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# SHOSHONE / SUN VALLEY

Plan Amendment /

Wilderness

Environmental

Impact Statement

Draft



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

SHOSHONE DISTRICT

1982



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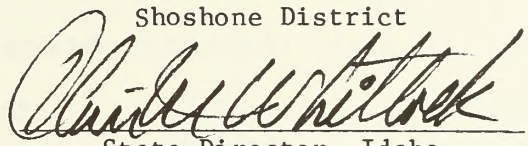
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SHOSHONE/SUN VALLEY PLAN AMENDMENT/WILDERNESS  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
(DRAFT)

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Prepared by  
Department of Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Shoshone District

  
State Director, Idaho

The Bureau of Land Management proposes to recommend to the Secretary of the Interior 62,868 acres as nonsuitable for wilderness designation and 23,735 acres as suitable for wilderness designation. These recommendations are drawn from evaluation of nine Wilderness Study Areas totaling 86,603 acres. This document describes the environmental consequences of the proposal and two alternatives for suitable wilderness recommendations.

The WSAs under consideration are:

- Little Wood River (53-4)
- Friedman Creek (53-5)
- Black Butte (54-2)
- Little City of Rocks (54-5)
- Black Canyon (54-6)
- Gooding City of Rocks (54-8a)
- Gooding City of Rocks (54-8b)
- Deer Creek (54-10)
- Lava (56-2)

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Comments should be submitted to the above address by January 11, 1983.

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SHOSHONE/SUN VALLEY PLAN AMENDMENT/WILDERNESS  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

SUMMARY

The Bureau of Land Management is reviewing wilderness study areas (WSAs) in the Shoshone District in order to make recommendations as to their suitability or nonsuitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS). This document is the draft plan amendment and environmental impact statement presenting the analysis and conclusions reached to date through the prescribed wilderness study process.

The WSAs under consideration are:

Little Wood River	ID-53-4	4,385 acres
Friedman Creek	ID-53-5	9,773 acres
Black Butte	ID-54-2	4,002 acres
Little City of Rocks	ID-54-5	5,875 acres
Black Canyon	ID-54-6	10,371 acres
Gooding City of Rocks	ID-54-8a	14,743 acres
Gooding City of Rocks	ID-54-8b	6,287 acres
Deer Creek	ID-54-10	7,487 acres
Lava	ID-56-2	23,680 acres

The alternatives considered are:

1. Partial Wilderness in which WSAs 53-4, 54-8b, and a portion of 54-8a (a total of 23,735 acres) are recommended suitable, and the remaining areas are recommended nonsuitable.
2. No Action/No Wilderness in which all WSAs (86,603 acres) would be recommended nonsuitable and managed under provision of existing land use plans.
3. All Wilderness in which 82,601 acres including all WSAs except Black Butte, as noted below, would be recommended as suitable.

The main issues raised during the scoping process are:

1. The quality of the wilderness values in the WSAs.
2. The effect wilderness designation would have on motorized recreation and other types of non-primitive recreation in and around the WSAs.
3. The effect of wilderness designation on the development of mineral resources in the WSAs.

4. The effect of wilderness designation on livestock operations in the WSAs.

Based on analysis to date, the Partial Wilderness Alternative is the Bureau's preferred alternative and the proposed action. The major conclusions of the wilderness study to date are:

1. WSA 54-2, Black Butte, has been affected by permissible mining activity to the point where some of its original wilderness characteristics no longer exist. Consequently, it does not qualify for further consideration for wilderness designation.
2. The public lands in the WSAs do not make a significant contribution to the economy of the local area.
3. Although all the WSAs except Black Butte have outstanding wilderness characteristics, some are more suitable than others for inclusion in the NWPS, as reflected by the proposed action.
4. Wilderness designation would eliminate low levels of off-road vehicle (ORV) use in certain WSAs. Some of this use, especially during particular seasons, is considered important by some ORV operators.
5. Beginning on January 1, 1984, mineral development would no longer be allowed in designated wilderness areas; however, no significant mineral values are known to exist in any of the WSAs, so this impact would be minimal.



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# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION AND PLANNING PROCESS

### PURPOSE AND NEED

Land use plans, i.e., management framework plans (MFPs), completed to date in the Shoshone BLM District were developed prior to the Congressional mandate that BLM areas with wilderness characteristics be identified, studied, and recommended as either suitable or unsuitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS). Because BLM wilderness studies and the resulting suitability recommendations are scheduled to be completed prior to revising the existing MFPs, these MFPs are being amended to reflect the existence of the identified study areas and to include the initial suitability recommendations presented in this document.

Although the nine wilderness study areas (WSAs) being studied fall within three different MFPs (Sun Valley, Timmerman Hills, and Bennett Hills), they are analyzed together in this amendment/EIS. The study areas are shown in Table 1-1 below.

TABLE 1-1  
WILDERNESS STUDY AREA DESCRIPTIONS

Name	Number	Acreage	County	Management Framework Plan
Little Wood River	ID-53-4	4,385	Blaine	Sun Valley
Friedman Creek	ID-53-5	9,773	Blaine, Butte, Custer	Sun Valley
Black Butte	ID-54-2	4,002	Blaine, Lincoln	Bennett Hills
Little City of Rocks	ID-54-5	5,875	Gooding	Bennett Hills
Black Canyon	ID-54-6	10,371	Gooding	Bennett Hills
Gooding City of Rocks	ID-54-8a	14,743	Gooding	Bennett Hills
Gooding City of Rocks	ID-54-8b	6,287	Gooding	Bennett Hills
Deer Creek	ID-54-10	7,487	Camas, Gooding	Bennett Hills
Lava	ID-56-2	23,680	Lincoln	Timmerman Hills

## LOCATION

The WSAs are located in southcentral Idaho in the BLM's Shoshone District. Map 1 shows the relative location of the areas.

## PLANNING PROCESS

Development of wilderness suitability recommendations, like other BLM land use decisions, is guided by requirements of the Bureau's Planning Regulations, 43 CFR, part 1600. The BLM's Wilderness Study Policy (published February 3, 1982, in the Federal Register) supplements the planning regulations by providing the specific factors to be considered during the planning sequence in developing suitability recommendations. This document is a product of the planning process and serves the following purposes:

1. It contains the information needed to amend the existing land use plans.
2. It serves as the draft environmental impact statement.
3. It documents the initial conclusions of the wilderness study and the rationale supporting the suitability recommendations for each of the WSAs.

## CONFORMANCE STATEMENT

The existing Bennett Hills, Sun Valley, and Timmerman Hills MFPs do not include consideration of wilderness values or suitability recommendations. Therefore, consideration of wilderness at this time is not in conformance with the plans and may be accomplished only through use of plan amendment procedures prescribed by the planning regulations.



## PLANNING ISSUES

In April 1981 the notice of intent to begin the MFP amendments and EIS was mailed to federal, state, and local government agencies and individuals included on the Shoshone BLM District's wilderness mailing list. The notice requested public comment to help identify significant issues for the WSAs under study. Six responses were received that identified issues to be considered in the planning amendment and EIS process. Many of the comments received during the inventory stage of the wilderness review are also relevant to the wilderness study phase. These comments have been reviewed as a part of the scoping process.

The scoping effort has identified the following significant issues for the amendment/EIS:

1. What is the quality of the wilderness values in the WSAs under study?
2. What effect would wilderness designation have on motorized recreation and other types of non-primitive recreation in and around the WSAs?
3. What effect would wilderness designation have on the development of mineral resources in the WSAs?
4. How would wilderness designation affect livestock operations in the WSAs?

A second notice of intent, updating the first, was published in April 1982. This notice listed the significant issues identified in the scoping process. Additional comments on issues were invited. No new issues have been identified to date.

## PLANNING CRITERIA AND QUALITY STANDARDS

The BLM's Wilderness Study Policy identified two planning criteria and six quality standards for use in planning efforts involving wilderness. Planning criteria provide consistent guidance for developing amendments and conducting analyses. Quality standards also provide for consistency in the rationale for wilderness recommendations and ensure that other resources are given adequate consideration. All BLM wilderness recommendations, both "suitable for preservation as wilderness" and "unsuitable," will be justified on the basis of the following criteria.

## Criterion 1 - Evaluation of Wilderness Values

Consider the extent to which each of the following components contributes to the overall value of an area for wilderness purposes.

### Mandatory Wilderness Characteristics

The quality of the area's mandatory wilderness characteristics - size, naturalness, and outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

### Special Features

The presence or absence, and the quality of the optional wilderness characteristics, i.e. ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

### Multiple Resource Benefits

The benefits to other multiple resource values and uses which only wilderness designation of the area could ensure.

### Diversity in the National Wilderness Preservation System

Consider the extent to which wilderness designation of the area under study would contribute to expanding the diversity of the National Wilderness Preservation System from the standpoint of each of the factors listed below.

1. Expanding the diversity of natural systems and features, as represented by ecosystems and landforms.
2. Assessing the opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation within a day's driving time (five hours) of major population centers.
3. Balancing the geographic distribution of wilderness areas.



The analysis should consider, in separate categories, all federal and state lands designated as wilderness, officially recommended for wilderness, and under wilderness study.

## Criterion 2 - Manageability

The area must be capable of being effectively managed to preserve its wilderness character.

## Quality Standards for Analysis and Documentation

The following are the six quality standards for analysis and documentation that must be met in all wilderness EISs and wilderness study reports.

### Standard 1 - Energy and Mineral Resource Values

Recommendations as to an area's suitability or non-suitability for wilderness designation will reflect a thorough consideration of any identified or potential energy and mineral resource values.

### Standard 2 - Impacts on Other Resources

Consider the extent to which other resource values or uses of the area would be foregone or adversely affected as a result of wilderness designation.

### Standard 3 - Impact of Nondesignation on Wilderness Values

Consider the alternative use of land under study if the area is not designated as wilderness, and the extent to which the wilderness values of the area would be foregone or adversely affected as a result of this use.

#### Standard 4 - Public Comment

The BLM's wilderness study process will consider comments received from interested and affected publics at all levels - local, state, regional, and national. Wilderness recommendations will not be based on a vote-counting majority rule system. The BLM will develop its recommendations by considering public comment in conjunction with a full analysis of a WSA's multiple resource and socioeconomic values and uses.

#### Standard 5 - Local and Regional Socioeconomic Effects

The BLM will give special attention to any significant socioeconomic effects, as identified through the wilderness study process, which wilderness designation of the area would have on local communities or surrounding regions.

#### Standard 6 - Consistency With Other Plans

The BLM will fully consider and document the extent to which the recommendation is consistent with officially approved and adopted resource-related plans of other federal agencies, state and local governments, as required by BLM planning regulations.



## CHAPTER 2

### ALTERNATIVES INCLUDING PROPOSED ACTION

#### ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT

##### Range of Alternatives Analyzed

The BLM Wilderness Study Policy calls for the formulation and evaluation of alternatives ranging from resource protection to resource production. Therefore, the alternatives assessed in this amendment/EIS include: (1) the no action alternative; (2) the no wilderness alternative; (3) the all wilderness alternative; and (4) a partial wilderness alternative.

In this document, the no action and no wilderness alternatives are equivalent. Both advocate a continuation of the present resource management plan and the recommendation of the lands as nonsuitable for wilderness.

The all wilderness alternative represents the maximum possible acreage that could be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation.

Partial wilderness alternatives can make suitable or nonsuitable recommendations ranging between the all wilderness and no action alternatives. A partial alternative can recommend as suitable something less than the entire acreage of one WSA, something less than the entire acreage of all WSAs, the entire acreage of one or more WSAs, or a combination of these possibilities.

One partial wilderness alternative has been developed for this amendment/EIS. Although numerous combinations of the nine WSAs can be made, there is not a substantial difference between these alternatives except in the number of acres recommended as suitable. The partial alternative analyzed for this document recommends 23,735 acres as suitable, including the entire acreage of the Little Wood River WSA (53-4) and Gooding City of Rocks WSA (54-8b), and a portion of the Gooding City of Rocks WSA (54-8a). The remaining six WSAs are recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation. The nonsuitable areas all have serious manageability problems, resource conflicts, or a substantially lower quality of wilderness characteristics.

## Black Butte WSA (54-2)

This WSA is recommended as nonsuitable in all alternatives. Because the area is smaller than 5,000 acres (it is 4,002 acres in size), the authority in sections 201, 202, and 302 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) was used to identify the area as a WSA. Areas included in the wilderness review under sections 201, 202, and 302 Of FLPMA do not have the interim management protection afforded to WSAs identified using the authority provided in section 603 of FLPMA. Therefore, when placer mining claims for building stone in the WSA were developed, irreparable damage was done to the wilderness characteristic of naturalness. Since the damage was quite extensive, covering the central portion of the WSA, there is no way to exclude the affected areas without removing areas essential to opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

This WSA no longer offers the essential wilderness characteristics set forth in the definition of wilderness in the Wilderness Act of 1964. Therefore, no further consideration will be given to its suitability for wilderness designation.

## Alternatives Considered But Dropped From Analysis

One alternative was considered that would have added 16,246 acres to the Partial Wilderness Alternative by including the Black Canyon (54-6) and Little City of Rocks (54-5) WSAs as suitable for wilderness. Both units have wilderness values with relatively low quality. The gentle terrain combined with the close proximity of a state highway would make large portions of these units difficult to manage as wilderness. Boundary adjustments to exclude those portions of the units with manageability problems would leave them with an unmanageable configuration or with less than 5,000 acres.

Another alternative was considered that would have recommended the Deer Creek WSA (54-10) as suitable for wilderness, in addition to those WSAs in the Partial Wilderness Alternative. This would add 7,487 acres to the Partial Wilderness Alternative. Wilderness characteristics in this WSA are of a relatively low quality and the area has few special features. A resource conflict involving planned vegetation treatments could involve large portions of the WSA. Because this alternative adds little but increased acreage to the EIS analysis, it was dropped from further consideration.

A third alternative would have recommended the Lava WSA (56-2) as suitable for wilderness, in addition to the WSAs in the Partial Wilderness Alternative. The quality of wilderness characteristics in this unit are relatively low. Although the unit is fairly large (23,680 acres), it has



little relief and has little to offer except space. This alternative was dropped from consideration because it would offer little to the EIS analysis except increased acreage.

A fourth alternative would have recommended the Friedman Creek WSA (53-5) as suitable for wilderness, in addition to the WSAs in the Partial Wilderness Alternative. Numerous private inholdings and narrow boundary configurations would create serious manageability problems for this WSA. The high mineral potential in the unit would create a resource conflict with wilderness management. Although the wilderness characteristics are similar to those in the Little Wood River WSA (53-4), the serious manageability problems and resource conflicts outweigh the wilderness values. Therefore, this alternative was dropped from further consideration.

## DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVES

### Proposed Action/Partial Wilderness Alternative

The proposed action is that 23,735 acres in three WSAs be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation (see Maps 3A and 3B). The Sun Valley MFP would be amended to support a suitable recommendation for the entire Little Wood River WSA (53-4) and a nonsuitable recommendation for the entire Friedman Creek Unit (53-5). The Bennett Hills MFP would be amended to support a suitable recommendation for a portion of the Gooding City of Rocks WSA (54-8a) and the entire Gooding City of Rocks WSA (54-8b). The amendment would also recommend as nonsuitable for wilderness designation the Little City of Rocks (54-5), Black Canyon (54-6), and Deer Creek (54-10) WSAs. The Timmerman Hills MFP would be amended to recommend the Lava WSA (56-2) as nonsuitable for wilderness designation.

### Little Wood River (53-4)

All 4,385 acres of this WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation. A spring development planned for the WSA would be constructed. No other range improvements are planned. The WSA would be closed to ORVs.

Lands within designated wilderness would be open for mineral leasing and mineral appropriation until December 31, 1983. After January 1, 1984, only mineral claims which existed before that date may be developed.

Friedman Creek (53-5)

All 9,773 acres of this WSA would be recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation. No range improvements are planned for the area. The lands within the WSA would remain open to off-road vehicle use. All lands within the WSA would remain open for mineral leasing and for appropriation of minerals under the General Mining Laws and other pertinent laws and regulations.

Little City of Rocks (54-5)

All 5,875 acres of this WSA would be recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation. No range improvements are planned for the area. The lands within the WSA would remain undesignated for off-road vehicle use and would be available to ORV use until designations are determined. All lands within the WSA would remain open for mineral leasing and for appropriation of minerals under the General Mining Laws and other pertinent laws and regulations.

Black Canyon (54-6)

All 10,371 acres of the WSA would be recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation. Range improvements planned for the area include two reservoirs (less than one-third acre in size) and brush control through prescribed burning. The lands within the WSA would remain undesignated for ORV use and would be available for ORVs until designations are determined. All lands within the WSA would remain open for mineral leasing and for appropriation of minerals under the General Mining Laws and other pertinent laws and regulations.

Gooding City of Rocks (54-8a)

A portion of this WSA, with 13,063 acres, would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation. The remaining 1,680 acres would be recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation because of manageability and resource conflicts. Range improvements planned in the suitable area include a small brush control project and a reservoir. Wilderness Management Policy allows for the completion of planned range improvements.



The WSA would be closed to ORVs. The Wilderness Act allows mineral exploration, leasing, and appropriation within designated wilderness until 1984. After January 1, 1984, only mining claims established before that date may be developed.

A state land section (640 acres) surrounded by the WSA would be acquired.

#### Gooding City of Rocks (54-8b)

All 6,287 acres of this WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation. Planned range improvements would be completed. The WSA would be closed to ORVs. The Wilderness Act allows mineral exploration, leasing, and appropriation until 1984. After January 1, 1984, only mining claims established before that date may be developed.

A state land section (640 acres) that is between Gooding City of Rocks (54-8A) and Gooding City of Rocks (54-8B) would be acquired.

#### Deer Creek (54-10)

All 7,487 acres of the WSA would be recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation. Range improvements planned for the unit include spring developments and a large brush control project. Brush control would be achieved through spraying or prescribed burning. The land within the WSA would remain undesignated for ORVs and would be available for ORV use until designations are determined. All lands within the WSA would remain open for mineral leasing and for appropriation of minerals under the General Mining Laws and other pertinent laws and regulations.

#### Lava (56-2)

All 23,680 acres of the WSA would be recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation. Range improvements planned for the WSA include one mile of pipeline and a large brush control and seeding project along the dry washes. Brush control would be accomplished through prescribed burning or spraying. The land within the unit would remain undesignated for ORVs and would be available for ORV use until designations are determined. All lands within the WSA would remain open for mineral leasing and for appropriation of minerals under the General Mining Laws and other pertinent laws and regulations.

## No Action/No Wilderness Alternative

This alternative would recommend all nine WSAs, with a total of 86,603 acres of public land, as nonsuitable for wilderness designation as shown on Maps 2A and 2B. With this alternative, lands within the WSAs would be managed according to existing MFP decisions.

### Little Wood River (53-4)

All 4,385 acres of this WSA would be recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation. The only range improvement planned for the area is a spring development for livestock watering. The area would be closed to off-road vehicles to protect critical elk habitat. An area of critical environmental concern (ACEC) would be designated that encompasses the WSA. All lands within the WSA would remain open for mineral leasing and for appropriation of minerals under the General Mining Laws and other pertinent laws and regulations.

### Gooding City of Rocks (54-8a)

All 14,743 acres of the WSA would be recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation. Range improvements planned for the unit include a spring development and a small brush control project. The lands within the WSA would remain undesignated for ORVs and would be available for ORV use until designations are determined. All lands within the WSA would remain open for mineral leasing and for appropriation of minerals under the General Mining Laws and other pertinent laws and regulations.

### Gooding City or Rocks (54-8b)

All 6,287 acres of the WSA would be recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation. Range improvements planned for the unit include a small reservoir and a large brush control project. Brush control would be achieved through prescribed burning. The land within the WSA would remain undesignated for ORVs and would remain available for ORV use until designations are determined. All lands within the WSA would remain open for mineral leasing and for appropriation of minerals under the General Mining Laws and other pertinent laws and regulations.



## All Other WSAs

The No Action/No Wilderness Alternative would be the same as the Proposed Action/Partial Wilderness Alternative for the remaining WSAs (53-5, 54-5, 54-6, 54-10, and 56-2).

## All Wilderness Alternative

This alternative would recommend as suitable for wilderness designation eight WSAs, with a total of 82,601 acres (see Maps 2A and 2B). The Bennett Hills, Timmerman Hills, and Sun Valley MFPs would be amended to take into account the recommendation and possible wilderness designation.

The Black Butte WSA (54-2) would be recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation, even in this alternative, because (as described previously in this chapter) it no longer has the required wilderness characteristics.

### Little Wood River (53-4)

This alternative would be the same as the proposed action.

### Friedman Creek (53-5)

All 9,773 acres of this WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation. No range improvements are planned for the lands within the WSA. The area would be closed to ORV use. The Wilderness Act allows mineral exploration, leasing, and appropriation within the designated wilderness until 1984. After January 1, 1984, only mining claims established before that date may be developed. State and private in-holdings would be acquired.

### Little City of Rocks (54-5)

All 5,875 acres of this WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation. All planned range improvements could be completed.

The area would be closed to ORV use. The Wilderness Act allows mineral exploration, leasing, and appropriation within the designated wilderness until 1984. After January 1, 1984, only mining claims established before that date may be developed. State land inholdings would be acquired through exchange.

#### Black Canyon (54-6)

All 10,371 acres of the WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation. All range improvements planned for the area (brush control and reservoir construction) could be completed. The area would be closed to ORV use. The Wilderness Act allows mineral exploration, leasing, and appropriation within the designated wilderness until 1984. After January 1, 1984, only mining claims established before that date may be developed. State land inholdings would be acquired through exchange. Roads which penetrate the interior of the unit would need to be closed. The indistinct southern boundary of the WSA would have to be clearly marked on the ground.

#### Gooding City of Rocks (54-8a)

This alternative would be the same as the proposed action except that 1,680 acres would be added to the northern part of the WSA. The additional area would be closed to ORV use. Mineral exploration and development in the additional area would be subject to the same constraints as the rest of the unit. Connet Reservoir and Control Dam would require periodic maintenance with mechanical equipment. Fences, enclosures, and spring developments would also require periodic maintenance.

#### Gooding City of Rocks (54-8b)

This alternative would be the same as the proposed action.

#### Deer Creek (54-10)

All 7,487 acres of this WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation. Range improvements planned for the area include brush control and spring development. Brush control projects that can be



achieved through prescribed burning would be completed. Brush control through the use of chemical spraying would not be compatible with wilderness management policy. Spring developments could be completed. The area would be closed to ORV use. The Wilderness Act allows mineral exploration, leasing, and appropriation within the designated wilderness until 1984. After January 1, 1984, only mining claims established before that date may be developed.

Lava (56-2)

All 23,680 acres of this WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation. Range improvements planned for the area include brush control and seeding and a short pipeline. Brush control would be accomplished by prescribed burning. Seeding of areas within the WSA could only be done with native species. Past experience has shown that using only native species for seeding greatly increases their cost, usually making the project unfeasible.

The area would be closed to ORV use. The Wilderness Act allows mineral exploration, leasing, and appropriation within the designated wilderness until 1984. After January 1, 1984, only mining claims established before that date may be developed. Geothermal leases issued before designation of the area could be developed subject to reasonable regulations.

#### RELATIONSHIP OF ALTERNATIVES TO NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA) GOALS

The alternatives (including the proposed action) considered in this amendment/EIS all would achieve the requirements of sections 101 and 102(1) of NEPA and other environmental laws and policies. Each of the alternatives is designed to use practicable means to create and maintain conditions under which man and nature can exist in productive harmony. In this context there are no significant differences among the alternatives being considered.

## COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

The proposed action selection was based on an analysis of planning criteria, quality standards, and environmental consequences. In Chapter 4 consideration of planning criteria and quality standards is detailed for each WSA. In Chapter 5 the impacts that each alternative would have on the environment are analyzed. A comparative summary of impact and management considerations for each alternative is displayed in Table 2-1.

The comparison of alternatives reflects minor differences between the proposed action and the No Wilderness/No Action Alternative regarding impacts on resources and management considerations. The All Wilderness Alternative differs from the other alternatives because it has more resource conflicts (i.e., recreation, livestock grazing, and minerals) and presents management conflicts caused by WSA size, configuration, and location. A comparison of wilderness values reflects that the WSAs recommended as suitable in the proposed action have high-quality wilderness characteristics and significant special features.

The proposed action was selected because the WSAs recommended as suitable have high wilderness values and minimal resource conflicts. In addition, these WSAs can be managed to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness.



TABLE 2-1

## COMPARATIVE SUMMARY

<sup>1/</sup> Elements	Proposed Action/Partial Wilderness Alternative	No Wilderness/No Action Alternative	All Wilderness Alternative
Wilderness Designation			
a. Suitable	23,735 Acres	0 Acres	82,601 Acres
b. Nonsuitable	62,868 Acres	86,603 Acres	4,002 Acres <sup>2/</sup>
c. Total WSA	86,603 Acres	86,603 Acres	86,603 Acres
-----			
Recreation			
a. ORV Use	Not permitted on 23,735 acres. Low impact on present use trends.	Not permitted on 4,385 acres. Low impact on present use trends.	Not permitted on 82,601 acres. Low impact on present use trends in most WSAs. Moderate impact on present use trends in Little City of Rocks (54-5).
b. Other Recreation	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact
-----			
Livestock Grazing	Cost of project development could increase slightly. Planned range improvements could be constructed.	No Change. Planned range improvements could be constructed.	Some project development constraints. Seeding would have to be done with native species. Cost of project development could increase slightly.
-----			
Energy and Minerals	No significant impact. No new claims or leases after December 31, 1983, on 23,735 acres.	No Impact	No significant impact. No new claims or leases after December 31, 1983 on 82,601 acres.
-----			
Cultural Resources	Protection of cultural resources on 23,735 acres through wilderness designation.	No Change	Protection of cultural resources on 82,601 acres through wilderness designation.
-----			
Wildlife	Predator control may be more difficult in suitable areas.	No Impact	Predator control may be more difficult in suitable areas.
-----			
Scenic Resources	Class I VRM Category on 23,735 acres would restrict visual impacts from construction or other development.	No Change	Class I VRM Category on 82,601 acres would restrict visual impacts from construction or other development.
-----			
Management Considerations	Minor management conflicts.	No conflicts with other management.	Management problems caused by WSA size, location, and configuration.

<sup>1/</sup> Forestry resources have not been included on the summary because there would be no impact from any of the alternatives.

<sup>2/</sup> The area in the Black Butte WSA (54-2) has been irrevocably changed by mining activity and no longer qualifies for further wilderness consideration.





## CHAPTER 3

### AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

#### INTRODUCTION

The WSAs analyzed in this EIS are located in southcentral Idaho within the Shoshone BLM District. The resource characteristics and uses for the WSAs are summarized in this chapter. Although the WSAs are presented on an individual basis, some factors common to all are presented only once. Emphasis is placed on those components contributing to or influenced by wilderness suitability decisions.

#### Climate and Air Quality

The climate of the areas represented by the WSAs is characterized by cold winters and hot, dry summers. Annual precipitation is light (average 8.93 inches at Gooding, Idaho), mostly falling as winter snow.

Air quality is considered excellent with only the smoke from occasional range fires or wind-borne dust from desert and agricultural areas being noticeable sources of pollution.

#### Social Conditions

Attitudes toward wilderness seem generally to follow three basic trends:

1. Those that favor further wilderness designation;
2. Those that are opposed to any further designation of wilderness areas; and
3. Those that are neutral and neither favor nor oppose further wilderness designations in Idaho.

The intensity of feelings varies widely within the first two groups from those who mildly favor or oppose, to those who strongly favor or oppose further wilderness designations.

In a 1979 statewide survey of Idaho households respondents were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with the statement, "We have enough area legally designated as wilderness in Idaho." Of the 1,410 responses received, 67 percent agreed that there is enough legally designated wilderness in Idaho, 15 percent were neutral, and 18 percent disagreed with the statement. Further analysis shows that those respondents living in Blaine, Minidoka, Cassia, Twin Falls, Jerome, Gooding, Lincoln, and Camas counties (Idaho Planning Region IV) responded to this same question as follows:

67 percent agreed that there is enough wilderness,  
17 percent neither agreed nor disagreed, and  
15 percent disagreed that there is enough wilderness.

The regional opinions are almost exactly the same as those held statewide and are felt to be representative of Idahoans living in the study area. It appears that the majority does not favor additional wilderness designation.

Further, livestock operators are concerned that livestock grazing may be curtailed or halted under a wilderness designation, or at least made more difficult by excluding motorized travel associated with ranching operations. Ranchers are also concerned about the effect of wilderness designation on the implementation of future range improvements within the areas.

ORV users are concerned about losing their use, particularly their spring use, in the proposed WSAs. Current ORV use in these areas is fairly light.

### Economic Setting

The primary outputs from public lands in the vicinity are recreation and grazing use. While the actual dollar contribution to the local economy from recreation use is difficult to determine, it is estimated all the value associated with recreation use from the public lands would represent 1 percent of the total income in the area and 6 percent of the services and retail trade industries. This indicates that the recreation use of the WSAs is not a significant portion of the local economy.

Livestock grazing is the other primary output of the public lands involved. The Shoshone Grazing EIS and Sun Valley Grazing EIS analyzed the operations of permittees in an area that included the study area. The grazing EISs determined that a significant portion of the permittees' income is dependent on BLM AUMs. Although the two grazing EIS areas



encompass a larger area than is in the study area, lands in the WSAs are important to the livestock operations of permittees that use them.

### Use Authorizations

There are currently no use authorizations, such as rights-of-way or leases, either issued or applied for under the general land laws for any areas within the WSAs. Also, no applications for disposal are on file.

#### LITTLE WOOD RIVER (53-4) AND FRIEDMAN CREEK (53-5)

These two units are located some distance from the others included in the study and are both adjacent to National Forest lands. Because the units are close together and exhibit very similar resource characteristics, they are presented together with individual descriptions given only when there are differences to be noted.

Little Wood River WSA is a 4,385-acre unit immediately adjacent to the Forest Service's proposed Pioneer Mountains Wilderness (see Map 2B).

Friedman Creek WSA is a 9,773-acre unit that stands on its own as a WSA. The adjacent National Forest lands are not under consideration for wilderness designation and were not a factor in the area's WSA determination.

Both units are characterized by rolling hills and low mountains dissected by numerous intermittent and perennial streams. At lower elevations the hills support a plant community dominated by big sagebrush. As elevations increase, Douglas-fir stands and quaking aspen groves become common.

### Minerals

Except for state and private land inholdings (see Map 2A), all surface and mineral estates in the WSAs are in federal ownership and are open to mineral entry. Two mineral claims have been recorded in the Friedman Creek WSA (see Map 4B), and none have been recorded in the Little Wood River WSA.

Although the WSAs are not classified as prospectively valuable for geothermal resources, lands to the south and east are so classified. The WSA lands are considered prospectively valuable for oil and gas.

The Muldoon Planning Unit, including the WSAs, is considered a potential undiscovered speculative resource area for the base metal group.

Gravels occur in abundance in the WSAs, and local limestone and quartzite have potential as building stone. The lack of a market precludes these minerals from having commercial value at this time.

### Vegetation

The dominant plant community consists of mountain big sagebrush with a variety of understory species such as bluebunch wheatgrass, Idaho fescue, and western needlegrass. Stands of Douglas-fir are found on north-facing slopes, and woody communities of roses, willows, quaking aspen, and cottonwood are found along perennial streams.

No threatened or endangered plants are known to occur within the WSAs.

Only one fire in Little Wood River WSA and six fires in Friedman Creek WSA have been reported over the past 25 years. Fire potential is considered moderate, and moderately high, for the WSAs, respectively.

### Forestry

#### Little Wood River WSA

Coniferous stands consisting of Douglas-fir mixed with quaking aspen occupy 286 acres. Timber volumes are relatively low and stands are growing on sites of low to medium quality on steep to very steep slopes. Evidence of limited logging has been found along the lower slopes. The stands presently play no role in the local economy. Cottonwoods occupy about 79 acres along the Little Wood River.

#### Friedman Creek WSA

Stands of Douglas-fir mixed with small amounts of quaking aspen, sub-alpine fir, whitebark pine, and limber pine occupy about 605 acres. Timber volumes are low and stands are growing on sites of low to medium quality on steep to very steep slopes. Evidence of logging in the past has been



found. The stands presently play no role in the local economy. Cottonwoods and other riparian vegetation occupy small areas along the drainage bottoms.

### Livestock Grazing

The Little Wood River WSA includes portions of three grazing allotments. Livestock use is primarily sheep grazing in the spring and fall as the herds are moved to and from summer use areas on the National Forest. There are no range improvements in the WSA.

Friedman Creek WSA includes portions of five grazing allotments. The only range improvement in the WSA is approximately two miles of fencing. Both sheep and cattle use the WSA in moderate numbers throughout the grazing season.

### Wildlife

A portion of the Elk Mountain Crucial Elk Winter Range, which is designated as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), lies within the Little Wood WSA. Typically 300 to 400 elk spend December through March in this area; a few elk remain yearlong. Mule deer spend the spring, summer, and fall within both WSAs, but most deer use occurs as the deer migrate through, to and from the winter ranges north of Picabo and on the east slopes of the Wood River Valley. There are a few black bear scattered throughout the area of these WSAs.

Upland game birds present include blue grouse, ruffed grouse, and probably sage grouse. Chukar occur in the rocky canyons. There is suitable nesting habitat for raptors, but no nests have been identified.

The Little Wood River is an excellent fishery. The Wood River sculpin, a BLM sensitive species, is found there along with rainbow and brook trout.

### Recreation

The WSAs receive moderate hunting use. They are part of State Game Management Unit #49. Hunting is mostly on foot or horseback because of the lack of roads and steep terrain. Elk, deer, antelope, birds, and small game may be hunted.

ORV use is minimal due to poor access, steep terrain, and heavy brush. Also, based on the ACEC designation, the Little Wood River WSA is planned for closure to ORV use. Hiking is also minimal, because of poor access, the lack of destinations, and steep terrain.

Moderate horseback riding use occurs. Much of this use involves big game hunting in the fall and occurs along Buck Creek and the Little Wood River, which provide access to the Pioneer Range.

Camping use is low because of limited access, although there is excellent potential along the Little Wood River. Camping may be associated with participation in other activities such as hunting, fishing, or horseback riding.

Photography and sightseeing use is low although excellent opportunities are available, especially those centered around wildlife. Difficult access limits use.

Fishing is excellent for brook and rainbow trout, which occasionally exceed five pounds. Much higher use would be expected if the public had access through private land to reach the units by motor vehicle.

There are no developed recreation facilities in the WSAs.

### Cultural Resources

No cultural resource sites have been identified or recorded for either of the WSAs.

### Scenic Resources

The WSAs are composed of precipitous hills, which become more mountainous in the northern part of the units. A sagebrush-grassland mix vegetates most of the area, with broken patches of Douglas-fir and aspen on north and east aspects and along drainages.

The Little Wood unit is dissected by the Little Wood River drainage. A substantial flow of clear water moves through the drainage with a series of riffles and pools. Riparian vegetation lines the river bank, becoming very dense at times. The Friedman Creek unit contains several small creeks with similar riparian settings.

Scenic quality is medium in both units.



## LITTLE CITY OF ROCKS (54-5)

This is a 5,875 acre area located some twelve miles north of Gooding, Idaho. The WSA is bounded on the east by State Highway 46, which provides access to the WSA. See Map 1 for location and relationship to other WSAs included in this study.

Little City of Rocks WSA lies within the Mount Bennett Hills, a rolling foothills belt between the Sawtooth Mountains to the north and the Snake River Plains to the south. The major landforms consist of high plateaus and deeply eroded and dissected stream channels with elevations ranging from 4,000 to 6,200 feet. Unusual landforms within the drainages are columns, hoodoos, arches, and monoliths. The rock types and their genesis are unusual; they are extensive examples of silicic volcanic ash flow and fall deposits - both relatively uncommon.

Weathering processes have sculpted the rocks to create many varieties of features and shapes. For instance, some columns appear like stacks of coins, while others are weathered to form concave features or arches.

### Minerals

Except for a state-owned section (T. 3 S., R. 15 E., Section 16), both the surface and mineral estates are in federal ownership (see Map 2A). The land is open to mineral entry. Currently there are no mining claims, mineral leases, or lease applications.

Although limited information is available, some leasable mineral resources are suspected to exist. The U.S. Geological Survey has designated an area one mile north of the WSA (the Camas Prairie) as prospectively valuable for geothermal resources. These resources could possibly extend into Little City of Rocks WSA. The USGS also reports that the entire WSA is prospectively valuable for oil and gas. The leasing potential for these lands is currently considered low. No other energy or leasable mineral resources are known to exist in Little City of Rocks WSA.

No locatable minerals are reported or known to occur within the WSA. There is no evidence of any historical or ongoing mining activity for critical or strategic minerals or any other locatable minerals within the WSA.

Building stone has been found to occur in limited quantities within Little City of Rocks WSA. This material has produced little interest and no sales, probably because it is very limited in quantity, is relatively

inaccessible, and adequate sources of rock are available in other locations. There are no other known saleable minerals within Little City of Rocks WSA.

### Vegetation

The vegetation on the southern two-thirds of the WSA consists of low sagebrush with an understory of bunchgrasses and forbs such as Sandberg's and Nevada bluegrasses, bottlebrush squirreltail, Indian paintbrush, and phlox. Most of this community is in good ecological condition.

The rest of the WSA is dominated by a mountain big sagebrush and basin big sagebrush community. Most of this community is in fair ecological condition.

There are approximately 200 acres of a 1966 brush spray in the northwest corner of the WSA. Plant species killed by the spray project have reinvaded the treated area and the plant composition and appearance closely resembles that found prior to spraying.

No threatened or endangered plants are known to occur.

Two small fires have been recorded in the last 25 years. The low sagebrush type has insufficient fuel to carry a fire except under the most extreme conditions; therefore, it has very low fire potential. The mountain and basin big sagebrush communities have moderate to high fire potential.

### Livestock Grazing

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

Sheep grazing is allowed in the WSA on an annual basis during the spring and fall. The established season of use for sheep grazing in the allotment is April 16 through June 15 and October 16 through December 15. A rotation grazing system is to be implemented when funding becomes available to install the water developments necessary to implement the system.

Schooler Creek Reservoir was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the late 1930s or early 1940s. It is a small earthen dam type reservoir near the WSA's eastern boundary.



The major perennial water sources located within the WSA are the springs and seeps located along Schooler Creek and in a few steep canyons in the northern portion of the WSA. The WSA is grazed predominantly by sheep. The only restriction on sheep grazing is the limited access for movement of the horse-drawn camp wagons used by sheep herders. As a result, sheep grazing within the WSA occurs along the same traditional access routes each year.

## Wildlife

Elk and mule deer occur in the WSA. An elk herd winter range bisects the WSA. Deer summer throughout the area in relatively small numbers. The southern half of the unit is deer winter range.

There are no sage grouse leks within the unit, but sage grouse probably nest and raise their broods in suitable habitat within the WSA. Chukar occur in rocky canyon areas in the WSA. Raptor nests in the WSA include two red-tailed hawks, one prairie falcon, one great horned owl, and one golden eagle.

There are no endangered or threatened wildlife species in the WSA. Bobcat and mountain quail, both sensitive species, are present.

No fishery values have been identified in the WSA.

## Recreation

Many opportunities for dispersed recreation exist throughout Little City of Rocks WSA.

The WSA receives low use as a nature study area. Although significant opportunities exist, the general public is not aware of the possibilities or where they occur within the WSA.

Hunting occurs during the fall months. The WSA is part of State Game Management Unit #45. Permit hunts are held for antlered mule deer, and archery permit hunts are held for antlered elk. Hunts for cougar and black bear are not a primary activity but may overlap with hunts for other species. Sage grouse hunting is popular, and a few chukar and Hungarian partridge may be taken. Small game such as rabbits and coyotes are also hunted. Hunting use is moderate; sage grouse is the primary target.

Horseback riding occurs frequently. Spring and fall are the highest use seasons. This activity is also associated with hunting and camping.

Hiking use is moderate. Records indicate that this area is used during the spring and fall seasons as an alternative to hiking in the Sawtooth Mountains and other nearby ranges where the weather may be less favorable.

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

Photography and sightseeing use is low, although opportunities are abundant.

There are no developed recreation facilities in the WSA.

### Cultural Resources

Eight prehistoric cultural resource sites or site complexes have been formally recorded in the WSA. Experience with the topographic and geologic make-up of the WSA suggests that many more sites exist than have been recorded.

Cultural resource values in this unit are significant, although no sites or features (e.g. rock art) have been nominated for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

### Scenic Resources

The Little City of Rocks WSA contains a variety of landforms. The northern end and the eastern and western edges of the WSA are rolling sagebrush lands surrounded by 100- to 400-foot basalt-capped buttes and ridges. The central interior and southern end is a maze of tall lichen-encrusted rhyolite pillars. Scenic quality is high.

## BLACK CANYON (54-6)

This is a 10,371-acre WSA. The area is bounded on the east by WSA 54-5 (Little City of Rocks) and on the west by 54-8a (Gooding City of Rocks). See Map 1 for location and relationship to other WSAs in this study.



The WSA is immediately adjacent to Little City of Rocks (54-5) and exhibits similar, although not as spectacular, geologic and landform characteristics.

### Minerals

Except for a state-owned section (T. 3 S., R. 14 E., Section 36), both the surface and mineral estates in Black Canyon WSA are in federal ownership (see Map 2A). The land is open to mineral entry. Currently there are no mining claims, mineral leases, or lease applications.

Although limited information is available, some leasable mineral resources are suspected to exist in Black Canyon WSA. The U.S. Geological Survey has designated an area one mile north of the WSA (the Camas Prairie) as prospectively valuable for geothermal resources. These resources could possibly extend into the WSA. The USGS also reports that the entire WSA is prospectively valuable for oil and gas. Exploration and field data are very limited, but the overthrust belt and associated leasing activity are not expected to affect this area. The leasing potential for these lands is currently considered low. No other energy or leasable mineral resources are known to exist in the WSA.

There is no evidence of any historical or on-going mining activity for critical and strategic minerals or any other locatable minerals within the WSA.

Building stone has been found to occur in limited quantities within Black Canyon WSA. This material has produced little interest and no sales, probably because it is very limited in quantity, is quite inaccessible, and adequate sources of rock are available in other locations.

Sand and gravel deposits probably exist within the WSA, but none have been identified on the ground to date. There are no other known saleable minerals within Black Canyon WSA.

### Vegetation

The southern portion of Black Canyon WSA is characterized by broad, rocky benches that support low sagebrush and are cut by steep-sided canyons that support predominantly riparian vegetation. The northern portion of the WSA is characterized by rolling uplands that support a mosaic of mountain big sagebrush, basin big sagebrush, and low sagebrush communities.

The lowest benches in the southwest corner of the WSA and the stream bottoms in the north-central part of the WSA are in poor ecological condition. There is a small area of good ecological condition in the central part of the WSA, with the rest of the WSA in fair condition.

Approximately 1,000 acres of brush spray projects are located on the northern tip of the WSA. Brush skeletons and unnatural linear patterns are slightly noticeable from the ground.

There are no known threatened or endangered plants in the unit.

Only one fire has been recorded in the WSA in the past 25 years. The low sagebrush communities in the southern part of the WSA have low fire potential because of insufficient fuels. The rest of the WSA has a moderate to high fire potential. Similar fuel types have supported large fires in areas near the WSA.

### Livestock Grazing

Black Canyon WSA is situated within the northern portion of the North Gooding and Black Canyon grazing allotments.

Approximately 425 AUMs have been allocated from that portion of the WSA which lies within the North Gooding Allotment.

Sheep grazing in the North Gooding Allotment is allowed during the spring and fall on an annual basis. The established season of use for sheep grazing in the allotment is April 16 through June 15 and October 16 through December 15. A rotation grazing system is planned but cannot be implemented until necessary range improvements are installed.

The public lands in the Black Canyon Allotment provide approximately 3,800 AUMs of livestock forage for fourteen cow/calf operations. Approximately 135 AUMs have been allocated from that part of the WSA which is situated within the boundaries of the Black Canyon Allotment. Cattle grazing in the Black Canyon Allotment occurs from April 16 through August 31.

At the present time there are approximately 7.5 miles of three-strand barbed wire fencing located within the WSA. The majority of this fencing was installed in 1958 to divide the Black Canyon Cattle Allotment from the North Gooding Sheep Allotment. Rock Spring was developed in 1949 to provide water for livestock grazing. In 1966 the extreme northern portion of the WSA was strip sprayed (alternate 100 foot swaths) to control big sagebrush. Listed below are all recorded range improvements within the WSA (see Map 4A).



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

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

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

### Wildlife

Both elk and deer occur within the WSA. Along the very northern edge is elk summer range; the mid-eastern part is elk winter range. A few mule deer inhabit the WSA during the summer, but use is more concentrated along the southern part during the winter.

Four known active sage grouse leks and one inactive lek within the WSA are indicative of considerable nesting habitat. There is a sage grouse winter area in the southwest quadrant of the WSA. One known golden eagle nest exists in the area.

No threatened or endangered wildlife species are known. The bobcat and possibly mountain quail, both sensitive species, are present in the WSA.

### Recreation

Many possibilities for dispersed recreation exist throughout Black Canyon WSA.

Hiking use is low. Most hiking in the WSA results from pursuit of other recreation interests, and occurs in the spring and fall when temperatures are moderate. Equestrian use is also low. Camping occurs infrequently, although the potential exists for a rewarding experience. Camping may occur concurrently with other recreation pursuits.

Nature study, although infrequent, occurs within Black Canyon WSA. A variety of petroglyphs and geologic formations provide a good basis for study. The current low use may reflect the availability of similar, more-accessible areas in the district.

Photography use is low with most use occurring as a result of other recreation pursuits. The WSA contains good photographic resources, but these resources are also available in more accessible locations. Sight-seeing use is low, although geologic formations, deep canyons, and broad vistas offer the sightseer some fine scenery.

Moderate hunting use occurs in Black Canyon WSA. Sage grouse and chukar partridge hunting may provide outstanding opportunities. Hunts for antlered deer and elk are by permit. Although cougar and black bear may be taken, populations do not warrant hunting exclusively for these animals. Harvesting of these animals is probably incidental to hunting some other game.

ORV use is low and occurs mostly during the spring and fall. Snow-mobilers use the area during winter. Use of this area in the early spring and late fall is important to motorcyclists and four-wheel drive operators when higher elevation areas in the national forests are generally not suited for travel.

There are no developed recreation facilities in the WSA.

### Cultural Resources

Eight prehistoric sites or site complexes in the WSA have been formally recorded.

Some of the cultural resource values in the WSA are significant, but to date no sites or features (e.g., rock art) have been nominated for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Flake scatters constitute the primary site type in the WSA. In some cases they are so extensive that delineating site boundaries is an arbitrary exercise at best. Rock structures and rock art (petroglyphs) are also found in the central part of the WSA.



## Scenic Resources

The Black Canyon WSA includes three visually distinct landforms.

1. Much of the WSA is flat to gently rolling plateau covered with thin soil over pahoehoe lava and individual lava rocks interspersed with low shrubs and grasses. Sensitivity level and scenic quality are low to moderate.
2. Black Canyon Creek and East Fork Black Canyon Creek have cut north-south channels through the plateau. These drainages are generally about 20 to 30 feet deep. Dark, blocky basalt is exposed along the canyon sides and bottom.
3. Several tall rhyolite columns add interesting landform diversity in the west-central area of the WSA. Riparian species add to the vegetative form and textural diversity. Here, south-flowing Black Canyon Creek and East Fork Black Canyon Creek encountered layers of rhyolite and eroded the rock into columns and various rounded forms. Sensitivity level and scenic quality are high.

### GOODING CITY OF ROCKS (54-8a and 54-8b)

These WSAs have essentially identical resources and uses and are maintained as individual units only because of a road running between them. The areas total 21,030 acres. Their location is shown on Map 1.

Like the previously discussed units (54-5 and 54-6) the Gooding City of Rocks WSAs are characterized by high plateaus and deeply dissected and eroded stream channels. The resulting landscape is one of striking visual interest marked by arches, pillars, and sculpted rocks.

## Minerals

All surface and mineral estates in Gooding City of Rocks WSAs are in federal ownership. The land is open to mineral entry. Association placer claims for diatomaceous earth are held by two parties. The claims are in the southwest corner of the WSA's eastern portion (T. 4 S., R. 13 E., Sections 1 and 2) (see Map 4A).

Although limited information is available, some leasable mineral resources are suspected to exist in the Gooding City of Rocks WSAs. The U.S. Geological Survey has designated an area one mile north of the WSAs (the Camas Prairie) as prospectively valuable for geothermal resources. These resources could possibly extend into the Gooding City of Rocks WSAs. The USGS also reports that the entire area of the Gooding City of Rocks WSA is prospectively valuable for oil and gas. Exploration and field data are very limited, but the overthrust belt and associated leasing activity are not expected to affect this area. The leasing potential for these lands is currently considered low. No other energy or leasable mineral resources are known to exist in the Gooding City of Rocks WSAs.

The mineral diatomite is present in large quantities. The Bennett Hills Unit Resource Analysis (URA) describes the diatomite material in this area as being impure and of low quality. In addition, the URA notes that no local market exists for diatomite. A validity examination is necessary to determine whether the diatomite is locatable. No other locatable minerals are reported or known to exist. There is no evidence of any historical or on-going mining activity for critical or strategic minerals or any other locatable minerals within the WSAs.

Building stone has been found to occur in limited quantities. Thin, platy rock (silicic latite of the Idavada volcanics) exists as surface rubble or talus in scattered locations in the southern half of the area. This material has produced little interest and no sales, probably because it is very limited in quantity, is quite inaccessible, and adequate sources of rock are available in other locations.

If validity examinations of the diatomite claims determine the claims are not valid, the diatomite may be classified as saleable material.

### Vegetation

The Gooding City of Rocks WSAs have a diverse landscape and high vegetative diversity. The southern part is undulating and rocky, supporting Wyoming big sagebrush and basin big sagebrush. As elevation increases northward, the vegetation is dominated by a low sagebrush community. Steep canyons support primarily riparian vegetation. Adjacent to this type is an area dissected by numerous small, steep canyons that support riparian vegetation and mountain big sagebrush, with alkali sagebrush on the ridgetops.

Approximately 2,000 acres of brush spray projects done in 1961, 1962, and 1969 are located in the northeast corner of the area. A few brush skeletons remain from these projects, but most of the vegetation resembles the plant communities found in the area prior to spraying.

Fairfield milkvetch (Astragalus atratus var. inseptus) has been found just south of the WSAs on private land and is expected to occur within the WSA. Fairfield milkvetch is currently under federal review with a recommendation to be classified as "threatened."



There has been only one small fire recorded in the eastern portion of this unit in the past 25 years. Fire potential is high in the northern part of this portion of the WSA but is low on the southern part.

### Livestock Grazing

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

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

#### WSA 54-8a (Eastern Portion)

This WSA occupies the north-central portion of the Black Canyon Allotment. About two-thirds of the WSA lies within the Connet Spring and City of Rocks pastures of the Black Canyon Allotment.

The public lands within the Black Canyon Allotment provide about 3,800 AUMs of livestock forage. Of this total, approximately 800 AUMs have been allocated from the WSA.

The season of use for cattle grazing in the Black Canyon Allotment begins on April 16 and continues through August 31. Grazing use is rotated between two separate use areas. Each use area is divided into three pastures and a three-treatment modified rest-rotation grazing system is applied for each use area.

Numerous range improvements have been installed within the WSA, including fencing, spring developments, brush sprays, and a livestock holding field. These range improvements are listed below (see Map 4A).

Strike Burn Fence	T. 3 S., R. 14 E., Sections 7, 18, 19, 20, and 31
City of Rocks Division Fence	T. 3 S., R. 14 E., Sections 7, 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, and 23

Coyote Springs Holding Field	T. 3 S., R. 14 E., Section 23
Connet Protective Fence	T. 3 S., R. 14 E., Section 10
Barker Cattle Spray	T. 3 S., R. 14 E., Sections 4 and 9
Gooding Cattle Brush Spray	T. 3 S., R. 14 E., Sections 3, 10, and 11
Gooding Cattle Spray #2	T. 3 S., R. 14 E., Sections 10, 11, 14, and 15
Coyote Spring	T. 3 S., R. 14 E., Section 23
Connet Spring	T. 3 S., R. 14 E., Section 10
Round Spring	T. 3 S., R. 14 E., Section 4
Bowman Spring	T. 3 S., R. 14 E., Section 18
Connet Erosion Control Dam	T. 3 S., R. 14 E., Section 10

#### WSA 54-8b (Western Portion)

This WSA includes part of the Davis Mountain Cattle Allotment. Cattle grazing occurs from April 20 through July 20 and from September 25 through November 25. Sheep grazing is confined to the upper use area and usually occurs from May 1 through June 10 and from November 1 through December 15.

The only range improvement of record in the WSA is the Strike Burn Fire Seeding which occurred in 1959 (see Map 4A). The project was initiated to replace vegetative cover which was destroyed by wildfire. Remnant stands of crested wheatgrass are still scattered throughout the seeded area. However, numerous native species have re-established on the burn area.

#### Wildlife

During the summer, elk graze the northern part of the WSAs. Mule deer occur sparsely during summer months; most use is concentrated in the southern part during winter.

A few black bear are present.

Although no bighorn sheep exist there now, evidence from petroglyphs suggests that they may have occurred in the past. With the abundance of



rocky canyons and sheer cliffs, this area may be able to support a small population of wild sheep in a reintroduction program.

Chukar are in the rocky canyons where water is available. There are no identified sage grouse leks within the boundaries; however, there are probably birds which nest and raise their broods in the WSAs.

The rocky ledges provide many suitable nest sites for raptors. Known nests include two golden eagles, four prairie falcon, three red-tailed hawks, and one great-horned owl.

The steep cliffs of the Dry Creek Canyon protect much of this stream from heavy cattle use, which explains the good aquatic condition. Dry Creek supports an isolated population of trout exhibiting characteristics of both rainbows and cutthroats. The area has been recommended as a Research Natural Area because of the well-protected stream with warm springs. A number of other drainages with riparian habitat are in virtually pristine condition in areas not accessible to livestock.

The bobcat and mountain quail are the only sensitive species which may regularly inhabit the WSAs.

## Recreation

Moderate hunting use occurs for sage grouse, chukar, and Hungarian partridge. Other species receive low to moderate hunting pressure. Most use occurs during the fall months.

ORV use is low. Motorcycles and four-wheel drive vehicles use the area primarily in the spring and fall. Some snowmobile use occurs in the winter.

Horseback riding occurs within the WSAs. Riding may supplement other recreation experiences such as hunting.

Fishing use is very low because it requires a long drive over rough roads, and the fish are small and not challenging.

Camping generates low use, and much of that results from other recreation pursuits. Hiking use is moderate and is concentrated around the rhyolite columns and canyons. Fall and spring, when temperatures are cool, are the most popular seasons. Moderate use results from photography and sight-seeing. The City of Rocks columns and canyons attract the most attention. Rockhounding use is low.

There are no developed recreation facilities in the WSA.

## Cultural Resources

Nine prehistoric cultural resource sites or site complexes in the WSAs have been formally recorded. Experience strongly suggests that more aboriginal sites are present, particularly in and along the major drainages. With the exception of sheep camps and associated rock structures, historic cultural resource values are not known to occur.

Some of the prehistoric sites may be significant, but to date no sites or features have been nominated for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

## Scenic Resources

The landscape of WSA 54-8a includes three distinct areas:

1. Much of the northern end is flat to gently rolling. Low shrubs are dense in places. The south side of Fir Grove Mountain is visible to the north. Scenic quality is medium.
2. Most of the central area is a maze of tall, rhyolite columns. Riparian vegetation along streams adds to the diversity. Scenic quality is high.
3. The extreme southern end is generally flat and lower elevation than the northern end. The columns of the central area are visible from this area. Scenic quality is medium.

The landscape of Unit 54-8b includes two visually distinct landforms.

1. The central area and extreme eastern and western edges contain many eroded rhyolite columns.
2. The northern end and southcentral parts of the WSA are gently south-sloping plateaus.

### DEER CREEK (54-10)

This is a 7,487-acre area approximately two miles west of the Gooding City of Rocks WSAs. Access to the WSA is from the Hill City/Bliss Road to the west. The WSA is located in the Mount Bennett Hills and is characterized by high plateaus and deeply eroded stream channels with rocky bluffs occurring along the major drainages. Elevations range from 4,000 to 6,200 feet.



## Minerals

Except for a state-owned section (T. 2 S., R. 12 E., Section 36), both surface and mineral estates in Deer Creek WSA are in federal ownership. The land is open to mineral entry. Currently there are no mining claims, mineral leases, or known lease applications.

Although limited information is available, some leasable mineral resources are suspected to exist in the WSA. The U.S. Geological Survey has designated all the land in T. 2 S., R. 12 and 13 E., as prospectively valuable for geothermal resources. This designation applies to the north half of the WSA. However, the potential is considered low. The USGS also reports that the entire Deer Creek WSA is prospectively valuable for oil and gas, but leasing potential is currently considered low. No other energy or leasable mineral resources are known to exist in the WSA.

Currently no locatable minerals are reported or are known to occur within the WSA. There is no recorded historical or ongoing mining activity for critical or strategic minerals or any other locatable minerals.

Building stone occurs in limited quantities within Deer Creek WSA. This material has produced little interest and no sales; probably because it is very limited in quantity, is quite inaccessible, and adequate sources of rock are available in other locations.

## Vegetation

The predominant vegetation type is mountain big sagebrush. Plant communities of alkali sagebrush and low sagebrush are found on scattered shallow soils and on ridgetops. Occasional aspen groves are found on north-facing slopes. There have been no brush treatment projects within the WSA.

There are no known threatened or endangered plants in the unit.

Only one small fire in the WSA has been recorded in the past 25 years. The WSA has a moderate to high fire potential. Similar fuel types have supported large fires in areas near the WSA.

## Livestock Grazing

Approximately 1,300 AUMs have been allocated from the public lands within the WSA.

The season of use for cattle grazing is April 20 through July 20 and from September 25 through November 25. Sheep grazing normally occurs from May 1 through June 10 and from November 1 through December 15.

Range improvements within the WSA include about 4.5 miles of fencing, which was installed to control or confine livestock movements, and Deer Creek Spring, which was developed in 1941 to provide additional water for livestock grazing (see Map 4A).

The major water sources within the WSA are numerous developed and undeveloped springs and seeps. Clover Creek, which borders the WSA along the south and west, is a dependable source of livestock water through the entire grazing season. Because water is relatively abundant within the WSA, livestock distribution is influenced mostly by the terrain of the area.

### Wildlife

The WSA includes habitat for elk and mule deer. During the summer a herd of elk range as far west as the east boundary. The herd is increasing and is expected to increase its range. Mule deer graze the WSA throughout the summer in relatively low numbers. Mule deer also migrate through on their way to and from their winter ranges on the south edge of the Bennett Hills. An occasional black bear may wander through the WSA.

There is one golden eagle nest near the northern border and one great-horned owl nest and one red-tailed hawk nest in the WSA. Although no sage grouse leks have been identified, both nesting and brood rearing probably occur in the WSA. Chukar partridge are present all year.

There are no threatened or endangered wildlife species in the WSA. The bobcat and mountain quail are the only sensitive species that may regularly inhabit the WSA.

Coyotes occur throughout the area. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regularly conducts aerial predator control activities in the WSA.

### Recreation

Moderate hunting use occurs throughout the WSA. Sage grouse, chukar, Hungarian partridge, and mule deer receive the greatest pressure. Most hunting use occurs during the fall; however, coyotes and some non-game species are harvested throughout the year.

ORV use is low. Motorcycles and four-wheel drive vehicles account for most of the use, which occurs primarily in the late spring and fall. Some snowmobile use also occurs.



Horseback riding occurs infrequently within Deer Creek WSA. It often coincides with participation in other recreation pursuits.

Nature study use occurs infrequently at present. Although possibilities exist, the WSA has few features that could not be studied at a more accessible location.

Participation in sightseeing and photography is low with the latter often occurring during some other pursuit. The remoteness of the WSA tends to discourage use by all but the most dedicated enthusiasts.

Hiking and camping use is low even though excellent possibilities exist. These activities may coincide with other pursuits. No one special feature exists within Deer Creek WSA to attract use, but this may enhance primitive recreation opportunities.

There are no developed recreation facilities in the WSA.

### Cultural Resources

There have been no cultural resource sites identified or recorded in the WSA. It is likely that prehistoric cultural resource values are present in subsurface contexts near water sources in the WSA. Rock art is not known to occur in the WSA. The WSA does not appear to contain outstanding opportunities for future discovery of surface sites.

### Scenic Resources

Deer Creek WSA is fairly uniform in appearance and is characterized by a series of steep canyons with many hillside springs. Sagebrush and grass dominate the vegetation, but clusters of aspen may be found at higher elevations around springs. The entire area is of medium scenic quality.

LAVA (56-2)

This unit covers some 23,680 acres, all in federal ownership with the exception of one state section. Access is provided by State Highway 75 and U.S. Highway 93 (see Map 1). Most of the WSA is covered by exposed, gently

rolling pahoehoe lava. The ropy lava is encrusted with orange, yellow-green, and grey lichens. The northernmost portion of the WSA contains lava from the Black Butte flow of the recent past (2000 to 3000 years ago).

### Minerals

Except for a state-owned section, all surface and mineral estates in the Lava WSA are in federal ownership. The land is open to mineral entry. Currently there are no mining claims.

The WSA has been evaluated by the U.S. Geological Survey as being prospectively valuable for geothermal resources. A large part of the north half of the WSA is covered by geothermal leases (approximately 7,000 acres) (see Map 4A). There has been no exploration or development by the lessees. The USGS also reports that the entire Lava WSA is prospectively valuable for oil and gas. Exploration and field data are very limited, but leasing potential is currently considered low. No other energy or leasable mineral resources are known to exist in the WSA.

No locatable minerals are reported or are known to occur within the WSA. There is no evidence of any historical or ongoing mining activity for critical or strategic minerals or any other locatable minerals in the WSA.

Veneer basalt of building stone quality has been found to occur in limited quantity at the northern edge of the WSA and may occur elsewhere in the unit, but the public has shown little interest in it.

### Vegetation

The Lava WSA consists mainly of broken lavas with shallow soils, and it is vegetated by a mixed shrub complex. The predominant plant species found in these communities are basin big sagebrush, Wyoming big sagebrush, antelope bitterbrush, and lava fernbush.

There are also pockets of deeper soils that support basin big sagebrush, Wyoming big sagebrush, and three-tip sagebrush, as well as a good understory component of Sandberg's and Nevada bluegrasses, bottlebrush squirreltail, and cheatgrass. These plant communities include relatively few forb species.

There have been no range improvements within the WSA that affect vegetation.

There are no known threatened or endangered plants in the unit.



## Livestock Grazing

The boundaries of the Lava WSA encompass the majority of the Lava Grazing Allotment. The public lands within the allotment provide approximately 3,800 AUMs of livestock forage for fourteen cattle operations. Of this total, approximately 3,500 AUMs have been allocated from within the boundaries of the WSA.

The entire allotment is grazed as a single unit on an annual basis. The season of use begins on April 16 and continues through September 30.

The only range improvements of record found within the WSA are the Freeman Corrals, installed in 1956, and a well.

The majority of the allotment contains a rough, broken lava flow which forms a natural barrier that excludes livestock grazing. As a result, the grazing use is concentrated on those small areas of productive soil which are accessible to livestock. The existing planning decisions for the affected allotment call for extensive land treatments on these areas, including rangeland seedings.

## Wildlife

Big game habitat is limited in the WSA. Mule deer occur only sparsely throughout the WSA, with some spending the entire year in the southern part along the Little Wood River.

No sage grouse leks have been identified in this area. Ring-necked pheasants and Hungarian partridge inhabit the perimeter of the WSA adjacent to agricultural lands. Although raptors forage in the area, there are no known nest sites of any species.

There are no identified fishery values in the WSA and no endangered or threatened wildlife species. The bobcat, a sensitive species, probably occurs in the WSA.

## Recreation

Camping activity is currently negligible because of the harsh conditions. A good opportunity does exist for primitive camping, but the potential has not yet been realized. Photography and sightseeing generate little interest in the WSA.

Use of the WSA for hiking is low, although significant opportunities exist for a primitive hiking experience.

Low hunting use occurs within the WSA. Sage grouse, coyotes, and rabbits receive the most hunting pressure.

Motorcycles and four-wheel drive vehicles occasionally use several "ways" within the WSA.

Horseback riding is infrequent. The farm country around the unit generates some riding activity that extends into the Lava WSA.

There are no developed recreation facilities in the WSA.

### Cultural Resources

There have been no cultural resource sites identified or recorded in the WSA.

### Scenic Resources

The Lava WSA contains three visually distinct areas. One area is along the Big Wood River where water has cut a channel up to 30 feet deep through the lava. Vegetation is riparian along the banks; sagebrush and grass elsewhere. Scenic quality is low.

The extreme northern and southern portions of the WSA comprise a second area. This area borders farmland and scenic quality is low.

The third area involves the interior portion of the WSA and is characterized by lava rock, sagebrush, and grasses. Scenic quality is low.



WILDERNESS CRITERIA AND QUALITY STANDARDS

The Bureau's wilderness study policy establishes two criteria and six quality standards to be used in all BLM wilderness studies. They are listed in Chapter 1 of this document and have been applied to each WSA in the Shoshone/Sun Valley study. This chapter documents the basic findings or conclusions drawn from application of the criteria and quality standards to the WSAs. These conclusions in turn form the foundation on which suitability recommendations are based.

CRITERION 1: EVALUATION OF WILDERNESS VALUES

Component A: Diversity in the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS)

Ecosystem Diversity

This component of the criterion is applied to all of the WSAs as a group. The BLM has classified its WSAs according to criteria of the Bailey-Kuchler Ecosystems of the United States system used by the Forest Service in its RARE II studies. The Bailey-Kuchler Great Basin Province - Desert Ecosystem (3130-39) is represented in the Lava WSA (56-2). All other WSAs covered in this document represent the Bailey-Kuchler Great Basin Province - Sagebrush Steppe Ecosystem (3130-49). A summary of existing and potential wilderness acres nationwide and statewide that represent these ecosystems is presented in Tables 4-1 and 4-2.

TABLE 4-1

ECOSYSTEM REPRESENTATION NATIONWIDE  
IN EXISTING AND POTENTIAL WILDERNESS AREAS

Bailey-Kuchler Ecosystem	NWPS Areas		Endorsed Areas		Other Potential Areas	
	Areas	Acres	Areas	Acres	Areas	Acres
Great Basin Province - Desert (3130-39)	1	43,243	0	000	12	865,355
Great Basin Province - Sagebrush Steppe (3130-49)	2	34,545	3	357,400	144	4,303,105

TABLE 4-2

IDAHO ECOSYSTEM REPRESENTATION  
IN EXISTING AND POTENTIAL WILDERNESS AREAS

Bailey-Kuchler Ecosystem	NWPS Areas		Endorsed Areas		Other Study Areas	
	Areas	Acres	Areas	Acres	Areas	Acres
Great Basin Province - Desert (3130-39)	1	43,243	0	000	11	632,177
Great Basin Province - Sagebrush Steppe (3130-49)	0	0	0	0	34	733,494

The existing and potential wilderness areas representing both of the ecosystems are shown on Map 5. The Great Basin Province - Desert Ecosystem (3130-39) is not well represented nationwide in the NWPS. Only one area, with 43,243 acres, represents this ecosystem. This area is in Idaho, as are eleven of the twelve potential wilderness areas. If the Lava WSA (56-2) were designated wilderness, the total acres representing the 3130-39 ecosystem would be increased by 55 percent.

The Great Basin Province - Sagebrush Steppe (3130-49) is represented by two areas in the NWPS with 34,545 acres. Potential wilderness areas include three areas with 357,400 acres that have been administratively endorsed and 144 other potential areas with 4,303,105 acres. Although the



ecosystem is lightly represented in the NWPS at present, a large number of potential wilderness areas exist which could improve the representation of this ecosystem if they were designated as wilderness. The seven WSAs analyzed in this document are relatively small. Most of them individually would not significantly increase the number of acres representing this ecosystem in the NWPS.

In Idaho, there are no NWPS wilderness areas that represent the 3130-49 ecosystem. However, there are 34 potential wilderness areas with 733,494 acres that represent this ecosystem in Idaho.

### Solitude and Primitive Recreation Opportunities

Two standard metropolitan statistical areas (SMSAs) that qualify as major population centers (Boise and the Salt Lake City-Ogden areas) are within five hours' driving time of the eight WSAs. Table 4-3 depicts a summary of the opportunities available within five hours' driving time of each population center. Areas considered were those currently in the NWPS, those administratively endorsed as wilderness, and those with potential for inclusion within the NWPS. The number of areas and an approximation of the total acreage is shown for each category. Appendix Tables A and B display a complete list of the units used in this summary. Map 6 depicts the location of the wilderness units within a day's driving time of the two SMSAs.

TABLE 4-3

SOLITUDE OR PRIMITIVE RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES  
NEAR POPULATION CENTERS 1/

Population Center	NWPS Areas		Endorsed Areas		Other Study Areas	
	Areas	Acres	Areas	Acres	Areas	Acres
Boise	8	3.3 million	12	.8 million	142	4.4 million
Salt Lake City-Ogden	4	.5 million	24	1.8 million	99	3 million

1/ Areas listed are within five hours' driving time of the population centers.

The Boise area has several NWPS areas within a day's drive. The potential wilderness areas that are administratively endorsed or still under study could increase the available acreage by as much as 150 percent. The Salt Lake City-Ogden SMSA, with more than five times the population of the Boise SMSA, has only .5 million acres in NWPS areas that can be reached in a day's driving time. However, administratively endorsed and other study areas within a day's driving time could increase the available acreage by as much as 1,000 percent.

## Geographic Distribution

Map 7 depicts the location of existing and potential wilderness areas in Idaho and the region around Idaho. Statewide, the existing wilderness is located in the northern and central parts of the state. The southern part of the state has only the Craters of the Moon Wilderness. Appendix Table C lists all wilderness units in Idaho.

In the region surrounding Idaho, the existing NWPS areas are concentrated in the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range in California, the Cascade Mountain Range in Oregon and Washington, and in the Rocky Mountains of Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, and Colorado. There are very few wilderness areas in Nevada, Utah, southeast Oregon, and southern Idaho (see Map 7).

## Component B: Multiple Resource Benefits

The consequences of wilderness designation, including benefits to specific resources, are discussed in Chapter 5, Environmental Consequences. None of the resource values or benefits discussed in Chapter 5 could be ensured only by wilderness designation. Conversely, other management authority could ensure the preservation of existing multiple-resource values and benefits. Development of resource values which are currently nonexistent, such as reestablishing a bighorn sheep population, could also be accomplished with alternate management authority. No significant benefits to resources off-site would occur as a result of wilderness designation.

## Component C: Mandatory Wilderness Characteristics and Special Features

The mandatory wilderness characteristics (size, naturalness, and outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation) are described in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act. These



factors were used during the wilderness inventory to determine which roadless areas qualified as WSAs. All of the WSAs analyzed in this document, except the Little Wood River WSA (53-4), possess all of the mandatory wilderness characteristics. The quality of special features, when present in a WSA, must also be considered.

This part of the analysis evaluates the relative quality of the characteristics and special features for each WSA.

#### Little Wood River (53-4)

Size. The WSA contains only 4,385 acres of BLM administered land and does not meet the minimum size of 5,000 acres set forth in Section 603 of FLPMA. Since this area is adjacent to a Forest Service RARE II Area (Pioneer Mountains) that has been endorsed for wilderness designation, the BLM has used authority based on Sections 201, 202, and 302 of FLPMA to include it as a WSA.

This WSA would increase the size of the Pioneer Mountains Area to 109,074 acres (see Map 2B). It would make the southern boundary of the Pioneer Mountains Area fit natural topography more closely.

Naturalness. The Little Wood River WSA is in an essentially natural condition. A small number of trees have been removed from stands of Douglas-fir. A short "way" extends one-third mile into the unit. These imprints have very little impact on the naturalness of the WSA.

Solitude. An outstanding opportunity for solitude does exist within the Little Wood River WSA (53-4). The quality of this opportunity is dependent upon the number of users in the unit at one time. The Little Wood River drainage is the main corridor of travel through the WSA. A large number of visitors along the river at one time would reduce the quality of solitude. Visitors in the WSA travel along the Little Wood River to reach destinations within the USFS Pioneer Mountains Area.

Under conditions of low use evenly distributed along the river drainage, outstanding opportunities for solitude can be realized. These conditions generally exist within the WSA at the present time.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation. The Little Wood River WSA (53-4) offers a diversity of primitive recreation opportunities. Big game hunting, fishing, and camping are outstanding activity opportunities in the WSA. Combined with the Pioneer Mountains RARE II Unit, outstanding opportunities for hiking and photography also exist.

Special Features. The Little Wood River WSA is part of a crucial elk wintering range. The area in and around the WSA is designated as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern in the Sun Valley MFP.

Friedman Creek (53-5)

Size. The Friedman Creek WSA (53-5) contains 9,773 acres of BLM-administered land. This is less than the median and average size of all types of wilderness units in Idaho, or in the eleven western states (see Table 4-4). The WSA also contains 360 acres of state and private land inholdings (see Map 2B).

TABLE 4-4  
RELATIVE SIZE OF WILDERNESS UNITS  
IN THE ELEVEN WESTERN STATES AND IN IDAHO

Region of Consideration Type of Wilderness	Average Size (acres)	Median Size (acres)
Eleven Western States:		
NWPS Areas	150,514	56,715
Administratively Endorsed Areas	46,193	17,100
All Other Study Areas	27,777	12,789
BLM WSAs Only	26,664	13,080
Idaho:		
NWPS Areas	644,865	211,495
Administratively Endorsed Areas	50,375	24,276
All Other Study Areas	30,235	13,109
BLM WSAs Only	25,632	11,510

Naturalness. Two abandoned log cabins, at least 50 years old, are located within the Friedman Creek drainage. The cabins are no longer habitable, and brush has partially obscured them, making them hard to find. Associated with the cabins and in other widely scattered areas, abandoned mine adits and tailings piles can be found. The impact on naturalness from the adits is very localized due to vegetative screening. However, they are safety hazards.



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

Solitude. While an outstanding opportunity for solitude does exist, it is highly dependent upon the number of users within the WSA, because of the area's relatively small size (9,773 acres). Under ideal conditions of moderate and evenly distributed use, opportunities for solitude are of high quality. With heavy use it would be more difficult to isolate oneself from the sights and sounds of other users, and the quality of solitude would be lower.

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

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation. The Friedman Creek WSA (53-5) offers a diversity of primitive recreation opportunities. Friedman Creek supports a small trout fishery. The diverse terrain within the unit enhances opportunities for camping and hiking.

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

#### Little City of Rocks (54-5)

Size. The Little City of Rocks WSA (54-5) contains 5,875 acres of BLM administered land, which is considerably smaller than either the average or median size of other wilderness units in Idaho or in the eleven western states (see Table 4-4). One section of state land, 640 acres, is an in-holding in the WSA (see Map 2A).

Naturalness. The Little City of Rocks appears to be essentially natural in condition. Two ways extend into the unit for a total of 1.4 miles; both receive light use and would revegetate if vehicle use were curtailed. Several tracks from trailbike use can be seen within the WSA. These tracks quickly fade except in a few places that are used regularly. These imprints are widely scattered and do not detract appreciably from a feeling of naturalness within the WSA.

Two developments adjacent to the WSA have an affect on perceptions of naturalness within the unit. State Highway 46 parallels the eastern boundary of the unit. Although a high bluff along the eastern edge of the unit screens the sights and sounds from most of the unit, the portion of the unit between the bluffs and the eastern boundary (15 percent of the total WSA) are affected by the presence of the highway. Along the northeast corner of the WSA boundary a circular gravel pit has been developed. At present, the gravel pit is not being used. If operations should resume, the sounds could be heard through much of the northern part of the WSA. Topography screens the pit from most of the unit.

Solitude. Throughout most of the unit, opportunities for solitude are outstanding. Topography, geologic structures, unit configuration, and some vegetative screening combine to provide ample opportunity for visitors to avoid sights and sounds of other visitors within the WSA. Topography includes two major types: (1) rolling sagebrush plain surrounded by basalt bluffs, and (2) canyons rimmed with aggregations of tall, eroded columns of volcanic tuff. The rock formations and basalt bluffs allow visitors to disperse and enjoy seclusion.

A sliver of land between the basalt bluffs and the eastern boundary of the WSA is part of a flat plain with little topographic or vegetative screening. Visitors to this portion of the WSA would find little opportunity for solitude due to the highway which parallels the eastern boundary.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation. The Little City of Rocks WSA offers a diversity of primitive recreation opportunities. Among the most prominent of these are photography, camping, and nature study. Although the size of the unit is small for extensive hiking, the WSA offers high-quality opportunities for day or overnight hikes.

Special Features. Several archaeological sites, many with associated petroglyphs, are located within the WSA. Cultural resource values in this unit are significant, although no sites or features (e.g. rock art) have been nominated for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Several raptor nesting sites for golden eagle, prairie falcon, great horned owl and red-tailed hawk are noted in the inventory.

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



## Black Canyon (54-6)

Size. The WSA is 10,371 acres in size. In addition, it includes a state land section (640 acres) (see Map 2A). The unit is smaller than the average or median size for all types of wilderness units in Idaho and in the eleven western states (see Table 4-4).

Naturalness. Approximately 7.5 miles of three-strand barbed-wire fence, mostly along an allotment boundary, is located in the WSA. The impact from this fencing is very localized and does not have a significant effect on naturalness. Another imprint, brush control sprays in the northern part of the unit are only slightly noticeable from ground level because of re-invasion of brush and other vegetation on these treated areas. Rock Spring, in the southern part of the WSA along Black Canyon, was developed in the late 1940s. It is screened from most of the unit and has no significant impact on the natural character of the unit.

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

Solitude. Outstanding opportunities for solitude exist within the two main canyons in the WSA. The rock towers and numerous side canyons provide screening between visitors and allow several visitors to be in the area without encountering one another. The broad sloping plain that occupies the majority of the unit also provides opportunities for solitude, but the quality of solitude is less if many visitors are in that portion of the WSA, because of the scarcity of topographic or vegetative screening.

Outside sights of agricultural and community land patterns can be seen from many portions of the WSA. These sights are quite distant and do not detract from a feeling of solitude.

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

Special Features. Eight prehistoric sites have been recorded in the WSA. Rock structures and rock art (petroglyphs) are found in the central part of the WSA. Some of the cultural resource values in the WSA are significant, but no sites have been nominated or listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Gooding City of Rocks (54-8a)

Size. The WSA contains 14,743 acres of BLM administered land. A road to a section of state land within the WSA has been cherry-stemmed out of the WSA, along with the state land (see Map 2A). This state land, though technically outside the WSA, is completely surrounded by the WSA and could be considered an inholding.

The WSA is considerably smaller than the median or average size of NWPS areas in Idaho or in the eleven western states. Its size is equal to or greater than the median size of other study areas in Idaho or the west.

Naturalness. Four "ways," totaling 3.4 miles, are found within the WSA. If vehicle use is eliminated or restricted, they would return to a natural condition. The other imprints are all range improvements. Fences and spring developments could be removed and the areas of impact returned to a natural condition. However, livestock use is permitted in wilderness, and these facilities are necessary for livestock management. The Connet Erosion Control Dam could not be completely rehabilitated without the use of heavy earth-moving equipment. Even then, traces of the dam and soil built up behind it would remain.

Three brush sprayings are located in an 1,800-acre area of the WSA. They do not constitute a noticeable imprint at present, and as time passes, the imprint will be completely rehabilitated to a natural condition. It should be noted that continued grazing in the WSA could result in heavy brush cover over time. Some form of vegetative manipulation would be necessary to maintain a natural balance of vegetation.

None of the imprints inside the WSA are a result of activities occurring outside the WSA. Outside sights and sounds are present, but do not affect the naturalness of the WSA.

There is potential for separating Round Spring, Connet Spring, Connet Erosion Control Dam, Connet Protective Fence, and portions of Strike Burn Fence by excluding 1,680 acres from the northern portion of the WSA. A portion of the area treated with brush spraying could also be excluded. The Coyote Spring and Holding Field can be separated from the unit by excluding a ten-acre portion from the eastern edge of the unit. The northern portion of Strike Burn Fence could be removed by moving the boundary 100 to 200 yards east from the western boundary road. The remaining imprints cannot feasibly be removed because of their location within the unit.

Solitude. Topography, geologic structures, unit configuration, and some vegetative screening combine to provide ample opportunity for visitors to avoid sights and sounds of other visitors within the WSA. The numerous canyons and rhyolite rock formations in the southern part of the WSA provide excellent topographic screening. The pillars and hoodoos of various



heights and shapes allow visitors a high degree of seclusion and opportunity for contemplation. The number of drainages encourages dispersion of visitor groups both horizontally and vertically. The northern parts of the WSA have rolling hills and buttes which also provide opportunity for solitude though not as outstanding as the southern part.

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

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

Human activities outside the WSA are visible near the WSA's boundary and from high points within the unit. Agricultural and community land patterns (a patchwork of fields, farms, and the community of Gooding) can be seen in the distance from ridges and buttes within the WSA. Due to distance, outside sounds do not affect the WSA. The sight of indistinct fields and communities does not detract from the solitude of the unit.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation. The WSA offers exceptional scenery, a diversity of landforms, and visitor mobility. Natural features within the WSA provide outstanding opportunities for photography, hiking, camping, wildlife observation, and nature study. Horseback riding, fishing, and hunting, as well as many other activity opportunities, are also present within the unit. Excellent photography subjects include the myriad brilliant lichen-encrusted rhyolite pillars, hoodoos, and arches. The diverse vegetation ranges from tolerant, livestock-grazed plants on the plateaus to ferns, mosses, and ungrazed wildflowers in shaded, rocky canyons. This diversity offers exceptional opportunities for nature study.

Opportunities are abundant for viewing such species as elk and deer, sage grouse, raptors, and coyotes. Black bears, bobcats, and mountain quail are occasionally seen. The possibility exists for reintroduction of a small population of big horn sheep. If this is successful, the primitive recreation experience of seeing a few of these animals in the wild would be greatly enhanced.

Several factors contribute to the WSA's outstanding opportunities for hiking. The diversity of terrain, the varying degrees of difficulty in maneuvering through the pillars and along rock-filled drainages, and the scarcity of water during much of the year combine to provide the primitive recreationist a high degree of challenge. The northern part of the WSA



provides a sense of wide open space. The northern part also contains recorded archaeological sites of interest to hikers. The southern rhyolite pillar aggregations provide a more intimate sense of seclusion along with countless rock-climbing opportunities.

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

Special Features. Several archaeological sites, some of which have associated rock art (petroglyphs), are located in the WSA. Vitrophyre, an important raw material for flaked stone tools, is found near some cultural sites. Some of the cultural resource values in the WSA are significant, but no sites have been nominated or listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Nesting sites of several predatory birds are located in the WSA.

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

Gooding City of Rocks (54-8b)

Size. The WSA contains 6,287 acres of BLM administered land. There are no state or private inholdings. However, there is a section of state land (640 acres) that lies between the two Gooding City of Rocks WSAs. This state section has a road leading into it, but otherwise is surrounded by the WSAs (see Map 2A). The unit is relatively small when compared with other wilderness units. The WSA is smaller than the average or median size of wilderness units in Idaho or in the eleven western states. If this unit were managed with the Gooding City of Rocks WSA (54-8A) as one unit, their combined size would be 21,030 acres. Although this is still smaller than the median or average size of NWPS areas, it is equal to or larger than the median size of administratively endorsed wilderness areas or other study areas.

Naturalness. The only imprints on naturalness in the WSA are a portion of the Strike Burn Fire Seeding and some mining claim markers. The seeding was an aerial seeding that has had virtually no impact on the naturalness of the unit. The few mining claim markers do not affect the naturalness of the WSA.



Solitude. The opportunities for solitude in this WSA are the same as those described for the Gooding City of Rocks WSA (54-8a).

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation. The opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation in this WSA are the same as those described for the Gooding City of Rocks WSA (54-8a).

Special Features. The special features in this WSA are the same as those for Gooding City of Rocks (54-8a).

Deer Creek (54-10)

Size. The WSA is 7,487 acres in size. In addition, there is a state land section (640 acres) within the unit (see Map 2A). The WSA is smaller than the average and median size of all wilderness units in Idaho or in the eleven western states.

Naturalness. This unit appears essentially natural. Some short drift fences, a spring development, and two short "ways" are the only imprints of man in the WSA. The drift fences and spring development are very localized imprints and have no significant affect on the naturalness of the unit. The ways would eventually return to a natural condition if use were controlled.

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

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation. The outstanding primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities in this WSA are based on the diversity of recreation activities in the unit, including hiking, nature study, photography, and hunting. The steep rolling hills and vistas of scattered aspen groves provide a base that can meet the needs of varied activities. The variety of environments provide visual interest for both the hiker and those involved in nature study.

Special Features. Nesting sites for raptors are found in the WSA.

Size. The WSA is 23,680 acres in size. There is also a 640-acre in-holding of state land (see Map 2A). The unit is smaller than either the median or average size of NWPS areas in Idaho or in the eleven western states, but equal to or larger than the median size of the other wilderness units in the same areas (see Table 4-4).

Naturalness. Seven "ways" covering a total of 10.8 miles are present in the WSA. Many of these are extremely faint and receive little use from year to year. One "way" receives light use, but is used regularly to place salt blocks in the WSA. If use is restricted or eliminated, the "ways" would eventually revegetate and disappear. Although they are fairly extensive, they are well screened by brush and most are not visible when viewed from a few feet away. They do not noticeably affect the naturalness of the WSA.

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

Solitude. The WSA offers outstanding opportunities for solitude, primarily because of its relatively large size. Although the topography is basically flat, some topographic relief is provided by the rugged lava flows in the WSA. The lack of good screening lessens this opportunity if several users are in the unit. With low use, visitors could avoid the sights of other visitors if use is dispersed. If use increases above this level, it would be difficult for users to avoid the sights of others in the WSA.

Agricultural land is adjacent to the WSA along large sections of the western and southeastern boundary. Activities on this land can be seen and heard from several places within the WSA. A railroad also runs along the southeastern boundary. This line of the railroad receives infrequent use, so it has little affect on solitude within the WSA. The sites and sounds of agricultural activity next to the WSA are not overwhelming, but they do detract from a feeling of solitude.

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



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

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

## CRITERION 2: MANAGEABILITY

The primary intent of this criterion is to ensure that an entire area recommended as suitable for wilderness designation can be managed in a manner so that it remains as wilderness. The BLM views wilderness as a permanent designation. Therefore, the area must be capable of being managed to maintain the quality of the wilderness characteristics and to ensure continuation of its uses and multiple resource benefits. The manageability of each WSA is discussed below.

### Little Wood River (53-4)

The capability of this WSA to sustain a level of wilderness-related use is totally dependent upon the adjacent Forest Service RARE II area. The two units have a three and one-half mile common boundary. The WSA boundary makes a more logical and manageable southern boundary for the Pioneer Mountains RARE II Area.

### Friedman Creek (53-5)

The configuration of this WSA and inholdings would make this unit difficult to manage for wilderness. Much of the WSA is very narrow and no portion of it is more than one mile from the boundary. Nine forty-acre parcels (eight private and one state) are scattered throughout the WSA. Access to these inholdings could require roads that would impair the wilderness character of the area. Acquisition of the inholdings would eliminate access problems; however, the configuration of the WSA would not be improved. It would be difficult to ensure that wilderness values throughout the WSA would not be affected by development adjacent to the unit.

Mineral development adjacent to the WSA must be considered because mineral potential is high. Two mining claims within the WSA present potential management conflicts. Other mining claims, if established, would make it difficult to maintain wilderness values within the WSA.

#### Little City of Rocks (54-5)

A portion of this WSA, 900 acres in a strip along the eastern boundary is adjacent to State Highway 46 and includes a material site occasionally used by the State Division of Highways. The terrain is flat and brush covered. This portion of the WSA is very accessible from the highway and control of off-road vehicle use would be difficult. Removing the 900 acres from the WSA would make it smaller than 5,000 acres. This could be offset by acquiring 640 acres of state land inholdings. This would also resolve potential problems related to providing access to the state land. Although this acquisition would allow the area to meet the minimum size criterion, the unit would still be very small.

Wilderness character within the WSA could be maintained only with low use. Most use would concentrate in the unit's one main canyon. There are few points of interest in the rest of the WSA to disperse use evenly. A large number of visitors in the unit at one time would make it difficult to manage the WSA to provide a sense of solitude. The proximity of the WSA to State Highway 46 makes it very accessible for a large number of people. This accessibility and the small size of the unit would make it unlikely that the WSA's wilderness character could be maintained.

#### Black Canyon (54-6)

A road extends two miles into the WSA from the northern boundary. Although this road was cherrystemmed out of the WSA during the inventory, it provides access to the gently sloping terrain between the two main canyons in the WSA. Unless the road is closed, the sights and sounds of motorized vehicles would be noticeable deep inside the WSA. If the road were left open for use, it would provide easy access to the gentle terrain in the northern part of the WSA.

The southern boundary of the WSA has been drawn along legal subdivisions. This portion of the WSA boundary is very difficult to recognize on the ground. There are no clearly delineated natural features or contours in this part of the unit.



Exchange for a 640-acre inholding of state land would prevent problems with providing access to the parcel. The State Land Board has indicated that they are in favor of an exchange for this parcel if the WSA is added to the NWPS.

The flat or gently sloping terrain that predominates in most of the WSA and the poorly defined southern boundary make it likely that motorized vehicles will enter the WSA. Although extensive signing and patrolling could be used to control vehicle use, these factors would make the unit difficult to manage.

#### Gooding City of Rocks (54-8a)

Boundary adjustments could enhance the manageability of the WSA for wilderness. Six range improvements are concentrated in 1,680 acres in the northern part of the unit. Maintenance of spring developments and fences could require the use of motorized equipment. By adjusting the boundary to exclude this portion of the WSA, a difficult management situation could be avoided without sacrificing the wilderness quality of the area.

Exchanging for state lands that are surrounded by the WSA or that jut into the WSA would enhance manageability. It would avoid the possibility of the land being developed in a manner that would affect the wilderness character of lands in the WSA. An exchange would also avoid problems of access to state lands through lands in the WSA.

In those areas that are most accessible to livestock use, a gradual decline in ecological condition will occur. Vegetation manipulation through prescribed burning would be necessary to maintain vegetation in good ecological condition.

The validity of mining claims in the WSA has not been determined. The Bennett Hills Unit Resource Analysis (URA) states that diatomaceous earth deposits in the Bennett Hills are impure and of low quality. In addition, the URA notes that the deposits are unmarketable because they are remote and distant from current markets. It is doubtful that the diatomite material in the WSA meets the requirements of the general mining laws. It is unlikely that mineral claims in the WSA could be developed.

#### Gooding City of Rocks (54-8b)

For the reasons mentioned in the manageability discussion for Gooding City of Rocks (54-8a), it is doubtful that mineral claims in this WSA would be developed.

A cherrystem road extends 1.5 miles into the WSA. The terrain surrounding the road is extremely rocky and does not invite off-road vehicle use. Therefore, use of the road will not prevent managing the area around it as wilderness. Exchanging for 640 acres of state land wedged between this WSA and Gooding City of Rocks (54-8A) would enhance manageability.

Prescribed burning would be necessary to maintain vegetation in a natural condition. This kind of vegetation treatment would only be necessary in a small number of areas and could be done within the guidelines of BLM's Wilderness Management Policy.

#### Deer Creek (54-10)

The WSA doesn't have sufficient screening to absorb more than a small number of visitors. If use should increase even marginally, it would be difficult to manage the area to preserve opportunities for solitude.

In this WSA almost all of the vegetation is accessible to livestock. Therefore, vegetation manipulation as a management tool would be critical. Prescribed burning would not be desirable in this WSA because the steep terrain would make fire management difficult. Spraying would be used to manage the vegetation, but for a short time period the area treated would have a very visible imprint on the naturalness of the area, therefore, it would not be compatible with wilderness management policy.

Exchanging for a 640-acre inholding of state land would eliminate problems of providing access to the parcel. The Idaho State Land Board has indicated that they favor exchanging for state lands in areas added to the NWPS.

#### Lava (56-2)

The WSA doesn't have sufficient screening to absorb more than a small number of visitors, therefore, even marginally increased use would be difficult to manage so as to preserve opportunities for solitude.

Manipulating vegetation to maintain natural plant composition in spite of grazing pressure would be necessary in this WSA. However, the sandy soils, where they exist, are extremely susceptible to wind erosion and require seeding after prescribed burns to stabilize them. The cost of seeding with native species is extremely high and would not be feasible. Seeding with exotic species, which are less expensive, would not conform



with wilderness policy. Therefore, management of vegetation to maintain natural composition in spite of grazing pressure might not be possible within the constraints of wilderness policy.

Geothermal leases in the WSA could be developed in the future, subject to reasonable regulations. This development might impair the naturalness of the WSA.

## QUALITY STANDARDS

The BLM's Wilderness Study Policy requires that six quality standards (see Chapter 1 for description) be considered during the wilderness planning and EIS effort. Each quality standard is addressed by WSA in Table 4-5.

TABLE 4-5

## WILDERNESS QUALITY STANDARD SUMMARY

Wilderness Study Area	Quality Standard		
	Energy and Mineral Resource Values	Impacts on Other Resources	Impacts of Nondesignation on Wilderness Values
Little Wood River (53-4)	<p><u>Locatable Minerals:</u> Undiscovered potential for base metals and uranium. No known discoveries. No mineral claims.</p> <p><u>Leasable Minerals:</u> Not classified prospectively valuable for geothermal resources. Considered prospectively valuable for oil and gas. No leases or lease applications.</p> <p><u>Saleable Minerals:</u> Noncommercial deposits of gravel and limestone.</p>	<p><u>Livestock:</u> The cost of developing a small livestock watering reservoir could be increased.</p> <p><u>Wildlife:</u> Predator control would be more difficult. Coyote populations may increase.</p>	<p><u>Minerals:</u> Nondesignation would allow any discovered mineral resources to be developed, which could impair wilderness characteristics.</p>
Friedman Creek (53-5)	<p><u>Locatable Minerals:</u> Undiscovered potential for base metals and uranium. No active mining in WSA, but mining has occurred in the past. Two mineral claims in WSA.</p> <p><u>Leasable Minerals:</u> Not prospectively valuable for geothermal resources. Considered prospectively valuable for oil and gas. No mineral leases or lease applications in WSA.</p>	<p><u>ORV Use:</u> Area would be closed to ORV use. Area currently received low use from ORVs.</p> <p><u>Wildlife:</u> Predator control would be more difficult. Coyote populations may increase.</p>	<p><u>Minerals:</u> Discovered mineral resources could be developed in a manner that would impair wilderness characteristics.</p> <p><u>ORV Use:</u> Use would increase but would still be relatively low. The presence of ORVs in the unit could affect solitude.</p>
Little City of Rocks (54-5)	<p><u>Locatable Minerals:</u> No locatable minerals are reported or known to exist within the WSA. No claims have been filed with the BLM or Gooding County.</p> <p><u>Leasable Minerals:</u> Not prospectively valuable for geothermal resources. Prospectively valuable for oil and gas. No mineral leases or lease applications on WSA lands.</p> <p><u>Saleable Minerals:</u> Building stone and gravel deposits are located in the WSA. Limited reserves of building stone and the lack of a market give these deposits low commercial value.</p>	<p><u>ORV Use:</u> Area would be closed to ORV use. Area currently receives moderate use from ORVs.</p> <p><u>Wildlife:</u> Predator control would be more difficult. Coyote populations may increase.</p> <p><u>Livestock:</u> The cost of range improvements may increase.</p>	<p><u>Minerals:</u> Discovered mineral resources could be developed in a manner that would impair wilderness characteristics.</p> <p><u>ORV Use:</u> Use trends indicate increasing use. Increased use could impair naturalness and solitude within the WSA.</p>
Black Canyon (54-6)	<p><u>Locatable Minerals:</u> No locatable minerals are reported or known to exist within the WSA. No claims have been filed with the BLM or Gooding County.</p> <p><u>Leasable Minerals:</u> Not prospectively valuable for geothermal resources. Prospectively valuable for oil and gas. No mineral leases or lease applications on WSA lands.</p> <p><u>Saleable Minerals:</u> Building stone and gravel deposits are located in the WSA. Limited reserves of building stone and the lack of a market give these deposits low commercial value.</p>	<p><u>ORV Use:</u> Area would be closed to ORV use. Area currently receives low ORV use.</p> <p><u>Wildlife:</u> Predator control would be more difficult. Coyote populations may increase.</p> <p><u>Livestock:</u> The cost of range improvements may increase.</p>	<p><u>Minerals:</u> Discovered mineral resources could be developed in a manner that would impair wilderness characteristics.</p> <p><u>ORV Use:</u> Use would increase but would remain at relatively low levels. The presence of ORVs in the unit could affect solitude.</p>



Quality Standard (Cont.)		
Public Comment	Local and Regional Socioeconomic Effects	Consistency With Other Plans
<p>Comments supporting and opposing wilderness designation have been received. Those who support wilderness emphasize that it is adjacent to the Pioneer Mountains RARE II area and would protect crucial wildlife habitat.</p> <p>Those opposing wilderness designation emphasize low wilderness quality, conflicts with livestock grazing, and conflicts with mineral resource management.</p>	<p>There are no significant social or economic effects from either wilderness designation or non-designation.</p>	<p>Wilderness designation does not conflict with any federal, state, or local land resource plans.</p>
<p>Comments on this WSA both support and oppose wilderness designation. Supporting comments emphasize wilderness values. Opposing comments emphasize conflicts with mineral development and the nonwilderness recommendation for an adjacent RARE II area.</p>	<p>There are no significant social or economic effects from either wilderness designation or non-designation.</p>	<p>Wilderness designation does not conflict with any federal, state, or local land resource plans.</p>
<p>Comments on this WSA both support and oppose wilderness designation. Supporting comments emphasize wilderness values and unusual geological formations.</p> <p>Opposing comments emphasize conflicts with livestock operations and ORV use, and low quality of wilderness characteristics.</p>	<p>There are no significant social or economic effects from either wilderness designation or non-designation.</p>	<p>Wilderness designation does not conflict with any federal, state, or local land resource plans.</p>
<p>Comments on this WSA both support and oppose wilderness designation. Supporting comments emphasize wilderness values and the presence of two WSAs adjacent to the Black Canyon WSA.</p> <p>Opposing comments emphasize conflicts with livestock operations and ORV use, and low quality of wilderness characteristics.</p>	<p>There are no significant social or economic effects from either wilderness designation or non-designation.</p>	<p>Wilderness designation does not conflict with any federal, state, or local land resource plans.</p>

TABLE 4-5 (Cont.)

## WILDERNESS QUALITY STANDARD SUMMARY

Wilderness Study Area	Quality Standard		
	Energy and Mineral Resource Values	Impacts on Other Resources	Impacts of Nondesignation on Wilderness Values
Gooding City of Rocks (54-8a) and (54-8b)	<p><u>Locatable Minerals:</u> The mineral diatomite is present in the WSA. The Bennett Hills URA states that the diatomite deposits are of low quality and that no local market for diatomite exists. Mineral claims for diatomite on WSA lands have been filed with the BLM. The validity of these claims has not been determined.</p> <p><u>Leasable Minerals:</u> The lands in the WSA are not considered prospectively valuable for geothermal resources. WSA lands have been identified as prospectively valuable for oil and gas. No mineral leases or lease applications have been made on WSA lands.</p> <p><u>Saleable Minerals:</u> Deposits of building stone in limited quantities occur in the WSA.</p>	<p><u>Livestock:</u> The cost of range improvements may increase.</p> <p><u>Wildlife:</u> Predator control would be more difficult. Coyote populations may increase.</p> <p><u>ORV Use:</u> Area would be closed to ORV use. Area currently receives low ORV use.</p>	<p><u>Minerals:</u> Mineral claims within the WSA could be developed in a manner that would impair wilderness characteristics.</p> <p><u>ORV Use:</u> Use trends indicate that ORV use is increasing. Increased ORV use within the WSA could impair solitude.</p>
Deer Creek (54-10)	<p><u>Locatable Minerals:</u> No locatable minerals are reported or known to exist in the WSA. No mineral claims on WSA lands have been filed with Gooding County or the BLM.</p> <p><u>Leasable Minerals:</u> The lands in the WSA are prospectively valuable for geothermal resources and oil and gas resources. No mineral leases or lease applications have been made on WSA lands.</p> <p><u>Saleable Minerals:</u> Sand, gravel, and building stone deposits are found in the WSA. The lack of a market limits the commercial value of the deposits.</p>	<p><u>Livestock:</u> The cost of range improvements may increase.</p> <p><u>Wildlife:</u> Predator control would be more difficult. Coyote populations may increase.</p> <p><u>ORV Use:</u> Area would be closed to ORV use. Area currently receives low ORV use.</p> <p><u>Vegetation:</u> The steepness of terrain limits the effective methods of vegetation manipulation. Brush control is necessary to maintain a natural and balanced plant community. Without effective brush control continued grazing would cause an unnatural concentration of brush in the WSA.</p>	<p><u>Minerals:</u> Mineral claims within the WSA could be developed in a manner that would impair wilderness characteristics.</p> <p><u>ORV Use:</u> Use trends indicate that ORV use is increasing. Increased ORV use within the WSA could impair solitude.</p> <p><u>Vegetation:</u> Brush spraying for brush control would have short term impacts on naturalness.</p>
Lava (56-2)	<p><u>Locatable Minerals:</u> No locatable minerals are known to exist or have been reported in the WSA. No mineral claims on WSA lands have been filed with Lincoln County or the BLM.</p> <p><u>Leasable Minerals:</u> The lands in the WSA are prospectively valuable for oil, gas, and geothermal resources. Geothermal leases have been made on lands within the WSA.</p> <p><u>Saleable Minerals:</u> Veneer basalt building stone occurs within the WSA.</p>	<p><u>Livestock:</u> The cost of range improvements may increase.</p> <p><u>Wildlife:</u> Predator control would be more difficult. Coyote populations may increase.</p> <p><u>ORV Use:</u> Area would be closed to ORV use. Area currently receives low ORV use.</p>	<p><u>Minerals:</u> Mineral claims within the WSA could be developed in a manner that would impair wilderness characteristics.</p> <p><u>ORV Use:</u> Use trends indicate that ORV use is increasing. Increased ORV use within the WSA could impair solitude.</p>



Quality Standard (Cont.)		
Public Comment	Local and Regional Socioeconomic Effects	Consistency With Other Plans
<p>Comments on this WSA both support and oppose wilderness designation.</p> <p>Supporting comments emphasize the high quality of the unit's wilderness values and the supplemental values of the geological formations in the WSA.</p> <p>Opposing comments emphasize conflicts with livestock operations and with mineral development. Trail bike users also oppose wilderness designation for the area because ORV use would not be permitted in a wilderness area.</p>	<p>There are no significant social or economic effects from either wilderness designation or non-designation.</p>	<p>Wilderness designation does not conflict with any federal, state, or local land resource plans.</p>
<p>Comments on this WSA both support and oppose wilderness designation.</p> <p>Supporting comments emphasize the high quality of wilderness values. The plant communities within the WSA have been identified as good examples of high desert vegetation.</p> <p>Opposing comments emphasize conflicts with livestock operations and low quality of wilderness values.</p>	<p>There are no significant social or economic effects from either wilderness designation or non-designation.</p>	<p>Wilderness designation does not conflict with any federal, state, or local land resource plans.</p>
<p>Comments on this WSA support and oppose wilderness designation.</p> <p>Supporting comments emphasize the size of the WSA and ecosystem diversity.</p> <p>Opposing comments emphasize conflicts with livestock operations.</p>	<p>There are no significant social or economic effects from either wilderness designation or non-designation.</p>	<p>Wilderness designation does not conflict with any federal, state, or local land resource plans.</p>

## SUMMARY CONCLUSIONS

The preferred alternative has been selected by applying the planning criteria and quality standards to the WSAs. A summary of the rationale used to recommend the suitability or unsuitability of each WSA in the preferred alternative is presented in this section.

### Little Wood River (53-4)

When considered with the adjacent RARE II unit, this WSA offers high-quality wilderness values and a manageable configuration. The quality of wilderness values offsets the conflicts that are present with potential energy and mineral values. The WSA is recommended as suitable for addition to the NWPS in the preferred alternative.

### Friedman Creek (53-5)

The presence of imprints on naturalness result in a lower quality of wilderness values. The WSA's configuration and topography would severely limit the visitor-use capacity. Scattered inholdings, small size, and a poor configuration would make this unit difficult to manage for preserving the quality of wilderness values. The WSA's wilderness values do not offset potential energy and mineral values in the area. The WSA is recommended as unsuitable.

### Little City of Rocks (54-5)

Portions of this WSA offer high-quality wilderness values and special features. However, about 15 percent of the WSA is affected by the sights and sounds of State Highway 46 and offer a significantly lower quality of wilderness values. The accessibility and small size of the area make it unlikely that the WSA's wilderness character could be maintained. The WSA is recommended as unsuitable.



### Black Canyon (54-6)

The quality of wilderness values and special features in this WSA are limited by the gently rolling topography and lack of screening. Geological features in this WSA are not as interesting as those in other areas. Cherrystemmed roads and poor boundary configuration would create management problems. The WSA is recommended as nonsuitable.

### Gooding City of Rocks (54-8a and 54-8b)

Wilderness values and special features in these WSAs are of high quality. Potential manageability conflicts and resource conflicts with livestock use are brought to a minimal level by excluding 1,680 acres in the northern portion of 54-8a. The high quality of wilderness values and special features offsets conflicts with low levels of ORV use and low mineral potential. Both WSAs are recommended as suitable in the preferred alternative.

### Deer Creek (54-10)

Lack of screening and the presence of steep canyons that would concentrate use limit the quality of wilderness values. Special features are lacking in this WSA. Continued grazing would require vegetation manipulation by means that are not compatible with wilderness management policy. The wilderness values do not offset the management problems presented by continued grazing and small size. The WSA is recommended as nonsuitable.

### Lava (56-2)

Lack of screening, several "ways" that are an imprint on naturalness, and the presence of outside sights and sounds cause the quality of wilderness values in this WSA to be relatively low. Management conflicts would result from planned vegetation manipulation. The WSA is recommended as nonsuitable.





## CHAPTER 5

### ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

#### INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes and analyzes the probable environmental impacts of the alternatives, including the proposed action. The analysis is designed to be commensurate with the expected magnitude, intensity, duration, and incidence of impacts. The chapter first discusses impacts that can be generalized for all WSAs and alternatives, and then focuses on impacts that are specific to individual WSAs and/or alternatives. Some repetition will be encountered from WSA to WSA because similar impacts would result from similar alternatives. A comparative summary of impacts is presented in Chapter 2.

#### RESOURCES UNAFFECTED UNDER ALL ALTERNATIVES

##### Climate

Climate would not be affected by any of the alternatives and will not be addressed further in this section.

##### Air Quality

The BLM Wilderness Management Policy specifies a Class II Quality Standard for wilderness areas. None of the actions proposed under any alternative would exceed this threshold.

##### Social and Economic Effects

None of the alternatives would have any significant economic benefits or costs to the social conditions or the local economy.

## PROPOSED ACTION/PARTIAL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE

### Little Wood River (53-4)

#### Wilderness Values

All wilderness values would be maintained under this alternative. The wilderness values in this WSA are dependent upon the adjacent Pioneer Mountains RARE II unit.

#### Livestock Grazing

No adverse impacts on livestock grazing are anticipated if the WSA is entered into the wilderness system. However, current wilderness policy requires that new range improvements be designed to blend with the surrounding natural landscape. These required changes in design could increase the cost of future water development within the unit. Past experience indicates that the cost of the projects would not increase more than 10 percent. No significant benefits to range or livestock grazing are expected if wilderness is designated.

#### Recreation

An ACEC designation that includes this WSA already provides for an ORV closure; therefore, wilderness designation would not affect ORV use.

#### Minerals

The lands within the WSA would remain open for mineral entry and mineral leasing through December 31, 1983. Beginning on January 1, 1984, all designated wilderness would be withdrawn from mineral entry and leasing and only established mining claims could be developed. No valuable minerals are known to exist in the WSA; therefore, mineral withdrawal would have no identified impact.



## Friedman Creek (53-5)

### Wilderness Values

None of the WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness. Off-road vehicle use and/or mineral development could impair naturalness and solitude within the area; however, based on present trends, the impacts would be minimal.

### Other Values

Livestock grazing management on the allotments in the WSA would not be affected, and all the WSA would continue to be managed for dispersed recreation. The WSA would remain open to ORVs, so present ORV use trends could continue. The area would also remain open for mineral leasing and for appropriation of minerals under the General Mining Laws and other pertinent laws and regulations, allowing for potential discoveries; however, no significant development is anticipated.

## Little City of Rocks (54-5)

### Wilderness Values

None of the WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness. Off-road vehicle use and/or mineral development could impair naturalness and solitude within the area. Based on present trends, the mineral development impacts would be minimal, but ORV use would leave a noticeable imprint on naturalness.

### Other Values

Livestock grazing management on the allotments in the WSA would not be affected, and all the WSA would continue to be managed for dispersed recreation. The WSA would remain open to ORVs, so present ORV use trends could

continue. The area would also remain open for mineral leasing and for appropriation of minerals under the General Mining Laws and other pertinent laws and regulations, allowing for potential discoveries; however, no significant development is anticipated.

#### Black Canyon (54-6)

##### Wilderness Values

None of the WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness. Off-road vehicle use and/or mineral development could impair naturalness and solitude within the area; however, based on present trends, the impacts would be minimal.

##### Other Values

Livestock grazing management on the allotments in the WSA would not be affected, and all the WSA would continue to be managed for dispersed recreation. The WSA would remain open to ORVs, so present ORV use trends could continue. The area would also remain open for mineral leasing and for appropriation of minerals under the General Mining Laws and other pertinent laws and regulations, allowing for potential discoveries; however, no significant development is anticipated.

#### Gooding City of Rocks (54-8a)

##### Wilderness Values

Wilderness values for 13,063 acres of the WSA would be maintained under this alternative. Solitude values would be enhanced by closure of the WSA to off-road vehicles. If mineral claims in the WSA are valid and would be developed, naturalness would be impaired.

Wilderness values in the remaining 1,680 acres of the WSA could be impaired by recreational ORV use and by the use of mechanized equipment to maintain range improvements.



## Livestock Grazing

Current wilderness policy requires that new range improvements be designed to blend with the surrounding natural landscape. These required changes in design could increase the cost of future water development within the unit. Past experience indicates that the cost of the projects would not increase more than 10 percent. No significant benefits to range or livestock grazing are expected if wilderness is designated.

## Recreation

Those portions of the WSA managed as wilderness would be closed to ORV use. This would favor primitive forms of recreation while eliminating the presently low use comprised of motorized forms of recreation. Facilities could be provided only for the protection of resource values or the safety of users.

## Minerals

The lands within the WSA would remain open for mineral entry and mineral leasing through December 31, 1983. Beginning on January 1, 1984, all designated wilderness would be withdrawn from mineral entry and leasing and only established mining claims could be developed. No valuable minerals are known to exist in the WSA; therefore, mineral withdrawal would have no identified impact.

## Gooding City of Rocks (54-8b)

## Wilderness Values

All wilderness values would be maintained by the proposed action. Solitude values would be enhanced by the elimination of recreational off-road vehicles. If mining claims in the WSA are valid, and would be developed, naturalness would be impaired.

## Livestock Grazing

Current wilderness policy requires that new range improvements be designed to blend with the surrounding natural landscape. These required changes in design could increase the cost of future water development within the unit. Past experience indicates that the cost of the projects would not increase more than 10 percent. No significant benefits to range or livestock grazing are expected if wilderness is designated.

## Recreation

Management of the WSA as wilderness would eliminate the low amount of ORV use that presently occurs and would favor primitive forms of recreation.

## Minerals

The lands within the WSA would remain open for mineral entry and mineral leasing through December 31, 1983. Beginning on January 1, 1984, all designated wilderness would be withdrawn from mineral entry and leasing and only established mining claims could be developed. No valuable minerals are known to exist in the WSA; therefore, mineral withdrawal would have no identified impact.

## Deer Creek (54-10)

## Wilderness Values

None of the WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness. Off-road vehicle use and/or mineral development could impair naturalness and solitude within the area; however, based on present trends, the impacts would be minimal. Brush control through the use of chemical spraying could cause short-term changes in the appearance of vegetation. This would impair the wilderness characteristic of naturalness for as long as three years.



## Other Values

Livestock grazing management on the allotments in the WSA would not be affected, and all the WSA would continue to be managed for dispersed recreation. The WSA would remain open to ORVs, so present ORV use trends could continue. The area would also remain open for mineral leasing and for appropriation of minerals under the General Mining Laws and other pertinent laws and regulations, allowing for potential discoveries; however, no significant development is anticipated.

## Lava (56-2)

### Wilderness Values

None of the WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness. Off-road vehicle use and/or mineral development could impair naturalness and solitude within the area; however, based on present trends, the impacts would be minimal.

### Other Values

Livestock grazing management on the allotments in the WSA would not be affected, and all the WSA would continue to be managed for dispersed recreation. The WSA would remain open to ORVs, so present ORV use trends could continue. The area would also remain open for mineral leasing and for appropriation of minerals under the General Mining Laws and other pertinent laws and regulations, allowing for potential discoveries; however, no significant development is anticipated.

## NO WILDERNESS/NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Under this alternative none of the WSAs would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation. Livestock grazing management on the

allotments in the WSAs would not be affected, and all the WSAs would continue to be managed for dispersed recreation. The Little Wood River WSA would be closed to ORVs because of the existing ACEC designation. All other WSAs would remain open to ORV use.

All the WSAs would remain open for mineral leasing and for appropriation of minerals under the General Mining Laws and other pertinent laws and regulations. No valuable minerals are known to exist in any of the WSAs; therefore, the anticipated impact of mineral withdrawal would be negligible.

Impacts on wilderness values are somewhat different for each WSA, and are listed by WSA below.

#### Little Wood River (53-4)

The planned ORV closure based on the ACEC designation would protect most existing wilderness values. Potential mineral development could impair the naturalness of lands in the WSA, but this is not considered to be imminently threatening.

#### Friedman Creek (53-5)

Off-road vehicle use and mineral development could impair naturalness and solitude within the WSA. However, low ORV use and lack of known valuable minerals indicate that this impact would be minimal.

#### Little City of Rocks (54-5)

Continuation of moderate off-road vehicle use in the area would slightly reduce the quality of opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation and would make a noticeable imprint on naturalness.

#### Black Canyon (54-6)

The regular use of motorized vehicles in the area would lower the quality of primitive recreation opportunities.



Gooding City of Rocks (54-8a and 54-8b)

The regular use of motorized vehicles in the area would lower the quality of primitive recreation opportunities. If existing mining claims were developed, the natural wilderness character in that portion of the WSA would be impaired.

Deer Creek (54-10)

The regular use of motorized vehicles in the area would lower the quality of primitive recreation opportunities. Brush control through the use of chemical spraying could cause short-term changes in the appearance of vegetation, impairing the wilderness characteristic of naturalness. However, this impairment would not be noticeable after two to three years.

Lava (56-2)

Continued use of motorized vehicles in the area would lower the quality of primitive recreation opportunities.

The Timmerman Hills MFP provides for brush control and seeding in this WSA. Non-native species of grasses would be seeded by mechanical drilling. The presence of non-native species and the visibility of drill rows would leave noticeable imprints on the naturalness of the lands within the WSA.

ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE

Under this alternative all of the WSAs would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation. (As explained in Chapter 2, Black Butte WSA was irrevocably impaired by mining activity and has been eliminated from further consideration.)

Wilderness designation would be beneficial to cultural resources in the WSAs. Restricted access would decrease the likelihood of significant vandalism to rock art or other sites.

Designated wilderness areas are managed as visual resource management Class I areas; therefore, any future projects would be designed to harmonize with the natural visual character. In some cases such project design could result in higher project costs than if visual harmony were less critical. Based on past experience the increase in cost would not exceed 10 percent.

Elk, mule deer, and other wildlife would benefit from wilderness designation because man-caused disturbances to habitat would decrease with wilderness designation. Under wilderness management, predator control would be restricted to instances of severe livestock loss; consequently, coyote populations might increase. Other wildlife management programs would be unaffected by wilderness designation.

#### Little Wood River (53-4)

ACEC designation already provides for ORV closure, so impacts of wilderness designation on ORV use would be minimal. The cost of developing the planned spring facility could be increased slightly (less than 10 percent) by requirements to protect the WSA's natural appearance.

The wilderness values in this WSA are dependent upon the adjacent Pioneer Mountains RARE II unit.

#### Friedman Creek (53-5)

Solitude values would be enhanced by the elimination of off-road vehicle use. This enhancement would be minimal due to the current and projected low levels of ORV use in the unit. No range improvements are planned, so no increased development costs would be incurred.

#### Little City of Rocks (54-5)

Solitude values would be enhanced by the elimination of off-road vehicle use. No range improvements are planned, so no increased development costs would be incurred. The moderate ORV use that presently occurs in the WSA would move to other nearby public lands.



Black Canyon (54-6)

Solitude values would be enhanced by the elimination of off-road vehicle use. The cost of developing two small reservoirs and conducting prescribed burns, as planned, could be increased slightly (less than 10 percent) by requirements to protect the WSA's natural appearance.

Gooding City of Rocks (54-8a)

Solitude values would be enhanced by the elimination of off-road vehicle use. The cost of installing spring developments and controlling brush, as planned, could be increased slightly (less than 10 percent) by requirements to protect the WSA's natural appearance.

Gooding City of Rocks (54-8b)

Solitude values would be enhanced by the elimination of off-road vehicle use. If mining claims in the WSA are valid, their development would not be prevented and would impair naturalness in portions of the WSA. The cost of constructing a small reservoir and conducting a large brush control project could be increased slightly (less than 10 percent) by requirements to protect the WSA's natural appearance.

Deer Creek (54-10)

Solitude values would be enhanced by the elimination of off-road vehicle use. This enhancement would be minimal due to the current and projected low levels of ORV use in the unit. The cost of developing springs as planned could be increased slightly (less than 10 percent) by the requirements to protect the WSA's natural appearance. The large brush control project that is planned could be reduced or eliminated because prescribed burning would not be feasible in much of this unit due to steep slopes. Chemical spraying techniques would leave short-term imprints on naturalness that would preclude using this form of brush control in designated wilderness.

Solitude values would be enhanced due to the elimination of off-road vehicle use. This enhancement would be minimal due to the current and projected low levels of ORV use in the unit. The cost of installing a mile of pipeline, as planned, could be increased slightly (less than 10 percent) by requirements to protect the WSA's natural appearance. The large brush control and seeding project that is planned could be drastically reduced or eliminated because Wilderness Management Policy requires the use of native species in any seeding project. Seed costs for native species are so high that the seeding project would be unfeasible under this alternative.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SHORT-TERM USE OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE  
MAINTENANCE AND ENHANCEMENT OF LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY

Implementation of the preferred alternative or either of the other alternatives in the foreseeable short term would not involve any significant losses to the long-term productivity of the environment. Wilderness designation could possibly preserve or enhance productivity that might otherwise decrease or remain static if surface-disturbing activities such as ORV use or mining activity expanded or continued.

IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES

Implementation of the preferred alternative or either of the other alternatives would constitute a long-term commitment of resources because of a commitment to a management system. However, designation as wilderness can be rescinded by Congress, so it cannot be considered an irreversible or irretrievable commitment of the resources. On the other hand, if no wilderness is designated, certain activities such as excavation of minerals could occur that would represent an irretrievable commitment of resources and could destroy existing wilderness values.



## CHAPTER 6

### COORDINATION, CONSISTENCY, AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Development of the draft suitability recommendations for the Shoshone/Sun Valley land use plan amendment has included an ongoing coordination and public participation effort. Federal register notices have announced all steps of the process to date, including all phases of the inventory, the Bureauwide study schedule, and two notices of intent for preparation of the amendment/EIS.

Throughout the study, coordination has been maintained with other federal agencies and state, county, and local governments. At this time any possible recommendations regarding suitability or unsuitability of WSAs for wilderness designation would not be considered inconsistent with any officially approved and adopted resource-related plans of these other agencies and governments.

By means of the above mentioned federal register notices, individual mailings, a scoping meeting, individual contacts, the current EIS review period, and the suitability hearing, the public has been and will continue to be involved in the ongoing development of the recommendations for the WSAs in question.

#### LIST OF PREPARERS

In compliance with Section 1502.17 of Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations, the names and qualifications of the persons primarily responsible for preparing the Shoshone/Sun Valley Plan Amendment/Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement are listed in Table 6-1.

#### EIS REVIEW

This draft EIS will be sent to all of the agencies, organizations, and persons listed in Table 6-2, plus everyone who requests a copy. A state-wide news release and a Federal Register Notice will be issued announcing

its availability. A minimum of two months will be provided for public review, and an open house will be held at the BLM District Office during the comment period to answer questions about the EIS. Substantive comments received on the draft will be printed with responses in the final EIS.



TABLE 6-1

## LIST OF PREPARERS 1/

Name	Area of Responsibility	Education	Professional Experience
Joe Aitken	Lands	Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics.	2 years Farm Home Administration Assistant County Supervisor; 1 year Bank Loan Officer; 3 years BLM Realty Specialist.
Michael L. Austin	Lands	Bachelor of Business Administration in Business Management, minor in Real Estate Management; 2 1/2 years in Architectural Engineering.	11 years BLM, USFS, and USAF Cartographic Technician; 5 years BLM Realty Specialist.
Paul S. Card	Sociology	Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Math.	5 years Idaho Department of Transportation; 2 years Idaho Executive Office of the Governor; 3 years BLM Sociologist.
Joe Carter	Vegetation	Bachelor of Science in Range Management.	4 years BLM Range Conservationist.
Terry Costello	Advisor and Liaison	Bachelor of Science in Forestry; Master of Science in Forest Recreation, minors in Ecology and Sociology.	2 years USFS and University of Minnesota Research Assistant; 1 year BLM Realty Specialist; 5 years BLM Outdoor Recreation Planner; 5 years BLM Planning and Environmental Coordinator.
Larry Dee	Minerals	Bachelor of Science in Geology.	15 years U.S. Navy Oceanographer; 3 years BLM Geologist.
Stanley C. Frazier	Economics	Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics.	8 years BLM Economist.
John A. Hanson	Cultural Resources	Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology; Master of Arts in Anthropology; Ph. D. in Archaeology.	4 years Field Museum of Natural History, Staff Assistant; 3 years Prescott College, Assistant Professor of Anthropology; 7 years BLM Archeologist.
William T. Harris	Soils	Bachelor of Science in Soil and Water Science.	3 years SCS Soil Scientist; 2 years State of Idaho Soil Scientist; 2 years BLM Soil Scientist; 4 years BLM Soil and Watershed Specialist.
Robert B. Hellie	Team Leader and Wilderness	Bachelor of Science in Political Science, Bachelor of Science in Outdoor Recreation/Forestry.	4 years Peace Corps, Park Management Specialist; 5 years BLM Outdoor Recreation Planner.
John Husband	Forestry	Bachelor of Science in Forestry	5 years BLM Forester.
Jon Idso	Editor	Bachelor of Science in Recreation, Master of Arts in Recreation.	2 years Federal Power Commission Environmental Specialist; 2 years BLM Recreation Planner; 4 years BLM Environmental Team Leader; 2 years BLM Planning Coordinator.
Dick Kodeski	Recreation, Visual Resource Management	Associate in Forestry, Bachelor of Science in Outdoor Recreation	3 years Bureau of Indian Affairs Recreation Technician; 6 months Park Ranger; 2 years BLM Recreation Planner.
Larry S. Mangan	Wildlife	Bachelor of Science in Biology, 1 1/2 years graduate work in Wildlife Management.	10 years BLM Wildlife Biologist.
Richard W. Mayberry	Livestock Grazing	Bachelor of Science in Range Management.	6 years BLM Range Conservationist.
Derinda D. Rapp	Typist and Paperwork Manager	1 1/2 years college.	9 years BLM Grazing Clerk, Resource Data Assistant, Range Technician, Mail and File Clerk, and Editorial Clerk.
Robert B. Stricker	Livestock Grazing	Bachelor of Science in Range Management.	6 months Soil Conservation Service; 5 years BLM Range Conservationist.

1/ Several additional individuals from the Cartographic Section of the BLM State Office prepared the maps in this EIS.

TABLE 6-2

AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS, AND PERSONS  
TO WHOM THE EIS WILL BE SENT

---

Elected Federal Officials

Senator James McClure  
Senator Steve Symms  
Congressman George Hansen

Elected State Officials

Governor John V. Evans  
State Senators and Representatives for Districts 21, 22, and 23

Federal Agencies

Forest Service  
Soil Conservation Service  
Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
National Park Service  
Geological Survey  
Army Corps of Engineers  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
Wood River Resource Conservation & Development

State of Idaho Agencies

Department of Lands  
Department of Fish and Game  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
Transportation Department, Division of Highways  
Southcentral District Health Department  
Department of Water Resources  
State Clearinghouse  
Idaho Historical Society  
Department of Agriculture  
Region IV Development Association  
Soil Conservation Commission  
Bureau of Mines and Geology  
Department of Health and Welfare

Soil Conservation Districts

Blaine  
Camas

County Commissioners

Blaine  
Camas  
Custer  
Gooding  
Lincoln



TABLE 6-2 (Cont.)

AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS, AND PERSONS  
TO WHOM THE EIS WILL BE SENT

---

County Agents

Blaine  
Camas  
Custer  
Gooding  
Lincoln

Planning and Zoning Commissions

Blaine  
Camas  
Custer  
Gooding  
Lincoln

City Mayors

Hailey  
Ketchum  
Bellevue  
Sun Valley  
Fairfield  
Shoshone  
Gooding  
Dietrich  
Richfield  
Wendell

Organizations

Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc.  
Sierra Club  
Committee for Idaho's High Desert  
Idaho Conservation League  
The Nature Conservancy  
Public Lands Council  
Environment West  
Idaho Trail Machine Association  
Magic Valley Trail Machine Association  
Wood River Recreation Association  
Sawtooth Snowmobile Club  
North Side Snow Riders  
Twin Falls Fish and Wildlife Conservation Corp.  
Idaho Wildlife Federation  
Big Wood Canal Company  
Idaho Cattlemen's Association  
Idaho Woolgrowers Association  
Blaine County Cattlemen's Association  
Idaho Rangeland Committee

TABLE 6-2 (Cont.)

AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS, AND PERSONS  
TO WHOM THE EIS WILL BE SENT

---

Organizations (Cont.)

Sawtooth Graziers  
University of Idaho  
Idaho State University  
Wildlife Management Institute  
National Audubon Society  
Blaine County Resource Council  
Federal Land Bank Association of Gooding  
Southern Idaho Production Credit Association  
First Security Bank of Idaho  
The Wilderness Society  
American Fisheries Society  
The Wildlife Society  
Greater Snake River Land Use Congress  
League of Women Voters  
Ada County Fish & Game League  
Trout Unlimited, Inc.  
The Izaak Walton League of America  
Idaho Farm Bureau Federation  
Idaho Cattle Feeder's Association, Inc.  
Defenders of Wildlife  
Utah State University  
Gem State Grotto

District Advisory Council  
(Ten members)

District Grazing Advisory Board  
(Five members)

Other Individuals  
(Approximately 300 on mailing list)



APPENDIX

TABLE A  
WILDERNESS UNITS WITHIN 5 HOURS DRIVE  
OF BOISE, IDAHO

Statutory Wilderness

Unit Number	Unit Name	Acres	State	Administering Agency	Air Miles From Boise
NF034	HELLS CANYON	193,540	ID, OR	USFS	120.9
NF072	SAWTOOTH	217,088	ID	USFS	62.4
NF913	RIVER OF NO RETURN	2,230,149	ID	USFS	112.3
NF038	JARBIDGE	64,830	NV	USFS	135.9
NF020	EAGLE CAP	293,675	OR	USFS	124.6
NF079	STRAWBERRY MOUNTAIN	33,653	OR	USFS	134.5
NF104	WENAHA-TUCANNON	177,412	OR, WA	USFS	178.5
NP-005	CRATERS OF THE MOON				
	NATIONAL MONUMENT	43,243	ID	NPS	135.1

TOTALS: 8 UNITS

3,253,590 ACRES WITHIN 5 HOURS DRIVE OF BOISE

WILDERNESS UNITS WITHIN 5 HOURS DRIVE  
OF BOISE, IDAHO

Administratively Endorsed  
Wilderness Study Areas

Unit Number	Unit Name	Acres	State	Administering Agency	Air Miles From Boise
L4BAA	STEEL MOUNTAIN	22,848	ID	USFS	46.7
E4061	TEN MILE (EAST)	32,135	ID	USFS	67.3
N4201	PIONEER MOUNTAINS	104,689	ID	USFS	108.6
I4210	BORAH PEAK	119,675	ID	USFS	131.5
E4451	NEEDLES (EAST)	92,048	ID	USFS	88.0
M4455	LICK CREEK (MIDDLE)	61,470	ID	USFS	101.1
A4503	LEMHI (ADDITION)	168,465	ID	USFS	144.4
I4553	SMOKY MOUNTAIN	87,720	ID	USFS	72.2
A6220	CANYONS	13,371	OR	USFS	177.6
A6238	STRAWBERRY MOUNTAIN	35,296	OR	USFS	137.2
06279	LOWER MINAM	32,884	OR	USFS	144.3
NWR-901	MALHEUR	30,000	OR	FWS	148.6

TOTALS: 12 UNITS

800,601 ACRES WITHIN 5 HOURS DRIVE OF BOISE

TABLE A (Cont.)

WILDERNESS UNITS WITHIN 5 HOURS DRIVE  
OF BOISE, IDAHOOther Wilderness Study Areas (Cont.)

Unit Number	Unit Name	Acres	State	Administering Agency	Air Miles From Boise
OR-3-59	LOWER OWYHEE RIVER	12,800	OR	BLM	71.3
OR-3-73	BLUE CANYON	12,800	OR	BLM	66.8
OR-3-74A	UPPER LESLIE GULCH	3,000	OR	BLM	55.9
OR-3-75	SLOCUM CREEK	7,600	OR	BLM	59.0
OR-3-77A	HONEYCOMBS	38,200	OR	BLM	55.2
OR-3-77B	WILD HORSE BASIN	12,500	OR	BLM	53.5
OR-3-110	LOWER OWYHEE CANYON	73,200	OR	BLM	82.6
OR-3-111	SADDLE BUTTE	87,500	OR	BLM	92.5
OR-3-114	PALOMINO HILLS	54,700	OR	BLM	105.0
OR-3-118A	BOWDEN HILLS	59,000	OR	BLM	110.4
OR-3-120	CLARKS BUTTE	31,500	OR	BLM	73.2
OR-3-128A	JORDAN CRATERS	28,700	OR	BLM	70.2
OR-3-152	WILLOW CREEK	29,800	OR	BLM	144.6
OR-3-153	DISASTER PEAK	16,020	OR	BLM	148.5
OR-3-156A	FIFTEENMILE	48,500	OR	BLM	136.8
OR-3-157	OREGON CANYON	41,900	OR	BLM	134.8
OR-3-162A	TWELVEMILE	27,100	OR	BLM	130.4
OR-3-173A	UPPER WEST LITTLE OWYHEE	66,060	OR	BLM	121.4
OR-3-195	OWYHEE CANYON	195,400	OR	BLM	94.0
OR-5-42A	HAMPTON BUTTE	10,600	OR	BLM	197.4
OR-5-43	COUGAR WELL	17,315	OR	BLM	194.1
OR-6-1	MC GRAW CREEK	1,610	OR	BLM	105.3
OR-6-2	HOMESTEAD	10,700	OR	BLM	101.0
OR-6-3	SHEEP MOUNTAIN	6,350	OR	BLM	95.6
OR-6-10	CACHE CREEK RANCH	1,960	OR	BLM	167.5
WA-6-10	CACHE CREEK RANCH	975	WA	BLM	169.7
01853	BIG CANYON A	16,500	ID	USFS	143.2
01854	KLOPTON CREEK-CORRAL CREEK	23,520	ID	USFS	135.2
W4061	TEN MILE - WEST	85,424	ID	USFS	51.4
04551	WHITE CLOUD BOULDER	281,948	ID	USFS	86.3
A4372	JARBIDGE ADDITION	31,070	NV	USFS	142.4
06248	PINE CREEK	5,400	OR	USFS	124.5
B6253	NORTH FORK JOHN DAY	21,210	OR	USFS	144.8
06285	LICK CREEK	5,880	OR	USFS	110.4
06290	LAKE FORK	20,555	OR	USFS	105.2
06291	HOMESTEAD	6,260	OR	USFS	100.5
06292	MC GRAW CREEK	59,000	OR	USFS	108.8
06293	WESTSIDE RESERVOIR FACE	20,100	OR	USFS	111.3
06294	INMAHA FACE	28,710	OR	USFS	125.0
06295	LORDS FLAT-SOMERS POINT	74,700	OR	USFS	137.9
06296	SNAKE RIVER	33,595	OR	USFS	138.8
06297	BUCKHORN	16,318	OR	USFS	149.3
06298	MOUNTAIN SHEEP	9,600	OR	USFS	161.0
06299	COOK RIDGE	20,060	OR	USFS	156.7
06300	WILDHORSE	20,800	OR	USFS	161.4
06602	SHEEP DIVIDE	7,100	OR	USFS	128.9

TOTALS: 142 UNITS

4,366,204 ACRES WITHIN 5 HOURS DRIVE OF BOISE



TABLE A (Cont.)  
WILDERNESS UNITS WITHIN 5 HOURS DRIVE  
OF BOISE, IDAHO

Other Wilderness Study Areas

Unit Number	Unit Name	Acres	State	Administering Agency	Air Miles From Boise
ID-16-40	NORTH FORK OWYHEE RIVER	55,147	ID	BLM	75.0
ID-16-41	HORSEHEAD SPRING	6,211	ID	BLM	88.7
ID-16-42	SOUAW CREEK CANYON	11,379	ID	BLM	86.2
ID-16-44	DEEP CREEK-NICKEL CREEK	11,510	ID	BLM	83.6
ID-16-45	MIDDLE FORK OWYHEE RIVER	13,336	ID	BLM	90.8
ID-16-47	WEST FORK RED CANYON	12,882	ID	BLM	91.3
ID-16-49A	DEEP CREEK-OWYHEE RIVER	72,083	ID	BLM	96.2
ID-16-49D	YATAHONEY CREEK	9,331	ID	BLM	97.9
ID-16-49E	BATTLE CREEK	31,540	ID	BLM	91.7
ID-16-52	UPPER OWYHEE RIVER	12,682	ID	BLM	108.8
ID-16-48B	OWYHEE RIVER	33,700	ID	BLM	98.9
ID-16-48C	LITTLE OWYHEE RIVER	24,677	ID	BLM	108.7
ID-16-53	SOUTH FORK OWYHEE RIVER	42,510	ID	BLM	106.6
ID-17-10	LOWER SALMON FALLS CREEK	3,500	ID	BLM	114.1
ID-17-11	JARBRIDGE RIVER	75,340	ID	BLM	100.7
ID-19-2	KING HILL CREEK	23,815	ID	BLM	61.6
ID-110-91A	BOX CREEK	428	ID	BLM	99.4
ID-111-6	LITTLE JACK'S CREEK	58,040	ID	BLM	63.3
ID-111-7B	DUNCAN CREEK	10,005	ID	BLM	77.6
ID-111-7C	BIG JACK'S CREEK	54,833	ID	BLM	70.7
ID-111-17	BRUNEAU RIVER	107,020	ID	BLM	85.5
ID-111-18	POLE CREEK	24,509	ID	BLM	78.4
ID-111-36A	SHEEP CREEK WEST	11,680	ID	BLM	109.4
ID-111-36B	SHEEP CREEK EAST	5,060	ID	BLM	105.5
ID-31-14	APPENDICITUS HILL	24,870	ID	BLM	138.4
ID-31-17	WHITE KNOB MOUNTAINS	9,950	ID	BLM	130.9
ID-32-3	HAWLEY MOUNTAINS	15,510	ID	BLM	148.2
ID-32-9	BLACK CANYON	5,400	ID	BLM	166.3
ID-33-1	GREAT RIFT	355,850	ID	BLM	144.7
ID-33-4	CEDAR BUTTE	35,700	ID	BLM	172.3
ID-33-15	HELL'S HALF ACRE	66,200	ID	BLM	193.0
ID-45-1	GOLDBERG	3,290	ID	BLM	140.7
ID-45-12	BURNT CREEK	24,980	ID	BLM	135.3
ID-46-11	CORRAL-HORSE BASIN	51,500	ID	BLM	112.0
ID-46-13	BOULDER CREEK	2,573	ID	BLM	93.3
ID-46-14	JERRY PEAK	48,000	ID	BLM	107.7
ID-46-14A	JERRY PEAK WEST	15,000	ID	BLM	99.9
ID-47-4	BORAH PEAK	3,100	ID	BLM	123.5
ID-53-4	LITTLE WOOD RIVER	4,385	ID	BLM	108.4
ID-53-5	FRIEDMAN CREEK	9,773	ID	BLM	119.2
ID-54-2	BLACK BUTTE	4,002	ID	BLM	98.3
ID-54-5	LITTLE CITY OF ROCKS	5,875	ID	BLM	83.1
ID-54-6	BLACK CANYON	10,371	ID	BLM	80.8
ID-54-8A	GOODING CITY OF ROCKS	14,743	ID	BLM	77.8
ID-54-8B	GOODING CITY OF ROCKS	6,287	ID	BLM	74.8
ID-54-10	DEER CREEK	7,487	ID	BLM	69.0
ID-56-2	LAVA	23,680	ID	BLM	104.4
ID-57-2	SHALE BUTTE	15,968	ID	BLM	128.0

TABLE A (Cont.)

WILDERNESS UNITS WITHIN 5 HOURS DRIVE  
OF BOISE, IDAHO

## Other Wilderness Study Areas (Cont.)

Unit Number	Unit Name	Acres	State	Administering Agency	Air Miles From Boise
ID-57-8	SAND BUTTE	20,792	ID	BLM	116.5
ID-57-10	RAVEN'S EYE	67,110	ID	BLM	120.2
ID-57-11	LITTLE DEER	33,531	ID	BLM	126.8
ID-57-14	BEAR DEN BUTTE	9,700	ID	BLM	137.4
ID-59-7	SHOSHONE	6,914	ID	BLM	98.7
ID-62-1	SNOWHOLE RAPIDS	5,068	ID	BLM	164.1
ID-62-10	MARSHALL MOUNTAIN	6,524	ID	BLM	125.6
NV010-103A	DEVIL'S CORRAL	7,842	NV	BLM	115.4
NV-010-106	OWYHEE CANYON	21,900	NV	BLM	122.3
NV-010-132	LITTLE HUMBOLDT	42,213	NV	BLM	157.0
NV-010-151	ROUGH HILLS	6,685	NV	BLM	136.2
NV-010-184	BADLANDS	9,100	NV	BLM	142.7
NV-020-642	PUEBLO MOUNTAIN	600	NV	BLM	168.9
OR-2-14A	MALHEUR RIVER-BLUEBUCKET CREEK	5,560	OR	BLM	118.0
OR-2-23L	STONEHOUSE	21,000	OR	BLM	117.5
OR-2-23M	STONEHOUSE	8,090	OR	BLM	124.7
OR-2-72C	SHEEPSHEAD MTN	54,190	OR	BLM	109.5
OR-2-72D	SHEEPSHEAD MTN	35,000	OR	BLM	110.9
OR-2-72F	SHEEPSHEAD MTN	20,330	OR	BLM	114.9
OR-2-72I	SHEEPSHEAD MTN	38,855	OR	BLM	118.9
OR-2-72J	SHEEPSHEAD MTN	7,755	OR	BLM	125.2
OR-2-73A	WINTER RANGE	21,395	OR	BLM	127.8
OR-2-73H	WINTER RANGE	14,640	OR	BLM	121.2
OR-2-74F	ALVORD DESERT	223,970	OR	BLM	120.1
OR-2-77B	MAHOGANY RIDGE	27,370	OR	BLM	148.6
OR-2-78D	RED MOUNTAIN	2,720	OR	BLM	152.5
OR-2-78F	RED MOUNTAIN	14,730	OR	BLM	154.5
OR-2-81L	PUEBLO MOUNTAIN	67,430	OR	BLM	164.3
OR-2-83A	ALVORD PEAK	14,655	OR	BLM	152.9
OR-2-85F	SOUTH STEENS	65,940	OR	BLM	138.0
OR-2-85G	SOUTH STEENS	35,850	OR	BLM	147.9
OR-2-85H	SOUTH STEENS	24,990	OR	BLM	153.5
OR-2-86E	BLITZEN RIVER	52,060	OR	BLM	145.9
OR-2-86F	BLITZEN RIVER	9,380	OR	BLM	138.5
OR-2-87I	BRIDGE CREEK	14,060	OR	BLM	140.5
OR-2-98A	STRAWBERRY MOUNTAIN	180	OR	BLM	140.7
OR-2-98C	STRAWBERRY MOUNTAIN	720	OR	BLM	143.8
OR-2-98D	STRAWBERRY MOUNTAIN	708	OR	BLM	136.1
OR-2-103	ALDRICH MOUNTAIN	9,395	OR	BLM	171.1
OR-3-18	CASTLE ROCK	7,100	OR	BLM	102.3
OR-3-27	BEAVER DAM CREEK	18,900	OR	BLM	98.0
OR-3-31	CAMP CREEK	19,100	OR	BLM	80.8
OR-3-32	COTTONWOOD CREEK	7,900	OR	BLM	79.2
OR-3-33A	GOLD CREEK	13,400	OR	BLM	81.1
OR-3-35	SPERRY CREEK	5,300	OR	BLM	83.7
OR-3-47	CEDAR MOUNTAIN	33,000	OR	BLM	78.6
OR-3-53	DRY CREEK	22,800	OR	BLM	63.4
OR-3-56	DRY CREEK BUTTES	51,000	OR	BLM	60.3



TABLE B

WILDERNESS UNITS WITHIN 5 HOURS DRIVE  
OF OGDEN/SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

Statutory Wilderness

Unit Number	Unit Name	Acres	State	Administering Agency	Air Miles From Ogden
NF038	JARBIDGE	64,830	NV	USFS	179.7
NF932	LONE PEAK	30,088	UT	USFS	50.1
NF008	BRIDGER	392,169	WY	USFS	173.4
NP-005	CRATERS OF THE MOON NATIONAL MONUMENT	43,243	ID	NPS	171.7

TOTALS: 4 UNITS 530,330 ACRES WITHIN 5 HOURS DRIVE OF OGDEN/SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

WILDERNESS UNITS WITHIN 5 HOURS DRIVE  
OF OGDEN/SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

Administratively Endorsed  
Wilderness Study Areas

Unit Number	Unit Name	Acres	State	Administering Agency	Air Miles From Ogden
I4179	WORM CREEK	15,770	ID	USFS	67.1
N4201	PIONEER MOUNTAINS	104,689	ID	USFS	204.6
NF931	HIGH UINTAS PRIMITIVE AREA	323,020	UT	USFS	86.6
N4AAN	DRY FORK (NORTH)(HIGH UINTAS)	8,512	UT	USFS	113.9
E4001	LEIDY (HIGH UINTAS)	27,456	UT	USFS	108.3
I4001	(HIGH UINTAS)	111,797	UT	USFS	91.3
I4002	SHALE CREEK (HIGH UINTAS)	7,573	UT	USFS	72.9
04307	FISHLAKE MOUNTAIN	18,810	UT	USFS	180.0
I4752	DROMEDARY	12,864	UT	USFS	44.3
A4753	OLYMPUS ADDITION	5,000	UT	USFS	40.5
I4753	OLYMPUS	10,985	UT	USFS	39.6
A4757	STANSBURY (A)	43,824	UT	USFS	61.5
04760	WELLSVILLE MOUNTAIN	22,513	UT	USFS	30.0
P4931	HUPA (HIGH UINTAS)	33,357	UT	USFS	87.6
A4901	BRIDGER ADDITION	79,742	WY	USFS	167.9
C4102	GROS VENTRE	254,940	WY	USFS	172.3
E4102	GROS VENTRE	34,600	WY	USFS	178.3
E4610	JEDEDIAH SMITH	116,855	WY	USFS	187.3
A4610	JEDEDIAH SMITH ADDITION	7,100	WY	USFS	187.3
NP-913	DINOSAUR NATIONAL MONUMENT	245,208	CO, UT	NPS	168.9
NP-900	ARCHES NATIONAL MONUMENT	70,008	UT	NPS	213.4
NP-903	BRYCE CANYON NATIONAL MONUMENT	20,810	UT	NPS	219.2*
NP-906	CAPITOL REEF NATIONAL MONUMENT	183,865	UT	NPS	219.5
NP-908	CEDAR BREAKS NATIONAL MONUMENT	4,830	UT	NPS	220.2*

TOTALS: 24 UNITS 1,764,128 ACRES WITHIN 5 HOURS DRIVE OF OGDEN/SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

\*Air Miles from Salt Lake City, Utah.

TABLE B (Cont.)

WILDERNESS UNITS WITHIN 5 HOURS DRIVE  
OF OGDEN/SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

## Other Wilderness Study Areas

Unit Number	Unit Name	Acres	State	Administering Agency	Air Miles From Ogden
CO-010-001	BULL CANYON	11,777	CO	BLM	167.6
CO-010-002	WILLOW CREEK	13,368	CO	BLM	174.5
CO-010-003	SKULL CREEK	13,740	CO	BLM	180.2
CO-010-208	WEST COLD SPRINGS	14,352	CO	BLM	157.0
CO-010-214	DIAMOND BREAKS	31,480	CO	BLM	159.7
CO-010-224	DINOSAUR NATIONAL MONUMENT	4,340	CO	BLM	167.1
CO-010-224A	DINOSAUR ADJACENT-N	1,320	CO	BLM	169.9
CO-010-226	DINOSAUR ADJACENT-N	4,880	CO	BLM	173.3
CO-010-228	DINOSAUR ADJACENT-N	5,200	CO	BLM	179.8
CO-010-229D	DINOSAUR ADJACENT-N	6,900	CO	BLM	187.2
CO-010-230	CROSS MOUNTAIN	14,081	CO	BLM	193.6
CO-070-009	DEMAREE CANYON	21,050	CO	BLM	204.4
ID-17-10	LOWER SALMON FALLS CREEK	3,500	ID	BLM	164.0
ID-28-1	PETTICOAT PEAK	11,298	ID	BLM	99.0
ID-31-14	APPENDICITUS HILL	24,870	ID	BLM	188.4
ID-31-17	WHITE KNOB MOUNTAINS	9,950	ID	BLM	192.6
ID-32-9	BLACK CANYON	5,400	ID	BLM	189.0
ID-33-1	GREAT RIFT	355,850	ID	BLM	153.3
ID-33-4	CEDAR BUTTE	35,700	ID	BLM	152.2
ID-33-15	HELL'S HALF ACRE	66,200	ID	BLM	156.7
ID-34-2	TABLE ROCK ISLANDS	380	ID	BLM	165.9
ID-34-3	PINE CREEK ISLANDS	155	ID	BLM	162.3
ID-34-4	CONANT VALLEY ISLANDS	235	ID	BLM	156.9
ID-35-3	SAND MOUNTAIN	21,100	ID	BLM	192.2
ID-37-77	WORM CREEK	40	ID	BLM	71.0
ID-53-4	LITTLE WOOD RIVER	4,385	ID	BLM	193.9
ID-53-5	FRIEDMAN CREEK	9,773	ID	BLM	188.1
ID-54-2	BLACK BUTTE	4,002	ID	BLM	182.5
ID-54-5	LITTLE CITY OF ROCKS	5,875	ID	BLM	192.5
ID-54-6	BLACK CANYON	10,371	ID	BLM	194.4
ID-54-8A	GOODING CITY OF ROCKS	14,743	ID	BLM	196.9
ID-54-8B	GOODING CITY OF ROCKS	6,287	ID	BLM	199.5
ID-56-2	LAVA	23,680	ID	BLM	173.2
ID-57-2	SHALE BUTTE	15,968	ID	BLM	152.9
ID-57-8	SAND BUTTE	20,792	ID	BLM	167.4
ID-57-10	RAVEN'S EYE	67,110	ID	BLM	169.3
ID-57-11	LITTLE DEER	33,531	ID	BLM	165.5
ID-57-14	BEAR DEN BUTTE	9,700	ID	BLM	157.1
ID-59-7	SHOSHONE	6,914	ID	BLM	176.1
NV-010-027	BLUEBELL	55,665	NV	BLM	125.6
NV-010-033	GOSHUTE PEAK	69,770	NV	BLM	131.2
NV-010-035	SOUTH PEQUOP	41,090	NV	BLM	143.2
NV-010-151	ROUGH HILLS	6,685	NV	BLM	190.1
NV-010-184	BADLANDS	9,100	NV	BLM	157.5
NV-040-015	GOSHUTE CANYON	35,100	NV	BLM	171.8
NV-040-086	GRANITE SPRING	23,400	NV	BLM	169.5
UT-020-089	NORTH STANSBURY MTNS	10,480	UT	BLM	53.2
UT-020-094	CEDAR MOUNTAINS	50,500	UT	BLM	68.8
UT-020-105	BIG HOLLOW	3,593	UT	BLM	68.0
UT-050-020	DEEP CREEK MOUNTAINS	68,910	UT	BLM	141.0
UT-050-035	COUGAR MOUNTAIN	22,863	UT	BLM	164.2



TABLE B (Cont.)

WILDERNESS UNITS WITHIN 5 HOURS DRIVE  
OF OGDEN/SALT LAKE CITY, UTAHOther Wilderness Study Areas (Cont.)

Unit Number	Unit Name	Acres	State	Administering Agency	Air Miles From Ogden
UT-050-061	SWASEY MOUNTAINS	49,500	UT	BLM	143.2
UT-050-070	KING TOP	84,771	UT	BLM	175.0
UT-050-073	WAH WAH MOUNTAINS	35,000	UT	BLM	193.7
UT-050-077	HOWELL PEAK	23,825	UT	BLM	151.9
UT-050-078	NOTCH PEAK	51,130	UT	BLM	161.1
UT-050-127	FISH SPRINGS RANGE	52,500	UT	BLM	128.2
UT-050-186	ROCKWELL	9,151	UT	BLM	106.2
UT-050-221	FREMONT GORGE	2,540	UT	BLM	204.0
UT-050-238	BLUE HILLS-MOUNT ELLEN	54,480	UT	BLM	217.2
UT-060-007	MUDDY CREEK	31,360	UT	BLM	182.9
UT-060-023	SIDS MOUNTAIN	80,530	UT	BLM	165.7
UT-060-025	DEVIL CANYON	9,610	UT	BLM	174.2
UT-060-028A	CRACK CANYON	25,315	UT	BLM	190.9
UT-060-029A	SAN RAFAEL REEF	55,540	UT	BLM	184.0
UT-060-054	MEXICAN MOUNTAIN	60,360	UT	BLM	169.1
UT-060-067	TURTLE CANYON	33,970	UT	BLM	156.6
UT-060-068A	DESOLATION-GRAY CANYON	257,975	UT	BLM	160.8
UT-060-131B	LOST SPRING CAN	3,880	UT	BLM	212.7
UT-060-140A	BEHIND THE ROCKS	12,930	UT	BLM	228.6
UT-080-103	COLD SPRINGS MOUNTAIN	235	UT	BLM	153.2
UT-080-104	COLD SPRINGS WEST	130	UT	BLM	153.2
UT-080-113	DIAMOND BREAKS	3,900	UT	BLM	153.6
UT-080-414	DANIEL'S CANYON	2,475	UT	BLM	158.0
UT-080-419	BULL CANYON	520	UT	BLM	164.7
WY-040-110	LAKE MOUNTAIN	13,970	WY	BLM	110.4
WY-040-221	RAYMOND MOUNTAINS	32,936	WY	BLM	88.4
WY-040-306	BUFFALO HUMP	10,300	WY	BLM	149.5
WY-040-307	SAND DUNES	27,200	WY	BLM	153.5
WY-040-311	ALKALI DRAW	16,990	WY	BLM	172.9
WY-040-313	SOUTH PINNACLES	10,826	WY	BLM	175.8
WY-040-316/317	ALKALI BASIN EAST SANDUNES	12,800	WY	BLM	181.9
WY-040-401	DEVILS PLAYGROUND	15,646	WY	BLM	118.6
WY-040-402	TWIN BUTTES	8,630	WY	BLM	115.4
WY-040-406	RED CREEK BADLANDS	8,020	WY	BLM	147.6
W4613	PALISADES (WEST)	111,250	ID	USFS	160.0
04758	MOUNT NAOMI	28,800	ID	USFS	59.6
04352	MOUNT MORIAH	97,205	NV	USFS	178.3
04359	WHEELER PEAK	61,919	NV	USFS	197.8
04367	RUBY MOUNTAINS	55,180	NV	USFS	188.5
A4372	JARBIDGE ADDITION	31,070	NV	USFS	182.6
04720	SANTAQUIN	12,880	UT	USFS	92.8
04726	BIRDSEYE	13,220	UT	USFS	89.2
04729	NEPHI	23,980	UT	USFS	98.4
D4757	STANSBURY (D)	11,176	UT	USFS	59.6
04758	MOUNT NAOMI	49,030	UT	USFS	48.3
S4610	WEST SLOPE TETONS (SOUTH)	9,900	WY	USFS	170.0
W4613	PALISADES (WEST)	91,380	WY	USFS	152.4
E4613	PALISADES (EAST)	44,460	WY	USFS	157.1

TOTALS: 99 UNITS

3,047,848 ACRES WITHIN 5 HOURS DRIVE OF OGDEN/SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

TABLE C

## WILDERNESS UNITS IN IDAHO

Statutory Wilderness

Unit Number	Unit Name	Acreage	Agency/ Region or District
NF034	HELLS CANYON	83,800	USFS/4-INTERMOUNTAIN
NF072	SAWTOOTH	217,088	USFS/4-INTERMOUNTAIN
NF074	SELWAY-BITTERROOT	1,089,017	USFS/1-NORTHERN
NF095	GOSPEL HUMP	205,900	USFS/1-NORTHERN
NF913	RIVER OF NO RETURN	2,230,149	USFS/1-NORTHERN
NP-005	CRATERS OF THE MOON NATIONAL MONUMENT	43,243	NPS/CRATERS OF THE MOON NATIONAL MONUMENT
-----			
FOREST SERVICE TOTAL:	5 UNITS	3,825,954 ACRES	
-----			
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE TOTAL:	1 UNIT	43,243 ACRES	
-----			
TOTAL STATUTORY WILDERNESS:	6 UNITS	3,869,197 ACRES	

Administratively Endorsed  
Wilderness Study Areas

Unit Number	Unit Name	Acreage	Agency/ Region or District
A1125	SELKIRKS	24,276	USFS/1-NORTHERN
A1300	MALLARD LARKINS	13,975	USFS/1-NORTHERN
A1981	SALMO PRIEST	14,678	USFS/1-NORTHERN
A4503	LEMHI (ADDITION)	168,465	USFS/4-INTERMOUNTAIN
B1300	MALLARD LARKINS	51,187	USFS/1-NORTHERN
B1305	MOOSE MOUNTAIN	18,373	USFS/1-NORTHERN
B1662	SCOTCHMAN PEAKS	10,164	USFS/1-NORTHERN
C1300	MALLARD LARKINS	13,120	USFS/1-NORTHERN
C1309	LAKES	3,971	USFS/1-NORTHERN
D1300	MALLARD LARKINS	67,910	USFS/1-NORTHERN
E4061	TEN MILE (EAST)	32,135	USFS/4-INTERMOUNTAIN
E4451	NEEDLES (EAST)	92,048	USFS/4-INTERMOUNTAIN
I4179	WORM CREEK	15,770	USFS/4-INTERMOUNTAIN
I4210	BORAH PEAK	119,675	USFS/4-INTERMOUNTAIN
I4553	SMOKY MOUNTAIN	87,720	USFS/4-INTERMOUNTAIN
L4BAA	STEEL MOUNTAIN	22,848	USFS/4-INTERMOUNTAIN
M4455	LICK CREEK (MIDDLE)	61,470	USFS/4-INTERMOUNTAIN
N4201	PIONEER MOUNTAINS	104,689	USFS/4-INTERMOUNTAIN
Q1301	GREAT BURN	98,760	USFS/1-NORTHERN
04963	LIONHEAD	14,440	USFS/4-INTERMOUNTAIN
NP-92	YELLOWSTONE N.P.	22,217	NPS/YELLOWSTONE N.P.
-----			
FOREST SERVICE TOTAL:	20 UNITS	1,035,674 ACRES	
-----			
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE TOTAL:	1 UNIT	22,217 ACRES	
-----			
TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVELY ENDORSED WILDERNESS:	21 UNITS	1,057,891 ACRES	

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TABLE C (Cont.)

WILDERNESS UNITS IN IDAHO  
Other Wilderness Study Areas

Unit Number	Unit Name	Acreage	Agency/ Region or District
B1125	SELKIRKS	19,206	USFS/1-NORTHERN
C1125	SELKIRKS	9,154	USFS/1-NORTHERN
D1125	SELKIRKS	15,934	USFS/1-NORTHERN
M4945	ITALIAN PEAK MIDDLE	42,500	USFS/4-INTERMOUNTAIN
W4061	TEN MILE - WEST	85,424	USFS/4-INTERMOUNTAIN
W4613	PALISADES (WEST)	111,250	USFS/4-INTERMOUNTAIN
W4962	MOUNT JEFFERSON WEST	6,688	USFS/4-INTERMOUNTAIN
01853	BIG CANYON A	16,500	USFS/1-NORTHERN
04551	WHITE CLOUD BOULDER	281,948	USFS/4-INTERMOUNTAIN
04551	KLOPTON CREEK-CORRAL CREEK	23,520	USFS/1-NORTHERN
04758	MOUNT NAOMI	28,800	USFS/4-INTERMOUNTAIN
ID-16-40	NORTH FORK OWYHEE RIVER	55,147	BLM/BOISE-ID
ID-16-41	HORSEHEAD SPRING	6,211	BLM/BOISE-ID
ID-16-42	SQUAW CREEK CANYON	11,379	BLM/BOISE-ID
ID-16-44	DEEP CREEK-NICKEL CREEK	11,510	BLM/BOISE-ID
ID-16-45	MIDDLE FORK OWYHEE RIVER	13,336	BLM/BOISE-ID
ID-16-47	WEST FORK RED CANYON	12,882	BLM/BOISE-ID
ID-16-48B	OWYHEE RIVER	33,700	BLM/BOISE-ID
ID-16-48C	LITTLE OWYHEE RIVER	24,677	BLM/BOISE-ID
ID-16-49A	DEEP CREEK-OWYHEE RIVER	72,083	BLM/BOISE-ID
ID-16-49D	YATAHONEY CREEK	9,331	BLM/BOISE-ID
ID-16-49E	BATTLE CREEK	31,540	BLM/BOISE-ID
ID-16-52	UPPER OWYHEE RIVER	12,682	BLM/BOISE-ID
ID-16-53	SOUTH FORK OWYHEE RIVER	42,510	BLM/BOISE-ID
ID-17-10	LOWER SALMON FALLS CREEK	3,500	BLM/BOISE-ID
ID-17-11	JARBRIDGE RIVER	75,340	BLM/BOISE-ID
ID-19-2	KING HILL CREEK	23,815	BLM/BOISE-ID
ID-110-91A	BOX CREEK	428	BLM/BOISE-ID
ID-111-6	LITTLE JACK'S CREEK	58,040	BLM/BOISE-ID
ID-111-7B	DUNCAN CREEK	10,005	BLM/BOISE-ID
ID-111-7C	BIG JACK'S CREEK	54,833	BLM/BOISE-ID
ID-111-17	BRUNEAU RIVER	107,020	BLM/BOISE-ID
ID-111-18	POLE CREEK	24,509	BLM/BOISE-ID
ID-111-36A	SHEEP CREEK WEST	11,680	BLM/BOISE-ID
ID-111-36B	SHEEP CREEK EAST	5,060	BLM/BOISE-ID
ID-28-1	PETTICOAT PEAK	11,298	BLM/BURLEY-ID
ID-31-14	APPENDICITUS HILL	24,870	BLM/IDAHO FALLS-ID
ID-31-17	WHITE KNOB MOUNTAINS	9,950	BLM/IDAHO FALLS-ID
ID-32-3	HAWLEY MOUNTAINS	15,510	BLM/IDAHO FALLS-ID
ID-32-9	BLACK CANYON	5,400	BLM/IDAHO FALLS-ID
ID-33-1	GREAT RIFT	355,850	BLM/IDAHO FALLS-ID
ID-33-4	CEDAR BUTTE	35,700	BLM/IDAHO FALLS-ID
ID-34-2	TABLE ROCK ISLANDS	380	BLM/IDAHO FALLS-ID
ID-34-3	PINE CREEK ISLANDS	155	BLM/IDAHO FALLS-ID
ID-34-4	CONANT VALLEY ISLANDS	235	BLM/IDAHO FALLS-ID
ID-35-3	SAND MOUNTAIN	21,100	BLM/IDAHO FALLS-ID
ID-33-15	HELL'S HALF ACRE	66,200	BLM/IDAHO FALLS-ID

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TABLE C (Cont.)

## WILDERNESS UNITS IN IDAHO

Other Wilderness Study Units (Cont.)

Unit Number	Unit Name	Acreage	Agency/ Region or District
ID-35-77	HENRY'S LAKE	350	BLM/IDAHO FALLS-ID
ID-37-77	WORM CREEK	40	BLM/IDAHO FALLS-ID
ID-43-3	EIGHTEEN MILE	24,922	BLM/SALMON-ID
ID-45-1	GOLDBERG	3,290	BLM/SALMON-ID
ID-45-12	BURNT CREEK	24,980	BLM/SALMON-ID
ID-46-11	CORRAL-HORSE BASIN	51,500	BLM/SALMON-ID
ID-46-13	BOULDER CREEK	2,573	BLM/SALMON-ID
ID-46-14	JERRY PEAK	48,000	BLM/SALMON-ID
ID-46-14A	JERRY PEAK WEST	15,000	BLM/SALMON-ID
ID-47-4	BORAH PEAK	3,100	BLM/SALMON-ID
ID-53-4	LITTLE WOOD RIVER	4,385	BLM/SHOSHONE-ID
ID-53-5	FRIEDMAN CREEK	9,773	BLM/SHOSHONE-ID
ID-54-2	BLACK BUTTE	4,002	BLM/SHOSHONE-ID
ID-54-5	LITTLE CITY OF ROCKS	5,875	BLM/SHOSHONE-ID
ID-54-6	BLACK CANYON	10,371	BLM/SHOSHONE-ID
ID-54-8A	GOODING CITY OF ROCKS	14,743	BLM/SHOSHONE-ID
ID-54-8B	GOODING CITY OF ROCKS	6,287	BLM/SHOSHONE-ID
ID-54-10	DEER CREEK	7,487	BLM/SHOSHONE-ID
ID-56-2	LAVA	23,680	BLM/SHOSHONE-ID
ID-57-2	SHALE BUTTE	15,968	BLM/SHOSHONE-ID
ID-57-8	SAND BUTTE	20,792	BLM/SHOSHONE-ID
ID-59-7	SHOSHONE	6,914	BLM/SHOSHONE-ID
ID-57-10	RAVEN'S EYE	67,110	BLM/SHOSHONE-ID
ID-57-11	LITTLE DEER	33,531	BLM/SHOSHONE-ID
ID-57-14	BEAR DEN BUTTE	9,700	BLM/SHOSHONE-ID
ID-61-1	SELKIRK CREST	720	BLM/COEUR D'ALENE-ID
ID-61-10	CRYSTAL LAKE	9,027	BLM/COEUR D'ALENE-ID
ID-61-15A	GRANDMOTHER MOUNTAIN	10,339	BLM/COEUR D'ALENE-ID
ID-61-15B	GRANDMOTHER MOUNTAIN	6,790	BLM/COEUR D'ALENE-ID
ID-62-1	SNOWHOLE RAPIDS	5,068	BLM/COEUR D'ALENE-ID
ID-62-10	MARSHALL MOUNTAIN	6,524	BLM/COEUR D'ALENE-ID
-----			
FOREST SERVICE TOTAL:	11 UNITS	640,924 ACRES	
-----			
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT TOTAL:	67 UNITS	1,710,707 ACRES	
-----			
TOTAL OTHER WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS:	77 UNITS	2,351,631 ACRES	
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## GLOSSARY

Adit: A horizontal entrance to an underground mine, as opposed to a shaft, which is vertical.

Air Quality Classes: Classes established by the Environmental Protection Agency that define the amount of pollution considered significant within an area. Class I applies to areas where almost any change in air quality would be considered significant; Class II applies to areas where the deterioration normally accompanying moderate well-controlled growth would be considered insignificant; and Class III applies to areas where deterioration up to the national standards would be considered insignificant.

Allotment: An area of land where one or more individuals graze their livestock. It generally consists of public land, but may include parcels of private or state-owned lands. An allotment may consist of several pastures.

Animal Unit Month (AUM): A standardized unit of measurement of the amount of forage necessary for the complete subsistence of one animal unit (one cow or one horse or five sheep, all over six months old) for one month.

Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC): An area within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used, or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

Ash Flow: A highly heated mixture of volcanic gases and ash, traveling down the flanks of a volcano or along the surface of the ground and produced by the explosive disintegration of viscous lava in a volcanic crater or by the explosive emission of gas-charged ash from a fissure or group of fissures.

Bailey-Kuchler System: A classification system that divides the United States into ecosystems based on climate, vegetation, soils, and landform.

Basalt: Any fine-grained, dark-colored, igneous rock.

Base, Ferrous, and Precious Metals: Those groups of metals which include copper, lead, zinc, tungsten, molybdenum, beryllium, manganese, antimony, arsenic, bismuth, tin, iron, nickel, oithium, thorium, uranium, vanadium, gold, silver, mercury, and the platinum group.

Brush Control: Vegetation manipulation to reduce the amount of shrubs or trees in an area.

Bureau Planning System: A process used in the BLM to establish land use allocations, constraints, and objectives for various categories of public land use.

Cherrystem: A dead-end road that protrudes into a WSA. The WSA boundary is formed around this road.

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

Critical Minerals or Materials: Those materials vital to the national defense, the main source of which is within the continental limits of the United States, which may not be produced in quality and quantity sufficient to meet requirements.

Cultural Resources: Those fragile and nonrenewable remains of human activity occupation, or endeavor, reflected in districts, sites, structures, buildings, objects, artifacts, ruins, works of art, architecture, and natural features, that were of importance in human events. These resources consist of (1) physical remains, (2) areas where significant human events occurred--even though evidence of the event no longer remains, and (3) the environment immediately surrounding the actual resource. Cultural resources, including both prehistoric and historic remains, represent a part of the continuum of events from the earliest evidences of man to the present day.

Ecological Condition: The present state of vegetation in an area in relation to the climax (natural potential) plant community the area is capable of supporting.

Ecosystem: An ecological unit consisting of both living and nonliving components which interact to produce a natural, stable system.

Endangered Species: An animal or plant whose prospects of survival and reproduction are in immediate jeopardy, and as is further defined by the Endangered Species Act of 1973.



Environmental Impact Statement (EIS): A written analysis of the impacts on the environment of a proposed project or action.

Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA): Public Law 94-579, October 21, 1976, referred to by the Bureau of Land Management as its "Organic Act," which provides most of BLM's legislated authority, direction, policy, and basic guidance.

Forage: All browse and herbaceous foods that are available to grazing animals.

Habitat: A specific set of physical conditions that surround a species, group of species, or a large community. In wildlife management, the major constituents of habitat are considered to be food, water, cover, and living space.

Hoodoos: Pillars developed by erosion of horizontal layers of rock of varying hardness in a region where most rainfall occurs during a short period of the year.

Impact: The effect, influence, alteration, or imprint caused by an action.

Impair: To diminish in value or excellence.

Inholdings: State or privately-owned lands inside a wilderness study area.

Leasable Minerals: Those minerals or materials designated as leasable under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920. They include coal, phosphate, asphalt, sulphur, potassium and sodium minerals, oil, and gas. Geothermal resources are also leasable under the Geothermal Stream Act of 1970.

Livestock Grazing Operations: Those operations under permit where the primary purpose is the grazing of livestock for the production of food and fiber.

Locatable Minerals: Minerals or materials subject to disposal and development through the Mining Law of 1872 (as amended). Generally includes metallic minerals such as gold and silver and other materials not subject to lease or sale (some bentonites, limestone, talc, some zeolites, etc.). Whether or not a particular mineral deposit is locatable depends on such factors as quality, quantity, mineability, demand, and marketability.

Management Framework Plan (MFP): A planning decision document that establishes land use allocations, multiple use guidelines, and management objectives for a given planning area. It is the BLM's land use plan. An MFP is prepared in three steps: (1) resource recommendations, (2) impact analysis and alternative development, and (3) decision making.

MFP Amendment: An official change to a Management Framework Plan that is initiated by the need to consider monitoring, new data, new or revised policy, a change in circumstances, or an applicant's proposed action that could significantly affect a portion of the approved plan.

Mineral Entry: Appropriating public lands (under administration of BLM) to search for locatable minerals and to claim and/or gain title to such minerals under the Mining Law of 1872.

Mining Law of 1872: Also referred to as the "General Mining Laws" or "Mining Laws." It provides for claiming and gaining title to locatable minerals on public lands.

Motor Vehicle: Any self-propelled conveyance.

Multiple Use: Management of the various surface and subsurface resources, so that they are utilized in the combination of ways that will best meet the present and future needs of the public, without permanent impairment of the productivity of the land or the quality of the environment.

National Register of Historic Places (National Register): A listing of architectural, historical, archaeological, and cultural sites of local, state, or national significance, established by the Historic Preservation Act of 1966, and maintained by the National Park Service. Sites are nominated to the Register by state or federal agencies. Copies of the National Register are available from the Superintendent of Documents, USGPO, Washington, D.C. 20402.

Naturalness: Refers to an area which "generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable." (From section 2(c), Wilderness Act)

Off-Road Vehicle (ORV): Any motorized vehicle designed for or capable of cross-country travel on or immediately over land, water, or snow.



Outstanding: Standing out among others of its kind; conspicuous; prominent; or, superior to others of its kind; distinguished; excellent.

Permittees: Livestock operators who have grazing privileges on public lands.

Planning Area: The area for which management framework plans or other land use plans are prepared and maintained.

Planning Criteria: The factors used to guide development of the land use plan, or revision, to ensure that it is tailored to the issues previously identified and to ensure that unnecessary data collection and analyses are avoided.

Population Center: An SMSA (see definition for Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area) with a population of 100,000 or more.

Prehistoric Resources: All evidences of human activity that pre-date recorded history and can be used to reconstruct lifeways and culture history of past peoples. These include sites, artifacts, and the contexts in which they occur.

Prescribed Burning: Application of fire to natural fuels under conditions of weather, fuel moisture, soil moisture, and other conditions intended to produce the intensity of heat and rate of spread required to accomplish certain objectives of wildlife management, grazing, and/or hazard reduction.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Nonmotorized and nondeveloped types of outdoor recreational activities.

Public Land: Historically, the public domain administered by BLM for the purpose of providing forage, wood products, and minerals for public users. Additional uses of these public lands have been developed and are now recognized including wildlife habitat, wilderness, watershed protection, open space, recreation opportunities, protection of cultural resources, and other purposes.

Range Improvements: Any facility or land treatment that directly affects or supports the use of forage by domestic livestock, such as fences, water lines, stock tanks, reservoirs, spring developments, prescribed burns, and seedings.

RARE II: The second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation used by the U.S. Forest Service to determine wilderness suitability of National Forest Lands.

Recreation Opportunity: The opportunity to participate in an intrinsically rewarding experience that finds its source in voluntary engagements (mental and/or physical) during nonobligated time.

Resource Area: A geographic portion of a BLM district that is the smallest administrative subdivision in the Bureau.

Riparian Communities: Vegetative communities found in association with either open water or water close to the surface; includes meadows, aspen groves, and other trees and shrubs in association with streams and other water sources.

Road: Vehicle routes which have been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continuous use.

Saleable Minerals: A group of mineral materials including, but not limited to, petrified wood and common varieties of sand, stone, gravel, pumice, cinders, and clay on public lands. These minerals may be disposed of through a contract of sale or a free use permit authorized by the Materials Act of 1947 as amended by PL-167 and PL-87-713.

Scoping Process: An early and open public participation process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action.

SCORP: (Idaho) Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Sensitive Species: Species whose populations or ranges are so limited that any reductions in numbers, habitat availability, or habitat condition could result in their being placed on the endangered list.

Site (Archaeological): A physical location where primitive and historic human activities or events occurred and evidence remains that can be used to document human history.

Solitude: The state of being alone or remote from habitations; isolation. A lonely, unfrequented, or secluded place.



Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA): A county that contains at least one city of 50,000 inhabitants or more plus as many adjacent counties as are metropolitan in character and are socially integrated with that central city or cities.

State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO): The official who is authorized by the state, at the request of the Secretary of the Interior, to act as a liaison for purposes of implementing the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

Substantially Unnoticeable: Refers to something that either is so insignificant as to be only a very minor feature of the overall area or is not distinctly recognizable by the average visitor as being manmade or man-caused because of age, weathering, or biological change.

Suitability: As used in the Wilderness Act and in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, refers to a recommendation by the Secretary of Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture that certain federal lands satisfy the definition of wilderness in the Wilderness Act and have been found appropriate for designation as wilderness on the basis of an analysis of the existing and potential uses of the land.

Supplemental Values: Resources associated with wilderness which contribute to the quality of wilderness areas.

Threatened Species: Any species that is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range. It is further defined by the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

Uncommon Species: Species that are not endangered or sensitive but are not widespread in the State of Idaho.

Vegetative Manipulation: Actions taken that alter the existing natural plant communities to achieve the goals of management in a particular area.

Visual Contrast: A striking difference in the form, line, color, or texture of an area being viewed.

Visual Resources: The land, water, vegetation, and animals that comprise the scenery of an area.

Visual Resource Management (VRM): A BLM program to manage the quality of the visual environment and reduce the visual impact of development activities. Lands are inventoried using the BLM VRM system. Scenic quality types, visibility, distance zones, and sensitivity level zones (from use volume and user reaction) are assigned to mapped areas and used to categorize the areas into Visual Resource Management classes I through V. These VRM classes describe the different degrees of modification allowed to the basic elements of the landscape. Class I is the most restrictive; Class IV very nonrestrictive. Class V is applied to areas where rehabilitation is needed to bring them up to one of the other classes. Designated wilderness areas are managed as Class I.

Watershed: The area drained by a principal river or stream system.

Way: A vehicle route established and maintained solely by the passage of motor vehicles.

Wilderness Area: An area formally designated by Act of Congress as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics: Identified by Congress in the 1964 Wilderness Act; namely, size, naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation, and supplemental values such as geological, archaeological, historical, ecological, scenic, or other features. A wilderness area must possess at least 5,000 acres or more of contiguous public land or be of a size to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; be substantially natural or generally appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of man being substantially unnoticeable; and have either outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Congress said a wilderness area may have supplemental values, which include ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, education, scenic, or historical value.

Wilderness Inventory: An evaluation of the public lands in the form of a written description and 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, which are referred to as Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs).

Wilderness Management Policy: The BLM's policy that prescribes the general objectives and specific activity guidance applicable to all designated BLM wilderness areas.



Wilderness Recommendation: A recommendation by the Bureau of Land Management, the Secretary of Interior, or the President, with respect to an area's suitability or unsuitability for preservation as wilderness.

Wilderness Review: The entire process of wilderness inventory, study, and reporting phases of the wilderness program of the Bureau of Land Management.

Wilderness Values: The amenities and benefits connected with areas having large size, naturalness, and outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation.

WSA: Wilderness Study Area. A parcel of public land that through the BLM's wilderness inventory process has been found to possess the basic wilderness characteristics of being at least 5,000 acres in size, being primarily natural, and having outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.





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W

Wilderness Characteristics - 1, 4, 7, 8, 9, 13, 16, 48, 49, 59, 76, 79

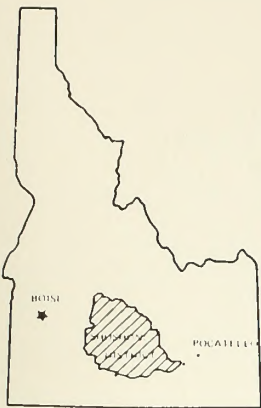
Wilderness Values - 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 16, 59, 60, 68, 69, 72, 73, 74, 75,  
76, 77, 78, 80, 82

Wildlife - 23, 24, 27, 31, 36, 40, 43, 55, 80





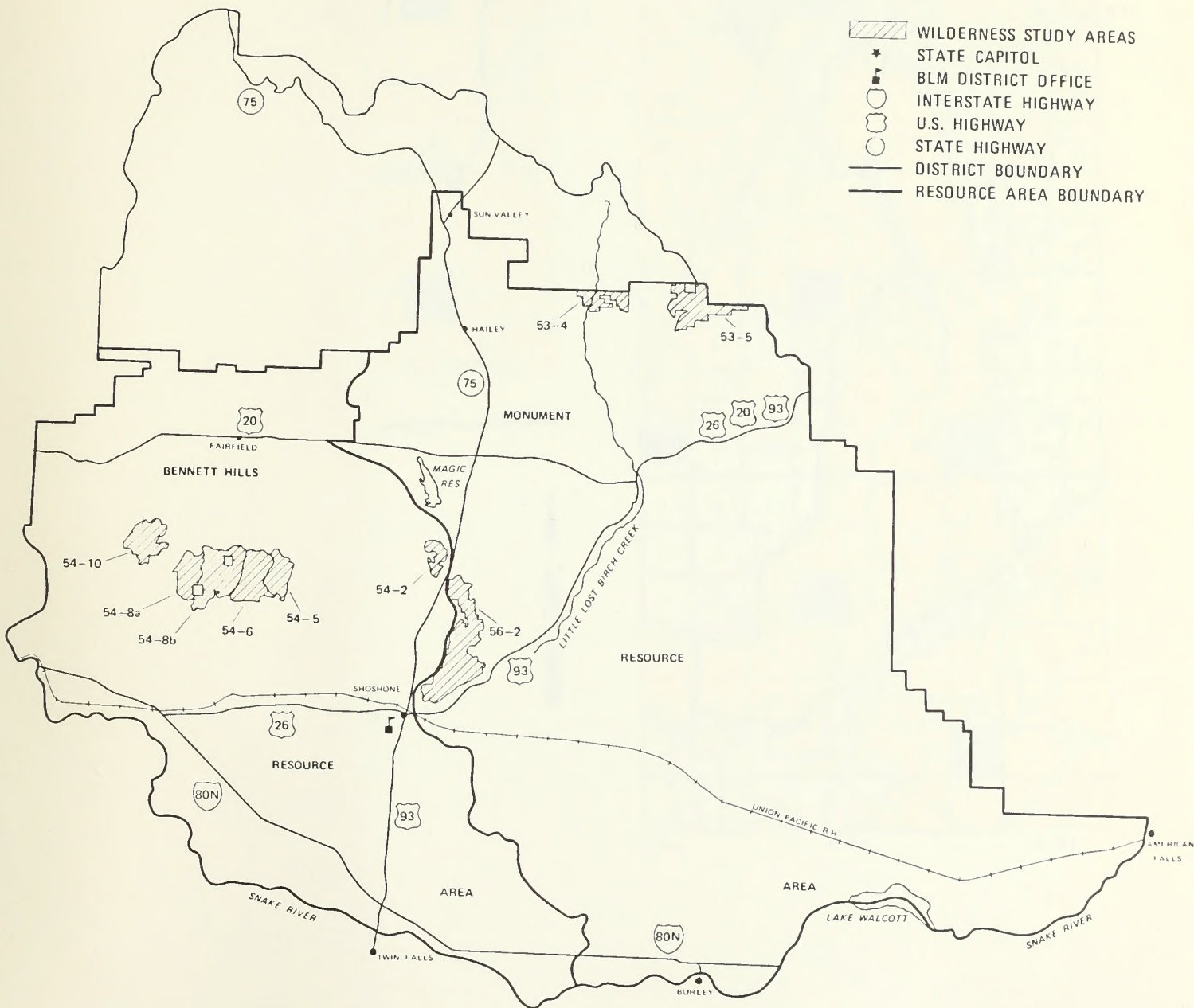
# SHOSHONE / SUN VALLEY GENERAL LOCATION MAP



IDAHO KEY

## WILDERNESS STUDY AREA (WSA) UNITS

UNIT NO.	WSA NAME	ACRES
53-4	Little Wood River	4,385
53-5	Friedman Creek	9,773
54-2	Black Butte	4,002
54-5	Little City of Rocks	5,875
54-6	Black Canyon	10,371
54-8a	Gooding City of Rocks	14,743
54-8b	Gooding City of Rocks	6,287
54-10	Deer Creek	7,487
56-2	Lava	23,680
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>86,603</b>

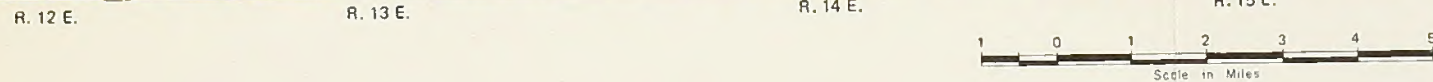
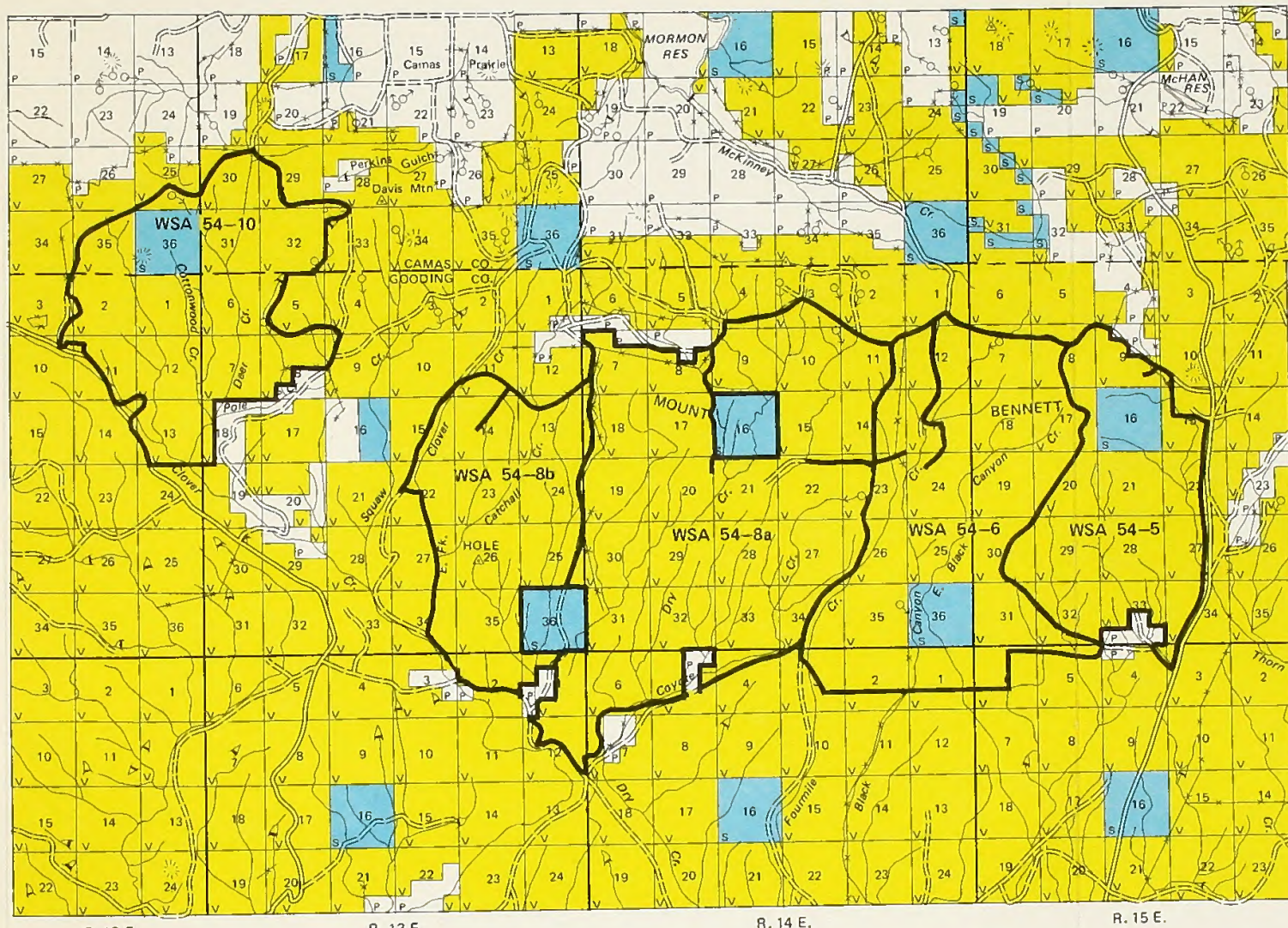


- WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS
- STATE CAPITOL
- BLM DISTRICT OFFICE
- INTERSTATE HIGHWAY
- U.S. HIGHWAY
- STATE HIGHWAY
- DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- RESOURCE AREA BOUNDARY

MAP 1





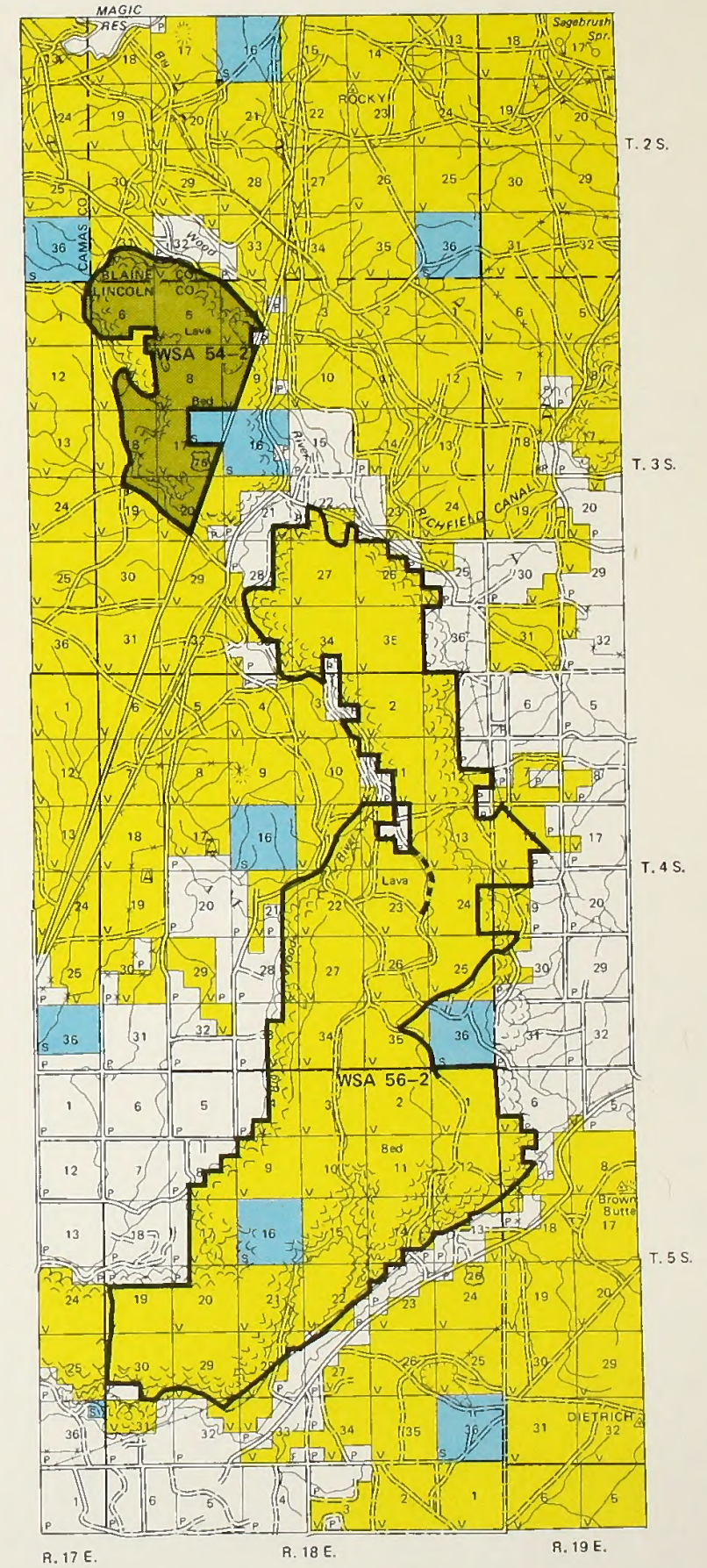


MAP 2a

LAND STATUS  
 NO ACTION / NO WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE  
 ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE\*

- Public.....
- State.....
- Private.....
  
- All Wilderness.....
- No Wilderness.....
- WSA Boundary.....

\*WSA 54-2 Non Suitable for Both Alternatives



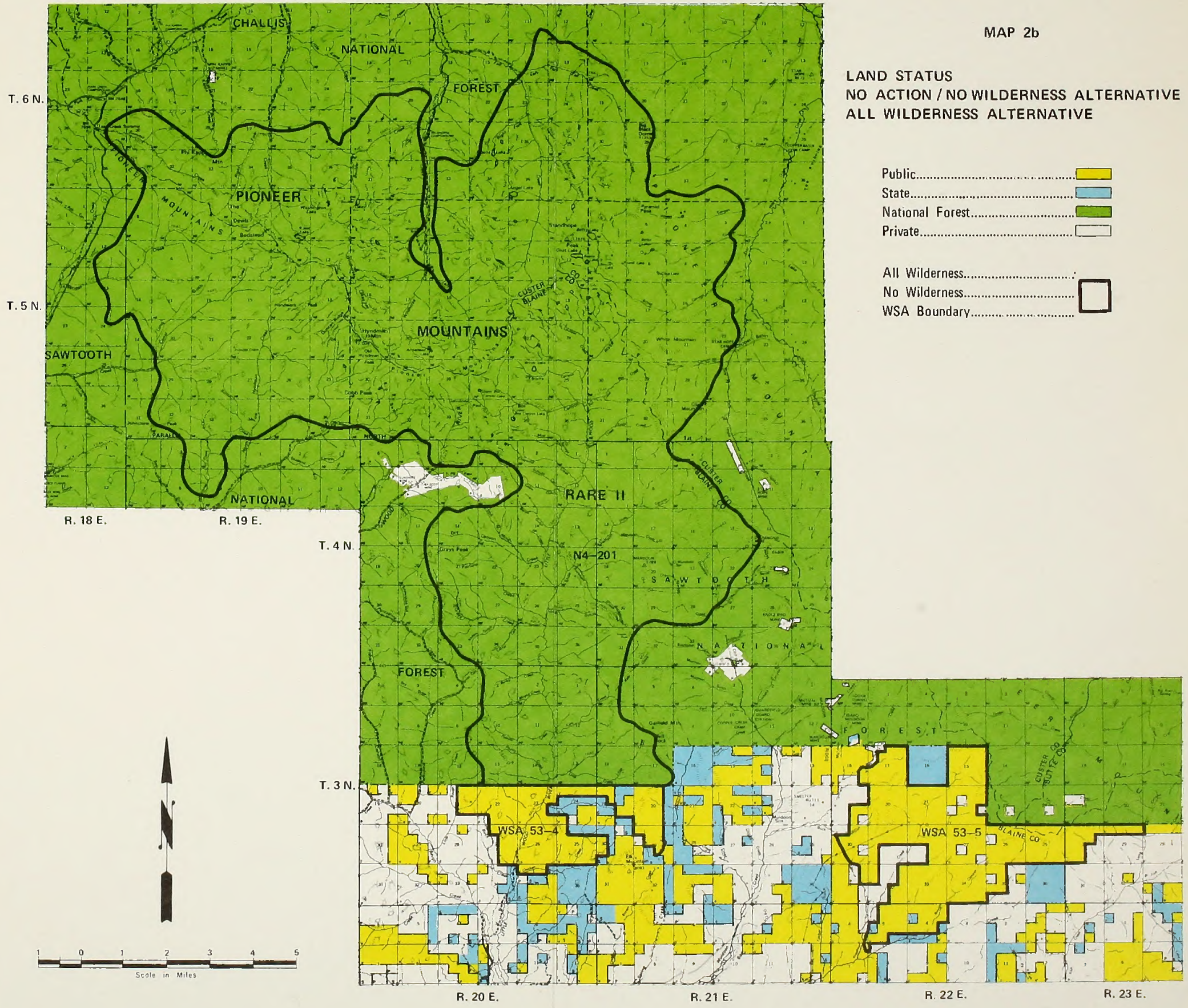
R. 17 E. R. 18 E. R. 19 E.







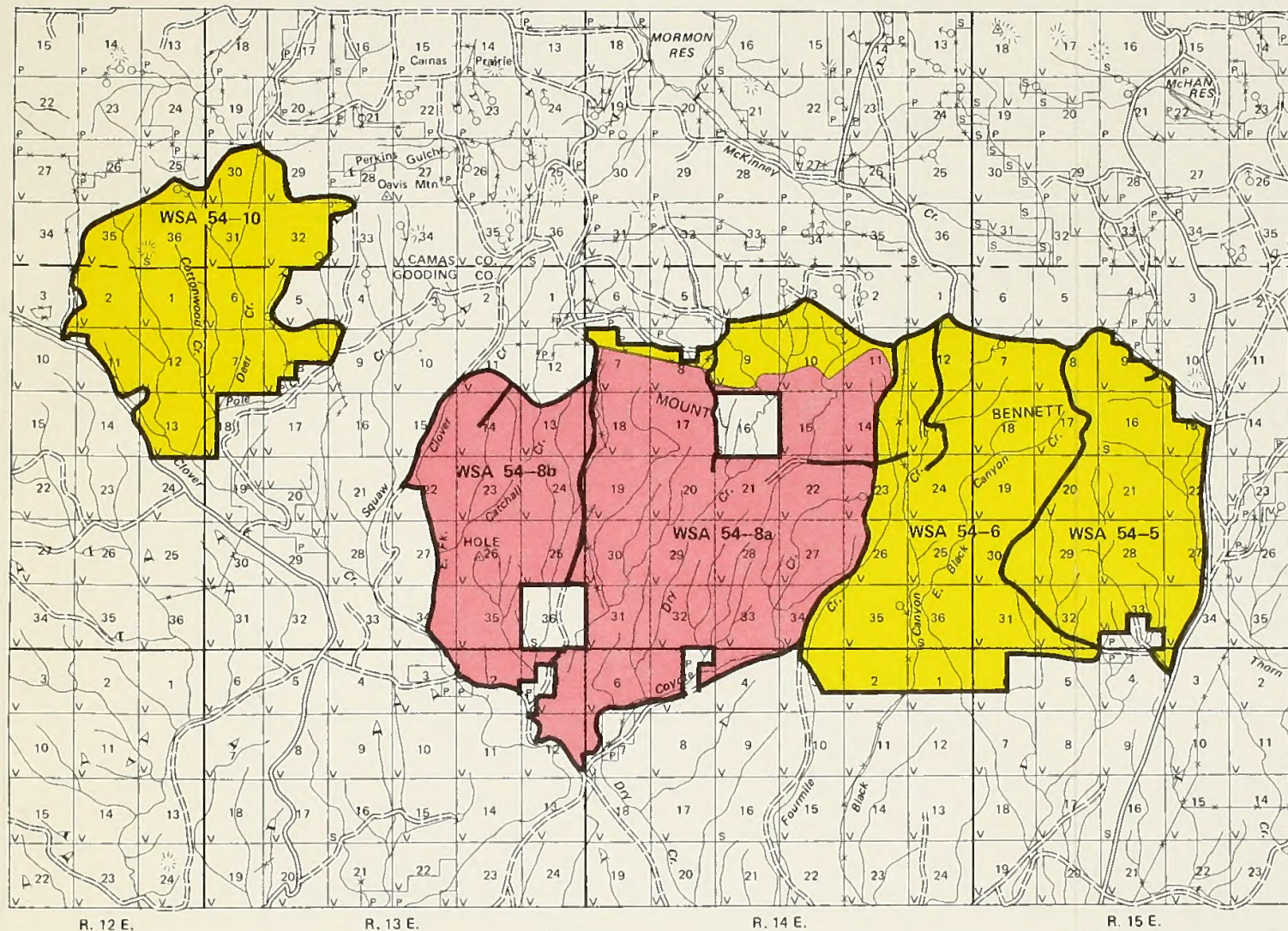
MAP 2b



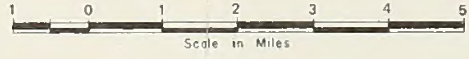








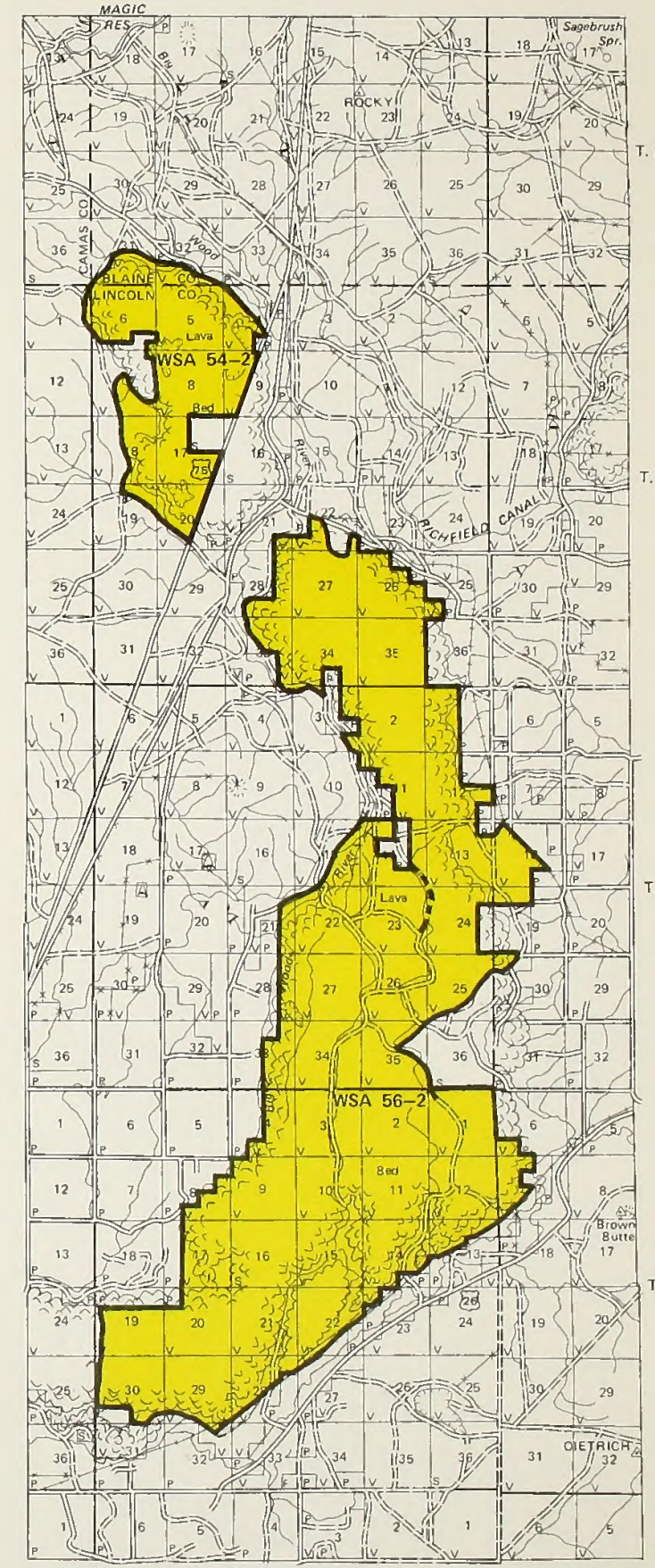
R. 12 E. R. 13 E. R. 14 E. R. 15 E.



MAP 3a

PROPOSED ACTION (PARTIAL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE)

- Suitable.....
- Non Suitable.....
- WSA Boundary.....



R. 17 E. R. 18 E. R. 19 E.

T. 2 S.

T. 3 S.

T. 4 S.

T. 2 S.

T. 3 S.

T. 4 S.

T. 5 S.



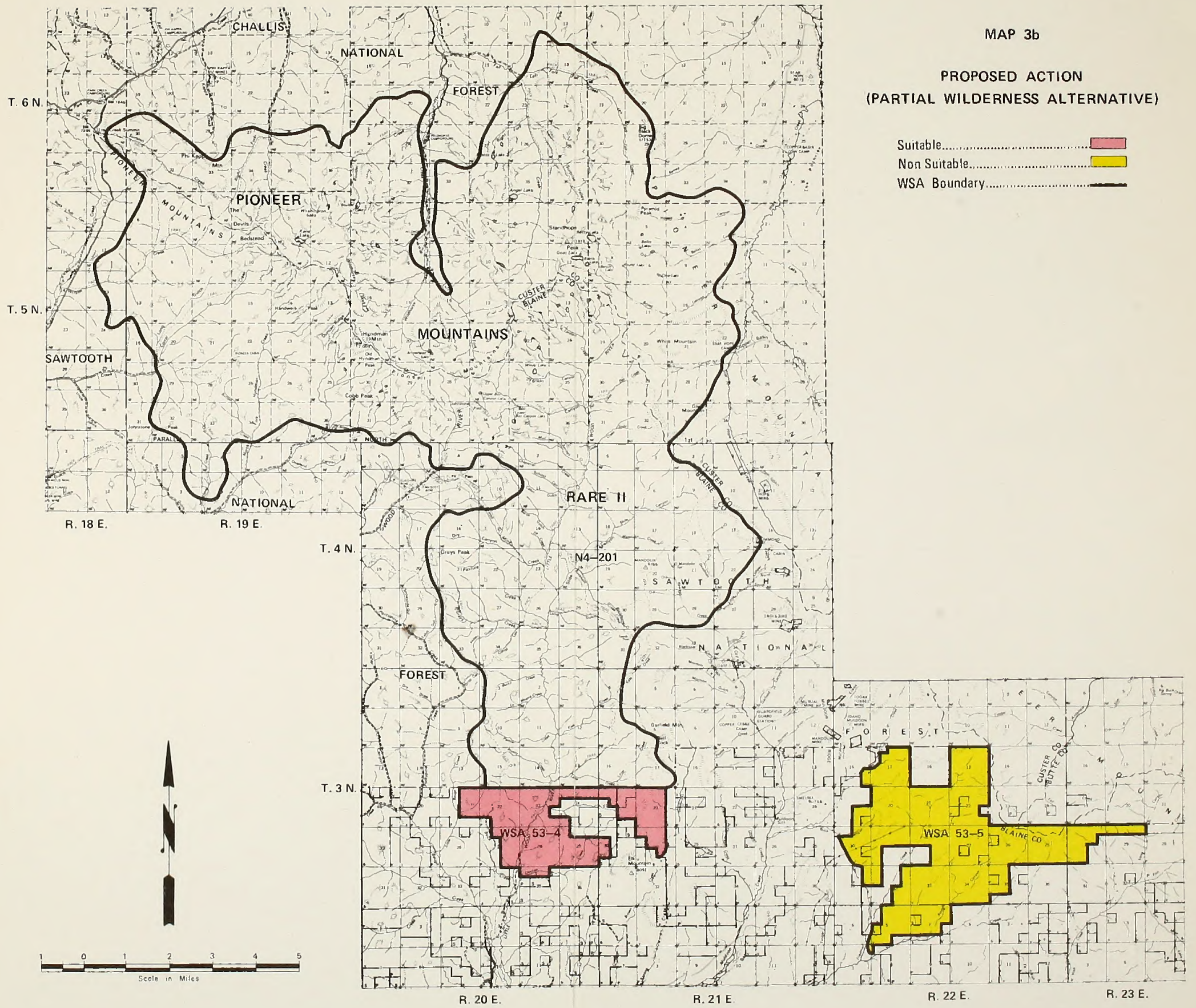




MAP 3b

PROPOSED ACTION  
(PARTIAL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE)

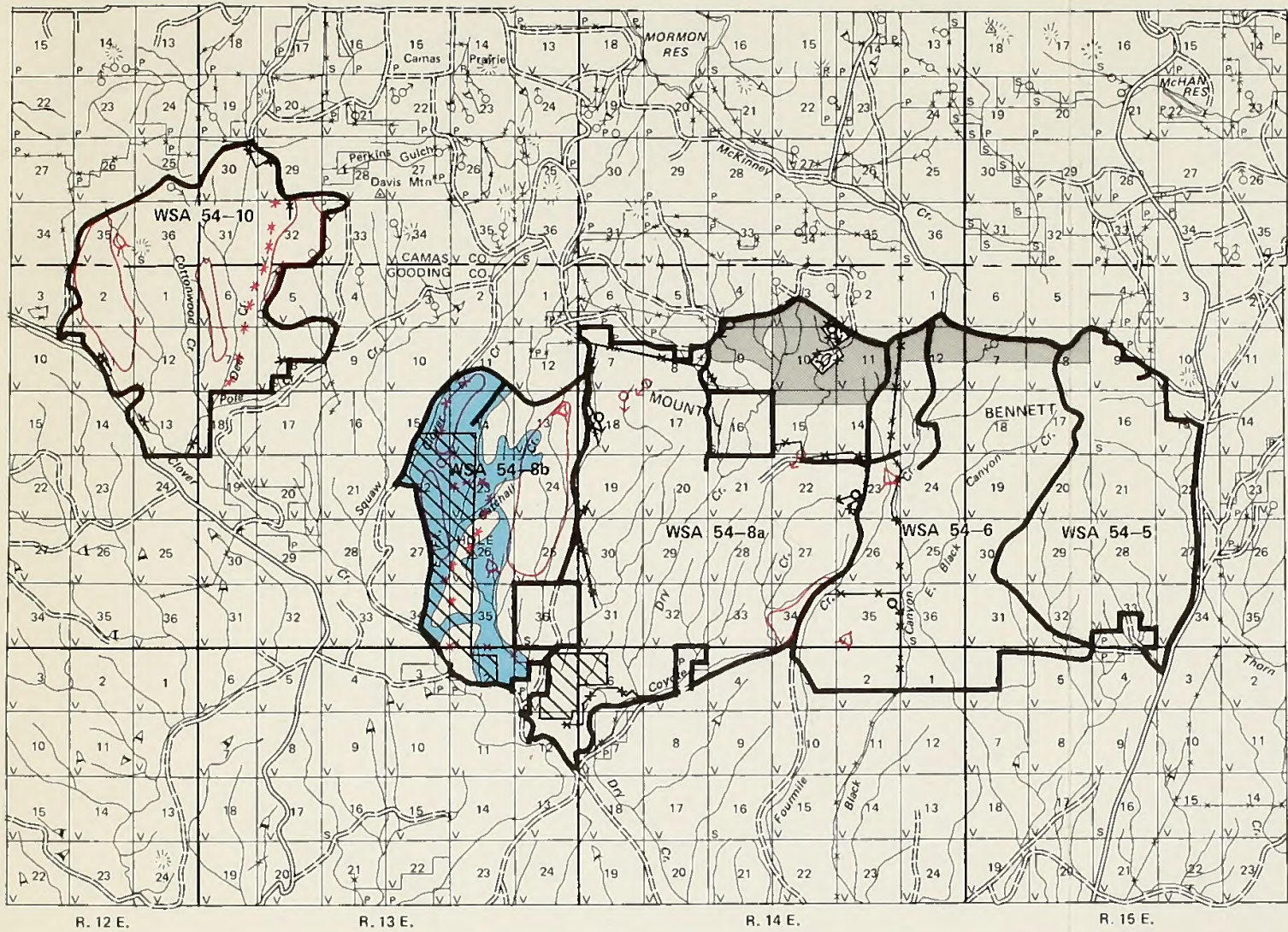
- Suitable.....
- Non Suitable.....
- WSA Boundary.....



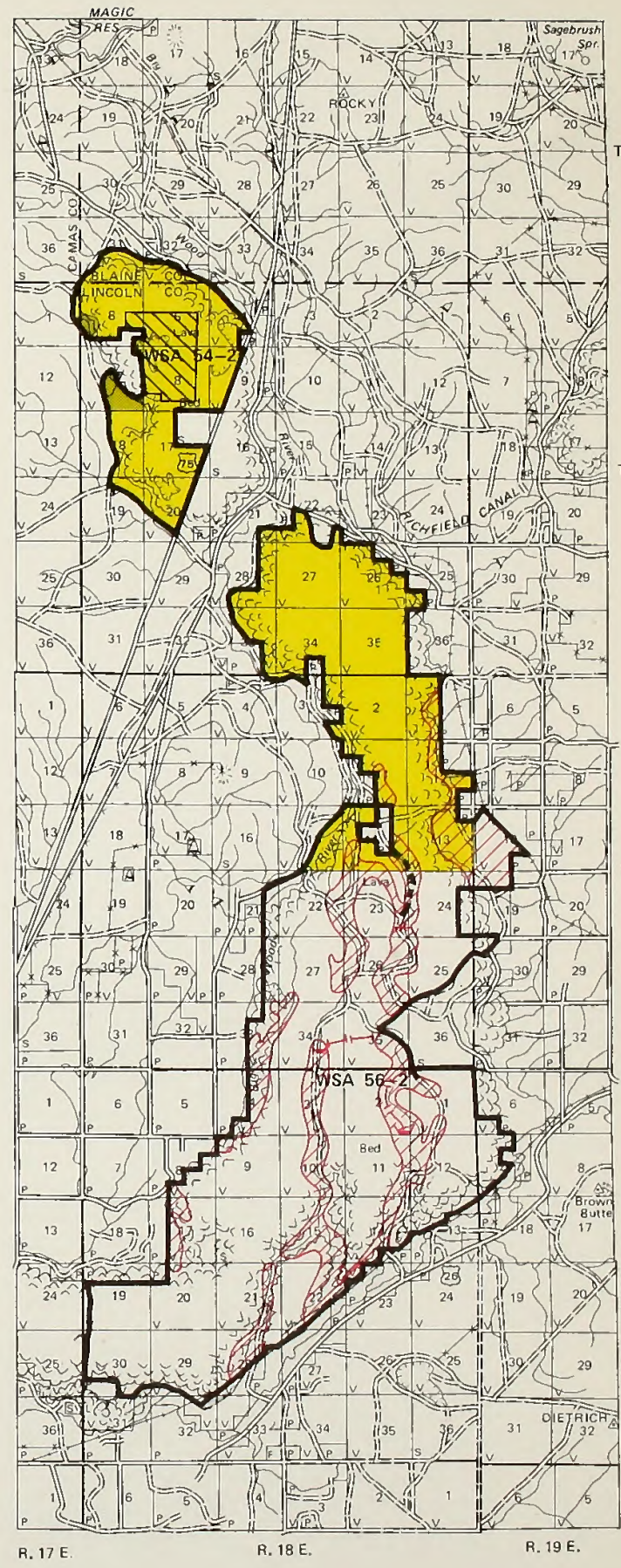








T. 2 S.  
T. 3 S.  
T. 4 S.



T. 2 S.  
T. 3 S.  
T. 4 S.  
T. 5 S.

MAP 4a

RANGE and MINERAL DEVELOPMENT

- WSA Boundary.....
  - Geothermal Leases.....
  - Mining Claims.....
- EXISTING IMPROVEMENTS
- Solid Fencing.....
  - Gap Fencing.....
  - Reservoir.....
  - Spring Development.....
  - Brush Spray.....
  - Fire Rehabilitation (Aerial Seeding).....

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

- Solid Fencing.....
- Gap Fencing.....
- Reservoir.....
- Spring Development.....
- Pipeline Extension.....
- Trough.....
- Brush Control (Prescribed Fire).....
- Brush Control and Seeding.....

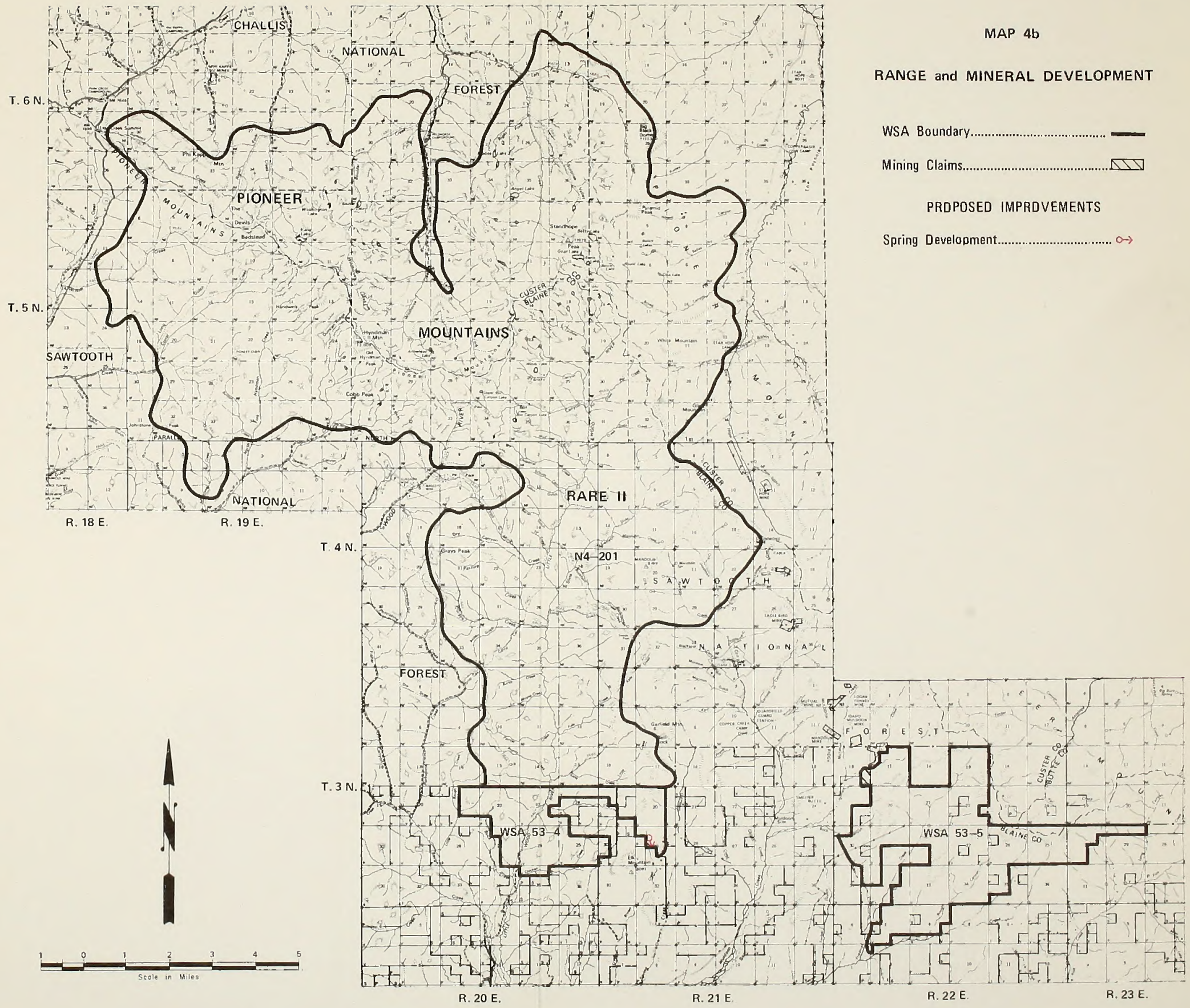


R. 17 E. R. 18 E. R. 19 E.









MAP 4b

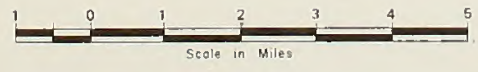
RANGE and MINERAL DEVELOPMENT

WSA Boundary.....

Mining Claims.....

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

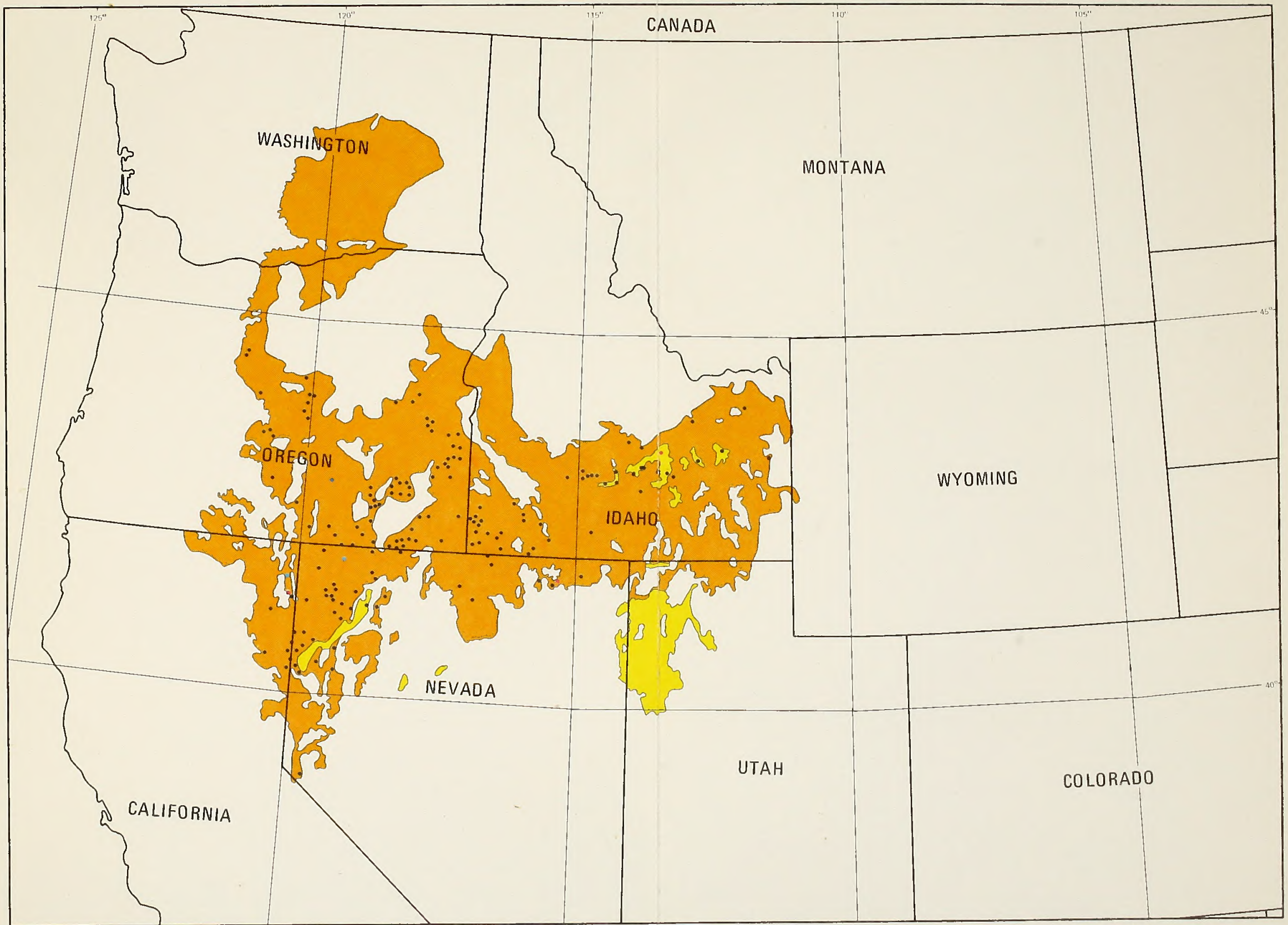
Spring Development.....











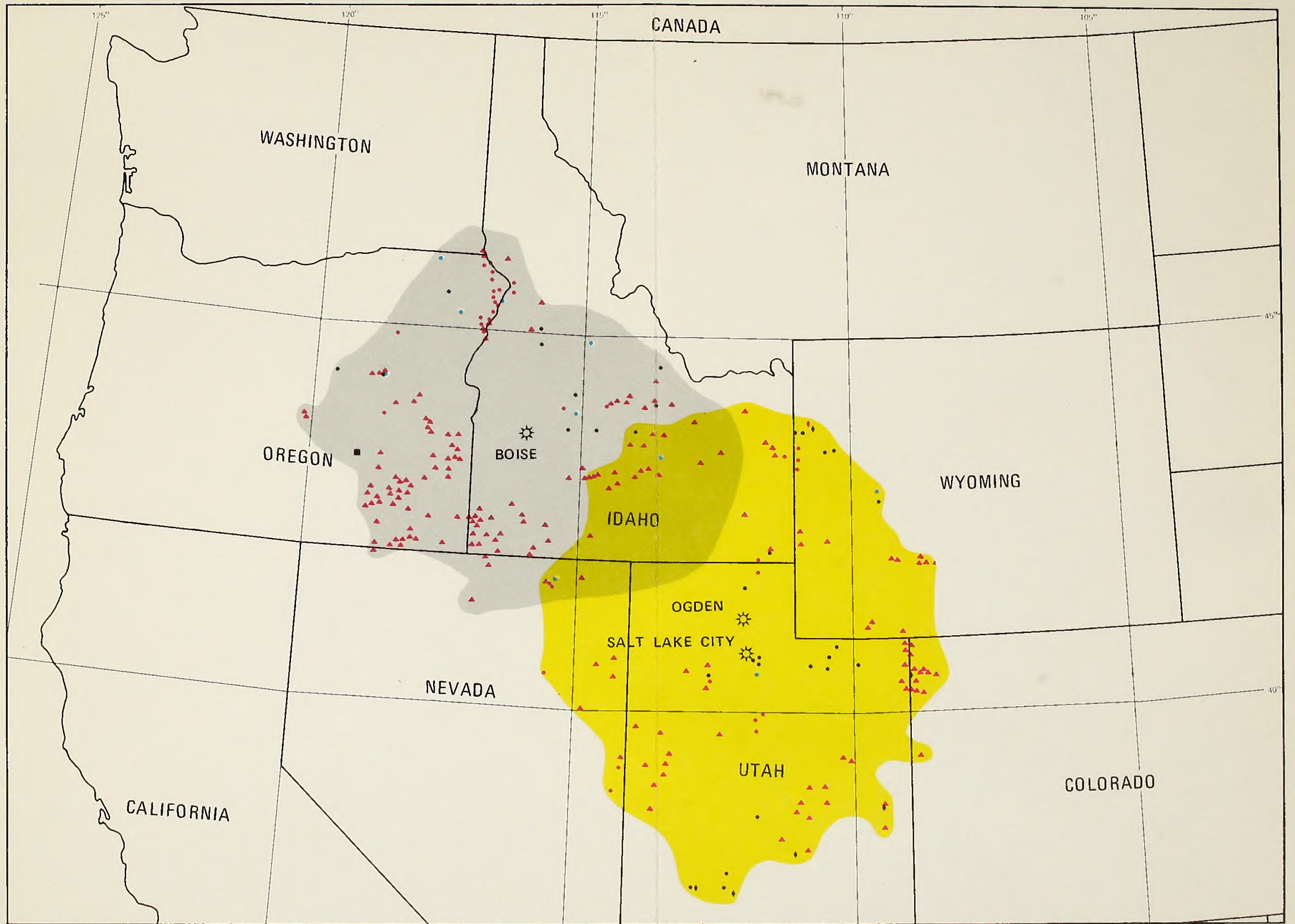
MAP 5  
ECOSYSTEMS 3130-39 AND 3130-49



- DESIGNATED WILDERNESS
- AEW
- OTHER STUDY AREAS







MAP 6

SMSA

- USFS DESIGNATED WILDERNESS
- USFS AEW
- USFS FURTHER STUDY
- NONE BLM DESIGNATED WILDERNESS
- NDNE BLM AEW
- ▲ BLM WSA

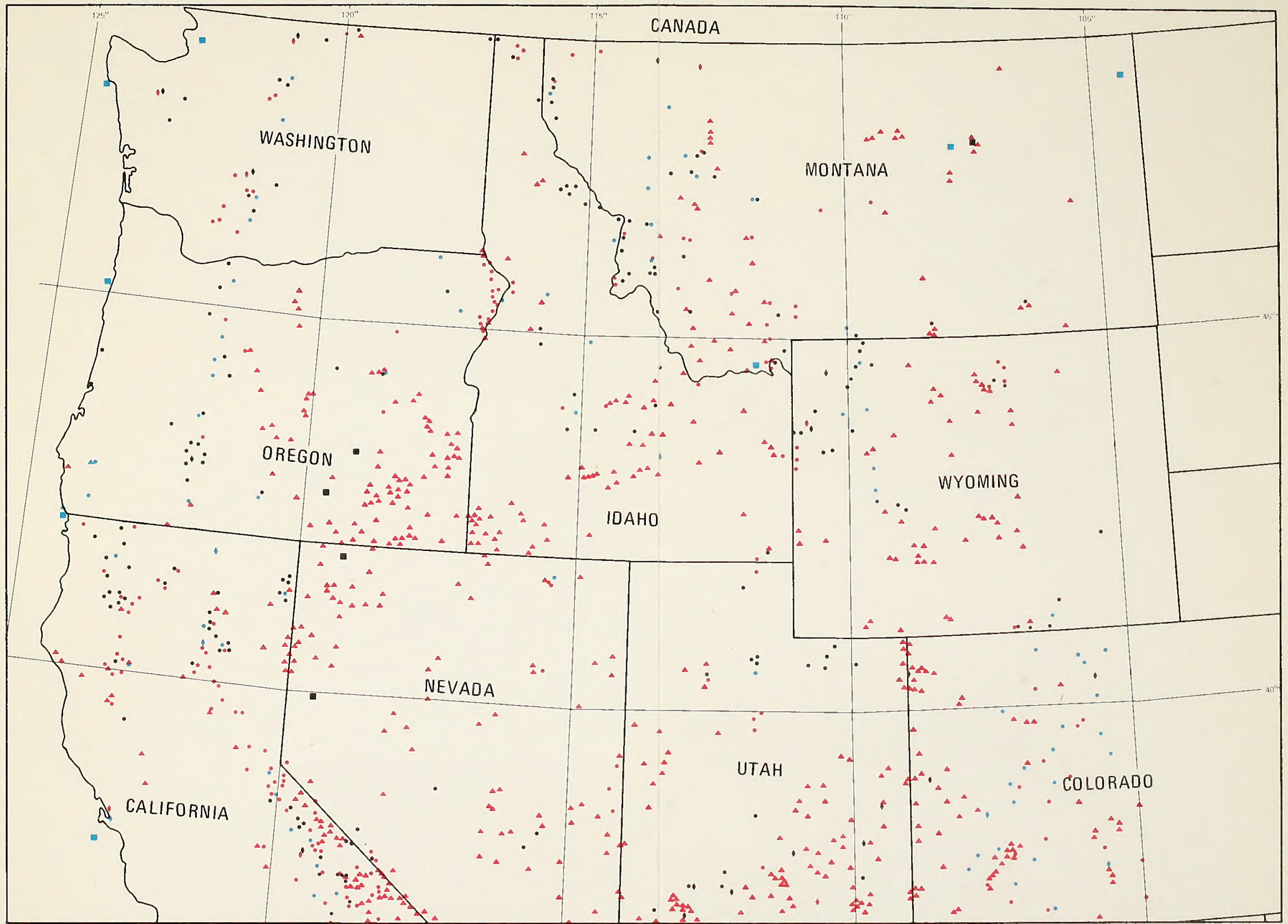
- BOISE
- SALT LAKE CITY / OGDEN

- ◆ NPS DESIGNATED WILDERNESS
- ◆ NPS AEW
- NDNE NPS FURTHER STUDY
- NDNE FWS DESIGNATED WILDERNESS
- FWS AEW

SCALE 1:7,500,000







MAP 7

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

- USFS DESIGNATED WILDERNESS
- USFS AEW
- USFS FURTHER STUDY
- ▲ BLM DESIGNATED WILDERNESS
- NONE BLM AEW
- ▲ BLM WSA

- NPS DESIGNATED WILDERNESS
- NPS AEW
- NPS FURTHER STUDY
- FWS DESIGNATED WILDERNESS
- FWS AEW

SCALE 1:7,500,000

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Form 1279-3  
(June 1984)

BORROWER

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amendment/wilderness

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