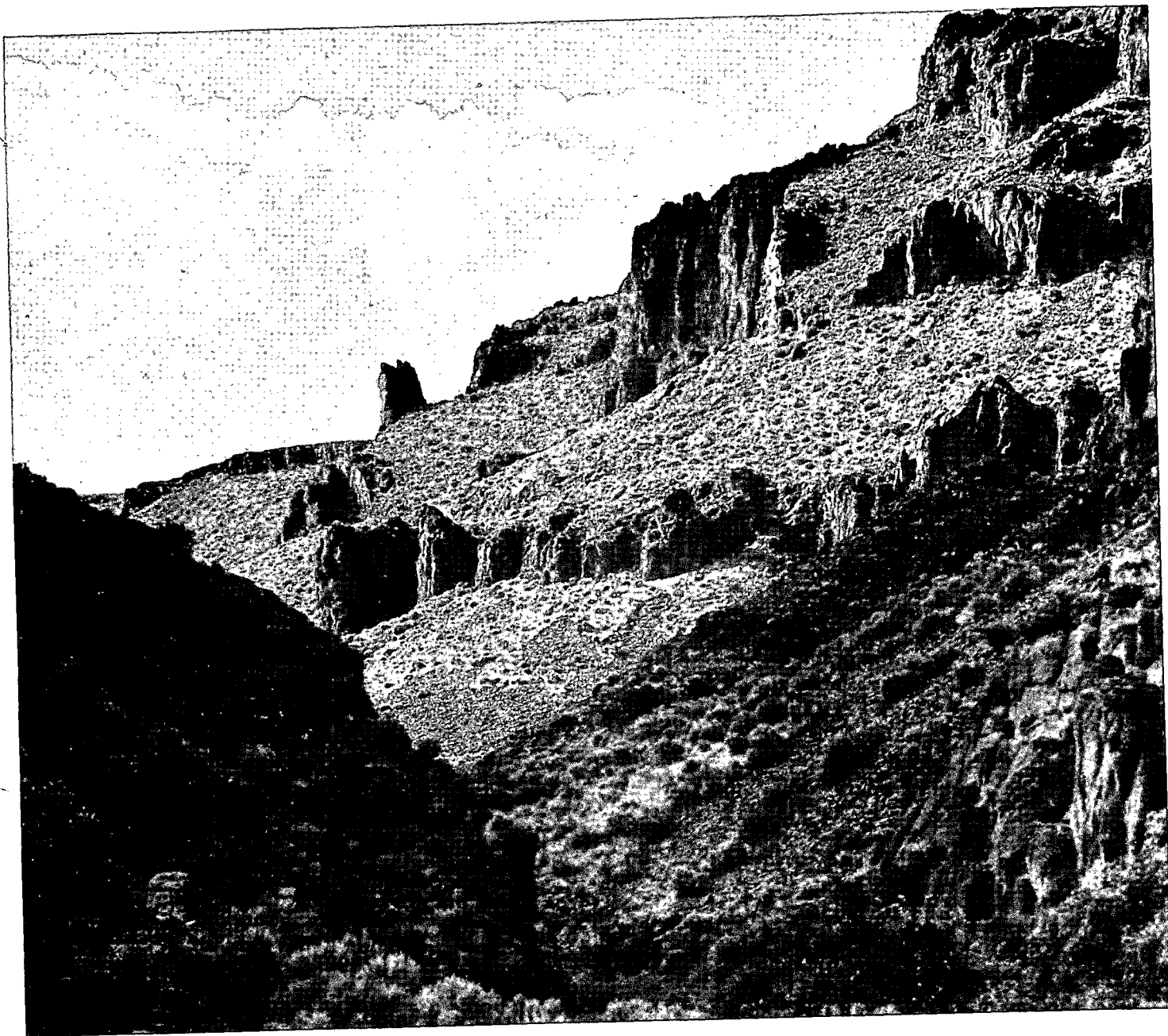


GLO2520

IDAHO

**INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY
PROPOSED DECISION**



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

IDAHO STATE OFFICE

APRIL 1980



United States Department of the Interior

IN REPLY REFER TO

8500 (932)

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Idaho State Office
Federal Building
550 W. Fort Street
Box 042
Boise, Idaho 83724

March 28, 1980

I am pleased to announce that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has completed another major step in the wilderness review of the public lands in Idaho. The release of this report marks the beginning of a 90-day public review of the intensive wilderness inventory proposed decision.

During the intensive wilderness inventory, inventory units containing over 1,924,000 acres of roadless public lands in Idaho were examined in detail to determine the presence or absence of wilderness characteristics. As a result of the intensive inventory field work, I have determined that 35 inventory units totaling 803,836 acres do contain wilderness characteristics, and that 72 inventory units and 1,120,508 acres do not.

I have been pleased with the public interest in the wilderness inventory to date. I again ask that you give the proposed decision contained in this document your careful consideration. The information you provide on the wilderness characteristics of these areas, especially the presence or absence of naturalness and outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation, will be of great help in formulating my final decision. The formal 90-day public review period begins April 4, 1980 and ends July 3, 1980.

After analyzing and evaluating the comments received, I will formulate a final decision on which areas do or do not contain wilderness characteristics. Those which do will become Wilderness Study Areas to be studied through the BLM planning system with a recommendation reported to Congress as to whether or not they are suitable for designation as Wilderness Areas.

I extend my sincere appreciation to those individuals and organizations who have participated thus far in this endeavor and request your continued help.

Sincerely yours,

Robert C. Buffington
State Director

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SUMMARY

IDAHO INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY

PROPOSED DECISION

<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>PROPOSED AS WSA</u>		<u>NOT PROPOSED AS WSA</u>		<u>TOTAL</u>	
	<u>UNITS</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>UNITS</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>UNITS</u>	<u>ACRES</u>
Boise	7	316,343	24	486,901	31	803,244
Burley	1	11,358	4	45,173	5	56,531
Idaho Falls	6	157,630	18	227,027	24	384,657
Salmon	3	53,002	7	86,499	10	139,501
Shoshone	11	222,458	16	264,501	27	486,959
Coeur d'Alene	7	43,045	3	10,407	10	53,452
TOTAL	35	803,836	72	1,120,508	107	1,924,344

INTENSIVE INVENTORY PROPOSED DECISIONS

<u>Inventory Number</u>	<u>Unit Name</u>	<u>Proposed as WSA</u>	<u>Not Proposed as WSA</u>	<u>Page</u>
<u>Boise District</u>				
11-17	Outcrop		X	1-2
14-19	Long Tom Creek		X	1-3
14-21	Bennett Creek		X	1-4
16-2	Jump Creek		X	1-5
16-9	Reynolds Creek Canyon		X	1-6
16-49c	Squaw Meadows		X	1-7
17-1a	Lookout Butte		X	1-8
17-1b	East Fork Bruneau River		X	1-9
17-6	Dry Lakes		X	1-10
17-7	Clover Crossing		X	1-11
17-10	Lower Salmon Falls Creek		X	1-12
17-11	Jarbidge River	X		1-27
17-12	Poison Creek		X	1-13
18-1	Wildhorse		X	1-14
19-1	Cold Springs Creek		X	1-15
110-91a	Box Creek	X		1-29
111-5	Poison Gulch		X	1-16
111-6	Little Jack's Creek	X		1-30
111-7a	Big Hill		X	1-17
111-7b	Duncan Creek		X	1-18
111-7c	Big Jack's Creek	X		1-32
111-12	Sheep Trail		X	1-19
111-17	Bruneau River	X		1-33
111-18	Pole Creek	X		1-35
111-19a	Camas Creek		X	1-20
111-19b	Bull Gulch		X	1-21
111-20a	Big Springs		X	1-22
111-20b	Upper Battle Creek		X	1-23
111-21	Bull Basin		X	1-24
111-36a	Sheep Creek West	X		1-36
111-36b	Sheep Creek East		X	1-25
<u>Burley District</u>				
26-1	Hanzel Mountain		X	2-2
26-3	South Samaria		X	2-3
27-1	South Deep Creek		X	2-4
27-2	Deep Creek Peak		X	2-5
28-1	Petticoat Peak	X		2-7

<u>Inventory Number</u>	<u>Unit Name</u>	<u>Proposed as WSA</u>	<u>Not Proposed as WSA</u>	<u>Page</u>
<u>Idaho Falls District</u>				
31-10	Illinois		X	3-2
31-11	Deadman Canyon		X	3-3
31-13	Timbered Dome		X	3-4
31-14	Appendicitis Hill	X		3-21
31-15	Dry Hollow		X	3-5
31-17	White Knob Mountains	X		3-23
32-2	Sands Canyon		X	3-6
32-3	Hawley Mountain	X		3-24
32-4	Taylor Mountain		X	3-7
32-9	Black Canyon	X		3-25
32-16	Pass Creek		X	3-8
33-4	Cedar Butte	X		3-26
33-5	Skull		X	3-9
33-6	Rye Grass		X	3-10
33-7	Cottontail		X	3-11
33-12	Split Top		X	3-12
33-13	Bear Point		X	3-13
33-14	Mosby Butte		X	3-14
33-15	Hell's Half Acre	X		3-28
33-16	Morgan		X	3-15
33-22	Cox's Place		X	3-16
33-23	Bear Trap		X	3-17
33-24	Firth Quad Islands		X	3-18
33-25	Moreland Quad Islands		X	3-19
<u>Salmon District</u>				
41-3	Geertson Creek		X	4-2
42-6	Baldy Basin		X	4-3
43-3	Eighteen Mile	X		4-10
44-2	King Mountain		X	4-4
44-3	Hat Creek		X	4-5
44-4	Ellis Creek		X	4-6
44-9	Cronks Canyon		X	4-7
45-5	Mill Creek		X	4-8
45-12	Burnt Creek	X		4-11
47-4	Borah Peak	X		4-12
<u>Shoshone District</u>				
54-3	Preacher Creek		X	5-2
54-4	Rattlesnake Canyon		X	5-3
54-5	Little City of Rocks	X		5-19
54-6	Black Canyon	X		5-20
54-7	Four Mile Bench		X	5-4
54-8	Gooding City of Rocks	X		5-21

<u>Inventory Number</u>	<u>Unit Name</u>	<u>Proposed as WSA</u>	<u>Not Proposed as WSA</u>	<u>Page</u>
54-9	Clover Creek		X	5-5
54-10	Deer Creek	X		5-22
54-11	Indian		X	5-6
54-12	Dempsey Creek		X	5-7
54-13	Forgotten Hills		X	5-8
56-2	Lava <u>1/</u>	X		5-23
56-3	Big Wood	Now part of 56-2		-
57-2	Shale Butte	X		5-24
57-3	Antelope		X	5-9
57-4	Black Ridge Canyon		X	5-10
57-5	Lone Rock		X	5-11
57-6	Wildhorse		X	5-12
57-7	Pagari		X	5-13
57-8	Sand Butte	X		5-25
57-9	Broken Top Butte	Now part of 57-10		-
57-10	Raven's Eye	X		5-26
57-11	Little Deer	X		5-27
57-12	Laidlaw Butte		X	5-14
57-13	Potter Butte		X	5-15
57-14	Bear Den Butte	X		5-28
57-15	Point		X	5-16
57-16	MacRae Lake		X	5-17
59-7	Shoshone <u>2/</u>	X		5-29

1/ Previously called Kinzie East

2/ Previously called Lava

Coeur d'Alene District

61-1	Selkirk Crest	X		6-6
61-6c	Hideaway Island		X	6-2
61-9	Rochat Creek		X	6-3
61-10	Crystal Lake	X		6-7
61-15a	Grandmother Mountain	X		6-8
61-15b	Grandmother Mountain	X		6-8
62-1	Snowhole Rapids	X		6-10
62-2	Confluence	X		6-11
62-4	Big Canyon		X	6-4
62-10	Marshall Mountain <u>3/</u>	X		6-13

3/ Previously called Gospel Hump

WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

IDENTIFIED THROUGH ACCELERATED INVENTORIES -

DECISIONS FINAL

<u>INVENTORY NUMBER</u>	<u>UNIT NAME</u>	<u>ACREAGE</u>	<u>DATE IDENTIFIED</u>
45-1	Goldburg ^{1/}	3,290	5/29/79
54-2	Black Butte	4,002	6/1/79
33-1	Great Rift	374,400	7/12/79
53-4	Little Wood River ^{1/}	4,385	7/12/79
53-5	Friedman Creek	9,773	7/12/79
16-2	Jump Creek ^{2/}	8,301	8/10/79
16-9	Reynolds Creek Canyon ^{2/}	14,650	8/10/79
19-1	Cold Springs Creek ^{2/}	21,380	8/10/79
19-2	King Hill Creek	23,815	8/10/79
34-2,3,4	Islands	770	12/28/79
35-77	Henry's Lake ^{1/}	350	12/28/79
37-77	Worm Creek ^{1/}	40	12/28/79

1/ Unit dependent upon a contiguous RARE II area to meet criteria.

2/ Unit where WSA identification is undergoing reevaluation, refer to pages 1-5, 1-6, and 1-15 of this report.

INTRODUCTION

Contained within this report are the Bureau of Land Management's recommendations on those BLM-administered lands in Idaho which qualify as Wilderness Study Areas (WSA's) and those which do not. Note that BLM is not at this time recommending that these areas should or should not be designated wilderness by Congress. BLM has determined that some inventory units do contain wilderness characteristics as defined by the Wilderness Act of 1964 and that some do not. The areas that meet these characteristics will be designated WSA's and will be studied to determine whether or not they are suitable for Wilderness. This study will take place at a later date. Every WSA will be reviewed and acted upon by Congress after the study is complete, whether the BLM deems them suitable for designation as Wilderness Areas or not.

These recommendations are the result of Intensive Inventory field work conducted during the summer and fall, 1979. Procedures for evaluating wilderness criteria are noted in the BLM Wilderness Inventory Handbook, published September 27, 1978. Copies of the handbook are available from any office of the Bureau of Land Management.

The narratives included here are summaries of more detailed Intensive Inventory reports available in the BLM Idaho District Offices. These summaries present a brief, overall picture of Idaho's Intensive Inventory recommendations. For more detailed, site specific information, refer to the District files. Larger, more detailed maps and photographs are also contained in these files.

This report initiates the 90-day public comment period for the Intensive Inventory, which runs from April 4, 1980, to July 3, 1980. All comments must be received by the offices of the BLM no later than July 3, 1980, to be utilized in the State Director's final decision on which units will become WSA's and which will not.

I. BACKGROUND

A. Overview of BLM's Wilderness Review Process

The BLM's wilderness review process will be completed in three phases: Inventory, Study, and Reporting.

Phase I - Inventory: The Inventory phase has two parts, initial and intensive. Its overall purpose is to identify those public lands having wilderness characteristics as defined by the Wilderness Act of 1964.

Initial Inventory - In this stage, public lands administered by the BLM which clearly and obviously do not have

wilderness characteristics were identified. Existing information, such as maps and aerial photos, along with input received from the public, were utilized to make this decision. Three criteria must be met for an area to be recommended for Intensive Inventory. Each must be: (1) at least 5,000 acres in size or contiguous to a proposed or existing wilderness area, (2) roadless, and (3) substantially free of man's imprints.

The proposed initial inventory decision was released by the Idaho State Director March 15, 1979. A 90-day public comment period followed, ending June 15, 1979. The final decision was released August 10, 1979.

Intensive Inventory - In this stage, as reflected in this report, field surveys were conducted. Each area was examined to determine the presence or absence of wilderness characteristics listed in the Wilderness Act: naturalness, the presence of outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation, and the presence of supplemental values. For an area to qualify as a Wilderness Study Area, it must be substantially natural and have either outstanding opportunities for solitude or outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. A total of 1,924,344 acres of BLM land contained within 107 inventory units were intensively inventoried in Idaho. Each of these areas are discussed in this report.

Field work for the Intensive Inventory was conducted during the summer and fall, 1979. The public comment period for this proposed decision begins April 4, 1980, and ends July 3, 1980. A final decision on which areas will be Wilderness Study Areas will be released in September, 1980. A 30-day protest period will follow.

Phase II - Study: The study phase of the Wilderness Review will be completed as a part of regional comprehensive land-use plans. During each planning effort, the public will have several opportunities to comment upon other resource values within a Wilderness Study Area. These comments will be considered in making land-use decisions prior to subsequent recommendations to the President and Congress on an area's suitability or nonsuitability as Wilderness. This phase will begin as soon as the final Wilderness Study Area decision is made in September, 1980.

Phase III - Reporting: Recommendations on an area's suitability or nonsuitability for Wilderness designation are reported to Congress through the Secretary of the Interior and the President. Reports on all WSA's must be submitted to the President by September 21, 1991.

B. Instant Study Areas (ISA's)

All natural areas in Idaho as of November 1, 1975, automatically became Instant Wilderness Study Areas. Congress directed that all designated natural areas currently administered by BLM be inventoried and evaluated on an accelerated schedule to determine their suitability for wilderness designation (Section 603, FLPMA).

Three of these areas are located in Idaho:

<u>Natural Area</u>	<u>District</u>
Birds of Prey	Boise
China Cup Butte	Idaho Falls
Grassland Kipuka (Great Rift)	Idaho Falls, Shoshone

Inventories and Draft Suitability Reports have been completed for China Cup Butte and Birds of Prey with the recommendation that these areas do not have wilderness characteristics. Public reviews were held in 1979, and the reports which will be submitted to Congress can be examined at the appropriate District Office or in the State Office in Boise.

The Great Rift ISA was determined to have wilderness characteristics in the Intensive Inventory which was conducted in 1979. A Draft Suitability Report completed in March, 1980, recommended the area be designated as a Wilderness Area by Congress. A draft environmental statement is also available for public review.

C. Definitions

Terminology specific to the BLM Wilderness Review has evolved throughout the inventory process. To facilitate better communication, the following terms elaborate on definitions already given in the Wilderness Inventory Handbook.

Cherrystemming: An unofficial term used to describe the way an inventory unit boundary is drawn to exclude a road that appears to enter the unit; the resulting boundary resembles a cherrystem.

Contiguous Lands: Lands or legal subdivisions having a common boundary. Lands having only a common corner are not contiguous.

FLPMA: Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, which mandated the BLM Wilderness Review. Often referred to and pronounced "FLIPMA".

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 ISA's.

Inventory Unit: Areas of public lands indexed for easy reference at the start of the wilderness inventory. All BLM lands in Idaho are within an inventory unit; these units may or may not be roadless. An official file for each unit is maintained at the BLM District offices and is available for public review.

Non-Public Land Inholdings: All non-federal lands, including state or private land located within the inventory units. These lands are not calculated in the acreage being evaluated for wilderness nor are they being inventoried for wilderness characteristics.

Public Lands: 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, without regard to how the United States acquired ownership, except:

- lands located on the Outer Continental Shelf
- lands held for the benefit of Indians, Aleuts, and Eskimos
- lands in which the United States retains the minerals, but the surface is private

Only public land is being inventoried for wilderness purposes. (This is the definition used for purposes of this inventory.)

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.

Road: For the purposes of the BLM's wilderness inventory, the following definition is adopted: "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."

To clarify this definition, the following subdefinitions also apply:

"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. Examples are: access roads for equipment to maintain a stock water tank or other established water sources; access roads to maintained recreation sites or facilities; or access roads to mining claims.

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 bound by a road, the edge of a right-of-way, other land ownership, or a significant imprint of man.

Situation Evaluation: Each wilderness inventory unit, whether roadless or not, has a situation evaluation written for it describing the roads, size, and general naturalness of the area. These are the file documents associated with the initial inventory and are available at the BLM District offices.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are wilderness characteristics examined in the intensive wilderness inventory. Factors contributing to opportunities for solitude are size, vegetative screening, topographic relief, vistas, and physiographic variety.

Supplemental Values: Features of ecological, geological, or other scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value that may be present in an inventory unit. These are not necessary criteria for wilderness suitability, as is stated in the Wilderness Act of 1964, but must be assessed during the intensive wilderness inventory.

Way: A two-wheel track created only by the passage of vehicles. A "way" is not a road.

Wilderness: The definition contained in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 is as follows: "A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. Wilderness is an area of undeveloped federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least 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.

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 type 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 (WSA's). 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.

D. Interim Management Policy (IMP)

During the period of the wilderness review and until Congress acts on the President's recommendations on which areas are suitable for wilderness designation, the Secretary of the Interior is required to manage lands having wilderness characteristics so as not to impair their suitability for preservation as wilderness, subject to certain exceptions and conditions. This management is referred to as "interim management" and is discussed in a recently released document entitled Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review. This is available at any BLM office.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A. Overview

This report initiates the 90-day public comment period on Idaho BLM's Intensive Inventory proposed decision (April 4, 1980, to July 3, 1980). To insure that your comments can be effectively utilized at this point in the wilderness inventory, we encourage you to comment on the presence or absence of the following wilderness characteristics, as defined by the Wilderness Act of 1964:

- Naturalness
- Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive, Unconfined Recreation
- Supplemental Values

Several factors contribute to the presence of these characteristics and were used in evaluating each inventory unit. The explanation of each of these factors follows. If your assessment of the presence or absence of any of these characteristics agrees with or differs from ours, please make your comments known to us on the comment sheets included in this report.

The analysis of comments will not involve "vote-counting". Comments will be examined for their informational value regarding the wilderness characteristics of an inventory unit.

One comment specific to these characteristics that offers the BLM new information or that sheds new light on an issue could result in a change to the recommendation on an inventory unit. Conversely, should the BLM receive large numbers of comments opposing or supporting WSA designation without reference to the presence or absence of wilderness characteristics, the recommendation may have little or no effect on the final WSA decision.

Information concerning other resource values and potential resource conflicts in the inventory units will not be considered until the study phase of the Wilderness Review and will not affect the inventory decision.

B. How Wilderness Characteristics are Evaluated

1. Naturalness

" . . . generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable . . ."

- Wilderness Act of 1964

The area must appear to be generally natural. An area may include some imprints of man provided they are substantially unnoticeable. Trails, signs, bridges, fences, stream barriers, snow gauges, spring developments, and the like may be permitted in a WSA, if they are substantially unnoticeable and do not detract from the overall naturalness of the area.

Imprints of man outside a unit are not normally considered in assessing the area's naturalness.

2. Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

"Has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation . . ."

- Wilderness Act of 1964

Two key words appear here: "or" and "outstanding". Either opportunities for solitude or opportunities for primitive recreation must be present for an area to qualify as a WSA: both need not be present. These opportunities must be outstanding in order for an area to qualify as a WSA. Opportunities for either solitude or primitive recreation may exist in an inventory unit, but if these opportunities are not outstanding, the area does not qualify as a WSA.

Outstanding opportunities for solitude are defined by the physical setting of an inventory unit:

- Vegetative screening - Does the area have diversity of grasses, trees, shrubs? How thick is the growth and how does it screen individuals from one another?
- Topographic screening - Does the topographic variation help screen individuals from one another within an inventory unit?

- Configuration of an inventory unit - is the unit of a reasonably blocked configuration? Do "cherrystemming" roads exist, possibly affecting solitude opportunities?
- Size in conjunction with topography and vegetation - For example, a flat, non-vegetated unit of 100,000 acres might have outstanding opportunities for solitude, while a similiar unit of 5,000 acres might not.
- Vastness verses intimacy - Does the area have long vistas? Are there opportunities to be secluded?

Examples of primitive and unconfined types of recreation are: hiking, backpacking, fishing, hunting, spelunking, horseback riding, mountain or rock climbing, river running, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, dog sledding, photography, bird watching, canoeing, kayaking, sailing, and sightseeing for botanical, zoological, or geological features. How do the topographic and vegetative features enhance or inhibit these kinds of activities? Keep in mind that these opportunities include potential as well as present use.

3. Supplemental Values

". . . ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value."
- Wilderness Act of 1964

The presence or lack of supplemental values, such as ecological geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical importance will not determine whether an inventory unit becomes a WSA. These values are not essential for WSA status; however, it is important that the presence or absence of these types of features in an area be noted.

This information will be valuable in Phase II, Study. Using the BLM planning system, these supplemental values can be protected and managed to preserve and enhance their uniqueness under other administrative procedures, if wilderness designation is not made.

4. Possibility of the Area Returning to A Natural Condition

Many imprints of man have a significant impact on the naturalness of an area and are excluded from WSA's. When the impact of man's imprints is only moderate, there is the possibility of returning the area to a substantially unnoticeable level by natural processes or hand labor. This is dependent on the kind of imprint, the topography, the vegetation, the amount of rainfall, and so forth.

C. How Comments Will Be Utilized

Every public comment received by the BLM during the 90-day public comment period (April 4, 1980, to July 3, 1980) will be read, analyzed, and, when necessary, field checked for validity. The appropriate District Managers and District Office wilderness staffs

will read each letter relating to their respective inventory units, and will address the points raised in each comment. This data will be kept in the file for the inventory unit(s). A copy of each comment will be sent to the BLM State Office in Boise where all will be reviewed. The original of comments will all be kept on file in the District Offices. If maps and photos are included with the comment, these will also be filed at the District Offices. The inventory unit files may be reviewed upon request.

After the conclusion of the public comment period, an overall statewide analysis will be compiled by the State Office. This will provide an overview of the kind of comments received, who wrote in, and what inventory units were of predominate concern to the public. When completed, this report can be examined in the district offices or the State Office in Boise.

Information provided by the public will be carefully considered and could change the recommendations on what areas should and should not become Wilderness Study Areas, when the comments reveal the presence or absence of Wilderness characteristics that the BLM has not identified. The factors being evaluated in the intensive inventory are somewhat subjective, so public input is critical in making these difficult decisions.

D. Where to Send Wilderness Mail

Comments must be received by July 3, 1980. Comments received after that date may not be included in the statewide analysis.

IDAHO STATE OFFICE

Bureau of Land Management
Box 042, Federal Building
550 W. Fort Street
Boise, ID 83724

DISTRICT OFFICES

District Manager
Boise District Office
Bureau of Land Management
230 Collins Road
Boise, ID 83702

District Manager
Burley District Office
Bureau of Land Management
Route 3, Box 1
Burley, ID 83318

District Manager
Idaho Falls District Office
Bureau of Land Management
940 Lincoln Road
Idaho Falls, ID 83401

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

District Manager
Shoshone District Office
Bureau of Land Management
400 West "F" Street
P.O. Box 2-B
Shoshone, ID 83352

District Manager
Coeur d'Alene District Office
Bureau of Land Management
1808 N. Third Street
P.O. Box 1889
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

E. PUBLIC MEETINGS

Meetings, open houses and workshops will be held throughout the state to better inform you of the recommendations made in this report, to discuss the BLM Wilderness Review, and to answer questions and obtain input on these recommendations. District staff specialists will be available to answer questions concerning the inventory at each of these meetings. The schedule for these meetings is as follows:

April 15 7:30 p.m.	Idaho Falls Workshop	Westbank Motel Idaho Falls District
April 16 11:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Arco Open House	County Courthouse Idaho Falls District
April 22 11:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Aberdeen Open House	High School Idaho Falls District
April 23 7:00 p.m.	Salmon Open House	Salmon BLM District Office Salmon District
April 29 7:30 p.m.	Pocatello Workshop	Holiday Inn Idaho Falls & Burley Districts
April 30 12 Noon - 8:00 p.m.	Twin Falls Open House	Little Tree Inn Shoshone, Burley & Boise Districts
May 1 7:30 p.m.	Moscow Informational Meeting	Travelodge - Clark Room Coeur d'Alene District
May 6 12 Noon - 8:00 p.m.	Bruneau Open House	American Legion Hall Boise District
May 6 12 Noon - 8:00 p.m.	Shoshone Open House	Shoshone BLM District Office Shoshone District
May 6 7:30 p.m.	Lewiston Informational Meeting	Lewis & Clark State College Spalding Hall - Conference Room Coeur d'Alene District
May 7 12 Noon - 8:00 p.m.	Murphy Open House	Owyhee County Courthouse Boise District
May 8 12 Noon - 8:00 p.m.	Boise Open House	Boise BLM District Office Boise District
May 8 12 Noon - 8:00 p.m.	Gooding Open House	County Courthouse - Commissioner's Room, Shoshone District
May 8 7:30 p.m.	Coeur d'Alene Informational Meeting	North Shore Convention Center Room 3, Coeur d'Alene District

Public Meetings (cont'd)

May 12
12 Noon - 8:00 p.m.

Hailey
Open House

New Blaine County Courthouse
Shoshone District

May 14
7:30 p.m.

Grangeville
Informational
Meeting

Idaho Bank & Trust Building
Meeting Room
Coeur d'Alene District

May 15
12 Noon - 8:00 p.m.

Rupert
Open House

Judicial Building (Adj: Minidoka
County Courthouse)
Shoshone District

May 22
7:30 p.m.

St. Maries
Informational
Meeting

Federal Building - Conference
Room, Coeur d'Alene District

III. FORMAT OF THIS REPORT

All wilderness inventory units which were intensively inventoried are included in this report. Some of these are recommended as Wilderness Study Areas (WSA's) and some are not. The summary narratives are arranged by district; within each district section, the summaries for the recommended units are separated from the non-recommended units. Inventory units are arranged in numerical order.

District prefix numbers are:

1	- Boise
2	- Burley
3	- Idaho Falls
4	- Salmon
5	- Shoshone
6	- Coeur d'Alene

The degree of detail both in the file documentation in the various offices and in the summaries presented here depends upon the size of the inventory unit, the number of imprints of man within the unit, and the number of boundary adjustments made since the conclusion of the initial inventory.

Minor acreage changes between the final initial inventory boundaries and the intensive inventory boundaries may not be the result of a boundary adjustment. Acreages have been recalculated in some cases to insure more accuracy.

In all cases, non-public land inholdings are not calculated in the acreage being inventoried for wilderness characteristics, nor are these lands themselves inventoried. In some cases, these inholdings are too small to be noted on the maps, but will be mentioned in the narratives.

The State map that accompanies this report is 1 = 1,000,000 scale which can only give the general boundary of each of the units. At each of the meetings and in each of the BLM offices more detailed maps will be available for review.

IV. SPECIAL INVENTORIES

A. STATELINE

The August 10, 1979, Initial Inventory final decision indicated that the final decision was being deferred for all inventory units in the southwestern portion of the State where the units were contiguous to BLM inventory units under evaluation in the adjoining States of Oregon, Idaho, and Utah. The reason for the deferral was to permit full coordination with the adjoining States in those decisions.

On December 14, 1979, the intended final decision for the initial inventory on the "Stateline" units in Idaho was announced which indicated the following units required intensive inventory to determine the presence of wilderness characteristics:

16-48a	Spring Creek
16-48b	Owyhee River
16-48c	Little Owyhee River
16-53	South Fork Owyhee River
16-56a	Upper Little Owyhee River
16-59	Juniper Basin
16-70e	Oregon Butte
17-19	Upper Bruneau River
17-21	Jarbidge Addition
17-26	Salmon Falls Creek
22-1	Little Goose Creek

During the protest period which ended on January 14, 1980, three letters of protest were received. After analysis of the protests, no changes were made and the decision was announced as final on February 8, 1980. This announcement initiated a 30-day appeal period.

On February 28, 1980, the Owyhee Cattlemen's Association filed a notice of appeal on the final decision to conduct intensive inventory on all of the 11 units listed above.

In order to utilize the 1979 season, the field work for the intensive inventory has been accomplished by the Boise and Burley District offices for their respective units. Release of any proposed decisions on this intensive inventory will not take place until a decision has been rendered on the appeal.

If no appeal had been filed, it was anticipated the intensive inventory results would have been released with the Idaho Statewide Intensive Inventory - Proposed Decision on April 4, 1980. Due to the need to coordinate these decisions with the BLM in the adjoining states, recommendations on the intensive inventory had been made by the District Managers, had been coordinated with the adjoining

states, and concurred with by the Idaho BLM State Director prior to the February 28 filing of the notice to appeal. Due to the release dates to which the adjoining BLM State Offices had already been committed, their proposed decisions show the results of this inventory as previously worked out. The April 4 Idaho report will not show the results of the inventory for the Idaho units.

It should be noted that in Idaho we are not now into a comment/protest/appeal period on these Stateline units, but are, as of the printing date of this report, awaiting further action by the Interior Board of Land Appeals and/or the appellant.

B. OVERTHRUST

The timetable for conducting the Intensive Inventory was accelerated for wilderness inventory units in the Overthrust Belt in the Idaho Falls District.

The intended final decision on this intensive inventory as announced on December 28, 1979, indicated that the following inventory units possessed wilderness characteristics and were identified as Wilderness Study Areas (WSA's):

35-77	Henry's Lake*	350 acres
37-77	Worm Creek*	40 acres
34-2,3,4	Islands	770 acres

*Unit less than 5,000 acres dependent upon a contiguous RARE II area to meet the size criteria.

During the protest period which ended on January 28, 1980, one letter of protest was received, protesting the dropping of Unit 34-8 Game Creek, as lacking in wilderness characteristics. After analysis of this protest, no changes were made to the decision which was then announced as final on February 15, 1980, identifying the above listed units as Wilderness Study Areas.

During the allotted 30 day appeal period, the final decision was not appealed, therefore, it is now in effect. Due to the fact that the appeal period had not concluded when we reached the printing date for this April 4 Statewide report, the above Wilderness Study Areas are not shown on the Statewide map that accompanies this report.

It should be noted that we are not now into a comment period on any of the inventory results within the Overthrust area. For further information on the three WSA's, the reader should contact the Idaho Falls District Office.

C. CHALLIS

The timetable for conducting the Intensive Inventory was accelerated for wilderness inventory units in the Challis Planning Area of the Salmon District.

The intended final decision on this intensive inventory as announced on January 4, 1980, indicated that the following inventory units possessed wilderness characteristics and were identified as Wilderness Study Areas (WSA's):

46-11	Corral-Horse Basin
46-13	Boulder Creek
46-14	Jerry Peak
46-14a	Jerry Peak West

During the protest period which ended on February 4, 1980, one letter of protest was received, protesting the identification of the above four units as WSA's. After analysis of this protest, no changes were made to the decision, which was announced as final on February 29, 1980, identifying the above listed units as Wilderness Study Areas.

During the allotted 30-day period, as of the printing date for this report, one notice of appeal had been filed by the Idaho Cattlemen's Association, covering all four of the units identified as Wilderness Study Areas.

Since the final decision on these units has been appealed, they are not shown as Wilderness Study Areas on the Statewide map that accompanies this report.

It should be noted that as of April 1, 1980, we will not be into any type comment/protest/appeal period on these units.

We are now awaiting further action by the Interior Board of Land Appeals and/or the appellant. For further information on this Challis inventory, the reader should contact the Salmon District Office.

D. OWYHEE

The timetable for conducting the Intensive Inventory was accelerated for wilderness inventory units in the Owyhee Planning area of the Boise District.

The intended final decision on this intensive inventory as announced on January 16, 1980, indicated that the following inventory units possessed wilderness characteristics and are identified as Wilderness Study Areas (WSA's):

16-40	North Fork Owyhee River
16-41	Horsehead Spring
16-42	Squaw Creek Canyon
16-44	Deep Creek-Nickel Creek
16-45	Middle Fork Owyhee River
16-47	West Fork Red Canyon
16-49a	Deep Creek-Owyhee River
16-49d	Yatahoney Creek
16-49e	Battle Creek
16-52	Upper Owyhee River

During the protest period which ended on February 15, 1980, a number of letters of protest were received, protesting the identification of all 10 of the above units as WSA's. In addition, several letters were received protesting the intended final decision to drop four units (16-26, 16-28, 16-36, and 16-49b) as lacking in wilderness characteristics.

As many of these protest letters were quite specific and detailed, some time will be required and possibly some field checking before an adequate analysis can be completed and a determination made as to a final decision on the Owyhee accelerated inventory units.

Once the analysis has been completed, the final decision will be announced, subject to appeal under the procedures of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 4.

It should be noted that we are not now into a comment or protest period on any of the inventory results within the Owyhee Area. Due to the unresolved nature of the protest, as of the printing of this report, the above listed Wilderness Study Areas are not shown on the Statewide map that accompanies this report.

For further information on the Owyhee Area inventory, the reader should contact the Boise District Office.

E. RE-ISSUED DECISION

The August 10, 1979, Initial Inventory final decision to drop eight wilderness units as clearly and obviously lacking in wilderness values was appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) on October 4, 1979, by the Idaho Representative of the Wilderness Society. On January 11, 1980, the IBLA remanded the case to Idaho BLM for further consideration.

After re-analysis of all data available, the inventory decision for these eight units was re-issued on February 8, 1980. This intended final decision indicated that for the four following units in the Boise District the decision would remain to drop the units from further wilderness consideration:

18-5	Sugar Loaf
18-9	Indian Creek
18-11	Hog Creek
18-12	Coonrod Gulch

For the following units located in the Burley and Idaho Falls Districts, the intended final decision indicated that it was not clear and obvious that the units are lacking in wilderness values, therefore, they should be subjected to an intensive inventory in order to determine the presence of wilderness characteristics:

23-1	Jim Sage A)	Burley District
	Jim Sage C)	
35-3	Sand Mountain)	Idaho Falls District
35-4	Black Knoll)	
35-5	Big Sandy)	

The release of the intended final decision initiated a 30-day protest period which concluded on March 10, 1980. During the protest period 16 letters of protest were received on the Jim Sage unit and 35 on the "Sand Dune" units in the Idaho Falls District.

The District Offices in conjunction with State Office personnel are in the process of summarizing and analyzing the protest letters in order to determine if new facts have been presented that could possibly alter the decision to conduct intensive inventory on the units.

It should be noted that in order to utilize the 1979 season, the field work for this intensive inventory has been accomplished by the respective District Offices. Release of any proposed decisions on this intensive inventory will not take place until a final decision has been rendered and the appeal period passes.

It is anticipated that by early April, the analysis of the protest letters will be completed and a final decision announced at that time. It should be stressed

that as of the printing date of this report no final decision has yet been reached, and we are not now into a comment/protest period. After announcement of the final decision in April, the decision may be appealed through the process as indicated in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 4.

If no appeals are received during the 30-day appeal period, we could expect immediate announcement of intensive inventory results if any of the units require intensive inventory. If the final decision were appealed, the timing of the next step would depend on the resolution of that appeal by the IBLA.

APPENDIX A

NARRATIVE SUMMARIES

BOISE DISTRICT
UNITS NOT PROPOSED AS
WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

11-17 OUTCROP

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 6,420 acres of BLM land and is rectangular, six by two miles. It is located 33 miles southeast of Bruneau, east of Clover-Three Creek Road. The unit is essentially a flat plateau, with the highest point, Outcrop, in the extreme southeast, only 200 feet higher than the remainder of the unit. Vegetation is predominately northern desert shrub and grass species.

NATURALNESS:

Two ways, one each in the northeast and east portions of the unit, and a seeding project along the northern boundary are the only imprints of man. These imprints are judged not to be substantial due to their peripheral location and to the flat terrain, which renders the intrusions unnoticeable except at very close distances.

SOLITUDE:

Vegetative screening is poor due to the dominance of northern desert plant species. Topographic screening is poor due to the flat terrain. A few shallow ravines provide only localized, minimal screening. The off-unit presence of two heavily traveled, graded roads that are visible from most of the unit is considered substantial. The relatively small size, lack of adequate topographic and vegetative screening, and presence of significant external influences render the opportunities for solitude less than outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Recreation opportunities include hiking, backpacking, camping, horseback riding, hunting, wildlife observation and photography. The unit's relatively small size and lack of exceptional or unusual natural features and recreation attractions render the recreation opportunities less than outstanding. Challenge associated with primitive recreation in the area is not considered significant.

RECOMMENDATION:

Though natural in character, the unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area because of a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation.

14-19 LONG TOM CREEK

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 13,226 acres of BLM land in an irregular, triangular configuration seven miles long and 1-6 miles wide, with one private inholding. It is located 12 miles north of Mountain Home. The unit lies on a series of parallel ridges and valleys generally running in a northwest to southeast direction. The major topographic feature is Long Tom Creek in the southern portion. Vegetation in most of the unit is desert shrubs and grasses with a riparian zone along Long Tom Creek being a mixture of trees, brush and grasses.

NATURALNESS:

The southwest portion of the unit has one short dead-end road and two light ways. The low-standard road degenerates into a cow trail that leads to a private inholding. Lower elevations along the southwest periphery have been plowed and seeded for fire rehabilitation. The south-central periphery has one light way.

A way runs east-west into the core of the unit from Long Tom Reservoir on the eastern boundary. Two low-standard roads also penetrate well into the unit from the eastern boundary to reservoir developments. The western and northern portions have concentrations of fence lines which have been bladed or have ways paralleling them. Other intrusions in this area include a substantial way and developed spring. The intrusions in the western and northernmost portions of the unit are concentrated enough to impair the natural character of 4,900 acres. The remaining 8,326 acres appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprints of man substantially unnoticeable.

SOLITUDE:

The dominance of low shrub and grass vegetation throughout much of the unit offers minimal vegetative screening. Vegetative screening in the riparian zone of Long Tom Creek is considered good to excellent. The moderately rolling terrain in the easternmost portion of the unit and the area north of Long Tom Canyon offers a fair amount of topographic screening. Long Tom Creek and associated draws and ridges offer only fair to good topographic screening because of the relatively straight, open character of the canyon. Though there are areas within the canyon which offer small pockets of solitude, the relatively small size of the natural area in combination with generally minimal vegetative screening and only moderate topographic screening, render the opportunities for solitude less than outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive recreational opportunities in the unit are primarily associated with Long Tom Creek, and include camping, backpacking, hiking, sightseeing, nature photography, horseback riding, fishing and hunting. The relatively small size of the natural portion of the unit, and the lack of exceptional or unusual natural features and recreational attractions render the recreational opportunities less than outstanding. The recreational opportunities are considered to offer moderate physical and mental challenge.

RECOMMENDATION:

Though portions of the unit are natural in character, the unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area because it lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation.

14-21 BENNETT CREEK

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 11,162 acres of BLM land, in an irregular shape nine miles long and 3/4 mile to 2 1/2 miles wide, with two small state inholdings. It is located ten miles northeast of Mountain Home. The unit lies on a moderately eroded bench, cut by the steep-walled canyon of Bennett Creek along its eastern periphery. The bench breaks away sharply into a broad basin in the western periphery of the unit. Northern desert shrubs and grasses predominate with brush, willows and grasses in the canyon bottom of Bennett Creek.

NATURALNESS:

Intrusions are limited to a bladed fire line in the northwest corner of the unit, a north-south way penetrating to the core of the unit from the northeast boundary, and a light way penetrating the unit for 1/2 mile to a spring development from a southern boundary. None of the intrusions are substantially noticeable except at close distances. It would be difficult to walk the length of the unit without encountering the northern way. As a whole the unit appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

SOLITUDE:

The dominance of shrubs and grasses over much of the unit offers minimal vegetative screening. Vegetative screening offered by riparian vegetation in the bottom of Bennett Creek Canyon is considered fair to good. The moderately to deeply dissected terrain of the bench region and Bennett Creek canyon offer fair to good topographic screening. However the broad, open, gentle slopes of the western basin region offer minimal topographic screening. Though isolated areas of solitude are available because of topographic screening, the unit's relatively small size and narrow, irregular configuration combined with minimal vegetative screening and generally moderate topographic screening render the opportunities for solitude less than outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive and unconfined recreational opportunities within the unit are camping, backpacking, hiking, nature photography, horseback riding and hunting. The unit's relatively small size and poor configuration, and the lack of exceptional or unusual natural features and recreational attractions, render the recreational opportunities less than outstanding. There is a moderate amount of mental and physical challenge associated with the recreational opportunities.

RECOMMENDATION:

Though natural in character, the unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area because of a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation.

16-2 JUMP CREEK

This unit was identified as a Wilderness Study Area on August 10, 1979 based on the results of the accelerated wilderness inventory conducted for the Agricultural Environmental Statement. Re-evaluation of this unit is necessary in order to assure consistency in the application of wilderness review criteria between the earlier and more recent decisions. Obvious inconsistencies currently exist, particularly with regard to the manner in which naturalness, external influences, configuration, and outstanding opportunities were assessed in the earlier inventory.

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 8,301 acres of BLM land, in a somewhat square shape 3-4 miles on a side. It is located approximately ten miles southwest of Marsing. The dominant natural features are the canyons and watercourses of Jump Creek and Poison Creek. A significant portion of the unit lies on the surrounding open lava plain.

NATURALNESS:

In the original decision it was recognized that imprints of man were present, but the natural features were judged visually dominant over these imprints. However, this small unit contains about fourteen miles of ways and fire lines and five stock ponds. Reevaluation shows that these are distributed over the entire plateau portion of the unit, and topographic and vegetative screening is insufficient to shield them from view in the major portion of the plateau. The potential for frequent contact with these imprints is judged to be high. Cumulatively these imprints are reconsidered to be substantially noticeable. The canyon areas remain substantially natural in character, but they do not constitute 5,000 natural acres of public land.

SOLITUDE:

The broken topography associated with the canyons, the meandering course of the streams and significant riparian vegetation are still judged to offer excellent screening in the portion of the unit within the canyons. However, the small natural area and the narrow corridor of travel possible in this portion of the unit render the opportunities for solitude less than outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

As stated in the original intensive inventory narrative, recreation opportunities in the unit are associated primarily with the canyon areas. Despite the diversity and scenic quality of recreation attractions in the unit, its small natural area and narrow, confining corridor of travel render the opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation less than outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The canyons, watercourses and associated ecosystems are of scenic, educational and scientific value.

RECOMMENDATION:

The unit should not be retained as a Wilderness Study Area. There are fewer than 5,000 natural acres in the unit and it fails to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive recreation.

16-9 REYNOLDS CREEK CANYON

This unit was identified as a Wilderness Study Area on August 10, 1979, based on the results of the accelerated wilderness inventory conducted for the Agricultural Environmental Statement. Re-evaluation of this unit is necessary in order to assure consistency in the application of wilderness review criteria between the earlier and more recent decisions. Obvious inconsistencies currently exist, particularly with regard to the manner in which naturalness, external influences, configuration, and outstanding opportunities were assessed in the earlier inventory.

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 14,650 acres of BLM land in an irregular square shape, approximately six miles on a side. It is located approximately 16 miles southeast of Marsing. The dominant natural feature is the canyon of Reynolds Creek. The unit includes about 5½ miles of canyon, part of the upper drainage of Salmon Creek, and the dominant Wilson Peak ridge. Two dead-end roads extend into the body of the unit in the northwest. The state section 36 is not within the boundaries of the existing study area.

NATURALNESS:

In the original decision it was recognized that four developed springs, two fences, a mining pit and two systems of substantial ways exist in the unit, but these were judged to be substantially unnoticeable. Reconsideration of these imprints of man shows that the majority occur in an area of 4,000 acres in the northwest, the same portion of the unit as the dead-end roads and radio repeater facilities on Wilson Peak which are technically outside the unit. This concentration of imprints of man in a relatively small area within the unit is judged to be a substantial impact on the naturalness of these 4,000 acres. The remainder of the unit, 10,650 acres, is judged substantially natural in character.

SOLITUDE:

The unit was originally judged to contain sufficient topographic and vegetative screening to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. While the topography and vegetation associated with the canyon are moderately effective in providing secluded spots for the visitor, size and external influences are now judged to play a more significant role in determining opportunities for solitude. Virtually the entire unit outside the canyon is subject to some external influence, including unobstructed views of boundary roads in portions of the unit sloping away from the canyon and views of the radio repeater and/or some portion of the system of substantial ways west of the canyon from most other points outside the canyon. Considering the cumulative impact of moderately significant external influences, the inner canyon is judged to be the only secluded area within the unit. However, the small size of this portion, the narrow, confining corridor of travel which tends to concentrate visitors and the short length and predominately linear nature of the canyon render opportunities for solitude less than outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Recreation opportunities associated with the canyon were originally judged outstanding. However, a reconsideration of the features that provide outstanding recreation shows that the short length of canyon; its linear nature except for the scenic, extreme lower section; and the effect of external influences outside the canyon limit the primitive and unconfined recreation experience possible within the unit. These opportunities are now considered significant but not outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The canyon, surrounding escarpments and associated ecosystems are of scenic, educational and scientific value.

RECOMMENDATION:

The unit should not be retained as a Wilderness Study Area. 4,000 acres are not judged natural in character and the remainder fails to meet the solitude-recreation criteria.

16-49c SQUAW MEADOWS

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 10,316 acres of BLM lands in an area 8 miles long and four miles wide. It is located north of the Owyhee River about 33 miles west of Riddle. The unit lies on a flat to gently rolling table dominated by northern desert shrub species.

NATURALNESS:

Imprints of man are limited to a number of small stock ponds, mostly located about the periphery of the unit. The stock ponds are of limited localized impact and are sufficiently dispersed so as not to be substantially noticeable. The unit as a whole retains its natural character.

SOLITUDE:

The desert shrub vegetation of the unit offers minimal vegetative screening. The flat to gently rolling terrain offers poor topographic screening. The relatively small size of the unit, combined with poor topographic and vegetative screening, does not afford outstanding opportunities for solitude.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Recreational opportunities in the unit include camping, backpacking and hunting. The unit's uniform character and lack of exceptional or unusual natural features and recreational attractions render the recreation opportunities less than outstanding. There is no significant physical and mental challenge associated with the recreation opportunities.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The unit is reported to be bighorn sheep use area.

RECOMMENDATION:

Though natural in character, the unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area because of a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation.

17-1a LOOKOUT BUTTE

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 20,077 acres of BLM lands with one state inholding. The unit is an ellipse in shape with axes five miles and ten miles in length, and is located southwest of the Clover-Three Creek Road, 30 miles southeast of Bruneau. The unit lies on a rolling plateau west of the East Fork Bruneau River. From a high plateau area in the southeast, the unit breaks north and west into lower rolling hills in the central and western area. The northern half is a relatively level plain dominated by Lookout Butte. Drainages are typically gently sloping, broad and shallow. Northern desert plant communities dominate.

NATURALNESS:

A substantial way crosses the unit in the north; three light ways intrude the unit a short distance in the southwest. Two bladed fence lines intersect in the west central portion, one extending east-west across the unit, the other extending north from the southern boundary to its intersection with the first fence line. These bladed lines are noticeable at variable distances due to the rolling terrain and poor vegetative screening. While they do provide evidence of man, they affect only narrow corridors in portions of the unit. The unit as a whole retains its natural character.

SOLITUDE:

Low desert shrubs and grasses dominant in the unit provide little vegetative screening. Poor to moderate topographic screening prevails in the area. While visitors may reasonably expect to find pockets of solitude due chiefly to the unit's size, opportunities are not considered outstanding due to lack of relief and minimal vegetative screening. The bladed fence lines crossing the unit further restrict the opportunities for solitude by limiting the potential for experiencing vast, unobstructed open spaces.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

While the unit offers recreation opportunities such as hiking, camping, horseback riding, hunting, wildlife viewing and photography, the lack of unusual or exceptional natural features and recreation attractions renders the opportunities for primitive recreation less than outstanding. Challenge associated with primitive recreation in the area is not considered outstanding.

RECOMMENDATION:

Though the unit as a whole retains its natural character, the unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area because of the lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation.

17-1b EAST FORK BRUNEAU RIVER

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 10,178 acres of BLM land roughly in a square four miles on a side. It is located south of the Clover-Three Creek Road near Clover Crossing, 30 miles southeast of Bruneau. The unit is a flat plateau cut by the East Fork Bruneau River. About six river miles are included in the unit. The canyon is relatively broad and open, with talus slopes, a few areas of rimrock, and little stream gradient. Northern desert shrub species dominate, with some riparian shrub species in the stream bottom.

NATURALNESS:

A substantial way extends from the south to the canyon rim in the central portion of the unit. A short fence line extends to the rim in the southeast corner. While the way is relatively substantial, the major portion of the unit appears natural in character.

SOLITUDE:

Northern desert shrubs dominate most of the unit and consequently overall vegetative screening is poor. Riparian growth in the canyon provides a moderate amount of screening. The canyon, relatively broad, open and shallow, provides only moderate topographic screening. There is little topographic relief in the unit outside the canyon. Overall topographic screening is considered poor to moderate. The relatively small size of the unit, in combination with poor to moderate vegetative and topographic screening, renders the opportunities for solitude less than outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Recreation opportunities include hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, camping, hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography. However, the portion of the East Fork Bruneau River within the unit is not considered an outstanding recreation attraction. The unit's small size and lack of exceptional or unusual natural features and recreation attractions render the recreation opportunities less than outstanding. Challenge associated with primitive recreation in the area is not considered significant.

RECOMMENDATION:

Though natural in character, the unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area because of a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation.

17-6 DRY LAKES

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 26,208 acres of BLM land with one state inholding. The unit is irregularly rectangular, five by seven miles, and is located west of the Clover-Three Creek Road 42 miles southeast of Bruneau. A relatively level to rolling plateau, lightly dissected and draining northwest, dominates the major portion of the unit. The northern portion contains a series of meandering rims. Northern desert plant species predominate. The northeast portion contains a recent, regenerated burn.

NATURALNESS:

Three substantial fence lines, two heavily bladed, cut across the unit. Three water developments are located on the periphery. The two bladed fence lines are noticeable at variable distances, due to the gently rolling terrain and poor vegetative screening. While the fence lines do provide evidence of man, the unit as a whole retains its natural character since they affect only narrow corridors in portions of the area.

SOLITUDE:

Vegetative screening is poor due to dominance of northern desert plant species. Relief is minimal throughout the unit except in the northern portion, where moderate relief exists along a series of small rims. Topographic screening on the whole is poor to moderate. While visitors may reasonably expect to find pockets of solitude due to the unit's size, opportunities are not considered outstanding due to lack of relief and minimal vegetative screening. The bladed fence lines crossing the unit further restrict the opportunities for solitude by limiting the potential for experiencing vast, unobstructed open spaces.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Recreation opportunities include hiking, backpacking, camping, horseback riding, hunting and photography. However, the unit's relatively uniform character and lack of exceptional or unusual natural features and recreation attractions render the recreation opportunities less than outstanding. Challenge associated with primitive recreation in the area is not considered significant.

RECOMMENDATION:

Though the unit as a whole appears natural in character, the unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area because of a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation.

17-7 CLOVER CROSSING

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 6,314 acres of BLM land. The unit is irregular in shape, 1 1/4 - 3 miles wide and three miles long. It is located 40 miles southeast of Bruneau, along the east side of the Clover-Three Creek Road, south of Clover Crossing. The unit consists of a level plateau cut by the canyon of the East Fork of the Bruneau River. About five river miles are contained in the unit. The canyon is relatively broad and open, with talus slopes, a few areas of rimrock and little stream gradient. The eastern half of the unit is dominated by northern desert shrubs, while the western half is occupied by seeded grasses from a fire rehabilitation project.

NATURALNESS:

Three light ways, a water development and a fence are concentrated in the southern portion of the unit. A bladed fire line parallels the northeastern boundary road for a short distance. Most of the unit appears to have been affected primarily by natural processes. Only in the extreme south are human imprints considered substantially noticeable because of their concentration.

SOLITUDE:

Northern desert shrubs dominate most of the unit; consequently overall vegetative screening is poor. Riparian growth in the canyon provides a moderate amount of screening. The canyon, relatively broad, open and shallow, provides only moderate topographic screening. There is little relief outside the canyon. Overall topographic screening is considered poor to moderate. The relatively small size of the unit, in combination with poor to moderate vegetative and topographic screening, renders the opportunity for solitude less than outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Recreation opportunities include hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, camping, hunting, wildlife observation and photography. However, the portion of the East Fork Bruneau River within the unit is not considered a significant recreation attraction. The unit's small size and lack of exceptional or unusual natural features and recreation attractions render the recreation opportunities less than outstanding. Challenge associated with primitive recreation in the area is not considered significant.

RECOMMENDATION:

Though natural in character, the unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area because of a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation.

17-10 LOWER SALMON FALLS CREEK

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 22,287 acres of BLM land in both the Boise and Burley District: the Boise District having 11,645 acres and the Burley District 10,642 acres. The unit is 16 miles long and 1/2 to 3 miles wide, and is located along Salmon Falls Creek just downstream of Salmon Falls Dam, west of Rogerson. The unit is located on a flat plateau region sharply dissected by the vertical-walled, meandering canyon of Salmon Falls Creek which is up to 400 feet deep. The plateau areas and talus slopes of the canyon are dominated by northern high desert shrub species. The canyon bottom is dominated by juniper, willow and other riparian-associated vegetation.

NATURALNESS:

The canyon bottom is free of any imprints of man. However, the naturalness of the plateau area is impaired by numerous intrusions, including fences, ways, and roads all of which lead to the canyon rim at intervals of 3/4 mile to two miles. The casual hiker could not walk the length of the unit on the plateau without encountering these imprints. There are also seeding projects and stock ponds in the periphery of the unit. The total area of the unit where the imprints of man are substantially unnoticeable consists of about 3,500 acres within the canyon of Salmon Falls Creek. Therefore the unit does not meet the size criteria.

SOLITUDE:

The minimal vegetative screening afforded by the sagebrush vegetation combined with flat terrain and a narrow configuration makes opportunities for solitude on the plateau areas less than outstanding. The topographic screening afforded by the meandering character of the canyon combined with good to excellent vegetative screening in the canyon bottom offers opportunities for solitude. Though the canyon would tend to concentrate visitors in a narrow corridor of use and increase the potential for visitor contacts, the length of the canyon within the unit (16 miles) would tend to minimize this effect. Because of the excellent vegetative and topographic screening in the canyon combined with the length of the canyon, the unit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude even though the natural portion of the unit is less than 5,000 acres.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

The primitive recreational opportunities in the unit are primarily associated with the canyon of Salmon Falls Creek. Opportunities include hunting, fishing, camping, backpacking, hiking, sightseeing and nature photography. Though the acreage of the canyon is small, its relatively great length combined with its exceptional natural features and scenic attractions makes the opportunities for primitive recreation outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The canyon of Salmon Falls Creek is of exceptional scenic and ecological value.

RECOMMENDATION:

The unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area because there are not enough acres in a natural condition to meet the size criteria for wilderness. BLM's wilderness inventory procedures do not permit inclusion of an area that meets the naturalness, solitude and recreation criteria but fails to meet the size criteria, unless the unit has received strong public support.

17-12 POISON CREEK

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 13,532 acres of BLM land. The unit is roughly square, four miles on a side, and is located west of the Clover-Three Creek Road 48 miles southeast of Bruneau. The unit is a relatively flat plateau cut on its western edge by Poison Creek. Its canyon is relatively broad, open and not deeply incised. In a few locations rock faces extend from the plateau to the canyon bottom. The unit is dominated by northern desert plant species.

NATURALNESS:

The eastern two-thirds of the unit contains a concentration of developments, including two road and pipeline systems, one extending across the unit in the northeast; a substantial north-south fence line across the unit; three fences and an associated way in the southeast corner; and ten water developments. These range developments are judged to be substantial due to their frequency and lack of topographic and vegetative screening adequate to hide these imprints. Only in the extreme west of the unit, in an area of about 6,000 acres near Poison Creek, is human influence judged to be substantially unnoticeable. One subunit in the northeast contains less than 5,000 acres.

SOLITUDE:

The 6,000 acre portion of the unit that meets the naturalness criteria offers minimal vegetative screening due to dominance of northern desert plant species. Topographic screening is poor on the plateau and only fair within the Poison Creek drainage. The lack of relief and poor vegetative screening, combined with the small size of the unit that retains its natural character, render the opportunities for solitude less than outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Recreation opportunities include hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, camping, hunting, wildlife observation and photography. However, these opportunities are not considered outstanding since the Poison Creek drainage and associated plateau are not considered significant natural features or recreation attractions. Challenge associated with primitive recreation in the area is not considered significant.

RECOMMENDATION:

Though portions of the unit are natural in character, the unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area because of the lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation. An area of 7,532 acres lacks naturalness and the remaining 6,000 acres lack outstanding solitude-recreation.

18-1 WILDHORSE

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 7,472 acres of BLM land with a patchwork of private ownership in the southern portion along the Wildhorse River. Configuration is irregular; the unit varies from 1/2 - 2 1/2 miles wide and is seven miles long. It is located along the east side of the Snake River just downstream from Brownlee Dam. The unit is comprised of a high ridge and steep slopes between the Snake River at Brownlee and Wildhorse River. About three miles of Wildhorse River are within the unit. The riparian zone is dominated by cottonwood and associated shrub species; the ridge and slopes contain desert shrub species, mountain mahogany and ninebark thickets and pockets and stringers of fir and pine.

NATURALNESS:

The unit is essentially free of human imprints. A road associated with the power line that forms part of the western boundary isolates about 200 acres on the northwestern edge.

SOLITUDE:

Density of vegetation is extremely variable. Within the pockets of fir and pine, screening is generally good. Most of the ridgetop and open slopes offer only minimal vegetative screening. Topographic relief provides good screening except on the broad ridgetop. Steep, broken slopes are characteristic. However, the power line and Oxbow Reservoir are significant external influences that are clearly visible from the ridgetop and from large areas on the upper, open slopes. Pockets within the unit offer opportunities for solitude due to the broken nature of the slopes, but the combination of small size, poor configuration, significant external influences and only poor to moderate screening render them less than outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

While the unit may offer somewhat challenging cross country travel over its rugged terrain and a moderately good recreation experience on the lower Wildhorse River, these natural features are not considered exceptional or unusual enough to provide outstanding primitive recreation, considering the unit's small size and the short section of river it contains. The extremely poor configuration of the unit confines the recreationist to an irregular corridor of use and prevents an outstanding primitive recreation experience.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The unit contains significant scenic and ecological values. Ecological values include important sharp-tail grouse habitat, reported elk winter range, large populations of black bear and critical mule deer winter range.

RECOMMENDATION:

Though the unit is natural in character, it does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area because of a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation.

19-1 COLD SPRINGS CREEK

This unit was identified as a Wilderness Study Area on August 10, 1979, based on the results of the accelerated wilderness inventory conducted for the Agricultural Environmental Statement. Re-evaluation of this unit is necessary in order to assure consistency in the application of wilderness review criteria between the earlier and more recent decisions. Obvious inconsistencies currently exist, particularly with regard to the manner in which naturalness, external influences, configuration, and outstanding opportunities were assessed in the earlier inventory.

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 21,380 acres of BLM land, with four non-federal inholdings, totalling 1,040 acres. The unit is an irregular triangle shape, approximately eight by five miles. A dead-end road providing access from the south to 160 acres of private land within the body of the unit lies outside the unit boundary. This road penetrates two-thirds of the distance across the unit. The dominant natural features of the unit are the mountains and drainages associated with the Mount Bennet Hills.

NATURALNESS:

The unit was judged to be substantially natural in character in the original decision. It was recognized that there are some imprints of man - fences, developed springs and ways - in the unit. Reevaluation shows that the wide distribution of light imprints leaves the area's apparent natural character intact. About 3,000 acres in three areas in the southern portion are judged to contain substantially noticeable imprints of man - chiefly developed springs and access routes - due to their concentration in a relatively small area.

SOLITUDE:

In the original decision the unit was judged to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude, chiefly due to the relief and natural features associated with the mountains and drainages within the unit. However, the factor of configuration and its effect on the opportunities were not considered adequately. Reevaluation shows that patterns of dead-end roads and non-federal lands that create constricted areas of public lands, and narrow configuration may cause severe impacts on opportunities for solitude and recreation. Reconsideration of the unit in these terms shows that the pattern of two dead-end roads from the south and non-federal lands in the central portion of the unit in effect creates three narrow, north-south corridors within the unit, varying from 1-2 miles in width and 3-6 miles in length. The extreme northern portion of the unit contains about 4,500 acres of contiguous public land in a rectangular configuration. Due to the effect of these narrow corridors, it is judged that it is more difficult for the user to find a secluded spot than was judged in the original decision. The small size and long, narrow shape of each of these corridors reduces the effective size of the area where the user may find seclusion. In spite of the moderately good screening provided by natural features within the unit, the internal configuration is judged to render opportunities for solitude less than outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are limited by the narrow, confined corridors of travel possible between dead-end roads and non-federal lands. Only in the northern portion is travel more or less unrestricted, but the small size of this portion, combined with the corridor effect present in the majority of the unit, is judged to render opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation less than outstanding.

RECOMMENDATION:

The unit should not be retained as a Wilderness Study Area due to lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive recreation.

111-5 POISON GULCH

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 30,742 acres of BLM land in a very irregular configuration, about 12 miles long and six miles wide with one state inholding and two private inholdings. It is located 18 miles southwest of Grandview. The unit lies in a region of steep mountains and rolling hills dominated by the four parallel drainages of Birch Creek, Poison Gulch, Vinson Creek and Poison Creek. The vegetation is dominated by northern desert shrubs and grasses with isolated patches of heavy riparian vegetation in the drainage bottoms.

NATURALNESS:

The initial inventory identified low-standard roads in two major drainages of the unit, Birch Creek and Poison Gulch. These roads, in combination with an additional road identified along the east side of Rough Mountain and intruding state lands along the southern periphery of the unit create two narrow land necks which in effect divide the unit into three subunits. The western subunit of over 10,000 acres has a major fence line system running through its center, several fences in the southern periphery, and two major developed springs cut into hillsides. These springs and their service roads are visible from great distances because of topography and the amount of soil disturbance. The central subunit of over 7,600 acres is relatively free of intrusions except for a major way cutting to the center of the subunit and a developed spring in the southern periphery. The eastern subunit is cut in half by a substantial way, and a way also penetrates to private land in the eastern periphery. There is also a fence line in the southern finger of the subunit. The imprints of man in each of the subunits generally cause localized impacts but are not substantially noticeable in the subunits as a whole, except in some portions of the western subunit.

SOLITUDE:

The dominance of low shrubby and grassy vegetation in the unit offers minimal vegetative screening. The rugged mountainous terrain of the western subunit, with its numerous draws running perpendicular to Birch Creek, offers fair to good topographic screening. However, this topographic layout tends to draw visitors into a narrow corridor of use along Birch Creek and increase the potential of visitor contacts. The relatively straight, open character of the canyon would enhance this corridor effect. In addition, much of the Birch Creek canyon area, where opportunities for solitude would be greatest, is state land. Outside the Birch Creek canyon, the unit is generally confined to narrow land fingers where opportunities for solitude are minimal. The relatively small size of the subunit, the corridor effect at its core, the lack of adequate vegetative and topographic screening, and the generally poor configuration of the subunit renders the opportunities for solitude less than outstanding.

The central subunit of over 9,600 acres is comprised of a long series of ridges running north-south throughout the length of the subunit. These ridge lines give way to numerous draws often with steep gradients, where varying amounts of topographic screening occur depending upon the depth and steepness of gradient. However, the relatively short lengths of these draws combined with a lack of significant vegetative screening and the relatively small size and narrow configuration of the subunit render the opportunities for solitude less than outstanding. The eastern subunit of over 9,000 acres is comprised of a rolling to steep hilly region dissected by numerous shallow drainages. This terrain, because of its shallow open character, provides only poor to fair topographic screening. The lack of adequate topographic screening combined with a lack of vegetative screening and the subunit's relatively small size and poor configuration renders the opportunities for solitude less than outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

The primitive and unconfined recreational opportunities within the unit include backpacking, camping, hiking, horseback riding, fishing and hunting. The relatively small size of each subunit, their relatively uniform character, and the lack of any exceptional or unusual natural features and recreational attractions render the opportunities for solitude less than outstanding. The mental and physical challenge associated with the recreational opportunities is considered to be moderate.

RECOMMENDATION

The unit should not be identified as a Wilderness Study Area. While sufficiently natural, the unit does not meet the solitude-recreation criteria.

111-7a BIG HILL

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 12,924 acres of BLM land, in a rectangular configuration 6 1/2 miles long by four miles wide, with one state inholding centrally located. The unit is located along the west side of Highway 51, 18 miles south of Bruneau. The unit lies in a gently rolling to moderately hilly region. The terrain generally consists of uniform ridges and shallow drainages radiating from a low flat-topped hill in the south-central portion of the unit, with the more prominent drainages running in a northerly direction. Much of the unit has been recently burned and consists of grasses with pockets of unburned desert shrubs.

NATURALNESS:

The unit is significantly impacted by ways and numerous bladed fire lines, rehabilitated by mechanical means which give the lines a cultivated appearance. There is a fence crossing the unit in a north-south direction to the core of the unit. At the center of the unit this fence turns east and connects with the northeast boundary. The fence is associated with a crested wheatgrass seeding.

SOLITUDE:

The dominance of grassy and shrubby vegetation in the unit offers minimal vegetative screening. The rolling to moderately hilly terrain generally offers poor to fair topographic screening. Isolated areas in shallow drainages in the northern portion of the unit offer good topographic screening. Highway 51 is readily visible from large portions of the eastern half of the unit. Though isolated areas offer solitude the relatively small size of the unit combined with the general lack of vegetative and topographic screening and the influence of Highway 51 render the opportunities for solitude less than outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

The primitive recreational opportunities in the unit include camping, backpacking, hiking and horseback riding. The relatively small size and uniform character of the unit, and the lack of exceptional or unusual natural features and recreational attractions render the recreational opportunities less than outstanding. There is no significant mental or physical challenge associated with the recreational opportunities.

RECOMMENDATION:

The unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area because it lacks naturalness and outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation.

111-7b DUNCAN CREEK

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit remaining after the initial inventory contains 10,005 acres of BLM land, in an area eight miles long and 2-4 miles wide. There is one centrally located state inholding which nearly cuts the unit in half. The unit is located ten miles west of Highway 51, 28 miles southwest of Bruneau. The unit lies in a flat to gently rolling region dominated by the relatively deep canyon system of Duncan Creek and Zeno Canyon. The vegetation of the unit is dominated by northern high desert shrubs species with riparian vegetation in the canyon bottoms.

NATURALNESS:

Imprints of man are limited to a fence line in association with the state inholding in the northern half, two stock ponds and a light way in the southwest periphery, and another short fence line in the southeast periphery of the unit. An area of 600 acres on the east has been seeded but appears natural in character. These imprints are not substantially noticeable; the unit appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

SOLITUDE:

The dominance of low shrubby vegetation over much of the unit affords minimal vegetative screening. Only in the canyon bottoms, where riparian vegetation is heavy, can vegetative screening be considered fair to excellent. The canyon system within the unit affords fair to excellent topographic screening, especially in the central portion of the unit where the canyons are narrow and tightly meandering. However, the canyons would tend to concentrate users in a narrow corridor along the western half of the unit and increase the potential for visitor contacts. The number of miles of canyon combined with its meandering character and heavy riparian vegetation would tend to minimize this corridor effect. Due to the unit's relatively small size and narrow configuration, complicated by the state inholding, opportunities for solitude are not considered outstanding because of the limited area which offers topographic and vegetative screening.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive recreational opportunities within the unit are primarily associated with the canyons, and include camping, backpacking, hiking, nature photography and sightseeing. The quality of recreational opportunities is generally considered to be less than outstanding because of the limited area which offers natural features and recreational attractions.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The area contains scenic values associated with the canyon and ecological values, including spring red-banded trout populations and important sage grouse habitat.

RECOMMENDATION:

Though natural in character, the unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area because it lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation.

111-12 SHEEP TRAIL

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 19,702 acres of BLM land with one state inholding. The unit is six miles long and five miles wide, and is located 33 miles southwest of Bruneau, and 30 miles northwest of Grasmere. The unit consists of a flat to rolling plateau dissected by several shallow drainages. Rock Creek drains north to south through the central portion of the unit. Ridges support broken stands of mountain mahogany, while the major portion of the unit is dominated by northern desert shrub species.

NATURALNESS:

Imprints of man include an extensive system of light to substantial ways in the north and northwest portions of the unit; two light ways and a bladed cat trail in the south; 13 water developments, ten in the western portion with a major concentration of seven stock ponds in the west central portion. The eastern portion of the unit is essentially free of substantial developments. In the western 8,000 acres of the unit, containing thirteen miles of ways and ten stock ponds, human imprints are extremely noticeable. An area of approximately 11,000 acres in the eastern portion of the unit appears to retain its natural character.

SOLITUDE:

The desert shrubs dominant in the unit offer poor vegetative screening. Mountain mahogany stands are too sparse and scattered to provide effective screening. Topographic screening is also poor due to the flat to gently rolling terrain. The relatively small size of the portion of the unit that retains its natural character, together with poor overall screening renders the opportunities for solitude less than outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive recreation opportunities include hiking, backpacking, camping, horseback riding, hunting, wildlife observation and photography. However, the lack of exceptional or unusual natural features and recreation attractions renders the recreation opportunities less than outstanding. Challenge associated with primitive recreation in the area is not considered significant.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The unit contains ecological values, including antelope range and fawning habitat.

RECOMMENDATION:

Though natural in character, the unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area because it lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation.

111-19a CAMAS CREEK

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 19,347 acres of BLM land. It is extremely long and narrow, approximately 12 miles by 1 1/2 - 3 miles, and is located 33 miles northwest of Grasmere. The northern part of the unit is a level, moderately dissected tableland drained by Camas Creek, which flows through the unit for four miles, and Pole Creek, which flows through the extreme north of the unit for two miles. The southern portion of the unit is a moderate southwest slope from a broad, open spur ridge of Big Springs Butte, which occupies the central portion. The slope is moderately dissected by shallow drainages and small basins, draining southwest via Bull Gulch. Some scattered juniper occur in the north, while northern desert plant species dominate the major portion of the unit.

NATURALNESS:

Two short ways enter the unit in the northern portion. Three water developments are scattered along the western periphery, and a fence extends halfway across the unit in the southern portion of the unit. These imprints, scattered about the periphery of the unit, do not impair the unit's natural characteristics.

SOLITUDE:

Vegetative screening is minimal due to dominance of northern desert shrub species. Topographic screening is poor in most of the unit; only in the northern portion, within the shallow upper drainages of Pole and Camas Creeks, and in the extreme south, in the area of the moderately dissected southwest slope, is topographic screening even fair. Despite its relatively large size, the unit's long, narrow configuration and poor topographic and vegetative screening render the opportunities for solitude less than outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Recreation opportunities include hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, camping, hunting, wildlife observation and photography. However, the broad plateau and shallow drainages do not provide primitive recreation attractions that are considered outstanding. Challenge associated with the primitive recreation is not considered significant.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The unit contains significant cultural resource values and ecological values, including antelope fawning habitat.

RECOMMENDATION:

Though natural in character, the unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area because of a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation.

111- 19b BULL GULCH

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 33,150 acres of BLM land, and has one state and one private inholding. The unit is 12 miles long and varies from two miles wide in the north to six miles in the south. It is located 33 miles west of Grasmere. The northern portion of the unit is a moderately dissected tableland and small basin draining northwest into Camas Creek. The central and eastern portions are dominated by Big Springs Butte, a long, prominent ridge that drops sharply on the north and east. The southern half is the southwestern slope of the Butte, moderately dissected by small draws and characterized generally by small basins with relatively steep intervening slopes, becoming steeper in the southern part of the unit. Drainage is into upper Dickshooter Creek, located in the extreme south of the unit. Northern desert shrubs and grasses predominate.

NATURALNESS:

A way crosses the extreme northern portion of the unit. Two ways in the southern portion and 12 water developments, concentrated in the southern portion and around the periphery, constitute the other human imprints. Due to their small number and dispersion, man's imprints are considered to be substantially unnoticeable.

SOLITUDE:

Screening is minimal in the unit due to the lack of topographic relief and dominance of desert shrub vegetation. While the unit is quite large, relief is minimal except in an area of about 7,000 acres in the southern portion. The opportunities for solitude are diminished by the dead-end road extending five miles inside the body of the unit. While moderately good opportunities for solitude exist in the unit due to its size and presence of gentle relief in the southern portion, the overall lack of screening and configuration problem in the southeast portion render these opportunities less than outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive recreation opportunities include hiking, backpacking, camping, horseback riding, hunting, wildlife observation and photography. However, the lack of exceptional or unusual natural features and recreation attractions renders the opportunities less than outstanding. Challenge associated with primitive recreation in the area is not considered significant.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The unit includes antelope range and important sage grouse habitat.

RECOMMENDATION:

The unit should not be identified as a Wilderness Study Area. While it is sufficiently natural, it fails to meet the solitude - recreation criteria.

111-20a BIG SPRINGS

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 5,342 acres of BLM land in an area four miles long and three miles wide. It is located 27 miles northwest of Grasmere, and 45 miles southwest of Bruneau. The unit lies on a relatively flat plateau covered with northern desert shrub vegetation. The plateau is lightly eroded into shallow basins and drainages. Big Springs Creek flows through a shallow canyon for two miles in the southern portion of the unit.

NATURALNESS:

Man's imprint is limited to four small stock water reservoirs scattered around the periphery of the unit. The unit as a whole appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature with man's imprints substantially unnoticeable.

SOLITUDE:

The dominance of low shrubby vegetation throughout the unit offers minimal vegetative screening. The lack of any significant topographic relief over much of the unit also offers minimal topographic screening. The shallow basin and canyon areas in the south-central portion of the unit offer isolated areas of fair topographic screening. Though small isolated pockets of solitude are available, the unit's relatively small size combined with generally poor topographic and vegetative screening renders the opportunities for solitude less than outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive recreational opportunities within the unit include camping, backpacking, hiking and horseback riding. The relatively small size and uniform character of the unit, and the lack of exceptional or unusual natural features and recreational attractions, renders the recreational opportunities less than outstanding. There is no significant mental and physical challenge associated with the recreational opportunities.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The unit contains important antelope and sage grouse habitat.

RECOMMENDATION:

Though natural in character, the unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area because of a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation.

111-20b UPPER BATTLE CREEK

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 17,787 acres of BLM land with one state and one private inholding. The unit is 4-5 miles wide and five miles long with a boundary finger on the northeast, and is located 48 miles southwest of Bruneau and 25 miles west of Grasmere. Vegetation is chiefly northern desert shrubs and grasses. Topographically, the unit consists of a broad plateau cut by the drainages of Big Springs and Battle Creeks. The unit includes the confluence of the two creeks. Elevation varies from over 5,800 feet on the plateau to 5,300 feet in Battle Creek Canyon. Relief is minimal except in the lower four miles of Battle Creek Canyon.

NATURALNESS:

There are four water developments in the unit, all within 1/4 mile of the boundary. Human imprints are minimal; the area appears to be affected primarily by natural processes.

SOLITUDE:

The unit's size and configuration are relatively good with the exception of a 4,000 acre finger on the northeast. Topographic screening is poor throughout the unit with the exception of the lower four miles of Battle Creek. The dominant desert shrub vegetation provides minimal screening. Although the unit's moderate size provides some opportunities for solitude, the poor screening in most of the unit renders these opportunities less than outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Recreation opportunities include hiking, camping, backpacking, horseback riding, hunting, wildlife observation and photography. However, the lack of unusual or exceptional natural features and recreation attractions render the opportunities for primitive recreation less than outstanding. Challenge associated with recreation in the unit is not considered significant.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The unit contains important sage grouse and antelope habitat, and may contain cultural resource values.

RECOMMENDATION:

The unit should not be identified as a Wilderness Study Area. While it is sufficiently natural in character, it fails to meet the solitude-recreation criteria.

111-21 BULL BASIN

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 17,625 acres of BLM land, in a somewhat oval configuration seven miles long and five miles wide, with one state and two private inholdings. It is located 24 miles northwest of Grasmere. The unit lies in a plateau region lightly to moderately eroded into rolling hills ranging in elevation from 5,600 to 6,200 feet. The unit contains no major drainages, although Battle Creek passes the western boundary, entering the unit briefly in spots. Vegetation consists primarily of desert shrub and grass species.

NATURALNESS:

The unit is relatively free of the imprints of man, except for two small stock ponds along the northeast periphery and a larger stock reservoir along the south - central periphery.

SOLITUDE:

The low shrubby vegetation occupying the unit offers minimal vegetative screening. Topographic screening is considered poor to fair over much of the unit. Rolling hills and intermittent drainages provide some pockets of solitude, chiefly in the northern portion, but the basin topography of the southern portion is less conducive to solitude. Considering the generally poor screening, the unit's moderate size is insufficient to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive recreational opportunities within the unit include camping, backpacking, horseback riding, hunting and wildlife viewing. The moderate size and uniform character of the unit, and the lack of exceptional or unusual natural features and recreational attractions render the recreational opportunities less than outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The unit contains wildlife values, including antelope range and fawning habitat.

RECOMMENDATION:

Though natural in character, the unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area because of a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation.

111-36b SHEEP CREEK EAST

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 12,412 acres of BLM land. It is irregular in shape, 3-5 miles wide and 4-5 miles long, and is located six miles north of the Idaho border, 15 miles southeast of Riddle. The area is a level to gently rolling plateau cut by the canyon of Sheep Creek, which passes through the unit for 5 1/2 miles. The creek flows through a relatively shallow, meandering canyon in most of the unit. A zone of dense riparian vegetation occurs in the canyon, while the rest of the unit supports northern desert shrubs and grasses.

NATURALNESS:

A system of ways, totalling four miles, and two stock ponds are located in the northwest portion of the unit. A short way from the road finger in the south extends to the canyon rim. Six stock ponds and a system of three miles of ways are located in the eastern portion. Rolling topography and minimal vegetative screening in this area make these imprints substantially noticeable. About 2,200 acres along the eastern boundary is not considered substantially natural. Approximately 10,200 acres are considered substantially natural in character.

SOLITUDE:

The 5 1/2 miles of Sheep Creek canyon offer good topographic and fair vegetative screening. While the canyon is relatively shallow, its meandering path offers good opportunities for solitude. However, the canyon would tend to concentrate visitors in a narrow corridor of use and increase the potential for visitor contact. This potential for contact is further increased by the relatively short length of the canyon. Though opportunities for solitude are present the potential for visitor contact due to this corridor effect makes the opportunities less than outstanding. Outside the canyon, the unit offers poor vegetative and topographic screening because of the open, gently rolling character of the sagebrush plateau. While the unit contains 10,000 natural acres, the effective size of the area where solitude may be experienced is very small in relation to the total natural area. Because the vast majority of the unit is an open plateau without effective screening and because of the corridor affect of the canyon, the opportunities for solitude in the unit cannot be considered outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Recreation opportunities include hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, camping, hunting and wildlife observation. Most of these opportunities are associated with Sheep Creek canyon. While the canyon is a scenic recreation attraction, the length of the canyon within the unit is relatively short and good recreation attractions are limited to a small portion of the unit. The relatively shallow, meandering canyon is not considered an outstanding recreation attraction when considered with the small area of the unit it comprises and the necessarily confined use possible within the short length of the canyon.

RECOMMENDATION:

The unit should not be identified as a Wilderness Study Area. There are 2,212 acres that have been substantially affected by imprints of man, and the remaining 10,200 acres fail to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive recreation.

BOISE DISTRICT
UNITS PROPOSED AS
WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

17-11 JARBIDGE RIVER

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 111,010 acres of BLM land, with seven state and seven private inholdings. The private inholdings are concentrated mostly in a ten mile stretch of the West Fork Bruneau River Canyon below Black Rock Crossing. The unit's configuration resembles an inverted "V", with each stem of the "V" 20 miles long and four miles wide. The unit is located 45 miles south of Bruneau and 15 miles southeast of Grasmere. The unit is dominated by the deep vertical-walled canyons of the Jarbidge River and the West Fork of the Bruneau River. These canyons cut through a relatively flat plateau region covered with northern desert shrubs. The canyon bottoms are vegetated by juniper, willow and tall shrubs and grasses.

NATURALNESS:

The imprints of man in the Jarbidge River stem (eastern stem) of the unit are limited to a network of ways and range developments (stock ponds and fences) in the southernmost plateau portion and several widely scattered dead-end ways, small reservoirs and short fence lines on the plateau regions around the periphery of the unit. The concentration of ways and range developments in the southwest portion are such that they impair the natural character of an area over 7,000 acres. In addition, a dead-end road and reservoir in the northwest portion of the stem should be eliminated from the unit. The remainder of the eastern stem including the canyon of the Jarbidge River appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprints of man absent or so widely scattered that they are substantially unnoticeable.

The imprints of man in the West Fork Bruneau River stem (western stem) of the unit include three low-standard roads leading from the western boundary of the unit to private and state lands within the canyon. These roads should be eliminated from the unit. Another road cuts across the southeast tip of the stem and isolates about 900 acres. The naturalness of an area of about 1,300 acres in the southwest periphery is impaired by a concentration of seven miles of ways and should be dropped from further consideration. There are also about 25 miles of ways and substantial livestock trails in the plateau region in the eastern half of the stem. This concentration of ways in the eastern periphery of the stem impairs the natural character of the land, such that 9,200 acres should also be trimmed from further consideration. The remainder of the western stem of the unit, including the canyon of the West Fork Bruneau River, appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprints of man absent or so widely scattered that they are substantially unnoticeable.

SOLITUDE:

The dominance of low shrubby vegetation over much of the unit offers minimal vegetative screening. Only in the riparian zones of the canyon bottoms is vegetative screening good to excellent. The deep, meandering, vertical-walled canyons of the Jarbidge and West Fork Bruneau River offer excellent topographic screening. Though the canyons tend to concentrate visitors into narrow corridors of use and increase the potential of visitor contacts, the meandering character of the canyons coupled with good to excellent vegetative screening would minimize visual contacts between visitor groups.

The large size of the Jarbidge River stem of the unit combined with excellent topographic and vegetative screening in portions of the stem affords outstanding opportunities for solitude. Only a narrow strip of land lying between two medium-standard roads in the southeast corner of the stem should be trimmed from further consideration because the narrow configuration does not offer opportunities for solitude.

The West Fork Bruneau River stem (western stem) of the unit is also considered to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude for the same reasons expressed in the previous discussion. However, less than 50% of the land base along the southern 2/3 of the canyon bottom which contributes to the outstanding opportunities for solitude is public land. Excluding the non-federal lands from consideration results in a very broken land pattern on which to evaluate wilderness characteristics. Because of this, the opportunities for solitude on public lands within the canyon are considered to be less than outstanding. In addition, the relatively flat, open, natural portions of the western stem are not considered to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. Therefore, much of the western stem, an area totalling 17,270 acres, should be trimmed from further consideration.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

The primitive recreation opportunities in the unit are primarily associated with the river canyons and include camping, backpacking, river running, nature photography, sightseeing, fishing and hunting. The recreational opportunities are generally considered outstanding because of the large size of the unit and the exceptional and unusual natural features and recreational attractions of the river canyons. However, less than 50% of the land base along the southern 2/3 of the canyon bottom of the West Fork Bruneau River (western stem of unit) which contributes to the outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation is public land. Excluding the non-federal lands from consideration results in a very broken land pattern on which to evaluate wilderness characteristics. Because of this very broken land pattern, the opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation on public lands within the canyon are considered to be less than outstanding. In addition, the flat, open plateau in the western stem of the unit lacks any exceptional or unusual recreational attractions. Therefore, much of the western stem of the unit, an area totalling 17,270 acres, should be trimmed from further consideration.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The Bruneau and Jarbidge River Canyons are of exceptional scenic value. The unit contains excellent bighorn sheep habitat and important mule deer winter range. Otter and red-banded trout, sensitive species, inhabit the rivers. The Bruneau River and Jarbidge River are currently under consideration by Congress for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System.

REHABILITATION:

A portion of the unit is sufficiently natural to qualify as a Wilderness Study Area. However, it may be possible to further reduce the imprints of man from portions of the unit by hand labor or natural regeneration. Rehabilitation potential will be considered in detail during the study phase of the wilderness review process.

RECOMMENDATION:

There are 75,340 acres of public land in the unit which are recommended as a Wilderness Study Area because they are natural in character and provide both outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation. These areas include the entire Jarbidge River canyon and most of the plateau region in the eastern stem of the unit, and the lower five miles of the West Fork Bruneau River and plateau in the northern portion of the unit. The remainder of the unit, comprised of 35,670 acres of canyon and plateau within the western stem of the unit and portions of the plateaus in the southern-most portion of the eastern stem should be dropped from further consideration. A total of 18,400 acres lacks naturalness and 17,270 acres fail to meet the solitude-recreation criteria due to poor configuration and isolation from the body of the unit.

It should be noted that the dropping of the canyon portion of the western stem (the West Fork Bruneau River) was a tough judgment decision. The canyon itself was felt to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and recreation, however due to the complicated land ownership situation, the opportunities on BLM lands were not considered outstanding. Where judgment decisions such as this have been made, we particularly solicit public input as to why they do or do not believe wilderness characteristics are present.

110-91a BOX CREEK

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 428 acres of BLM land, contiguous to U.S. Forest Service Rare II area Lick Creek (4-455, 61,470 acres), which has been recommended for wilderness. The unit is located five miles northeast of the Brundage Mountain Ski Area near McCall. The BLM unit is similar to the Forest Service area in landform and vegetation, consisting of rolling to extremely steep and broken terrain supporting mixed conifer forests of ponderosa, lodgepole and whitebark pine; white, Douglas and subalpine fir; spruce, larch and aspen. The forest cover is broken frequently by large granite outcrops. The chief drainage is Box Creek, flowing west through the BLM parcel.

NATURALNESS:

There appear to be no significant human imprints. The unit is substantially natural in character.

SOLITUDE:

When considered with the contiguous Forest Service Area, the unit's size and excellent vegetative and topographic screening provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

When considered with the contiguous Forest Service area, the unit provides outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation in hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, backpacking, hiking, horseback riding, photography and challenging cross-country travel.

RECOMMENDATION:

The unit is recommended as a Wilderness Study Area because it is natural in character; it is however dependent on the contiguous RARE II area to meet the size, solitude, and recreation criteria.

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 74,919 acres of BLM land with seven non-Federal inholdings. This acreage figure differs from the 80,054 acres shown in the August 1979 report due to a more accurate calculation of acreage. The unit is approximately twelve miles long and averages ten miles wide, and is located 20 miles south of Grand View. The unit consists of a level to rolling plateau cut by four major canyons: the East and West Forks of Shoofly Creek, Rattlesnake Creek and Little Jack's Creek. Little Jack's Creek Canyon is the dominant topographic feature, meandering through the eastern portion of the unit for fifteen miles. The canyons are typically deep, sheer-walled and narrow, and contain significant riparian vegetation. Outside the canyons, the unit is moderately dissected by shallow draws and is dominated by northern desert plant species.

NATURALNESS:

In the west-central portion of the unit, along the broad ridge between Shoofly and Little Jack's Creeks, are low-standard, dead-end roads extending into the body of the unit from the north and the south. A moderately substantial way extends into the unit from the southern dead-end road, providing direct access to three large reservoirs on the central plateau. This way-reservoir linear system nearly links the two dead-end roads. Geographic barriers have prevented vehicle access for about one mile in the northern portion of the system. The road fingers and way-reservoir system occurring between them are considered a substantial intrusion on naturalness. Wilderness characteristics have been evaluated in two subunits northwest and southwest of this system.

The western subunit contains 24,287 acres. It contains the East and West Forks of Shoofly Creek in the central portion; a broad ridge and breaks toward the creek canyons in the southeast; a rolling, moderately dissected plateau in the north; and Bald Mountain and its moderately sloping ridges in the southwest. There are five non-Federal inholdings. Human imprints include three stock ponds, a one-mile vehicle route and several livestock trails in the plateau and breaks region in the south and southeast portions; four miles of ways in the southwest portion, with three stock ponds on the edge of the unit in this area; and a short fence line and a short bladed livestock trail on the edge of the unit in the northern portion. The scattered nature of these imprints and their location mainly about the periphery of the unit render them substantially unnoticeable. The unit as a whole appears substantially natural in character.

The eastern subunit contains 50,632 acres. It contains the canyon system of Little Jack's Creek and its tributaries, including Rattlesnake Creek. The plateau lands outside the canyon are rolling and moderately well dissected by shallow drainages. There are two state inholdings.

In the southwestern portion of the unit is a concentration of seventeen miles of ways and bladed fire lines, four miles of fence and five stock ponds. This area of 8,334 acres is not considered natural in character due to the extreme concentration of substantial imprints of man. In the western portion are five scattered stock ponds and three miles of way. Because of the evenly scattered distribution of these imprints, they are not considered substantially noticeable and are effectively screened by low sagebrush vegetation even at close distances. The southern portion contains two roads, each two miles long, leading to spring developments; one development having a cabin. These roads are less than 3/4 miles apart. The roads and the land between, as well as the springs, should be trimmed from further consideration, an area of 1,012 acres. Other imprints in the unit include four miles of ways and one mile of fence. Because these imprints are so widely scattered and are not noticeable except at very close distances, they are not considered substantially noticeable in the unit as a whole. The central core of the unit, encompassing most of the canyon of Little Jack's Creek, is free of imprints. There a total of 41,286 acres appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

SOLITUDE:

The western subunit offers fair to good topographic screening in the area of the two forks of Shoofly Creek and the well-dissected terrain southeast of the East Fork Shoofly Creek. Vegetative screening is good within the two canyons. In the rest of the subunit, screening from vegetation and topography is poor and opportunities for solitude minimal. Relief within the major drainages provides moderately good opportunities for solitude. There are nine miles of relatively deeply eroded stream

courses, but four private inholdings break the continuity of solitude within the drainages. There are moderately good opportunities for solitude due to the size of the subunit and the moderate relief associated with Shoofly Creek. However, these opportunities are not considered outstanding due to configurations associated with private ownership in the stream bottom and the minimal opportunities for solitude in the remainder of the subunit.

Vegetative screening is minimal in most of the eastern subunit, which is dominated by northern desert plant species. Within the canyons, riparian vegetation provides good screening. Topographic screening is poor to fair on the plateau and good to excellent in the deep, meandering canyon of Little Jack's Creek. The subunit's large size, good configuration and generally good screening afford outstanding opportunities for solitude, mainly associated with the canyon and canyon breaks areas. A narrow finger in the southeast portion is created by non-Federal ownership that extends into the body of the subunit. The portion of this finger east of Rattlesnake Creek, 143 acres, isolated from the body of the subunit, fails to satisfy the solitude-recreation criteria and should be eliminated from consideration.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

The western subunit offers moderately good opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing. The natural features of Shoofly Creek are considered significant attractions, but recreation opportunities are not considered outstanding. The broken ownership pattern fails to provide a continuous unconfined recreation experience, and natural features are not considered outstanding nor sufficiently unusual to provide an outstanding attraction for primitive recreation.

In the eastern subunit recreation opportunities include camping, hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, wildlife observation, fishing and photography. The primitive recreation opportunities are considered outstanding because of the exceptional natural features and recreation attractions, primarily associated with the canyons. Physical challenge associated with primitive recreation is considered significant.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The drainage of Shoofly Creek in the western subunit offers excellent habitat for red-banded trout, a sensitive species. The eastern subunit is considered to contain significant scenic value, associated with the canyon, and ecological values, including a bighorn sheep population, mule deer and antelope winter range, important sage grouse habitat, and a red-banded trout population.

REHABILITATION:

The eastern subunit is sufficiently natural in character to qualify as a Wilderness Study Area. However, it may be possible to further remove the imprints of man from portions of the subunit by hand labor or natural regeneration. Rehabilitation potential will be considered in detail during the study phase of the wilderness review process.

RECOMMENDATION:

The western subunit should not be identified as a Wilderness Study Area. While it is sufficiently natural in character, it fails to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive recreation. A portion of the eastern subunit should be identified as a Wilderness Study Area. There are 9,346 acres that fail to meet the naturalness criteria, and 143 acres that fail to meet the solitude-recreation criteria. However, 41,143 acres should be approved for study because they offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive recreation in a natural setting.

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 65,134 acres of BLM land, in an irregularly shaped area $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles by nine miles, with two private and five state inholdings. It is located 25 miles southwest of Bruneau. The unit lies on a flat to gently rolling plateau sharply dissected by seven meandering, vertical-walled canyons, the major drainage being that of Big Jack's Creek. Vegetation is dominated by northern desert shrub species with heavy riparian vegetation along the canyon bottoms.

NATURALNESS:

The eastern periphery of the unit contains a number of ways and bladed fire lines, the most prominent penetrating into the unit two miles. One bladed fire line system in the northeast portion of the unit is considered a significant scar. An east-west fence line also extends from the eastern boundary to Big Jack's Canyon in the northeast portion of the unit. Five ways penetrate into the unit as much as five miles from the western and southern boundaries to the canyon rims. A number of small stock ponds are scattered around the periphery of the unit in association with the intruding ways and roads.

Because of the flatness of the terrain on which the imprints occur, most are considered substantially unnoticeable except at close distances. As a whole, the unit appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. In the eastern periphery of the unit 3,926 acres should be trimmed from further consideration because of very noticeable bladed and unrehabilitatable fire lines or ways which, in association with state land, isolate these acres from the remainder of the unit.

SOLITUDE:

The dominance of low shrubby vegetation affords minimal vegetative screening over much of the unit. Only in the heavy riparian vegetation of the canyon bottoms is vegetative screening good to excellent. Topographic screening is minimal on the plateaus. However, the numerous, deep, meandering canyons dissecting the plateau offer excellent topographic screening over much of the unit. In addition, the dispersion of canyon systems over the unit would tend to distribute use more evenly and reduce visitor contacts. The large size of the unit combined with excellent dispersion potential affords outstanding opportunities for solitude. Only in the southern portion, where intruding boundary roads in conjunction with state and private lands cause a narrow confining configuration are opportunities for solitude limited. These areas, totalling 6,375 acres, should be trimmed from further consideration.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive recreational opportunities within the unit are primarily associated with the canyons and include camping, backpacking, nature photography, sightseeing, wildlife viewing, hunting, and fishing. The recreational opportunities are generally considered to be outstanding because of the exceptional or unusual natural features and recreational attractions in the canyons. Only in the southernmost portion where the canyons are shallow are opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation considered less than outstanding because of the narrow confining configuration resulting from intruding boundary roads and state and private lands. These acres should be trimmed from further consideration as indicated in the solitude narrative.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The deep meandering canyons of the unit are of exceptional scenic value. The red-banded trout, a sensitive species, is found in limited numbers in the Big Jack's Creek drainage. The unit contains potential bighorn sheep habitat and some antelope winter range.

REHABILITATION:

A portion of the unit is sufficiently natural in character to qualify as a Wilderness Study Area. However, it may be possible to further remove the imprints of man from portions of the unit by hand labor or natural regeneration. Rehabilitation potential will be considered in detail during the study phase of the wilderness review process.

RECOMMENDATION:

There are 54,833 acres in the unit that should be identified as a Wilderness Study Area; 3,926 acres fail to meet the naturalness criteria, and 6,375 acres in a broken configuration at the southern edge of the unit fail to meet the solitude-recreation criteria.

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 134,062 acres of BLM land in a long irregular configuration, 37 miles long and from 1/2 to 13 miles wide with nine state inholdings. The heart of the unit is located 15 miles northeast of Grasmere. The unit lies on a relatively flat volcanic tableland sharply dissected by the major drainages of the Bruneau River, East Fork Bruneau River, and Sheep Creek. The drainages are typified by deep vertical walled canyons with numerous spires, columns, and large flaring cracks. The bottoms of these canyons vary in width from 30 feet to over one-quarter of a mile. The vertical walls of the canyons reach as much as 800 feet in height. Vegetation is dominated by northern desert shrub communities with juniper occurring in the canyon bottoms.

NATURALNESS:

The northwestern portion of the unit is crisscrossed with numerous ways, a bladed fence line, and a low-standard road. The northern neck downstream from the confluence of the Bruneau River and the East Fork of the Bruneau River has a number of ways penetrating from both the east and west boundaries to the rim of the canyon. The mid-eastern periphery of the unit contains a concentration of ways and low-standard roads just south of the confluence of the Bruneau River and the East Fork of the Bruneau River. The southeast periphery has several short dead-end low-standard roads, ways, fence lines and stock reservoirs. The southwest and mid-south portions also have a number of ways penetrating to the rim of the canyons from the west and south boundaries.

Despite the number of man's imprints much of the unit appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. The large size, the wide distribution of the imprints and the lack of topographic relief in affected areas (which permits low sagebrush vegetation to effectively screen the imprints of man from short distances) renders the imprints substantially unnoticeable except where they are highly concentrated: in the plateau regions in the northernmost portion of the unit, the eastern periphery of the unit south of the confluence of the Bruneau River with the East Fork Bruneau River, between Sheep Creek and the Bruneau River in the southernmost portion of the unit, and northwest of the confluence of Sheep Creek with the Bruneau River. These concentrations of roads, ways and range developments should be trimmed from further consideration. In addition, a substantial way running northeast-southwest through the plateau region in the western portion of the unit cuts off about 7,680 acres of land. This way is considered a significant linear intrusion. Because of the lack of outstanding opportunities on the plateau to the west of the way, the acreage should be trimmed from further consideration.

SOLITUDE:

The low shrubby vegetation dominating the unit offers minimal vegetative screening. The juniper and riparian vegetation in the canyon bottom offers fair to good vegetative screening. The relatively flat terrain of much of the unit also offers only minimal topographic screening. However, the deep, meandering, vertical-walled canyons of the Bruneau, East Fork Bruneau, and Sheep Creek offer excellent topographic screening in narrow corridors running the entire length of the unit. Because of the scenic quality of these canyons, they would tend to concentrate visitors within the narrow corridor and increase the potential for visitor contacts. Despite the general lack of vegetative screening and the corridor effect of the canyon, the large size of the unit combined with the length of the canyons and their excellent topographic screening affords outstanding opportunities for solitude.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive recreation opportunities within the unit are primarily associated with the Bruneau River Canyon and Sheep Creek Canyon, and include whitewater rafting and kayaking, backpacking, camping, sightseeing, nature photography, rock hounding, fishing, and wildlife viewing. The recreational opportunities are considered outstanding because of the exceptional and unusual natural features and recreational attractions in the Bruneau River and Sheep Creek Canyons. There is significant mental and physical challenge associated with whitewater and backpacking opportunities within the canyons.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The Bruneau River and Sheep Creek canyon are of exceptional scenic and geological value. The Bruneau River and Sheep Creek have cut deep and extremely narrow vertical-walled canyons into an uplifted volcanic tableland. Perhaps nowhere else in the United States can be found canyons of this magnitude that are so narrow in relation to their depth

and possess such numerous and diversified rock formations. Scenic vistas from the rims of the canyons are breathtaking. The Bruneau River Canyon is also of exceptional scientific and cultural value with over 200 known pre-historic sites in the canyon. The Bruneau River and Sheep Creek are currently under consideration by Congress for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System. The unit contains red-banded trout and otter habitat, important mule deer winter range and potential bighorn sheep habitat.

REHABILITATION:

A large portion of the unit is sufficiently natural in character to qualify as a Wilderness Study Area. However, it may be possible to further remove the imprints of man from portions of the unit by hand labor or natural regeneration. Rehabilitation potential will be considered in detail during the study phase of the wilderness review process.

RECOMMENDATION:

There are 107,020 acres of land which should be recommended as a Wilderness Study Area, because these acres are natural in character and offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive recreation. There are 27,042 acres which should be dropped from consideration; of these 19,362 acres lack naturalness and a 7,680-acre subunit lacks outstanding solitude-recreation.

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 31,756 acres of BLM land, in an area 13 miles long and 2½ to 7 miles wide. It contains six small inholdings in the northern half. A 7,000-acre thumb exists in the southern portion. The unit is located 35 miles west of Grasmere. The unit lies on a flat rolling plateau. The northern half is lightly to moderately eroded into a broad, shallow basin defined by steep, meandering slopes. The basin is further dissected by the sheer-walled meandering canyons of Camas Creek and Pole Creek. The vegetation of the unit is predominately northern high desert shrubs with scattered, sparse stands of juniper in the basin region.

NATURALNESS:

The southern portion of the unit contains few imprints of man other than three small reservoirs adjacent to roads that form the boundaries of the unit and two reservoirs in the southeast periphery of the unit. The road-side reservoirs, and the reservoir east of state Sec. 16, should be excluded from the unit. A small area impacted by mining in the extreme southern edge of the unit should also be excluded. The northern portion of the unit contains four stock ponds and four miles of ways: one way penetrating to the confluence of Camas and Pole Creek from the western boundary and one penetrating to a spring in the northeast portion of the unit from a dead-end road intruding from the eastern boundary. Three of the stock ponds lie adjacent to intruding dead-end roads and should be trimmed from the unit. The ways and stock ponds not excluded from the unit are substantially unnoticeable due to their wide distribution and the flat ground on which they are located. The imprints are effectively screened by the very low profile sagebrush vegetation and scattered juniper even at close distances.

SOLITUDE:

Size and configuration of the main body of the unit are relatively good. The constriction of the unit by a dead-end road and excluded state land to a width of one-quarter mile isolates a 7,247-acre area in the extreme south. The northern portion contains relatively good screening due to the sparse juniper cover, topographic relief provided by the canyons and rolling topography of the plateau and basins. The remainder of the unit is dominated by desert shrub vegetation and contains relatively little topographic relief. The portion of the unit north of the constriction caused by the dead-end road and state land offers outstanding opportunities for solitude due to its size and good screening. The southern thumb of the unit, 7,247 acres, lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude due to its relatively small size and minimal screening.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive recreation opportunities of the unit are primarily associated with the northern basin region and include camping, hiking, backpacking, nature photography, sightseeing, horseback riding, hunting, and fishing. The recreational opportunities are generally considered outstanding because of the unit's relatively large size, and exceptional and unusual natural features and recreational attractions of the basin region and canyons of Pole Creek and Camas Creek. The recreational opportunities are generally considered moderately challenging. Recreation opportunities in the southern plateau region are considered less than outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The unit contains significant cultural resource values and ecological values, including antelope range and fawning habitat.

REHABILITATION:

The unit is sufficiently natural in character to qualify as a Wilderness Study Area. However, it may be possible to remove the imprints of man from portions of the unit by hand labor or natural regeneration. Rehabilitation potential will be considered in detail during the study phase of the wilderness review process.

RECOMMENDATION:

A portion of the unit, 7,247 acres, isolated from the body of the unit in the southern portion should be eliminated from further consideration because of a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive recreation. A total of 24,509 acres in the northern portion of the unit should be identified as a Wilderness Study Area.

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 15,376 acres of BLM land. The unit is six miles long and 2-5 miles wide and is located six miles north of the Idaho border, 12 miles southeast of Riddle. The unit is a rolling plateau, dissected by moderately deep draws and cut by the canyon of Sheep Creek, over seven miles of which are contained in the unit. The creek flows through a deep, narrow gorge in most of the unit, and occupies a wider valley between large rolling hills at each end of the unit. Riparian trees and shrubs dominate the canyon, and northern desert grasses and shrubs dominate the remainder of the unit. Pockets of aspen and shrubs are found on north and east slopes and along the canyon. The lower two miles of Bull Creek are also contained in the unit.

NATURALNESS:

The northern plateau contains a system of eight miles of ways and one stock pond. A way leading from the southeast boundary to a stock pond one mile inside the unit, and a constructed cow trail from the pond to Sheep Creek are the only imprints in the southern half of the unit. On the north side of Sheep Creek, there are two miles each of a constructed stock driveway and a fence that defines a stock holding area. These developments cannot be considered imprints of man since they are post-FLPMA authorized developments or trespass violations. They must be ignored when making a judgement about naturalness. The imprints of man are not considered substantially noticeable in the unit except where they are concentrated. Such is the case in an area of 1,506 acres in the northwest portion of the unit. Tindall Water Hole, its access routes and the substantial portion of a way extending south toward the canyon rim are contained in this area. The 3½ miles of ways that remain to the south of this portion of the unit are very light, more widely scattered imprints, and are substantially unnoticeable. 13,870 acres of the unit appear substantially natural in character.

SOLITUDE:

Vegetative screening within the Sheep Creek Canyon is considered fair to good due to riparian vegetation and aspen-ninebark thickets. Outside the canyon, the predominately desert shrub vegetation provides little screening. Topographic screening is fair within the canyon. Relief is good but the linear nature of the canyon provides little topographic screening within Sheep Creek. Visitor concentration may be expected to occur in the canyon. Relief outside the canyon is minimal. Despite the relief and vegetative screening associated with Sheep Creek, the unit's moderate size, lack of screening outside the canyon and the corridor effect of visitor travel within the linear canyon limit opportunities for solitude. Opportunities are considered moderately good but not outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Recreation opportunities include hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, camping, hunting, photography, and wildlife observation. The scenic qualities of the narrow gorge of Sheep Creek and the pockets of aspen, ninebark and associated species contribute to outstanding hiking and sightseeing opportunities. The unit is considered to be of adequate size, given its scenic qualities, to provide outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. Six small land fingers around the edges of the unit do not provide opportunities for solitude or recreation. These fingers, totalling 800 acres, should not be retained for study.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The unit contains important sage grouse habitat.

REHABILITATION:

While imprints of man might be partially removed by hand labor or natural regeneration, the unit is sufficiently natural in character to qualify as a Wilderness Study Area. Rehabilitation potential will be considered in detail in the study process.

RECOMMENDATION:

A portion of the unit, 1,506 acres fails to meet the naturalness criteria, and 800 acres in six small fingers extending outside the bulk of the unit lack outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive recreation. There are 13,070 acres that should be approved for wilderness study because they offer outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation in a natural setting.

BURLEY DISTRICT
UNITS NOT PROPOSED AS
WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

26-1 - HANZEL MOUNTAIN

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 20,615 acres of BLM land with a 640-acre state inholding. The irregular shaped unit is approximately 11 miles long and $\frac{1}{2}$ - 4 miles wide, and is located in the North Promontory Range north of the Utah state line, four miles south-east of Holbrook. The unit is located between the Curlew Valley on the west and the Pocatello Valley on the east, and is dominated by a north-south ridge with several side canyons running east and west. On the east side the unit's vegetation is dominated by big sagebrush intermixed with bluebunch wheatgrass with pockets of mountain brush and aspen in some of the drainages. The western side is dominated by Utah juniper with mountain brush in the upper draws.

NATURALNESS:

Impacts on naturalness are concentrated in the southern $\frac{2}{3}$ of the unit. Seven roads enter the unit and either dead-end or continue as ways. Thirteen ways have been identified, all dead-ending within the unit. At least seven fence lines are also located in the southern $\frac{2}{3}$ of the unit. Water developments include three small reservoirs and a few portable water troughs scattered on the east side of the mountain. Juniper cutting areas are located off ways near the western boundary. A 450-acre fire rehabilitation area has come back in with native species and blends well visually. Just inside the west boundary, along a dead-end road is a dump site. Abandoned dwellings from an old homestead are also located in the southern portion. Sheep camps can be found on both sides of the mountain at the end of ways and on top of ridges, however only two of these have caused any visible impact. The cumulative effect of these impacts constitutes significant impairment of natural characteristics for the southern $\frac{2}{3}$ of the unit. Only the northern $\frac{1}{3}$ appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

SOLITUDE

The east side of Hanzel Mountain provides few opportunities for solitude due to low vegetative cover and rolling terrain, providing poor vegetative and topographic screening. In some steep draws with thick concentrations of juniper on the west side of the mountain opportunities for solitude can be attained.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Recreation opportunities include big game and upland game hunting, horseback riding, camping, hiking, and photography. The unit's irregular shape with numerous dead-end roads and lack of exceptional or unusual natural features and recreation attractions render the recreation opportunities less than outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Portions of the unit contain habitat of the peregrine falcon and bald eagle, endangered species; and the spotted bat, bobcat, Canada lynx, ferruginous hawk, pigeon hawk, sharptailed grouse, longbilled curlew and western burrowing owl on the sensitive list. Portions of the unit are also critical winter range for mule deer. The unit contains a prehistoric site of cultural value.

RECOMMENDATION:

Although a portion of the unit is natural in character, the unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area because it lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation.

26-3 SOUTH SAMARIA

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 6,615 acres of BLM lands in an irregular configuration approximately two by four miles and is located five miles south of Samaria. Lying on the east side of the Samaria Mountains, the unit is dominated by the Brush Creek Canyon drainage. This drainage contains very rough and steep topography covered with sagebrush, juniper and mountain mahogany on the south facing slopes; Douglas fir and aspen on the north facing slopes; and chokecherry and maple in the drainage bottoms. Two fairly broad ridges are within the unit, one runs north-south on the western boundary, and the other runs east-west south of Brush Creek Canyon.

NATURALNESS:

Three dead-end roads, two ways and two foot trails are within the unit. Maple Hollow Road extends from the northern boundary to within 1/4 mile of the southern boundary. The other roads are short access routes from Maple Hollow Road to water development sites. In the eastern portion of the unit are several drift and boundary fences. Woodcutting is evident along the Gardner Canyon Road on the north of the unit and in Brush Creek. Three primitive campsites can be found along Gardner Canyon Road. The majority of these impacts are minor and are scattered throughout the unit, leaving the unit, as a whole, in a natural condition. The above mentioned roads are not within the unit, but form a portion of the boundary.

SOLITUDE:

The western portion of the unit lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude due to narrow configuration, caused by the Maple Hollow Road cutting off this portion from the main section. Good vegetative screening can be found in small aspen-fir pockets in the drainages west of the road. In the eastern portion of the unit, opportunities for solitude are lacking on the eastern and southern facing slopes due to sparse-low vegetation. Farm machinery can be seen and heard as well as the cultivated fields viewed from almost every ridge and slope above Brush Creek Canyon. The only area with opportunities for solitude is the Brush Creek Canyon and portions of its forks where there is thick vegetation in the drainage bottoms, and these opportunities are not considered outstanding due to the small area involved.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Recreation opportunities include big game and upland bird hunting, camping, hiking, photography and berry picking. The unit's relatively small size and lack of exceptional or unusual natural features and recreation attractions render the recreation opportunities less than outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Portions of the unit contain habitat of the peregrine falcon and bald eagle, endangered species; and the spotted bat, bobcat, Canada lynx and pigeon hawk on the sensitive list. Brush Creek Canyon is critical winter range for mule deer. Portions of the unit contain prehistoric sites of cultural value.

RECOMMENDATION:

Although most of the unit retains its naturalness, it does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area because of a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation.

27-1 SOUTH DEEP CREEK

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 9,609 acres of BLM land, in an area approximately three by four miles and is located seven miles southwest of Arbon. Lying in the southern portion of the Deep Creek Range, which runs north and south between the Rockland Valley and Arbon Valley, the unit consists of a main north-south ridge with several side east-west canyons. The canyons on the west side of the range are much more rugged and steeper than on the east.

NATURALNESS:

Imprints of man within the unit consist of two dead-end roads, five ways, and several water developments in the southeast portion near the boundary. Woodcutting has occurred in relatively small areas off the Cow Canyon Road. Four undeveloped recreation sites, used as hunter or sheep camps are just off the roads and ways within the unit. Most of these imprints are minor and located on the periphery of the unit. As a whole, the unit appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

SOLITUDE:

The unit's low vegetative cover consisting of sagebrush, juniper and mountain shrubs provides very poor screening. Opportunities for solitude especially on the west side of the unit are lacking due to the outside influences of farm machinery and cultivated fields which can be seen from most of the ridges. Some canyons on the east side, with fir and aspen on north facing slopes, do provide opportunities for solitude. However, these opportunities are not considered outstanding due to the small area involved.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Recreation opportunities include big game hunting, camping, and berry picking. The numerous cow trails provide opportunities for hiking and photography. The unit's lack of exceptional or unusual natural features and recreation attractions renders the recreation opportunities less than outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Portions of the unit contain habitat of the peregrine falcon and bald eagle, endangered species; and the spotted bat, bobcat, Canada lynx and pigeon hawk on the sensitive list. The unit contains a prehistoric site of cultural value.

RECOMMENDATION:

Although most of the unit retains its naturalness, it does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area because of a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation.

27-2 DEEP CREEK PEAK

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 6,646 acres of BLM land, in an irregular shaped area approximately 1/2-3 by five miles. This unit is located in the Deep Creek Range, five miles west of Arbon. Lying in the middle portion of the Deep Creek Range which runs north and south between the Rockland Valley and Arbon Valley, the unit consists of a main north-south ridge with several side canyons running east-west.

NATURALNESS:

Imprints of man are generally found just inside the unit boundaries. Three roads dead-end within the unit. Seven ways, primarily off the western boundary roads either dead-end at wood cutting areas or connect back to roads. Selective woodcutting has occurred just off the Left Fork Knox Canyon Road and Bull Canyon Road. Several corral fences, a small stock pond and five undeveloped recreation sites constitute other impacts on naturalness. Most of the imprints of man are minor and near the unit boundaries, with the unit as a whole appearing to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

SOLITUDE:

Much of the unit is above the timber line and is covered by sagebrush, mountain brush and native grasses. Only in the lower elevation canyons where Douglas fir and sub alpine fir are found is there sufficient vegetation and topography to provide opportunities for solitude. The unit's small size, narrow configuration and poor vegetative screening do not afford opportunities that are considered outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Recreation opportunities include big game and upland game hunting, camping, hiking, photography and berry picking. The unit's small size and lack of exceptional or unusual natural features and recreation attractions render the recreation opportunities less than outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Portions of the unit contain habitat of the peregrine falcon and bald eagle, endangered species; and the spotted bat, bobcat, Canada lynx, and pigeon hawk on the sensitive list. The unit contains a prehistoric site of cultural value.

RECOMMENDATION:

Although most of the unit retains its naturalness, it does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area because of a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation.

BURLEY DISTRICT
UNIT PROPOSED AS
WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

28-1 PETTICOAT PEAK

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 13,046 acres of BLM land, in an irregular configuration approximately five by seven miles, and is located one mile northeast of Lava Hot Springs. The unit is in the Fish Creek Mountain Range just east of the Portneuf River. Topography is rough and mountainous with elevations ranging from 8,033 feet on Petticoat Peak in the central portion to 5,500 feet on the southwest portion of the unit. Many canyons and ridges radiate from the mountain peak. Vegetation consists of junipers, mountain shrubs and sagebrush in the western portion of the unit. Douglas fir intermingled with aspen, mountain shrubs and Limber pine dominate the eastern half of the unit.

NATURALNESS:

Almost all of the imprints of man are found along the boundaries or in near proximity to the dead-end roads and ways within the unit. Five roads and 17 ways are scattered throughout the unit, however the majority of these access routes are very short (under $\frac{1}{2}$ mile in length), dead-end up the various drainages, and are reverting back to a natural condition due to little or no use. Minor woodcutting areas can be located off a number of the ways. Hunter-sheep camps are located at the end of most ways, however these camps generally have no impact on the naturalness of the unit. Several old stock reservoirs and trash sites have been located within the unit, providing only a small localized impact. Due to the rough terrain and dense vegetative cover the ways and other imprints of man generally provide individual localized impacts only, with no significant impact on the naturalness of the unit as a whole.

SOLITUDE:

With several peaks over 7,000 feet throughout the unit, in combination with numerous canyons and variety in terrain and elevation there are opportunities for solitude that are considered outstanding. The canyons and drainages are well vegetated with a variety of species including bitterbrush, snowberry, mountain maple, mountain mahogany, juniper, Douglas fir and quaking aspen. The higher elevations are dominated by fir and aspen that provide excellent vegetative screening for outstanding opportunities for solitude. Major outside influences such as the Fish Creek Highway along the southeast portion, along with irregular configurations in conjunction with ways have caused the trimming of a total of 1,688 acres in the north, southwest and southeast portions as lacking outstanding opportunities for solitude and recreation. The Union Pacific Railroad passes within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of the unit on the west and within three miles on the east. However, use on this track is not considered to be a major outside influence due to its intermittent nature and the screening available.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

The variety of terrain and vegetative cover provides excellent habitat for mule deer and grouse. This provides unconfined recreation opportunities for big game and upland game hunting. The many high peaks and meadows provide opportunities for camping, hiking, horseback riding, and photography. Although a variety of opportunities exist, these are not considered to be outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Portions of the unit contain habitat of peregrine falcon, whooping crane and bald eagle, endangered species; and the spotted bat, bobcat, Canada lynx and pigeon hawk on the sensitive list. A portion of the unit is critical winter range for mule deer.

REHABILITATION:

All of the ways within the unit could revert to a natural condition if closed to vehicular traffic.

RECOMMENDATION:

There are 11,358 acres in the unit that should be identified as a Wilderness Study Area; 1,688 acres fail to meet the solitude-recreation criteria.

IDAHO FALLS DISTRICT
UNITS NOT PROPOSED AS
WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 11,150 acres of BLM land and lies at the southeastern end of Big Lost Valley, northeast of Arco. The unit encompasses portions of the southern foothills of the Lost River Mountain Range. It forms a mountainous peninsula between the Big Lost River Valley and the small valley north of Butte City. Steep cliffs mark the western edge of the area while more gentle slopes are to the east. There are occasional springs and a few intermittent streams. Sagebrush and grasses form the dominant vegetative community, with scattered junipers on the rocky slopes.

NATURALNESS:

The southern portion of the unit is heavily impacted with a powerline, vehicle trail, a partially gravelled road, several small gravel piles, and numerous substantial vehicle ways criss-crossing the area. Numbers have been painted by Arco's high school classes on the western cliffs, some of which are in the unit and easily visible from the town below. Other major impacts throughout the unit are a bladed jeep trail, three short roads, numerous ways, and barbed wire fences. Several livestock watering troughs are located in the northeast portion of the unit. Impacts outside the unit that affect the naturalness are extremely obtrusive, particularly to the southeast. The sights and sounds of Arco intrude to a great degree and appear almost contiguous to the unit. The town's garbage dump and landfill are visible to the southeast, and seven miles of railroad track runs within one mile of the unit boundary. Twelve borrow pits, four quarries and a gravel pit are within one mile of the unit as are the town of Moore, Highway 93, and several roads. To the east, agricultural lands and structures are visible. The cumulative effects of these impacts from inside and outside the unit are extremely imposing and substantially decrease the apparent naturalness of the unit.

SOLITUDE:

Low level vegetation and open slopes dominate the unit and offer little vegetative or topographic screening. In a few scattered areas where there are stands of conifers, vegetative screening is considered good. Localized areas in the central and northern portions, which contain higher ridges, offer some additional screening, but in general topographic screening is minimal. The towns of Arco and Moore, nearby highway systems, the municipal landfill and adjacent intensively cultivated land appear to be significant outside influences. Although it may be possible to find opportunities for solitude in localized areas, the relatively small size, irregular configuration, and minimal topographic and vegetative screening do not afford opportunities which are outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities include camping, backpacking, hiking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and spelunking. Natural features of the unit offer little challenge associated with these recreational opportunities. The unit's relatively small size and lack of exceptional or unusual natural features and recreational attractions, render the recreational opportunities less than outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The scenic values in portions of this unit are fairly high. Rock formations created through geologic processes of uplift and erosion provide picturesque and interesting dikes and spires of geological or educational value. Portions of the unit have been identified as critical deer winter range and a small sector at the southern tip as having Chukar partridge concentrations.

RECOMMENDATION:

The unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area because of a lack of naturalness and a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation.

31-11 DEADMAN CANYON

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 23,000 acres of BLM land with a 640-acre State land inholding and is located between the Little Lost and Big Lost River Valleys, northeast of Butte City. The unit is part of the southeastern foothills of the Lost River Mountain Range. It rises from an altitude of 5,300 feet at the southern border to 7,914 feet at the highest point. Relatively flat land surrounds it on the east, south, and west. Sagebrush and grasses cover the majority of the area, with junipers in scattered areas and some Douglas fir at higher elevations.

NATURALNESS:

The major impacts on naturalness within the unit are the numerous substantial vehicle ways which dead-end in the unit and in some cases bisect it. They are heavily used and can be found in nearly every drainage bottom. Off-road vehicle routes are located throughout the unit. Three groups of livestock watering troughs are located in the northwest portion along with several barbed wire fences. A small corral is located up Eight Mile Canyon. Outside influences are substantial to the south of the unit. Butte City is one mile from the unit, as is a large radio tower. Two powerlines follow the southern edge of the unit. Twenty borrow pits surround the unit close to its border. U. S. Route 20-26 runs along the entire southern edge of the unit with State Route 22-88 to the east and southeast. Department of Energy facilities, though distant, are visible to the east, as is agricultural activity to the west and south. Topographic and vegetative screening is insufficient to hide these imprints from casual observation. The unit does not appear to be affected primarily by natural processes.

SOLITUDE:

Desert shrubs and grasses dominate the unit and offer little vegetative screening. Screening is available in a few isolated areas where junipers and Douglas fir exist. Topographic screening is considered good in isolated areas to the north and in the central part of the unit, but in general is considered minimal for the unit as a whole.

Man caused outside influences are visible from the western, southern, and eastern slopes and affect over half of the unit and appear to be significant. Although the unit is fairly large, the irregular configuration and minimal topographic and vegetative screening do not afford opportunities for solitude that are considered outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities include hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. The unit lacks exceptional or outstanding natural features which attract primitive recreation activities. Therefore, opportunities for primitive recreation are considered less than outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The central portion of the unit has been identified as critical deer winter range. There are also geologic features of scenic value and educational importance. An archaeological site has been found near the unit, suggesting other sites within the unit's boundaries.

RECOMMENDATION:

The unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area because of a lack of naturalness and a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation.

31-13 TIMBERED DOME

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 10,240 acres of BLM land and is located in the Big Lost River Valley ten miles west of Arco. One State section forms a 3½ mile border on the west and is nearly surrounded by the unit. Very irregular borders characterize the unit; with narrow fingers of BLM land extending into adjacent private land. The unit contains foothills of the Pioneer Mountains including Timbered Dome, which rises to 8,356 feet. Several springs are contained within the unit, which feed deeply cut intermittent stream drainages. Some aspen stands cluster around the springs, and Douglas fir occurs near the top of Timbered Dome. Sagebrush and grasses form the dominant plant community.

NATURALNESS:

The major impacts within the unit are the numerous vehicle ways, which bisect or almost bisect the narrow unit and constitute a substantial impact on naturalness. Spring developments occur at four locations near the unit's core. Other impacts include a small garbage dump and livestock fences. The State section contains several substantial ways. Because of its central location within the unit, these ways are very apparent and appear to be in the heart of the area. Private land also projects into the unit creating a corridor less than 1/4 mile wide in the northern end. This private land contains fences, watering devices and vegetation visibly affected by grazing. Many vehicle ways, agricultural activity and structures and roads are clearly visible, particularly to the east. Major ways and off-road vehicle routes have affected most of the unit. Topographic and vegetative screening is insufficient to hide these imprints from casual observation. The unit does not appear to have been affected by the forces of nature.

SOLITUDE:

Vegetative screening is available only within the trees atop Timbered Dome and around the springs. Opportunities for solitude do exist deep in the canyons and high in some saddles where topographic relief could screen a visitor from others. This solitude is more difficult to encounter near the boundaries and outside the unit's canyons. The ways and other impacts in and around the unit are very difficult to avoid, and decrease the feeling of being remote or removed from others and their activities. Therefore, the unit does not contain outstanding opportunities for solitude because of its relatively small size, irregular configuration, minimal topographic and vegetative screening and the general inability to avoid others and their activities.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities include camping, hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and horseback riding. These opportunities are limited to some extent by the presence of substantial vehicle ways, imposing outside influences and the unit's irregular configuration. Additionally, the unit's relatively small size and lack of exceptional or unusual natural features render recreation opportunities less than outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The unit has high scenic values due largely to the topographic relief and interesting geologic features. Evidence of prehistoric archaeological sites has been found within the unit. The unit serves as important habitat for mule deer and black bear.

RECOMMENDATION:

The unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area because of a lack of naturalness and a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation.

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 17,800 acres of BLM land and is situated east of the White Knob Mountains, three miles west of Darlington in the Big Lost River drainage. The unit is characterized by a foothill landscape with well defined drainages containing intermittent streams which contribute to Alder Creek, the Big Lost River, and Antelope Creek. The hills in the unit represent the easternmost extension the White Knob Mountains. The higher elevations support scattered stands of Douglas fir while the remainder of the unit's vegetation is primarily sagebrush-grass. An occasional aspen-willow association can be found near active springs.

NATURALNESS:

Human imprints inside the unit consist of roads, vehicle ways, fences, two abandoned wells, a dump, watering troughs, cattle trails and a seeding. Ten miles of road penetrate the unit nearly bisecting it at five locations near the Forest Service boundary. Branching from these roads are 12 miles of ways. The way extending from the Marsh Canyon Road completely bisects the unit. Two abandoned mines occur in the unit. One is relatively small and hidden. The other is considerably more visible, including both horizontal and vertical shafts, adjacent slag mounds, and graded switchbacks leading 1/4 mile from the road. This mine and associated developments constitutes a substantial impact on naturalness. Impacts from grazing, though numerous are less obvious and often blend in with natural features. Six spring-trough developments are located within the unit. A livestock fence runs diagonally for more than a mile and forms the boundary between the unit and National Forest land. A small area of seeded grasses does not substantially affect apparent naturalness. A small revegetated borrow pit has been used as a dump. Its exposure is away from unit and contains very little trash. The overall impact of these developments appears significant. Topographic and vegetative screening is insufficient to hide these imprints from casual observation. The unit does not appear to have been affected primarily by natural processes.

SOLITUDE:

Desert shrubs dominate the unit and offer little vegetative screening. Some screening is available near the forest boundary where tree species are found near Jensen and Granite Springs. Topographic screening is good within the canyons, however, the major canyons contain improved and maintained roads which form the unit's irregular boundary. Outside influences, which are considered significant and are not well screened, include gravel pits, dumps, powerlines, irrigation ditches and agricultural lands. Although it may be possible to find opportunities for solitude in some small areas of the unit, the irregular configuration and minimal topographic and vegetative screening do not afford opportunities which are considered outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities include upland and big game hunting, camping, scenic photography, hiking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. The unit's lack of unusual or exceptional natural features and primitive recreation attractions render the recreational opportunities less than outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Areas within the unit have been identified as critical range for deer, and an abundance of raptors were sited during the inventory. Pictograph sites and surface lithic scatters found in the area indicate archaeological values exist.

RECOMMENDATION:

The unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area because of a lack of naturalness and a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation.

32-2 SANDS CANYON

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 8,010 acres of BLM land in a long, narrow configuration, and is located ten miles northwest of Howe. This unit encompasses a narrow portion of foothills of the Little Lost Mountains. Beginning at 5,600 ft. on the eastern border the hills rise to the west to 7,400 feet. This steeply rolling topography is cut by several scenic canyons, most notably the North Fork of Cedarville Canyon, Buck Canyon and Sands Canyon. The vegetation is comprised predominantly of sagebrush/bunchgrass. Mountain mahogany, Douglas fir and juniper occur in higher elevations and moist draws or aspects. Some aspen is also found in the larger canyon bottoms.

NATURALNESS:

Approximately eight miles of vehicle ways form the major impact on this unit. Four ways bisect the narrow area, the longest travels 1½ miles up the North Fork of Cedarville Canyon between the southern and western borders. Another way bisects the unit from east to west through Sands Canyon. Other ways are located in Buck and Bird Canyons. All the remaining ways enter the unit for short distances and dead-end. The cumulative impact of these eroded and substantial ways significantly detracts from the unit's naturalness. Three fence lines also enter the unit for short distances. External influences are not considered significant. Major ways and off-road vehicle routes have affected all of the unit's canyons and drainages. Topographic and vegetative screening is insufficient to hide these imprints from casual observation inside this small and narrow unit. The unit does not appear to have been affected primarily by natural processes.

SOLITUDE:

Vegetative screening is moderately good in the western portion of the unit due to scattered clumps of trees. It is fair in the rest of the unit where tree cover is sparse. Topographic screening is moderate to good where dominate ridges are broken by a number of small draws and spur ridges. The unit's terrain and vegetation are sufficient to provide a moderately good opportunity for solitude. However, in considering the relatively small size and poor configuration, the unit does not provide an opportunity for solitude that is considered outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive recreational opportunities include rock climbing, hunting, hiking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. The unit's relatively small size and lack of exceptional or unusual natural features and recreational attractions render the primitive recreation opportunities less than outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The eastern portion of the unit is crucial for antelope as a fawning ground and winter range. This same area is also winter range for sage grouse and mule deer. A threatened plant, the Idaho Bladderpod is found in the unit. The unit is also of important archaeological value; rock shelters with pictographs, hunting blinds and surface lithic scatters occur in this area.

RECOMMENDATION:

The unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area because of a lack of naturalness and a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation.

32-4 TAYLOR MOUNTAIN

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 11,134 acres of BLM land, with a 640-acre inholding of State land. This acreage figure differs from the 11,160 acres shown in the August 1979 report due to a more accurate calculation of acreage. It is located six miles west of Clyde in the Little Lost River Valley. The unit is hilly and characterized by well defined drainages. Taylor Mountain is the main focal point in the unit, rising to nearly 8,700 feet. The Red Hills, southeast of Taylor Mountain, occupy 2/3 of the unit. Most of the land surface is covered with sagebrush and grasses. The higher elevations, and particularly the north side of Taylor Mountain, support Douglas fir and junipers. Isolated pockets of mountain mahogany are present in some drainages and on higher slopes.

NATURALNESS:

The major impacts on naturalness include livestock fences, watering developments and ways. Approximately ten miles of ways skirt or bisect the unit. One encircles the base of Taylor Mountain, others follow fence lines within the unit or provide short cuts on eastern boundary roads. Livestock developments include watering troughs along the north boundary and a three-mile fence near the south boundary. Most of these impacts are widely scattered and not substantially noticeable. The unit appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature..

SOLITUDE:

Desert shrubs and grasses dominate the unit and offer little vegetative screening. An exception is the north facing slope of Taylor Mountain where tree species occur. Topographic screening is moderate to poor except on the north side of Taylor Mountain. The Dry Creek Flume and traffic along the major roads to the north and east appear to be significant external influences. Although it may be possible to find opportunities for solitude in some small areas within the unit, the relatively small size and minimal topographic and vegetative screening do not afford opportunities that are outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive and unconfined recreational opportunities include camping, hiking, horseback riding, and photography. The unit's relatively small size and lack of exceptional or unusual natural features and recreational attractions render the recreation opportunities less than outstanding. There is little significant physical and mental challenge associated with the recreation opportunities.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The unit is important as habitat for wildlife with most of the unit identified as antelope fawning grounds, and a small portion of the southeast corner antelope winter range. Two threatened plants grow inside the unit; Idaho Bladderpod and Invested Cryptantha. Numerous archaeological sites exist in the unit, including rock shelters, hunting blinds and surface lithic scatters.

RECOMMENDATION:

Although portions of the unit are natural, the unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area because of a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation.

32-16 PASS CREEK

Unit 32-16 was identified in the August 1979 report as containing 11,330 acres, in two parcels. The larger, northernmost parcel is now being evaluated as part of Unit 45-12, with the Salmon District narrative (See page 5-11), due to a reevaluation of a previously identified road separating Units 32-16 and 45-12. The southernmost parcel contains 1,220 acres and is covered below as Unit 32-16.

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 1,220 acres of BLM land and lies 12 miles west of Clyde in the northwest portion of the Little Lost Valley. It is $3/4$ - 1 mile wide and $2 \frac{1}{4}$ miles long and is adjacent to the Forest Service Borah Peak wilderness proposal on its one mile western boundary. The parcel creates a narrow peninsula which extends from the Borah Peak area and is not considered of sufficient size to be managed in an unimpaired condition.

NATURALNESS:

Man-made imprints within the unit are not substantial. The area appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

SOLITUDE:

Topographic and vegetative screening in the unit are considered minimal and render opportunities for solitude less than outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive recreation opportunities within the unit include hiking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, camping and backpacking. However, these opportunities are considered less than outstanding due to the narrow configuration. Additionally, this unit lacks exceptional or unusual natural features and recreational attractions.

RECOMMENDATION:

The unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area because it does not meet the size criteria, or the solitude-recreation criteria.

33-5 SKULL

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 8,650 acres of BLM land with a 640-acre State inholding, and is located 13 miles south of Atomic City and 12 miles southeast of Big Southern Butte. The unit lacks significant topographic relief, varying a maximum of 200 feet. Vegetation is largely sagebrush with grass species dominating in those areas that have been subjected to brush control.

NATURALNESS:

The most significant impacts within the unit are vehicle trails. Over 11 miles of ways occur in the unit, with two of them bisecting the area from east to west. These ways vary, with some approaching the definition of a road while others are faint and appear to receive infrequent use. Camp Reservoir, on the western border, is a small development with minimal impact. A 640-acre brush control project has some effect on the naturalness of this area. Agricultural use around Moreland is visible from the unit, but the view is not imposing.

SOLITUDE:

Opportunities for experiencing solitude in this unit are limited by the lack of vegetative or topographic screening. Vehicles traveling the border roads can be seen or heard from nearly every point. There is only a limited opportunity to avoid the activities of others within the unit. The small size and lack of vegetative and topographic screening do not afford opportunities that are outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities include hiking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing and upland game bird hunting. The unit's small size and lack of exceptional or unusual natural features and recreation attractions render the recreation opportunities less than outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The western border of this unit is of historical and anthropological value. Before the pioneers moved west, this route was an Indian trail. Archaeologists believe there are several significant sites along it. During pioneer times this road was known as Goodale's Cutoff, an alternate northern route for the Oregon Trail between Fort Hall and Boise.

RECOMMENDATION:

Although portions of the unit are natural, the unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area because of a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation.

33-6 RYE GRASS

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 8,000 acres of BLM land. This acreage figure differs from the 9,150 acres shown in the August 1979 report due to a more accurate calculation of acreage. It is located 12 miles southeast of Big Southern Butte and 14 miles south of Atomic City. This area is generally flat with no more than 300 ft. in elevation change over the entire unit. The vegetative community consists mainly of sagebrush and grasses. Non-native grass species occur in areas that have been subjected to brush control and artificial plantings. These areas contrast dramatically with the sagebrush dominated areas.

NATURALNESS:

Vehicle ways are the major impact in the unit. Nine and one-half miles of ways enter the unit, the most substantial trail is six miles long and bisects the unit on a meandering east-west path. There are two small reservoirs in the southeast portion of the unit. A 3,200-acre brush control project within the area has a significant affect on naturalness. The borders between the controlled areas and the sage dominated areas are abrupt and unnaturally linear. Topographic and vegetative screening is insufficient to hide these imprints from casual observation. The unit does not appear to have been affected primarily by natural processes.

SOLITUDE:

Desert shrubs and grasses dominate the unit and offer little vegetative screening. Topographic screening is considered minimal throughout the unit. Vehicles traveling the border roads can be seen or heard from nearly every point within the unit and are considered significant outside influences. The unit's small size and lack of vegetative and topographic screening do not afford opportunities that are outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities include hiking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing and upland game bird hunting. The unit's small size and lack of exceptional or unusual natural features and recreation attractions render the recreation opportunities less than outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The eastern border road is of both historical and anthropological value. The road, known as Goodale's Cutoff, was an alternative northern route for the Oregon Trail between Fort Hall and Boise. Before the pioneers moved west this same route was an Indian trail. Archaeologists believe this route has several significant sites scattered along it.

RECOMMENDATION:

The unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area because of a lack of naturalness, and a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation.

33-7 COTTONTAIL

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 9,300 acres of BLM land. This acreage figure differs from the 8,300 acres shown in the August 1979 report due to a typographical error in the August report. The unit is approximately 12 miles south of Big Southern Butte and 14 miles southwest of Atomic City. This unit has little topographic relief, varying a maximum of 300 feet. The area is dominated by low sagebrush with little other vegetation. Part of the unit has undergone brush control and seedings of crested wheatgrass, with these areas contrasting dramatically to the sage-dominated communities.

NATURALNESS:

Vehicle ways are the dominant impact on the naturalness of this unit. Seven miles of jeep trails and substantial ways enter the unit, the longest bisects the unit from east to west. Brush control and seeding activities also affect the naturalness of this unit. The border between the natural sage community and manipulated areas is abrupt. Approximately 1/3 of the unit has been seeded, substantially affecting apparent naturalness. Topographic and vegetative screening is insufficient to hide these imprints of man from casual observation. The unit does not appear to have been affected primarily by natural processes.

SOLITUDE:

Little topographic or vegetative screening occurs in the unit, significantly limiting opportunities for solitude. Vehicles moving along roads around the unit are clearly visible and are considered significant outside influences. The unit's small size and lack of vegetative and topographic screening does not afford opportunities that are outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities include hiking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing and upland game bird hunting. The unit's small size and lack of exceptional or unusual natural features and recreation attractions render the recreation opportunities less than outstanding.

RECOMMENDATION:

The unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area because of a lack of naturalness, and a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation.

33-12 SPLIT TOP

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 18,080 acres of BLM land, with a State land inholding of 640 acres. It is located 27 miles southeast of Arco and 25 miles northwest of American Falls. The topography of the unit is flat or gently rolling with the most prominent feature being the 5,563 ft. Split Top Butte which rises 200 ft. above the surrounding plain. Lava features such as caves, lava tubes and volcanic uplift areas occur throughout the unit. Because of the limited precipitation characteristic of this desert environment, vegetation in the unit is sparse. Big sagebrush is the dominant plant, with a variety of bunchgrasses and forbs scattered throughout the area. In some portions of the unit the natural vegetation has been replaced by artificially planted non-native grasses.

NATURALNESS:

Approximately 24 miles of vehicle ways form a major impact on the naturalness of this unit. These ways vary from faint jeep tracks to deeply rutted and frequently used access routes that are very substantial in nature. They criss-cross and bisect all portions of the unit. In the eastern half vegetation has been heavily impacted by brush control measures and mechanical seeding with crested wheatgrass. The linear nature of the seedings between sagebrush and grass creates an unnatural pattern and a substantial impact on the apparent naturalness of the unit. Seven miles of fence in the unit have a minimal impact on the area's naturalness. Major ways, off-road vehicle routes and man-caused vegetative changes have affected most of the unit. Topographic and vegetative screening is insufficient to hide these imprints of man from casual observation. The unit does not appear to have been affected primarily by natural processes.

SOLITUDE:

Desert shrubs and grasses dominate the unit and offer little vegetative screening. Topographic screening is considered minimal throughout the unit. Vehicles traveling the border roads can be seen from a large percentage of the unit and are considered significant outside influences. The unit's lack of topographic and vegetative screening does not afford opportunities that are outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

This unit provides excellent opportunities for a diversity of primitive recreation activities. The presence of several caves and collapsed lava tubes within the unit provide outstanding opportunities for spelunking. The rolling topography also provides good opportunities for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing in the winter as well as hiking and horseback riding during the summer months.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Archaeologists have identified several surface lithic scatter sites as well as rock shelters.

This unit has also been identified as critical winter habitat for sage grouse and pronghorn antelope. The unit has several caves, lava tubes and other volcanic features which are important geological, educational and scenic resources.

RECOMMENDATION:

Although the unit provides outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation, it does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area because it fails to meet the naturalness criteria.

33-13 BEAR POINT

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 20,650 acres of BLM land, with a 640-acre state inholding. It is located approximately 15 miles southwest of Big Southern Butte. The topography of the unit is gently rolling with a maximum elevational difference of 400 feet. Several lava outcrops occur throughout the unit. A segment of the Great Rift fracture extends over two miles into the northwest corner. The vegetation is a result of low annual precipitation; Big Desert sagebrush is the predominant species, with a mixture of bunchgrasses and forbs. In some portions this natural vegetation has been interrupted by artificial seedings of introduced non-native grass species.

NATURALNESS:

Approximately 20 miles of vehicle ways have a significant effect on the naturalness of this unit. These ways vary in intensity from light duty jeep tracks to very substantial trails that are frequently used and have deep ruts. At least four ways bisect the unit. Off-road vehicle trails are located in most sections of the unit. Four small reservoirs exist within one mile of the boundary roads on all four sides. Over 1/4 of the unit, vegetation has been altered through brush control projects. The borders between these controlled areas and the natural sage dominated areas are abrupt and appear unnaturally linear. Topographic and vegetative screening is insufficient to hide these imprints from casual observation. The unit does not appear to have been affected primarily by natural processes.

SOLITUDE:

Desert shrubs and grasses dominate the unit and offer little vegetative screening. Topographic screening is considered minimal throughout the unit. Vehicles traveling border roads can be seen from approximately 1/4 of the unit and are considered moderate outside influences. Despite the lack of topographic and vegetative screening, the unit's large size and excellent configuration appear to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities include hunting, hiking, backpacking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and horseback riding. The unit lacks exceptional or unusual natural features and recreational attractions which renders the recreation opportunities less than outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

This unit has been identified as critical range for pronghorn antelope and sage grouse. Archaeologists have also identified this area as having good potential for sites.

RECOMMENDATION:

Although the unit provides outstanding opportunities for solitude, it does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area because it fails to meet the naturalness criteria.

33-14 MOSBY BUTTE

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 35,720 acres of BLM land with two State sections as inholdings. The eastern boundary is 19 miles west of American Falls Reservoir. Topography in the unit is generally flat with occasional rises, interrupted periodically by volcanic exposures and collapsed lava tubes. Major landmarks in the unit include Bear Trap Lava Tube, Cottrell's Blowout, Inferno Chasm, Horse Butte, Sullivan's Cave, and Mosby Butte. Due to an average annual rainfall of 11-13 inches, vegetation is limited to sagebrush and grasses.

NATURALNESS:

The predominant human imprint in the unit is the presence of vehicle ways, the cumulative impact of which is extremely substantial. Some ways, particularly those leading to livestock watering areas, are well used routes. Extending over 50 miles the ways form a complex network of loops, dead ends and multiple routes which criss-cross and bisect the unit. The impact is most noticeable in the unit's southern portion where the highest concentration occurs. Garbage has been dumped in Inferno Chasm, a frequently visited spot, and adversely affects the natural appearance of this important geologic feature. Brush control, seedings, and livestock reservoirs are present but do not substantially affect the apparent naturalness due to their small size in comparison to the size of the unit. Major ways and off-road vehicle routes have affected most of the unit. Topographic and vegetative screening is insufficient to hide these imprints from casual observation. The unit does not appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

SOLITUDE:

Desert shrubs and grasses dominate the unit and offer little vegetative screening. Topographic screening is considered minimal throughout the unit. Traffic on the major roads which form the boundaries affect only peripheral areas and are not considered a substantial external influence. Despite the lack of topographic and vegetative screening, the unit's large size and good configuration appear to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities include hunting, hiking, backpacking, cross-country skiing, spelunking and photography. The unusual and exceptional volcanic features such as lava tubes, cinder cones, and caves provide recreational attractions which offer outstanding opportunities.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Bear Trap Lava Tube, Creon's Cave, Cottrell's Blowout, Inferno Chasm, and Horse Butte are prominent geologic features which possess educational and scenic values. The entire unit has been identified as a sage grouse booming ground and brood-rearing area. The west side of the unit is considered critical antelope range. The unit contains areas of archaeological significance, with surface lithic scatters in the vicinity of Bear Trip Cave.

RECOMMENDATION:

Although the unit provides outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation, it does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area because it fails to meet the naturalness criteria.

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 9,420 acres of BLM land and is located five miles north of Blackfoot. Topographic relief across the unit is minimal with an elevation variation of 300 feet. It includes the southernmost extension of the 4,100 year old Hell's Half Acre lava flow. Almost the entire unit is lava with collapsed lava tubes, caves, fissures and other volcanic features in the unit. Vegetation is sparse due to low rainfall and limited soil development. Scattered junipers, forbs, grasses, and prickly pear cactus form the vegetative community on the lava. Some ferns occur deep in cool, moist cracks.

NATURALNESS:

Impacts within the unit include vehicle ways, evidence of lava trespass, and dumping sites, however, none of these impacts can be considered very substantial. Two ways in the northeast corner of the unit are apparent only due to an absence of vegetation along a narrow corridor on the flow, and appear to be access ways to areas where lava has been removed from the flow. Littering and minor dumping has occurred along the northern powerline road. An abandoned automobile lies in a collapsed lava tube on the unit border.

SOLITUDE:

Solitude cannot be termed outstanding due to the unit's narrow width, poor configuration and vulnerability to outside influences. Agricultural land and associated activities intrude to the unit's border on the east, west, and south. Flat topography and sparse vegetative cover provide little screening from adjacent human activities and limit the opportunity to avoid others within the unit. The unit's narrow width is also a limiting factor. A feeling of remoteness can only be found in the low areas and depressions in the lava flow where topographic screening is sufficient to block out human influences.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive and unconfined recreational opportunities include geologic sightseeing, photography, hiking, and camping. The concentration, frequency and variety of unusual natural features and recreational attractions are not considered exceptional throughout this portion of the Hell's Half Acre lava flow. The unit's narrowness also tends to confine recreation opportunities.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The entire unit is a recent lava flow which represents a significant geologic process of scientific and educational value. Pioneer vegetative communities coupled with the occurrence of ferns, a high moisture-demanding plant not usually found in the desert, offer uncommon ecological values of educational importance. Prehistoric and historic sites of archaeological value are present.

RECOMMENDATION:

Although portions of the unit meet the naturalness criteria, it does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area due to lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation.

33-22 COX'S PLACE

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 12,790 acres of BLM land and is located 15 miles southwest of Big Southern Butte. This flat unit varies only 300 feet in elevation, with the highest point 5,352 feet. Vegetation is sparse and low, consisting mostly of sagebrush and grasses.

NATURALNESS:

Vehicle ways constitute a significant impact on the area, as they completely cross the unit in four places. Five reservoirs are within the unit with ways leading to them. A fence crosses the north half, another runs through the western portion. Cox's airstrip is a significant outside impact due to its close proximity, and to the north Cox's Well and associated structures are visible. Major ways, off-road vehicle routes and livestock developments have affected much of the area. Topographic and vegetative screening is insufficient to hide these imprints from casual observation. The unit does not appear to have been affected primarily by natural processes.

SOLITUDE:

There is almost no topographic or vegetative screening and the area is not large enough to isolate visitors from outside influences and from each other. The unit's small size and lack of vegetative and topographic screening do not afford opportunities that are outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive and unconfined recreational opportunities include camping, hiking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. The unit's small size and lack of exceptional or unusual natural features and recreational attractions render the recreation opportunities less than outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Portions of the unit are critical antelope range and sage grouse booming and brood rearing grounds. Possibilities for archaeological sites are high, due to known sites near the border.

RECOMMENDATION:

The unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area because of a lack of naturalness and a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation.

33-23 BEAR TRAP

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 13,860 acres of BLM land with a 640-acre State inholding. It is located approximately 25 miles west of American Falls Reservoir and five miles north of the Crystal Ice Caves. The unit's topography is characterized by low hills with flat basins; elevation varies only 300 feet across the unit. Older volcanic features, which are well vegetated, interrupt the landscape. A collapsed lava tube beginning at Bear Trap Cave extends five miles northeast into the south portion of the unit. One low butte occurs in the northwest corner where several small caves can be found. A series of parallel cracks in the earth's surface extend through the unit's central portion and delineates the path of the Great Rift, an important geologic feature. Vegetation in the unit is principally sagebrush-grass. Several ephemeral ponds are found along the unit's west side.

NATURALNESS:

The major impact affecting naturalness in the unit is the existence of many vehicle ways, with ten miles of substantial ways completely bisecting the unit in three places, while an additional eight miles penetrate the unit. Off-road vehicle trails are located in many sections of the unit. Topographic and vegetative screening is insufficient to hide these imprints from casual observation. The unit does not appear to have been affected primarily by natural processes.

SOLITUDE:

Desert shrubs and grasses dominate the unit and offer little vegetative screening. Some topographic screening is present where rock outcropping and grottos occur, but is considered minimal throughout the unit. Although it may be possible to find opportunities for solitude in small areas within the unit, the small size, irregular configuration (particularly the southwestern portion) and minimal topographic and vegetative screening do not afford opportunities that are outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities include hunting, hiking, geologic sightseeing, photography, spelunking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. The unit contains several exceptional and unusual natural features and recreational attractions. They include volcanic features such as low buttes, collapsed lava tubes, fissures in the earth's surface and caves. Physical and mental challenge is considered significant with the recreational activities. Recreational opportunities are considered outstanding within the unit.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Proximity to Bear Trap Cave, a well-known archaeological site possessing considerable surface lithic scatters, suggest that this unit may contain important sites and information regarding early inhabitants - the Shoshone and Bannock tribes. The unit has also been identified as critical antelope range as well as a sage grouse booming ground and brood-rearing area. The cracks of the Great Rift, which occur in the northwest to southeast portion of the unit, are of noteworthy geological interest.

RECOMMENDATION:

Although the unit contains outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation, it does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area due to a lack of naturalness.

33-24 FIRTH QUAD ISLANDS

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit consists of three islands totalling 86 acres of BLM land. The islands are located in a 1.8 mile stretch of the main stem of the Snake River, within 1/4 mile of the communities of Firth and Basalt. The islands are generally flat. They are well vegetated with cottonwood, willow, sage, and grasses; vegetation is dense around the perimeters. The surrounding river is shallow and relatively slow moving.

NATURALNESS:

The natural character of these islands is impacted by the proximity of human activity. The channel to island 2 is so shallow that the neighboring landowner frequently drives across; vehicle ways are apparent on the island. Litter is scattered over all the islands, some of it carried there by the Teton Dam flood, the remainder by local recreationists. Vehicles are plainly visible from the islands, and traffic from U. S. 26/91 is easily heard and fairly constant. Houses are located directly across the narrow channels from the islands, as are agricultural areas and accompanying farm machinery.

Fluctuations of the water level are not usually caused by natural forces, with water diversion structures lining the river, substantially decreasing flow during the irrigation season.

MANAGEABILITY:

Due to the shallow narrow channels, prevention of vehicle crossings from the shore to the islands would be very difficult. They are small and are surrounded by agricultural and residential areas. Managing these islands in an unimpaired state would be virtually impossible due to their size, location, variability of river flow, and channel separation from the mainland.

SOLITUDE:

Vegetative screening is considered good on all three islands. Topographic screening is minimal. External influences are considered substantial and so imposing that they cannot be avoided. Due to the islands small size, general lack of screening and imposing outside influences, opportunities for solitude are not considered outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive and unconfined recreational opportunities include fishing, hunting, and camping. Thick brush and a few openings inhibit camping opportunities. The unnatural water level fluctuations and low water quality reduce fishing opportunities and wildlife populations are not particularly abundant. Primitive recreation is considered less than outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

These islands provide habitat for beaver, rabbits, deer and some waterfowl.

RECOMMENDATION:

These islands do not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area because of a lack of naturalness, lack of manageability, and lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation.

33-25 MORELAND QUAD ISLANDS

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit consists of seven islands totalling 807 acres of BLM land. They are located along a 4.7 mile stretch of the main stem of the Snake River downstream from Blackfoot, and four miles south of Moreland. The islands are generally flat. They are well vegetated with cottonwood, willow, sage, and grasses; vegetation is dense around the perimeters. The surrounding river is shallow, meandering and slow moving.

NATURALNESS:

Impacts on the islands include bulldozer tracks, motorcycle and other vehicle tracks, livestock fences, junk autos and litter. Bulldozer tracks and severe vegetation damage cut into the western end of island 8. Island 6 has been extensively used by motorcycles and has well worn trails on it. Fences were found on island 8 and several junk autos on islands 9 and 10. Trash and litter were found on all of the islands. External influences of a nearby highway and agricultural lands are considered substantial. None of the islands are large enough nor do they provide enough screening to hide these imprints from casual observation. The unit does not appear to have been affected primarily by natural processes.

MANAGEABILITY:

Islands 4, 6, 8, 9, and 10 are not actually islands during the irrigation season and drier months of the year, when the river channels dry up. Channels separating the other islands from the mainland are extremely shallow during low water seasons. Due to their small size, variability of river flow and channel separation from the mainland, it is not considered practicable to manage the islands in an unimpaired condition.

SOLITUDE:

Vegetative screening is considered good on all islands. Topographic screening is minimal. External influences are considered substantial and so imposing that they cannot be ignored or avoided. Due to the island's small size, general lack of screening and imposing outside influences, opportunities for solitude are not considered outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive and unconfined recreational opportunities include fishing, hunting, and camping. Thick brush and few openings inhibit camping opportunities. The unnatural water level fluctuations and low water quality reduce fishing opportunities and wildlife populations are not particularly abundant. Primitive recreation opportunities are considered less than outstanding.

RECOMMENDATION:

These islands do not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area because of a lack of naturalness, lack of manageability, and lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation.

IDAHO FALLS DISTRICT
UNITS PROPOSED AS
WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 25,500 acres of BLM land with a 640-acre State inholding. The unit has a semi-triangular form and is located two miles south of Darlington, two miles east of Grouse and five miles northwest of Arco.

Lying between the Antelope Creek and Big Lost River drainages, the unit contains several intermittent streams which contribute to both major drainages. The unit is mountainous, with Crawford Peak rising to 8,523 feet, 2,900 feet above Antelope Valley. Lower elevation hills are generally rounded, supporting sagebrush and grass. Several canyons contain impressive rock outcrops and caves. High northfacing slopes support concentrated stands of Douglas fir; choke-cherry and mountain mahogany can be found on slopes and canyon walls. Stands of aspen accompanied by willows grow in Newman and Chokeycherry Canyons.

NATURALNESS:

In the unit's northeast corner, rocks have been dumped in piles just inside the unit. The unit boundary has been adjusted to exclude these impacts. Four small mining scars are evident just inside the unit near Newman Canyon. They appear insignificant and revegetation has made them less noticeable. A larger rectangular mining scar forms a ditch but is not a major intrusion. Two borrow pits occur near the borders. Their visual impact is minimal as they are partially revegetated and their aspect faces out of the unit. Eight livestock watering sites consisting of spring developments with troughs or tanks are spaced throughout the unit. While exposed soil is noticeable at these spots, erosion seems to be minimal and usually localized. Approximately 18 miles of vehicle ways penetrate the unit. Many are related to livestock maintenance, while others provide access for hunters. The longest vehicle access enters the unit from the northeast tip, and eventually winds up to Crawford Rock on Appendicitis Hill. A small reservoir appears as a grassy depression and is not a significant imprint. Human imprints, distributed mainly around the periphery, are judged to be substantially unnoticeable. The unit's large size and good topographic and vegetative screening tend to decrease the effect of most impacts on apparent naturalness. The unit as a whole appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

SOLITUDE:

The deep, narrow, meandering canyon systems and rugged mountainous region provide excellent topographic screening. At the Crawford Peak summit and on the ridge tops topographic screening is moderate. Vegetative screening is good on hillsides and in the canyons where tree species occur and moderate on ridges and slopes that support desert shrub species. Topographic and vegetative screening is poor in the far western corner of the unit where the boundary narrows to approximately 1/4 mile. Opportunities for solitude are considered less than outstanding within this small finger of land totalling 300 acres. The relatively large size and good configuration combined with generally good topographic and vegetative screening afford outstanding opportunities for solitude.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Recreation opportunities include hiking, backpacking, hunting, wildlife observation, scenic photography, climbing, and sightseeing for botanical and geological features. The unusual or exceptional natural features and diversity of recreational attractions provide opportunities for primitive recreation which are considered outstanding. These features and attractions are lacking in the 300 acre parcel at the far western corner of the unit, with opportunities considered less than outstanding in this small parcel. There appears to be significant physical challenge associated with cross-country travel in the area due to the rugged terrain.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

A large part of this unit has been identified as critical deer range and a smaller portion as critical range for elk. The unit has heavy concentrations of chukar partridges and raptors as well as booming grounds and a brood-rearing area for sage grouse. Numerous archaeological sites occur in the unit, including pictographs and surface lithic scatters.

REHABILITATION:

The borrow pits and mining scars are in the process of natural revegetation and will be substantially unnoticeable in a few years. The vehicle ways would also revegetate with time, with the exclusion of vehicles. The amount of trash that has been dumped in the unit is small and easily removable.

RECOMMENDATION:

Small portions of the unit fail to meet the naturalness criteria, another small area fails to meet the solitude-recreation criteria. An area of 24,870 acres should be identified as a Wilderness Study Area as it meets the naturalness and the solitude-recreation criteria.

It should be noted that recommendation of this unit as a Wilderness Study Area was a tough judgment decision, as it relates to meeting the naturalness criteria (the number of ways penetrating the unit). Where tough judgment decisions such as this have been made, we particularly solicit public input as to why they do or do not believe wilderness characteristics are present.

31-17 WHITE KNOB MOUNTAINS

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 9,950 acres of BLM land. This figure differs from the 9,900 acres shown in the August 1979 report due to more accurate calculation of acreage. The unit is located less than one mile north of Grouse, a community in Antelope Valley. On the north a road penetrates approximately 2 1/2 miles into the core of the unit. The unit is mountainous, with its highest point rising 2,000 ft. above Antelope Valley to an elevation of 7,955 ft. Many well defined drainages with southward orientations feed Cherry and Antelope Creeks, just outside the unit. While the majority of the unit supports a sagebrush-bunchgrass complex, scattered and concentrated stands of Douglas fir occur at higher elevations. Mountain mahogany is often found between the sage-to-Douglas fir transition or on the tops and slopes of lower hills with cooler aspects. Several pockets of aspen and willow surround moist spring areas in upper Waddoups Canyon.

NATURALNESS:

Livestock grazing has little impact on the unit's apparent naturalness. Cattle trails and salting areas generally are not obvious. Near springs, pipes have been sunk to feed small troughs. Trampling in the area immediately surrounding each tank is evident though good vegetative and topographic screening tends to mitigate the impact. The remains of a relatively small reservoir are situated at the end of the way in Ras Canyon. Vegetation has come back on the dam making it quite unnoticeable. Six vehicle ways penetrate the unit at various locations. These ways appear to receive infrequent use and their impact is not substantial. External influences are not considered substantial and do not affect apparent naturalness. Topographic and vegetative screening is sufficient to hide these minor imprints from casual observation. The unit appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

SOLITUDE:

Vegetative screening is considered excellent at higher elevations and fair near the unit's southern border. The deeply cut drainages and generally mountainous topography offer good to excellent topographic screening. The unit contains adequate topographic and vegetative screening affording outstanding opportunities for solitude.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

The unit offers a variety of primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities including hunting, camping, hiking, photography, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing. The unit is presently used for deer and sage grouse hunting. A year-round water source and aspen groves offer good camping sites. The recreational opportunities are considered outstanding because of the unusual natural features and recreational attractions associated with the unit's canyons. There is significant challenge, both mental and physical, associated with some of the recreation activities.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The abundance of deer, antelope and sage grouse suggests that this area contains important habitat. The unit has been identified as having numerous archaeological sites including hunting blinds, rock shelters and surface lithic scatters, which offer archaeological and educational values.

REHABILITATION:

A small trash pile could easily be removed using hand labor. Water troughs and ways would then constitute the only noticeable human imprints remaining in the unit. Restricting vehicular access would allow natural revegetation within a few years and the troughs could easily be removed.

RECOMMENDATION:

The unit, containing 9,950 acres, should be identified as a Wilderness Study Area as it meets the naturalness, and the solitude-recreation criteria.

It should be noted that recommendation of this unit as a Wilderness Study Area was a tough judgment decision as it relates to the configuration of the unit caused by the road penetrating from the north, the number of ways within the unit, and the size of the unit as it may effect the determination of outstanding. Where tough judgment decisions such as this have been made, we particularly solicit public input as to why they do or do not believe wilderness characteristics are present.

32-3 HAWLEY MOUNTAIN

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 16,150 acres of BLM land with two State section inholdings. It lies 2½ miles southwest of Clyde on the eastern edge of the Lost River Range. The unit completely encompasses Hawley Mountain. The base of the mountain begins at about 6,000 feet and rises sharply to 9,752 feet. Well-defined drainages fan out in all directions toward the unit boundary. Vegetation at lower elevations is dominated by a sagebrush/bunchgrass community. Large stands of older mountain mahogany and some Douglas fir blanket the higher elevations in about half the unit. Much of the summit and associated ridges are dominated by rock outcrops and talus slopes.

NATURALNESS:

Approximately six miles of vehicle ways penetrate the unit, the longest climbs a basin in the northern part. Another of these ways travels up Hawley Canyon 1¼ miles before terminating. Other ways are faint jeep trails which penetrate not more than a half mile into the unit. Impacts resulting from livestock grazing include scattered parcels of cropped grasses on lower slopes, an old seeding along the western border, and a few fences which penetrate a short distance into the area. None of these impacts significantly detract from the apparent naturalness of this unit. On the southwest side of Hawley Mountain old growth mountain mahogany stands have been thinned. This project has little impact on apparent naturalness. On the southeast side of the unit there is a small old garbage dump. External influences are not considered significant.

Due to the cumulative impact of several vehicle ways, powerlines, grazing and numerous campsites, an adjustment in the boundary has been made on the northwest side along Wet Creek. The new border runs along the easternmost vehicle way, excluding these impacts, and trims 630 acres from the unit. The boundary is also adjusted slightly along a new segment of the Deer Creek Road, resulting in a deletion of 10 acres. Other impacts on naturalness are minor and not substantial. The unit as a whole appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature.

SOLITUDE:

Within the Hawley Mountain Unit there exist outstanding opportunities for experiencing solitude. The rugged terrain and timber on the upper slopes provide excellent topographic and vegetative screening. Views of the Little Lost Valley from within the unit enhance these feelings of isolation. The valley is sparsely populated and human activities appear to be very remote. The unit is of sufficient size for a visitor to avoid the activities of others within the unit.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Hunting is an outstanding recreational activity within this area. Deer, antelope, elk, and sage grouse all utilize this unit extensively. Hiking, horseback riding, rock climbing, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing are also outstanding recreational opportunities. The gentle lower slopes and the rugged, rocky upper slopes provide a wide diversity of environments for these recreational activities.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The unit contains important habitat for a variety of wildlife. Pronghorn antelope use the southwest portion of the unit as a migration route and the north and west portions as fawning grounds. The lower slopes have been identified as sage grouse nesting and brood-rearing areas along with mule deer winter range. Views to the west of the proposed Borah Peak wilderness provide striking vistas from Hawley Mountain's summit. This is also true of the view of the Lemhi Range and jagged Diamond Peak to the east. Within this unit two threatened plants have been identified: Invested cryptantha and Idaho Hymenopappus. This unit is also of archaeological importance; hunting blinds, surface lithic scatters and rock shelters, are located throughout the area.

REHABILITATION:

With restrictions on vehicular access the ways within the unit should revegetate in two to five years. Seeding of the more impacted areas and the use of water bars to channel water off the ruts would speed this process. The small garbage dump could easily be removed using hand labor.

RECOMMENDATION:

Small portions of the unit do not meet the naturalness criteria. An area of 15,510 acres should be identified as a Wilderness Study Area as it meets the naturalness and the solitude-recreation criteria.

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 5,400 acres of BLM land. This figure differs from the 5,220 acres shown in the August 1979 report. The initial inventory located the southern boundary along a legal subdivision. After reevaluation in the field it was determined that a more appropriate boundary would be a way near the subdivision line, resulting in an increase in 180 acres. The unit lies in the foothills of the Lemhi Range between the Birch Creek and Little Lost River Valleys. The rugged Lemhi Range rises from the southern unit boundary to a height of 7,455 feet in the northwest portion. Several deep canyons cut the area with steep rock walls and intermittent streams. Junipers outline the stratification of sedimentary rocks on the upper slopes. A few dense patches of Douglas fir occur on higher points in the unit. A sagebrush/bunchgrass community dominates the lower slopes and canyons.

NATURALNESS:

Two vehicle trails penetrate the unit from the south following canyon bottoms. A faint spur trail runs a short distance to Jackknife Cave on the west wall of the eastern canyon. A barbed wire fence is located in the northeast portion of the unit.

External influences are considered minimal, and include distant sights of agricultural lands and associated structures and the Department of Energy facilities to the east.

Even though the unit is small, the natural features of the area are so prominent and of such high interest that the casual observer would tend to overlook the imprints of man in favor of examining the natural features. The area generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

SOLITUDE:

Extensive topographic variation combined with some vegetative screening make opportunities for solitude outstanding. The deep, winding canyons, caves, rock outcrops and scattered junipers offer outstanding opportunities for visitors to avoid others within the unit.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Opportunities for rock-climbing and spelunking are outstanding in this unit. The many rock outcrops, faces and cliffs provide excellent possibilities for climbing. Numerous caves are located in the area and these offer opportunities for exploring. Hiking up the canyons and viewing the variety of beautiful rock formations is also an outstanding opportunity. The unique geologic features found in this area combined with wildlife populations make this unit a good location for photography. Overall the quality of recreational opportunities is considered outstanding because of the exceptional or unusual natural features and recreational attractions throughout the unit.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Rock formations in this unit have important geologic, scenic, and educational values.

The unit is also important habitat for the prairie falcon, golden eagle, kestrels, Cooper's hawk, goshawk, sharp-shinned hawk, great horned owl, and red-tailed hawk. In addition, this area is historic bighorn sheep range. The unit is of important archaeological value, containing numerous rock shelters, pictographs and surface lithic scatters. Locations in the unit show evidence of human use dating back 10,000 years.

REHABILITATION:

Vehicle trails and ways are considered light and should revegetate through natural processes.

RECOMMENDATION:

The unit, containing 5,400 acres, should be identified as a Wilderness Study Area as it meets the naturalness, and the solitude-recreation criteria.

It should be noted that recommendation of this unit as a Wilderness Study Area was a tough judgment decision as it relates to the several ways existing in the unit, and the size of the unit as it may effect the determination of outstanding. Where tough judgment decisions such as this have been made, we particularly solicit public input as to why they do or do not believe wilderness characteristics are present.

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 38,820 acres of BLM land with two State section inholdings. It is located just south of Atomic City with the northern tip of the unit lying five miles east of Big Southern Butte. The unit contains all but the northern tip of the Cerro Grande lava flow, which dates back to 10,780 ± 300 years old. Several more recent flows overlie the old flow. Volcanic features including blow-out craters, lava tubes and caves characterize the area. The source vent represents the highest point in the unit at 5,235 ft. Nowhere in the area does elevation drop below 4,600 ft. illustrating the unit's flat topography. The vegetation in the northern portion is characterized by bunch grasses, concentrated in the lava cracks where soil accumulation is greatest. Junipers and sage become more prevalent toward the central and southern portions where greater soil development has occurred.

NATURALNESS:

While the unit boundary tends to follow the edge of the lava flow, certain areas along the perimeter include a narrow margin of desert range. These are the most impacted areas, in particular, land adjacent to agriculture areas along the southeast corner of the lava flow where dumps, rock piles and vehicle ways exist. A livestock trough and some small excavations occur in the northwest corner. Numerous crested wheatgrass seedings are visible along this same margin on the unit's west side. Three sections of wooden drift fences have been placed within the unit along railroad tracks on the north boundary. Boundary adjustments have excluded these impacts. Approximately four miles of vehicle ways are visible on the lavas. They are apparent more from their affect on the low vegetation rather than from any impact on the substrata. Their overall impact is minor and easily absorbed due to the size of the unit. A portion of the lava flow has been designated as a community pit, where the public can collect lava rock after obtaining a permit from the BLM. The section includes a large portion of the main source vent. Several small lava removal sites occur along the road leading to the main source vent, but the impact is not substantial. As most of the impacts are located just inside the unit boundary but outside the actual flow, the border has been adjusted to follow the lava edge. These adjustments eliminate impacts to naturalness on the east and west sides of the unit.

SOLITUDE:

Desert shrubs, grasses and juniper dominate the unit and offer little vegetative screening. Topographic screening is considered moderate overall, due to the general open and flat character of this lava landscape. The numerous depressions and lava swells provide adequate screening for visitors to avoid others within the unit. Other than the occasional passing of a train on the northeast and agricultural activities to the east, external influences are non-existent. Due to the unit's large size and sufficient relief, opportunities for solitude are considered outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

The rugged nature of the unit offers outstanding opportunities for various recreational activities in an uncommon environment. Collapsed lava tubes, fissures and craters provide excellent exploratory possibilities for hikers, photographers, and geologists. Camping on the lava flow constitutes another unusual yet rewarding recreational activity for the enthusiast willing to pack water. Similarly, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing could provide risk and challenge for the winter recreationist. Due to the unit's large size and exceptional or unusual natural features and recreational attractions, opportunities for primitive recreation are considered outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

In addition to its scenic quality, the scientific and geologic significance of this lava flow is the greatest supplemental value. This uncommon landform offers unique educational opportunities to a variety of disciplines including geology, botany, zoology and ecology. The flow also provides important habitat for rabbits, coyotes, reptiles, bobcats, and mule deer. Booming grounds for sage grouse have been identified in the flow.

REHABILITATION:

The community pit area has only minor and sparsely distributed evidence of lava rock collection. These man-caused signs would eventually disappear as the lichen cover returned and weathering processes took effect. Closing the vehicle ways leading to these sites would eliminate any further impacts.

RECOMMENDATION:

A portion of the unit does not meet the naturalness criteria. An area containing 35,700 acres should be identified as a Wilderness Study Area because it meets the naturalness and the solitude-recreation criteria.

33-15 HELL'S HALF ACRE

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 68,920 acres of BLM land with four State land inholdings totalling 2,560 acres, and a 40-acre private inholding. The BLM acreage figure differs from the 66,200 acres shown in the August 1979 report due to a more accurate calculation of acreage. The unit is located five miles west of Idaho Falls. As a general rule, the edge of the lava flow forms the boundary on the north, east and west sides. Morgan's Pasture, a private agricultural area, with numerous developments, forms part of the unit's southern boundary. The unit consists almost entirely of a 4100-year old "pahoehoe" lava flow. Very small amounts of desert land occur inside the boundaries. Various volcanic features including collapsed lava tubes, cones, caves, fissures and the source vent are found throughout the flow. Vegetation on the lava is typically a pioneer type including lichens, mosses and grasses; junipers and ferns appear in some of the cracks. The flow ranges from 4,600 to 5,350 feet in elevation.

NATURALNESS:

Boundary adjustments have been made to exclude agricultural trespass, several ways, and other impacts, decreasing the unit by 2,720 acres. The remainder of the unit is free from man-caused impacts due to difficult vehicular access onto the rugged lava. Fifteen ways enter the unit, but none are substantial nor extend over one mile. Along the powerline and road forming the south most boundary and in some northern sections, garbage dumps are found just inside the border. Some disturbance and ways indicate a possibility of unauthorized lava removal. External influences consist of scattered dumps, views of agricultural activity, farm roads and highways and the cities of Idaho Falls and Shelley. These are visible from the edges of the unit and from the higher points within, but are not considered substantially imposing.

SOLITUDE:

Desert shrubs, grasses and juniper dominate the unit and offer little vegetative screening. Topographic screening is considered moderate overall, due to the general open and flat character of this lava landscape. The numerous depressions and lava swells provide adequate screening for visitors to avoid others within the unit. External influences are not considered significant. Due to the unit's large size and sufficient relief, opportunities for solitude are considered outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

The unit offers outstanding opportunities for recreational activities. Volcanic forces have created lava tunnels which can be explored as well as a myriad of volcanic features that provide excellent subjects for photographers and geology buffs. Sight-seeing is outstanding for botanical and zoological features. Snowshoeing and cross-country skiing could offer physical and mental challenge to winter explorers. For those willing to brave the rough portions of lava, hiking the area allows the visitor to discover its unique beauty. Camping constitutes another unusual and rewarding activity for the enthusiast willing to pack in water. Due to the unit's large size and exceptional or unusual natural features and recreational attractions, opportunities for primitive recreation are considered outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The scientific, educational, and scenic values of this unit are significant. A large portion of the unit has been designated a National Natural Landmark due to its unusual occurrence within the Snake River Plain. It includes excellent examples of "pahoehoe" lava features of geologic importance. The ecology of the lavas is unique, a prime illustration of pioneering plant communities. The ferns in the deep cracks are a botanical anomaly. Prehistoric and historic sites of archaeological value are present.

REHABILITATION:

If protected from vehicle use, the ways entering the unit should revegetate with natural processes. Trash and garbage could be cleaned up using hand labor.

RECOMMENDATION:

A portion of the unit fails to meet the naturalness criteria. An area of 66,200 acres should be identified as a Wilderness Study Area because it meets the naturalness and the solitude-recreation criteria.

SALMON DISTRICT
UNITS NOT PROPOSED AS
WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

41-3 GEERTSON CREEK

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 10,720 acres of BLM land with a 640-acre State land, and a 80-acre private land inholding. It is located northeast of Salmon. The unit has an irregular configuration due to land ownership patterns and designated roads. Boundaries include U. S. Forest Service lands to the north and east. The interior portion of the unit contains four major drainages with very steep relief. Elevation ranges from 5,800 feet in the foothills to 9,452 feet. The majority of landscape is covered by Douglas fir and sub-alpine timber species, with occasional outcroppings of sagebrush-grass species, and willow and aspen in the riparian zone. Some steep slopes are covered only by coarse talus.

NATURALNESS:

This unit has retained natural characteristics in spite of a few minor man-made intrusions. There are six spring developments scattered along the eastern edge of the unit. None of these low-impact intrusions are very far into the unit. Approximately five miles of ways extend for a short distance into the unit. The Geertson Creek Road and a road immediately to the north extend some distance into the unit causing a very irregular unit configuration.

SOLITUDE:

The vertical relief and variable terrain with deep canyons and numerous small drainages contributes to the ability of the area to afford opportunities for experiencing remoteness. Further enhancing these opportunities is the predominance of Douglas fir and sub-alpine species that would provide screening from others. However, the relatively small size and extremely irregular configuration of the unit render the opportunities less than outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

The interesting topographical and vegetative features of this unit could provide a challenging primitive experience for a visitor. Opportunities exist for hiking, backpacking, spelunking, horseback riding, photography, and sightseeing for botanical, zoological, or geological features. However, the relatively small size and extremely irregular configuration render the opportunities less than outstanding.

RECOMMENDATION:

Although the majority of the unit meets the naturalness criteria, the unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area due to a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude or for primitive and unconfined recreation.

42-6 BALDY BASIN

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 10,720 acres of BLM land and is located northwest of Tendoy. General boundaries are the Haynes or the McDevitt Creek Road and private lands to the east. The unit's topography slopes eastward to the Lemhi River and is drained by Haynes Creek, Baldy Creek and McDevitt Creek. Elevation varies from 4,800 to 8,250 feet. Vegetation is a mixture of sagebrush-grass and timber (commercial stands on north slopes).

NATURALNESS:

The unit contains about 30 spring developments, three miles of buried pipeline and 20 miles of fencing. Access to the Larkspur Pipeline is by an obvious constructed road and access to other developments by lower grade jeep trails. Most of the developments are small and largely unnoticeable.

SOLITUDE:

The unit lacks an outstanding opportunity for solitude due to a lack of topographic relief, vegetative screening and sufficient size to avoid the sights and sounds of man due to surrounding roads and highly developed private ranches.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

The narrow configuration of the unit, the bordering roads, developed private lands, and numerous fences in and around the unit severely restrict the opportunity for outstanding primitive and unconfined recreation.

RECOMMENDATION:

Although the majority of the unit meets the naturalness criteria, the unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area due to a lack of outstanding opportunity for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation.

44-2 KING MOUNTAIN

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 12,602 acres of BLM land with a 640-acre State land inholding. It is located north of Ellis, and is in a long narrow shape, bounded by Dry Gulch Road, Hat Creek Road, King Mountain Road, and Highway 93. Topography of the unit is characterized by a dominant north-south ridge cut deeply by Hat Creek in the middle. Vegetation is primarily sagebrush-grass, with numerous rock outcroppings.

NATURALNESS:

Existing intrusions within the unit are not visually evident or prominent in the landscape. Bordering areas are highly developed cattle ranches. The unit retains a natural appearance.

SOLITUDE:

The narrow single ridge configuration makes it extremely difficult to avoid the sights and sounds of man both within and outside the unit. Therefore, solitude opportunities are considered less than outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

The size and configuration of the unit severely confine the potential to provide an outstanding opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Cronks Canyon and the confluence of Big and Little Hat Creek possess both geologic and scenic values due to steep deeply cut canyon walls and narrow stream bottoms.

RECOMMENDATION:

Although the unit meets the naturalness criteria, it does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area due to a lack of outstanding opportunity for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation.

44-3 HAT CREEK

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 9,707 acres of BLM land with a 520-acre State land inholding. This BLM acreage figure differs from the 10,227 acres shown in the August 1979 report due to the inadvertent inclusion of the State acreage in the August report. The unit is located northwest of Ellis. Topography and vegetation are characterized by sagebrush-grass covered rolling hills drained by Little and Big Hat Creeks. Slopes are relatively gentle and east-facing.

NATURALNESS:

The unit contains 15 spring developments, two miles of fence line and several miles of jeep trails. These developments are subordinate to the overall landscape, with the unit retaining its natural appearance.

SOLITUDE:

The open slopes and lack of vegetative screening combined with the presence of surrounding roads and ranches on Hat Creek do not provide opportunities for solitude that are considered outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

The unit is contained by surrounding roads and developed lands and is of a size which does not offer opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation that are considered outstanding.

RECOMMENDATION:

Although the unit meets the naturalness criteria, it does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area due to a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation.

44-4 ELLIS CREEK

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 28,040 total acres, including 1,280 acres of State lands involved in the Donkey Hills exchange. This BLM acreage figure differs from the 28,790 acres shown in the August 1979 report due to a more accurate calculation of acreage. The August report failed to mention that State acres were included in the total. The unit is located west of Ellis. Topography and vegetation are characterized by sagebrush-grass rolling hills drained to the southeast by Morgan Creek, Spring Gulch, Cherry Creek, Ellis Creek, and Deer Gulch. Slopes are generally steep along the Salmon River and flatten out as distance from the river increases.

NATURALNESS:

The unit contains numerous spring developments, fences, and pipelines. Two constructed roads intrude into the unit and numerous jeep trails provide access to range developments. These developments are visually subordinate due to the large size of the unit.

SOLITUDE:

An outstanding opportunity for solitude does not exist due to the proximity of surrounding ranches and roads; and range developments and a lack of vegetative screening within the unit.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation exist but are not outstanding due to the constraints of surrounding and interior roads and other imprints of man.

RECOMMENDATION:

Although the majority of the unit meets the naturalness criteria, it does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area due to a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation.

44-9 CRONKS CANYON

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains a total of 7,470 acres which includes 640 acres of State lands involved in the Donkey Hills land exchange. The August 1979 report did not indicate that the State acreage was included in the total. The unit is located east of Ellis. Topography is composed of steep slopes rising from 5,600 feet at the Salmon River to the Forest Service border 8,200 feet. Vegetation is sparse sagebrush-grass.

NATURALNESS:

The unit has retained its natural appearance due to the small amount of developments and steep slopes.

SOLITUDE:

While solitude is possible, the proximity of Highway 93 and the Pahsimeroi Road combined with the small size of the unit render the opportunities less than outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Opportunities are limited due to steep terrain and small unit size. The recreation opportunities are considered less than outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Cronks Canyon offers supplemental values in the form of geologic and scenic views.

RECOMMENDATION:

Although the unit meets the naturalness criteria, it does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area because of a lack of outstanding opportunity for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation.

45-5 MILL CREEK

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 1,330 acres of BLM lands and borders U. S. Forest Service lands on the east. The unit is located north of Goldberg. The contiguous border with RARE II Area 4-503 has been reduced by about half due to the President's RARE II recommendations. This has left the unit sticking out like a thumb into non-wilderness lands.

NATURALNESS:

There are no impacts on naturalness within the unit. Exterior impacts--roads, mining prospects, etc.--border the unit.

SOLITUDE:

Outstanding opportunities for solitude would be possible if the unit were joined with the RARE II area in a good configuration, however, the size, shape, and configuration of the unit where it joins with the RARE II area, render the opportunities less than outstanding on the BLM parcel.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Opportunities are severely restricted by the confining boundaries and size of the BLM parcel, so as to render the opportunities less than outstanding.

RECOMMENDATION:

Although the unit meets the naturalness criteria, it does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area due to a lack of outstanding opportunity for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation.

SALMON DISTRICT
UNITS PROPOSED AS
WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

43-3 EIGHTEEN MILE

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 24,922 acres of BLM land. This figure differs from the 19,280 acres shown in the August 1979 report. During intensive inventory it was felt that the initial inventory boundary, drawn along an elevation line on most of the western side, had been incorrectly located; while it more accurately should have followed the land ownership pattern in most instances. The unit is located along the Idaho side of the Continental Divide from Baldy Mountain south to Eighteenmile Peak. The unit is contiguous with RARE II Area M4-945 Italian Peak which has been recommended for further planning. The topography is mountainous with numerous deep creek valleys draining into Eighteenmile Creek to the west. The Continental Divide offers rolling meadows and precipitous cliffs. Elevation varies from 7,600 to 11,141 feet. Vegetation varies from lowland sage-grass communities up through Douglas fir, lodgepole pine and limber pine to grassy meadows on the Divide. Willow-aspen riparian vegetation occupies most creek bottoms.

NATURALNESS:

The imprint of man in the unit is largely unnoticeable. A few range developments exist, the most prominent being a ditch leading from Shears Creek to several water holes. Mining is taking place in Clear Creek just outside the unit's border. During field inventory the natural area was found to include some 4,882 acres initially thought to be vegetatively impacted.

SOLITUDE:

The rugged terrain, vegetative screening, remoteness, and limited accessibility of the unit provide for an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

The unit offers outstanding opportunities for backpacking, rockhounding, hunting, wildlife viewing, and cross-country skiing.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Supplemental values include the reported sighting of wolves and endangered species in the vicinity.

REHABILITATION:

Several short jeep trails exist which could revegetate easily if left unused.

RECOMMENDATION:

The unit, containing 24,922 acres, is recommended as a Wilderness Study Area as it meets the naturalness and the solitude-recreation criteria.

45-12 BURNT CREEK

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 30,110 acres of BLM land, with a 640-acre State inholding. This unit was identified in the August 1979 report as containing 20,000 acres, with lands only in the Salmon District. Due to a reevaluation of a previously identified road separating Units 45-12 and 32-16, some acreage from Unit 32-16 in the Idaho Falls District has been added to Unit 45-12. The unit lies southwest of Taylor Mountain and is bounded on the south by U. S. Forest Service RARE II Area 4-210 Borah Peak, which has been recommended for wilderness status. The unit is contiguous to the RARE II area for 13 miles. The eastern portion is characterized by an open and sloping sage-grass covered area. The western portion is steep, hilly terrain and vegetation includes scattered stands of Douglas fir and juniper. Several large rock outcrops occur in the west portion.

NATURALNESS:

The majority of the unit has retained a natural appearance. The inventory identified two road systems: one leading south from the Dry Creek Road to private land at Buck Springs, the other runs between Squaw Creek and Buck Springs, which includes a short spur road to Camp Springs. These roads trim 2,590 acres from the unit.

Several range developments exist in the form of watering troughs and reservoirs, however, these developments are localized and do not have an impact on the unit as a whole. Most access routes to the developments are not heavily used and require 4-wheel drive vehicles. The old Dry Creek Reservoir is hardly noticeable. Man-made imprints are not substantial within the western portion of the unit.

SOLITUDE:

Topographic and vegetative screening in the eastern portion of the unit is considered minimal, and when combined with a somewhat irregular configuration renders opportunities for solitude less than outstanding. The unit is therefore decreased by 2,540 acres. The eastern portion is separated from the west by the high ridge north of Squaw Creek.

In the western portion due to the large size, excellent topographic relief, moderate vegetative screening, lack of nearby development, and remoteness of the unit, an outstanding opportunity for solitude does exist.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities are considered less than outstanding in the eastern portion due to the narrow corridor between the road to Camp Springs and nearby private and State land. This narrow corridor, 1/3 - 1/2 mile wide, is considered a constricting factor which limits primitive unconfined recreation.

Within the larger western portion, there are no continuing barriers or man-made developments to limit recreation activities. Opportunities include hiking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, camping and backpacking. The combination of interesting natural features and diversity of recreation opportunities in the western portion are considered outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The western portion of the unit has been identified as important elk winter range. Archaeological sites within the unit include hunting blinds, rock shelters, and surface lithic scatters.

REHABILITATION:

Areas disturbed for water developments and jeep trails could be rehabilitated.

RECOMMENDATION:

Although a portion of the unit lacks naturalness, and additional acreage lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude and recreation; an area of 24,980 acres should be identified as a Wilderness Study Area as it meets the naturalness and the solitude-recreation criteria.

47-4 BORAH PEAK

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 3,880 acres of BLM land with a 640-acre State inholding. This figure differs from the 4,594 acres shown in the August 1979 report due to the previous inclusion of the State acreage with the BLM land, and an additional change due to a recalculation of acreage. The unit is located east of Chilly, and west of Borah Peak. Topography is relatively steep and west sloping. Vegetation is sagebrush-grass with scattered mountain mahogany. The unit has a six mile common border with the RARE II Wilderness Proposal Area 4-210, Borah Peak. The northern 780 acres of the unit are not contiguous to the RARE II area due to boundary modifications.

NATURALNESS:

The unit has retained a natural appearance. Most areas of disturbance have occurred in the northern end of the unit around Birch Springs. Powerlines and a telephone line along the west boundary are an obvious external negative influence.

SOLITUDE:

Outstanding opportunities may be present in the BLM unit and are definitely present when the unit is considered as a portion of the larger BLM/FS area.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

No constraints exist to limit an outstanding opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation, when considered with the contiguous RARE II area.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The principal supplemental value is the unit's proximity to Borah Peak and Leatherman Peak.

REHABILITATION:

Disturbed areas could be restored.

RECOMMENDATION:

The northernmost 780 acres do not meet the naturalness or the solitude-recreation criteria. A unit of 3,100 acres should be identified as a Wilderness Study Area, dependent upon the contiguous RARE II area to meet the size and the solitude-recreation criteria.

SHOSHONE DISTRICT
UNITS NOT PROPOSED AS
WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

54-3 PREACHER CREEK

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 8,827 acres of BLM land, with 480 acres of private land inholdings. This figure differs from the 7,641 acres shown in the August 1979 report. A calculating error adds 239 acres of land, due to more accurate calculation methods. A 947 acre parcel has been added because it has been determined that a road used as part of the boundary does not exist. The unit lies on the south facing side of the Mount Bennett Hills, fifteen miles northeast of Gooding. The southern portion is a flat prairie dissected by Preacher Creek and several small intermittent drainages. The northern portion rises 900 feet higher in elevation and has a more broken topography composed of hills, rhyolite rock outcrops, and several small canyons. Dominant vegetation throughout the unit is sagebrush and annual and perennial grasses. Cottonwoods and willows grow along the more shaded canyon bottoms.

NATURALNESS:

Several access routes have caused the deletion of a large parcel from the eastern side of the unit. These access routes and other developments present noticeable imprints on naturalness. Two additional routes, which are not substantial imprints on naturalness, extend into that portion of the unit which still meets naturalness criteria. Several fences are within the unit, but do not present substantially noticeable imprints on the apparent naturalness. Four reservoirs which are substantially noticeable imprints on the apparent naturalness of the unit have been deleted. Excluding all major imprints of man, approximately 5,747 acres remain which contain some minor imprints on naturalness.

SOLITUDE:

Although it may be possible to find opportunities for solitude due to local topographic screening within portions of the unit, the small size, narrow configuration, and poor vegetative screening do not afford opportunities that are considered outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

The unit's small size, lack of exceptional or unusual natural features and recreation attractions, and lack of significant physical challenge associated with primitive recreation render the recreational opportunities less than outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The unit contains golden eagle nesting sites, archeological sites, and an important deer wintering area.

RECOMMENDATION:

Although a portion of the unit meets the naturalness criteria, the unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area due to a lack of outstanding opportunity for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation.

54-4 RATTLESNAKE CANYON

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 11,355 acres of BLM land with a 640 acre state land inholding. This figure differs from the 11,085 acres shown in the August 1979 report due to a more accurate calculation of acreage. The unit is located 10 miles north of Gooding on the south facing slope of the Mount Bennett Hills. Highway 46 lies just west of the unit. The southern portion is a gently sloping plain with several small intermittent drainages. The northern end rises in elevation and is cut by several canyons, the largest of which is Rattlesnake Canyon. These canyons are composed of the weathered rhyolite rock which is found throughout the north end of the unit. Dominant vegetation throughout the unit is sagebrush and annual and perennial grasses. Along the more shaded portions of the canyon bottoms there are willows and cottonwoods.

NATURALNESS:

An access route, which extends northwest from Thorn Springs, is the northern boundary of a parcel which should be deleted from the unit because it contains a concentration of imprints on naturalness. Another access route, which meets the road definition, extends into that portion of the unit which meets the naturalness criteria. Since this route is a road, the unit boundary should be altered to exclude the road and state land which the road intersects.

Numerous seedings, two spring developments, a small reservoir, and a small materials site are noticeable imprints on the apparent naturalness of the unit. After deletions are made to eliminate major imprints of man, 5,169 acres remain.

SOLITUDE:

Although it may be possible to find opportunities for solitude in some areas of the unit due to local topographic screening within Rattlesnake Canyon, the small size, narrow configuration, and poor vegetative screening do not afford opportunities that are considered outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

The unit's small size, lack of exceptional or unusual natural features and recreation attractions, and lack of significant physical challenge associated with primitive recreation render the recreational opportunities less than outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The unit contains several archaeological sites and prairie falcon nesting sites.

RECOMMENDATION:

Although a portion of the unit meets the naturalness criteria, the unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area due to a lack of outstanding opportunity for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation.

54-7 FOUR MILE BENCH

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 7,542 acres of BLM land. The unit lies on the southernmost terrace of the Mount Bennett Hills, nine miles northwest of Gooding. Most of the unit is composed of a flat prairie bench, rising gently to the north. Dry Creek, a perennial stream, runs near the western edge of the unit and cuts a deep basalt canyon as it flows south. The main vegetation in the unit is sagebrush and annual and perennial grasses, with some pockets of willows and other shrubs along Dry Creek.

NATURALNESS:

Three access routes which meet road definition, are located in the southern portion of the unit. Two other routes used for access to reservoirs are located in the northern portion. Those routes and reservoirs are the major imprints of man on naturalness which are evident throughout the entire unit. Four reservoirs have been mechanically constructed and are a substantially noticeable imprint on the naturalness of the unit. A mechanically constructed canal bed crosses the western tip of the unit. The southeast tip of the unit has been plowed and seeded. Two fences within the unit do not have a substantially noticeable impact on the naturalness. The large number of major imprints on naturalness provides a noticeable imprint of man's work.

SOLITUDE:

The major portion of the unit is a gently sloping prairie with little topographic relief. The only major topographic variation is Dry Creek Canyon. This deep canyon provides excellent topographic screening and the willows along the creek form pockets of vegetative screening. This combination allows visitors an outstanding opportunity to enjoy solitude.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

There are a wide variety of recreational opportunities within the unit, including hiking, camping, horseback riding, hunting, photography, and nature study. Although many types of recreation are possible no particular activity nor group of activities are considered outstanding.

RECOMMENDATION:

The unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area as it does not meet the naturalness or the solitude-recreation criteria.

54-9 CLOVER CREEK

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 8,455 acres of BLM land, with a 640-acre State land inholding. The unit lies on the south facing side of the Mount Bennett Hills, ten miles north of Bliss. The major portion of the unit is a gradually sloping plain of basalt. Clover Creek runs just inside the east boundary and has eroded a deep canyon through the cap layer of basalt. The major vegetation throughout the unit is sagebrush and annual and perennial grasses. Clover Creek Canyon has riparian vegetation characterized by willow, chokecherry, and serviceberry.

NATURALNESS:

Five access routes, which meet the road definition, have been identified in this small, flat unit. The two longest roads are used to service reservoir developments. Two short access routes, associated with the roads, have also been identified, but are not substantial imprints on naturalness. There are five mechanically constructed reservoirs, two small chalk mines and several fences within the unit. Because there are several minor and major imprints on naturalness throughout the unit, this concentration makes the unit fail to meet the naturalness criteria.

SOLITUDE:

Although it may be possible to find opportunities for solitude in some areas of the unit due to local topographic screening within Clover Creek, the small size, poor configuration, and poor vegetative screening do not offer opportunities that are considered outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

The unit's small size, lack of exceptional or unusual natural features and recreation attractions, and lack of significant physical challenge associated with primitive recreation render the opportunities less than outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The unit contains several archaeological sites, golden eagle and prairie falcon nesting sites, and sage grouse strutting grounds.

RECOMMENDATION:

The unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area as it does not meet the naturalness or the solitude-recreation criteria.

54-11 INDIAN

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 16,968 acres of BLM land. The unit is located 12 miles north of Bliss on the south side of the Mount Bennett Hills. The major portion of the unit is a stepped prairie which rises gently to the north. Calf Creek Canyon and its branches cut the prairie table top in several places. In the south end of its drainage, Calf Creek is a perennial stream. Dominant vegetation throughout the unit is sagebrush and annual and perennial grasses. There are some pockets of willow and other shrubs along Calf Creek.

NATURALNESS:

There are two developed springs within the unit, a seeding at the south tip, and several fences. The unit contains a total of 13 access routes and 14 reservoirs. All of the reservoirs and six of the access routes have definite signs of mechanical construction. Because these imprints on naturalness are distributed throughout the unit, it fails to meet the naturalness criteria.

SOLITUDE:

The southeastern portion of the unit where Calf Creek Canyon intersects with several smaller canyons has a high degree of topographical screening. The southern end of Calf Creek supports a dense shrub vegetation which provides further screening. These factors both contribute to make an outstanding opportunity for visitors to seek out and enjoy solitude.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

The unit provides opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, photography, nature study, bird hunting, and cross country skiing. None of these opportunities are considered outstanding, nor is there an outstanding opportunity for a variety of recreational experiences.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The unit contains golden eagle and prairie falcon nesting sites, sage grouse strutting grounds, and several archaeological sites.

RECOMMENDATION:

Although a portion of the unit contains an outstanding opportunity for solitude, the unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area due to a lack of naturalness.

54-12 DEMPSEY CREEK

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 23,644 acres of BLM land with 760 acres of State land inholdings. This figure differs from the 22,996 acres shown in the August, 1979, report due to a more accurate calculation of acreage. The unit is located eight miles northeast of King Hill on the south side of the Bennett Hills. The major portion of the unit is a stepped prairie which rises gently to the north. Several intermittent stream drainages dissect the prairie bench. Dry Creek Canyon becomes a dominant feature of the landscape in the south portion of the unit. Dominant vegetation throughout the unit is sagebrush and annual and perennial grasses. There are some juniper in Dry Creek Canyon and a few clumps of aspen on hills and gulleys at the north end of the unit.

NATURALNESS:

The unit contains ten routes with obvious mechanical construction, 28 reservoirs, one large seeding, an old homestead and two mechanical disturbances all of which are substantially noticeable impacts on the naturalness of the unit. Because of these impacts, which are distributed throughout, the unit fails to meet the naturalness criteria.

SOLITUDE:

The unit has topography which is broken by rolling hills and gulleys in the north end and several canyons and basalt bluffs in the south. This uneven topography provides excellent topographic screening in some locations. Dry Creek Canyon has juniper and some willow and the north end of the unit has some aspen stands. This provides limited vegetative screening. The combination of topographical screening supplemented with vegetative screening gives an outstanding opportunity for solitude in parts of the unit.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

The unit contains opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, photography, cross country skiing and nature study. None of these opportunities are considered outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The unit contains several archaeological sites and golden eagle nesting sites.

RECOMMENDATION:

Although a portion of the unit contains an outstanding opportunity for solitude, the unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area due to a lack of naturalness.

54-13 FORGOTTEN HILLS

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 9,420 acres of BLM land with a 640 acre State land inholding. This figure differs from the 9,415 acres shown in the August, 1979, report due to a more accurate calculation of acreage. The unit lies three miles west of Highway 75 near the Shoshone Ice Caves. The unit is composed of several hills and bluffs which are the far east end of the Bennett Hills. Black Butte and its surrounding lava beds are just to the east of the unit. The main vegetation throughout the unit is sagebrush and annual and perennial grasses. There are a few small patches of aspen on the north facing slopes of some hills and chokecherry scattered throughout.

NATURALNESS:

An access route which meets the road definition splits the unit into two parcels. The southern parcel is smaller than 5,000 acres and does not meet the size criteria. The northern parcel contains several access routes, reservoirs, and fences distributed throughout. These imprints of man, many of which are substantial, are so obvious that the unit fails to meet the naturalness criteria.

SOLITUDE:

The unit contains several rolling hills, bluffs, and gullies which all contribute to topographic screening. There is very little vegetative screening within the unit. Because the unit is narrow and open hillsides allow high visibility, the unit is not considered to offer outstanding opportunities to enjoy solitude.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Recreational opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, photography, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, and nature study exist within the unit. None of these are considered outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The unit contains sage grouse strutting grounds.

RECOMMENDATION:

The unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area as it does not meet the naturalness or the solitude-recreation criteria.

57-3 ANTELOPE

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 12,271 acres of BLM lands. The unit is located ten miles southeast of Richfield, on relatively flat grassland terrain. Topographical relief increases in the interior and northern portions of the unit where weathered lava formations are found. Dominant vegetation throughout the unit is annual and perennial grasses. There is some sagebrush scattered throughout the unit with the highest concentrations found in the northern portions.

NATURALNESS:

The unit is divided into four smaller parcels by three access routes. One of these routes meets the road definition, while the other two are substantial imprints on naturalness causing acreage to be deleted from the unit. The remaining parcels are smaller than 5,000 acres, and do not meet the size criteria.

SOLITUDE:

The unit lies on a relatively flat open prairie with very little topographic relief to provide screening. There is a limited amount of vegetative screening provided by scattered sagebrush. The lack of good topographical and vegetative screening does not allow for what is considered an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, nature study, and photography exist within the unit. None of these opportunities are considered outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The unit contains good examples of geologic formations associated with lava flows, and sage grouse strutting grounds.

RECOMMENDATION:

The unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area due to a lack of naturalness and lack of outstanding opportunity for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation.

57-4 BLACK RIDGE CRATER

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 8,138 acres of BLM land. The unit lies eight miles east of Richfield, on relatively flat prairie terrain. The flat terrain is broken in places by volcanic rock formations among which Black Ridge Crater is the most prominent. Black Ridge Caves lie to the north of the crater and are composed of several lava tubes of varying length and size. The main vegetation throughout the unit is sagebrush and annual and perennial grasses.

NATURALNESS:

Three access routes, which meet the road definition, cross the unit from north to south. These roads divide the unit into smaller parcels, none of which meets the size criteria.

SOLITUDE:

Although Black Ridge Crater and the surrounding lava landscape provide some topographical relief, overall topographical screening in the unit is minimal. Some of the taller sagebrush provide limited vegetational screening. There is no area in the unit where topographic and vegetative screening combine to offer what is considered an outstanding opportunity for visitors to enjoy solitude.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

The unit offers opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, nature study and cave exploration. None of these opportunities are considered outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The unit contains opportunities for scientific study of geologic land forms and processes associated with fissure lava flows, and sage grouse strutting grounds.

RECOMMENDATION:

The unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area due to a lack of naturalness, and lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation.

57-5 LONE ROCK

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 10,934 acres of BLM land. The unit lies five miles south of Richfield, on a flat expanse of weathered lava. Rock outcrops add occasional variety to the terrain but topographical relief is minimal. Dominant vegetation throughout the unit is sagebrush and annual and perennial grasses. Some small shrubs are found in shaded areas of the lava formations.

NATURALNESS:

Two access routes, which do not meet the road definition, but are substantial imprints on naturalness, pass into or through the unit. These routes effectively split the unit into three smaller parcels, which do not meet the size criteria.

SOLITUDE:

The unit contains very little topographical relief which can screen visitors from the sights and sounds of one another. Some portions of the unit contain a large subspecies of sagebrush which provides a limited degree of vegetative screening. There is no portion of the unit which is considered to have both topographical and vegetative screening to provide visitors an outstanding opportunity to enjoy solitude.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

The unit provides very little opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation. The flat topography with very little vegetative variation creates a dull landscape with few scenic qualities. Lack of scenic features makes recreation opportunities such as hiking and horseback riding less than outstanding. This unit is not considered to have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The unit contains burrowing owl nesting sites and sage grouse strutting grounds.

RECOMMENDATION:

The unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area as it fails to meet the naturalness and the solitude-recreation criteria.

57-6 WILDHORSE

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 21,544 acres of BLM land with a 640 acre State land inholding. Old weathered lava covers the unit. There is very little relief with the plain covered with sagebrush and grasses.

NATURALNESS:

Three access routes along the east side of the unit are substantially noticeable imprints of man on the naturalness of the unit. The boundary should be changed to delete acreage in the vicinity of these access routes. This boundary change also results in the cherry-stemming of an access route which extends into the portion of the unit which meets the naturalness criteria. Another access route, which is a substantial imprint on naturalness, has caused the deletion of a parcel of land on the west side of the unit.

Another access route, which is not a substantial imprint on naturalness, extends through the unit. All major imprints of man on the naturalness of the unit have been deleted.

SOLITUDE:

The unit contains very little topographical relief which can screen visitors from the sights and sounds of others. Some portions of the unit contain a large subspecies of sagebrush which provides a limited degree of vegetative screening. No portion of the unit is judged to contain adequate topographical and vegetative screening to provide visitors an outstanding opportunity to enjoy solitude.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

The unit provides little opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation. The flat topography with little vegetative variation creates a dull landscape with few scenic qualities. Lack of scenic features makes recreation opportunities such as hiking and horseback riding less than outstanding. The unit is judged to not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Rock monuments are found in the unit, which may have archaeological or historical significance.

RECOMMENDATION:

Although a portion of the unit meets the naturalness criteria, the unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area, due to a lack of outstanding opportunity for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation.

57-7 PAGARI

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 33,116 acres of land, with State land inholdings of 1,280 acres. This figure differs from the 39,169 acres shown in the August, 1979, report, due solely to more accurate calculation methods, not to any deletion of land. The unit is relatively flat grassland terrain, with increasing topographical relief in interior portions. Old weathered and new lava formations add variety to the landscape. Sagebrush is the dominant vegetation.

NATURALNESS:

Two access routes, which meet the road definition have caused a parcel of land to be deleted from the southern part of the unit. Two other routes, which are substantial imprints on naturalness, divide the remainder of the unit into three parcels which are larger than 5,000 acres in size.

An access route, not a substantially noticeable imprint on naturalness, extends through the western part of the unit. Two other short access routes, not substantially noticeable imprints on naturalness, extend into the unit from the northern boundary. All major imprints on the apparent naturalness have been deleted from the unit. These deletions have caused the parcel to be split into three smaller parcels. These smaller parcels have only minor imprints on apparent naturalness within them.

SOLITUDE:

None of the unit is considered to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. Since the unit is broken into three smaller parcels by major imprints on naturalness, and it is uniformly flat with little vegetative screening, it is not large enough to provide visitors much opportunity to escape the sights and sounds of others.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

The unit offers the opportunity to experience primitive recreation activities such as hiking, camping, photography, and nature study. None of these opportunities are judged to be outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The unit contains burrowing owl nests (sensitive species), cairns which could have historical significance, and old weathered and new lava formations which provide opportunities for geologic and biologic studies of succession on lava flows. There are also excellent opportunities for ecological studies of high desert ecosystems.

RECOMMENDATION:

Although a portion of the unit meets the naturalness criteria, the unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area due to a lack of outstanding opportunity for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation.

57-12 LAIDLAW BUTTE

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 9,868 acres of BLM land, with 640 acres of State land inholdings. The unit is dominated by Laidlaw Butte, elevation 5,355 feet. Desert grasslands rise gently upslope to this prominent landmark. Vegetation is primarily sagebrush, rabbitbrush, and grasses.

NATURALNESS:

Two access routes which can be defined as roads divide the unit into three parcels, none of which are over 5,000 acres. Therefore the parcels do not meet the size criteria.

SOLITUDE:

Outstanding opportunities for solitude are judged not to exist in the unit. Minimal vegetative and topographical screening make it difficult to find seclusion from others.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation exist within the unit, including hiking, camping, photography, nature study, hunting and horseback riding. None of these opportunities are judged to be outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Pronghorn antelope, coyotes, and other species of wildlife are found in the unit. Laidlaw Butte, elevation 5,355 feet, offers scenic and geological values.

RECOMMENDATION:

The unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area due to a lack of naturalness and a lack of outstanding opportunity for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation.

57-13 POTTER BUTTE

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 16,180 acres of BLM land, with 640 acres of State land inholdings. This acreage differs from the 13,432 acres shown in the August, 1979, report due solely to a more accurate calculation of acreage. The unit is characterized by rolling desert terrain. Sagebrush is the dominant vegetation in the northern portion of the unit, with increasing amounts of rabbitbrush and annual and perennial grasses in southern portions. Turnbull Butte (5,262 feet), Corral Butte (5,052 feet), and Potter Butte (5,032 feet) are prominent features.

NATURALNESS:

Three access routes which have been constructed and/or are maintained to insure relatively regular and continuous use, divide the unit into five parcels, none of which are over 5,000 acres in size. Therefore the parcels fail to meet the size criteria.

SOLITUDE:

Opportunities for solitude in the unit are not considered outstanding. Minimal vegetative and topographic screening and numerous impacts of man make it difficult to escape the sights and sounds of others.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

None of the opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are judged to be outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Pronghorn antelope, deer, and other species of wildlife are found within the unit. Cairns within the unit could possibly have archaeological value.

RECOMMENDATION:

The unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area due to a lack of naturalness and lack of outstanding opportunity for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation.

57-15 POINT

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 7,398 acres of BLM land, with 640 acres of State land inholdings. The unit lies in the southeast portion of Laidlaw Park, between two fingers of the Craters of the Moon Lava Flow. The flat terrain is dominated in the western and southern portions of the unit by annual and perennial grasses. Sagebrush and rabbitbrush increase in frequency to the north and east. Minimal topographical relief occurs in locations where lava rock outcrops add some diversity to the landscape.

NATURALNESS:

An access route goes through the unit from the north boundary to the west boundary. Another access route extends a short distance into the unit from the west boundary. Neither route is a substantially noticeable imprint of man. Four reservoirs have been mechanically constructed and have an impact on apparent naturalness of the unit.

SOLITUDE:

The unit has been judged not to contain outstanding opportunities for solitude. Screening due to vegetation and topography is minimal. The small size of the unit combined with the generally poor screening renders opportunities for solitude to be less than outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Although the unit contains opportunities for recreational activities of a primitive and unconfined nature, these opportunities have been judged not to be outstanding. The small size of the unit plus the lack of interesting land form has constraining effects on the primitive and unconfined recreational opportunities.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Wildlife species observed in the unit include golden eagle and burrowing owl (threatened species). Several herds of antelope were observed in the unit.

RECOMMENDATION:

Although the unit meets the naturalness criteria, the unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area as it fails to meet the solitude and recreation criteria.

57-16 MACRAE LAKE

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 7,876 acres of BLM land. This figure differs from the 6,386 acres shown in the August, 1979, report due to a more accurate calculation of acreage. In addition 986 acres have been added to the unit when it was determined that a route used as part of the unit boundary does not exist on the ground.

The unit is relatively flat terrain and rough weathered lava. Topographical variability increases in the northwest portion of the unit where numerous rock outcrops add diversity to the landscape. Several natural lake formations exist in the lower elevations along the southern boundary. Of these, MacRae Lake is a prominent feature. Dominant vegetation throughout the unit is sagebrush, rabbitbrush, and annual and perennial grasses.

NATURALNESS:

An access route, which is a substantially noticeable imprint on the naturalness of the unit, divides the unit into two parcels which do not meet size criteria. There is no part of the unit which is both free of man's imprint and greater than 5,000 acres in size.

SOLITUDE:

Opportunities for solitude may be found in the unit, however, these opportunities are not judged to be outstanding due to the flat terrain and minimal topographical variability.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

The unit contains opportunities for a variety of recreational activities, including hiking, camping, nature study, photography, and hunting. None of these activities are judged to be outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Several lake formations exist in the unit with excellent potential to contain archaeological material. Six known areas serve as strutting grounds for sage grouse. Other species of wildlife found in the unit include pronghorn antelope, coyote, and raptorial birds, such as marsh hawks.

RECOMMENDATION:

The unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area due to a lack of naturalness and a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation.

SHOSHONE DISTRICT
UNITS PROPOSED AS
WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

54-5 LITTLE CITY OF ROCKS

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 5,970 acres of BLM land with a 640 acre State land inholding. This acreage differs from the 5,665 acres shown in the August, 1979, report due to a more accurate calculation of acreage. The unit is located 13 miles north of Gooding on the south facing side of the Bennett Hills. It lies just west of Highway 46. The major portion of the unit is a gently sloping plain with several rhyolite bluffs. The south-central portion of the unit contains an aggregation of wind and water eroded rhyolite columns which are collectively known as the Little City of Rocks. Dominant vegetation throughout the unit is sagebrush and annual and perennial grasses. Chokecherry and willows are found in some of the more shaded portions of the canyons in the Little City of Rocks. There is one small grove of aspen on a north facing slope in the north end of the unit.

NATURALNESS:

Two access routes, which are not substantial imprints on naturalness, extend a short distance into the unit from the south and east boundaries. A total of 95 acres either impacted by a mechanical disturbance or reserved as material sites should be deleted from the unit.

SOLITUDE:

The rhyolite rock formations in the southern portion of the unit provide excellent topographic screening. The canyon bottoms also have some vegetative screening from several shrub species. The combination of topographic and vegetative screening in the unit provides an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The northern portions also contain good topographic screening, and still provide the opportunity to seek out and enjoy solitude.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

The unit provides primitive recreation opportunities which are considered outstanding. The many rhyolite rock columns provide an ideal setting in which to participate in photography, nature study, and hiking and camping. Opportunities for other activities that are present, but may not be outstanding include hunting, horseback riding, and cross country skiing.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The unit contains several archaeological sites; golden eagle, prairie falcon, great horned owl, and red-tailed hawk nesting sites; and unique geological formations of wind and water eroded rhyolite.

REHABILITATION:

Two access routes have some potential for returning to a natural condition if vehicle access were restricted. With the passage of time, vegetation would grow in the routes and make them difficult to distinguish from the surrounding area.

RECOMMENDATION:

A small portion of the unit, 95 acres, fails to meet the naturalness criteria; the remainder, 5,875 acres should be identified as a Wilderness Study Area as it meets the naturalness and the solitude-recreation criteria.

54-6 BLACK CANYON

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 20,960 acres of BLM land with 640 acres of State land inholdings. This figure differs from the 20,480 acres shown in the August, 1979, report due to a more accurate calculation of acreage.

The unit lies on the south-facing side of the Mount Bennett Hills, ten miles north of Gooding. Most of the unit is a flat prairie which rises gently to the north. In the central portion of the unit Black Canyon and East Black Canyon come to within one-third of a mile of each other leaving a narrow strip of the prairie table top between them. The northern half of the unit has a topography composed of rolling hills broken by large and small canyons. The west edge of the unit has unusual rock formations of weathered rhyolite. Dominant vegetation throughout the unit is sagebrush and annual and perennial grasses. There are pockets of willow and other shrubs along some of the intermittent streams.

NATURALNESS:

Several access routes have caused a large parcel in the southern portion to be deleted from the unit. This parcel contains a concentration of imprints on naturalness which are substantially noticeable.

Two access routes from the north boundary, substantially noticeable imprints on naturalness, extend into the portion of the unit which meets naturalness criteria. Both routes should be excluded from the unit, with the new boundary extending to the edge of the physical impact caused by the roads. An access route, which has been abandoned for several decades and which is not a substantially noticeable imprint on naturalness, extends the length of Black Canyon Creek.

SOLITUDE:

The more northern portions of the unit which are cut by Black Canyon and Burnt Willow Canyon and have rolling hills provide excellent topographic screening. The many rhyolite rock formations provide additional topographic screening. The southern end of the unit has a few small canyons which provide some screening between open expanses of sagebrush prairie. There is little vegetative screening within the unit. The high degree of topographic screening in the unit allows the visitor an outstanding opportunity to enjoy solitude.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

The unit contains opportunities for a wide variety of activities, including hiking, nature study, photography, and camping; all considered outstanding. Less outstanding opportunities include hunting, horseback riding, ski touring and snowshoeing.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The unit contains several archaeological sites, golden eagle nesting sites, and sage grouse strutting grounds.

REHABILITATION:

The remains of an old mechanically constructed trail in Black Canyon are well on the way to returning to a natural condition. The trail is very narrow and overgrown with vegetation to the point it is almost impossible to recognize on the ground. It will become even harder to distinguish from the surrounding area with the passage of time. All fences could be completely removed without leaving scars. With the passage of time a brush spray area will become even harder to distinguish.

RECOMMENDATION:

Although a portion of the unit lacks naturalness, 10,371 acres should be identified as a Wilderness Study Area as it meets the naturalness and the solitude-recreation criteria.

It should be noted that the decision to identify the unit as a Study Area was a tough judgement decision, due to the possible impact on naturalness caused by the two access routes extending well into the north portion of the unit, in combination with the somewhat narrow configuration of the north part of the unit. Where judgement decisions such as this have been made, we particularly solicit public input as to whether they feel the unit does or does not meet the characteristics criteria.

54-8 GOODING CITY OF ROCKS

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 23,470 acres of BLM land with 1,280 acres of State land inholdings. This figure differs from the 22,685 acres shown in the August, 1979, report due to a more accurate calculation of acreage.

The unit lies on the south facing side of the Mount Bennett Hills, 14 miles northwest of Gooding. The southeastern portion of the unit is composed of a series of deeply carved rhyolite canyons. Throughout these canyons there are many large columns of rhyolite which rise over 100 feet into the air. These canyons, and their rhyolite rock formations, are collectively known as the City of Rocks. Dry Creek Canyon, on the western side of the City of Rocks, has a perennial stream flowing within it. The far west side of the unit is mostly a gently sloping prairie, cut by the East Fork of Clover Creek and Catchall Creek. There are several basalt bluffs which overlook this portion of the unit. The northern end of the unit is a rolling prairie dissected by several intermittent stream drainages. There are several basalt bluffs dominating some portions of this prairie landscape. Dominant vegetation throughout the unit is sagebrush and annual and perennial grasses. The shaded portions of the canyons support a more luxuriant vegetation consisting of willow, aspen, cottonwood, serviceberry, and chokecherry.

NATURALNESS:

Several access routes, which meet the road definition, have caused parcels to be excluded from the unit. A parcel in the northeast corner has been dropped because it contained several roads and ways, as well as other substantial imprints of man. The boundary has been moved to exclude two sections of State land which are intersected by roads. Three roads have had a cherry stem boundary adjustment made to exclude them from the unit. Three other access routes, which are not substantial imprints on naturalness, extend into or through that part of the unit which meets naturalness criteria.

There are three chalk mines along the southwest boundary of the unit, one small mechanically constructed reservoir, three spring developments, a mechanically constructed canal, an old brush spraying and several fences within the unit. The majority of these imprints of man are within the portion deleted due to access roads.

SOLITUDE:

The numerous canyons and rhyolite rock formations in the southern portion of the unit provide excellent topographic screening. In addition, some portions of the canyon bottoms support a riparian vegetation which provides good vegetative screening. This combination of topographic and vegetative screening create an outstanding opportunity for solitude within the unit. The more northern portions of the unit have many rolling hills and buttes which also provide a good opportunity for solitude even though it may not be as outstanding as the southern portions.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive recreation opportunities within the unit are outstanding. Recreation is centered around the rock outcrops and canyons in the City of Rocks. Photography, hiking, camping, wildlife observation, and nature study are all considered outstanding. Many other activities including horseback riding, fishing, and hunting are also possible within the unit.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The unit contains outstanding examples of the geological processes of wind and fluvial erosion on rhyolite rock; one known archaeological site; nesting sites of the golden eagle, prairie falcon, red-tailed hawk, great horned owl, and short-eared owl; sage grouse strutting grounds; and outstanding scenic vistas of weathered rhyolite rock formations and deeply carved canyons.

REHABILITATION:

Four access routes have some potential for returning to a natural condition if vehicle access were restricted. With the passage of time, vegetation will grow in the routes and make them difficult to distinguish from the surrounding area. The three spring developments in the unit could all be rehabilitated to blend more with the surrounding landscape. The spring facilities could also be completely removed. All fences could be completely removed without leaving scars.

RECOMMENDATION:

Although a portion of the unit fails to meet the naturalness criteria, an area of 21,030 acres should be identified as a Wilderness Study Area as it meets the naturalness and the solitude-recreation criteria.

54-10 DEER CREEK

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 8,881 acres of BLM land with a 640 acre State land inholding. The unit lies southwest of the summit of Davis Mountain, one of the highest points in the Bennett Hills. It is 18 miles north of Bliss. The topography is dominated by a series of steep hills with several intermittent and perennial streams cutting between them. Rhyolite and basalt outcrops dominate the tops of many of the hills. Dominant vegetation throughout most of the unit is sagebrush and annual and perennial grasses. The higher portions of the unit have several scattered stands of aspen and clumps of tobacco brush. Indian paintbrush and lupine are also found at the higher elevations.

NATURALNESS:

Three access routes, associated with reservoir developments on the east side of the unit, have caused a parcel of land to be deleted from the unit. An access route in the southern part of the unit has caused deletion of another parcel. Three short access routes, which are not substantial imprints on naturalness, extend into the unit from the northern boundary road. All of the substantially noticeable imprints on naturalness have been deleted from the unit with boundary changes. The remaining lands within the unit appear to be affected primarily by the forces of nature.

SOLITUDE:

The unit is broken by many steep hills and gulleys which provide excellent topographic screening. The higher portion of the unit supports dense stands of aspen and undergrowth of tobacco brush which give a high degree of vegetative screening. Additional vegetative screening is provided by willows along portions of stream drainages. The combination of topographic and vegetative screening provides the visitor an outstanding opportunity to enjoy solitude.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

The steep, rolling hills and numerous vistas within the unit contribute to make hiking, nature study, and photography opportunities outstanding. The scattered aspen groves provide variety in the landscape and shade as well as cover for game species. Less outstanding recreation opportunities include horseback riding and hunting.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The unit contains outstanding scenic vistas, and red-tailed hawk and great horned owl nesting sites.

REHABILITATION:

Five access routes have some potential for returning to a natural condition if vehicle access were restricted. With the passage of time, vegetation will grow in the routes and make them difficult to distinguish from the surrounding areas. All fences could be completely removed without leaving scars. All impacts within the unit could be returned to a natural condition with the passage of time and a very minimal amount of hand labor.

RECOMMENDATION:

Although a portion of the unit fails to meet the naturalness criteria, 7,487 acres are recommended as a Wilderness Study Area as they meet the naturalness and the solitude-recreation criteria.

56-2 LAVA

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 25,593 acres of BLM land. The August, 1979, report indicated that Unit 56-2 contained 9,400 acres of BLM land. Due to a more accurate calculation of acreage this figure should be 9,640 acres. Because of an erroneous identification of boundary roads during the initial inventory, Unit 56-3, containing 5,275 acres is now added as a part of Unit 56-2. Access routes identified previously as boundary roads of Units 56-2 and 56-3 were found during the Intensive Inventory to not meet the road definition, causing the addition of 10,678 acres to Unit 56-2, which now contains the total of 25,593 acres. The unit lies on a flat lava plain just northeast of Shoshone. The major portion of the unit is covered with a lava flow which contains many examples of pressure ridges and ropey lava. Dominant vegetation throughout the unit is sagebrush and annual and perennial grasses. There are some ferns in shaded portions of lava fissures and many different colors of lichen on the exposed surfaces of the lava.

NATURALNESS:

An access route in the southern part of the unit meets the road definition and splits a small parcel from the remainder of the unit. Another access route, which meets road definition extends into the unit from the west side. The boundary has been cherry stemmed around this road to exclude it from the unit. Four other access routes, which are not substantial imprints on naturalness, extend into or through the unit from the south and east boundaries.

SOLITUDE:

The unit has a rugged lava landscape which provides a feeling of remoteness and isolation. There is topographic screening provided by rugged pressure ridges, lava domes, and subsidence craters. Large sagebrush provides only minimal screening. The topographic relief due to lava formations provides the visitor an outstanding opportunity to enjoy solitude.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

The unit contains the opportunity for a wide variety of recreational experiences, including hiking, geological study, and photography; all considered outstanding. Less outstanding opportunities include horseback riding, cross country skiing and camping.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The unit offers an outstanding opportunity for scientific study of geologic processes of lava flows and associated formations.

REHABILITATION:

Six access routes have some potential for returning to a natural condition if vehicle access were restricted. With the passage of time, vegetation will grow in the routes and make them difficult to distinguish from the surrounding area.

RECOMMENDATION:

Although a small portion of the unit fails to meet the naturalness criteria, 23,680 acres should be identified as a Wilderness Study Area as it meets the naturalness and the solitude-recreation criteria.

It should be noted that the identification of this unit as a Study Area was a tough judgement decision, based primarily on the somewhat narrow configuration of the unit throughout its north-south length. This narrow configuration may affect the determination of outstanding opportunities within the unit. In instances such as this where tough judgement decisions were made, we especially solicit public input as to whether they feel the unit does or does not possess characteristics.

57-2 SHALE BUTTE

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 21,898 acres of BLM land, with a 640 acre State land inholding. This differs from the 21,661 acres shown in the August, 1979, report, due to addition of 237 acres where the boundary was incorrectly identified during the Initial Inventory.

The unit lies 15 miles southeast of Richfield. The unit is dominated by a large, relatively recent lava flow from the Shale Butte formation. Portions of the lava flow are extremely rugged with many pressure ridges, lava domes, and subsidence craters. Also in the unit are desert grasslands around the fringe of the lava flow.

NATURALNESS:

Several access routes, many the result of activities by National Guard tanks, create a concentration of substantially noticeable imprints on the naturalness of the unit. A large parcel of land has been deleted from the southern part of the unit to eliminate these routes. Another access route, which is a substantially noticeable imprint, has caused a parcel of land on the west side of the unit to be deleted. Three access routes, which are not substantially noticeable imprints on naturalness extend a short distance into the unit. Two are located on the north boundary and one on the south boundary.

SOLITUDE:

Opportunities for solitude exist throughout most of the unit. Its remote location, the absence of man-made features, and the low probability of meeting others enhance opportunities for solitude. Outstanding opportunities for solitude have been judged to be present within the lava formation which occupies the central portion of the unit. The rugged, broken topography in the lavas provides excellent screening.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive recreation opportunities within the unit are considered outstanding and generally focus on the volcanic features and associated biotic community. Activities include hiking, camping, photography, and nature study. The unit offers a challenge and risk with all recreation activities which enhances the primitive experience. The factors of challenge and risk are emphasized by the rugged terrain, lack of reliable water sources, extreme temperatures, and lack of natural shelter.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

A burrowing owl (sensitive species) has a nesting site in the unit. The lava flow offers excellent opportunities to study primary succession and the geology of volcanic formations.

REHABILITATION:

Two access routes have some possibility of returning to a more natural condition if vehicular use were restricted. With the passage of time, vegetation will grow in the routes making it difficult to distinguish the routes from the rest of the area.

RECOMMENDATION:

Although a portion of the unit lacks naturalness, 15,968 acres should be identified as a Wilderness Study Area as the unit meets the naturalness criteria and the solitude-recreation criteria.

57-8 SAND BUTTE

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 36,745 acres of BLM land with State land inholdings totalling 1,280 acres. This figure differs from the 37,519 acres shown in the August, 1979, report, due to a more accurate calculation of acreage.

The unit lies northeast of Richfield. Topography consists of a large, relatively flat expanse of weathered lava, which is characterized by low pressure ridges and depressions in the landscape. Rock Monument, Monument Butte, and Sand Butte are three prominent landmarks. West Wildhorse Lake and several other lake beds are found in the lower elevations of the southern and eastern portions of the unit. Dominant vegetation is sagebrush intermixed with annual and perennial grasses.

NATURALNESS:

An access route which extends through the western part of the unit from north to south is now being used as a boundary to exclude a large parcel from the western side of the unit. Two access routes on the eastern side meet the road definition and have caused some acreage to be excluded from the unit. Four access routes, which appear to be old firebreaks are substantially noticeable imprints on naturalness. A parcel of land in the southern part of the unit has been deleted in order to exclude these access routes. One access route, which is not a substantially noticeable imprint on naturalness, extends a short distance into the unit from the northern boundary.

The deletion of numerous small parcels have eliminated all major imprints on naturalness from the unit. Some minor imprints, which are not noticeable to the average person, remain. These include a portion of two access routes, aerial seedings, and fence lines.

SOLITUDE:

The unit is divided into two parcels by imprints on naturalness. The smaller contains 5,900 acres. This part of the unit is flat with little topographic or vegetative screening, and has been judged not to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. The larger parcel has several areas within it where lava pressure ridges and subsidence craters provide good topographic screening. This portion of the unit has been judged to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Recreational opportunities are primarily associated with the rugged lava formations in the interior part of the unit and the Sand Butte formation. The diversity and quality of recreation opportunities in these areas are considered outstanding because of their exceptional or unusual natural features and recreation attractions.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Wildlife species including burrowing owls (sensitive species), marsh hawks, red-tailed hawks, and coyotes were observed during the inventory. Lava formations offer excellent opportunities for geologic studies. Cairns may have archaeological/historical significance. West Wildhorse Lake and other lake beds in the unit may also have archaeological significance.

REHABILITATION:

An access route has already become partially overgrown with vegetation. With the passage of time, this route could become hard to distinguish from the surrounding area. Fence lines can be removed or modified by hand labor to make them even less noticeable.

RECOMMENDATION:

Although a portion of the unit lacks naturalness, 20,792 acres should be identified as a Wilderness Study Area as it meets the naturalness and the solitude-recreation criteria.

57-10 RAVEN'S EYE

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 67,300 acres of BLM land, with State land inholdings totalling 1,920 acres. In the August, 1979, report Unit 57-10 was shown as 51,609 acres. It was determined through field inventory that a route previously used as a boundary between Units 57-9 (15,387 acres) and 57-10 does not meet the road definition. Therefore, both units are combined as Unit 57-10. An additional adjustment of 304 acres was made to include lands where a route used as part of the unit boundary was found not to exist on the ground.

An extension of Craters of the Moon lava flow dominates the northern portion of the unit. This rugged new lava is characterized by impressive spatter cones, pressure ridges, subsidence craters, and other formations that are unique to volcanic regions. The southern portion of the unit consists of older, weathered lava. Numerous rock outcrops characterize the broken topography of this high desert terrain. Dominant vegetational species are sagebrush, rabbitbrush, and annual and perennial grasses. Sand Butte and Broken Top Butte are prominent landmarks within the unit.

NATURALNESS:

An access route which extends through the unit from the eastern boundary, past Spud Butte to the Monument Butte well was originally identified as a road and was the southern boundary of this unit. Further inventory shows that only 1.8 miles of this access route, the segment from the eastern boundary road to Spud Butte, meets the road definition. The remaining portion of the route is only a faint way and is not a substantially noticeable imprint on the naturalness of the unit. This has resulted in the boundary being moved to include Unit 57-9 with 57-10 as one unit. The boundary is cherry stemmed around the road segment from the eastern boundary to Spud Butte.

Three short access routes, which are not substantially noticeable imprints on the naturalness of the unit, extend into the unit from the eastern boundary. Two other short routes, which are not substantially noticeable imprints, extend into the unit from the southern boundary. A well development and two reservoir developments have a noticeable impact on the apparent naturalness in the unit. Several fences and an aerial seeding do not have a noticeable impact on the naturalness.

SOLITUDE:

Opportunities for solitude exist throughout most of the unit and are judged to be outstanding. Its remote location, and large size reduce the probability of meeting others and thus enhance opportunities for solitude. The broken topography of the high desert terrain and the new lava flow provide excellent screening from the sights and sounds of others.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive recreation opportunities within the area are judged to be outstanding and generally focus on the volcanic features and the biotic communities of the new lava flow and the surrounding desert lands. Activities include hiking, showshoeing, cross-country skiing, camping, photography, nature study, hunting, and spelunking. The unit offers challenge and risk with all recreation activities which enhances the primitive experience.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The new lava offers excellent opportunities to study primary succession, vegetational species that are indigenous to new lava, and geology of lava formations. Cairns, found throughout the unit, could be of historical or archaeological significance. Wildlife species, including pronghorn antelope, coyotes, burrowing owls (sensitive species), and sage grouse were observed during the inventory. Numerous lake beds exist within the unit. These areas plus Spud Butte and Broken Top Butte may contain archaeological sites.

REHABILITATION:

Six access routes could, over a period of several years, reach a condition where they are completely covered with vegetation and indistinguishable from surrounding areas. Extensive hand labor may be necessary to obliterate deeply worn ruts on one route. Fence lines could be modified to make them less noticeable or removed with hand labor.

RECOMMENDATION:

Although a small portion of the unit lacks naturalness, 67,110 acres should be identified as a Wilderness Study Area as they meet the naturalness and the solitude-recreation criteria.

57-11 LITTLE DEER

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 42,974 acres of BLM land, with 640 acres of State land inholdings. This figure differs from the 43,156 acres shown in the August, 1979, report due to a more accurate calculation of acreage. The unit is dominated by a finger of new lava from the Craters of the Moon Lava Flow. The sparsely vegetated rugged lava is fringed by gently rolling desert lands vegetated with sagebrush, rabbitbrush, and annual and perennial grasses.

NATURALNESS:

Three access routes, which are substantially noticeable imprints on the naturalness of the unit, have caused two parcels to be deleted in the northwest part of the unit. Another route, which is a substantially noticeable imprint, extends into the unit a short distance. This route has been deleted from the unit by cherry stemming the boundary around it.

A large parcel of land along the eastern edge of the unit has been deleted due to numerous reservoir developments, access routes associated with the reservoirs and fences. Two access routes, which meet the road definition, are found in the southern part of the unit and have been deleted by cherry stemming the boundary around them. Three access routes extend a short distance into the unit from the western boundary. Three short routes extend into the unit along the northern boundary in Little Park. None of these routes are substantially noticeable imprints on the naturalness of the unit. All of the major imprints of man have been eliminated from the unit. This includes all reservoirs and seven access routes. A fence line, holding corral, and four access routes, although minor imprints on naturalness of the unit, have also been eliminated in redrawing the boundary to eliminate major imprints.

SOLITUDE:

Outstanding opportunities for solitude are judged to be present throughout most of the unit. The broken topography of the new lava, which dominates the unit, offers excellent screening from the sights and sounds of others. The ruggedness and remoteness of the lava flow reduces the probabilities of meeting others thus enhancing opportunities for solitude.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Outstanding primitive recreation opportunities exist in the unit. The volcanic features on the lava flow offer excellent opportunities for hiking, camping, nature study, photography, spelunking and hunting. The unit offers a challenge and risk with all recreation activities which enhances the primitive experience. The factors of challenge and risk are emphasized by the rugged terrain, lack of reliable water sources, extreme temperatures, and lack of natural shelter.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The new lava flow offers excellent opportunities to study primary succession, vegetational species that are indigenous to new lava, and geology of lava formations. A variety of wildlife species are within the unit, including pronghorn antelope, burrowing owls (sensitive species), and the green-winged teal.

REHABILITATION:

Five access routes have some potential for returning to a natural condition if vehicle access were restricted. With the passage of time, vegetation will grow in the routes and make them difficult to distinguish from the surrounding area.

RECOMMENDATION:

Although a portion of the unit lacks naturalness, 33,531 acres should be identified as a Wilderness Study Area as it meets the naturalness, and the solitude-recreation criteria.

57-14 BEAR DEN BUTTE

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 9,704 acres of BLM land. The unit is dominated by a finger of new lava which juts into Laidlaw Park from the Craters of the Moon Lava Flow. The unit is surrounded by a fringe of rolling desert grassland except where the road forming the north boundary cuts through the lava. Bear Den Butte and a smaller unnamed volcanic butte are prominent landmarks within the unit, representing older periods of volcanic activity. Vegetation is primarily sagebrush and grasses on the desert fringe with very sparse vegetation occurring in the newer lava.

NATURALNESS:

Two short access routes, which meet the road definition, serve as turnouts along the south boundary road. These roads have caused deletion of two small parcels from the unit. Two other access routes, which are not substantially noticeable imprints on the naturalness of the unit, extend into the unit from the south and west boundaries.

SOLITUDE:

Opportunities for solitude exist throughout most of the unit. Its remote location, the absence of man-made features, and the low probability of meeting others enhance opportunities for solitude. Outstanding opportunities for solitude have been judged to be present within the lava formation which occupies the central portion of the unit. The rugged, broken topography in the lavas provides excellent screening.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive recreation opportunities within the area are considered outstanding and generally focus on the volcanic features and associated biotic community. Activities include hiking, camping, photography, and nature study. The unit offers a challenge and risk with all recreation activities which enhances the primitive experience. The factors of challenge and risk are emphasized by the rugged terrain, lack of reliable water sources, extreme temperatures, and lack of natural shelter.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The new lava flow offers excellent opportunities to study primary succession, vegetational species that are indigenous to new lava, and geology of lava formations. Pronghorn antelope, deer, and other species of wildlife are found in the unit. Guts Lake, a series of lake beds along the western side of the unit, may have archaeological value. Bear Den Butte (5,104 feet elevation) and another butte (5,022 feet) offer scenic values.

REHABILITATION:

One access route has revegetated to a condition where it is difficult to distinguish from the surrounding area. Once erosion is stabilized with hand labor, another route should revegetate naturally and become difficult to distinguish from the surrounding area. A fence line could be removed by hand labor or modified to be much less noticeable.

RECOMMENDATION:

Although a small portion of the unit lacks naturalness, 9,700 acres should be identified as a Wilderness Study Area as it meets the naturalness and the solitude recreation criteria.

59-7 SHOSHONE

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 9,928 acres of BLM land. This unit was called Lava in the August, 1979, report. The unit is entirely covered with a relatively recent lava flow which originated from the Black Butte vent. This lava flow is extremely rough, with numerous subsidence craters, pressure ridges, and other volcanic formations found throughout the unit. Vegetation is generally sparse, but in some places sagebrush and grasses have become established.

NATURALNESS:

Two access routes, which meet the road definition have caused part of the unit to be deleted on the western side.

SOLITUDE:

Opportunities for solitude exist throughout most of the unit. Its remote location, the absence of man-made features, and the low probability of meeting other visitors enhance opportunities for solitude. Outstanding opportunities for solitude have been judged to be present within the lava formation which occupies the central portion of the unit. The rugged, broken topography in the lavas provides excellent screening.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive recreation opportunities within the unit are considered outstanding and generally focus on the volcanic features and associated biotic community. Activities include hiking, camping, photography, and nature study. The unit offers a challenge and risk with all recreation activities which enhances the primitive experience. The factors of challenge and risk are emphasized by the rugged terrain, lack of reliable water sources, extreme temperatures, and lack of natural shelter.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The unit provides several opportunities to study phenomena related to vulcanism.

RECOMMENDATION:

Although a portion of the unit lacks naturalness, 6,914 acres should be identified as a Wilderness Study Area as it meets the naturalness and the solitude-recreation criteria.

It should be noted that the identification of this unit as a Wilderness Study Area was a tough judgement decision due to the narrow configuration of the unit, which might affect the outstanding opportunities for solitude and recreation. Where tough judgement decisions such as this have been made, we especially solicit public input as to whether they feel the unit does or does not possess wilderness characteristics.

COEUR D'ALENE DISTRICT

UNITS NOT PROPOSED AS

WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

61-6c HIDEAWAY ISLAND

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

This unit consists of two adjacent islands in the Kootenai River. The islands are approximately equal in size, containing a total of 170 acres of BLM land. The channel that divides the two is the most susceptible to seasonal fluctuations of water flow. The easternmost island is almost completely covered with dense vegetation, consisting of a predominant overstory of cottonwood, with a thick undergrowth of shrubs and herbaceous species. The other island consists primarily of gravel, though the southern edge contains vegetation similar to the first, but less extensive. Topographic relief is virtually absent on both islands.

NATURALNESS:

Both islands appear to be essentially natural with no evidence of human activity apparent.

SOLITUDE:

Outstanding opportunities for solitude are precluded by the islands' small size. Within the 170 acres, it would be difficult to avoid the sights and sounds of others. Screening is available in those areas containing dense vegetation. This vegetation offers effective screening for users, however, frequent contact would be readily available. No screening is available from topography. Sounds of other users would be easily transmitted throughout this small area.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation do not exist on these islands. The uniform topography and vegetation do not supply the base for a variety of recreation activities, nor is the opportunity for any single activity considered outstanding. Fishing is the activity most suited to the islands; however, the opportunity at this location is similar, if not inferior, to other areas along the Kootenai River. The unit also offers the same opportunity that is available on other islands for overnight or day use by river users.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The islands have been identified as important habitat type for waterfowl, and wood frogs (a sensitive species).

RECOMMENDATION:

Although the islands are natural, they do not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area due to a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation.

61-9 ROCHAT CREEK

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 5,285 acres of BLM land and 1,675 acres in scattered parcels of the St. Joe National Forest, a total of 6,960 acres. One 40 acre parcel of private land is located within the unit. The unit is characterized by steep slopes descending into two drainages. A short ridge separates the Rochat and Street Creek drainages. This ridge contains the most prominent point in the unit, 5,268 feet with slopes descending 2,800 feet at the bottom of both drainages. Several smaller streams feed each of the primary drainages, though none of them break up the uniformity of the basin-like character of this unit. Most of the unit contains a dense cover of brush as a result of a fire. Stands of timber are scattered throughout the unit.

NATURALNESS:

The unit remains in an essentially natural condition. The major impact is a one mile way which departs from the north boundary road. The way climbs a steep, bare hillside and was originally constructed but has since reverted to a way status. The area in which this way is located was at one time sprayed for brush control and trees planted, though no evidence of this activity is evident. This way is visible throughout much of the Street Creek drainage due to the limited screening from both topography and vegetation. Growth of vegetation near the way is beginning to lessen its impact though it will still remain visible for many years. Two other ways also depart from boundary roads. Both penetrate less than $\frac{1}{2}$ mile into the unit and constitute only a minor impact.

SOLITUDE:

The open nature of the unit precludes outstanding opportunity for solitude. The unit contains portions of two broad, open drainages and a ridge which separates them. The lack of widespread vegetative screening, and very little topographic relief creates broad views in each drainage. Under these conditions the presence of other users is easily determined. Few locations exist in which a visitor may isolate himself from others, only in areas containing forest cover would this be possible.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Only a limited opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation is available, with the primary limitation being the overall uniformity of the unit. The uniformity of both terrain and vegetation does not supply the base needed for a variety of recreation pursuits, nor are there unique features which would attract a single use. This uniformity limits the appeal of such activities as backpacking, photography and general sightseeing. Another limitation is the extremely steep nature of the terrain, which restricts the freedom of movement for activities such as horseback riding, hiking, hunting, and fishing.

RECOMMENDATION:

Although most of the unit is natural, it does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area due to a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation.

62-4 BIG CANYON

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 1,100 acres of BLM land in four separate parcels, all contiguous to the Forest Service RARE II area 1-853, which has been recommended for further planning. The figure shown for this unit in the August 1979 report, 1,260 acres, was in error.

Through field investigation, it was found that a road originating on private property enters and passes through one of the BLM parcels, ending at the Snake River near Getta Creek. This road should be the northern boundary of the parcel, formally 300 acres, now trimmed to 210 acres. All four parcels border on the Forest Service RARE II area on one side; in one instance only a 1/8 mile common boundary exists. The parcels contain portions of Highrange Creek, Highrange Ridge, Jones Creek, the headwaters of Getta Creek, Poe Creek, and a portion of Camp Howard Ridge. Vegetation consists of open grassland, a variety of shrubs, mixed coniferous and herbaceous species, and a variety of broadleaf trees.

NATURALNESS:

Two of the parcels appear to be in an essentially natural state, remaining unaffected by human activity. The other two parcels have been subjected to varying degrees of timber harvest in 1961 and 1962, with evidence of this activity still apparent. Roads were constructed within the area to facilitate harvest. These now receive insignificant use and no maintenance. Though these roads have reverted to way status, they are still prominent on the landscape. Other evidence of timber harvest including skid trails, stumps, and slash piles preclude a natural appearance. This evidence of man's occupation is visible from all but a few portions of the two parcels.

SOLITUDE:

An outstanding opportunity for solitude is precluded by the size of the parcels, and their configuration. Within these small and extremely narrow areas it would be difficult to find secluded spots. The lack of adequate vegetative screening in portions of the parcels serves to further limit this opportunity. Consideration of this land in conjunction with the adjacent Forest Service land does little to improve the opportunities. These parcels would form projections away from the main area, with none of the limitations significantly altered.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

The size and configuration of the parcels would limit freedom of movement. However, the most restrictive factor upon recreation opportunity is the extremely steep, and rocky nature of the terrain. Rock climbing may be the only activity suited to the majority of the area. The addition of these parcels to the bordering Forest Service area would not alter the restrictive nature of the terrain. The addition of this unit provides for a narrow projection that remains essentially inaccessible to most users. This action would not increase the limited recreation opportunity available within the unit.

RECOMMENDATION:

The unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study area due to the lack of naturalness on two of the parcels and lack of outstanding opportunity for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation on all four parcels.

COEUR D' ALENE DISTRICT

UNITS PROPOSED AS

WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 1,160 acres of BLM land in three separate parcels. The two northern parcels, b, 560 acres, and c, 160 acres, are contiguous to Forest Service RARE II area 1-125 that has been recommended for further study. The southernmost parcel, d, containing 440 acres is no longer contiguous to the RARE II area, and thus is dropped from BLM consideration due to its small size.

Parcel b consists of steep slopes of the Selkirk Crest Area, heavily vegetated with a wide variety of species. Elevation ranges from 1,800 feet to 4,500 feet at the forest boundary. Numerous small drainages bring a degree of diversity to the terrain. Areas of heavy forest cover dominate the lower slopes, while bare rock and brush cover are found on the upper reaches.

Parcel c contains a portion of the lower slopes of Eneas Peak and descends steeply to the Kootenai River Valley. The slopes remain fairly uniform with no prominent features to break up the terrain. The area is densely vegetated, with stands of mixed conifers, and a variety of broadleaf trees, shrubs, and herbaceous species found throughout the parcel.

NATURALNESS:

Both parcels b and c appear to be in an essentially natural state; remaining unaffected by human activity.

SOLITUDE:

In parcel b, an opportunity for solitude exists when the unit is assessed with adjacent Forest Service land. Several factors limit the unit's ability to offer these opportunities on its own. Foremost is the area's small size. Within only 560 acres, few occasions exist to avoid the presence of others. The scattered vegetation pattern and the lack of distinct topographic variance create screening of only moderate effectiveness. This degree of screening is not able to provide for an outstanding opportunity for solitude within the confines of this small area. The addition of the Forest Service land would remove this limitation. Movement into and out of the unit is facilitated by the fact that it adjoins the forest on two sides. The boundaries of parcel b form a logical extension of the forest boundary, allowing travel to proceed along a more natural route.

In parcel c an outstanding opportunity for solitude exists only when assessed with the adjoining Forest Service land. Dense vegetative cover within the unit provides sufficient screening to avoid the sights and sounds of others. However, the only effective screening offered by topography is derived from a prominent ridge that runs through the unit. The addition of the Forest Service land would remove the limitation of the unit's small size. Movement into and out of the unit is facilitated by the fact that it adjoins the forest on two sides, with these boundaries the unit forms a more logical extension of the forest boundary.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

In both parcels outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are not available. The uniformity of topography and vegetation and the lack of characteristic features which provide a focal point for recreation activity preclude outstanding opportunities. The restriction upon movement that the parcels' size place upon the user would be alleviated with the inclusion of the Forest Service land. Movement would be available in several directions out of the area. However, recreation opportunities would remain limited, and would not improve in a significant way within the combined area.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The general area in which both parcels lie has been identified as important winter range for deer.

RECOMMENDATION:

Parcels b and c, containing 560 and 160 acres respectively, a total of 720 acres, while lacking in outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation, should be identified as a Wilderness Study area, dependent upon the contiguous RARE II area to meet the criteria for size and for outstanding opportunities for solitude. Parcel d, containing 440 acres, does not meet the size criteria.

61-10 CRYSTAL LAKE

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 9,027 acres of BLM land. The initial inventory identified 8,955 acres within the unit. Field investigation indicated that an identified road more accurately fits the definition of a way. This route, originally constructed as a fire road, has been abandoned, no longer receives maintenance, and its use is only sporadic. This reclassification results in the addition of 160 acres. A 160 acre parcel of BLM land was overlooked and not included in the initial inventory figures, further increasing the acreage of the unit. Additional changes result from a more careful calculation of acreage. The unit contains a varied landscape. Bare talus peaks descend sharply to Latour Creek, some 3,000 feet below Reeds Baldy, the tallest of several peaks. The slopes in the upper end of the drainages are vegetated with a thin to moderately stocked mixed coniferous stand. Toward the lower end of the unit the density of this stand steadily increases. Bare areas of talus material are common in the upper end of the drainage and the basin below Crystal Lake contains the site of a fire now vegetated with a dense brush cover. The unit contains the major portion of the Latour Creek drainage, including its headwaters at Crystal Lake.

NATURALNESS:

The unit has retained its essentially natural character. Evidence of man's activity is found in two locations, although this impact does not significantly alter the natural character. The most intrusive impact is a 1½ mile way along the steep slope below Crystal Lake. This route, constructed in association with a fire, receives insignificant use and no maintenance. Due to its location on the slope and a lack of screening on the brush covered hill, it is distinctly visible throughout a limited area in the central portion of the unit. Topography prevents its impact from reaching a more widespread area. Approximately six miles of hiking trail runs along the ridge at the head of the Latour drainage, and along three sides of the unit. This route is of very low impact and extremely localized in its influence.

SOLITUDE:

An outstanding opportunity for solitude is available within the unit. The majority of the unit is composed of a single drainage. In an area such as this with screening offered by the extensive forest cover, many occasions to avoid the sights and sounds of others are provided. Topography provides a more limited degree of screening due to its relatively uniform nature. The screening that topography provides in combination with that from vegetation creates an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

The diversity of the terrain provides an outstanding opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation. The range from bare peaks to heavily forested creek bottoms provides a broad base for a variety of activities: hiking, hunting, sightseeing, and fishing. The steep nature of the terrain provides a vastness greater than the acreage figures indicate. This steepness provides a challenge for certain activities, at the same time imposing limits upon others.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The scenic quality of this unit qualifies as a supplemental value. Some of the best and most wide ranging views of the surrounding area can be experienced from this unit, ranging from deep valleys and river bottoms to distant peaks.

REHABILITATION:

Natural processes will eventually reduce the imprint of the one way which intrudes into the unit. The addition of hand labor would decrease the amount of time required for rehabilitation.

RECOMMENDATION:

The unit, containing 9,027 acres, should be identified as a Wilderness Study Area, as it meets the required criteria for size, naturalness, solitude and recreation.

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The Grandmother Mountain area consists of a total of 17,129 acres of BLM land, physically broken into two sub-units a and b, where administrative land patterns cause cornering of BLM land, rather than one contiguous parcel. The eastern unit (a) contains 10,339 acres, the western unit (b), 6,790 acres. Unit b contains 160 acres of National Forest land (included in the above acreage), and a 160 acre private land inholding (not included in the above acreage). The August 1979 initial inventory report indicated 10,360 acres in unit a and 6,830 in unit b. The new figures are a result of a more accurate calculation of acreage. Much of the following evaluation refers to the entire area, with specific references to the two separate units.

Units a and b are separated by the Marble Creek drainage. Unit a contains a long ridgeline and several high country lakes. There are numerous creeks in the area, and the country is heavily forested. Unit a is a fairly solid block of ownership. Unit b is much more scattered in ownership. The contiguous 6,790 acres branch out into many fingers, and the National Forest adjoins much of the area. The country is mountainous and heavily forested, with many streams breaking up the terrain.

There are several hiking trails that cross the area, all maintained by the FS or the BLM. These trails cross a variety of country through dense forests, across mountain tops, and along streams. The western portion contains heavily stocked mixed conifers, while the upper elevations contain thin stands of sub-alpine fir and talus slopes. The Orphan Point Road that forms the southern boundary is a good quality route that is generally traveled during three seasons. The area is completely snowed-in during winter months. Major landmarks include the headwaters of Lund Creek, Fish Lake, Grandmother and Grandfather Mountains, Lookout Mountain, and Freezeout Creek. Much of the area overlooks Marble Creek which is essentially administered by the Forest Service, and divides the area into units a and b.

NATURALNESS:

The area has retained an essentially natural character. Evidence of man's activity is found in several locations though this impact has not significantly altered the natural character. Evidence of timber harvests outside the area are visible from within in several locations. This is primarily due to the number of mountain tops that afford panoramic vistas. These external impacts were not judged to impair the naturalness inside the area.

There was a 2,560 acre timber sale in the eastern portion of unit a in 1954. The harvest was a selective cut, with most of the logging conducted on top of snow, resulting in little surface disturbance. Skid trails are now overgrown with heavy brush. Due to the snow depth at the time of the sale, there are stumps in the area 4-5 feet in height. Public comment from the initial inventory indicated that the area contained stumps averaging 15-20 feet in height. However, the field inventory found no stumps over 6 feet on BLM land. It was determined that the area within the 26 year old timber sale generally appeared to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable, because the area was selectively cut, with no concentrated area of impact; skid trails are heavily overgrown; stumps are rotting and often lower than the surrounding vegetation; it would require a trained observer to detect most of the evidence of the timber sale.

There are 18 miles of hiking trails in the area. The trails are maintained and have signs at various intersections. However, the impact on the naturalness is very low and extremely localized in its influence. There is a dismantled Forest Service fire lookout atop Lookout Mountain. The remnants include wire cables, with a low impact on naturalness very localized in its influence.

SOLITUDE:

An outstanding opportunity for solitude exists within the area. The terrain is mountainous, steep, and frequently broken by drainages. Within this type of country there is an almost unlimited opportunity for visitors to isolate themselves from others. The vegetation enhances these opportunities for solitude. Dense forests cover much of the area, providing an excellent screening effect and separating people from the sights and sounds of others.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

The diversity of terrain creates an outstanding opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation. Mountain ridges, valleys, and streams combine to provide the base for a variety of recreation activities. Most activities are related to backcountry camping, including backpacking, hiking, sightseeing, hunting, and fishing. There are also excellent opportunities for nature and wildlife observation.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The scenic values of the area qualify as supplemental values. Numerous mountain tops and ridge trails provide outstanding views of the surrounding country. The Lund Creek drainage in the eastern portion of the area has been recommended for designation as a Research Natural Area due to its great diversity of vegetation. Old growth mountain hemlock and sub-alpine fir forests are the major attractions, but equally impressive are aquatic situations including lakes, sphagnum bogs, wet meadows, marshes, and streams.

REHABILITATION:

Although the impacts of the dismantled tower on Lookout Mountain are minor, the mountain top could be returned to a totally natural condition by removal of the remaining cables. This could be accomplished with the use of hand tools.

RECOMMENDATION:

Unit a, containing 10,339 acres, and unit b, containing 6,790 acres are recommended as Wilderness Study Areas as they both meet the naturalness, and the solitude-recreation criteria.

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Private land forms the border around the majority of the unit. The unit is approximately 20 miles in length but averages only 1/2 mile in width. Within this configuration is the Salmon River and its steep canyon walls. The majority of the unit is confined to these walls. Only at Mahoney Creek, approximately midway through the area, does the unit extend any appreciable distance from the river. The canyon walls within the unit are steep and highly broken in their appearance by erosional forces. Numerous perennial and intermittent drainages exist which further serve to break up and diversify the terrain.

The vegetation within the unit is uniform. Grasses dominate the landscape where adequate soil is present, however, scattered locations throughout the unit do support trees, shrubs and herbaceous species. Most of these locations are along the drainages that flow into the Salmon River. The most extensively vegetated area is found in the Mahoney Creek drainage.

NATURALNESS:

Evidence of man's activity is present in several locations within the unit. Most of these intrusions are of low impact and do not significantly detract from the area's natural character. An area of approximately 238 acres at the extreme eastern end of the unit has been deleted due to a significant impact upon naturalness. At this location a group of buildings and community corrals are found. These structures are visible throughout the entire 238 acres and provide conclusive evidence that this area has been substantially affected by man. In addition, two roads, a way, and a bridge over the Salmon River are located just outside of the unit. These features further emphasize the man-made intrusions. White House Bar is another site containing evidence of man's presence. Here several old structures are found along both sides of the river and a way along the south bank. None of these features offer any significant impact upon naturalness. Due to the nature of the topography and the screening it offers, these intrusions would be visible only within the immediate vicinity of White House Bar. These old structures may be of historical value.

SOLITUDE:

An outstanding opportunity for solitude is available within the unit, this opportunity is largely a result of the extremely broken terrain. Natural forces have created a highly eroded rock landscape, which offers innumerable occasions for users to seclude themselves from one another. In most locations, vegetation cannot supply effective screening due to its generally low profile. The amount of screening available from topography in most instances offsets the inherent limitation of vegetation. The average width of 1/2 mile confines users to a narrow corridor which increases the chances of encountering others. This limitation is offset by the amount of screening available from topography and the 20 mile length of the unit.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

The outstanding opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation that is present within the unit revolves around use of the river. An outstanding opportunity is available for river floating in a natural and remote setting. Numerous sand beaches offer excellent campsites for both day and overnight use. Opportunities also exist for fishing, hiking, and rock climbing. The steep and rugged nature of the terrain provides for a challenging experience. This terrain can also restrict other uses with its rugged character. Within the canyon walls, outstanding opportunities exist only for those activities which would benefit from this challenge. The narrow configuration of the unit serves to confine movement to this seemingly restrictive corridor. However, the steep and rugged nature of the terrain within this corridor creates a feeling of vastness greater than distances indicate. This factor lessens the perception of confinement upon movement.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The area that the unit encompasses has been identified as an important spawning and rearing site for anadromous fish, and an important location for the cross-fostering of peregrine falcons. The Salmon River Canyon has been identified as containing important cultural resources. Evidence of man's periodic occupations of the area is prevalent, with sites having been identified as National Register quality.

RECOMMENDATION:

The eastern portion of the unit, 238 acres, lacks naturalness. The remainder of the unit 5,068 acres should be identified as a Wilderness Study Area as it meets the naturalness and the solitude-recreation criteria.

62-2 CONFLUENCE

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 5,110 acres of BLM land. The unit is bounded by an irregular pattern of private land. The Snake River forms the border along the Oregon-Idaho State line. The Forest Service proposed Mountain Sheep Wilderness Area lies across the river from the unit. Due to an oversight, in the initial inventory, a powerline crossing the southern portion of the unit was not inventoried. The same powerline crosses the Salmon River and is the boundary for the Salmon River portion of the unit because of its visual impact. For reasons of consistency, the powerline should also be the boundary of the southern portion of the unit as well, with 533 acres dropping from the unit.

The unit contains the confluence of the Snake and Salmon Rivers. The Snake River borders the unit for approximately 15 miles, while eight miles of the Salmon River pass through the unit. The unit itself consists of the narrow strip of land along the two rivers, with the average width less than 1/2 mile. The portion of the unit along the Snake River consists of steep slopes along the east side of the river. This is an area of highly eroded canyon walls and numerous perennial and intermittent drainages which serve to break up and diversify the terrain. The unit contains both sides of the Salmon River canyon for approximately five miles, then continues along the west side of the river for the remaining three miles. The topography here is the same rugged, steep, and broken slopes as found along the Snake River.

In contrast to the variance of topography is the uniformity of vegetation within the unit. Grasses dominate the landscape wherever soil can be found amidst the predominantly rock terrain. Trees, shrubs, and herbaceous species are generally lacking but can be found along some of the more prominent drainages. With the dropping of the 533 acres, the unit at 4,577 acres, is dependent upon the contiguous Forest Service area to meet the size criteria.

NATURALNESS:

While several imprints of man are present within the unit, the nature of these intrusions and their scattered placement do not create an impact of any significance upon naturalness. A 115KV transmission line passes through the unit and is considered a major visual intrusion. In the area of the confluence of the two rivers, evidence of minor mining activity and a BLM constructed wooden shelter offer a minor impact upon natural integrity. Many sites along the river are used as day or overnight recreation-use sites. Some of the most popular sites present evidence of littering, fire rings, minor soil disturbance, and other low level impacts. Cottonwood Creek contains a picnic table. This level of development does not detract from the natural character of the area to any significant degree. Brightly painted navigational posts are found along the rivers. These are the only reoccurring impacts within the unit, and do offer evidence of man's presence. However, all impacts along the river would only be visible while in the immediate vicinity.

SOLITUDE:

An outstanding opportunity for solitude does exist within this unit, resulting from the extremely broken nature of the terrain. The dendritic pattern of the many drainages has caused a highly eroded rock landscape, which offers innumerable occasions for visitors to seclude themselves from one another. No effective screening is available from vegetation, though with that available from topography, this situation does not significantly detract from the opportunity. The average width of 1/2 mile serves to confine users to a narrow corridor which increases their chances of encountering others. This limitation is offset by the 23 mile length of the unit.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

An outstanding opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation is available in the unit. The steep and rugged nature of the terrain provides a challenging experience, and also serves to restrict other uses with its rugged character. Outstanding opportunities exist for hiking, rock climbing and fishing. The sandy beaches along the river also offer an outstanding opportunity for recreationists. The narrow configuration of the unit serves to confine movement to this seemingly restrictive corridor. However, the steep and rugged nature of the terrain within this corridor creates a feeling of vastness greater than distances indicate. This factor lessens the confinement upon movement.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The area has been identified as an important spawning and rearing site for anadromous fish, and as an important location for the cross-fostering of peregrine falcons. The Salmon River Canyon contains important cultural resources, with evidence of man's periodic occupations of the area prevelant. These sites have been identified as being of National Register quality.

REHABILITATION:

Most of the impacts within this unit could be removed through a minimal amount of hand labor.

RECOMMENDATION:

With the exception of the 533 acres deleted due to the power line crossing, the unit, containing 4,577 acres, should be identified as a Wilderness Study Area as it meets the naturalness and the solitude-recreation criteria. Being less than 5,000 acres the unit is dependent on the contiguous Forest Service proposed wilderness area to meet the size criteria.

62-10 MARSHALL MOUNTAIN

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

This unit was called Gospel Hump in the August, 1979 report. The unit contains 7,490 acres of BLM land. Most of the unit is bordered by the Payette National Forest on the north and east. There are several patented mining claims adjacent to the area. The north boundary of the unit is adjacent to the proposed River of No Return Wilderness (now before Congress). The topography of the area is very mountainous, frequently broken by perennial and intermittent streams. The land is heavily forested, broken by occasional talus slopes. These natural features combine to create spectacular scenic qualities.

NATURALNESS:

The Marshall Mountain Mining District, of which the unit is part, was not included in the National Forest boundary because of the pressure from mineral interests to leave the area open to mining. There has been extensive prospecting in the area, much of it occurring 30-50 years ago. However, most prospecting has involved small test holes or other activities that left very little impact on naturalness. The use of minimum impact prospecting techniques and the effects of time and combined to erase significant impacts of naturalness over most of the area. In addition, the heavy forest cover has screened impacts that might be seen from a distance. The unit has retained a strong natural character in all but a few areas.

Three locations in the unit have had major impacts on naturalness and are deleted from the unit. One contains 14 acres and is deleted due to recently expanded mining activities on Bear Creek. Another area of 781 acres is deleted because the cumulative impacts of mining activities were judged to significantly impact the area's naturalness. The impacts include three mining camps, mine-associated machinery, tailing piles, and two access routes cut into the mountain that obviously are the result of man's activities in the area. Neither access route meets the road definition, but they are impacts on naturalness that would not be overlooked. Almost half of the deleted area overlooks the Kimberly, Golden Anchor, and Sherman Howe mines. While these mines lie outside the unit, they significantly impact naturalness when viewed from within the area. A third area of 171 acres is deleted in the southeastern corner of the unit because of the cumulative impact of mining activities on the area's naturalness. Mining impacts include the Tuttle mining operations, several mine shafts, tailing piles, buildings, and abandoned roads. There is a substantial imprint of man's work in the deleted area.

SOLITUDE:

An outstanding opportunity for solitude is available within the unit. This opportunity is largely the result of the mountainous terrain and dense vegetative cover. The broken landscape offers many opportunities for visitors to isolate themselves from others. Dense forests that cover much of the area effectively screen visitors from each other. There are a few places that offer only limited opportunities for solitude, mainly along barren ridge tops in the southern portion of the unit.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

The outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation is centered around the unit's suitability for backcountry camping activities. Recreation opportunities include hiking, backpacking, hunting and wildlife observation, scenic photography, and sightseeing for botanical and geological features. The diversity of significant recreation opportunities is considered outstanding. There is significant physical challenge associated with cross-country travel in the area due to its mountainous nature. The few trails that exist provide many camping sites which could separate visitors from each other.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

When considered along with the adjacent RARE II area, the unit offers truly spectacular scenic opportunities. Outstanding panoramic views were observed during the inventory. There may be historical values associated with the mining activity in the Marshall Mountain area.

RECOMMENDATION:

Although a portion of the unit, 966 acres, does not meet the naturalness criteria, the remainder of the unit, containing 6,524 acres, should be identified as a Wilderness Study Area as it meets the naturalness, and the solitude-recreation criteria.

APPENDIX B

ALPHABETICAL INDEX - ALL INVENTORY UNITS

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Big Springs	111-20a	1-22
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Bull Basin	111-21	1-24
Bull Gulch	111-19b	1-21
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1/ Also listed with Burley District

2/ Also listed with Boise District

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3/ Also listed with Salmon District

4/ Also listed with Idaho Falls District

<u>UNIT NAME</u>	<u>INVENTORY NUMBER</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
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Coeur d'Alene District

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5/ Previously called Kinzie East

6/ Previously called Lava

7/ Previously called Gospel Hump

APPENDIX C

PUBLIC COMMENT SHEET

NAME _____ INVENTORY NUMBER _____
(Unit on which you are commenting)
ADDRESS _____

DATE _____

During the Initial Inventory, which involved field checks and public review, inventory units were identified which were roadless and of adequate size. These are the inventory units about which you are now commenting. An inventory unit will be identified as a Wilderness Study Area (WSA) if, in addition to being roadless and of adequate size, it has wilderness characteristics as defined in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964, as required by Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. These wilderness characteristics are listed below with a space for your comments. More specifics on how these factors are evaluated by the BLM are found in the Public Participation section of this report and the BLM Wilderness Inventory Handbook, dated September 1978.

PLEASE NOTE: Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the identification of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after September 1980.

NATURALNESS

Does the area generally appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable?

SOLITUDE OR PRIMITIVE, UNCONFINED RECREATION

Do outstanding opportunities for solitude exist?

Do outstanding opportunities for primitive, unconfined recreation exist?

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES

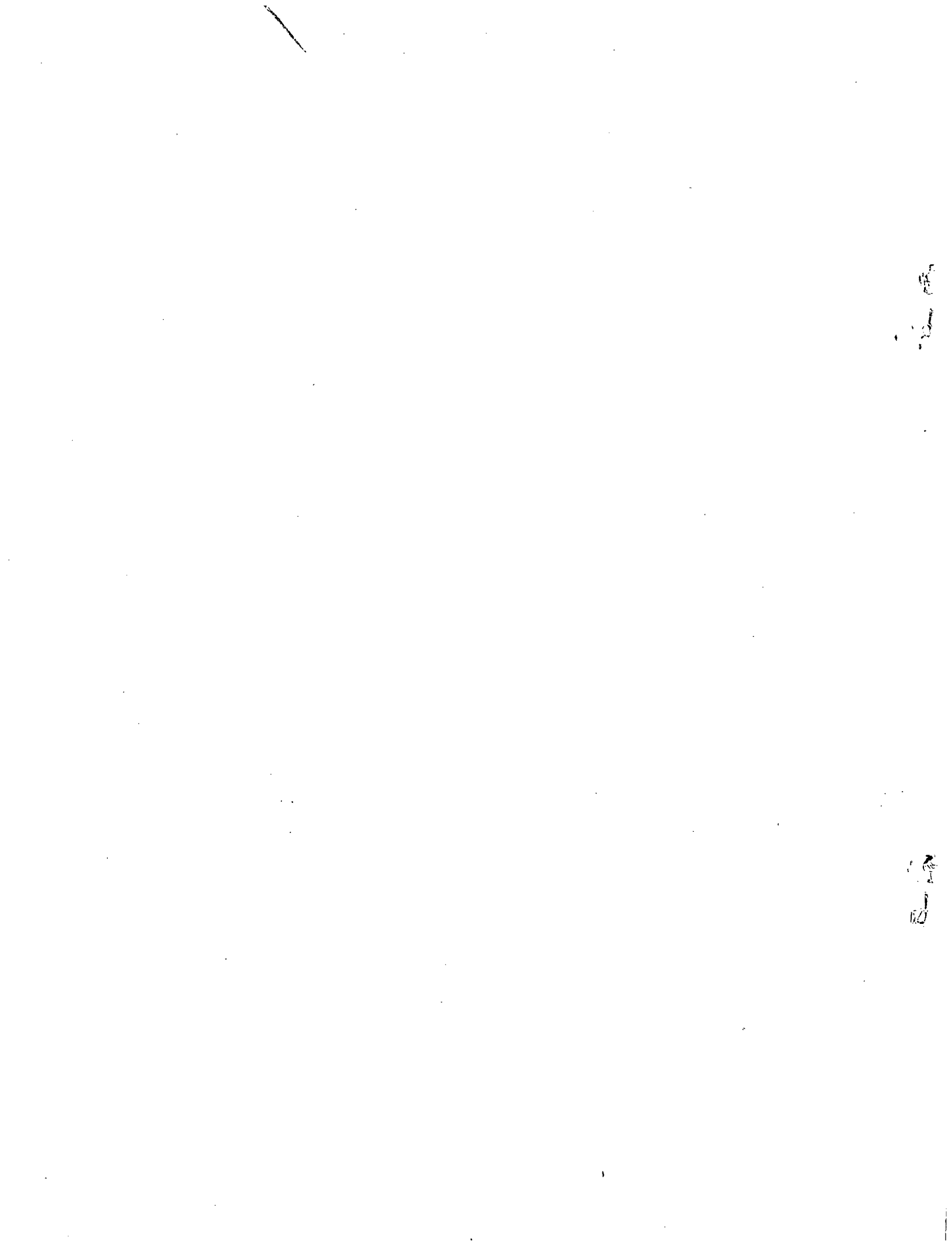
Does the unit contain ecological, geological, or other values? (The presence of supplemental values is not a prerequisite for an area to qualify as a WSA).

RECLAMATION

If the unit qualifies as to size, naturalness, solitude-recreation, can the imprints of man be reclaimed to a substantially unnoticeable condition?

OTHER COMMENTS:

DOES THIS INVENTORY UNIT QUALIFY AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA? YES, NO



APPENDIX C

PUBLIC COMMENT SHEET

NAME _____ INVENTORY NUMBER _____
(Unit on which you are commenting)
ADDRESS _____

DATE _____

During the Initial Inventory, which involved field checks and public review, inventory units were identified which were roadless and of adequate size. These are the inventory units about which you are now commenting. An inventory unit will be identified as a Wilderness Study Area (WSA) if, in addition to being roadless and of adequate size, it has wilderness characteristics as defined in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964, as required by Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. These wilderness characteristics are listed below with a space for your comments. More specifics on how these factors are evaluated by the BLM are found in the Public Participation section of this report and the BLM Wilderness Inventory Handbook, dated September 1978.

PLEASE NOTE: Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the identification of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after September 1980.

NATURALNESS

Does the area generally appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable?

SOLITUDE OR PRIMITIVE, UNCONFINED RECREATION
Do outstanding opportunities for solitude exist?

Do outstanding opportunities for primitive, unconfined recreation exist?

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES

Does the unit contain ecological, geological, or other values? (The presence of supplemental values is not a prerequisite for an area to qualify as a WSA)

RECLAMATION

If the unit qualifies as to size, naturalness, solitude-recreation, can the imprints of man be reclaimed to a substantially unnoticeable condition?

OTHER COMMENTS:

DOES THIS INVENTORY UNIT QUALIFY AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA? YES, NO

1
13-15
16
17
18
5
28-35
36



IDAHO #80-34
4/2/80
BLM
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Upon Receipt
Fred Cook, Phone 334-1770 or
George Weiskircher, Phone 334-1748
NEWS RELEASE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Idaho State Office Federal Building P.O. Box 042 Boise, ID 83724

WILDERNESS INVENTORY PROPOSED DECISIONS RELEASED

Robert Buffington, Idaho State Director for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), today announced the proposed decision for the Statewide Intensive Wilderness Inventory. The release of this decision marks the beginning of a 90-day public review of the proposals beginning April 4, 1980 and ending July 3, 1980.

During the intensive wilderness inventory, 107 inventory units containing over 1,924,000 acres of BLM land were examined in detail to determine the presence or absence of wilderness characteristics. As a result of the intensive inventory field work, it has been determined that 35 inventory units totalling 803,836 acres contain wilderness characteristics and are proposed as Wilderness Study Areas (WSA's), and that 72 inventory units and 1,120,508 acres do not contain characteristics and are proposed to be dropped from further consideration. (The attached detailed list of inventory units shows the status of the proposed decision for each of the 107 units.)

The proposed Wilderness Study Areas by BLM District are as follows:

<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>PROPOSED AS WSA's</u>		<u>NOT PROPOSED AS WSA's</u>	
	<u># UNITS</u>	<u># ACRES</u>	<u># UNITS</u>	<u># ACRES</u>
Boise	7	316,343	24	486,901
Burley	1	11,358	4	45,173
Idaho Falls	6	157,630	18	227,027
Salmon	3	53,002	7	86,499
Shoshone	11	222,458	16	264,501
Coeur d'Alene	7	43,045	3	10,407
TOTAL	35	803,836	72	1,120,508

"This stage of the wilderness process is extremely critical," Buffington said. "We need the public's ideas on the adequacy of our inventory data and the correctness of our recommendations on both sides of the issue; either areas being dropped from wilderness consideration or areas identified as Wilderness Study Areas for eventual consideration by Congress.

"Comments on the decisions should address the presence or absence of those wilderness characteristics as described in the Wilderness Act, namely: size, naturalness, outstanding solitude or outstanding primitive recreation opportunities, and supplemental values.

"Thorough review by those interested in this issue is critical to the program's success," Buffington said.

Documents describing the Bureau's findings and recommendations along with maps have been sent to everyone indicating an interest in the Bureau's wilderness program. Maps and a summary document are available at no cost in the BLM State Office and in BLM District Offices. Intensive inventory reports on each area can be reviewed in both State and BLM District Offices.

The BLM will host open houses, workshops and meetings throughout the State from April 15, 1980 through May 22, 1980. These will include presentations on the review process and will provide the opportunity for exchange of information with the public. (A detailed list of the meetings is attached.)

All comments must be received by the BLM Idaho State or District Offices no later than 4:15 p.m. July 3, 1980 to be utilized in the final decision on which units will become Wilderness Study Areas.

This final decision on Wilderness Study Area status is scheduled for late September. With the exception of several inventory units where release of the intensive inventory has been deferred due to protests or appeals, this announcement completes the intensive inventory phase of BLM's wilderness review for Idaho. All areas identified as Wilderness Study Areas in the final decision will be further analyzed through the Bureau's Planning Process to determine which areas should receive a suitable or non-suitable recommendation for wilderness designation. These recommendations will eventually be forwarded to Congress for the final decision on possible designation of areas into the National Wilderness Preservation System.

#

DETAILED LIST OF INVENTORY UNITS

	<u>Acres Proposed As WSA</u>	<u>Acres Not Proposed As WSA (Proposed To Be Dropped)</u>
<u>Boise District</u>		
11-17	Outcrop	6,420
14-19	Long Tom Creek	13,226
14-21	Bennett Creek	11,162
16-2	Jump Creek	8,301
16-9	Reynolds Creek Canyon	14,650
16-49c	Squaw Meadows	10,316
17-1a	Lookout Butte	20,077
17-1b	East Fork Bruneau River	10,178
17-6	Dry Lakes	26,208
17-7	Clover Crossing	6,314
17-10	Lower Salmon Falls Creek	22,287
17-11	Jarbidge River	75,340
17-12	Poison Creek	13,532
18-1	Wildhorse	7,472
19-1	Cold Springs Creek	21,380
110-91a	Box Creek (Unit dependent on contiguous RARE II area to meet criteria)	428
111-5	Poison Gulch	30,742
111-6	Little Jack's Creek	41,143
111-7a	Big Hill	12,924
111-7b	Duncan Creek	10,005
111-7c	Big Jack's Creek	54,833
111-12	Sheep Trail	19,702
111-17	Bruneau River	107,020
111-18	Pole Creek	24,509
111-19a	Camas Creek	19,347
111-19b	Bull Gulch	33,150
111-20a	Big Springs	5,342
111-20b	Upper Battle Creek	17,787
111-21	Bull Basin	17,625
111-36a	Sheep Creek West	13,070
111-36b	Sheep Creek East	12,412
	Boise District Total	316,343
<u>Burley District</u>		
26-1	Hanzel Mountain	20,615
26-3	South Samaria	6,615
27-1	South Deep Creek	9,609
27-2	Deep Creek Peak	6,646
28-1	Petticoat Peak	11,358
	Burley District Total	45,173

<u>Idaho Falls District</u>		<u>Acres Proposed As WSA</u>	<u>Acres Not Proposed As WSA (Proposed To Be Dropped)</u>
31-10	Illinois		11,150
31-11	Deadman Canyon		23,000
31-13	Timbered Dome		10,240
31-14	Appendicitis Hill	24,870	630
31-15	Dry Hollow		17,800
31-17	White Knob Mountains	9,950	
32-2	Sands Canyon		8,010
32-3	Hawley Mountain	15,510	640
32-4	Taylor Mountain		11,134
32-9	Black Canyon	5,400	
32-16	Pass Creek		1,220
33-4	Cedar Butte	35,700	3,120
33-5	Skull		8,650
33-6	Rye Grass		8,000
33-7	Cottontail		9,300
33-12	Split Top		18,080
33-13	Bear Point		20,650
33-14	Mosby Butte		35,720
33-15	Hell's Half Acre	66,200	2,720
33-16	Morgan		9,420
33-22	Cox's Place		12,790
33-23	Bear Trap		13,860
33-24	Firth Quad Islands		86
33-25	Moreland Quad Islands		807
Idaho Falls District Total		157,630	227,027

Salmon District

41-3	Geertson Creek		10,720
42-6	Baldy Basin		10,720
43-3	Eighteen Mile	24,922	
44-2	King Mountain		12,602
44-3	Hat Creek		9,707
44-4	Ellis Creek		28,040
44-9	Cronks Canyon		7,470
45-5	Mill Creek		1,330
45-12	Burnt Creek	24,980	5,130
47-4	Borah Peak (Unit dependent on contiguous RARE II area to meet criteria)	3,100	780
Salmon District Total		53,002	86,499

	<u>Acres Proposed As WSA</u>	<u>Acres Not Proposed As WSA (Proposed To Be Dropped)</u>
<u>Shoshone District</u>		
54-3		8,827
54-4		11,355
54-5	5,875	95
54-6	10,371	10,589
54-7		7,542
54-8	21,030	2,440
54-9		8,455
54-10	7,487	1,394
54-11		16,968
54-12		23,644
54-13		9,420
56-2	23,680	1,913
56-3	--	--
57-2	15,968	5,930
57-3		12,271
57-4		8,138
57-5		10,934
57-6		21,544
57-7		33,116
57-8	20,792	15,953
57-9	--	--
57-10		
57-10	67,110	190
57-11	33,531	9,443
57-12		9,868
57-13		16,180
57-14	9,700	4
57-15		7,398
57-16		7,876
59-7	6,914	3,014
	222,458	264,501
<u>Coeur d'Alene District</u>		
61-1	720	440
61-6c		170
61-9		6,960
61-10	9,027	
61-15a	10,339	
61-15b	6,790	

		<u>Acres Proposed As WSA</u>	<u>Acres Not Proposed As WSA (Proposed To Be Dropped)</u>
Coeur d'Alene District (continued)			
62-1	Snowhole Rapids	5,068	238
62-2	Confluence (Unit dependent on contiguous RARE II area to meet criteria)	4,577	533
62-4	Big Canyon		1,100
62-10	Marshall Mountain (Previously called Gospel Hump)	6,524	966
	Coeur d'Alene District Total	<u>43,045</u>	<u>10,407</u>
	STATE TOTAL	803,836	1,120,508

DETAILED LIST OF MEETINGS

Public meetings, open houses, and workshops will be held at the following locations throughout the State for discussion of the BLM Wilderness Review, to answer questions, and to obtain input from the public on these proposed decisions:

April 15, 7:30 P.M.	Idaho Falls	Westbank Motel
April 16, 11:30 A.M.-8:30 P.M.	Arco	County Courthouse
April 22, 11:30 A.M.-8:30 P.M.	Aberdeen	High School
April 23, 7:00 P.M.	Salmon	Salmon BLM District Office
April 29, 7:30 P.M.	Pocatello	Holiday Inn
April 30, 12:00-8:00 P.M.	Twin Falls	Little Tree Inn
May 1, 7:30 P.M.	Moscow	Travelodge - Clark Room
May 6, 12:00-8:00 P.M.	Bruneau	American Legion Hall
May 6, 12:00-8:00 P.M.	Shoshone	Shoshone BLM District Office
May 6, 7:30 P.M.	Lewiston	Lewis & Clark State College Spalding Hall - Conference Rm.
May 7, 12:00-8:00 P.M.	Murphy	Owyhee County Courthouse
May 8, 12:00-8:00 P.M.	Boise	Boise BLM District Office
May 8, 12:00-8:00 P.M.	Gooding	County Courthouse - Commissioners Room
May 8, 7:30 P.M.	Coeur d'Alene	North Shore Convention Center - Room 3
May 12, 12:00-8:00 P.M.	Hailey	New Blaine County Courthouse
May 14, 7:30 P.M.	Grangeville	Idaho Bank and Trust Building- Meeting Room
May 15, 12:00-8:00 P.M.	Rupert	Judicial Building (adjacent Minidoka County Courthouse)
May 22, 7:30 P.M.	St. Maries	Federal Building - Conference Room

SUMMARY
BLM WILDERNESS INVENTORY ACTION TO APRIL 2, 1980

<u>TOTAL ACRES INVENTORIED</u>		11,949,386
Acres Dropped after Initial Wilderness Inventory Phase		8,289,215
Acres Considered under Intensive Inventory Phase		3,660,171
 <u>INTENSIVE INVENTORY DECISION</u>		
Acres Proposed to be dropped	1,120,508	
Acres Proposed to be WSA's	803,836	
 <u>PREVIOUS DECISIONS</u>		
Acres Dropped	693,891	
Acres identified to be WSA's (of this, 44,331 acres are proposed to be dropped)	820,078	
 <u>DECISION DEFERRED</u>	 266,189	 <hr/>
		3,660,171