majority mentioned roads, intrusions, or lack of outstanding opportunities. One discussed naturalness and many noted other resource values. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

106,593 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0337

UNIT NAME: Company Spring South

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is just southwest of the town of Silver Peak and contains the eastern side of the Silver Peak Range, including Sheep Mountain. Its northern boundary skirts the Mohawk and Nivloc Mines and follows the Nivloc road, the eastern boundary is a powerline, and the southern boundary is the Cowcamp Spring road. The Pinyon-Joshua Transition Natural area is at the unit's southwestern corner.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 25,206 acres of public land. Documented roads were found to split this unit into two parts: 0337, 20,000 acres; and 0337I, 5,206 acres.
2. Naturalness: 0337 has been impacted by roads, ways, and mining activity to the northwest and the south. These intrusions impact 10,770 acres, with 9,230 acres remaining natural. 0337I is impacted with powerlines on its boundary, intrusion roads and buildings, and mining activity. Its narrow configuration enhances the visual impacts, and this unit is considered to not have any natural portion to further evaluate.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The topography of 0337 is mountainous and rolling, with a few canyons. The vegetation is sparse pinyon-juniper on the hills, changing to blackbrush and joshua trees on the lower slopes. The availability of secluded spots was not adequate to offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for horseback riding, hiking, camping, nature study, and sightseeing were identified. These opportunities were considered less than outstanding because of the few points of interest to seek out and the general lack of environmental diversity.

4. Supplemental Values: Wild horses are known to inhabit the area, and a portion of the Pinyon-Joshua Transition Natural Area is located here.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

25,206 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 16 specific comments on this unit. Nearly all noted roads, intrusions, or lack of outstanding opportunities. Most listed other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

25,206 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0337A

UNIT NAME: Company Spring North

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is just west of the town of Silver Peak and contains the eastern side of the Silver Peak Range, including Red Mountain. The topography is mountainous and rolling, with a few canyons. The vegetation is sparse pinyon-juniper on the hills, changing to blackbrush and joshua trees on the lower slopes. The southern and western boundaries skirt the Nivloc and Mohawk mining areas, and the northern boundary is a range access road serving Valcalda and Coyote Springs.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 10,880 acres of public land. Documented roads were found to separate a small area of 105 acres away from the main unit. This area is less than 5,000 acres and does not meet the size criterion. The remainder of the unit contains 10,775 acres.
2. Naturalness: There is mining activity along the northern and western boundaries. The level terrain to the east allows the outside intrusions of the townsite and evaporation ponds to impact that part of the unit. The area impacted by these intrusions is 5,850 acres. The central portion of the unit, 5,030 acres, appears natural and qualified for further evaluation.

3. Outstanding Opportunities for:

A. Solitude: The topographic and vegetative screening and the availability of secluded spots were not adequate to offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for horseback riding, hiking, camping, nature study, and sightseeing were identified. These opportunities were considered less than outstanding because of the few points of interest to seek out and the general lack of diversity.

4. Supplemental Values: Wild horses are known to inhabit the area.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

10,880 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 12 specific comments on this unit. Most noted roads, intrusions, or lack of outstanding opportunities and one discussed outstanding solitude. Many listed other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

10,880 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0338

UNIT NAME: Silver Peak Range North

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is 10 miles west of the town of Silver Peak and contains the northern end of the Silver Peak Range, including the Piper Peak area. The topography is mountainous and hilly, vegetated with pinyon-juniper, manzanita, and mountain mahogany. The southern boundary is the McAfee Canyon road, the eastern boundary is part of the Argentite Canyon road, the western boundary is formed by the private lands and access roads in Fish Lake Valley, and the remainder of the boundary is parts of several mining and range access roads.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 72,779 acres of public land. Documented roads were found to separate two small areas, totaling 800 acres, from the main unit. These areas are each less than 5,000 acres and do not meet the size criterion. The remainder of the unit contains 71,979 acres.

2. Naturalness: There are intrusion roads extending into the unit from every boundary, many of them terminating at mining activity. The developments on the private land to the west also impact naturalness. The portion of the unit impacted by these intrusions is 38,079 acres, leaving an area of 33,900 acres appearing natural. The imprints of man found outside the unit boundary were considered in the evaluation of the naturalness of this unit. Normally, exterior developments would be considered during the study process. In the exceptional situation found in this unit, outside impacts were evaluated during the inventory process because these impacts are so extremely imposing that they cannot be ignored, and if not used, reasonable application of inventory guidelines would be questioned.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The size of the natural area and the natural screening provided by its mountainous topography and pinyon-juniper vegetation offer many secluded spots. Opportunities to experience solitude are outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for horseback riding, hiking, camping, nature study, sightseeing, photography, and wildlife observation were identified. The diversity of the available activities provides an outstanding opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation in the natural area.
4. Supplemental Values: Wild horses and desert bighorn sheep are known to inhabit the area.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

72,779 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 37 specific comments on this unit. The majority of comments dealt with outstanding solitude and recreation although other wilderness values were discussed. Many noted roads, intrusions, and lack of outstanding opportunities. Most mentioned supplemental values and nine listed other resource values. One comment stated the area should be released from wilderness consideration. Also received were 2,326 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria. Fifteen additional comments were received during the initial inventory that could not be checked earlier due to accelerated inventory priorities. These were considered along with those noted above during the intensive inventory. Details on these comments can be found in the BLM's Initial Inventory Decision book.

FINAL DECISION:

33,900 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

38,879 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though public comments were received citing the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates that a portion of the area does possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation. The portion eliminated from WSA consideration was found not to possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0338A

UNIT NAME: Silver Peak Range South

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is 12 miles southwest of the town of Silver Peak and contains the south end of the Silver Peak Range, including Sugar Peak and White Wolf Canyon. The northern boundary is the McAfee Canyon road, the eastern and southern boundaries are parts of range access roads, and the western boundary is formed by private land and access roads in Fish Lake Valley. The unit also contains part of the Pinyon-Joshua Transition Natural Area.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. **Size:** The unit contains 54,845 acres of public land. Documented roads were found to divide the unit into 13 sections. Ten of these sections, totaling 6,570 acres, are each less than 5,000 acres and do not meet the size criterion. The remaining three sections are of sufficient size for further consideration: 0338A, 22,630 acres; 0338C, 15,440 acres, and 0338D, 10,205 acres.
2. **Naturalness:** The three sections are impacted by roads intruding into them from every boundary, many of them ending in mining activity. Developments on private land to the west are also visibly intrusive. Severe impacts decrease the natural acreage of 0338A by 13,090 acres, leaving 9,540 acres appearing natural. An area of 12,940 acres in 0338C is impacted, leaving 2,500 acres appearing natural. An area of 9,545 acres in 0338D is impacted, leaving 660 acres appearing natural. The natural portions of the three areas were further evaluated.
3. **Outstanding Opportunities for:**
 - A. **Solitude:** The sizes of 0338C and 0338D are inadequate to offer an opportunity for solitude. The topography of 0338A is mountainous and hilly, vegetated with pinyon-juniper, manzanita, and mountain mahogany. The natural screening is adequate to offer some secluded spots, but these are not numerous or readily available. The opportunity was not found to be outstanding.
 - B. **A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation:** Opportunities for horseback riding, camping, hiking, nature study, sightseeing, and photography were identified. The opportunity is limited to less than outstanding by the size of the natural areas in 0338C and 0338D and by the lack of objectives or attractions to seek out in 0338A.
4. **Supplemental Values:** Wild horses are known to inhabit the area, and a portion of the Pinyon-Joshua Transition Natural Area is located here.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

54,845 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 14 specific comments on this unit. Nearly all noted roads, intrusions, or lack of outstanding opportunities and seven listed other resource values. Fifteen additional comments were received during the initial inventory that could not be checked earlier due to accelerated inventory priorities. These were considered along with those noted above during the intensive inventory. Details on these comments can be found in the BLM's Initial Inventory Decision book.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

54,845 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received citing the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0339

UNIT NAME: Aiken

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is five miles northwest of Dyer, along the California/Nevada border. The southeastern boundary is the McAfee Creek road, the Perry Aiken Creek roads form part of the northern boundary, and the remainder of the unit boundary is formed by private lands and their access roads. The unit is contiguous on the southwest to the California Desert Conservation area Wilderness Study Area 100A, North Tip, 407 acres, and to Study Area 100, McAfee Creek, 456 acres. The unit is also contiguous to the U.S. Forest Service Wilderness Proposal No. 5-058.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 1,279 acres of public land. Although the unit is less than the minimum 5,000 acres, it meets the size criterion because it is contiguous with other public lands managed by California BLM and the U.S. Forest Service which have been formally determined to have wilderness values.
2. Naturalness: The unit has been impacted with two intrusion roads, a powerline, and by developments on surrounding adjacent private land. These intrusions, combined with the lack of natural screening and narrow configuration of the unit, impact the entire unit. No natural portion remains to be further evaluated for wilderness character. The imprints of man found outside the unit boundary were considered in the evaluation of the naturalness of this unit. Normally, exterior developments would be considered during the study process. In the excep-

tional situation found in this unit, outside impacts were evaluated during the inventory process because these impacts are so extremely imposing that they cannot be ignored, and if not used, reasonable application of inventory guidelines would be questioned.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

1,279 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: None were received on the intensive inventory, but other comments received during the initial inventory that could not be checked earlier due to accelerated inventory priorities were considered. Details on these comments can be found in the BLM's Initial Inventory Decision book.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

1,279 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Public comments were received citing absence of wilderness characteristics in this area, which is contiguous to lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service and the California BLM that previously were determined to have wilderness characteristics. Evidence available to the Bureau indicates that the public land portion is unnatural and does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0340

UNIT NAME: Red Mountain Triangle

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is along the California/Nevada boundary, in Fish Lake Valley. The northern boundary is the McAfee Creek road and the eastern boundary is the Toler Creek road. The unit is contiguous to the California Desert Conservation Area, Wilderness Study Area 101, Toler Creek, 897 acres. The unit is also contiguous to the U. S. Forest Service Wilderness Proposal #5-058.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size the unit contains 33 acres of public land. Although the unit contains less than the minimum 5,000 acres, it meets the size criterion because it is contiguous with public lands managed by California BLM and the U. S. Forest Service which have been formally determined to have wilderness values.
2. Naturalness: An eight-foot-wide concrete canal crosses the unit. Developments on adjacent private land also impact the unit and it was considered to lack naturalness. The imprints of man found outside the unit boundary were considered in the evaluation of the naturalness of this unit. Normally, exterior developments would be considered during the study process. In the exceptional situation found in this unit, outside impacts were evaluated during the inventory process because these impacts are so extremely imposing that they cannot be ignored, and if not used, reasonable application of inventory guidelines would be questioned.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

33 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit, mentioning roads, mining impacts, lack of outstanding opportunities, and other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

33 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: A public comment was received opposing WSA designation for this area, which is contiguous to lands managed by the U. S. Forest Service and the California BLM that previously were determined to have wilderness characteristics. Evidence available to the Bureau indicates that the public land portion is unnatural and does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0341

UNIT NAME: Furnace Creek

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is just northwest of Dyer. Its northern boundary is partially State Highway 3A and partially private lands, its western boundary is the Toler Creek road, and its eastern boundary is the Furnace Creek road. The unit is contiguous on the south to the California Desert Conservation Area Wilderness Study Area 102, Northwest Fish Lake Valley, 12,585 acres. The unit is also contiguous to the U. S. Forest Service Wilderness Proposal #5-058.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 1,050 acres of public land. The unit contains less than the minimum 5,000 acres but meets the size criterion because it is contiguous with public lands managed by California BLM and the U. S. Forest Service which have been formally determined to have wilderness values.
2. Naturalness: Iron Creek road divides the unit at its northern end, a canal and access road cross the unit north of this, and development on surrounding adjacent private land all impact the unit. Because of the narrow and broken-up configuration and the absence of natural screening, imposing sights and sounds of intrusions within and outside the unit impact it completely. There is no natural portion. The imprints of man found outside the unit boundary were considered in the evaluation of the naturalness of this unit. Normally, exterior developments would be considered during the study process. In the exceptional situation found in this unit, outside impacts were evaluated during the inventory process because these impacts are so extremely imposing that they cannot be ignored, and if not used, reasonable application of inventory guidelines would be questioned.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

1,050 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit, noting a road and other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

1,050 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: A public comment was received opposing WSA designation for this area, which is contiguous to lands managed by the U. S. Forest Service and the California BLM that previously were determined to have wilderness characteristics. Evidence available to the Bureau indicates that the public land portion is unnatural and does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0342

UNIT NAME: Palmetto Mountains

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is 10 miles south of the town of Silver Peak and contains the northwestern end of the Palmetto Mountains. The boundary is formed by parts of several unnamed mining and range access roads, serving the Palmetto Mine, Birch Creek Spring, and other developments. One mile of the southern unit boundary is State Highway 3.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 30,165 acres of public land. Documented roads divide the unit into seven sections. Five of these sections, totaling 4,860 acres, are each less than 5,000 acres and do not meet the size criterion. The remaining two sections, 0342, 16,225 acres and 0342B, 9,080 acres, are of sufficient size.
2. Naturalness: Both sections have been heavily impacted by mining activity. Intrusions have impacted 4,145 acres in 0342, leaving 12,080 acres appearing natural. 3,780 acres have been impacted in 0342B, with the remainder of the unit, 5,300 acres, appearing natural and qualified for further evaluation.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Both sections contain some mountainous, hilly terrain, sloping down to an outwash plain. The vegetation is sparse pinyon-juniper on the hills, changing to blackbrush and other low desert shrubs on the lower slopes. Some secluded spots would be available, but the opportunity for solitude would not be outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for horseback riding, camping, and nature study were identified. These opportunities are limited in both sections by the lack of objectives or attractions to seek out and lack of challenge to the recreationist.
4. Supplemental Values: Wild horses are known to inhabit the area.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

30,165 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit, noting roads, intrusions, and lack of solitude.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

30,165 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0344

UNIT NAME: Mount Jackson North

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is eight miles southwest of Goldfield and contains parts of the Goldfield Hills and the Cuprite Hills, vegetated with low desert shrubs. The western boundary is the road from State Highway 3 to Goldfield, the southern boundary skirts mining impacts, part of the eastern boundary is U.S. Highway 95, and the rest of the unit boundary is formed by parts of mining access roads.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 33,720 acres of public land. Documented roads were found to divide the unit into six sections. Four of these sections, totaling 1,807 acres, are each less than 5,000 acres and do not meet the size criterion. The two remaining sections are of sufficient size for further evaluation: unit 0344, 26,570 acres; and 0344H, 5,343 acres.
2. Naturalness: There is extensive mining activity in the northern and eastern portions of the unit, including pits, trenches, and access roads. These intrusions and a fenceline impact 11,580 acres in unit 0344, leaving a natural area of 14,990 acres. In unit 0344H, 1,703 acres are impacted, leaving a natural area of 3,640 acres.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The topography is primarily a broad flat valley, with a small portion of the Goldfield Hills to the north and a small portion of the Cuprite Hills to the southeast. The vegetation is blackbrush, shadscale, and sagebrush. Natural screening in both subunits provides only a few secluded spots, inadequate to offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for hiking, camping, backpacking, and horseback riding were identified. Their quality in both subunits is limited because of the lack of objectives or attractions to seek out, lack of vegetative and topographic diversity, and lack of challenge to the recreationist.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

33,720 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit. One mentioned transmission line impacts and the need for access roads. The second listed other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

33,720 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0344A

UNIT NAME: Mount Jackson South

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is 18 miles southwest of Goldfield and contains Mount Jackson. The southern boundary is State Highway 3, the western boundary is the road from Highway 3 to Goldfield, and the eastern boundary skirts mining impacts.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 6,184 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: Mining activity impacts the northwestern side of the unit and frequent traffic on the southern and western boundary roads is visually and audibly obtrusive. These imposing intrusions impact 4,084 acres, leaving 2,100 acres appearing natural and qualified for further evaluation.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The topography is primarily a flat valley with one mountain, Mount Jackson, in the southwestern corner. The vegetation is low desert shrubs. Secluded spots are difficult to find, and the opportunity for solitude is less than outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for hiking, camping, and horseback riding were identified. Their quality is limited because of the lack of objectives or attractions to seek out, lack of vegetation and topographic diversity, and lack of challenge to the recreationist.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

6,184 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit, mentioning mining impacts and other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

6,184 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by one public comment, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0345/NV-050-0345A

UNIT NAME: Chispa Hills

AREA DESCRIPTION: The units are just southeast of Goldfield and south of the Chispa Hills. The area is flat to rolling with low desert shrub vegetation. Its western boundary is U.S. Highway 95, its southern boundary is parts of access roads to Ralston, and the northern boundary skirts mining impacts in the Chispa Hills. Unit 0345A is contiguous on the east to the Las Vegas Bombing and Gunnery Range. The boundary separating the two units is an old railroad grade used and maintained for access to Ralston.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 30,599 acres of public land split into two sub-units: 0345 covering 21,094 acres and 0345A covering 9,505 acres.
2. Naturalness: Numerous mining and mineral assessment impacts are located to the south around Ralston and in the area around Mira Mountain to the north. The powerline running just within the unit along the western boundary also impacts the area. A portion, 8,614 acres, was dropped from 0345 for unnaturalness, leaving 12,480 acres appearing natural. A portion, 1,105 acres, was dropped from 0345A for unnaturalness, leaving 8,400 acres appearing natural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The units are both flat, with some low rolling hills to the north and south. The vegetation is low desert shrubs, and secluded spots would be difficult to find. In addition, the security restrictions and hazards of the units' proximity to the Bombing Range make the opportunity for solitude less than outstanding.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for horseback riding, hiking, camping, nature study, sightseeing, and rock-hounding were identified but the opportunity for primitive recreation in both units was determined to be less than outstanding because of the lack of vegetative and topographic diversity, lack of objectives or points of interest, and proximity to the Bombing Range.

4. Supplemental Values: Wild horses are known to inhabit the area, and Sclerocactus polyancistrus, a threatened and endangered plant, is thought to exist in the northern part of the unit 0345.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

30,599 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit, both mentioned intrusions and other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

30,599 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0349

UNIT NAME: Magruder Mountain

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is just south of Lida and contains Magruder Mountain. Its northern boundary is the old highway that runs parallel to and south of State Highway 3, the southern boundary is the Tule Canyon road, the western boundary is formed partially by the edge of adjacent private land and partially by a mining access road, and the eastern boundary is a county road from Lida to Gold Point and Tule Canyon.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 19,651 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: The northeastern corner is heavily impacted by the Lida dump and several mines with access roads. There are several roads extending far into the eastern side of the unit, especially one to a water development which is extremely visible. The eastern portion of the unit has been severely impacted by these roads. Along the northern boundary, a number of short roads lead to small camp sites. About 12,870 acres of this unit were determined to be natural. A portion, 6,781 acres, is unnatural.

3. Outstanding Opportunities for:

A. Solitude: The topography of the natural area is primarily Magruder Mountain and adjacent mountains and foothills in the north and west. Toward the south and east the land is level and sloping. The vegetation in this area is low desert shrubs and yucca, changing to pinyon-juniper on the mountain. The screening in the mountainous area is good and would provide a number of secluded spots. This area is small, however, and the number of users would be limited. The opportunity for solitude is not outstanding.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for horseback riding, camping, hiking, sightseeing, and nature study were identified, with camping and hiking being the highest quality available activities. Lida Summit, a designated recreation site, lies at the northwestern corner of the unit. While the area would provide very good opportunities for camping, as a number of primitive camp sites indicate, the diversity and quality of the opportunity for primitive recreation in this unit was not found to be outstanding.

4. Supplemental Values: A threatened and endangered plant, Heuchera duranii, is thought to exist in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

19,651 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received three specific comments on this unit, mentioning roads, mining impacts or lack of outstanding opportunities. All three listed other resource values. Nine additional comments were received during the initial inventory that could not be checked due to accelerated inventory priorities. These were considered along with those noted above during the intensive inventory. Details on these comments can be found in the BLM's Initial Inventory Decision book.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

19,651 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received citing the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-350

UNIT NAME: Pigeon Spring

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is 10 miles west of Lida and contains the east end of the Sylvania Mountains. Its northern boundary is the Sylvania Canyon road and part of State Highway 3, and the eastern boundary is the Cucomungo Canyon road. The unit is contiguous on the southwest to the California Desert Conservation Area Wilderness Study Area 111, Sylvania Mountains, 14,983 acres.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 6,977 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: Extensive and active mining impacts the northern boundary. Some mining development outside the unit boundary is obtrusive enough to impact naturalness within the unit, especially in the southeastern corner. A portion, 3,402 acres, appears unnatural. The remainder of the unit, 3,575 acres, is natural. The imprints of man found outside the unit boundary were considered in the evaluation of the naturalness of this unit. Normally, exterior developments would be considered during the study process. In the exceptional situation found in this unit, outside impacts were evaluated during the inventory process because these impacts are so extremely imposing that they cannot be ignored, and if not used, reasonable application of inventory guidelines would be questioned.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The topography is part of the Sylvania Mountains, including several canyons. The vegetation primarily is pinyon-juniper. Natural screening is adequate to provide several secluded spots. Opportunities for solitude are outstanding when considered in conjunction with the larger California BLM wilderness study area. An arbitrary administrative boundary, which is unmarked on the ground, is all that separates this unit from the CDCA wilderness study area. Therefore, the outstanding opportunities already identified on the California land are shared by the Las Vegas District portion.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for hiking, camping, and rock collecting were identified. These share the outstanding qualities already identified in the contiguous wilderness study area.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

4,750 acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

2,227 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received ten specific comments on this unit. Several discussed the presence of wilderness values but most cited roads, intrusions, or lack of outstanding opportunities. Two noted supplemental values and three listed other resource values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria. Eight additional comments were received during the initial inventory that could not be checked earlier due to accelerated inventory priorities. These were considered along with those noted above during the intensive inventory. Details on these comments can be found in the BLM's Initial Inventory Decision book.

FINAL DECISION:

3,575 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

3,402 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Public comments were received citing the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics in this area, which is contiguous to lands managed by the California BLM that previously were determined to have wilderness characteristics. Evidence available to the Bureau indicates that one Nevada public land portion appears natural, and when combined with the adjoining state unit, also possesses the other necessary criteria for WSA designation. The portion eliminated from WSA consideration was not found to possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0351

UNIT NAME: Uncle Sam

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is along the California/Nevada border, 10 miles southwest of Lida Summit. Its eastern and northern boundaries are formed by the Tule Canyon road, its northwestern boundary is defined by private land, and the western boundary is the Cucomungo Canyon road. The unit is contiguous on the southwest to the California Desert Conservation Area Wilderness Study Area 112, Last Chance Range, 36,287 acres.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 24,223 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: The unit has been heavily impacted by mining around all its boundaries and at the end of several intrusion roads penetrating the unit. The area impacted by these intrusions is 19,043 acres, leaving 5,180 acres appearing natural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The topography is a small extension of Last Chance Range, vegetated with sparse pinyon-juniper on the hillsides, and various shrubs in the washes. Because of the configuration of the unit and the views and sounds of the numerous and extremely imposing intrusions outside the natural area, this unit was not considered to offer outstanding opportunity for solitude, nor to share the opportunities identified on the contiguous wilderness study area.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities were identified for hiking, camping, nature study, and hunting. These were not considered outstanding nor do they share the outstanding opportunities identified in the contiguous wilderness study area because of the restrictive configuration of the natural area and the extremely imposing views and sounds of the adjacent mining activity.

4. Supplemental Values: Sclerocactus polyancistrus, an endangered plant, is thought to exist in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

24,223 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received five specific comments on this unit. Most noted roads, mining impacts, or lack of outstanding opportunities. Three noted other resource values. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria. Eleven additional comments were received during the initial inventory that could not be checked earlier due to accelerated inventory priorities. These were considered along with those noted above during the intensive inventory. Details on these comments can be found in the BLM's Initial Inventory Decision book.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

24,223 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Public comments were received citing the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics in this area, which is contiguous to lands managed by the California BLM that previously were determined to have wilderness characteristics. Evidence available to the Bureau indicates that the Nevada public land portion, even when combined with the adjoining state unit, does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0352

UNIT NAME: Slate Ridge West

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is just east of the town of Gold Point. It contains part of the Lida Valley and part of Slate Ridge, including Mt. Dunfee. The topography is mountainous to the south, including a portion of Slate Ridge. The rest of the unit is rolling hills sloping outward to a broad flat valley. The vegetation is primarily low desert shrubs, with a few scattered pinyon on Slate Ridge. The northern boundary is partially the Gold Point road and partially the Stone-wall Pass road, and the remainder of the unit boundary is parts of mining access roads.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 28,874 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: There are intrusion roads, mining activity, and developments from Gold Point extending into the unit. These intrusions impact 9,514 acres, leaving an area of 19,360 acres appearing natural and qualified for further evaluation.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: There would be some secluded spots provided by the topographic screening to the south, but their availability is not sufficient to provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for horseback riding, hiking, camping, nature study, sightseeing, and rock collecting are available, but their quality is limited by the lack of vegetative diversity.
4. Supplemental Values: Wild horses are known to inhabit the area.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

28,874 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received three specific comments on this unit. Intrusions and the need for access roads to power lines were noted.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

28,874 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0352A

UNIT NAME: Slate Ridge East

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is 10 miles east of town of Gold Point. Its terrain is rolling hills, vegetated with desert shrubs, a few joshua trees, and scattered pinyon-juniper. The northern boundary is primarily the Stonewall Pass road, and the remainder of the unit boundary is parts of several mining access roads.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 8,813 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: There is a powerline along the northeastern boundary and a few areas of mining activity. These intrusions impact 2,228 acres, leaving an area of 6,585 acres appearing natural and qualified for further evaluation.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Secluded spots are not easily available, and the opportunity for solitude is not outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for horseback riding, hiking, camping, nature study, sightseeing, and rock collecting are available, but their quality is limited by the lack of vegetative and topographic diversity.
4. Supplemental Values: Wild horses are known to inhabit the area.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

8,813 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit, noting intrusions and other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

8,813 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by the public comment, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0353

UNIT NAME: Hell's Gate

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is northwest of Beatty, in the Sarcobatus Flats area, and contains Rattlesnake Mountain. The northern boundary is the road to Tokop radio tower and Hell's Gate, the western and southern boundaries are mining access roads, and the eastern boundary is formed partially by State Highway 72 and partially by a range access road.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 19,596 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: A utility line and a way run just within the northwestern boundary. There are three water developments along the northern boundary, and mining activity to the northwest. These intrusions impact 3,536 acres which are unnatural. The remaining 16,060 acres appear natural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The topography consists of hills and low mountains to the northwest, including Rattlesnake Mountain. The rest of the unit is rolling hills and valleys. The vegetation is creosote and other low desert shrubs, with scattered joshua trees and yucca to the northwest. Topographic screening would provide some secluded spots, but these would be few and the opportunity for solitude would be less than outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for hiking and horseback riding were identified, but their quality was found to be less than outstanding because of a lack of vegetative and topographic diversity, and lack of challenge to the recreationist.
4. Supplemental Values: Wild horses are known to inhabit the area.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

19,596 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received four specific comments on this unit, noting roads, intrusions and lack of outstanding opportunities. All four listed other resource values. Nine additional comments were received during the initial inventory that could not be checked earlier due to accelerated inventory priorities. These were considered along with those noted above during the intensive inventory. Details on these comments can be found in the BLM's Initial Inventory Decision book.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

19,596 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received citing the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0354

UNIT NAME: Queer Mountain

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is 30 miles northwest of Beatty, along the California/Nevada State boundary. The vegetation consists of low desert shrubs over most of the unit. The area around Gold Mountain to the northeast has some trees, and there is a dense stand of joshua trees in the northern tip of the unit. The topography is a low mountain range, including Gold, Cove, and Queer Mountains. There are numerous canyons, and small valleys. Its northwestern boundary is the Oriental Wash road, its northeastern boundary is the road to Willow Spring, and its southeastern boundary is State Highway 72. The unit is contiguous on the southwest to the California Desert Conservation Area Wilderness Study Area 119, Little Sand Spring, 32,876 acres, and to the Death Valley National Monument wilderness proposal, Unit 1, 19,000 acres. It contains the Gold Mountain Range.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 88,729 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: There is heavy mining activity in the western corner of the unit and a stock watering development at Willow Spring along the northern boundary. These intrusions and their impacts result in 7,179 acres being dropped from further wilderness consideration because of unnaturalness. The natural portion contains 81,550 acres.

The imprints of man found outside the unit boundary were considered in the evaluation of the naturalness of this unit. Normally, exterior developments would be considered during the study process. In the exceptional situation found in this unit, outside impacts were evaluated during the inventory process because these impacts are so extremely imposing that they cannot be ignored, and if not used, reasonable application of inventory guidelines would be questioned.

3. Outstanding Opportunities for:

A. Solitude: The topographic screening available in the large natural portion provides a number of secluded spots. This unit shares the outstanding opportunity for solitude already identified by the National Park Service and the California BLM on their

contiguous wilderness proposals.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for hiking, camping, backpacking, nature study, and horseback riding were identified. Their quality was considered to be good to excellent because of the large size of the unit. This unit also shares the outstanding opportunities already identified on the contiguous wilderness proposals.

4. Supplemental Values: Wild horses are thought to inhabit the northern part of this unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

70,600 acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

18,129 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

(These figures differ from the Bureau's earlier recommendation due to a more accurate acreage assessment).

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 10 specific comments on this unit. Several discussed intrusions and lack of outstanding opportunities. One noted a buffer zone and another suggested a boundary change. A few mentioned the area's naturalness and outstanding solitude and recreation. Three noted other resource values.

Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria. Eight additional comments were received during the initial inventory that could not be checked earlier due to accelerated inventory priorities. These were considered along with those noted above during the intensive inventory. Details on these comments can be found in the BLM's Initial Inventory Decision book.

FINAL DECISION:

81,550 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

7,179 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Public comments were received citing both the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics in this area, which is contiguous to lands managed by the National Park Service and the California BLM that previously were determined to have wilderness characteristics. Evidence available to the Bureau indicates that one Nevada public land portion appears natural, and when combined with the adjoining agency units, also possesses the other necessary criteria for WSA designation. The portion eliminated from WSA consideration was not found to possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0355

UNIT NAME: Bonnie Claire Flat

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is 20 miles northwest of Beatty, in the Grapevine Mountains. It is contiguous on the south and southwest to the Death Valley National Monument wilderness proposal, Unit 4, 138,900 acres. The western boundary is State Highway 72 and the eastern boundary is the road between Bonnie Claire and the Bullfrog Hills.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 81,776 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: A powerline runs just within the western boundary. There is a powerline and pump at Grapevine Summit Well, a material site at the northern end of the unit, mining impacts and a fence to the northeast, and an abandoned railroad grade to the southeast. These intrusions impact the perimeter of the unit, resulting in 12,776 acres being dropped for unnaturalness. The remainder of the unit, 69,000 acres appears natural.

The imprints of man found outside the unit boundary were considered in the evaluation of the naturalness of this unit. Normally, exterior developments would be considered during the study process. In the exceptional situation found in this unit, outside impacts were evaluated during the inventory process because these impacts are so extremely imposing that they cannot be ignored, and if not used, reasonable application of inventory guidelines would be questioned.

3. Outstanding Opportunities for:

A. Solitude: The topography is dominated by the Grapevine Mountains, curving from the southwestern corner northward to the tip of the unit. The land slopes west to Bonnie Claire Flat and east to Sarcobatus Flats, leaving the major ridgelines between them. The vegetation is primarily low desert shrubs with scattered joshua trees. There is some pinyon-juniper at the southwest end of the mountains, and deciduous riparian communities in the canyon bottoms. The large size and topographic screening of the unit provide excellent opportunities to find secluded spots and an outstanding opportunity for solitude. It also shares the outstanding opportunities already identified in the National Monument portion.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for hiking, camping, backpacking, nature study, and rock collecting were identified. These would share the outstanding qualities already identified in the contiguous wilderness proposal.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

54,900 acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

26,876 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration. (These figures differ from the Bureau's earlier recommendation due to a more accurate acreage assessment).

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 11 specific comments on this unit. Several noted intrusions and lack of outstanding opportunities. Needs for a buffer zone and boundary adjustments were mentioned. A few discussed the area's naturalness and outstanding solitude and recreation, one noted supplemental values, and three listed other resource values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria. Eight additional comments were received during the initial inventory that could not be checked earlier due to accelerated inventory priorities. These were considered along with those noted above during the intensive inventory. Details on these comments can be found in the BLM's Initial Inventory Decision book.

FINAL DECISION:

69,000 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

12,776 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Public comments were received citing the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics for this area, which is contiguous to lands managed by the National Park Service that previously were determined to have wilderness characteristics. Evidence available to the Bureau indicates that one public land portion appears natural, and when combined with the adjoining agency unit, also possesses the other necessary criteria for WSA designation. The portion eliminated from WSA consideration was not found to possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0358

UNIT NAME: Can You Believe

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is 10 miles northwest of Beatty. The topography is a broad rolling alluvial fan sloping from the west downward to the east. The vegetation is blackbrush and other low desert shrubs with occasional yuccas. The eastern, northern, and western boundaries are unnamed range access roads, and the unit is contiguous on the south side to Death Valley National Monument.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 32,327 acres of public land. A documented road was found to separate the eastern corner away from the original unit. This area, 3,860 acres, is less than 5,000 acres and of insufficient size for further wilderness consideration. The remainder of the unit contains 28,467 acres.

2. Naturalness: A way extends into the unit for six miles from the National Monument, and two old railroad grades run close to parts of the western and northern boundaries. These intrusions impact an area of 960 acres, which is unnatural. The majority of the unit, 27,507 acres, appears natural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The natural screening is inadequate to provide secluded spots and allows activities of users to be seen from everywhere in the unit. Therefore, the opportunity for solitude was not found to be outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for horseback riding, hiking, camping, nature study, sightseeing, and hunting were identified, but the opportunity for primitive recreation was found to be less than outstanding because of the lack of topographic and vegetative diversity, and lack of challenge to the recreationist.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

32,327 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit, mentioning other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

32,327 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by the public comment, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0368

UNIT NAME: Porter Mine

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is 10 miles southwest of Beatty, in the Amargosa Desert. The topography is low rolling hills sloping down to an alluvial terrace. The vegetation is creosote, blackbrush, and other low desert shrubs. Its eastern boundary is the Chloride Cliff road and an unnamed mining access road. The unit is contiguous on the remainder of its boundary to the Death

Valley National Monument Wilderness proposal, Unit 6, 8,800 acres, in both Nevada and California.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 6,689 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: The unit is contiguous at its northern tip to State Highway 58. The heavy traffic on this route was considered extremely imposing, and visually and audibly impacts naturalness in the northern 600 acres of the unit. The remainder, 6,089 acres, appears natural.

The imprints of man found outside the unit boundary were considered in the evaluation of the naturalness of this unit. Normally, exterior developments would be considered during the study process. In the exceptional situation found in this unit, outside impacts were evaluated during the inventory process because these impacts are so extremely imposing that they cannot be ignored, and if not used, reasonable application of inventory guidelines would be questioned.

3. Outstanding Opportunities for:

A. Solitude: This unit has outstanding opportunities for solitude when considered in conjunction with the contiguous larger unit administered by the National Park Service.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, and camping were identified. These share the same outstanding wilderness character already identified in the contiguous wilderness proposal.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

6,089 acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

600 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received seven specific comments on this unit. Several discussed the area's naturalness and outstanding solitude and recreation. One suggested a boundary adjustment, and another stated the area was too small. A few discussed the lack of outstanding opportunities. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

6,089 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

600 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation for this area, which is contiguous to lands managed by the National Park Service that previously were determined to have wilderness characteristics. Evidence available to the Bureau indicates that one public land portion appears natural, and when combined with the adjoining agency unit, also possesses the other necessary criteria for WSA designation. The portion eliminated from WSA consideration was not found to possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0369

UNIT NAME: Amargosa

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is 10 miles south of Beatty, in the Amargosa Desert. Its western, northern, and eastern boundaries are unnamed mining access roads. The topography is mainly an alluvial fan sloping down toward the northeast, with some low, rolling hills to the south. The vegetation is low desert shrubs. It is contiguous on the south to the Death Valley National Monument wilderness proposal, Unit 8, Funeral Mountains, 120,600 acres.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. **Size:** The unit contains 12,526 acres of public land.
2. **Naturalness:** Mining activity along the eastern boundary impacts 73 acres, which are unnatural. The remainder of the unit, 12,453 acres, appears natural.
3. **Outstanding Opportunities for:**
 - A. **Solitude:** Natural screening and size provide some secluded spots. This unit has outstanding opportunities for solitude when considered in conjunction with the large contiguous unit administered by the National Park Service.
 - B. **A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation:** Opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, and camping were identified. These share the outstanding quality already identified in the contiguous wilderness proposal.
4. **Supplemental Values:** No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

12,453 acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

73 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received nine specific comments on this unit. Several discussed the area's naturalness and outstanding recreation and solitude. One suggested a boundary change, and another stated the area was too small. A few discussed intrusions or lack of outstanding opportunities.

One noted supplemental values and two listed other resource values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

12,453 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

73 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation for this area, which is contiguous to lands managed by the National Park Service that previously were determined to have wilderness characteristics. Evidence available to the Bureau indicates that one public land portion appears natural, and when combined with the adjoining agency unit, also possesses the other necessary criteria for WSA designation. The portion eliminated from WSA consideration was not found to possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0370

UNIT NAME: Nothing Flats

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is 10 miles south of Beatty in the Amargosa Desert. The topography is flat to rolling and vegetated with low desert shrubs. The western boundary is a Funeral Mountains access road and the eastern boundary is the Gibraltar Mine/Lees Mountain road. The unit is contiguous on the south to Death Valley National Monument's wilderness proposal, Unit 8, Funeral Mountains, 120,600 acres.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 12,055 acres of public land. Documented roads split the unit into four sections, one of which, 230 acres, does not meet the size criterion. Sections A, 560 acres, and B,

1605 acres, are also less than the minimum 5,000 acres, but meet the size criterion because they are contiguous with lands managed by the National Park Service which have been formally determined to have wilderness or potential wilderness values. The remaining section, 0370, 9,660 acres, meets the size criterion.

2. Naturalness: There is extensive mining activity in the southeastern portion of 0370, impacting 150 acres. The remaining natural area contains 9,510 acres. Section A appears natural, and section B has had 755 acres impacted by heavy mining adjacent to the unit, leaving 850 acres appearing natural.

The imprints of man found outside the unit boundary were considered in the evaluation of the naturalness of this unit. Normally, exterior developments would be considered during the study process. In the exceptional situation found in this unit, outside impacts were evaluated during the inventory process because these impacts are so extremely imposing that they cannot be ignored, and if not used, reasonable application of inventory guidelines would be questioned.

3. Outstanding Opportunities for:

A. Solitude: The configurations of sections A and B, as narrow fingers extending into Nevada, prevent them from sharing the outstanding opportunities identified on the contiguous California land. The remaining section, 0370, offers outstanding opportunities for solitude when considered in conjunction with the large contiguous unit administered by the National Park Service.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, and camping were identified. In section 0370, these share the outstanding qualities already identified in the contiguous NPS wilderness proposal. The configurations of sections A and B prevent them from sharing these outstanding opportunities.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

9,510 acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

2,545 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 14 specific comments on this unit. Several discussed the area's naturalness and outstanding solitude and recreation. Most mentioned roads, intrusions, or lack of outstanding opportunities. One stated the size was too small and one listed other resource values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

9,510 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

2,545 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation for this area, which is contiguous to lands managed by the National Park Service that previously were determined to have wilderness characteristics. Evidence available to the Bureau indicates that one public land portion appears natural, and when combined with the adjoining agency unit, also possesses the other necessary criteria for WSA designation. The portions eliminated from WSA consideration were not found to possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0372

UNIT NAME: Crater Flat

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is 11 miles southeast of Beatty and contains the north end of Yucca Mountain. It also contains the formations known as Black, Red, and Little Cones. The dominant topographic feature is Yucca Mountain, a rounded ridgeline in the eastern portion of the unit. There are two cinder cones to the west and a few rolling hills. Most of the unit is level, part of Crater Flat. The vegetation is creosote and other low desert shrubs. The western boundary is a range access road and the southern boundary is a mining and range access road. The unit is contiguous on the north and east to Nellis Air Force Range and the Nevada Test Site.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 37,242 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: Severe mining impacts just outside the unit were determined to be extremely imposing and cause 1,392 acres on the western side to appear unnatural. The remainder of the unit, 35,850 acres, is natural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Topographic screening provides some secluded spots, but overall opportunity for solitude is less than outstanding. The unit's proximity to the Nevada Test Site with the associated security restrictions and physical hazards severely detracts from a feeling of solitude.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for horseback riding, hiking, camping, nature study, and sightseeing were identified. Hiking on the topographic features mentioned is the highest quality activity available. The opportunity for primitive recreation was not found to be outstanding because of the lack of vegetative and topographic diversity, lack of recreational challenge, and the proximity of the Nevada Test Site.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

37,242 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit. One mentioned a need for access roads to powerlines and one noted other resource values. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

37,242 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0373

UNIT NAME: Black Marble

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is 12 miles southeast of Beatty and contains the southern end of Yucca Mountains and part of Crater Flat. Its southern boundary is U.S. Highway 95, its western and northern boundaries are range access roads, and it is contiguous on the east to the Nevada Test Site.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 28,864 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: Intrusion roads and heavy traffic on the southern boundary were determined to create an extremely imposing impact on that portion of the unit. 18,045 acres remain natural; 10,819 acres do not meet the naturalness criterion.

3. Outstanding Opportunities for:

A. Solitude: Yucca Mountain and some small hills to the south provide some topographic screening. The remainder of the unit is a flat alluvial fan, and the vegetation is low desert shrubs. Secluded spots are difficult to find and the opportunity for solitude is not outstanding.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for horseback riding, hiking, camping, nature study, and sightseeing are available, but their quality is limited by the lack of environmental diversity and the security restrictions and hazards associated with the unit's proximity to the Test Site.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

28,864 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received three specific comments on this unit. One mentioned a need for access roads to powerlines. Two listed other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

28,864 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0375

UNIT NAME: Big Dune

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is 10 miles west of Lathrop Wells in the Amargosa Desert. It contains the well-known Big Dune. Its eastern, northern, and western boundaries are formed by unnamed mining, ranching, and recreational access roads. The southern boundary is partially a powerline maintenance road and partially formed by the boundaries between BLM and private land.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 21,900 acres of public land. Several documented intrusion roads were found to separate the unit into

seven sections. Six of these sections, totaling 7,335 acres, are each less than 5,000 acres and do not meet the size criterion. The remainder of the unit contains 14,565 acres.

2. Naturalness: The northern end of the unit, because of its extreme flatness, is impacted by the heavy traffic on the boundary roads, and there are several intrusion roads used for access to Big Dune. The remainder of the unit, 8,200 acres, appears natural. The unnatural portions, 6,365 acres, are dropped from further wilderness consideration.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The vegetation consists of creosote and other low desert shrubs. The topography in the unit is a broad flat valley, with the large sand dune formation covering about 900 acres in the northern end of the natural area. The only natural screening is the dune itself, which provides only a limited amount of seclusion. The opportunity for solitude in this area was not found to be outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Although the area is primarily used for off road vehicle activities, opportunities for hiking, camping, horseback riding, and nature study were identified. Nature study would be of the most interest because of the unique stationary sand dune and the presence of Giuliani's Dune beetle. However, the diversity and the quality of the available primitive recreational opportunities in the natural portion of the unit were not found to be outstanding.
4. Supplemental Values: Big Dune provides habitat for the Giuliani's Dune scarab beetle, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service threatened species. Two species of animals classified by Federal and State laws as rare, the gila monster and the desert tortoise, may possibly inhabit the area.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

21,900 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received three specific comments on this unit. One mentioned mining impacts and all three listed other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

21,900 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0376

UNIT NAME: Dry Well

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is 15 miles south of Beatty, in the Amargosa Desert. It has a mountainous area at its southern end, but is primarily a flat alluvial fan vegetated with creosote. The northern boundary is the access road for the abandoned Tonopah and Tidewater Railroad, the eastern boundary is a recreational access road to Big Dune, to the east, and the remainder of the unit boundary is formed by mining and range access roads.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 21,732 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: The mountain in the southern portion of the unit has been scarred on all but the northern face with mining and mineral assessment work. The dismantled Tonopah and Tidewater Railroad runs within the eastern portion of the unit. These intrusions impact 13,132 acres, leaving an area of 8,600 acres appearing natural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The southern part of the natural area is a low mountain, sloping down to a flat plain to the north. The vegetation is creosote and other low desert shrubs. Natural screening provides few secluded spots and the opportunity for solitude is less than outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, and camping were identified, but their quality is limited by a lack of vegetative and topographic diversity, and lack of challenge to the recreationist.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

21,732 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received three specific comments on this unit. One mentioned mining impacts and all three listed other resource values. Eight additional comments were received during the initial inventory that could not be checked earlier due to accelerated inventory priorities. These were considered along with those noted above during the intensive inventory. Details on these comments can be found in the BLM's Initial Inventory Decision book.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

21,732 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received citing the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0377

UNIT NAME: Jokerville

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is 10 miles southwest of Lathrop Wells, in the Amargosa Desert. The topography is a flat broad valley, vegetated with creosote and other low desert shrubs. The northern boundary is the Lees Camp road and the eastern boundary is the Old Tonopah and Tidewater Railroad grade. The unit is contiguous on the southwest to the Death Valley National Monument wilderness proposal, Unit 9, 51,500 acres; and to the California Desert Conservation Area Wilderness Study Area 143, Funeral Mountain, 46,529 acres.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 4,625 acres of public land. Although the unit contains less than the minimum 5,000 acres of public land, it meets the size criterion because it is contiguous with lands managed by California BLM and the National Park Service which have been formally determined to have wilderness values.
2. Naturalness: The unit is heavily impacted by extremely imposing developments on the interior and adjacent private lands including several roads, buildings, fences, a dump, and cultivated fields. The lack of natural screening on the public acreage makes these intrusions visible from any point in the unit. The entire unit is considered to have an unnatural appearance.

The imprints of man found outside the unit boundary were considered in the evaluation of the naturalness of this unit. Normally, exterior developments would be considered during the study process. In the exceptional situation found in this unit, outside impacts were evaluated during the inventory process because these impacts are so extremely imposing that they cannot be ignored, and if not used, reasonable application of inventory guidelines would be questioned.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

4,625 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit, mentioning other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

4,625 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION:

Public comments were received opposing WSA designation for this area, which is contiguous to lands managed by the National Park Service and the California BLM that previously were determined to have wilderness characteristics. Evidence available to the Bureau indicates that the Nevada public land portion is unnatural and does not possess the other necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0386

UNIT NAME: Claw

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is along the California/Nevada border, 12 miles south of Lida Summit. It is a flat, sloping area, vegetated with creosote. The eastern boundary is the Tule Canyon road, and the western boundary is a mining access road. The unit is contiguous on the southwest to the California Desert Conservation Area Wilderness Study Area 118, North Death Valley, 7,961 acres.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 820 acres of public land. Although the unit contains less than the minimum 5,000 acres, it meets the size criterion because it is contiguous with public lands managed by the California BLM which have been formally determined to have wilderness values.
2. Naturalness: Two mineral assessment pits were located along the eastern boundary and a short intrusion road leads from the western

boundary to several mining claims. These are not obtrusive, and the unit appears natural.

3. Outstanding Opportunities for:

A. Solitude: The unit is sparsely vegetated with creosote and blackbrush. It is flat and slopes toward Death Valley. The configuration is a narrow "claw" shape extending into Nevada. This configuration prevents any opportunity for solitude, even when the unit is considered as part of the contiguous wilderness proposal.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities were identified for sightseeing, horseback riding, hiking, camping, and nature study. The unit's restrictive configuration prevents an outstanding opportunity for primitive recreation, even when the unit is considered as part of the contiguous wilderness proposal.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

820 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit, mentioning mining impacts and other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

820 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Public comments were received opposing WSA designation for this area, which is contiguous to lands managed by the California BLM that previously were determined to have wilderness characteristics. Evidence available to the Bureau indicates that the Nevada public land portion, even when combined with the adjoining agency unit, does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0387

UNIT NAME: Old McNett Ranch

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is northwest of Dyer, in the Fish Lake Valley. The eastern boundary is State Highway 3A, the northern boundary is Chiatovich Creek road, and the southern boundary is private lands. The unit is contiguous on the west to the Inyo National Forest.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 23,661 acres of public land. Documented roads were found to divide the unit into six pieces. Five of these pieces, totaling 14,110 acres, are each less than 5,000 acres and do not meet the size criterion. The remaining portion contains 9,551 acres.
2. Naturalness: Developed private lands in the interior and adjacent to the unit heavily impact the unit's appearance. Intrusion roads extend into the unit from the boundary. These intrusions are especially obtrusive because of the flat topography and low vegetation. The unit was not considered to have any natural portion.

The imprints of man found outside the unit boundary were considered in the evaluation of the naturalness of this unit. Normally, exterior developments would be considered during the study process. In the exceptional situation found in this unit, outside impacts were evaluated during the inventory process because these impacts are so extremely imposing that they cannot be ignored, and if not used, reasonable application of inventory guidelines would be questioned.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

23,661 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit, mentioning roads, mining impacts and lack of outstanding opportunities. Both listed other resource values. Twelve additional comments were received during the initial inventory that could not be checked earlier due to accelerated inventory priorities. These were considered along with those noted above during the intensive inventory. Details on these comments can be found in the BLM's Initial Inventory Decision book.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

23,661 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received citing the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-03R-11A

UNIT NAME: Fish Lake Valley

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is just south of the town of Dyer. The northern boundary is the Furnace Creek road, and the eastern boundary is State Highway 3A. The unit is contiguous on the southwest to the California Desert Conser-

vation Area Wilderness Study Area 102, Northwest Fish Lake Valley, 12,585 acres. The unit is also contiguous to the U.S. Forest Service wilderness proposal #5-058.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 165 acres of public land. Although the unit contains less than the minimum 5,000 acres, it meets the size criterion because it is contiguous with public lands managed by California BLM and the U.S. Forest Service which have been formally determined to have wilderness values.
2. Naturalness: There is a large gravel pit at the southern end of the unit, and extensive development of adjacent private land is considered extremely imposing and also heavily impacts the unit. The configuration is extremely narrow and there are no places within this unit where man's activities are not obtrusive. There was no natural portion. The imprints of man found outside the unit boundary were considered in the evaluation of the naturalness of this unit. Normally, exterior developments would be considered during the study process. In the exceptional situation found in this unit, outside impacts were evaluated during the inventory process because these impacts are so extremely imposing that they cannot be ignored, and if not used, reasonable application of inventory guidelines would be questioned.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

165 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: None received.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

165 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: No public comments were received for this area, which is contiguous to lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service and the California BLM that previously were determined to have wilderness characteristics. Evidence available to the Bureau indicates that the public land portion is unnatural and does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-03R-12

UNIT NAME: Pinto Hill

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is 25 miles west of Coaldale Junction, at the base of the White Mountains. Its topography is a sweeping outwash plain with a few rolling hills, vegetated with low desert shrubs. The western boundary is the Inyo National Forest, the eastern boundary is the Sand Spring Canyon road, the southern boundary is the Rock Creek road, and the northern boundary is U.S. Highway 6.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 16,712 acres of public land. Documented roads were found to split the unit into seven sections. Six of these sections, totaling 8,840 acres, are each less than the minimum 5,000 acres and therefore, do not meet the size criterion. The remaining section contains 7,872 acres.
2. Naturalness: The unit's lack of natural screening allows the impacts of powerlines, roads, buildings, and range and mining developments along the boundaries and just outside the unit to affect the naturalness of the entire unit. These boundary developments created an extremely imposing impact on naturalness. There was no natural portion to further evaluate for wilderness character.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

16,712 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit, mentioning roads, intrusions, and lack of outstanding opportunities. One listed other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

16,712 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-03R-15A

UNIT NAME: Lida Valley

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is 12 miles south of Lida Summit, along the California/Nevada border. The southeastern boundary is the Oriental Wash road, the northeastern boundary is a mining access road, and the northwestern boundary is the Tule Canyon road. The unit is contiguous on the southwest to the California Desert Conservation Area Wilderness Study Area 119, Little Sand Spring, 32,876 acres. Its topography is flat and sloping, vegetated with low desert shrubs.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 852 acres of public land. Although the unit contains less than the minimum 5,000 acres, it meets the size criterion because it is contiguous with public lands managed by California BLM which have been formally determined to have wilderness values.

2. Naturalness: No noticeable intrusions were observed in the unit. It appears natural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The topography is flat and sloping down toward Death Valley in California, vegetated solely with sparse blackbrush and other low desert shrubs. The configuration of this unit, extending fingerlike into Nevada, prevents it from sharing the outstanding opportunity for solitude identified in the contiguous wilderness proposal.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for sightseeing, horseback riding, hiking, camping, and nature study were identified. The extremely narrow configuration of this unit prevents it from sharing the outstanding opportunity for primitive recreation identified in the contiguous wilderness proposal.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

852 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit, mentioning roads, mining impacts, and lack of solitude. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

852 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation for this area, which is contiguous to lands managed by the California BLM that previously were determined to have wilderness characteristics. Evidence available to the Bureau indicates that the public land portion, even when combined with the adjoining agency unit, does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-03R-22

UNIT NAME: Gem

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is 10 miles southwest of Beatty, in the Amargosa Desert. Its eastern and western boundaries are mining access roads. The unit is contiguous on the south to the Death Valley National Monument wilderness proposal, Unit 8, Funeral Mountains, 120,600 acres.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit totals 2,193 acres of public land. Although the unit is less than the minimum 5,000 acres, it meets the size criterion because it is contiguous with lands managed by the National Park Service which have been formally determined to have wilderness values.
2. Naturalness: An intrusion road is located at the southwestern corner and another cuts off the northern tip. The area impacted by these intrusions, 40 acres, does not meet the naturalness criterion. The remainder of the unit, 2,153 acres, appears natural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The topography is flat, sloping alluvial terrace, vegetated primarily with creosote and other low desert shrubs. The natural screening offers several secluded spots. This unit has outstanding opportunities for solitude when considered in conjunction with the large contiguous unit administered by the National Park Service.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for hiking and horseback riding were considered available and would share the outstanding qualities already identified by the Park Service on its contiguous wilderness proposal.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

2,153 acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

40 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received five specific comments on this unit. One mentioned wilderness values, and the remainder discussed the lack of outstanding opportunities. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

2,153 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

40 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation for this area, which is contiguous the lands managed by the National Park Service that previously were determined to have wilderness characteristics. Evidence available to the Bureau indicates that one public land portion appears natural, and when combined with the adjoining agency unit,

also possesses the other necessary criteria for WSA designation. The portion eliminated from WSA consideration was not found to possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-03R-23

UNIT NAME: Von Schmidt

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is 20 miles south of Beatty, in the Amargosa Desert. The northern boundary is an unnamed mining access road, the western boundary is the Gibraltar Mine-Lees Mountain road, and the eastern boundary is the Ashton road.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit totals 2,786 acres of public land. The unit contains less than the minimum 5,000 acres and does not meet the size criterion.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

2,786 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit, mentioning roads and lack of solitude. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria. One additional comment was received during the initial inventory that could not be checked earlier due to accelerated inventory priorities. This comment was considered along with those noted above during the intensive inventory. Details on these comments can be found in the BLM's Initial Inventory Decision book.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

2,786 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received citing the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0401

UNIT NAME: Mount Stirling

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is 45 miles northwest of Las Vegas and contains the north end of the Spring Mountains, including Mt. Stirling. The northern boundary is U.S. Highway 95, the western boundary is State Highway 16, private lands, and mining access roads, the eastern boundary runs from Cold Creek to Indian Springs, and the southern boundary runs from Wheeler Wash to Cold Creek campground.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit totals 203,000 acres of public land. Documented roads separate 12 small areas away from the main unit. These units, totaling 8,995 acres, are each less than 5,000 acres and do not meet the size criterion. The remainder of the unit is split into five areas: 0401, 147,000 acres; 0401A, 18,680 acres; 0401B, 17,100 acres; 0401C, 5,370 acres; and 0401D, 5,855 acres.
2. Naturalness: Of the remaining five areas, three areas (0401B, C, D) were found to lack naturalness because of numerous intrusion roads from the Indian Springs area and because of their total exposure to heavy traffic on U.S. Highway 95 which creates an extremely imposing impact on the area's naturalness. Mining, intrusion roads, and range improvements impact portions of the remaining two units. Subunit 0401 has two natural areas of 69,650 acres and 19,000 acres and unnatural portions totaling 58,350 acres. Subunit 0401A has a natural area of 12,500 acres and an unnatural portion of 6,180 acres. The imprints of man found outside the unit boundary were considered in the evaluation of the naturalness of this unit. Normally, exterior developments would be considered during the study process. In the exceptional situation found in this unit, outside impacts were evaluated during the inventory process because these impacts are so extremely imposing that they cannot be ignored, and if not used, reasonable application of inventory guidelines would be questioned.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The natural area in 0401A is a flat, sloping alluvial fan vegetated with low desert shrubs. The unavailability of secluded spots prevents this area from offering an outstanding opportunity for solitude. Although the northwestern natural area (19,000 acres) of 0401 has natural screening in the form of rolling foothills, it also lacks sufficient secluded spots to offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The central natural portion of 0401 (69,650 acres) contains a large portion of the Spring Mountain Range and possesses a wide variety of topographic and vegetative screening. The availability of secluded spots is excellent and the opportunity for solitude was considered outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for camping, hiking, horseback riding, nature studies, and hunting and trapping were identified. These opportunities were considered outstanding in the central natural area of 0401, because of the excellent topographic and vegetative diversity and the large size of this natural and diverse area. The other two natural areas were found to offer less than outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation because of their undiversified environment, lack of challenge to the recreationist, and lack of objectives or attractions to seek out.
4. Supplemental Values: There are significant archaeological and botanical values, including bristlecone pine.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

71,000 acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

132,000 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 25 specific comments on this unit. Most mentioned roads, intrusions, or lack of outstanding opportunities. Boundary adjustments were mentioned by two. Many discussed the area's naturalness and outstanding solitude and recreation. Several noted supplemental values and six listed other resource values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria. Eight additional comments were received during the initial inventory that could not be checked earlier due to accelerated inventory priorities. These were considered along with those noted above during the intensive inventory. Details on these comments can be found in the BLM's Initial Inventory Decision book.

FINAL DECISION:

69,650 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

133,350 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though public comments were received citing the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates that a portion of the area does possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation. The portion eliminated from WSA consideration was found not to possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0406

UNIT NAME: Lost Cabin Spring

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is 30 miles west of Las Vegas, at the southern end of the Spring Mountains. The southern boundary is State Highway 16, the northern boundary is part of the Trout Canyon road and part of the Lovell Summit road, and the eastern boundary is the Lovell Canyon road.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit totals 68,421 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: Two powerlines parallel the southern boundary road, and many roads and ways intrude into the southern and southeastern portions of the unit. These intrusions impact 52,421 acres of the unit, leaving 16,000 acres in the northern portion appearing natural and qualified for further evaluation.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The vegetation in the natural portion of the unit is primarily pinyon-juniper. The topography consists of a ridge paralleling the northern boundary and sloping away in a flat bajada to the south. There are some opportunities to obtain solitude in the canyons associated with the ridgeline, however, these are relatively few and not found to be outstanding.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for horseback riding, hiking, camping, nature study, and hunting were identified. The opportunity for primitive recreation was considered less than outstanding because of the lack of challenge to the recreationist and lack of objectives or attractions to seek out.

4. Supplemental Values: Archaeological values have been documented in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

68,421 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 15 specific comments on this unit. Most discussed the area's naturalness and outstanding solitude and recreation. One mentioned roads, impacts, and lack of outstanding opportunities. Two stated the unit does not meet the wilderness criteria. Many noted supplemental values and one listed other resource values. Also received were 2,326 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria. Eight additional comments were received during the initial inventory that could not be checked earlier due to accelerated inventory priorities. These were considered along with those noted above during the intensive inventory. Details on these comments can be found in the BLM's Initial Inventory Decision book.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

68,421 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received citing the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0410

UNIT NAME: Shoemaker Spring

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is 15 miles north of Las Vegas, just east of the central portion of the Spring Mountains. The eastern boundary is U.S. Highway 95, the northern boundary is the Lee Canyon road, the southern boundary is the Kyle Canyon road, and the unit is contiguous on the west to the Toiyabe National Forest.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 82,917 acres of public land. Documented roads divide the unit into six sections. Two of these sections, totaling 4,710 acres, are each less than the minimum 5,000 acres and do not meet the size criterion. The remaining four sections are each of sufficient size: 0410, 50,727 acres; 0410A, 13,500 acres; 0410B, 6,845 acres; and 0410C, 7,135 acres.

2. Naturalness: The unit has been heavily impacted by roads and ways, utility lines, mining and mineral assessment work, seismic lines, a large communication site, and extensive development on nearby private lands which create an extremely imposing impact. These intrusions impact 42,207 acres, leaving a total of 36,000 acres in four separate sections appearing natural: southern (0410C), 6,000 acres; western (part of 0410), 7,000 acres; northern (part of 0410), 10,500 acres; and eastern (0410A), 12,500 acres. All of subunit 0410B is unnatural.

3. Outstanding Opportunities for:

A. Solitude: The north and east natural areas are sloping alluvial fans with some low hills on their western edges and vegetated with creosote and blackbrush. The south area has a varied topography, from flat lands to rolling hills and rocky knobs. The vegetation also changes from creosote to manzanita and mountain mahogany. The west natural area contains rolling hills and short, steep-sided canyons. The vegetation is primarily pinyon-juniper with some ponderosa pine. The availability of secluded spots in all four of the natural areas is low because of the relatively small size and inadequate natural screening to the east. The opportunity for solitude was found to be less than outstanding in all areas.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for camping, hiking, horseback riding, nature study, hunting, and trapping were identified. These opportunities were found to be limited by the low environmental diversity of any one area and the lack of objectives or attractions to seek out. The road connecting Lee and Kyle Canyons effectively separates this unit from the recreation potential of the adjacent Toiyable National Forest.

4. Supplemental Values: Archaeological values were documented in this unit. Two species of threatened and endangered plants are believed to grow in the area, desert bear poppy and California bear poppy. Bristlecone pine (Pinus aristata) exists at the highest elevations of the western natural area.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

82,917 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received four specific comments on this unit. One discussed wilderness values and the others mentioned intrusions, roads, lack of solitude, polluted air, or other resource values. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria. Seven additional comments were received during the initial inventory that could not be checked earlier due to accelerated inventory priorities. These were considered along with those noted above during the intensive inventory. Details on these comments can be found in the BLM's Initial Inventory Decision book.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

82,917 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received citing the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0414

UNIT NAME: Pine Creek

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is just west of Las Vegas in the Red Rock Canyon Recreation Lands. The western boundary is the Lovell Canyon road, the northern boundary is Red Rocks Summit/Willow Springs road, the eastern boundary is the Blue Diamond road, and the southern boundary is State Highway 16. The area offers a wide variety of landscapes and vegetation including the spectacular Red Rocks Escarpment. The unit also contains the Pine Creek Natural Area.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit totals 34,761 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: The eastern side of the unit is heavily impacted with roads, ways, trails, and development on private lands. There are two roads leading to spring developments from the western boundary. The area impacted by these intrusions, 10,761 acres, does not meet the naturalness criterion. The remainder of the unit, about 24,000 acres, appears natural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The vegetation is low desert shrubs at the lowest elevations, ranging through pinyon-juniper, to ponderosa pine on the escarpment. The topography rises 3,000 feet from the valley floor in spectacular, sheer sandstone cliffs with narrow, deep canyons eroded into them. The top of the escarpment has jagged cliffs and hills, with rolling rounded hills sloping down into Lovell Canyon. The vegetative and topographic screening together offer outstanding opportunities to obtain solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for hiking, botanical nature studies, camping, sightseeing, hunting, photography, technical rock climbing, geological studies, and horseback riding were identified. The diversity and uniqueness of the environment, the recreational challenge, and the spectacular scenery contribute to the outstanding opportunity for primitive recreation offered by this unit.
4. Supplemental Values: The area contains many significant archaeological sites and numerous botanical values, including several unique and/or endangered species. The Pine Creek Natural Area is within the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

24,000 acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

10,761 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 20 specific comments on this unit. Many discussed the area's naturalness and outstanding solitude and recreation. Several noted supplemental values. The majority mentioned roads, lack of solitude, or other resource values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria. Twelve additional comments were received during the initial inventory that could not be checked earlier due to accelerated inventory priorities. These were considered along with those noted above during the intensive inventory. Details on these comments can be found in the BLM's Initial Inventory Decision book.

FINAL DECISION:

24,000 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

10,761 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though public comments were received citing the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates that a portion of the area does possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation. The portion eliminated from WSA consideration was found not to possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0416

UNIT NAME: Wheeler

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is just northeast of Pahrump and lies along the Wheeler Wash. It has a long, narrow shape. Its northern boundary is the Old Wheeler Pass road and the southern boundary is the Wheeler Pass road. The boundary between BLM and private land out of Pahrump forms the western edge of the unit.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 7,282 acres of public land. Documented roads separate a small area of 850 acres from the original unit. This area is less than 5,000 acres, and therefore, does not meet the size criterion. The remainder of the unit contains 6,432 acres and is of sufficient size for further evaluation.
2. Naturalness: A fence and gate are located on the northern boundary road. Because of the unit's narrow configuration and level terrain, several sand and gravel pits, a powerline, and a shooting range just outside the southern boundary also impact naturalness and result in 282 acres being recommended dropped from further wilderness consideration. The remainder of the unit, 6,150 acres, appears natural.

3. Outstanding Opportunities for:

A. Solitude: The topography is flat and level, sloping down toward State Highway 16. The vegetation is low desert shrubs with scattered Joshua trees. The natural screening is inadequate to provide seclusion from the heavy traffic on the highway, and the narrow configuration makes activity on one side of the unit visible from the other. The opportunity for solitude was not found to be outstanding.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for horseback riding, hiking, camping, nature study, and sightseeing were identified, horseback riding being recommended as the highest quality activity available because of the level terrain. The opportunity for primitive recreation was found to be less than outstanding because of the lack of vegetative and topographic diversity, lack of recreational challenge, lack of objectives or points of interest, and the restrictive configuration of the unit.

4. Supplemental Values: Wild horses are known to inhabit the area.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

7,282 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit, mentioning a need for access roads to powerlines. Two additional comments were received during the initial inventory that could not be checked earlier due to accelerated inventory priorities. These were considered along with those noted above during the intensive inventory. Details on these comments can be found in the BLM's Initial Inventory Decision book.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

7,282 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0421

UNIT NAME: Clark Canyon

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is 10 miles northeast of Pahrump, in the Spring Mountains. Its southern boundary is the Clark Canyon road, the western boundary is the Wheeler Well road, the northern boundary is the Wheeler Pass road, and the unit is contiguous on the east to the Toiyabe National Forest.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 7,880 acres of public land. Documented roads separate two small areas from the main unit. These areas, totaling 1,685 acres, are each less than 5,000 acres, and therefore, are of insufficient size for further wilderness consideration. The remainder of the unit contains 6,195 acres.
2. Naturalness: Intrusions are located in the southern portion and include a road, stock tank, and a trail. These intrusions impact 345 acres, which should be dropped from further wilderness consideration because of unnaturalness. The remainder of the unit, 5,850 acres, appears natural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The topography is hilly and mountainous, being part of the Spring Mountain Range. The vegetation is primarily pinyon-juniper and scrub oak. Both the vegetative and topographic screening are adequate to provide several secluded spots; however, the overall opportunity for solitude was not found to be outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for horseback riding, hiking, camping, nature study, and sightseeing were identified; however, neither their diversity nor their quality was found to be outstanding.
4. Supplemental Values: A threatened and endangered plant, Astragalus aequalis, is thought to exist in the unit and archaeological values are documented.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

7,880 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit. Both mentioned other resource values and one stated the unit did not meet the wilderness criteria. One additional comment was received during the initial inventory that could not be checked earlier due to accelerated inventory priorities. This comment was considered with those noted above during the intensive inventory. Details on these comments can be found in the BLM's Initial Inventory Decision book.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

7,880 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0450

UNIT NAME: Striped Hills

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is just east of Lathrop Wells and is contiguous along its northern edge to the Nevada Test Site. It contains the Striped Hills in the northwestern corner, Rock Valley in the center, and the western foothills of the Specter Range at its eastern edge. The western boundary is the Cane Spring road, the southern boundary is U.S. Highway 95, and the eastern boundary is an access road into the Test Site.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 20,698 acres of public land. A documented road divides a small portion from the main unit. This portion, 2,010 acres, is less than 5,000 acres, and therefore, should be dropped from further wilderness consideration because it does not meet the size criterion. The remainder of the unit, 18,688 acres, is of sufficient size.
2. Naturalness: A powerline runs just within the southern boundary and there is a gravel pit near the southeastern corner. Two intrusion roads extend into the unit from the southern boundary. These intrusions and their impacts result in 3,788 acres appearing unnatural. The remainder of the unit, 14,900 acres, appears natural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The vegetation is primarily creosote and other low desert shrubs. The Striped Hills are in the western corner of the natural area and some low foothills are at the eastern boundary. Secluded spots are difficult to find in the area because of the less than satisfactory natural screening. This analysis plus the security restrictions and hazards of the unit's proximity to the Test Site limit the opportunity for solitude to less than outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for horseback riding, hiking, camping, and nature study were identified. Horseback riding was recommended as the highest quality activity. These opportunities were found to be less than outstanding because of a lack of challenge to the recreationist, lack of objectives or points of interest, lack of vegetative and topographic diversity, and the security restrictions and hazards of the unit's proximity to the Test Site.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

20,698 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit noting other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

20,698 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by a public comment, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0451

UNIT NAME: Specter Range

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is 10 miles east of Lathrop Wells and five miles southwest of Mercury. It contains the Specter Range and is contiguous along its eastern and northern sides to the Nevada Test Site. Its southern boundary is U.S. Highway 95 and its western boundary is an unnamed former access route into the Test Site.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 34,340 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: There is a powerline running just within the southern boundary to a substation in the southeast corner of the unit. A way extends southward from the Bombing Range two miles inside the unit. Area dropped from further wilderness consideration because of these intrusions and their impacts is 4,860 acres. The natural portion of the unit is 29,480 acres.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The vegetation is creosote and other low desert shrubs with an occasional yucca. The topography consists of the Specter Range, a narrow ridgeline with several canyons opening out to rolling hills and the flat desert. Because of the unit's proximity to the Test Site, with that area's unique security requirements and hazards, the unit was not considered to have outstanding opportunities for solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, camping, nature study, and sightseeing were identified. However, because of the unit's proximity to the Test Site and the constant surveillance of that area, these opportunities were

felt to be less than outstanding. In addition, possible hazards to recreationists because of the Test Site proximity restrict the area's recreation potential.

4. Supplemental Values: Two species of threatened and endangered plants are thought to exist in the unit: Penstemon fruticiformus spp amargosae and Gila ripleyi.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

34,340 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit mentioning other resource values. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria. Seven additional comments were received during the initial inventory that could not be checked earlier due to accelerated inventory priorities. These were considered along with those noted above during the intensive inventory. Details on these comments can be found in the BLM's Initial Inventory Decision book.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

34,340 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received citing the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0457

UNIT NAME: Mount Montgomery

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is 15 miles northwest of Pahrump. It contains Mt. Montgomery but is primarily flat to rolling, vegetated with low desert shrubs. The eastern boundary is State Highway 16, the southern and northern boundaries are mining access roads, and the western boundary is formed mainly by private lands.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 45,193 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: Powerlines run through the northeastern corner of the unit and mining intrusions impact large portions of the eastern and southern areas. A bladed strip runs parallel to the southwestern boundary. The area impacted by these intrusions, 16,183 acres, does not meet the naturalness criterion. The remainder of the unit, 29,010 acres, appears natural.

3. Outstanding Opportunities for:

A. Solitude: Low mountains dominate the southern and western portions, the rest of the unit being flat. Vegetation consists of low desert shrubs. Natural screening is inadequate for easy availability of secluded spots and the opportunity for solitude was not found to be outstanding.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for horseback riding, hiking, camping, sightseeing, and nature study were identified, but the opportunity for primitive recreation is limited by a lack of challenge for the recreationist, lack of objectives or attractions to seek out, and limited vegetative and topographic diversity.

4. Supplemental Values: Wild horses are known to inhabit the area.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

45,193 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit. One noted mining impacts and both listed other resource values. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria. Eleven additional comments were received during the initial inventory that could not be checked earlier due to accelerated inventory priorities. These were considered along with those noted above during the intensive inventory. Details on these comments can be found in the BLM's Initial Inventory Decision book.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

45,193 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0459

UNIT NAME: Ash Meadows

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is five miles northeast of Death Valley Junction, California. It has flat, open terrain with little to no vegetation. The southwestern boundary is the California/Nevada border, the southeastern boundary is the Ash Meadows road, the eastern boundary is the road to Devil's Hole, and the northern boundary is formed by private lands.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 9,770 acres of public land. A documented road separates an area of 1,800 acres away from the main unit. This area does not meet the size criterion. The remainder of the unit contains 7,970 acres.
2. Naturalness: Fencelines with bladed rights-of-way run along the Stateline and the eastern boundary. Development on adjacent private land also heavily impacts the unit. The portion of the unit remaining natural contains 800 acres; 7,170 acres do not meet the naturalness criterion. The imprints of man found outside the unit boundary were considered in the evaluation of the naturalness of this unit. Normally, exterior developments would be considered during the study process. In the exceptional situation found in this unit, outside impacts were evaluated during the inventory process because these impacts are so extremely imposing that they cannot be ignored, and if not used, reasonable application of inventory guidelines would be questioned.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The topography is flat with numerous shallow washes. There is very little vegetation, with some shrubs growing in the washes. Size and natural screening provide no secluded spots and the opportunity for solitude is not outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for horseback riding, hiking, and nature study are available, but were not found to be outstanding because of the lack of vegetative and topographic diversity, small size, and lack of objectives or attractions to seek out.
4. Supplemental Values: Wild horses are known to inhabit the area.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

9,770 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit mentioning other resource values. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria. Five additional comments were received during the initial inventory that could not be checked earlier due to accelerated inventory priorities. These were considered along with those noted above during the intensive inventory. Details on these comments can be found in the BLM's Initial Inventory Decision book.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

9,770 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0460

UNIT NAME: Resting Springs Range

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is 10 miles west of Pahrump and contains the northern end of the Resting Springs Range and the Steward Valley, vegetated with creosote and other low desert shrubs. The northern boundary is the Ash Meadows road to State Highway 52. The unit is contiguous on the south to the California Desert Conservation Area Wilderness Study Area 145, Resting Springs Range, 89,772 acres.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. **Size:** The unit contains 21,058 acres of public land. Documented roads divide the unit into five sections. Two of these sections (0460C and 0460D), totaling 930 acres, are each less than 5,000 acres and do not meet the size criterion. Two sections (0460A and 0460B) of 4,568 acres and 4,560 acres are less than the minimum 5,000 acres but meet the size criterion because they are contiguous with lands managed by the BLM California State Office and have been formally determined to have wilderness values. The fifth section (0460), 11,000 acres, meets the size criterion.
2. **Naturalness:** The eastern end of the unit is severely impacted by major developments on adjacent private lands. The three sections (0460B, 0460C, and 0460D) in this area do not have any natural portions. The two western sections, 0460 and 0460A, are impacted by some mineral assessment work in the northwestern corner and by traffic on the boundary roads which has been considered to be extremely imposing. 0460A has 1,050 acres appearing natural, with 3,518 acres appearing affected by man. 0460 has 2,800 acres of naturalness with 8,200 acres unnatural. The imprints of man found outside the unit boundary were considered in the evaluation of the naturalness of the unit. Normally exterior developments would be considered during the study process. In the exceptional situation found in this unit, outside impacts were evaluated during the inventory process because these impacts are so extremely imposing that they cannot be ignored, and if not used, reasonable application of inventory guidelines would be questioned.
3. **Outstanding Opportunities for:**
 - A. **Solitude:** Natural screening and size are adequate to offer some secluded spots. Opportunities for solitude are outstanding when considered in conjunction with the large California BLM wilderness study area.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for horseback riding, hiking, camping, and nature study were identified. These opportunities share the same outstanding quality already determined to exist in the contiguous wilderness study area.

4. Supplemental Values: Wild horses are known to inhabit the area.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

3,850 acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status (0460 and 0460A).

17,208 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received six specific comments on this unit. A few discussed wilderness values, but the remainder mentioned inadequate size, lack of outstanding opportunities, or other resource values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria. Nine additional comments were received during the initial inventory that could not be checked earlier due to accelerated inventory priorities. These were considered along with those noted above during the intensive inventory. Details on these comments can be found in the BLM's Initial Inventory Decision book.

FINAL DECISION:

3,850 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

17,208 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation for this area, which is contiguous to lands managed by the California BLM that previously were determined to have wilderness characteristics. Evidence available to the Bureau indicates that two Nevada public land portions appear natural, and when combined with the adjoining agency unit, also possess the other necessary criteria for WSA designation. The portions eliminated from WSA consideration were not found to possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0461

UNIT NAME: Last Chance Range

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is eight miles northwest of Pahrump and contains a large part of the Last Chance Range, vegetated with desert shrubs. The eastern boundary is State Highway 16, the southwestern boundary is the Point of Rocks Spring road, the northern boundary is the North Last Chance road, and the remainder of the unit boundary is formed by parts of range and mining access roads and by private land.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit totals 27,079 acres of public land.

2. Naturalness: A seismic line, old mining, a way, and heavy development on adjacent private lands all impact the unit. Two natural portions were identified: 4,165 acres to the west, and 10,920 acres to the east. The area impacted by intrusions contained 11,994 acres.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The western natural portion was considered too small to offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The eastern natural portion is fairly mountainous and vegetated with sparse desert shrubs. Topographic screening offers some secluded spots, but these are few and the opportunity for solitude was not found to be outstanding.
 - B. A. Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities are available for horseback riding, hiking, camping, nature study, sight-seeing, and hunting, but their quality in both natural areas is limited by the lack of vegetative diversity and lack of objectives or attractions to seek out.
4. Supplemental Values: Archaeological values are believed to exist in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

27,079 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit mentioning other resource values. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

27,079 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0462

UNIT NAME: High Peak

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is five miles west of Pahrump. It has a rolling and hilly topography, containing High Peak and is vegetated with creosote and blackbrush. The northern boundary is the Death Valley/Ash Meadows road, the western boundary is the Ash Meadows road, the southern boundary is the California/Nevada State boundary, and the eastern boundary is formed by private lands in the Pahrump Valley.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 10,872 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: There are range improvements along the boundaries, including water troughs, wells, and fences. Developments on the adjacent private lands impact the extremely narrow southern half of the unit. These intrusions impact 7,372 acres, leaving an area of 3,500 acres appearing natural. The imprints of man found outside the unit boundary were considered in the evaluation of the naturalness of the unit. Normally, exterior developments would be considered during the study process. In the exceptional situation found in this unit, outside impacts were evaluated during the inventory process because these impacts are so extremely imposing that they cannot be ignored, and if not used, reasonable application of inventory guidelines would be questioned.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The topography consists of a low peak with surrounding rolling hills. The vegetation is low desert shrubs, primarily creosote and blackbrush. The size and natural screening provide few secluded spots and the opportunity for solitude is less than outstanding.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for camping, hiking, nature study are available, but their quality is limited because of the small size of the natural area, the lack of vegetative diversity, and the lack of objectives or attractions to seek out.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

10,872 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit, mentioning other resource values. Seven additional comments were received during the initial inventory that could not be checked earlier due to accelerated inventory priorities. These were considered along with those noted above during the intensive inventory. Details on these comments can be found in the BLM's Initial Inventory Decision book.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

10,872 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received citing the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0463

UNIT NAME: Grown

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is five miles southwest of Pahrump, with level terrain and low desert shrub vegetation. The northern and eastern boundaries are ranch access roads, the western boundary is State Highway 52, and the unit is contiguous on the south to the California Desert Conservation Area Wilderness Study Area 150, Nopah Range, 109,701 acres.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 7,064 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: Most impacts to the unit are associated with the heavily developed adjacent private lands, including intrusions roads, adjacent farms, ranches, utility lines, and range improvements. The unit's size, narrow configuration, and lack of natural screening accent the extremely imposing impacts, and there is no natural portion identified. The imprints of man found outside the unit boundary were considered in the evaluation of the naturalness of this unit. Normally, exterior developments would be considered during the study process. In the exceptional situation found in this unit, outside impacts were evaluated during the inventory process because these impacts are so extremely imposing that they cannot be ignored, and if not used, reasonable application of inventory guidelines would be questioned.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

7,064 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit, mentioning other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

7,064 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: One public comment was received opposing WSA designation for this area, which is contiguous to lands managed by the California BLM that previously were determined to have wilderness characteristics. Evidence available to the Bureau indicates that the Nevada public land portion is unnatural and does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-04R-03A, B, and C UNIT NAME: Pahrump

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is 11 miles south of Pahrump. The topography is flat with little or no vegetation. All boundaries but one are formed by private land. To the southwest, units A and B are contiguous to the California Desert Conservation Area Wilderness Study Area 150, Nopah Range, 109,701 acres.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 10,958 acres of public land, split into three subunits: A, 4,617 acres; B, 5,416 acres; and C, 925 acres. Units A and C are less than the minimum 5,000 acres. Unit C does not meet the size criterion. Unit A is of sufficient size because it is contiguous with public lands managed by California BLM which have been formally determined to have wilderness values.
2. Naturalness: Development of adjacent private land has severely impacted these units. The lack of natural screening and the unusual configuration permits these intrusions to be obtrusive in all parts of the units because of their extremely imposing impacts. There is no natural portion. The imprints of man found outside the unit boundary were considered in the evaluation of the naturalness of this unit. Normally, exterior developments would be considered during the study process. In the exceptional situation found in this unit, outside impacts were evaluated during the inventory process because these impacts are so extremely imposing that they cannot be ignored, and if not used, reasonable application of inventory guidelines would be questioned.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

10,958 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: None received

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

10,958 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: No public comments were received for this area, which is contiguous to lands managed by the California BLM that previously were determined to have wilderness characteristics. Evidence available to the Bureau indicates that the Nevada public land portion is unnatural and does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-CDCA 276

UNIT NAME: Dead Mountains

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is at the extreme southern tip of Nevada, just northwest of the Fort Mohave Indian Reservation. The topography is hilly and

rolling, vegetated primarily with low desert shrubs. Its northern boundary is a powerline maintenance road and it is contiguous on the south to the California Desert Conservation Area Wilderness Study Area 276, Dead Mountains, 29,411 acres.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 750 acres of public land. Although the unit contains less than the minimum 5,000 acres, it meets the size criterion because it is contiguous with public lands managed by California BLM which have been formally determined to have wilderness values.
2. Naturalness: No intrusions were observed in the unit. It appears natural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The unit varies from hilly, vegetated with creosote and mesquite, at the northern end, to very flat and uniformly vegetated with creosote at the southern end. Its configuration is extremely narrow, in a "sliver" shape. Even when considered with the contiguous wilderness proposal, this narrow extension into Nevada does not share an outstanding opportunity for solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, hunting, camping, and nature study are available. Even when considered with the contiguous wilderness proposal, the configuration of the Nevada portion limits these opportunities to less than outstanding.
4. Supplemental Values: The area is known to be habitat for the desert tortoise, a BLM "sensitive" species.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

750 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: None received.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

750 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: No public comments were received for this area, which is contiguous to lands managed by the California BLM that previously were determined to have wilderness characteristics. Evidence available to the Bureau indicates that the Nevada public land portion, even when combined with the adjoining agency unit, does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-060-019

UNIT NAME: Kawich

AREA DESCRIPTION: This unit lies in the Kawich Range in Nye County, Nevada. Steep ridges and peaks and long, rugged canyons make up most of the area. A few high altitude basins occur, one holding two small perennial lakes. A portion of Reveille Valley is included on the eastern boundary. Elevations range from 9,404 feet atop Kawich Peak to 6,040 in the eastern valley. Vegetation consists primarily of a dense pinyon-juniper canopy with low-growing sagebrush undergrowth. However, meadow vegetation occurs around Bellehelen Lakes and in several canyons which contain perennial streams. Botanical diversity is especially noticeable in Longstreet's Canyon, on the west side of the range.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 39,000 acres of public land. The roadless area consists of 37,695 acres as 1,305 acres were separated from the bulk of the unit by roads.
2. Naturalness: 27,360 acres were found to be in a natural condition. 10,335 acres were deleted due to a lack of naturalness resulting from mining activity.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The roadless and natural portion of the area does possess an outstanding opportunity for solitude. Rugged, steep topography and heavy vegetative cover provide isolation and create many secluded spots.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The area does offer an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. The quality and diversity of recreational activities possible in this unit are excellent. Challenging terrain, good scenic values, the presence of trails, and the availability of water all contribute to an outstanding opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation.
4. Supplemental Values: An Indian wickiup was found in the southern mountains.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

27,560 acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

11,440 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received ten specific comments on this unit. They were evenly divided between those discussing wilderness values and those mentioning intrusions and lack of outstanding opportunities. Several noted supplemental values and two listed other resource values. Also received were 2,328 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

27,360 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

11,640 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates that a portion of the area does possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation. The portion eliminated from WSA consideration was found not to possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-060-059

UNIT NAME: Rawhide Mountain

AREA DESCRIPTION: This unit lies in the Hot Creek Range in Nye County, Nevada. A central mountainous portion is flanked on the west by Stone Cabin Valley and on the east by Hot Creek Valley. Many deep canyons penetrate the mountains, often opening up onto wide basins. Elevations range from 5,360 feet in Hot Creek Valley to 9,145 feet atop Rawhide Mountain. Vegetation throughout the mountains consists of a pinyon-juniper canopy with a low sagebrush undergrowth. At lower elevations the desert shrub community occurs, with either black or big sagebrush the dominant plant. Hot Creek Valley contains primarily grasses. Where perennial springs occur, meadow vegetation may exist to some extent.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 75,400 acres of public land. The roadless area consists of 71,180 acres as 4,220 acres were separated from the bulk of the unit by roads.
2. Naturalness: 64,360 acres were found to be in a natural condition. 6,820 acres were deleted due to a lack of naturalness. Extensive mining activity and numerous roads and ways comprised most of the intrusions.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The roadless and natural portion of the area does possess an outstanding opportunity for solitude. Heavy pinyon-juniper cover throughout the mountains complements the varied topography, providing excellent natural screening. Secluded spots abound.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The area does not offer an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Although several types of recreational activities may be pursued, all are limited in some way by the quality of challenging terrain, and limited scenic values. Water is also lacking.

4. Supplemental Values: Four sets of brick charcoal kilns, all apparently built in 1877 to produce charcoal for the smelting furnaces at Tybo are found in the unit. Two sets are known as the McIntyre kilns. The Tybo kilns are on the National Register of Historic Places. The fourth set is unknown historically, but is probably related to the McIntyre kilns. Almost all of the kilns are in excellent condition.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

64,370 acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

11,030 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 15 specific comments on this unit. The majority mentioned roads, intrusions or lack of outstanding opportunities. Several discussed the area's naturalness and outstanding solitude and recreation as well as supplemental values. Three listed other resource values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

64,360 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

11,040 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates that a portion of the area does possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation. The portion eliminated from WSA consideration was found not to possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-060-069

UNIT NAME: Empire Canyon

AREA DESCRIPTION: This unit lies in the Hot Creek Range in Nye County, Nevada. Topography is primarily mountainous, with a strip of Hot Creek Valley on the east. The three forks of Empire Canyon penetrate almost the length of the unit. Elevations range from 5,600 feet to 8,706 feet. Vegetation throughout the mountains consists of a sparse pinyon-juniper canopy with low sagebrush undergrowth. Black sagebrush is the dominant plant in the eastern flatland, although grasses occur there in some abundance.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 17,620 acres of public land. The roadless area consists of 17,240 acres as 380 acres were separated from the bulk of the unit by roads.
2. Naturalness: 16,180 acres were found to be in a natural condition. 1,060 acres were deleted due to a lack of naturalness.

3. Outstanding Opportunities for:

A. Solitude: The roadless and natural portion of the area does not possess an outstanding opportunity for solitude because neither the open topography nor the sparse vegetation provide adequate natural screening. Secluded spots are not common. Additionally, the unit's small size causes roads to be visible from many of the higher peaks, making it difficult for a recreationist to avoid the sights and sounds of man.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The area does not offer an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Activities are limited by poor scenic values, low wildlife populations, lack of water, and generally uninteresting terrain. No features of interest occur in the unit.

4. Supplemental Values: Two Indian chipping sites were identified in this unit. Both sites are small and of a common type.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

17,620 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received eight specific comments on this unit. One mentioned naturalness and supplemental values. The remainder noted roads, intrusions, or lack of outstanding opportunities. Three listed other resource values. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

17,620 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-060-078

UNIT NAME: Stone Cabin

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Stone Cabin unit lies on the west side of the Hot Creek Range in Nye County, Nevada. It is somewhat rectangular in shape, consisting primarily of a single mountain range running north-south. Canyons wind into the mountains, often becoming so steep that they are inaccessible. A portion of Stone Cabin Valley borders the unit on the south and west. This is an area of low rolling hills and shallow gullies. Top elevation for the unit is 8,122 feet. Vegetation consists primarily of a sparse pinyon-juniper canopy over sagebrush undergrowth. In the valley portions sagebrush is the dominant plant, and shrub cover may be quite thick.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 24,000 acres of public land. The roadless area consists of 23,620 acres as 380 acres were separated from the bulk of the unit by roads.
2. Naturalness: 23,610 acres were found to be in a natural condition. 10 acres were deleted due to a lack of naturalness.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The roadless and natural portion of the area does not possess an outstanding opportunity for solitude. Sparse vegetative cover and open topography allow a recreationist to be seen for long distances. Secluded spots are not common.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The area does not offer an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Excessive slope coupled with loose soils throughout the mountains limit some activities. Low wildlife populations and lack of water and scenic values affect recreational opportunities as well.
4. Supplemental Values: A single common type of Indian chipping site was found in this unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

24,000 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received six specific comments on this unit. Two discussed naturalness and the remainder mentioned intrusions. Supplemental values and other resource values each had one comment. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

24,000 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-060-079

UNIT NAME: Hot Creek

AREA DESCRIPTION: This unit is located in the Hot Creek Range in Nye County, Nevada. Topography is primarily rugged and mountainous with rocky canyons leading to high, flat basins. The area contains several high peaks and elevations ranging from 5,600 feet to 8,843 feet. Mining activity is heavy throughout the unit. Vegetation consists of a pinyon-juniper canopy over low sagebrush undergrowth. Vegetative cover is generally good except on rocky slopes.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 45,970 acres of public land. The roadless area consists of 45,530 acres as 440 acres were separated from the bulk of the unit by roads.
2. Naturalness: 43,960 acres were found to be in a natural condition. 1,570 acres were deleted due to a lack of naturalness resulting from mining.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The roadless and natural portion of the area does not possess an outstanding opportunity for solitude. Roads and other intrusions extend far into the unit's interior, making it almost impossible for a recreationist to avoid the sights, sounds, and works of man.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The area does not offer an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. The road network makes it difficult to get more than a couple of miles away from a road. Other limitations to recreation include low game populations, lack of water, and an absence of features of interest.
4. Supplemental Values: Some arrastra (an old mining ore grinding operation) ruins (circa 1860s) lie in the north of the unit, and a set of two charcoal kilns (circa 1870s) lie in a canyon in the south.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

45,970 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received ten specific comments on this unit. Two discussed naturalness but the majority mentioned intrusions and lack of outstanding opportunities. One noted supplemental values and two listed other resource values. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

45,970 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-060-086

UNIT NAME: Monarch

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Monarch unit is on the eastern side of Ralston Valley in Nye County, Nevada. The widest part of the area is three miles, while the rest is about one and a half miles. The unit consists of a narrow valley flanked by mesas on one side and a series of hills on the other. It contains a number of colorful rock outcroppings. Most of the area is covered by plants of the sage community. There are several small stands of pinyon and juniper trees.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 11,700 acres of public land. The roadless area consists of 11,250 acres as 450 acres were separated from the bulk of the unit by roads.
2. Naturalness: 11,250 acres were found to be in a natural condition.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The roadless and natural portion of the area does not possess an outstanding opportunity for solitude because of the lack of vegetative and topographic screening and its narrow configuration.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The area does not offer an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation as opportunities for backpacking, camping, and horseback riding are not present. Hunting is poor as is the opportunity for collecting rocks, minerals, or vegetation specimens. There is some opportunity for geological sightseeing due to the various colorful rock outcropping.
4. Supplemental Values: Two species of rare plants, the threatened Coryphantha vivipara and the endangered Astragalus sernoi are found within the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

11,700 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received six specific comments on this unit. One discussed naturalness and the remainder mentioned roads, intrusions, lack of outstanding opportunities, or other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

11,700 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-060-089

UNIT NAME: Woods Canyon

AREA DESCRIPTION: This unit lies in the Hot Creek Range in Nye County, Nevada. Shaped like a rough triangle, it measures, at its widest, about seven miles north-south and nine miles east-west. Most of the area is mountainous with wide, flat basins interspersed among the peaks. Canyons penetrate deep into the interior. The area is subject to heavy mining pressure and contains many roads. Elevations range from 5,600 feet to 8,378 feet. Vegetation consists of a pinyon-juniper canopy over low sagebrush undergrowth. Tree cover varies but is generally fairly heavy. Meadow vegetation and grasses occur at Pott Hole Spring, along the northeastern boundary.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 25,900 acres of public land. The roadless area consists of 24,500 acres as 1,400 acres were separated from the bulk of the unit by roads.
2. Naturalness: Zero acres were found to be in a natural condition. 24,500 acres were deleted due to a lack of naturalness. The cumulative impact of man-made intrusions in this unit causes the entire area to be in an unnatural state and further wilderness consideration is unnecessary.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

25,900 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received ten specific comments on this unit. Two discussed naturalness and the remainder mentioned roads, intrusions, lack of outstanding opportunities or other resource values. One noted supplemental values. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

25,900 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-060-112

UNIT NAME: South Reveille

AREA DESCRIPTION: The South Reveille unit is in the central and southern portions of the Reveille Range in Nye County, Nevada. The unit is about 17 miles long and six to 13 miles wide. The topography includes valley-bottom flats, open rolling hills, flat topped plateaus, steep sided mountains, and narrow canyons. Sagebrush is the dominant vegetation below 7,000 feet. This gives way to pinyon-juniper forest in the mountains above 7,000 feet.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 114,500 acres of public land. The roadless area consists of 107,500 acres as 7,000 acres were separated from the bulk of the unit by roads. This 7,000 acres were divided by roads into several subunits, each of which was less than 5,000 acres and failed to meet the size criterion.
2. Naturalness: 106,200 acres were found to be in a natural condition. 1,300 acres were deleted due to a lack of naturalness. The area deleted has been heavily impacted by livestock use.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The roadless and natural portion of the area does possess an outstanding opportunity for solitude because of its large size, extensive natural screening, and abundant secluded spots.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The area does offer an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation due to the wide variety of hiking, backpacking, mountain climbing, horseback riding, and camping opportunities available. The unit offers diverse scenery and vegetation representative of several Great Basin Province ecosystems. Wildlife is abundant in the area and hunting opportunities are good.
4. Supplemental Values: A pre-Caucasion rock wall alignment and pole supports for a lean-to are located in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

106,200 acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

8,300 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received six specific comments on this unit. Several comments discussed naturalness and outstanding solitude and recreation. A few noted intrusions, supplemental values, and other resource values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

106,200 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

8,300 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates that a portion of the area does possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation. The portion eliminated from WSA consideration was found not to possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-060-113

UNIT NAME: Quinn Canyon

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Quinn Canyon unit is in both Nye and Lincoln Counties. It measures about 21 miles by eight miles and has an irregularly shaped boundary. Most of the area is flat and is covered by plants of the sagebrush community. Pinyon-juniper stands are found along the narrow range of hills in the eastern portion of the unit.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 105,570 acres of public land which is split by roads into subunits. Those subunits meeting the size criterion are 52,580, 22,130, 10,650 and 9,730 acres. Several subunits totaling 10,480 acres do not meet the minimum size criterion.
2. Naturalness: The 22,130 acre subunit was deleted due to a lack of naturalness caused by mining activity and other intrusions. The remaining subunits were found to be in a natural condition.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The roadless and natural portion of the area does not possess an outstanding opportunity for solitude because of the limited natural screening and poor configuration of the four component roadless areas.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The area does not offer an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation due to its lack of diversity and features of interest.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

105,570 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit, mentioning other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

105,570 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by one public comment, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-060-120

UNIT NAME: East Kawich

AREA DESCRIPTION: This unit lies in the Kawich Range in Nye County, Nevada. It is in the shape of a triangle, measuring eight miles north-south and five miles east-west at its widest. Half of the unit is mountainous, with several basins and little elevational variation. Canyons in this area are short and steep sided. The eastern half is made up of a flat, portion of Reveille Valley. Elevations throughout the unit range from 5,600 feet to 7,727 feet. Vegetation in the higher elevations consists of a sparse pinyon-juniper canopy over low-growing sagebrush undergrowth. The desert shrub community occurs throughout the valley, with black sage the dominant plant.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 18,100 acres of public land. The roadless area consists of 18,050 acres as 50 acres were separated from the bulk of the unit by roads.
2. Naturalness: 17,920 acres were found to be in a natural condition. 130 acres were deleted due to a lack of naturalness from mining activities.

3. Outstanding Opportunities for:

A. Solitude: The roadless and natural portion of the area does not possess an outstanding opportunity for solitude because vegetation is low-growing or absent, topography is open, and no secluded spots exist.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The area does not offer an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Factors restricting recreational opportunities include lack of scenic values, low game populations, and absence of features of interest. Water is also lacking.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in this unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

18,100 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit, one mentioned roads and mining impacts and the other listed other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

18,100 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-060-130

UNIT NAME: Castle Rock

AREA DESCRIPTION: This unit lies in the northern part of the Kawich Range in Nye County, Nevada. Rectangular in shape, it measures, at its widest, six miles north-south and six miles east-west. Topography consists primarily of bare, rocky hills with some higher peaks. Drainages are wide and often steep sided where they enter the hills. Talus slopes (rocky slopes at the base of cliffs) are common throughout the unit. Elevations range from 5,520 feet to 7,496 feet. Pinyon trees occur singly or in scattered clusters in the higher elevations. A low-growing shrub community occurs over the entire unit, but vegetation is never dense.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 22,300 acres of public land. The roadless area consists of 22,000 acres as 300 acres were separated from the bulk of the unit by roads.
2. Naturalness: 21,970 acres were found to be in a natural condition. 30 acres were deleted due to a lack of naturalness.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The roadless and natural portion of the area does not possess an outstanding opportunity for solitude because topography is open and unvaried, vegetation is sparse and secluded spots are uncommon.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The area does not offer an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Lack of scenic values, low game populations, and absence of features of interest all adversely affect recreational opportunities. Water is also lacking.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in this unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

22,300 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received three specific comments on this unit, mentioning roads, intrusions, or other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

22,300 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-060-132

UNIT NAME: North Reveille

AREA DESCRIPTION: The North Reveille unit is in the northern end of the Reveille Range in Nye County, Nevada. The unit is about 13 miles long and three to five miles wide, and consists of open, rolling hills and a flat-topped plateau. The dominant vegetation throughout is sparse, scattered sagebrush.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 65,000 acres of public land. The roadless area consists of 63,500 acres as 1,500 acres were separated from the bulk of the unit by roads.
2. Naturalness: 49,600 acres were found to be in a natural condition. 13,900 acres were deleted due to a lack of naturalness. The area deleted was found to be in an unnatural condition due to extensive mining activity, roads, ways, and ditching.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The roadless and natural portion of the area does not possess an outstanding opportunity for solitude because of its irregular configuration, limited natural screening, and lack of secluded spots.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The area does not offer an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation as opportunities for primitive travel are limited to hikes of short duration which would offer little variety in types of vegetation and scenery encountered. No specific attractions are apparent in the unit. Hunting opportunities are poor and there is no known collecting of rocks and minerals or vegetation.
4. Supplemental Values: Astragalus callathrix, a rare and endangered plant has been reported to be present in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

65,000 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received eight specific comments on this unit. Some mentioned intrusions or other resource values. Others discussed the area's naturalness and outstanding solitude and recreation. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria and one stating the unit does not meet the criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

65,000 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-060-136

UNIT NAME: Quinn Range

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Quinn Range is in Railroad Valley contiguous to the U.S. Forest Service wilderness proposal for the Quinn Canyon Range in Nye County, Nevada. It is a narrow strip of land 12 miles long by three miles wide. This unit is a valley and foothill region with the predominant vegetation being black sagebrush.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 23,703 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: Zero acres were found to be in a natural condition. 23,703 acres were deleted due to a lack of naturalness. It is the cumulative effect of several roads, ways, mining activity, and an old corral which makes this unit unnatural. Therefore, further wilderness consideration is unnecessary.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

23,703 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit. One discussed the area's wilderness values and the other mentioned other resource values. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

23,703 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation for this area, which is contiguous to lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service that previously were determined to have wilderness characteristics. Evidence available to the Bureau indicates that the public land portion does not appear natural and does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-060-142/162

UNIT NAME: Palisade Mesa

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Palisade Mesa unit is within the Pancake Range in Nye County, Nevada. South Pancake I, NV-060-162, and South Pancake II, NV-060-142 were found to be contiguous and have been combined to form Palisade Mesa NV-060-142/162. The area is roughly oblong, about 18 miles long and nine miles wide. It consists of mesas, lava flows, and cinder cones. Lunar Crater, a maar (low relief, circular) volcano listed on the National Natural Landmark Register, is within this unit. Large boulder outcroppings occur all over the tops of the mesas. The vegetation consists of plants of the sagebrush community with some juniper trees interspersed between the boulders on top of the mesas.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 117,000 acres of public land. The roadless area consists of 115,350 acres as 1,650 acres were separated from the bulk of the unit by roads.
2. Naturalness: 99,550 acres were found to be in a natural condition. 15,800 acres were deleted due to a lack of naturalness resulting from the cumulative impact of a bladed fence line, two corrals, a well, a man-made reservoir, two springs, and mining activity.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The roadless and natural portion of the area does possess an outstanding opportunity for solitude because natural screening is provided by the boulder outcroppings and juniper trees on top of the mesa. Topographic variety is provided by the drainages which penetrate the area. Users would be able to effectively screen themselves from the sights and sounds of man.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The area does offer an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Hiking, backpacking, and camping in an exceptionally scenic area are all possible opportunities. "Bouldering" and "scrambling" activities are available on top of the mesas. The scenic qualities are enhanced by the colorful and vivid examples of volcanic action.
4. Supplemental Values: Lunar Crater, (see description) is within this unit. An Indian rock shelter with pictographs was found near the northern boundary. Astragalus callithrix, one of Nevada's threatened and endangered plants, is found near the northern boundary of this unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

99,550 acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

17,450 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received nine specific comments on this unit. A few discussed the area's wilderness values while the remainder mentioned roads, intrusions, and lack of outstanding opportunities. Several noted supplemental values and other resource values. Also received were 2,328 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

99,550 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

17,450 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates that a portion of the area does possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation. The portion eliminated from WSA consideration was found not to possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-060-158/199

UNIT NAME: Blue Eagle

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Blue Eagle unit is within the Grant Range in Nye County, Nevada. During the field review, a road between the Callaway Well, unit 199, and the Grant unit 158 was found to be non-existent. These two areas have been combined to form Blue Eagle unit 158/199. The area is roughly oblong, about 18 miles long by seven miles wide. High mountains with several deep, narrow, winding drainages dominate the landscape in this area. The lowest elevation is 4,800 feet in Railroad Valley near the western boundary; it then rises very abruptly to 9,561 feet at Blue Eagle Peak. The majority of the unit is covered with a pinyon-juniper woodland. Other trees found in this unit include curlleaf mountain mahogany, aspen, white fir, and bristlecone pine.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 72,900 acres of public land. The roadless area consists of 71,300 acres as 1,600 acres were separated from the bulk of the unit by roads.
2. Naturalness: 59,560 acres were found to be in a natural condition. 11,740 acres were deleted due to a lack of naturalness. This area includes several dead end roads, mining activity, a powerline, and several ways.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The roadless and natural portion of the area does possess an outstanding opportunity for solitude. Natural screening is available in the varied topography. Topographic changes can be abrupt, as in the many canyons, or as gently rolling hills in the eastern half of this unit. This diversity in topographic changes provides for isolation and seclusion. Vegetation is dense in some areas, and is diverse throughout the unit. This denseness of vegetation restricts the visibility of the user and will give him a more complete feeling of isolation.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The area does offer an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Hiking, backpacking, and camping opportunities are enhanced by the diversity of vegetation and the outstanding scenic qualities of this unit. Terrain is very rugged, which would provide a degree of challenge to any user. Sightseeing and photographic opportunities are available for wildlife and scenery.

4. Supplemental Values: Several Indian "chipping" sites have been identified throughout the unit. A pictography site is located in Heath Canyon. White fir and bristlecone pine trees occur on Blue Eagle Mountain and they could be of some ecological as well as of scientific value. The following plants were identified for this unit and are on Nevada's threatened and endangered plant list: Astragalus callithrix; Astragalus uncialis; Astragalus calycosus var. monophyllidius; and Coryphantha vivipara var. rosea.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

58,800 acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

14,100 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 13 specific comments on this unit. Most mentioned the area's naturalness, outstanding solitude and recreation, or supplemental values. Several noted roads, intrusions, and lack of outstanding opportunities. A few listed other resource values. Also received were 2,328 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

59,560 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

13,340 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates that a portion of the area does possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation. The portion eliminated from WSA consideration was found not to possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-060-163

UNIT NAME: The Wall

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Wall unit is within the Pancake Range in Nye County, Nevada. The Wall is roughly rectangular in shape, about nine miles long by seven miles wide. It is a high mesa which rises 600 to 1,000 feet above the basin floor. Large boulder outcroppings occur all over the top of the mesa. The vegetation consists of plants of the sagebrush community with some juniper trees interspersed between the boulders on top of the mesa.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 43,300 acres of public land. The roadless area consists of 40,800 acres as 2,500 acres were separated from the bulk of the unit by roads.

2. Naturalness: 38,000 acres were found to be in a natural condition. 2,800 acres were deleted due to a lack of naturalness. It is the cumulative impacts of a gap fence, a bladed fenceline, a parking lot, and an interpretive site which make this area unnatural.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The roadless and natural portion of the area does possess an outstanding opportunity for solitude. Natural screening is provided by the boulder outcroppings and juniper trees on top of the mesa. Topographic variance is provided by the drainages which penetrate the area. Users would be able to effectively screen themselves from the sights and sounds of man.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The area does offer an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Hiking, backpacking, and camping in an exceptionally scenic area are all possible opportunities. "Bouldering" and "scrambling" activities are available on top of the mesa. The scenic qualities are enhanced by the colorful and vivid examples of volcanic action present within the unit.
4. Supplemental Values: Portions of this unit are in Railroad Valley which has been identified as a very rich area for archaeological resources. The volcanic processes which formed The Wall, a steep embankment formed from volcanic ash flows, which lies within the unit, could be of scientific as well as educational value.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

38,000 acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

5,300 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received nine specific comments on this unit. Most discussed the areas naturalness and outstanding solitude and recreation. One suggested a boundary change and several noted supplemental values. A few noted intrusions, lack of outstanding opportunities, or other resource values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

38,000 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

5,300 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates that a portion of the area does possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation. The portion eliminated from WSA consideration was found not to possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-060-166

UNIT NAME: Grant Range

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Grant Range unit is along the western flank of the Grant Range in Nye County, Nevada. The unit is nine miles long and varies from one to three miles in width. Terrain is limited to rolling hills and flat valley floors with little topographical variation. Vegetation is generally sparse and low-growing with black sagebrush the dominant plant. Scattered pinyon pine and juniper trees occur in the southeast corner of the unit.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 6,490 acres of public land. About 500 acres are separated from the bulk of the unit by roads. The rest of the unit is cut by roads into several portions, all smaller than 5,000 acres. However, since the unit is contiguous to a Forest Service RARE II proposed wilderness area, size is not a limiting factor.
2. Naturalness: 5,840 acres were found to be in a natural condition. 150 acres were deleted due to lack of naturalness. Intrusions included roads, mining activity, and a dump.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The limited vegetative and topographic screening do not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude when considered alone. The solitude opportunities are outstanding, however, when this unit is considered with the large contiguous RARE II unit. The combined unit offers excellent natural screening by the rugged, mountainous terrain.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The opportunities are limited when only the BLM portion of the Grant Range unit is considered. These opportunities are deemed outstanding when consideration is given to the opportunities offered in the entire roadless area.
4. Supplemental Values: A historic mining camp and a scenic waterfall are within the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

5,840 acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status. (This figure differs from the Bureau's earlier recommendation due to a more accurate acreage assessment.)

650 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received ten specific comments on this unit. The majority mentioned roads, intrusions, or lack of outstanding opportunities. Two noted the area was of insufficient size. The remaining comments discussed the area's naturalness and outstanding solitude and recreation, or supplemental values. Two listed other resource values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

5,840 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

650 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation for this area, which is contiguous to lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service that previously were determined to have wilderness characteristics. Evidence available to the Bureau indicates that the natural portion of the public land when combined with the adjoining agency unit, also possesses the other necessary criteria for WSA designation. The portions eliminated from WSA consideration were not found to possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-060-174

UNIT NAME: Black Rock

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Black Rock unit is within the Pancake Range in Nye County, Nevada. This unit is roughly rectangular, about eight miles long and five miles wide. It consists of a narrow ridge with a large valley portion on the eastern side. The entire area is covered by plants of the sage community.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 25,500 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: 25,400 acres were found to be in a natural condition. 100 acres were deleted due to a lack of naturalness. This area consists of assessment pits and two ways.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The roadless and natural portion of the area does not possess an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The ridge which runs the entire length of this unit would be the main objective of a user. The ridge rises quickly and affords the user with an unobstructed view of the unit. Topographic features combined with the vegetative characteristics do not offer enough natural screening so that a user could effectively avoid the sights and sounds of man.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The area does not offer an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Minimal opportunities for camping, horseback riding, and hiking are present within the unit. Other recreational activities such as hunting and collecting rocks and minerals are not possible.

4. Supplemental Values: Two items of historical interest, the legend of the "Lost Rifles Within the Pancake Range" and an old shepherders' stone cabin, were identified for this unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

25,500 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received three specific comments on this unit. One discussed naturalness and the others noted roads, intrusions, lack of solitude, or other resource values. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

25,500 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-060-176

UNIT NAME: Big Round Valley

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Big Round Valley unit is within the Pancake Range in Nye County, Nevada. This unit is roughly square, about three miles wide by three miles long. It consists of a series of low hills dissected by drainages. The entire area is covered by plants of the sage community.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. **Size:** The unit includes 6,200 acres of public land. The roadless area consists of zero acres as the entire area was criss-crossed by roads making no one parcel over 5,000 acres. This unit fails to meet the size criterion and no further evaluation is necessary.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

6,200 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit, mentioning roads, intrusions, lack of solitude, and other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

6,200 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-060-183

UNIT NAME: North Pancake I

AREA DESCRIPTION: The North Pancake I unit is within the Pancake Range in Nye County, Nevada. This unit is roughly oval, about seven miles long and five miles wide. It consists of basaltic lava flows and cinder cones. The entire area is covered by plants of the sage community.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 17,200 acres of public land. The roadless area consists of 15,600 acres as 1,600 acres were separated from the bulk of the unit by roads.
2. Naturalness: 14,600 acres were found to be in a natural condition. 1,000 acres were deleted due to a lack of naturalness. The area contains extensive mining activity consisting of scrapes and pits.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The roadless and natural portion of the area does not possess an outstanding opportunity for solitude. Topographic features combined with the vegetative characteristics do not offer enough natural screening so that a user could effectively avoid the sights and sounds of man.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The area does not offer an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Minimal opportunities for camping, horseback riding, hiking, and hunting are present within the unit. Collecting of rocks and minerals at Black Rock Lava Flow is available.
4. Supplemental Values: Black Rock Lava Flow is the most recent volcanic activity within the Pancake Range and could serve as an area for geologic or scientific study. The lava flow contains xenolyths (geologic abnormalities) which are being studied by a doctoral candidate from Princeton University.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

17,200 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit, noting roads, transmission lines, lack of solitude and other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

17,200 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-060-184

UNIT NAME: North Pancake III

AREA DESCRIPTION: The North Pancake III unit is within the Pancake Range in Nye County, Nevada. This unit is roughly oval, about seven miles long and five miles wide. It is a single, narrow ridge running north-south with a large valley area on the east. Vegetation consists of plants of the sagebrush community and a few single leaf mountain mahogany trees on the ridge.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 19,200 acres of public land. The roadless area consists of 19,150 acres as 50 acres were separated from the bulk of the unit by roads.
2. Naturalness: 18,750 acres were found to be in a natural condition. 400 acres were deleted due to a lack of naturalness. This area contains evidence of extensive mining activity consisting of scrapes, pits, and tailing piles.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The roadless and natural portion of the area does not possess an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The ridge which runs the entire length of this unit would be the main objective of a user. The ridge rises quickly and affords the user an unobstructed view of the entire unit. Topographic features combined with the vegetative characteristics do not offer enough natural screening so that a user could effectively avoid the sights and sounds of man.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The area does not offer an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation due to the low quality and lack of diversity in the recreational opportunities.

4. Supplemental Values: The single-leaf mountain mahogany, Cercocarpus intricatus, a unique species for this area, is found in isolated parts of the unit. Two threatened and endangered plants for Nevada exist in this unit; Coryphantha vivipara var. rosea, and Sphaeralcea caespitosa. These plants could serve for ecological and scientific study.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

19,200 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit, citing roads, transmission lines, lack of solitude, and other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

19,200 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-060-188

UNIT NAME: Morgan

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Morgan unit is within the Grant Range in Nye County, Nevada. This area is roughly oblong, about six miles long by three miles wide. It is comprised of rolling hills with the highest elevation at 8,468 feet and the lowest elevation at 7,000 feet. Vegetation consists primarily of a pinyon-juniper woodland with some curlleaf mountain mahogany. In the flat or meadow areas there is also a sage community.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 9,000 acres of public land. The roadless area consists of 8,750 acres as 250 acres were separated from the bulk of the unit by roads.
2. Naturalness: 8,750 acres were found to be in a natural condition.

3. Outstanding Opportunities for:

A. Solitude: The roadless and natural portion of the area does not possess an outstanding opportunity for solitude. Topographic diversity is rather limited since the area is comprised mainly of rolling hills. Some drainages penetrate the unit, but add little to the diversity because they are located in meadow regions. A road penetrates the center of the unit which further limits the ability of a user to find a secluded spot.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The area does not offer an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Opportunities for day hikes or short horseback treks are possible. Extended trips of any sort are not feasible due to the presence of an interior road. Limited sightseeing and hunting opportunities are present.

4. Supplemental Values: Indian "chipping" sites have been identified in this unit. They may have scientific as well as educational values.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

9,000 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria. No specific comments were received.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

9,000 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received supporting WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-060-190

UNIT NAME: Fandango

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Fandango unit lies in the Hot Creek Range in Nye County, Nevada. It is irregular in shape due to the presence of several interior roads that are technically outside of the unit. The unit is 18 miles long by three to eight miles wide. The area is primarily mountainous, with broad drainages extending far into the interior. A portion of Little Fish Lake Valley lies along the western boundary, with low rolling hills and broad alluvial fans. Elevations range from 5,760 feet to 9,606 feet on Little Fandango Peak. Vegetative cover throughout the unit is provided by mountain mahogany, aspen, and pinyon-juniper trees over low sagebrush undergrowth. Tree cover is generally sparse. Much of the western valley has been seeded to crested wheatgrass, and only scattered juniper trees remain of the natural vegetation. Meadow vegetation (a variety of grasses and forbs) occurs around many natural springs and in Sixmile Canyon, where a diversity of vegetation exists.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 48,600 acres of public land. The roadless area consists of 45,320 acres as 3,280 acres were separated from the bulk of the unit by roads.
2. Naturalness: 40,940 acres were found to be in a natural condition. 4,380 acres were deleted due to a lack of naturalness.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Public comments received for this area prompted a re-evaluation of opportunities for solitude. A final analysis indicates that the high mountains cut by deep canyons and vegetated in places by aspen, pinyon-juniper, and mountain mahogany provide sufficient screening to offer outstanding opportunities.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Public comments also initiated a re-evaluation of opportunities for primitive recreation. After consideration of these comments, it has been determined that the hiking, camping, and hunting opportunities combined with scenic diversity do offer outstanding opportunities.
4. Supplemental Values: Two sets of brick charcoal kilns, built in the 1870s, are in excellent condition.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

48,600 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 12 specific comments on this unit. Several said the area was roadless, natural, and possessed outstanding solitude and recreation. Some mentioned roads, intrusions, and lack of outstanding opportunities. A substantial number noted supplemental values and one listed other resource values. Two stated the area lacks wilderness criteria. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

40,940 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

7,660 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates that a portion of the area does possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation. The portion eliminated from WSA consideration was found not to possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-060-191

UNIT NAME: Morey

AREA DESCRIPTION: This unit is made up primarily of the mountain mass that culminates in Morey Peak. It is irregular in shape, measuring 12 miles north-south by six miles east-west at its widest. The mountain itself is extremely rocky and rugged. Steep canyons penetrate the interior from the east and west. Ridges are often high and have steep sides. A flat portion of Hot Creek Valley occurs along the east. Elevations range from 5,780 feet to 10,246 feet atop Morey Peak. Vegetation varies throughout the unit. A low growing sagebrush community occurs in Hot Creek Valley. Mountain mahogany, aspen, and pinyon-juniper alternate over the higher elevations, and bristlecone pine occurs in small stands on the peak. Meadow vegetation occurs at isolated springs and throughout Sixmile Canyon, where botanical diversity is excellent.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 29,700 acres of public land. The roadless area consists of 20,980 acres as 8,720 acres were separated from the bulk of the unit by roads. These 8,720 acres were divided by roads into several subunits each of which was less than 5,000 acres and failed to meet the size requirements.

2. Naturalness: 20,120 acres were found to be in a natural condition. 860 acres were deleted due to a lack of naturalness.

3. Outstanding Opportunities for:

A. Solitude: The roadless and natural portion of the area does possess an outstanding opportunity for solitude. Rugged topography and abundance of shrub/tree cover combine to provide excellent natural screening and an abundance of secluded spots.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The area does offer an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Challenging terrain, the availability of water, vegetative variety, and excellent scenic value all contribute to make a number of recreational activities possible. The great diversity and fine quality of the activities lead to an outstanding recreational opportunity.

4. Supplemental Values: Two sets of charcoal kilns (circa 1870s) lie in Sixmile Canyon. Additionally, bristlecone pine trees grow atop Morey Peak, one of only two known occurrences of these trees on volcanic soil.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

20,120 acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

9,580 acres should be dropped from further wilderness study and consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 16 specific comments on this unit. The comments were equally divided between those saying the area possesses wilderness values and those saying it lacks them. Several noted supplemental values and two listed other resource values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

20,120 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

9,580 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates that a portion of the area does possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation. The portion eliminated from WSA consideration was found not to possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-060-192

UNIT NAME: Slanted Buttes

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Slanted Buttes unit is east of Moores' Station in Nye County, Nevada. The area is roughly circular, about six miles wide by seven miles long. It consists of buttes and low rolling hills. The overall average relief is about 1,500 feet. The vegetation consists of plants of the sagebrush community with a pinyon-juniper woodland occurring at the higher elevations.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 23,900 acres of public land. The roadless area consists of 23,520 acres as 380 acres were separated from the bulk of the unit by roads.
2. Naturalness: 23,450 acres were found to be in a natural condition. 70 acres were deleted due to a lack of naturalness. This area included a substantially noticeable way and a pipeline.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The roadless and natural portion of the area does not possess an outstanding opportunity for solitude. Topographic and vegetative characteristics within this unit do not provide enough natural screening so that users could effectively screen themselves from the sights and sounds of man.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The area does not offer an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Some opportunities for camping, horseback riding, and hiking are present within the unit. Other recreational activities such as hunting and collecting rocks and minerals are limited.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

23,900 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received ten specific comments on this unit, with most mentioning the area's naturalness and outstanding solitude and recreation. Several noted supplemental values. A few listed roads, intrusions and other resource values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria, and one stating it lacks the criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

23,900 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-060-194

UNIT NAME: North Pancake II

AREA DESCRIPTION: The North Pancake II unit is within the Pancake Range in Nye County, Nevada. This unit has an irregular oval shape, about six miles long by eight miles wide. It is a series of low mountains dissected by several shallow drainages. The entire area is covered by plants of the sage community.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 26,400 acres of roadless public land.
2. Naturalness: 26,400 acres were found to be in a natural condition.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The roadless and natural portion of the area does not possess an outstanding opportunity for solitude because the peaks are relatively low and would afford the user with an unrestricted field of vision. Canyons are shallow and generally extend less than two miles. Topographic features combined with the vegetative characteristics do not offer enough natural screening so that a user could effectively avoid the sights and sounds of man.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The area does not offer an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Minimal opportunities for camping, horseback riding, and hiking are present within the unit. Other recreational activities such as hunting and collecting rocks and minerals are not feasible.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

26,400 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit, noting other resource values. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as Wilderness Study Area.

26,400 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-060-201/211

UNIT NAME: Sixmile

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Sixmile unit is in the Hot Creek Range in Nye County, Nevada. It is irregular in shape, consisting primarily of low, rolling hills with wide, shallow drainages. Shingle Buttes in the southwest provides the unit with its only topographical variation. Elevations range from 6,200 feet to 8,481 feet. Juniper trees are scattered over the hills with sparse sagebrush undergrowth. Vegetative cover is minimal everywhere throughout the unit except in a few drainages where the sagebrush is tall.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 12,600 acres of roadless public land.
2. Naturalness: 12,570 acres were found to be in a natural condition. 30 acres were deleted due to a lack of naturalness.

3. Outstanding Opportunities for:

A. Solitude: The roadless and natural portion of the area does not possess an outstanding opportunity for solitude. Low-growing, sparse vegetation and rolling, open topography make a recreationist extremely visible throughout the unit. Secluded spots do not exist.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The area does not offer an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Limitations on recreation include unchallenging topography, lack of scenic values, small unit size, and low game populations. No features of interest occur within the unit. Water is also lacking.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

12,600 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received four specific comments on this unit. One discussed naturalness and supplemental values. The others noted the area lacked solitude and listed other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

12,600 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-060-212

UNIT NAME: Rhyolite Hills

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Rhyolite Hills unit is east of Moores' Station in Nye County, Nevada. This unit is roughly triangular in shape, about 14 miles long by six miles wide at the base. Moderate sized hills with several drainages is the general topography of this unit. Vegetation is predominantly a pinyon-juniper woodland in the mountainous portion. The valley areas contain low growing desert shrubs.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 34,300 acres of roadless public land.

2. Naturalness: 33,900 acres were found to be in a natural condition. 400 acres were deleted due to a lack of naturalness. This area consisted of mining activity, a corral, and a deteriorating structure.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The roadless and natural portion of the area does not possess an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The northern half of the unit is comprised of a narrow ridge and part of Sand Springs Valley. This area averages only two miles in width with an average relief of 500 feet. The southern half of the unit has a mining road which penetrates the unit for about four miles. This situation restricts the user from being able to find a secluded spot and thus would prevent the user from avoiding the sights and sounds of man.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The area does not offer an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation as opportunities for backpacking, camping, and horseback riding are of low quality. Hunting is poor as is the opportunity for collecting rocks, minerals, or vegetative specimens. There is some opportunity for geological sightseeing due to the various colorful rock outcroppings in Jumbled Rock Gulch.
4. Supplemental Values: A petroglyph is located in Jumbled Rock Gulch which indicates the presence of an Indian culture which has long since disappeared. One other possible aboriginal artifact found during field observations was a rock pillar. It has not been investigated but similar features which have been identified as having aboriginal origins occur in Grass Valley.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

34,300 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit. One mentioned naturalness and supplemental values while the other noted other resource values. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

34,300 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-060-213

UNIT NAME: Red Ring Mountain

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Red Ring Mountain unit is east of Moores' Station in Nye County, Nevada. This unit is roughly circular, about three miles wide by four miles long. It is an isolated peak gently rising 1,300 feet above the basin floor. The vegetation consists of plants of the sagebrush community with a pinyon-juniper woodland occurring in the southern half of the unit.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 6,200 acres of roadless public land.
2. Naturalness: 6,200 acres were found to be in a natural condition.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The roadless and natural portion of the area does not possess an outstanding opportunity for solitude. It is a relatively small mountain with little topographic variance. Vegetation is sparse and visitors would find it difficult to screen themselves from others in the unit.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The area does not offer an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Those opportunities that do exist are common and of relatively low quality.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

6,200 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit. One discussed the area's naturalness and supplemental values and the second noted other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

6,200 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-060-219

UNIT NAME: Milton Ranch

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Milton Ranch unit is on the east side of Ione Valley in Nye County, Nevada. It borders the Toiyabe National Forest and consists of a two and a half mile by three mile triangle of alluvial fan. The topography is unbroken except for a few shallow washes. The vegetative cover is made up of plants of the sagebrush community and a cluster of juniper trees along the eastern boundary.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 9,300 acres of public land. The roadless area consists of 9,050 acres as 250 acres were separated from the bulk of the unit by roads.
2. Naturalness: 9,050 acres were found to be in a natural condition.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The roadless and natural portion of the area does not possess an outstanding opportunity for solitude because of the area's small size, triangular configuration, and total lack of natural screening and secluded spots. The entire unit can be observed from any location within the area.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The area does not offer an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation as activities such as backpacking, hiking, horseback riding, and camping are extremely limited by the area's size. Opportunities for mountain climbing and fishing do not exist. Hunting is of low quality and no collectable rocks, minerals, or plants are present.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

9,300 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit, mentioning the area's small size, lack of solitude and recreation, unnaturalness, and other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

9,300 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by one public comment, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-060-231/241

UNIT NAME: Antelope

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Antelope Range is a remote range in Central Nevada. It is characterized by a north/south ridge 1,000-2,000 feet higher than the adjacent valleys. The northern end is the wettest area and contains several perennial streams, mature riparian forests, and extensive aspen groves on the plateau-like top. The central portion features a barren, rocky interior valley and the southern part contains blocky valleys and flat-topped mountains blanketed with a pinyon-juniper forest.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 148,300 acres of public land. The roadless area consisted of 143,670 acres as 4,630 acres were separated from the bulk of the unit by roads. However, during the public comment period a road was documented which split off 17,300 acres from the main unit which created a subunit of 126,370 acres.
2. Naturalness: 5,120 acres of the 17,300 acre subunit were deleted due to a lack of naturalness and 38,970 acres were deleted from the 126,370 acre subunit. These deletions were due to historic logging and extensive range improvements.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The natural portion of the 17,300 acre subunit does not possess outstanding opportunities for solitude due to its long narrow configuration. The remaining roadless and natural portion, 87,400 acres, does possess an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The extensive size, varied and broken topography and remote location offers almost limitless secluded spots.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The natural portion of the 17,300 acre subunit does not possess outstanding recreation due to the area's narrow configuration and close proximity to roads. The remaining 87,400 acres do offer an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation due to the ability to hike or ride at high elevation for a sustained period of time, adequate water supplies, and abundant game species.
4. Supplemental Values: Untrampled, natural meadows and springs, extensive aspen forests, rich archaeological sites, and several historical sites including the James Wild Horse Trap which is on the National Register of Historic Sites were noted in the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

104,700 acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

43,600 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 15 specific comments on this unit. The comments were closely divided into those saying the area had wilderness characteristics and those saying it lacked them. Many noted supplemental values and a few listed other resource values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

87,400 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

60,900 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates that a portion of the area does possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation. The portion eliminated from WSA consideration was found not to possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-060-258

UNIT NAME: Buzanes

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Buzanes unit is on the western side of Smith Creek Valley in Lander County, Nevada. The unit is about five miles long and one to three miles wide and consists of flat, valley-bottom land with two small rises in the interior. The dominant vegetation is sagebrush.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 10,900 acres of roadless public land.
2. Naturalness: Zero acres were found to be in a natural condition. 10,900 acres were deleted due to a lack of naturalness. The entire area is heavily impacted by mining activities including pits, tailings, buildings, roads, scrapes, and ways.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

10,900 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received four specific comments on this unit. One discussed the area's naturalness, outstanding recreation and suggest a boundary change. One mentioned roads and intrusions and another noted the unit contains a military operating area. Two listed other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

10,900 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-060-278

UNIT NAME: Haypress

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Haypress inventory unit is in the central part of the Desatoya Mountain Range, Lander County, Nevada. The unit consists of open, rolling, sagebrush covered hills.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 2,900 acres of roadless public land. The routes forming the unit boundary were determined to be roads and the entire unit fails to meet the size criterion. Therefore, further wilderness consideration is unnecessary.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

2,900 acres should be dropped from further wilderness study and consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received five specific comments on this unit. One suggested a boundary change and identified naturalness and outstanding recreation. One mentioned the unit is within a military operating area and another listed other resource values. Two cited intrusions. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

2,900 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-060-279

UNIT NAME: White Rock

AREA DESCRIPTION: The White Rock inventory unit is in the central part of the Desatoya Range in Lander County, Nevada. The unit is irregular in shape and is roughly seven miles long and four miles wide. The area consists of open, rolling, sagebrush covered hills with some stands of pinyon-juniper forest.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 26,400 acres of roadless public land.
2. Naturalness: 26,400 acres were found to be in a natural condition.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The roadless and natural portion of the area does not possess an outstanding opportunity for solitude because the lack of topographic and vegetative screening combined with the irregular configuration creates a lack of natural screening and provides few secluded spots.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The area does not offer an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation as the opportunities for primitive travel are limited by the unit's small size, irregular configuration, and the lack of specific attractions. There are few game species present and their populations are moderate to low. Sightseeing and collecting opportunities are low due to a lack of variety in landforms, vegetation, and wildlife.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

26,400 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received five specific comments on this unit. One noted a boundary change and cited naturalness and outstanding recreation. The others mentioned intrusions or pointed out the unit is within a military operating area. One stated the unit meets the wilderness criteria. One also listed other resource values. Also received were 2,326 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

26,400 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA recommendation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-060-347

UNIT NAME: Diana's Punchbowl

AREA DESCRIPTION: Diana's Punchbowl is in central Monitor Valley, just north of Dry Lake, in Nye County, Nevada. A small range of low, rolling, sage covered hills is the dominant topographic feature. A narrow meadow, used for cattle grazing, is found along the western side of the unit. The area is triangular in shape and is approximately three miles wide by four miles long.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 14,700 acres of public land. The roadless area consists of 14,600 acres as 100 acres were separated from the bulk of the unit by roads.
2. Naturalness: 14,600 acres were found to be in a natural condition.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The roadless and natural portion of the area does not possess an outstanding opportunity for solitude because the opportunities for avoiding the sights and sounds of others and for finding a secluded spot are minimal due to the area's small size, narrow configuration, and lack of natural screening.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The area does not offer an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Minimal opportunities for camping, riding, and hiking are present within the unit. Other recreational activities such as hunting and collecting rocks and minerals are not feasible.
4. Supplemental Values: Lepidium nanum, a rare and endangered plant, is reported to exist in the southern part of the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

14,700 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: None received.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

14,700 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: No public comments were received, and the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-060-407

UNIT NAME: Bates Mountain

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Bates Mountain unit lies in the Simpson Park Range in Lander County, Nevada. The unit is about seven or eight miles long and five miles wide. It is dominated by the Bates Mountain plateau centrally located in the area. Surrounding this on all sides are steep slopes leading from the plateau. These slopes give way to smaller hills and mesas and eventually to alluvial fans. Two large drainages are present and contain perennial streams. A pinyon-juniper woodland surrounds the two drainages. The remainder of the unit is dominated by plants of the sagebrush community.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 77,930 acres of public land. The roadless area consists of 74,070 acres as 3,860 acres were separated from the bulk of the unit by roads.
2. Naturalness: 62,140 acres were found to be in a natural condition. 11,930 acres were deleted due to a lack of naturalness. The deletions are made up of five separate parcels. The areas contain several roads, ways, fences, corrals, and extensive mining activity.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The roadless and natural portion of the area does not possess an outstanding opportunity for solitude because the number and location of the unnatural regions are such that the configuration is highly irregular. Topographic screening is limited because the mesas and alluvial fans have a wide exposure to all the surrounding territory. Vegetative screening is only available in the pinyon-juniper woodlands and only if a user confines himself/herself to a small area. Opportunities for seclusion are minimal.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The area does not offer an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Short day trips into the area are possible. The nature of the existing unnatural areas are such that extended trips are not feasible. Limited hunting and fishing opportunities exist. Rocks, minerals, and plants of collectable value are not known to exist.
4. Supplemental Values: The archaeological sites known to exist within the unit have not yet been fully studied.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

77,930 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 24 specific comments on this unit. Two suggested a boundary change and one noted the area is within a military operating area. Most identified the presence of wilderness characteristics while others noted roads, intrusions, or lack of outstanding opportunities. Two also listed other resource values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria and one stating the unit lacks wilderness characteristics.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

77,930 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-060-415

UNIT NAME: Callaghan

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Callaghan unit is part of the Toiyabe Range and is north of US 50 in Lander County, Nevada. The area consists of a series of mesas, rolling hills, and moderately steep hills along the east side of the Toiyabe Range. Mt. Callaghan is not located within the unit. Several stands of pinyon-juniper and aspen are found within the area. Most of the unit is covered by plants of the sagebrush community. The configuration of the area is highly irregular due to the presence of several roads that are technically outside of the area. The width of the Callaghan unit varies from one to six miles. Its overall length is 17 miles, except that about five miles of its central portion was dropped due to lack of naturalness during the initial inventory.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 79,300 acres of public land. The roadless area consists of 77,460 acres as 1,840 acres were separated from the bulk of the unit by roads.
2. Naturalness: 75,080 acres were found to be in a natural condition. 2,380 acres were deleted due to a lack of naturalness as the result of mining.

3. Outstanding Opportunities for:

A. Solitude: The roadless and natural portion of the area does not possess an outstanding opportunity for solitude because of the irregular shape of the unit and the presence of interior roads which make it difficult to get more than one or two miles from a road anywhere in the unit.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The area does not offer an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Opportunities for day hikes or short horseback treks are possible. Extended trips of any sort are not feasible due to the presence of interior roads. Limited hunting, fishing, sightseeing, and collecting opportunities are present.

4. Supplemental Values: Several Indian chipping sites and an old stone wall are found within the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

79,300 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received three specific comments on this unit. Two cited roads, intrusions, or other resource values. One pointed out the unit is within a military operating area.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

79,300 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-060-422

UNIT NAME: White Sage

AREA DESCRIPTION: The White Sage unit is on the eastern side of Antelope Valley in Lander County, Nevada. The eastern portion of the area is covered with a second growth pinyon-juniper forest. The evidence of past woodcutting activity is readily apparent in the form of stumps. The natural portion of the unit is about five miles long and two and a half miles wide with a highly irregular boundary.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 16,400 acres of public land. The roadless area consists of 16,195 acres as 205 acres were separated from the bulk of the unit by roads.

2. Naturalness: 8,985 acres were found to be in a natural condition. 7,210 acres were deleted due to a lack of naturalness as the result of woodcutting operations.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The roadless and natural portion of the area does not possess an outstanding opportunity for solitude because of its small size, narrow configuration, limited natural screening, and lack of secluded spots.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The area does not offer an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation as opportunities for primitive travel are limited to short day trips and low quality deer hunting.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

16,400 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received three specific comments on this unit. One said the unit is within a military operating zone and one said the air is polluted above federal standards. The third said the area was too small, is unnatural, and lacks outstanding opportunities. One also listed other resource values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

16,400 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-060-428

UNIT NAME: Simpson Park

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Simpson Park unit is in the Simpson Park Range in Lander County, Nevada. It is about 17 miles long and four to five miles wide. The northern part of the unit is covered with steep hillsides. The topography in the southern region changes from steep hills to a series of mesas and plateaus. A large stand of pinyon-juniper woodland exists along part of the western boundary. The rest of the unit is dominated by plants of the sagebrush community.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 51,500 acres of public land. The roadless area consists of 51,500 acres as 110 acres were separated from the bulk of the unit by roads.
2. Naturalness: 49,670 acres were found to be in a natural condition. 1,720 acres were deleted due to a lack of naturalness. The deletions occur in two separate parcels. Both areas are heavily impacted with extensive mining activity and roads.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: Public comments received for this area prompted a re-evaluation of opportunities for solitude. A final analysis indicates that the combined factors of screening, configuration, and size are sufficient to offer numerous secluded spots, and that opportunities are outstanding in the area.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: Public comments also initiated a re-evaluation of opportunities for primitive recreation. After consideration of all comments, it has been determined that the diversity of opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, and hunting contribute to an overall outstanding opportunity.
4. Supplemental Values: Some archaeological sites exist within the unit, but they have not yet been fully studied.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

51,500 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.
(These figures have changed from the original recommendation due to a typographical error.)

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 13 specific comments on this unit. One pointed out the unit is within a military operating area. The rest are evenly split between those citing roads, intrusions, and lack of outstanding opportunities and those identifying the presence of wilderness characteristics or suggesting a boundary expansion. One stated the unit does not meet wilderness criteria. A few noted supplemental values and two listed other resource values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

49,670 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

1,830 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates that a portion of the area does possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation. The portion eliminated from WSA consideration was found not to possess the necessary criteria for designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-060-432

UNIT NAME: Willow Creek

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Willow Creek unit is on the eastern side of Antelope Valley in Lander County, Nevada. The unit averages about three to four miles wide and 10 miles long. Small stands of pinyon-juniper are found in the southern and central portions of the unit, while the remainder is covered by sage community plants. Some steep sided hills are present in the north end of the area, but most of it consists of gently rolling hills.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 35,300 acres of roadless land.
2. Naturalness: 35,300 acres were found to be in a natural condition.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The roadless and natural portion of the area does not possess an outstanding opportunity for solitude because of its narrow configuration, minimal vegetation and no topographic screening, and few secluded spots.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The area does not offer an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation as the area lacks attractions for hiking and backpacking and only has minimal opportunity for hunting, fishing, sightseeing, and collecting.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

35,300 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit. One noted roads, intrusions, or other resource values, and the other said the air is polluted above federal standards. One also listed other resource values. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

35,300 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-060-433

UNIT NAME: Manhattan Mountain

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Manhattan Mountain unit is on the eastern side of Antelope Valley in Lander County, Nevada. The unit is about eight miles long and eight miles wide. The area consists of a series of low rolling hills. A pinyon-juniper forest covers the southern half of the unit, while the remainder is dominated by plants of the sagebrush community.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 31,300 acres of public land.
2. Naturalness: 28,385 acres were found to be in a natural condition. 2,915 acres were deleted due to a lack of naturalness resulting from woodcutting operations and roads.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The roadless and natural portion of the area does not possess an outstanding opportunity for solitude because of the unavoidable noticeable presence of mining impacts located just beyond the northern and southwestern boundaries and the limited natural screening in much of the area. Although not normally considered in inventory, these "outside" impacts were considered so extremely imposing that they could not be ignored.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The area does not offer an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Day hikes could be made to Ravenswood Peak, however, the area is not large enough to accommodate more than a weekend backpack trip. Mining activity outside of the unit is visible from many locations within the area. The quality of available hunting, sight-seeing, and specimen collecting is low.
4. Supplemental Values: Two threatened plants, Eriogonum rubricavle and Phacelia glaberrima grow within the unit.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

31,300 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received four specific comments on this unit, two noting roads, intrusions, or lack of outstanding opportunities. One said the air is polluted above federal standards and one said the unit lies within a military operating zone. Two also listed other resource values. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

31,300 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-060-442

UNIT NAME: Sage

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Sage unit is on the eastern side of Antelope Valley in Lander County, Nevada. The area is long and narrow with a three mile stretch in the north being less than a mile wide. Most of the area consists of rolling hills with a section of steeper hills in the central area. The entire unit is covered with plants of the sagebrush community.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 10,900 acres of roadless public land.
2. Naturalness: 10,900 acres were found to be in a natural condition.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The roadless and natural portion of the area does not possess an outstanding opportunity for solitude because of its small size, narrow configuration, and lack of screening.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The area does not offer an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation as short day hikes are the only feasible type of recreation. Opportunities for other recreational activities are extremely limited. Sightseeing, hunting, and collecting are all very poor.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

10,900 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit, one noting roads, intrusions, or other resource values, and one pointing out the unit lies within a military operating area.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

10,900 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-060-459

UNIT NAME: Rocky Hills

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Rocky Hills unit is in Lander County, Nevada. It has one low mountain range running through the center of the area and rolling hills throughout the remainder of the area. The vegetation consists of plants of the sagebrush community with a few scattered stands of pinyon-juniper forest. Mining activity supported by an extensive road system is present in the northern and central portions of the unit. The major roadless natural area is located in the northern portion of the area, while only a small section of the southern half of the unit is in a roadless condition.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 57,360 acres of public land. It was split into 21 subunits due to roads, 19 of which did not meet the minimum size requirements. The remaining subunits are 25,200 acres and 6,300 acres.
2. Naturalness: The 6,300 acre subunit and 3,700 acres of the 25,200 acre subunit lacked naturalness due to extensive mining activity. 21,000 acres were found to be in a natural condition.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The roadless and natural portion of the area does not possess an outstanding opportunity for solitude because the lack of vegetation and the open rolling hills result in poor natural screening and little chance for feeling remote from others. Secluded spots are difficult to find due to the presence of roads and mines that dominate the area.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The area does not offer an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Those opportunities that do exist are common and of relatively low quality.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

57,360 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received five specific comments on this unit, four noting roads, intrusions, or lack of outstanding opportunities. One pointed out the unit is within a military operating zone.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

57,360 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-060-461

UNIT NAME: South Fish Creek

AREA DESCRIPTION: The South Fish Creek unit is in the southern portion of the Fish Creek Mountains in Lander County, Nevada. The unit is about 10 miles long and nine miles wide. It is an area of open rolling hills and volcanic flows with one mountain near its center. The dominant vegetation is sparse, scattered sagebrush. There are some stands of pinyon-juniper woodland.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 104,500 acres of public land. The roadless area consists of 104,200 acres as 300 acres were separated from the bulk of the unit by roads.
2. Naturalness: 59,955 acres were found to be in a natural condition. 44,245 acres were deleted due to a lack of naturalness. The area deleted has been heavily impacted by ranching and mining and contains several roads, ways, mines, buildings, and earth movements.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The roadless and natural portion of the area does not possess an outstanding opportunity for solitude because the sparse vegetation and open, rolling terrain result in limited natural screening. Users would be concentrated along one main ridge and few secluded spots can exist. These factors decrease the ability users would have to screen themselves from others and lower the number of secluded spots available.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The area does not offer an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation as opportunities for primitive travel are limited to trips and hikes of short duration which would offer little variety in types of vegetation and scenery encountered. No specific attractions are apparent in the unit. Hunting opportunities are low and there is no known collecting of rocks and minerals or vegetation.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

104,500 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 16 specific comments on this unit. One suggested a boundary change, one noted the air is polluted above federal standards, and one said the unit is within a military operating zone. The remainder is evenly split between those identifying the presence of wilderness characteristics and one citing the lack of wilderness characteristics. One stated the unit does not meet the wilderness criteria. A few noted supplemental values or other resource values. Also received were 2,326 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

104,500 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-060-464

UNIT NAME: Elephant Head

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Elephant Head unit is in the central portion of the Shoshone Range in Lander County, Nevada. The unit is about six miles long and five miles wide and consists of open rolling hills. The dominant vegetation throughout is sparse, scattered sagebrush.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 44,200 acres of roadless public land. The roadless area was divided into two subunits of 17,280 and 26,920 acres due to the presence of a road running completely through the unit.
2. Naturalness: Both subunits were found to be in a natural condition.

3. Outstanding Opportunities for:

A. Solitude: The roadless and natural portions of the areas do not possess outstanding opportunities for solitude because the sparse vegetation and the open, rolling hills result in poor natural screening and a lack of secluded spots.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The area does not offer an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Those opportunities that do exist are common and of relatively low quality.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

44,200 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received three specific comments on this unit, one noting roads or mining intrusions. One mentioned the unit is within a military operating area and one said the air is polluted above federal standards. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

44,200 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-060-465

UNIT NAME: Carico Ranch

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Carico Ranch unit is in the far north end of the Toiyabe Range in Lander County, Nevada. The unit is about three miles wide and four miles long and consists of a single, narrow ridge of open rolling hills. The dominant vegetation throughout is sparse, scattered sagebrush.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 8,000 acres of roadless public land.
2. Naturalness: 8,000 acres were found to be in a natural condition.

3. Outstanding Opportunities for:

A. Solitude: The roadless and natural portion of the area does not possess an outstanding opportunity for solitude because the lack of vegetation and the open, rolling hills result in poor natural screening and a lack of secluded sports.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The area does not offer an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation as opportunities for primitive travel are limited to hikes of short duration which would offer little diversity in types of vegetation and scenery encountered. No specific attractions are apparent in the unit. Hunting opportunities are low and there is no known collecting of rocks and minerals or vegetation.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

8,000 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received two specific comments on this unit, both citing roads, intrusions, or lack of solitude due to military operations.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

8,000 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-060-467

UNIT NAME: Francis Cabin

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Francis Cabin unit is in the far north end of the Toiyabe Range in Lander County, Nevada. The unit is about four miles long and two miles wide and consists of rolling hills. The dominant vegetation is sagebrush. There are some stands of pinyon-juniper woodland.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 5,700 acres of roadless public land.
2. Naturalness: Zero acres were found to be in a natural condition. 5,700 acres were deleted due to a lack of naturalness. A substantially noticeable way crosses the unit forming an unnatural corridor and impacting a large part of the unit. No further wilderness consideration is necessary.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study status.

5,700 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit, stating the unit lies within a military operating area.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

5,700 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by one public comment, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-060-474

UNIT NAME: Red Rock

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Red Rock unit is in the central portion of the Shoshone Range in Lander County, Nevada. The unit is about five miles long and four miles wide and consists of flat, valley bottom land and low, rolling hills. The dominant vegetation throughout is sparse, scattered sagebrush.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 14,100 acres of public land. The roadless area consists of 13,650 acres as 450 acres were separated from the bulk of the unit by roads.
2. Naturalness: 13,650 acres were found to be in a natural condition.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The roadless and natural portion of the area does not possess an outstanding opportunity for solitude because of its limited natural screening and lack of secluded spots.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The area does not offer an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation as opportunities for primitive travel are limited to hikes of short duration which would offer little variety in types of vegetation and scenery encountered. No specific attractions are apparent in the unit. Hunting opportunities are low and there is no known collecting of rocks and minerals or vegetation.
4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

14,100 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received three specific comments on this unit, two stating the area has roads, intrusions, or lacks outstanding opportunities. One said the air is polluted above federal standards.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

14,100 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-060-478

UNIT NAME: Caetano Ranch

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Caetano Ranch unit is in the far north end of the Toiyabe Range in Lander County, Nevada. The unit is about four miles long and three miles wide and consists of a single, steep sided ridge. Sagebrush and pinyon-juniper are the dominant vegetation types.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 9,560 acres of roadless public land.
2. Naturalness: 9,080 acres were found to be in a natural condition. 480 acres were deleted due to a lack of naturalness. The area deleted has been logged and has two roads through it.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The roadless and natural portion of the area does not possess an outstanding opportunity for solitude because the small size and irregular configuration of the unit channel users along the same routes and to the same destinations, thereby reducing the effect of the significance or diversity of the landforms, vegetation, or wildlife present within the unit.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The area does not offer an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation as opportunities for primitive travel are limited to hikes of short duration which would offer little diversity in types of vegetation and scenery encountered. No specific attractions are apparent in the unit. Hunting opportunities are low and there is no known collecting of rocks and minerals or vegetation.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

9,560 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received one specific comment on this unit, stating the unit lies within a military operating area.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

9,560 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by one comment, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-060-482

UNIT NAME: North Fish Creek

AREA DESCRIPTION: The North Fish Creek unit is in the northern end of the Fish Creek Mountains in Lander County, Nevada. The unit is about eight miles long and five miles wide and consists of open, rolling hills and a large flat-topped plateau. The dominant vegetation throughout is sparse, scattered sagebrush.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 52,400 acres of roadless public land.
2. Naturalness: 25,940 acres were found to be in a natural condition. 26,460 acres were deleted due to a lack of naturalness. The area deleted was found to be in an unnatural state due to extensive mining activity, roads, and ways.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The roadless and natural portion of the area does not possess an outstanding opportunity for solitude because of its irregular configuration, limited natural screening, and lack of secluded spots.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The area does not offer an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation as opportunities for primitive travel are limited to hikes of short duration which would offer little variety in the type of vegetation and scenery encountered. No specific attractions are apparent in the unit. Hunting opportunities are low and there is no known collecting of rocks and minerals or vegetation.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

52,400 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 16 specific comments on this unit, most citing roads, intrusions, and lack of outstanding opportunities. Six said the area did possess wilderness characteristics or suggested a boundary change. One said the air is polluted above federal standards. One also noted supplemental values and one listed other resource values. Also received were 2,326 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

52,400 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-060-504

UNIT NAME: Diamond Mountains

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Diamond Mountain unit lies in the Diamond Range in Eureka County, Nevada. The unit is about 24 miles long and four miles wide and gets considerably narrower at the southern end. The area is comprised of one long and narrow mountain range averaging between 9,000 and 10,000 feet in elevation. Sagebrush is the dominant ground cover. Thick stands of pinyon-juniper forests exist along the western boundary. The canyons that have water support various forms of riparian vegetation such as willows and aspens.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 73,470 acres of public land. The roadless area consists of 73,390 acres as 80 acres were separated from the bulk of the unit by roads.

2. Naturalness: 63,200 acres were found to be in a natural condition. 10,190 acres were deleted due to a lack of naturalness as the result of several roads and ways, ditching, powerlines, garbage dumps, and fences.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The roadless and natural portion of the area does not possess an outstanding opportunity for solitude because the single narrow ridgeline provides limited opportunity for a person to avoid the presence of others. The unbroken hillsides and the limited vegetative screening do not promote solitude. Roads that are technically outside of the roadless portion of the unit go up almost every canyon on both sides of the range. It is difficult to avoid the sights and sounds of man associated with these roads.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The area does not offer an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Limited diversity in travel routes is available because of the one narrow ridge. No special features exist that would attract visitors. Opportunities for hunting are fair. Rockhounds are known to visit the southeast side of the range.
4. Supplemental Values: Five old charcoal kilns located near Philipsburg mine were noted during the intensive inventory.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

73,470 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 21 specific comments on this unit, several noting that area is roadless, natural, and has outstanding solitude and recreation. Many said the area lacked these characteristics. Two said the unit does not meet the wilderness criteria. A substantial number also noted supplemental values and one listed other resource values. Also received were 2,326 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

73,470 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-060-530

UNIT NAME: Rutabaga Creek

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is south of Roberts Creek Mountain, 30 miles north of Eureka, Nevada, in Eureka County, Nevada. It ranges from 6,700 feet to 9,100 feet in elevation. Rutabaga Creek flows southward from the center of the unit in a deep canyon. The slopes below 7,400 feet are covered with second growth pinyon-juniper, the virgin forest having been harvested in the late 1800s for the Eureka smelters.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 13,800 acres of public land. The roadless area consists of 10,600 acres as 3,200 acres were separated from the bulk of the unit by roads or areas that were not natural.
2. Naturalness: Zero acres were found to be in a natural condition. 10,600 acres were deleted due to historic logging activity and mining prospecting. Therefore, no further wilderness consideration is necessary.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

13,800 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received six specific comments on this unit, all noting roads, intrusions, lack of outstanding opportunities, or a general lack of wilderness values. One noted other resource values. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

13,800 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-060-531

UNIT NAME: Henderson

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit lies east of Roberts Creek Mountain, 30 miles north of Eureka, Nevada in Eureka County. The southern extension of the Roberts Thrust, which, at this point, is a large rounded mountain, runs through the center of the unit. Henderson, Roberts, and Vinini Creeks flow out of the unit. Of these, Roberts Creek, on the western edge, is the most attractive with substantial cliffs and a rich riparian development.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 12,700 acres of public land. The roadless area consists of 11,940 acres as 760 acres were separated from the bulk of the unit by roads.
2. Naturalness: 8,840 acres were found to be in a natural condition. 3,100 acres were deleted due to a lack of naturalness. The deleted area is seriously impacted by mining activity.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The roadless and natural portion of the area does not possess an outstanding opportunity for solitude because most of the unit lacks sufficient topographic or vegetative screening to compensate for its relatively small size and poor configuration.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The area does not offer an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation due to the size of the unit, limited diversity of opportunities, and lack of any truly outstanding individual activities.
4. Supplemental Values: Several snow ponds exist north of Henderson Peak and there is a natural arch east of Summer Camp.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

12,700 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received seven specific comments on this unit, all citing roads, intrusions, lack of outstanding opportunities, or general lack of wilderness values.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

12,700 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-060-541

UNIT NAME: Roberts

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Roberts Creek Mountains are in Eureka County, about 30 miles north of Eureka, Nevada. This unit offers a wide diversity of terrain, vegetation, and scenery. The mountains consist of a series of rugged peaks forming a broken ridge. Many canyons and valleys surround the ridge, breaking the unit into numerous areas. The vegetation ranges from sage type communities at the valley bottoms through a pinyon-juniper tree forest to a sub-alpine herbaceous/sage community with some small stands of limber pine. Open stands of mountain mahogany replace the pinyon-juniper forest and sub-alpine vegetation in some areas, primarily on south facing slopes.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit contains 57,800 acres of public land which is separated into six subunits due to roads or unnatural areas. Four of the subunits do not meet the minimum size criterion. The remaining subunits are 26,800 acres and 24,520 acres.
2. Naturalness: Portions of the subunits, 21,100 acres and 9,430 acres were found to be unnatural. Historic logging was the primary intrusion. The remaining natural portions are 5,700 acres and 15,090 acres.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The 15,090 acre portion of the area does possess an outstanding opportunity for solitude because of its high topography and degree of vegetative screening. The 5,700 acres on the eastern side does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.
 - B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The 15,090 acre area does offer an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation due to the great diversity of the unit, scenic attractions, and numerous supplemental features which serve as destinations within the unit. The 5,700 acre portion does not offer outstanding recreation opportunities.
4. Supplemental Values: Castilleja linodes, a rare plant is found on Roberts Creek Mountain. The Roberts Thrust Fault, visible on the unit, is one of the great structural features west of the Rockies. The mountain itself is a geologic "window on the mantel." The higher elevations are an ecological island which may provide insight into certain plant associations. The area has high scenic values with several small ponds, a 25-foot waterfall, and uncommon vegetation.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

15,090 acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

42,710 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 20 specific comments on this unit. Four suggested a boundary change. Most cited the presence of wilderness characteristics but many discussed the absence of these characteristics. Two stated the unit does not meet the wilderness criteria. Many also noted supplemental values and one listed other resource values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

15,090 acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

42,710 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though public comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates that a portion of the area does possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation. The portion eliminated from WSA consideration was found not to possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

UNIT NUMBER: NV-060-554

UNIT NAME: North Diamond

AREA DESCRIPTION: The North Diamond unit is in the northern end of the Diamond Range in Eureka County, Nevada. The unit is about four miles wide and 14 miles long and comprises one long narrow ridgeline. The mountains are very jagged with steep slopes on both the western and eastern faces, averaging between 7,500 and 8,500 feet in elevation. The unit is split between stands of pinyon-juniper forests, aspens and other riparian vegetation, and plants of the sagebrush, community, with the riparian vegetation lying mostly in the canyons.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The unit includes 43,800 acres of public land. The roadless area consists of 43,520 acres as 280 acres were separated from the bulk of the unit by roads.
2. Naturalness: 40,510 acres were found to be in a natural condition. The 3,010 acres deleted due to a lack of naturalness were found to contain extensive mining activity along with several roads.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for:
 - A. Solitude: The roadless and natural portion of the area does not possess an outstanding opportunity for solitude. This is a result of its narrow configuration and limited topographic and vegetative screening. Limited screening, both by the topography of the single narrow ridgeline and the vegetation, along with the rarity of secluded spots are two factors that inhibit the potential for solitude. Roads that are technically outside of the roadless portion of the unit go up almost every canyon on both sides of the range. It is difficult to avoid the sights and sounds of man associated with these roads.

B. A Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The area does not offer an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Diversity of travel is limited mostly to the ridgeline giving a user very little freedom of movement. No features exist that would specifically attract someone to the area. Hunting opportunities are fair. Plants, minerals, and rocks of collectable value are not known to exist.

4. Supplemental Values: No ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Zero acres are recommended for Wilderness Study Area status.

43,800 acres should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: BLM received 29 specific comments on this unit. Most cited naturalness, outstanding solitude and recreation, and supplemental values. Many discussed roads, intrusions, and lack of outstanding opportunities. Several listed other resource values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

FINAL DECISION:

Zero acres are designated as a Wilderness Study Area.

43,800 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.

APPENDIX 1

Public Comment Analysis Statistics

TABLE 1

TOTAL INPUTS AND SIGNATURES
RECEIVED ON INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY

Total Inputs 2,756 Total Signatures 2,975

Table 1 Explanation: Inputs include letters, reports, Bureau response forms, telephone or personal contact records, form letters, coupons, etc. submitted by an individual, group, agency, etc. Inputs ranged from a single letter to a large report covering more than a hundred units in detail. An input also sometimes included several pieces of data supplied by the same individual or group. Signatures exceed inputs because an input was sometimes signed or endorsed by several individuals.

TABLE 2

DATES INPUTS RECEIVED

Prior to April 1, 1980	157	6%
April 1 to April 30	123	4%
May 1 to May 31	102	4%
June 1 to June 21	79	3%
June 22 to June 30	116 plus 2,109 coupons 80%	
After June 30, but in time to code	70	3%
Totals coded	2,756 100%	
Arrived too late to code	485 (includes 471 additional coupons and 14 other inputs)	

Table 2 Explanation: The 90-day public comment period began April 1 and ended June 30. Some comments (157) had been received between the end of the initial inventory comment period (July 31, 1979) and April 1. Comments received after June 30 but still in time to code are included in this analysis. Four hundred and eighty five comments were received too late to code and are available for review at the BLM State Office along with any other late comments that may be received after publication of this analysis. All the comments too late to code were generally pro wilderness and the large majority were from other states.

TABLE 3

NUMBER OF COMMENTS
CONCERNING INDIVIDUAL UNITS

Total Unit Comments 2,462 covering 380 units
 Plus
2,109 coupons each covering 200 units

Table 3 Explanation: Many respondents mentioned more than one unit, some specifically or generally mentioning up to 200 individual units. Unit comments are broken out to better reflect the total volume of response. Coupons are handled separately because each referred generally to 200 units and that total (200 X 2,109) would distort the analysis.

TABLE 4

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS
MENTIONING SPECIFIC UNITS

	Inputs	Signatures
Respondents	2,726	2,944
Percentage of Total Response	99%	99%

Table 4 Explanation: Since even the coupons referred to specific units, nearly all responses mentioned, or discussed in detail, individual units.

TABLE 5

NUMBER OF SPECIFIC UNITS
COMMENTED ON, BY DISTRICT

District	Number of Units Receiving Comments	Total No. of Units	Percentage Receiving Comments
NV-010 Elko	103	114	90%
NV-020 Winnemucca	53	58	95%
NV-030 Carson City	30	31	97%
NV-040 Ely	64	67	96%
NV-050 Las Vegas	76	83	82%
NV-060 Battle Mountain	54	55	98%
Totals	380	408	93%

Table 5 Explanation: Not only did most respondents mention specific units, but nearly every unit received some type of comment, ranging from one to 82 specific comments and almost 2,400 when general and specific comments are combined (see district checklist).

TABLE 6

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS WHO SUPPLIED
SUPPLEMENTAL DATA

Number of Respondents Who Supplied Supplemental Data	Inputs	Signatures
Percentage of total input:	138	206
	5%	7%

Types of Data Received by input: 98 supplied photographs; 57 supplied maps; three supplied assay sheets; two supplied charts; and two supplied aerial photographs. (Does not total 138 since some supplied a combination of additional data.)

Table 6 Explanation: Some respondents included detailed supplemental data to support their opinions. Of these respondents many supplied more than one of each, or a combination of data, so the total listed above simply reflects the number of inputs with additional data, and the number of times these types of data were found. It does not reflect the total number of individual photographs, etc.

TABLE 7

RESIDENCE OF THOSE RESPONDING

Nevada Counties	Inputs	Percentage without Coupons	Percentage with Coupons	Signatures	Percentage without Coupons	Percentage with Coupons
Carson City	17	3%	1%	18	2%	1%
Churchill	10	2%	*	12	2%	1%
Clark	37	6%	1%	37	5%	1%
Douglas	2	*	*	2	*	*
Elko	22	4%	1%	25	3%	1%
Esmeralda	1	*	*	1	*	*
Eureka	7	1%	*	11	1%	*
Humboldt	21	3%	1%	28	3%	1%
Lander	10	2%	*	10	1%	*
Lincoln	8	1%	*	11	1%	*
Lyon	2	*	*	2	*	*
Mineral	3	*	*	3	*	*
Nye	6	1%	*	6	1%	*
Pershing	75	12%	3%	91	11%	3%
Storey	-	-	-	-	-	-
Washoe	76	12%	3%	95	11%	4%
White Pine	13	2%	1%	15	2%	1%
Arizona	6	1%	*	6	1%	*
California	84(12)	13%	4%	139(12)	17%	5%
Idaho	14(2)	2%	1%	19(2)	2%	1%
Oregon	15(71)	2%	3%	18(75)	2%	3%
Utah	8(2)	1%	*	9(2)	1%	*
Other State	208(2022)	32%	81%	282(2042)	34%	78%
Unknown	2	*	*	2	*	*
Sub Totals	647(2,109)			842(2,133)		
Totals	2,756	100%	100%	2,975	100%	100%

*Less than one percent

Table 7 Explanation: The respondent's residence was broken down into counties in Nevada, states adjoining Nevada, and all other states. Percentages are broken out into two categories: Number of inputs/signatures excluding coupons and number of inputs/signatures including coupons. This was done to more clearly illustrate the impact of the large number of coupons (2,109) on the total residence break down.

TABLE 8

INTEREST OF THOSE RESPONDING

	Inputs	Input Percentage	Signatures	Signature Percentage
Minerals Industry	95	3%	100	3%
Ranching	52	2%	74	3%
Environmental	2371	86%	2480	83%
Rockhound	6	*	47	2%
Sportsman	4	*	4	*
Wildlife	2	*	2	*
Other	18	1%	18	1%
Unknown	208	8%	250	8%
Total	2756	100%	2975	100%

*Less than one percent

Table 8 Explanation: Where possible, the interest of the respondent was identified. This was done either by evident affiliation with a group or company, through the letterhead or signature or through obvious statements made in the input, such as "I have been mining in the area for several years," etc. The "other" category often included government agencies that did not fit into any category. Those not identifiable were listed as interest unknown.

TABLE 9

FORMS USED BY THOSE RESPONDING

	Inputs	Inputs Percentage	Signatures	Signatures Percentage
Personal Letter	417	15%	480	16%
Form Letter	93	3%	111	4%
Petition	4	*	94	3%
Coupon	2,109	77%	2,133	72%
Response Form	115	4%	128	4%
Report	11	1%	19	1%
Verbal Form	7	*	10	*
Totals	2,756	100%	2,975	100%

*Less than one percent

Table 9 Explanation: A personal letter is handwritten or typed; a form letter is a duplicate, either handwritten or typed, of another input. A petition simply includes multiple signatures in excess of a family group. Coupons are similar to form letters, but are printed in a mass publication with instructions to the respondent to clip out and mail. A response form is the hand-out sheet distributed by BLM for interested parties to fill out. A report simply represents a large volume of material. A verbal form is BLM documentation of a telephone or personal contact where an opinion concerning wilderness was expressed.

TABLE 10

GROUP TYPE OF THOSE RESPONDING

	Inputs	Inputs Percentage	Signatures	Signatures Percentage
Individual	2,553	92%	2,553	86%
Informal Group	85	4%	239	8%
Formal Group	37	1%	87	3%
Government Agency	20	1%	29	1%
Company	61	2%	67	2%
Totals	2,756	100%	2,975	100%

Table 10 Explanation: An individual comment represents only one signature. An informal group means one or more signatures, such as a family or a group signing a petition. A formal group is one that is clearly identified in the letterhead or signatures as a organization. Government agencies may be elected or appointed, local, state, or other federal agencies. A company is also clearly identified as a business through the letterhead or signature.

TABLE 11

RESIDENCE OF RESPONDENTS
ACCORDING TO INTEREST (Inputs Only)

Nevada Counties	<u>Minerals Inputs</u>	<u>Ranching Inputs</u>	<u>Environmental Inputs</u>	<u>Rockhound Inputs</u>	<u>Sportsman Inputs</u>	<u>Wildlife Inputs</u>	<u>Unknown/Other Inputs</u>
	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage
Carson City	5 / 5%	-	2 / *	-	-	-	10 / 4%
Churchill	3 / 3%	2 / 4%	-	-	-	-	5 / 2%
Clark	7 / 8%	-	9 / *	-	-	-	21 / 9%
Douglas	-	-	-	-	-	-	2 / 1%
Elko	5 / 5%	8 / 14%	-	-	-	-	9 / 14%
Esmeralda	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 / *
Eureka	1 / 1%	1 / 2%	-	-	-	-	5 / 2%
Humboldt	1 / 1%	13 / 25%	-	-	-	-	7 / 5%
Lander	6 / 6%	1 / 2%	-	-	1 / 25%	-	2 / 1%
Lincoln	1 / 1%	3 / 6%	-	-	-	-	4 / 2%
Lyon	1 / 1%	-	-	-	-	-	1 / *
Mineral	1 / 1%	1 / 2%	-	-	-	-	1 / *
Nye	1 / 1%	5 / 10%	-	-	-	-	-
Pershing	2 / 2%	-	-	-	-	-	73 / 32%
Storey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Washoe	22/23%	5 / 10%	22 / 1%	-	-	1 / 50%	26 / 12%
White Pine	3 / 3%	7 / 13%	-	-	-	-	3 / 1%
Arizona	2 / 2%	-	2 / *	-	-	-	2 / 1%
California	14/15%	3 / 6%	45 / 2%	3 / 50%	2 / 50%	-	29 / 13%
Idaho	7 / 8%	2 / 4%	3 / *	2 / 33%	-	-	2 / 1%
Oregon	-	1 / 2%	82 / 4%	-	-	-	3 / 1%
Utah	-	-	6 / *	-	1 / 25%	-	3 / 1%
Other States	13/14%	-	2200/93%	1 / 17%	-	1 / 50%	15 / 7%
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	2 / 1%
Totals	95/100%	52/100%	2371/100%	6/100%	4/100%	2/100%	226/100%

*Less than one percent

Table 11 Explanation: Explanations of residence and interest appear earlier. Residence of respondents is cross-referenced here by interest to show where respondents in each interest category reside or work. Percentages relate to interest only, i.e. five percent of the total inputs from the minerals industry came from Carson City, etc.

TABLE 12

FORMS USED BY RESPONDENTS
ACCORDING TO INTEREST

	<i>Mineral Inputs Percentage</i>	<i>Ranching Inputs Percentage</i>	<i>Environmental Inputs Percentage</i>	<i>Rockhound Inputs Percentage</i>	<i>Sportsman Inputs Percentage</i>	<i>Wildlife Inputs Percentage</i>	<i>Unknown/Other Inputs Percentage</i>
Personal Letter	52 / 55%	25 / 48%	246/10%	5 / 83%	1 / 25%	2 / 100%	86 / 38%
Form Letter	3 / 3%	-	-	-	-	-	90 / 40%
Petition	-	-	2 / *	1 / 17%	-	-	1 / *
Response Form	31 / 33%	24 / 46%	11 / 1%	-	3 / 75%	-	46 / 21%
Coupon	-	-	2109/89%	-	-	-	-
Report	5 / 5%	1 / 2%	3 / *	-	-	-	2 / 1%
Verbal Form	4 / 4%	2 / 4%	-	-	-	-	1 / *
Totals	95/100%	52/100%	2371/100%	6/100%	4/100%	2 / 100%	226/100%

*Less than one percent

Table 12 Explanation: Explanations of form and interest appear earlier. Forms are cross-referenced here by interest to show how various interests submitted their comments. Percentages relate to interest only, i.e. 55 percent of the total input from the minerals industry came through personal letters, etc.

TABLE 13

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS
MAKING A GENERAL STATEMENT
ABOUT WILDERNESS, EITHER PRO OR CON

	Inputs	Inputs Percentage	Signatures	Signatures Percentage
Wilderness Pro	865	98%	909	98%
Wilderness Con	17	2%	22	2%
Totals	882	100%	931	100%
Percentage of Total Response	32%		31%	

Supporting Reasons, Pro by input:

Land belongs to all; give equal weight to Americans who love wilderness -- 2,291
 Save wilderness for future generations -- 269
 Preserve more wilderness -- 191
 Nevada is beautiful and fragile; let's preserve it -- 114
 Wilderness is irreplaceable -- 61
 Wilderness helps us spiritually, mentally, physically -- 53
 Support all Nevada WSA recommendations -- 51
 Protect our lands from development -- 46
 Save wilderness for wildlife/endangered species/wild horses -- 40
 Far too much wilderness already lost; save what's left -- 21
 Wilderness is vital for peace of mind -- 20
 Wilderness is our survival/heritage -- 18
 Save Nevada's open spaces from "greedy" developers -- 17
 Study as much land as possible for wilderness -- 15
 Objectively study all possibilities -- 14
 Even though I'll never see it, it's nice to know wilderness exists -- 12
 Save our resources for future use; don't squander -- 11
 Don't trade long-term preservation for short-term consumption -- 10
 Be brave and stand up to pressures -- 8
 Make it all WSA; leave it up to Congress -- 7
 Tourists enjoy Nevada more for its wild beauty than gaming -- 6
 Wilderness is as important as energy, inflation, peace -- 6
 Don't make Nevada like New York City/New Jersey/Eastern states, etc. -- 5
 Need wilderness near urban areas -- 4
 Wilderness is a valuable resource -- 4
 Preservation of wilderness makes country nice -- 3
 Wilderness preservation is strength of America -- 3
 Save wilderness from overgrazing/ORVs -- 2
 Wilderness will help protect watersheds -- 2
 WSAs can provide work for unemployed -- 1
 Wilderness can bring dollars and tourists -- 1
 Majority (93%) of Americans support wilderness (Am. Forest Institute) -- 1
 Wilderness is not just mountains; preserve deserts too -- 1
 Nevada's State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) supports designation of some roadless areas as wilderness -- 1
 SCORP found most Nevadans surveyed preferred dispersed recreation (i.e. fishing, hunting, backpacking, hiking) over specific intensive activities (i.e. boating, golf). Wilderness lends itself to dispersed activity -- 1
 Low productivity of Nevada lands make them suitable for wilderness -- 1

(See next page for Con reasons)

Supporting Reasons, Con by input:

Don't want any wilderness -- 6
Wilderness will restrict local economy -- 4
Wilderness discriminates against majority -- 4
Inventory is "absurdity spawned by city people"; spend money on range improvements -- 1
Management/Enforcement of wilderness expensive -- 1
Public is fed up and is getting to point of threatening BLM employees doing field work -- 1
Minerals should not be "locked up" -- 1
Lands should remain for multiple use -- 1
Wilderness restricts freedom -- 1

Table 13 Explanation: Many respondents made a pro or con statement about wilderness in general. Some mentioned wilderness in Nevada, others touched on the broad concept of wilderness. A breakdown of these pro and con statements is shown above, including percentages pro and con and a comparison of inputs/signatures mentioning wilderness to the total response (i.e. 2,756 inputs and 2,975 signatures). The specific comments pro and con are also listed, followed by the number of times (input) the comment was made.

TABLE 14

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS
 MAKING A GENERAL STATEMENT
 ABOUT THE BUREAU'S WILDERNESS
 INVENTORY PROCEDURES, EITHER PRO OR CON

	Inputs	Signatures
Wilderness Inventory Procedures, Pro	0	0
Wilderness Inventory Procedures, Con	18	33
Totals	18	33
Percentage of Total Input	1%	1%

Supporting Reasons, Pro by input: None

Supporting Reasons, Con by input:

- Screening criterion is inappropriate for desert areas -- 11
- Small areas contiguous to other agency WSA should not be included as WSA -- 3
- Judgment of "outstanding" should be left for future generations to make -- 1
- Impacts should not be criterion for elimination; can be rehabilitated -- 1
- Configuration of area should not be criterion for judging solitude -- 1
- Procedures should allow for expansion of WSA boundaries where utility lines exist for future additions; should be resolved now and not in study phase -- 1
- Topography, not roads or developments, should be used to determine boundaries -- 1
- Procedures should take into account that much of Nevada is undeveloped and uninhabited; pick a few that are representative; don't lock it all up -- 1
- Doesn't approve of "cherrystem" concept -- 1
- Road definition of "maintained" doesn't allow for playa/desert area roads/ways that never need maintenance -- 1
- BLM needs more time to study man-made intrusions in order to prevent wholesale elimination of areas due to lack of naturalness -- 1
- Buffer zones are needed around roads -- 1
- Doesn't think private land should be incorporated into wilderness -- 1
- Rehabilitation should be the critical factor in determining WSA -- 1
- Road definition, i.e. "maintained and improved," is too vague. Should have set stricter criteria -- 1
- Right of eminent domain should be used to eliminate current uses in potential wilderness -- 1
- All WSAs should be designated Class I air basins -- 1

Table 14 Explanation: Some respondents made a pro or con statement about the Bureau's wilderness inventory procedures as outlined in the Wilderness Inventory Handbook of September 28, 1978. A breakdown of these pro and con statements is shown above, including percentages pro and con and a comparison of inputs/signatures mentioning the procedures to the total response. The specific comments pro and con are also listed, followed by the number of times the comment was made.

TABLE 15

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS MAKING A GENERAL
STATEMENT ABOUT NEVADA BLM'S
APPLICATION OF WILDERNESS INVENTORY
PROCEDURES, EITHER PRO OR CON

	Inputs	Inputs Percentage	Signatures	Signatures Percentage
Application of Wilderness Inventory Procedures, Pro	25	47%	27	42%
Application of Wilderness Inventory Procedures, Con	28	53%	37	58%
Totals	53	100%	64	100%
Percentage of Total Response	2%		2%	

Supporting Reasons, Pro by input:

BLM did a great job on wilderness review -- 15
Good job in deciding areas to be dropped -- 10

Supporting Reasons, Con by input:

Outside impacts are inadmissible during this phase. BLM improperly used this -- 18
Ely District's "unreviewed routes" should have been documented as roads or ways
before cherrystemmed -- 16
BLM says overall solitude not outstanding but admits portions within have high
degree of solitude. Not every acre has to have solitude -- 15
BLM is considering the number of users as a limiting factor. Number of users
might never be great and if they are, area can be managed to maintain soli-
tude -- 13
Only one recreation opportunity need be outstanding or the ability to engage
in many activities must be present. Entire unit need not have outstanding
recreation -- 12
Eliminating a huge area due to lack of solitude because it lacks topographic
and vegetative screening is wrong. Outstanding solitude and recreation
can be present in a large flat area -- 12
BLM is "manufacturing" wilderness beyond intent of Congress -- 11
Portions of units appear to be deleted due to less than outstanding solitude -
summaries are misleading -- 9
BLM uses words like "common", "monotonous". These are opinions. Wilderness
value is no less because of these opinions -- 9
Incorrect boundary adjustments were made -- 9
Surprised that only 61 units were recommended -- 7
BLM admits to have solitude and recreation but discards unit because of
"substantially unnoticeable" impacts -- 6
Large areas were eliminated due to staff's interpretations of solitude and
recreation. (These are relative depending where you are from) -- 6
BLM fails to substantiate outstanding opportunities for solitude and recrea-
tion are lacking -- 6

(Supporting Con Reasons continued on next page)

Scarcity of water and shelter cannot be used to judge an area to have less than outstanding opportunities -- 6
BLM's given into local/commercial pressure -- 5
Roads should have been checked to see if they were pre- or post-FLPMA -- 4
Fences do not necessarily have to be excluded -- 3
BLM has poor photo-documentation of some units -- 2
BLM states fencelines and cherrystems will be difficult for users to avoid. These are not obstacles to hikers -- 1
BLM is comparing wilderness characteristics between units (and subunits) -- 1
Large parcels were dropped due to unnaturalness; this was improper -- 1
BLM incorrectly calls units small even though they are 10 times minimum size -- 1
BLM demonstrated outstanding opportunities for recreation but failed to recommend area as WSA -- 1
Ely District narrative summaries were over-simplified and missing important details -- 1
Roads/ways were inconsistent -- 1
Nevada has applied wilderness criteria differently (more restrictive) than other states -- 1
We should re-examine the entire Great Basin area - too much ruled out -- 1
If an area meets size and natural criteria it is "irresponsible and unjustifiable" to rule it out -- 1
Accelerated inventories done too fast and showed commercial bias -- 1

Table 15 Explanation: Some respondents commented specifically on how the Nevada BLM applied the wilderness procedures discussed earlier. These comments are shown above according to inputs/signatures pro and con, percentage pro and con, and a comparison of inputs/signatures mentioning application of the procedures to the total response. The specific comments pro and con are also listed, followed by the number of times the comment was made.

TABLE 16

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS
MAKING A STATEMENT
ABOUT THE BUREAU'S INTERIM
MANAGEMENT POLICY (IMP),
EITHER PRO OR CON

	Inputs	Inputs Percentage	Signatures	Signatures Percentage
Interim Management Policy, Pro	1	25%	2	40%
Interim Management Policy, Con	3	75%	3	60%
Totals	4	100%	5	100%
Percentage of Total Response	Less than one percent			

Supporting Reasons, Pro by input:

Establish strong interim guidelines to protect wilderness - 1

Supporting Reasons, Con by input:

IMP should eliminate vehicular use and abolish wild horses - 1

IMP should apply to sensitive/controversial non-WSAs until alternative designation (such as Area of Critical Environmental Concern) can be made - 1

IMP should allow for utility corridor buffer zones - 1

Table 16 Explanation: Some respondents made a pro or con statement about the Bureau's wilderness review management policy as outlined in the Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review, December 12, 1979. These comments are shown above according to inputs/signatures pro and con, percentages pro and con, and a comparison of inputs/signatures mentioning the IMP to the total response. The specific comments are also listed, followed by the number of times the comment was made.

TABLE 17 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS MAKING A GENERAL STATEMENT ABOUT NEVADA BLM'S PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT METHODS, EITHER PRO OR CON

	Inputs	Inputs Percentage	Signatures	Signatures Percentage
Involvement Methods, Pro	2	40%	2	40%
Involvement Methods, Con	3	60%	3	60%
Totals	5	100%	5	100%
Percentage of Total Response	Less than one percent			

Supporting Reasons, Pro by input:

BLM responsive to public inputs following initial inventory -- 1
 Glad BLM gave public a chance to comment -- 1

Supporting Reasons, Con by input:

Bureau should not allow locals to tell us if a road is a road -- 1
 Clark County says citizenry was not informed of process -- 1
 Mining claimants should have all been individually notified -- 1

Table 17 Explanation: A few respondents made a pro or con statement about the Nevada BLM's methods used to involve the public during the 90-day comment period. These comments are shown above according to inputs/signatures pro and con, percentages pro and con, and a comparison of inputs/signatures mentioning involvement methods to the total response. The specific comments pro and con are also listed, followed by the number of times the comment was made.

TABLE 18

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS MAKING A
GENERAL STATEMENT ABOUT
OTHER RESOURCE VALUES

	Inputs	Inputs Percentage	Signatures	Signatures Percentage
Minerals	10	42%	11	42%
	Comments by input: Withdrawals causing tremendous loss in US mineral production and causing foreign dependence and negative trade balance -- 7 Wilderness will "lock-up" potential oil and gas areas -- 1 Need mineral production to preserve present standard of living -- 1 Minerals critical to Esmeralda County -- 1			
Grazing	3	12%	3	12%
	Comments by input: Need grazing to preserve standard of living -- 1 Feeding and clothing people very important -- 1 Ranching critical to Esmeralda County -- 1			
Other Recreation	2	8%	2	8%
	Comments by input: Other recreation important to preserve standard of living -- 1 Nevada-California chapter of Outdoor Unlimited opposes further wilderness designation -- 1			
Others	9	38%	10	38%
	Comments by input: Firewood is important energy source -- 6 Utility corridors should be considered -- 1 FAA facilities/corridors should be accommodated in WSAs -- 1 Watershed development should be allowed in WSAs -- 1			
Totals	24	100%	26	100%
Percentage of Total Response Mentioning Other Resource Values	1%		1%	

Table 19 Explanation: A few respondents made general statements about other resource values. A summary of these comments is listed under the headings shown. However, most respondents mentioned other resource values pertaining to a specific unit. See following table for a breakdown by BLM district.

TABLE 19

NUMBER OF COMMENTS
CONCERNING OTHER RESOURCE
VALUES IN SPECIFIC UNITS, BY
DISTRICT

	No. of Individual Comments	No. of Units with Other Resource Comments	Total No. of Units in District	Percentage of Units Receiving Other Resource Comments
Elko	162	84	114	74%
Winnemucca	228	46	56	82%
Carson City	139	25	31	81%
Ely	96	56	67	84%
Las Vegas	191	70	83	84%
Battle Mountain	77	47	55	86%
Totals	893	328	406	81%

Table 20 Explanation: Many respondents mentioned other resource values in specific units (refer to district checklists for individual units). The number of individual comments does not represent the number of inputs as one respondent may have mentioned several other resource values in the same unit.

TABLE 20

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS
RAISING SPECIAL ISSUES

	Total Inputs	29		Total Signatures	32
Percentage of Total Response		1%			1%
Special Issues by inputs:					
Wilderness is preferable to MX -- 19					
Save Nevada from nuclear proliferation -- 1					
Eliminate all clear-cutting -- 1					
Ban poison use for predator control -- 1					
Sagebrush Rebellion is "disgusting", it will fail -- 1					
Wilderness designation discriminates against a Basque sheepherder -- 1					
Nevada should promote other businesses, like mining, instead of gaming -- 1					
Indians fear wilderness designation will draw visitors to undisturbed arti- fact sites -- 1					
Once WSAs designated, access for conservation work is in jeopardy -- 1					
Wilderness designation should comply with State water law -- 1					
Pointed out Western Regional Corridor Study (June, 1980) and possible conflict with WSA proposals -- 1					
If Black Rock Desert becomes WSA, it should receive accelerated study because of Pinto Springs KGRA -- 1					

Table 18 Explanation: Some respondents raised issues in addition to other resource values (see earlier table) that were not related directly to the existence or absence of wilderness characteristics. The total number of respondents raising a special issue is recorded above followed by the particular issue and the number of times (inputs) it was mentioned.

Unit Number/Name	INPUTS		SUPPORTING REASONS*														
	Pro (WSA)	Con (release)	Nonspecific Pro	Nonspecific Con	Inadequate Size	Adequate Size	Roadless	Roads	Boundary Change	Natural	Unnatural	Solitude	No Solitude	Primitive Rec.	No Primitive Rec.	Supp. Values	Other Res. Values
<u>Elko District</u>																	
NV-010-002	Maverick Springs	1	1			1	1							1		2	1
NV-010-002-A	Maverick Springs	1				1	1							1		2	
NV-010-002-B	Maverick Springs	1				1	1							1		2	
NV-010-002-C	Maverick Springs	1				1	1							1		2	
NV-010-002-D	Maverick Springs	1				1	1							1		2	
NV-010-002-E	Maverick Springs	1	1			1	1				1			1		2	1
NV-010-002-F	Maverick Springs	1				1	1							1		2	
NV-010-002-G	Maverick Springs	1				1	1							1		2	
NV-010-002-J	Maverick Springs	1				1	1							1		2	
NV-010-004	High Bald Peaks	1 (2,288)	1			1	1				1	1				2	1
NV-010-004B	High Bald Peaks	1									1						1
NV-010-016	Spruce Mountain	10 (2,327)	4	2,330			1	1	1	5	5	12	1	7	1	20	3
NV-010-016B	Spruce Mountain	No comments	received														
NV-010-017	Spruce Ridge	5 (2,327)	3	2,328			1	1		4	2	5		8		8	1
NV-010-017C	Spruce Ridge	No comments	received														
NV-010-022	Hogan		2								1						1
NV-010-023	Collar & Elbow		1														1
NV-010-023A	Collar & Elbow	No comments	received														
NV-010-025	Leppy Peak		1														1
NV-010-027	Bluebell	13 (2,327)	3	2,335			2	1		3	2	7	1	8	1	4	2
NV-010-032	Morgan Basin	(2,288)	1	2,288													1
NV-010-033	Goshute Peak	14 (2,327)	4	2,336		1	1			3	2	4	1	7	1	2	3
NV-010-035	South Pequop	4 (2,288)	1	2,288			2		1	3	1	4		5		6	
NV-010-035-B	South Pequop	No comments	received														
NV-010-036	Boone Springs		2								1						1
NV-010-037	Brush Creek		2								1						1
NV-010-044	Antelope		2					1			1		1	1			1
NV-010-045	Currie Hills		2					1			1		1	1			1
NV-010-045-A	Currie Hills	No comments	received														
NV-010-045-B	Currie Hills	No comments	received														
NV-010-047	Kingsley		2								1						2
NV-010-047-D	Kingsley	No comments	received														
NV-010-049	Sugarloaf	4 (2,327)	3	2,329			1			3	1	3		6		2	2
NV-010-050	Ferguson Mountain		2								1						2

*Supporting reasons will not total inputs since one input may have given several supporting reasons for each category.

Unit Number/Name	INPUTS		SUPPORTING REASONS*														
	Pro (WSA)	Con (release)	Nonspecific Pro	Nonspecific Con	Inadequate Size	Adequate Size	Roadless	Roads	Boundary Change	Natural	Unnatural	Solitude	No Solitude	Primitive Rec.	No Primitive Rec.	Supp. Values	Other Res. Values
NV-010-052	Lead Mine Hills	1															1
NV-010-053	Dead Cedar Wash	1															1
NV-010-054/ UT-020-044	Ferber Wash	1															1
NV-010-058	Deadhorse	1															1
NV-010-060	White Sage Flat	2 (39)	3	40		2			4	1	3		6		2		2
NV-010-061/ UT-020-050	Ferber Flat		2							1							2
NV-010-062/ UT-020-046	Utah Peak	No comments received															
NV-010-070	Cortez	4 (2,327)	5	2,328		2	2	1	4	2	7	1	6				4
NV-010-074	Florio	No comments received															
NV-010-081	Smith Creek Mountains	3 (2,288)	1	2,288					1	4		2	1	1			2
NV-010-085	Diamond Hills	1	5			4				8		2		1			3
NV-010-102/ ID-12-56A	Little Owyhee	23 (2,327)	3	2,330		2	1		6	1	12	1	22	1	17		2
NV-010-102-A	Little Owyhee	1 (2,288)		2,288									2				
NV-010-103/ ID-16-53	Devil's Corral	1 (2,288)	2	2,288		1	1	1	2	1	2	1	3	1			1
NV-010-103-A/ ID-16-53	Devil's Corral	7 (2,327)	2	2,329			1		2	1	4	1	8	1	2		
NV-010-104	Hat Peak	6 (2,327)	2	2,328			2		3		2		10		4		1
NV-010-105	Forklift	(2,288)		2,288													
NV-010-106	Owyhee Canyon	11 (2,327)	3	2,330		1	3	1	5	2	8	2	9	1	5		2
NV-010-106-A	Owyhee Canyon	(2,288)		2,288													
NV-010-106-B	Owyhee Canyon	(2,288)		2,288													
NV-010-107	Airstrip #1	1 (2,288)	2	2,288				1		4		1		1			1
NV-010-108	Star Valley Cabin	1 (2,288)	1	2,288				1		2		1		1			
NV-010-109	Silver Lake	5 (2,327)	3	2,328			3			2	2	3	1	4	1	6	2
NV-010-109-A	Silver Lake	4 (2,327)	1	2,328			2			3		3		3		5	
NV-010-110	Milligan Creek	1 (2,288)	2	2,288		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
NV-010-111	Winter Creek	14 (2,327)	3	2,328		1	2	1	4	1	3		12	1	18		1
NV-010-112	Bullhead	(2,288)	4	2,288				2		7		1		1			4
NV-010-113	Burner Hill		4					2		6		1		1			3
NV-010-114	Cornucopia		7					3			12	1		1			5
NV-010-115	Big Cottonwood Canyon	(2,288)	4	2,288				1		6		1		1			2

*Supporting reasons will not total inputs since one input may have given several supporting reasons for each category.

Unit Number/Name		INPUTS					SUPPORTING REASONS*										
		Pro (WSA)	Con (release)	Nonspecific Pro	Nonspecific Con	Inadequate Size	Adequate Size	Roadless	Roads	Boundary Change	Natural	Unnatural	Solitude	No Solitude	Primitive Rec.	No Primitive Rec.	Supp. Values
NV-010-116.	Sulphur		4					1			4		1				2
NV-010-129	Six Mile Hill	(2,288)	3	2,288				2			2						5
NV-010-130	Rock Creek	8 (2,327)	4	2,328			3			2	4	9		12		3	4
NV-010-131	Snowstorm	6	2	6				1			1						6
NV-010-132	Little Humboldt River	7 (2,327)	5	2,328		1	2	1		4	6	3	1	8	3	1	6
NV-010-133	Three Mile Creek		2					1					1				1
NV-010-134	Chino Creek		4					2			5		1		1		4
NV-010-135	Bull Run		4					1			4		1		1		2
NV-010-143	Adobe		1														1
NV-010-147	Double Mountain		3					1			2		1				2
NV-010-148	Beaver Creek	(2,288)	1	2,288													1
NV-010-149	Lookout Mountain	(2,288)	1	2,288													1
NV-010-150	Table Mountain	(2,288)	1	2,288													1
NV-010-151	Rough Hills	8 (2,327)	3	2,328			2			6	1	5		13		5	2
NV-010-152	Charleston Reservoir		1														1
NV-010-153	Mahala Creek		1														1
NV-010-160/ UT-020-009,011, 012	Wagon Box Pass		1														1
NV-010-160-B	Wagon Box Pass	No comments	received														
NV-010-161	Bald Mountain		2					1			1						2
NV-010-162	Tee Pee Rock #2		1														1
NV-010-164/ ID-202-1/ UT-020-001	Little Goose Creek #1		1														1
NV-010-167	Little Goose Creek #4		1														1
NV-010-167-B	Little Goose Creek #4	No comments	received														
NV-010-170	Bedke Well		2					1			2						2
NV-010-171	Delano		2					1			1						2
NV-010-171-A	Delano		1								1						1
NV-010-171-B	Delano		1								1						1
NV-010-174	Ninemile		3					2			4						1
NV-010-177	Tijuana John		4					3			3		2		1		5

*Supporting reasons will not total inputs since one input may have given several supporting reasons for each category.

Unit Number/Name	INPUTS		SUPPORTING REASONS*														
	Pro (MSA)	Con (release)	Nonspecific Pro	Nonspecific Con	Inadequate Size	Adequate Size	Roadless	Roads	Boundary Change	Natural	Unnatural	Solitude	No Solitude	Primitive Rec.	No Primitive Rec.	Supp. Values	Other Res. Values
NV-010-177-B																	
NV-010-177-F																	
NV-010-177-J																	
NV-010-177-L																	
NV-010-178																	
NV-010-178-A																	
NV-010-178-C																	
NV-010-178-F																	
NV-010-179/ ID-107-26/ ID-17-26																	
NV-010-181																	
NV-010-181-C																	
NV-010-181-E																	
NV-010-183																	
NV-010-184																	
NV-010-185																	
NV-010-187																	
NV-010-188																	
NV-010-193																	
NV-010-197																	
NV-010-198																	
NV-010-199																	
<u>Winnemucca District</u>																	
NV-020-001/ CA-020-919																	
NV-020-004/ CA-020-813-A&B																	
NV-020-006/ CA-020-914-A																	
NV-020-006-A/ CA-020-914																	
NV-020-007																	

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Unit Number/Name	INPUTS					SUPPORTING REASONS*											
	Pro (MSA)	Con (release)	Nonspecific Pro	Nonspecific Con	Inadequate Size	Adequate Size	Roadless	Roads	Boundary Change	Natural	Unnatural	Solitude	No Solitude	Primitive Rec.	No Primitive Rec.	Supp. Values	Other Res. Values
NV-020-008/ CA-020-913	12	5	40				1	1	1	3	5	5	3	8	2	9	1
NV-020-009/ CA-020-823	2	4								5	1	2	2	3	1	3	
NV-020-010/ CA-020-816/ CA-020-821/ CA-020-820	1	3					1			2		1			1	2	
NV-020-012/ CA-020-621, 618	9 (2,327)	7	2,327				3	1	8	11	8	1	6	1	8	2	
NV-020-014	5 (2,327)	11	2,327		1	2	5	1	3	13	5	4	5	3	6	4	
NV-020-018	(2,288)	4	2,288						1	1	3	3	1	1	2	2	
NV-020-019	8 (2,327)	8	2,328			3	3		4	6	8	2	5	2	9	8	
NV-020-021/ CA-020-822-A&B/ CA-020-823	No comments	received															
NV-020-200	7 (2,327)	14	2,327			2	7	1	4	22	6	3	5	1	2	13	
NV-020-201	8 (2,327)	10	2,327		1	4	2		6	17	9	3	5	3	7	4	
NV-020-204		7		1			4			14		2				4	
NV-020-209	No comments	received															
NV-020-212		3								3							
NV-020-216		2				1				2		1				1	
NV-020-217	No comments	received															
NV-020-222		82				82		164								82	
NV-020-235		3				1				3						2	
NV-020-406	14 (2,327)	12	2,329		1	3	7		3	20	6	4	14	2	17	6	
NV-020-408		8					1			4		4		3		2	
NV-020-410	2	2				1			2	2		2			2	2	
NV-020-436	7 (39)	3	39			1	2		3	2	9	2	4	1	6	2	
NV-020-600	13 (2,327)	6	2,327			2	5	4	6	7	4	2	18	1	7	3	
NV-020-601	2 (2,288)	1	2,288				1	1	2	4							
NV-020-602	8 (2,327)	3	2,328			1	2	2	3	9	5	2	4	2	6	1	
NV-020-603	9 (2,237)	20	2,237		1	1	2	15	3	36	7	15	15	5	4	17	
NV-020-604	1 (2,288)	1	2,288						1								
NV-020-606	8 (2,327)	18	2,329		1	1	2	12	2	31	2	11	8	9	6	15	

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Unit Number/Name		INPUTS		SUPPORTING REASONS*													
		Pro (NSA)	Con (release)	Nonspecific Pro	Nonspecific Con	Inadequate Size	Adequate Size	Roadless	Roads	Boundary Change	Natural	Unnatural	Solitude	No Solitude	Primitive Rec.	No Primitive Rec.	Supp. Values
NV-020-609/ OR-2-80	Maggie Creek	2 (2,288)	1	2,288						1	1	1					1
NV-020-610	Sentinel Peak	1	1	1				1									2
NV-020-612	Bilk Creek		1										1		1		
NV-020-615	Wood Canyon	2 (2,288)	2	2,288						1	2	1					2
NV-020-617	Middle Spring	2	1							1	2	1					1
NV-020-618	Texas Springs	(2,288)	2	2,288	1												1
NV-020-620	Black Rock Desert	12 (2,327)	19	2,329		1	1	8	1	5	14	7	9	4	9	12	12
NV-020-621	Pahute Peak	15 (2,327)	7	2,330	1		2	1		8	2	8	2	10	1	20	3
NV-020-621A	Pahute Peak	9 (2,327)	2	2,328		1	2			6	1	8	2	5	1	9	
NV-020-622	N. Black Rock Range	11 (2,327)	9	2,329		1	1	5	3	3	8	5	2	7	1	4	6
NV-020-637	McGee Mountain	7 (2,327)	6	2,328		1	1	3	1	4	1	4	3	5	4	4	4
NV-020-641	Paiute Meadows	2 (2,288)	2	2,289						1							2
NV-020-642	Pueblo Mountains	No comments received															
NV-020-800	Long Ridge		1														
NV-020-809A/ OR-3-172	Deer Flat	1		1													
NV-020-810/ OR-3-191	Carin "C"		1														1
NV-020-811/ OR-3-159/ ID-106-70-E	Tent Creek	(2,288)	2	2,288				1		2			1				1
NV-020-827	N. Fork Little Humboldt	9 (2,327)	4	2,329			1	1	2	1	5	5	1	8	1	2	1
NV-020-830	Sugar Loaf Hill	1	2					1	1		3		2				1
NV-020-835	Forks Ranch	1	2				1	1		1	3	2	1	1		1	2
NV-020-836	Little Owyhee River	1 (2,288)	2	2,288			1	1		1	2	2	2	1		1	1
NV-020-838	Lone Willow	1	2				1	1		1	2	2	1	1		1	1
NV-020-839	Calico Ranch	1 (2,288)	2	2,288			1			1	2	2	1	1		1	1
NV-020-840	No Springs	1	1				1			1		2	1	1		1	1
NV-020-843	Raven Creek		2					1					1		1		1
NV-020-859/ OR-3-153/ OR-2-78	Disaster Peak	9 (2,327)	9	2,328			3	7	1	5	11	20	9	11	9	2	3

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Unit Number/Name	INPUTS					SUPPORTING REASONS*											
	Pro (WSA)	Con (release)	Nonspecific Pro	Nonspecific Con	Inadequate Size	Adequate Size	Roadless	Roads	Boundary Change	Natural	Unnatural	Solitude	No Solitude	Primitive Rec.	No Primitive Rec.	Supp. Values	Other Res. Values
Carson City District																	
NV-030-102	Clan Alpine Mtns	16 (2,327)	24	2,330		1	4	12	1	7	32	15	15	10	2	15	17
NV-030-104	Stillwater Range	10 (2,327)	26	2,329			1	25	7	3	38	11	25	8	4	19	39
NV-030-105	New Pass Range	(2,288)	5	2,288				3			4		3				4
NV-030-106	Shoshone Meadows	7 (2,326)	5	2,327	1		1	2	1	2	3	6	3	4	2	10	2
NV-030-108	Augusta Mountains	7 (2,326)	5	2,327	1		1	1		1	2	8	3	4	2	7	2
NV-030-110/																	
NV-060-288	Desatoya Mountains	13 (2,327)	10	2,330		1	1	10	7	3	4	14	19	7	15	4	21
NV-030-117	Diamond Canyon	(2,288)	6	2,288				3			5		2				1
NV-030-118	Desatoya South	1 (2,288)	5	2,289				2			5		1			1	4
NV-030-125	Desatoya North	1 (2,288)	3	2,289				1			1		2			1	1
NV-030-127	Job Peak	11 (2,327)	14	2,329		2		3	13		3	28	17	14	10	2	21
NV-030-136	Mount Annie	(2,288)	4	2,288	1			1			3		2			1	2
NV-030-323	Wassuk Range	10 (2,326)	7	2,329	1		1	4	3	1	5	11	8	1	8	1	19
NV-030-402	Gillis Range North	(2,288)	5	2,288				2			5		2			1	3
NV-030-407	Gabbs Valley Range	7 (2,327)	12	2,328				1	11		2	21	12	9	6	2	7
NV-030-409	Stewart Valley Hills		5					2			6		2			1	3
NV-030-425	Excelsior Mountains	(2,288)	7	2,288				5			11		5			2	5
NV-030-430	Basalt	5 (2,327)	6	2,329		2		3	2		2	4	6	4	4	4	6
NV-030-432	Hontone Mine	5 (39)	4	42		3		3	1		3	1	6	3	5	3	2
NV-030-435	Truman Meadows	(2,288)		2,288													
NV-030-436	Queen Valley North		2					1			1		2				1
NV-030-437	Queen Valley Ranch		3					1			3		1				2
NV-030-439	Orchard Spring	No comments received															
NV-030-517	Rawe Peak	1 (2,288)	6	2,288	1		1		5		9	1	3	1	1	1	3
NV-030-520	Lyon Peak	17 (2,326)	7	2,329	1		4	4		6	9	11	4	15	1	25	3
NV-030-525	East Pine Nuts	12 (2,326)	5	2,327	1		1	3	3		6	8	12	2	13	1	19
NV-030-525-A	Burbank Canyons	16 (2,326)	3	2,327	1		1	3	2	1	4	6	9	1	15	1	25
NV-030-531/																	
CA-010-105	Slinkard	12 (2,327)	2	2,330			2	7	1		7	5	6	1	13		11
NV-030-532	Carson-Iceberg	9 (2,327)	4	2,330		3		5	4		4	4	5	2	10	2	6
NV-030-603/																	
CA-020-403	Fort Sage Mountain	1	1				1	1			2	1				4	1
NV-030-605	Virginia Mountains	30 (2,326)	4	2,326	2		1	5	2	2	11	4	22	17		44	
NV-030-610	Peterson Mountain	8 (2,326)	4	2,326	2			2	2		4	5	8	1	7	9	3

*Supporting reasons will not total inputs since one input may have given several supporting reasons for each category.

Unit Number/Name		INPUTS						SUPPORTING REASONS*										
		Pro (MSA)	Con (release)	Nonspecific Pro	Nonspecific Con	Inadequate Size	Adequate Size	Roadless	Roads	Boundary Change	Natural	Unnatural	Solitude	No Solitude	Primitive Rec.	No Primitive Rec.	Supp. Values	Other Res. Values
<u>Ely District</u>																		
NV-040-001	Northeast Corner		1															1
NV-040-004	Chin Creek		2			1			1				1					2
NV-040-007	Lehman Creek		4								3							2
NV-040-007-A	Lehman Creek		1								1							
NV-040-008	Antelope Range		3						2		3							1
NV-040-009	Warm Springs		3			1			2		2		1					2
NV-040-015	Goshute Canyon	9 (2,326)	7	2,329	2	1		1	6	4	5	15	7	4	7	2	17	5
NV-040-016	Willow Spring		1															1
NV-040-019	Egan Basin	4 (39)	7	41	1			1	3		1	4	4	2	4	2	2	2
NV-040-021	Butte Mountains	5 (2,326)	3	2,327	2			1			3		9	1	5	1	5	1
NV-040-021-A	Butte Mountains	5 (39)	2	40	1			1			3		9	1	5	1	5	
NV-040-034	Buck Mountain	1 (2,288)	4	2,288			1	1	3			7	2	1	1	1	3	1
NV-040-042	Maple Syrup Well		2						2									1
NV-040-043	Robber's Roost		1															1
NV-040-047	Frank's Well		3									2		1		1		2
NV-040-048	Toner Spring	(2,288)	6	2,288					1			6		1		1		3
NV-040-048-A	Heusser Mountain	7 (2,326)	4	2,328	1	1		2			4	1	7	1	7		5	2
NV-040-048-B	Toner Spring		1											1		1		
NV-040-049	Telegraph Canyon	(2,288)	5	2,288		1			3			8		2		2		2
NV-040-050	Hot Springs		5								3			4				3
NV-040-065	Golden Springs		2					1						1		1		1
NV-040-070	Red Hills		4			1			1			4		1		1		2
NV-040-078	Grass Valley Reservoir	1	4	1	1			2	1		2	4	2	1	2	1	2	2
NV-040-079	Kern Mountains		5						3			7		4		1		3
NV-040-079-A	Kern Mountains		3						3			4		5		1		2
NV-040-081	White Cloud Basin	1 (2,288)	3	2,288			1	1		1	4	2	1	1	1	5		2
NV-040-081-A	White Cloud Basin		2						1			4		1		1		1
NV-040-085	Yelland Ranch		4						2			7		2		2		2
NV-040-086	Granite Spring	4 (2,327)	10	2,327	1	1	1	1	4		1	5	8	6	4	6	3	3
NV-040-100	Colorado Gulch	(2,288)	4						2			4		2		1		2
NV-040-100-C	John's Wash	(2,288)	1	2,288					1			2		1		1		
NV-040-107	Kious Spring	(2,288)	3	2,288					1			3		1		1		2

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GLOSSARY OF WILDERNESS TERMS AND PHRASES

In this book you will see terms and phrases that are not commonly used. However, they are critical to your understanding the inventory and its findings. The definitions provided below are for your information.

Contiguous lands: Lands which share a common administrative boundary usually unmarked on the ground. Lands having only a common corner are not contiguous.

Dead-end roads: These are documented roads that simply dead-end within the roadless public land unit. They do not cut off pieces of acreage, but rather intrude into the unit for a distance. In these cases the boundary line is drawn around the roads in a process some refer to as "cherrystemming" because the roads appear like cherry stems sticking into the unit.

Instant study areas: Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act mandated that all primitive or natural areas formally identified prior to November 1, 1975, will be studied for wilderness suitability and recommended to the President by July 1, 1980. These existing primitive and natural areas are called Instant Study Areas, or ISAs.

Intrusion: A man-made structure, facility, or project that is found on public lands within an inventory unit.

Naturalness: An area under wilderness consideration must appear to be natural. An area may include some imprints of man, provided they are substantially unnoticeable. Ways, water developments, fences, and the like may be permitted in a wilderness study area, if they are substantially unnoticeable and do not significantly detract from the overall naturalness of the area.

Primitive recreation: Examples of primitive and unconfined types of recreation include hiking, backpacking, fishing, hunting, rockclimbing, horseback riding, cross country skiing, photography, bird or animal observation, and sightseeing. These opportunities are determined through evaluating such factors as topographic and vegetative features, considering the diversity of such opportunities, and the quality the area offers in pursuing such activities. Keep in mind that these opportunities include potential as well as present use.

Inventory unit: Areas of public lands indexed for easy reference at the start of the wilderness inventory. An official file for each unit is maintained at the BLM State and District offices and is available for public review.

Public land: In Nevada, this means any land and interest in land owned by the United States and administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the Bureau of Land Management.

RARE II: The wilderness inventory on lands administered by the Secretary of Agriculture through the United States Forest Service. The acronym stands for Roadless Area Review and Evaluation, and the "II" signifies that it is the second time the Forest Service has inventoried and evaluated the lands it administers for wilderness values.

Riparian: Refers to vegetation along streams, lakes, or other bodies of water.

Road: The guidance the Bureau has adopted comes from Congress itself during debate concerning the Federal Land Policy and Management Act in 1976. According to Congress, "The word 'roadless' refers to the absence of roads which have been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continuous use. A way maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road."

The Bureau has interpreted portions of that definition further as follows:

---"Improved and maintained": Actions taken physically by man to keep the road open to vehicular traffic. "Improved" does not necessarily mean formal construction. "Maintained" does not necessarily mean annual maintenance.

---"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.

Roadless: Refers to the absence of roads which have been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continuous use.

Roadless area: That area which is roadless, as defined above, and is bounded by a road, the edge of a right-of-way, other land ownership, or a significant imprint of man.

Seeding: A public land range improvement project that involves removing the native non-desirable vegetation such as sagebrush with low-nutritive values and replacing with more desirable forage by seeding.

Size exception: In most cases, 5,000 acres of contiguous public land is considered the minimum needed for further wilderness consideration. However, the BLM recognizes several exceptions to this minimum figure. Lands may meet the size exception when:

---They are contiguous with lands managed by another agency which have been formally determined to have wilderness or potential wilderness values.

---The public has indicated strong support for study of a particular area of less than 5,000 acres and it is demonstrated that it is clearly and obviously of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition, and of a size suitable for wilderness preservation.

---They are contiguous with an area of less than 5,000 acres of other Federal lands administered by an agency with authority to study and preserve wilderness lands, and the combined total is 5,000 acres or more.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude are evaluated in context of the physical setting of the inventory unit. Key factors which affect a person's opportunity to avoid the sights, sounds, and evidence of other people in the inventory unit involve:

---Vegetative screening: Does the area have diversity of grasses, trees, bushes? How thick is the growth and how does it screen individuals from one another?

---Topographic screening: Does the topographic variation help screen individuals?

---Configuration of the unit: Is the unit reasonably blocked or does it have an irregular configuration? Does the configuration enhance opportunities for solitude?

---Size in conjunction with topography and vegetation: For example, a flat, non-vegetated unit that is very large may have outstanding opportunities for solitude but a similar smaller unit may not.

---Vastness versus intimacy: Does the area, despite its vast area, have opportunities for seclusion?

Supplemental values: Ecologic, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

Subunit: A portion of section of an inventory unit, normally separated from the original unit by a road documented during the course of the inventory.

Way: A two-wheel track created only by the passage of vehicles. A "way" is not a road.

Vegetation manipulation: Any public land range improvement that changes the natural vegetation, such as seeding.

Wilderness: This term was defined by Congress in the 1964 Wilderness Act. See the section on Legal Requirements for the complete explanation.

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, primitive or unconfined types of recreation, and supplemental values.

Wilderness inventory: An evaluation of the public lands 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 Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs). Those lands identified as not meeting wilderness criteria will be released from further wilderness consideration.

Wilderness review: The term used to cover the entire wilderness inventory, study, and reporting phases of the wilderness program of the BLM.

WSA: Wilderness Study Area.