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WILDERNESS PROGRAM

in wyoming

Final Decisions of Initial Inventory

This is an advance copy of the Bureau of Land Management's initial wilderness inventory decisions. This information will appear as a separate publication for distribution the weekend of July 27 in several newspapers in Wyoming.

July, 1979

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● Making the Decision

In February this year, the Bureau of Land Management identified 86 roadless areas, covering 1,037,000 acres of public lands in Wyoming, which appeared to have wilderness characteristics. The remaining 16,760,000 acres managed by BLM appeared to lack the qualities necessary to satisfy the criteria for wilderness study areas.

Since then, literally thousands of hours have been devoted to research, study and preparation of comments by industry groups, ranching interests, conservationists, local and state government and the general public.

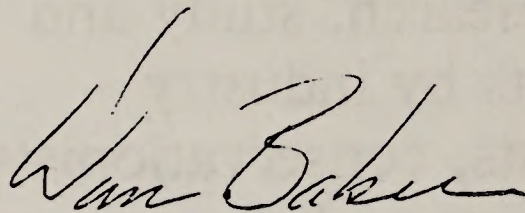
BLM employees in District and Area Offices subsequently conducted air and on-the-ground inspections to validate the public comments.

To meet the stringent deadlines of the wilderness review, it is necessary that we now make the decision on which initial inventory units should be released from further consideration and which should be analyzed in greater detail.

Information to support the decisions is found on the following pages. Presently, 83 units, containing 1.2 million acres, have been identified for intensive inventory as potential wilderness areas.

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Any decision of this magnitude is difficult at best. In the case of the wilderness review, we have had outstanding and sincere participation from numerous and diverse interests. All of the comments were taken into consideration and my final decision on this first phase of the inventory reflects the combined thinking of BLM and you—the public.



Dan Baker
State Director
July, 1979

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Introduction

The first phase of BLM's wilderness review program in Wyoming is completed.

Public lands which clearly and obviously do not meet wilderness criteria have been identified by the Bureau of Land Management. These lands, 16.6 million acres, will be returned to multiple use management.

The remaining 1.2 million acres of public land in Wyoming in 83 inventory units are now undergoing an intensive inventory to determine if they qualify for consideration as Wilderness Study Areas.

The initial inventory of public lands in Wyoming began in November, 1978. All lands were reviewed to determine if there were tracts of 5,000 acres or more that appeared to be roadless.

BLM prepared an analysis called a "situation evaluation" for each area or inventory unit. The proposed recommendations for these units were announced in February, 1979.

During a 90-day comment period, BLM received more than 2,000 comments from the public. Extra time was needed to carefully evaluate all of these comments before reaching final decisions.

In the initial recommendations announced in February, BLM proposed that 86 inventory units containing 1,037,000 acres be studied further for wilderness characteristics. In the final decisions, some of these units were dropped from further consideration, including small units adjacent to National Forest lands which have been returned to non-wilderness uses. Other units had significant impacts, including roads, many of which were identified by the public.

However, some of the inventory units that had at first appeared to be lacking in wilderness characteristics were added to the list of units to receive intensive inventory.

In some cases, units were expanded to include more acreage, since impacts in these areas were not as pronounced as originally believed. Conversely, to eliminate significant impacts in larger units, it was necessary to reduce their size.

The second phase of BLM's wilderness inventory has already begun. Each district has established a priority for analyzing the remaining inventory units to enable the orderly accomplishment of the intensive inventory. For example, the intensive inventory for units located in the Overthrust Belt, where there is believed to be oil and gas potential, will be completed by August, 1980.

Work on the intensive inventory for many of the units began earlier this spring as weather permitted.

As this inventory proceeds, public involvement is essential in the intensive inventory stage.

We invite your participation.

Summary of Public Comments

You, the public, showed a great deal of interest and concern in BLM's initial wilderness inventory in Wyoming. More than 2,000 comments were received—many of them on specific inventory units. Others provided general remarks about the overall decisions and the inventory process.

The comments took many forms, including letters, petitions, comment sheets published by BLM in the first wilderness publication, personal contacts with BLM personnel, phone calls and remarks at meetings.

More than three-fourths of the comments were from within Wyoming. Most of the comments (70%) were from individuals, while the balance were from various interest groups including grazing, mining, conservation and state government.

Of those who submitted comments on the initial inventory, 62% gave an opinion on the proposed decisions. Most of these, however, were expressions of disagreement with the idea of any wilderness at all.

Other interests identified by the public included resource values, economic and social values, interim management and concerns of special interest groups such as the handicapped and senior citizens.

Issues receiving major emphasis during the comment period were mining and energy, recreation, range, forestry and wildlife.

How to Use the Maps

Each inventory unit has a number consisting of two letters and six digits. An example is WY-040-110. The letters refer to the state. Inventory units in Wyoming have the two letters WY.

The three digits in the middle of the identification number refer to the BLM district. The four district identification numbers are:

- 010 Worland District**
- 030 Rawlins District**
- 040 Rock Springs District**
- 060 Casper District**

For example, WY-040-110 is in the Rock Springs District.

The last three numbers identify the Resource Area and the specific unit. The first numeral tells the Resource Area in which the unit is located; the last two refer to a specific unit. The numbers for the Resource Areas are:

- Worland District**
 - 1—Grass Creek Resource Area
 - 2—Washakie Resource Area
 - 3—Cody Resource Area
- Rawlins District**
 - 1—Lander Resource Area
 - 3—Medicine Bow Resource Area
 - 4—Divide Resource Area
- Rock Springs District**
 - 1—Pinedale Resource Area
 - 2—Kemmerer Resource Area
 - 3—Big Sandy Resource Area
 - 4—Salt Wells Resource Area
- Casper District**
 - 1—Platte Resource Area
 - 2—Buffalo Resource Area

Again referring to the example WY-040-110, the inventory unit is in the Pinedale Resource Area (110) and is the Lake Mountain unit.

By using these numbers you can easily locate a specific inventory unit either in the narrative or on the map.

Upon inspecting the maps, if you see an inventory unit that holds particular interest, you may contact the BLM district office and make an appointment to review the work being done on that unit. If you have additional information or questions about any of the units, contact the appropriate district or area office.

Final Decisions on Initial Inventory

Final decisions of the initial wilderness inventory of public lands in Wyoming fall into two categories. **The first category includes lands that clearly and obviously do not meet the criteria for identification as Wilderness Study Areas. This includes:**

- a. *Lands which are determined to be either too small in size for consideration or are roaded and were not included in the inventory unit. This includes all public lands not included in an inventory unit.*
- b. *Inventory units that were proposed in the February 7, 1979 Federal Register notice to be dropped from further consideration.*
- c. *Inventory units identified in the February 7, 1979 Federal Register notice as possibly having wilderness characteristics but where public comments assert and BLM has validated that they clearly and obviously do not have such characteristics. This also includes several units adjacent to National Forest lands being recommended for non-wilderness uses.*

The second category are lands that may possibly meet the wilderness criteria and should receive more intensive inventory. This includes:

- a. *Inventory units that may possibly meet the criteria for identification as Wilderness Study Areas and which were proposed in the February 7, 1979 Federal Register notice to receive more intensive inventory.*
- b. *Inventory units proposed in the February 7, 1979 Federal Register notice to be dropped from the inventory but for which the public provided sufficient information to indicate that the unit may have wilderness characteristics, thus requiring intensive inventory.*

All of these units are placed in the intensive wilderness inventory and retained in the interim management under Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.

1. Public lands that clearly and obviously do not meet the criteria for identification as wilderness study areas.

a. Public lands which are determined to be either too small in size for consideration or are roaded and were not included in the inventory unit.

The Steamboat Area of the Rock Springs District was the only area in this category to receive public comment. Public comments suggested that there were areas of 5,000 acres or more without roads; however, upon further field examination it was determined that the area does not contain roadless areas of 5,000 acres or more and should not be included in the intensive inventory.

b. Specific inventory units that clearly and obviously do not meet the criteria for identification as Wilderness Study Areas and which were proposed in the February 7, 1979 Federal Register notice to be dropped from further consideration. These units are:

Worland District

WY-010-101 Red Canyon Creek—8,475 acres. The initial inventory found that 2,500 acres in Red Canyon is relatively unintruded, but concluded that this section of the unit is not of sufficient size to allow management as wilderness. One comment indicated that Red Canyon possesses outstanding natural features and suggested that if the Canyon is found unsuitable for wilderness, the area deserves consideration for some other form of protective designation. These alternative options will be considered in the BLM planning system update.

Other units—The initial recommendation calling for release of the following inventory units from further study remains unchanged. No public comment on these units was received and no additional information was discovered which would affect the initial recommendation.

- WY-010-105** Putney Flats—8,270 acres
- WY-010-106** Hamilton Dome—7,840 acres
- WY-010-107** Padlock Rim—16,560 acres
- WY-010-108** Coal Draw—6,775 acres
- WY-010-109** Gebo—35,000 acres
- WY-010-110** Sand Draw—13,580 acres
- WY-010-111** Juniper—21,180 acres
- WY-010-113** Prospect Creek—41,280 acres
- WY-010-114** Twentyone Creek—21,560 acres
- WY-010-116** Raspberry Draw—6,340 acres
- WY-010-118** Soapy Dale—18,720 acres
- WY-010-119** Left Hand Creek—7,200 acres
- WY-010-122** Grass Creek Basin—9,700 acres
- WY-010-124** Blue Mesa—89,840 acres
- WY-010-125** Fifteenmile Creek—50,140 acres
- WY-010-127** Hillberry Rim—21,456 acres
- WY-010-128** Little Buffalo Basin—14,950 acres
- WY-010-129** Iron Creek—10,520 acres
- WY-010-213** Mahogany Butte—7,350 acres
- WY-010-231** Brokenback—34,790 acres

Public comment on these two inventory units did not include any information which would alter the initial decision. The comments did encourage the protection of these areas through other means if wilderness designation was inappropriate. Therefore, based on available information and public comment, there is no justification to alter the initial decision to drop these inventory units.

Other Units—The initial recommendation calling for release of the following inventory units from further study remains unchanged. No comment was received on most of these units. On three or four units a single general comment was received but no information was provided which would alter the initial recommendation.

- WY-010-202** Wildhorse Butte—47,630 acres
WY-010-203 Kirby Creek—11,600 acres
WY-010-207 Battle Mountain—8,410 acres
WY-010-212 Split Rock—5,620 acres
WY-010-219 Otter Creek—6,000 acres
WY-010-223 Neiber Dome—12,760 acres
WY-010-224 Wild Horse Creek—7,725 acres
WY-010-225 Rome Hill—7,230 acres
WY-010-226 Woods Gulch—6,080 acres
WY-010-232 Flat Land—8,260 acres
WY-010-233 Sand Creek—106,900 acres
WY-010-234 Bobcat Gulch—19,390 acres
WY-010-235 Ziesman Canyon—5,300 acres
WY-010-319 Sheep Mountain—19,420 acres

One comment was received in support of the initial recommendation to drop this unit from intensive inventory; however, it was suggested that the natural values of the unit should be considered for some other form of protective designation.

- WY-010-325** Rattlesnake—23,860 acres
WY-010-328 Horse Creek—7,530 acres
WY-010-329 Red Gulch—13,740 acres
 Comments questioning the initial recommendation to drop these three units from further inventory were withdrawn after the individuals making the comments reviewed the district work maps for the units.

WY-010-326 Y U Bench—53,800 acres
 The initial recommendation dropping this unit from further study and three public comments questioning that recommendation became moot due to a determination that the lands in the unit are within a reclamation withdrawal administered by the Bureau of Reclamation.

WY-010-341 Badland Hills—27,060 acres
 Public comment questioned the validity of the initial recommendation dropping this unit from intensive inventory. A review of the unit reveals that (1) the western third is within a reclamation withdrawal for which BLM does not have surface management authority, (2) the southeastern corner of the unit contains an active oil field, and (3) the northern corner contains private land inholdings with vehicle trails or roads providing access. Approximately 6,000 acres in the northern corner of the unit are largely unintruded.

However, the size, configuration and topography of this central area is such that given the adjacent developments and activities, it would be impossible to find outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive unconfined recreation in this unit.

- WY-010-351** Little Mountain—30,570 acres

Few comments have been received questioning the district recommendation to drop this area from further review. The initial recommendation was based on the level of intrusions in the unit. Information recently obtained in the course of other management activities makes it clear that there is no 5,000 acre roadless tract within this unit. There is no question that the unit offers outstanding scenic values and natural cave values, but wilderness characteristics are obviously lacking.

Other Units. No comments were received on the remaining inventory units. The initial recommendation to drop these units from further study remains unchanged. The units included in this group are:

- WY-010-310** Carter Mountain—15,300 acres
WY-010-313 Oregon Coulee—44,200 acres
WY-010-314 Elk Butte—8,950 acres
WY-010-315 Trout Creek—4,960 acres
WY-010-316 Oregon Basin—17,050 acres
WY-010-317 Sulphur Creek—15,280 acres
WY-010-327 Table Mountain—37,120 acres
WY-010-330 Bear Creek—104,000 acres
WY-010-331 Salt Creek—23,850 acres
WY-010-332 Little Dry Creek—15,510 acres
WY-010-333 Spence Dome—12,250 acres
WY-010-336 Alkali Creek—42,310 acres
WY-010-338 Clark's Fork—10,660 acres
WY-010-340 Pat O'Hara—8,290 acres
WY-010-342 Sand Coulee—39,040 acres
WY-010-343 Polecat—9,850 acres
WY-010-344 Garland—11,500 acres
WY-010-345 Bryon—11,240 acres
WY-010-347 Sand Draw—9,570 acres
WY-010-348 Little Sheep Mountain—27,060 acres
WY-010-349 Five Springs—17,270 acres
WY-010-350 Cottonwood Creek—24,220 acres
WY-010-353 Lovell—20,210 acres
WY-010-355 Cowley—17,050 acres
WY-010-359 Elk Basin—6,040 acres

Other Sub-units—The following sub-units are determined to lack the quality of naturalness and are therefore deleted from the original unit. These sub-units are dropped from the intensive inventory. Other parts of these units are listed under units to receive intensive inventory.

- WY-010-104d** Owl Creek—12,290 acres
WY-010-126b Big Draw—100,500 acres
WY-010-130b Sheep Mountain—93,300 acres
WY-010-131b Red Butte—193,030 acres
WY-010-220b Bud Kimball Creek—80,850 acres
WY-010-221b Honeycombs—112,233 acres
WY-010-222c Cedar Mountain—52,100 acres
WY-010-236b Luman Creek—13,180 acres
WY-010-239b Paint Rock—11,720 acres
WY-010-240b Medicine Lodge—19,700 acres
WY-010-241d Potato Ridge—103,000 acres
WY-010-334b Emblem Draw—4,080 acres
WY-010-335b McCullough Peak—154,600 acres
WY-010-346c Foster Gulch—56,230 acres

Rawlins District

The following units are adjacent to U.S. Forest Service RARE II areas: (WY-030-102 & 103 are adjacent to USFS area 064, WY-030-104 & 105 are adjacent to USFS area B2-901) which have been recommended for non-wilderness uses. By themselves, they are too small to meet wilderness act criteria. Some public comment urged that area WY-030-105 be included for inventory in spite of its small size; however, the unit has not received strong public support.

- WY-030-102** Wind River RARE II—1,100 acres
WY-030-103 Wind River RARE II—480 acres
WY-030-104 Wind River RARE II—2,500 acres
WY-030-105 Wind River RARE II—4,100 acres

WY-030-126 Picket Lake—25,000 acres
Comment was received suggesting that this unit should be intensively inventoried. It contains a large number of intrusions including approximately 40 miles of roads and seismograph lines which have carried vehicular traffic since their construction in the 50's and 60's. Oil and gas drilling has occurred in the area plus extensive exploration activities. Due to these intrusions the unit is dropped from intensive inventory.

WY-030-139 Roberts Draw—7,500 acres
Public comment was received in favor of intensive inventory of the unit. It contains at least two windmills and nearly ten miles of fence. The terrain is such that these intrusions would be highly visible. The unit is dropped because of these intrusions.

WY-030-124, 125, 127-133, 135-138, 140-145 Lander Area—172,000 acres
No comment was received on these units. They are dropped as originally proposed.

WY-030-402 Sandstone Divide—800 acres

WY-030-403 Green Ridge—1,300 acres

WY-030-404 Dexter Peak—580 acres

These areas were included in the initial inventory because they are adjacent to USFS RARE II areas 091, 093, and 094 in the Medicine Bow National Forest. They do not, by themselves, meet the criteria for wilderness. Those Forest Service areas have been recommended for non-wilderness uses; therefore, these units are dropped from further inventory.

WY-030-406 Stewart Creek—51,000 acres
The Stewart Creek area was not recommended for intensive inventory because it contains a large number of intrusions such as seismograph trails, two-track trails, many drill holes and uranium exploration pits. No public comment was received suggesting that the area be intensively inventoried.

WY-030-408 Wild Horse Basin—375,000 acres

WY-030-409 Seven Lakes—400,000 acres
Each of these areas comprises a group of smaller roadless areas and roaded areas which were analyzed in one situation evaluation. The Seven Lakes area was not recommended for intensive inventory because it contains ongoing intensive uranium exploration, oil and gas exploration, a large number of livestock-related developments and utility corridors. Hundreds of miles of seismograph trails exist in the area and many are maintained and used as roads today. Several thousand uranium pits and drill holes are found in the area. Two comments were received favoring and two were received in opposition to intensive inventory.

The Wild Horse Basin area is similar to the Seven Lakes area in terms of intrusions. It contains oil fields, uranium exploration, vegetation manipulation areas, more than 100 reservoirs, fences and hundreds of miles of two-track trails.

Rock Springs District

No comments were received on the following fourteen units. They are therefore dropped from the inventory as initially proposed.

WY-040-108 Muddy Creek—5,600 acres

WY-040-112 Names Hill Island—40 acres

WY-040-113 Sublette Island—20 acres

WY-040-117 Long Island—80 acres

WY-040-118 Reardon Draw—6,280 acres

WY-040-119 Milleson Draw—6,360 acres

WY-040-120 Buckhorn Draw—6,000 acres

WY-040-121 Alkali Creek—5,280 acres

WY-040-122 Granite Wash—19,000 acres

WY-040-123 Cutoff Springs—6,460 acres

WY-040-124 Mesa—7,800 acres

WY-040-127 Antelope Draw—5,300 acres

WY-040-128 Billy Canyon—6,560 acres

WY-040-129 Soap Holes—5,720 acres

There have been a few comments received as to whether the following 27 inventory units should be dropped or included for intensive inventory. These comments question whether the roads which have been identified actually meet the definition of roads. After examination by the area staff it is felt that these roads satisfy the standards of the statute. These 27 units will, therefore, drop from intensive inventory as previously recommended.

WY-040-201 Hickory Mountain—9,000 acres

WY-040-202 Hickory Mountain—10,000 acres

WY-040-203 Crooked Canyon—12,915 acres

WY-040-204 Hank Hollow—10,000 acres

WY-040-205 Bear River Divide—13,400 acres

WY-040-206 Bear River Divide—5,600 acres

WY-040-207 Bear River Divide—12,000 acres

WY-040-208 Bear River Divide—9,000 acres

WY-040-209 Bear River Divide—8,300 acres

WY-040-210 Bear River Divide—6,500 acres

WY-040-211 Bear River Divide—5,700 acres

WY-040-212 Bear River Divide—5,700 acres

WY-040-213 Bear River Divide—6,000 acres

WY-040-214 Bear River Divide—6,500 acres

WY-040-215 Bear River Divide—4,500 acres

WY-040-216 Rock Creek Ridge—5,100 acres

WY-040-217 Watercress Canyon—7,380 acres

WY-040-218 North Fork—4,500 acres

WY-040-219 Pomeroy—6,100 acres

WY-040-220 Slate Creek—6,000 acres

WY-040-225 Broom Hollow—5,592 acres

WY-040-233 Commissary Ridge—9,228 acres

WY-040-234 Mud Lakes—11,500 acres

WY-040-235 Slate Creek Ridge—4,500 acres

WY-040-236 Grove—9,600 acres

WY-040-237 Willow Creek—7,700 acres

WY-040-238 Sheep Creek—12,000 acres

The following units are adjacent to Forest Service lands which were recommended by the Forest Service and the President for non-wilderness uses. No comments have been received on any of these units, and they do not meet size criteria on their own; therefore, they are dropped from the intensive inventory.

WY-040-224 Trespass Creek—4,342 acres

WY-040-226 Sawmill Creek—1,600 acres

WY-040-227 North Chappel Creek—8,000 acres

WY-040-228 Chappel Creek—1,300 acres

WY-040-229 Sliderock Creek—4,847 acres

WY-040-230 West Fork—700 acres

WY-040-231 Carl Creek—1,300 acres

WY-040-232 East Fork—2,300 acres

WY-040-239 Minnehaha Creek—200 acres

There have been no comments received concerning the following 11 inventory units. These units will, therefore, drop from intensive inventory as previously recommended.

WY-040-301 Four Mile Gulch—8,205 acres

WY-040-302 Simpson's Gulch—6,150 acres

WY-040-303 Sublette's Flat—6,579 acres

WY-040-304 West Jonah Gulch—7,155 acres

WY-040-305 Little—7,853 acres

WY-040-308 Dry Sandy—7,663 acres

WY-040-309 Monument Ridge—8,102 acres

WY-040-320 Buffalo Hump Basin—23,142 acres

WY-040-321 Reservoir—11,738 acres

WY-040-322 Bear Creek—11,892 acres

WY-040-328 Waterhole Draw—8,261 acres

No comments were received on the recommendation to drop this island from intensive inventory.

WY-040-409 Waggener—58 acres

Casper District

WY-060-102 Sand Dunes—17,640 acres

A considerable amount of public comment was received on this unit. Some felt the unit should remain in the inventory and some did not. Clear evidence was submitted which established that the unit is roaded, has a number of intrusions and is, therefore, unnatural.

The following units received little or no comment. There is no basis to modify the original recommendation to drop these units.

WY-060-103 Cottonwood—28,040 acres

WY-060-104 Hacket—17,280 acres

WY-060-105 Eagle—25,390 acres

WY-060-106 Red Wall—13,120 acres

WY-060-107 Composite of Islands—108 acres

WY-060-201b Gardner Mountain—26,560 acres

WY-060-203 Face of the Bighorns—9,224 acres

c. Specific inventory units identified in the February 7, 1979 Federal Register notice as possibly having wilderness characteristics but where public comments assert and BLM has validated that they clearly and obviously do not have such characteristics. These units are:

Worland District

WY-010-206 Buffalo Springs Creek—54,490 acres

A portion of this unit (23,700 acres) was initially recommended for further study. A number of comments identified oil well drill sites, roads and reservoirs in the unit. This information has been checked and has been found substantially correct. These intrusions have significantly altered the natural character of the unit. It clearly and obviously does not have wilderness characteristics and is therefore dropped from the inventory.

Rawlins District

WY-030-112 Copper Mountains—5,500 acres

Public comment and a field inspection shows many intrusions related to mining that clearly disqualify the area. It will therefore be dropped from intensive inventory.

WY-030-118 Goat Mountain—11,500 acres

Public comment identified roads and other intrusions in the area. For example, a road bisects the area on the east end. Mineral exploration activity has left some scars such as access trails and exploration pits. The area also contains a road leading to state and private lands. The remaining area, almost 5,900 acres, clearly has no wilderness qualities due to its configuration and immediately adjacent activities.

WY-030-119 Sweetwater Rocks—5,760 acres

This area is characterized by a discontinuous land ownership pattern. It is traversed by a power line and contains roads and water developments. A jade mine is located in the southern section of the unit. These intrusions, brought to BLM's attention by public comment, clearly disqualify the unit from further consideration.

WY-030-302 Bennett Peak—7,680 acres

Approximately 35 comments were received from the public concerning this proposed inventory unit. While some comments indicated that the area should be inventoried, the preponderance of comments indicated that the area contained intrusions which disqualifies it from further inventory. The intrusions include two campgrounds with facilities, a constructed and maintained road and irrigation ditches.

WY-030-405 Cyclone Rim—31,000 acres

The Cyclone Rim unit is traversed by many miles of two-track trails, contains much uranium exploration activity and at least two water developments. Each two-track trail by itself does not constitute a significant intrusion but all of them together coupled with the uranium activity and water developments make this area clearly unnatural. Public comment has pointed out the large number of intrusions. Few of the comments received indicated that the area had wilderness characteristics. Public comment identified approximately 20 miles of bladed and maintained road, nearly 200 miles of seismograph line, two water developments and three major areas of intensive uranium exploration.

WY-030-410 Antelope Spring Draw—4,000 acres

The area was included for inventory because it was adjacent to USFS RARE

II area 089 in the Medicine Bow National Forest. Area 089 has been recommended for non-wilderness use. By itself the Antelope Spring Draw unit does not meet the size criteria.

Rock Springs District

Numerous comments were received both for and against the following unit being included in the intensive inventory. One specific comment identified a road cutting through this unit. Upon examination, it was determined that this road divides the unit into two segments smaller than 5,000 acres. This area is dropped from intensive inventory.

WY-040-310 South Parnell Creek—8,890 acres

The following units are adjacent to Forest Service lands which were recommended by the President for non-wilderness areas. These units are too small to be managed by themselves. Numerous comments were received both for and against these areas being included for intensive wilderness inventory. Since they do not meet wilderness criteria on their own they are dropped from the inventory.

WY-040-102 New Fork Lake—80 acres

WY-040-103 Soda Lake—700 acres

WY-040-107 Irish Canyon—760 acres

WY-040-329 Muddy Ridge—1,101 acres

WY-040-330 Muddy Ridge—205 acres

WY-040-331 Dutch Joe—2,675 acres

WY-040-332 Squaw Creek—2,329 acres

WY-040-333 East Tie Creek—704 acres

WY-040-334 East Tie Creek—422 acres

WY-040-336 East Fork Sweetwater—928 acres

All lands identified in paragraphs /a, /b, and /c above are hereby dropped from further consideration in the wilderness inventory and are hereby released from the constraints of interim management under Section 603c of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. This decision will become effective 30 days from the date of publication in the *Federal Register* which is July 10, 1979. These lands aggregate approximately 16,649,600 acres and constitute 93.3% of the public lands in Wyoming.

2. Lands that may possibly meet the wilderness criteria and should receive more intensive inventory. Included are:

a. Specific inventory units that may possibly meet the criteria for identification as Wilderness Study Areas and which were proposed in the February 7, 1979 Federal Register notice to receive intensive inventory. These units are:

Worland District

WY-010-103a,b,&c Owl Creek—750 acres

The initial recommendation for this unit called for further inventory of three small tracts adjacent to the Washakie Wilderness Area. Several comments were received expressing general support or opposition to further inventory of these tracts. Most comments opposing further inventory referred to conflicting resource values and will be held for consideration at the appropriate point later in the review process. Two or three comments relating to wilderness characteristics provided information that should be useful in the intensive inventory, but which does not alter the recommendation that further inventory is needed.

WY-010-126a Big Draw—30,700 acres

The initial recommendation called for further inventory of 18,400 acres in the north-central portion of this unit. Comments covered a wide range of interests.

Comments relating to resource use conflicts and those expressing general support are being held for use later in the review process. In response to the boundary location questions, the southern and eastern boundaries were checked and were relocated on existing roads. The intensive inventory will determine the impact on wilderness character caused by the identified facilities. The unit varies from moderately rugged mountainous terrain to generally mild topography.

WY-010-130a Sheep Mountain—28,300 acres

Further inventory of 25,000 acres in this unit was called for in the initial recommendation. Most of the comments related to conflicts with oil and gas values and will be considered later in the review process. Some comments expressed the belief that the Platte Pipeline is located in the area recommended for further study; however, this is incorrect since the pipeline lies on the eastern edge of the area. Information received from several sources

suggests that parts of the area may be roaded. It will be necessary to confirm this information in the intensive inventory. Other comments questioned the placement of the southeastern and southwestern boundaries of the area recommended for intensive inventory. The southwestern boundary is located on the Burlington Pass Road. A section of the southeastern boundary has been relocated along the road providing access to Cottonwood Reservoir #2. This slightly enlarges the area included in the intensive inventory to a total of 28,300 acres.

The topography of the unit varies from very rugged to moderately rough to flat. The main part of the unit is highly eroded badlands.

WY-010-131a Red Butte—11,500 acres

The initial recommendation called for further inventory of 10,700 acres in this unit. Many of the comments on this recommendation will have to be held for consideration later in the process since they focus on oil and gas values rather than on wilderness characteristics. Information received on livestock facilities and access routes to these facilities will be used during the intensive inventory. Several comments questioned the boundaries of the recommended area, suggesting that some lands had been excluded when the absence of wilderness character had not been "clearly and obviously" established. On-the-ground review of this area resulted in relocation of a portion of the northern boundary. The area included in the intensive inventory totals 11,500 acres. Topography of this unit is very similar to WY-010-130a.

WY-010-221a Honeycombs—65,500 acres

Most of the comment received on this unit expressed either generalized support for further inventory or opposition to such an inventory. Some information identified livestock management facilities, including two cow camps. This information strongly suggests that the western boundary will need to be moved inward but it has not been possible to identify the appropriate location for a revised boundary. This issue will be dealt with during the intensive inventory. Other comments stated that the eastern and

northwestern boundaries of the area recommended initially for further study were not located in accordance with inventory procedures. These boundaries have been relocated along existing roads. As a result, the area included for intensive inventory has increased from the initial recommendation of 60,000 acres to a present total of 65,500 acres.

The main physical feature of the unit is the Honeycombs which is very rough badlands. Vegetation is mainly saltbush, especially in the western portion of the unit. The vegetation in the eastern part of the unit is sagebrush. Numerous drainages are present and the larger, older drainages have riparian vegetation.

WY-010-222a&b Cedar Mountain—39,300 acres

The initial recommendation called for further inventory of 21,500 acres in this unit. A number of general comments, both for and against intensive inventory were received. Several comments were also received which identified intrusions of man's activity in or near the unit. These intrusions had been considered in making the initial recommendations and the conclusion had been reached that they did not "clearly and obviously" eliminate natural character. Other comments questioned whether valid criteria were used in selecting the eastern and southern boundaries of the unit and expressed the view that a substantial area east and south of the lands initially recommended for further study also warranted intensive inventory. Field checks confirmed the presence of a road along part of the initially recommended eastern boundary but also revealed that an area of several thousand acres east of that road has its natural character almost entirely unintruded. A number of vehicle trails are present on the lands south of the initially recommended boundary but intensive inventory is needed to determine if any of these meet the wilderness review road definition. Based on field review observations, the southern boundary of the initially recommended area has been relocated and a second tract located east of the area initially recommended is now included in the intensive inventory. These two tracts contain a total of 39,300 acres.

Topography is extremely rough in the northwest part of the unit.

WY-010-242 Trapper Creek—7,600 acres
Almost all of the numerous comments received on this unit supported the initial recommendation that Trapper Creek Canyon warrants intensive inventory. Some of the comments supporting the view that the canyon offers outstanding natural values did question whether official wilderness designation would be appropriate for the area. Several comments provided information indicating that the route along the south rim of the canyon is a road. For this reason the boundary of the area to receive intensive inventory has been relocated along this road where it crosses public land. This change reduces the area for intensive inventory by about 400 acres, making a new total area of 7,600 acres.

Rawlins District

WY-030-101 Sweetwater Canyon—7,700 acres

This unit received heavy public response, with many of the comments favoring intensive wilderness inventory. The units appear to possess wilderness qualities and will receive intensive inventory. This unit is a steep canyon which cuts through high plateau country. Vegetation varies from grassland to timber. The Sweetwater River is a high quality trout fishery.

WY-030-106 Whiskey Mountain—1,600 acres

WY-030-107 Whiskey Mountain—480 acres

WY-030-108 Whiskey Mountain—360 acres

WY-030-110 Whiskey Mountain—400 acres

These units are adjacent to the Fitzpatrick Wilderness Area and are therefore retained for intensive inventory. These units are on the east slope of the Wind River Mountains. Vegetation ranges from grass to timber on the slopes and willow in the canyon bottoms.

In unit WY-030-110, the eastern three-fourths of the unit is dropped due to intrusions. The new boundary of WY-030-110 is the Ross Lake Road.

WY-030-109 Dubois Badlands—4,900 acres

Out of approximately 25 comments received concerning the unit, a large percentage recommended intensive inventory. Due to valid doubts on the status of the unit it will receive intensive inventory. The badlands are in layers of red-gray and off-white clays. Numerous dry washes cut through the area. These washes are sometimes lined with cottonwoods at lower elevations. Scattered trees spot the area.

WY-030-111 Copper Mountain (Birdseye Pass)—5,700 acres

WY-030-113 Lysite Mountain—5,700 acres

WY-030-114 Copper Mountain—7,000 acres

WY-030-115 Lysite Badlands—11,000 acres

WY-030-116 Moneta Sand Dunes—5,100 acres

WY-030-117 Moneta Sand Dunes—8,000 acres

Most of the public comment for these units dealt with values other than wilderness. Sufficient information is not available to clearly conclude that the units do not have wilderness values. Therefore, they will be intensively inventoried. These units vary in topography from mountainous terrain to sand dunes. Vegetation varies from scattered trees along the drainages to sagebrush and grasses on the slopes.

WY-030-120 Sweetwater Rocks—5,120 acres

WY-030-121 Sweetwater Rocks (Sage Hen Creek)—8,320 acres

WY-030-122 Sweetwater Rocks—12,800 acres

WY-030-123a,b Sweetwater Rocks—19,900 acres

These units received a large amount of public comment. Much of it concerned the possible adverse effects of wilderness designation for all of the lands originally proposed for further inventory.

Another segment of the public comments was concerned with the possible existence of wilderness qualities. Based on public comment and field tours of the area, unit WY-030-123a has been modified to exclude some roads and narrow strips of public lands jutting into the surrounding private lands. Devil's Gate was eliminated, along with public lands near

Savage Pocket. The Sweetwater Rocks are characterized by sweeping expanses of bare granite, interspersed with pockets of juniper, sagebrush, limber pine, aspen and cottonwood.

WY-030-301 Encampment River Canyon—6,640 acres.

A substantial number of comments were received on this unit. Much of the comment was in favor of wilderness designation indicating by inference that the area has wilderness qualities. Some comments dealt with the Encampment Canyon as it relates concerns (i.e. Wyoming has enough wilderness, etc.). Comments do not provide information which would warrant changing the original recommendation. This unit is an area of steep canyon slopes, aspen and conifer stands, colorful rock outcrops and white water in the river.

WY-030-303 Prospect Mountain—5,760 acres

The Prospect Mountain area was included primarily because it bordered the USFS RARE II area, C2080, which has been recommended for wilderness designation. Approximately 25 comments were received from the public concerning this proposed inventory unit. Most of the comments supported an intensive inventory of the unit. Those comments opposed to an intensive inventory were general in nature, opposing the unit on the grounds that Wyoming has too much wilderness, etc.

Topography ranges from steep slopes in the North Platte River canyon to rolling hills. Vegetation includes stands of lodgepole pine, aspen and big sagebrush.

WY-030-304 Bennett Mountains—8,320 acres

Part of the public comment concerning this inventory unit indicated that the area contained intrusions, particularly near the Seminoe and Kortess dams on the west end where a Bureau of Reclamation powerline and powerline service road passed through the proposed inventory unit. The boundary has been redrawn along the intrusion caused by the powerline and attendant road.

Topography is steep; limestone and granite outcrops are common. Vegetation includes ponderosa pine, aspen and grassland.

WY-030-305 Pedro Mountain—10,460 acres

Comments concerning this inventory unit either supported the intensive inventory, were concerned about the "naturalness" of the area or were of a more general anti-wilderness nature.

Topography and vegetation are very similar to the Bennett Mountains.

WY-030-401 Adobetown—55,000 acres

The Adobetown area generated a large number of comments. Many of the comments recommended wilderness or intensive inventory. A large number of comments were received regarding the energy potential of the area. Other comments also indicated that the area has no wilderness qualities. Although it is clear that the area contains some intrusions, their overall impact on the naturalness of the area has not been determined. The intensive inventory will determine whether or not the area does have outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation and if the works of man are substantially unnoticeable. For intensive inventory, the unit will be combined with unit WY-040-408, in the Rock Springs District.

The unit contains badlands, rolling hills, bluffs, flat bottomland and rugged juniper covered hills.

WY-030-407 Ferris Mountains—25,000 acres

Public comment indicated that constructed roads and other intrusions existed in the south part of the unit. Field inspection substantiated the comment. The south boundary was redrawn to exclude developed hay meadows, fences, private lands and road with culverts. The new north boundary was drawn to include the mountains and immediately adjacent lands and to exclude lands of other ownerships. The Spanish Mine area on the east end of the mountain was also excluded. The intensive inventory will cover the remaining 25,000 acres. A large amount of public comment was received, much of it dealing with the impact of wilderness on ranching if private lands were included in the wilderness area. Other comments dealt with sights and sounds outside the area. Part of the comment favored wilderness or a similar protective designation. The intensive inventory will determine if the lands do possess wilderness qualities.

Rock Springs District

WY-040-101 Scab Creek—9,400 acres

This is Wyoming's only Instant Study Area, since it had been previously designated as a primitive area. An environmental impact statement and a study report are currently being prepared.

WY-040-104 South Soda Lake—40 acres

WY-040-105 Cottonwood Creek—3,560 acres

WY-040-106 East Fork—4,120 acres

There were mixed general comments both for and against these three inventory units.

However, since these units are adjacent to the Forest Service area recommended by the President for wilderness, the BLM units will be intensively inventoried. They are all located along the west slope of the Wind River Range and vary in topography from steep, rock outcroppings with scattered lodgepole pine to rolling sagebrush hills.

WY-040-109 Cabin Creek—4,880 acres

There were general comments both for and against this unit being wilderness. There were no specific comments providing information to drop this unit. Physical characteristics of the unit include variable slopes, rock outcroppings and ridges. Vegetation includes aspen, conifers and large mountain mahogany in some of the draws.

WY-040-110 Lake Mountain—15,960 acres

This unit received several general comments for and against wilderness. However, there were no comments which specifically showed why this unit should be dropped from intensive inventory. Physical characteristics of this unit are similar to unit 109.

WY-040-111 Beaver Creek—4,000 acres

This area received several general comments against wilderness and one specific comment which specified wilderness characteristics and why the unit should be wilderness. This unit contains dense Douglas-fir stands on steep north-facing slopes, sage and aspen on ridgetops and south-facing slopes.

WY-040-114, 115, 116 LaBarge Islands—220 acres

These islands received several comments for and against wilderness. However, there were no specific comments which

would change the recommendation for intensive inventory. Vegetation on these islands consists of cottonwoods, willows and grasses.

WY-040-125 New Fork Island—60 acres
There were a few general comments for and against this island being intensively inventoried. However no specific comments which would change the initial recommendation for intensive inventory were received. Vegetation is similar to units WY-040-114, 115, 116.

WY-040-126 Red Canyon—5,300 acres
There were several general comments for and against this unit being intensively inventoried. However, there were no specific comments which would change the recommendation for intensive inventory. Physical characteristics include lodgepole pine and Douglas-fir timber stands with spruce and aspen, large sagebrush parks, steep canyons to wide, level timbered ridges.

WY-040-221 Raymond Mountain—33,236 acres

WY-040-222 IGO Speedway—6,646 acres
Numerous general comments were received about these two areas. Most of these comments were opposed to wilderness; however, several specific comments recommended them for wilderness. There were no specific comments which gave substantial reason to delete these two units from the intensive inventory. Topography of these units is mountainous. Vegetation varies from sagebrush to aspen, to spruce and Douglas-fir.

WY-040-306 Buffalo Hump—9,024 acres
This unit received numerous general comments both for and against wilderness. There were no specific comments which identified any substantial reasons for dropping this unit from the intensive inventory. Physical characteristics include low, rolling, sage-covered sandhills with some active dunes.

WY-040-307 Sand Dunes—32,064 acres
This unit received numerous general comments, especially from specific user groups both for and against this unit being considered for wilderness. There were no specific comments which identified any substantial reasons for dropping this unit from the intensive inventory. Terrain features in this unit are very similar to unit WY-040-306 but with more extensive dunes.

WY-040-311 Alkali Draw—6,150 acres

WY-040-312 Bush Rim—11,600 acres

WY-040-313 South Pinnacles—11,386 acres

WY-040-314 The Pinnacles—7,941 acres

WY-040-315 Big Empty—6,138 acres

WY-040-316 Alkali Basin—33,037 acres

WY-040-319 Bush Creek—16,070 acres

This combination of units, generally known as the Red Desert Group, is quite controversial between local users and conservationists. Numerous general and specific comments were received both for and against this area going into intensive inventory. After field examination of some of the roads identified in the specific comments, the boundaries were adjusted on units WY-040-312 (Bush Rim) and WY-040-319 (Bush Creek). A road identified in the Bush Rim Unit drops 4,420 acres from this unit. Roads identified in the Bush Creek Unit drop 7,360 acres. The Pinnacles and Bush Rim are the main topographic features.

Greasewood communities can be found in almost all major draws. Big Sagebrush and Nuttall Saltbush types dominate on open, rolling hills and ridges. A patch of active sand dunes are found in the south half of the Alkali Basin unit.

WY-040-317 East Sand Dunes—11,514 acres

WY-040-318 Red Lake—10,030 acres

These units also were quite controversial. Numerous comments were received both for and against these units being intensively inventoried. After field confirmation of a road identified in the Red Lake unit, the boundary was adjusted to drop approximately 640 acres from the unit.

Topography is low, rolling sand dunes with sparse grasses.

WY-040-323 Honeycomb Buttes—72,781 acres

This unit is quite controversial. Numerous comments were received both for and against wilderness. Specific comments were received concerning roads. There has been no field examination to confirm the status of these roads.

The unique topographic feature of this unit is the Honeycomb Buttes approximately 7,200 feet high. This is a vast wide array of badlands some four miles wide and 11 miles long. Continental Peak is the highest topographic feature of the unit being 8,431 feet high.

The major vegetation types of this area are Nuttall Saltbush, Big Sagebrush, greasewood and wild flowers with small areas of barren badlands, lake beds and sand dunes.

WY-040-324 Oregon Buttes—5,800 acres
This area received several general comments both for and against wilderness. One road identified by public comment was field checked and confirmed. This road dropped approximately 1,500 acres from the inventory unit.

The Oregon Buttes rise out of the northwestern part of the Red Desert to a height of 8,612—1,200 feet above the desert floor. The Buttes possess a wide variety of vegetative types, most notably Douglas Fir stands, with scattered Limber pine and aspen stands. Big Sagebrush and Nuttall saltbush communities dominate the lower slopes of the Buttes along with some wild flowers. Numerous springs create a wet meadow vegetative type. The area is important big game and raptor habitat.

WY-040-325 Whitehorse Creek—5,950 acres

This area received several general comments both for and against wilderness. A road identified by a specific comment was field checked and confirmed. This road dropped approximately 160 acres from the inventory unit.

The majority of this unit is made up of a group of eroding red, green and gray clay buttes. Vegetation on these buttes and on the adjacent flats is sparse to non-existent. Some small aspen and conifer groves may be found on the northern end of the unit. Nuttall Saltbush, Big Sagebrush and greasewood are the dominant plants over much of the rest of the area.

WY-040-326 Harris Slough—13,402 acres
Numerous comments were received both for and against wilderness. Specific comments identified roads, but field examination has not been done to confirm this information.

Major topographic features are Harris Slough which cuts to the north halfway across the unit and the Continental Divide ridge which runs west to east across the center of the unit. A good percentage of the unit is made up of a short-grass community type. Other vegetation includes Big Sagebrush and flowering plants.

WY-040-327 Elk Mountain—9,741 acres
This unit received several comments both for and against wilderness. No specific comments were received which would substantiate dropping this unit from the wilderness inventory.

Elk Mountain is rather steep sided, rising some 700 feet above the surrounding countryside, to an elevation of 7,882 feet.

Big Sagebrush communities with a grassy understory are dominant although there are several springs scattered across the mountain. Some scattered juniper and Limber Pine may be found on the east side. Some important aspen and mountain mahogany stands are also found in small scattered stands.

WY-040-335 Mill Creek—1,914 acres
This unit received numerous comments both for and against wilderness. The unit is adjacent to Forest Service land recommended by both the Forest Service and the President for wilderness. This unit will remain in the intensive inventory.

The major feature of this unit is the Sweetwater River Canyon and associated side canyons, most notably Blair Creek and Mill Creek. The unit consists of lodgepole and limber pine and aspen stands interspersed with Big Sagebrush parks.

WY-040-401 Devil's Playground—16,704 acres

WY-040-402 Twin Buttes—9,901 acres
General comments were received both for and against these units as to their wilderness values. However, no specific comments were received which would change the original recommendation to intensively inventory these units.

These two units contain many small canyons and twisted and contorted geologic features.

WY-040-405 Wildhorse Basin—5,002 acres

Comments were received which were both for and against this area for wilderness. Roads identified in specific comments and verified in the field have eliminated 3,890 acres of the original unit from intensive inventory.

Terrain features include rocky bluffs and cliffs with juniper stands scattered throughout.

WY-040-406 Red Creek Badlands (North)—12,064 acres

WY-040-407 Red Creek Badlands (South)—9,558 acres

General comments were received both for and against these two units being intensively inventoried while specific comments concerned the presence of wilderness values. These units will remain in the intensive inventory to verify those comments.

The Red Creek Badlands are an eroding clay formation with juniper scattered throughout.

WY-040-408 Adobetown—59,878 acres

This unit is quite controversial. Potential roads and other intrusions identified in the specific comments will be checked. This unit will be combined with unit WY-030-401 in the Rawlins District for the intensive inventory.

Adobetown is a portion of the Washakie Basin. The Adobetown Rim and Basin are the main topographic components of the area. The Rim is a large broken cliff with badland like topography. Large rock monoliths lay scattered throughout the basin—hence the term Adobetown.

WY-040-410 (UT-080-106) Teepee Mountain—3,572 acres Wyoming—2,009 acres Utah

This unit received several general comments both for and against wilderness. No specific comments were received which would substantiate dropping this unit from the intensive inventory. The intensive inventory will be done on the entire unit, coordinated with the Utah BLM for those lands in Utah.

This unit consists of the south portion of Teepee Mountain and associated ridges and canyons. Vegetation consists of small stands of Douglas-fir and Limber pine and scattered junipers. Big Sagebrush dominates most of the rest of the unit.

Casper District

WY-060-201a Gardner Mountain—18,440 acres

Public comments and field investigations confirmed that both the northern and southern portions of the initial inventory unit have been impacted by human activity. Intrusions include roads, powerlines, fences and reservoirs. The impact of all intrusions indicates that both the northern and southern portions of this unit clearly and obviously do not meet the 2c criteria for wilderness. Public comment and field investigations on the remaining 18,440 acres did not “clearly and obviously” demonstrate that this area would not meet wilderness criteria. Some intrusions on various portions were identified; however, the cumulative impact of these on the overall wilderness potential of this unit will be further analyzed. This unit, located in the southern end of the Big-horn mountains, is partially forested. Sharp ridges and deep, rugged canyons characterize the area.

WY-060-202 North Fork—15,000 acres

Public comments provided conflicting information and opinions concerning the naturalness and wilderness characteristics of this unit. Further analysis is necessary to verify public comments and to provide adequate on-the-ground documentation. The unit is primarily a steep rugged canyon along the North Fork of the Powder River. Vegetation is primarily ponderosa pine and other conifers.

b. Specific inventory units proposed in the February 7, 1979, Federal Register notice to be dropped from the inventory but public comment provided information which suggests that the unit may have wilderness characteristics, thus requiring intensive inventory. These units are:

Worland District

WY-010-220a Bud Kimball Creek—27,300 acres

Initial inventory recommendations did not identify this unit for further inventory but public comments on the unit suggested that the southern portion of the unit warranted intensive inventory. A brief on-the-ground check revealed that the vehicle trails and livestock reservoirs which were the basis of the initial recommendation to

drop the unit may not impact the natural character of the unit to the extent that the unit “clearly and obviously” does not warrant intensive inventory. Therefore, 27,300 acres in the southern portion of the unit are now included in the intensive inventory.

Vegetation in the unit is generally sagebrush-grass type. Scattered juniper stands are found on ridges in the eastern portion of the unit. Riparian vegetation is found along drainages and reservoirs. The land is somewhat rolling in the west and becomes more broken and rugged toward the east. Numerous drainages dissect the unit and flow in an easterly direction.

WY-010-236a Luman Creek—660 acres

No comments were received on this unit. It was not originally recommended for further inventory, but since the initial proposal was made the adjacent Forest Service lands have been classified for further study under RARE II process. For this reason, a small tract of about 660 acres adjacent to the National Forest has been identified for intensive inventory. Land ownership patterns and intrusions eliminate any need for intensive inventory on the remainder of the unit.

The western segment of the unit is salt-bush or sagebrush-grassland. As elevation increases toward the east, stands of juniper, limber pine and Douglas fir are evident. Topography in the west is rolling and occasionally broken by drainages. Topography in the east is characterized by cliffs and deep drainages.

WY-010-239a Paint Rock—2,770 acres

National Forest lands adjacent to this unit were initially recommended for “non-wilderness uses” under the RARE II process but were recently placed into a “further planning” category. For this reason, 2,770 acres in the eastern end of the inventory unit are now included in the intensive inventory.

The unit is generally a steep slope of the west flank of the Bighorns. Significant canyons are the dominant feature. Vegetation is varied. The western part of the unit has extensive stands of juniper. Higher elevations in the unit are covered with sagebrush and grasses. Canyons have juniper stands and some Douglas-fir. Riparian vegetation is found in canyon bottoms.

WY-010-240a Medicine Lodge—10,800 acres.

This unit was not initially recommended for further inventory because of (1) the presence of a road in Dry Medicine Lodge Canyon, (2) the presence of numerous intrusions and private or state inholdings, and (3) the RARE II classification of adjacent National Forest lands for "non-wilderness uses." The National Forest lands have now been reclassified for "further planning" and several comments have been received calling for intensive inventory of this unit. As a result, the portion of the unit located east of the road near Dry Medicine Lodge Canyon is now included in the intensive inventory. Topography and vegetation are generally the same as WY-010-239a.

WY-010-241 a,b & c Potato Ridge—56,000 acres

The initial recommendation did not call for further inventory of this unit. Several comments have been received expressing the opinion that the situation evaluation did not "clearly and obviously" show that the entire inventory unit warranted further study. Additional analysis of the unit indicates that several vehicle routes in the unit are roads as defined in the wilderness review guidelines. These roads divide the inventory unit into sub-units, most of which contain substantial evidence of man's activity such as oil fields, bentonite mines, land treatments and reservoirs. However, three of the sub-units are sufficiently unintruded to deserve intensive inventory. These three sub-units (56,000 acres out of 168,000 acres in the inventory unit) are now included in the intensive inventory.

Terrain consists of low, rolling hills with a long ridge running through the east side. Vegetation is low shrubs and grassland.

WY-010-334a Emblem Draw—48,300 acres

This area was found to be relatively unintruded during the initial inventory, but was not recommended for further study on the basis that it did not offer outstanding or unique opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation. The comments took issue with this conclusion. They pointed out that the situation evaluation did not support this finding. In order to resolve these questions, 48,300 acres in the unit will be intensively inventoried.

The unit has low, open, rolling hills with low breaks. Vegetation is primarily sage and grassland.

WY-010-335a McCullough Peak—11,000 acres

Several general questions and two or three specific comments questioned the fact that none of the badlands north of McCullough Peak were recommended for further inventory. In response to these questions the district reviewed its original analysis. For the most part, this review found even more roads, facilities and intrusions than had been identified in the initial inventory. Numerous small reservoirs are scattered over much of the area. These reservoirs and the roads leading to them are maintained as needed to keep them in use. The review did find one area of about 11,000 acres which is relatively unintruded in the northern portion of the inventory unit. This 11,000 acre area is included in the intensive inventory.

The unit is rough, mountainous terrain. Vegetation is grass and sage.

WY-010-346a&b Foster Gulch—33,200 acres

The initial inventory recommendation called for dropping this 89,000 acre unit on the basis that it is roaded and contains numerous intrusions including oil fields, pipelines, vehicle trails, reservoirs, etc. Comments questioned whether the entire unit was sufficiently intruded to justify dropping it prior to intensive inventory. Review of the initial recommendation suggested that the portion of the unit west of the Sand Draw Road may be unintruded enough to warrant intensive inventory. Accordingly, two sub-units (separated by a road) are included in the intensive inventory. These two sub-units contain a total of 33,200 acres.

Topography varies from rolling hills to mountainous terrain and large drainages. Vegetation consists of sage, grasses, brush and willows in the drainages.

Rawlins District

WY-030-134 Agate Flats—20,500 acres
Sufficient question was raised during the comment period to establish a valid doubt concerning the wilderness characteristics of this unit. These doubts will be resolved during the intensive inventory. The unit is primarily a desert grassland with limited topographic variation.

Rock Springs District

WY-040-223 Coal Creek—13,174 acres
Numerous general comments were received both for and against the inclusion of this unit for intensive inventory. The unit was initially proposed for release from further inventory, partially because the adjacent RARE II area was recommended for non-wilderness and it was presumed this unit did not possess wilderness qualities on its own. However, public comment has pointed out that the unit does possess sufficient size and the unit is in an essentially natural condition. It is not, therefore, "clear and obvious" that the unit should be dropped, so it will be retained for intensive inventory. This unit is contiguous to unit WY-040-222. It is mountainous and the vegetation includes shrubs, Douglas-fir and aspen.

WY-040-403 Anvil Wash—10,157 acres

WY-040-404 Butte Wash—12,403 acres

These two units were initially proposed for release from further inventory. However, it is not clear and obvious that they lack wilderness qualities so they are being retained for intensive inventory to resolve their status.

These units are composed of steep to rolling hills deeply incised by draws and canyons and several areas of badlands, with scattered juniper.

Casper District

WY-060-101 LaBonte—3,800 acres

Public comments requested that further consideration be given to this unit to determine if the 3,800 acres would provide a logical management unit. This will be determined in the intensive inventory. There is public support for this unit. Topography is flat to rough hills; vegetation varies from shortgrass prairie to ponderosa pine. Elevation ranges from 6,400 to 7,000 feet.

WY-060-204 Fortification Creek—33,280 acres

Public comment generally confirmed the initial findings for this unit; however, concerns were expressed by several organizations that intrusions were not sufficiently documented. In order to provide solid documentation and to review in detail all initial findings, intensive inventory is required. The majority of the area is rough, dry ridges cut by sharp erosion patterns. The unit is primarily sagebrush with some grassland and juniper.

All units identified in paragraphs 2a and 2b are placed in the intensive wilderness inventory and are retained in interim management under Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. This decision will become effective 30 days from the date of publication in the *Federal Register* which is July 10, 1979. These lands total approximately 1,186,400 acres and constitute 6.7% of the public lands in Wyoming.

These units are being or will be evaluated under the procedures set forth in Step 4, the Intensive Inventory of the Wilderness Inventory Handbook (including Appendices 5 and 6).

What's Next?

The initial inventory has been completed. BLM has now determined which inventory units will undergo intensive inventory as the next step in identifying Wilderness Study Areas (WSA's).

The next phase of the wilderness review process—the intensive inventory—is to determine if there are wilderness characteristics on the 83 units of public land identified for further study.

This step will require the greatest public involvement, including direct participation in the inventories. In fact, you can usually accompany a BLM team making field inspections of potential wilderness areas on BLM managed lands.

If you have information to share on specific units or if you are following the BLM wilderness review for a special interest group such as miners, stock growers or conservationists, get in touch with any BLM field office.

It should be noted that intensive inventory on some units will have been completed by the date of this publication. Anyone wishing to participate in the remaining field examinations must provide their own transportation. It may not be feasible to schedule special field examinations for groups or individuals because of the limited workforce.

Separate individual and/or group field examinations are also encouraged. Individuals and/or groups are encouraged to provide any available information relating to the intensive inventory process on any or all of the inventory units. The format provided in Appendix 5 of the "Wilderness Inventory Handbook" is preferred but not required.

Basically, this format covers the wilderness characteristics of size, naturalness, analysis of outstanding opportunity for solitude or a primitive and unconfined recreation, supplemental values and the possibility of certain areas returning to a natural condition. Map documentation and photos of road and facility construction and maintenance will also be helpful to BLM. A summary of the forms used by BLM in the intensive inventory is shown in Chart 1.

All information will be considered in preparing the decision proposing wilderness study areas and for inventory units not having wilderness characteristics. This information should be submitted to the appropriate local BLM office at the earliest possible date.

Chart 1.
WILDERNESS INTENSIVE INVENTORY

This is a summary of the forms used by BLM in the intensive inventory.

UNIT NO. _____

NAME OF AREA _____

Explain by a concise narrative the following essential wilderness characteristics (for guidance see text in the Wilderness Inventory Handbook):

1. SIZE

Narrative:

Summary: 1. Does the area have at least 5,000 acres of contiguous land and is it of sufficient size to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition?

YES NO (circle one)

2. Does the island have sufficient size to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition?

YES NO (circle one)

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

(Who did analysis and when)

2. NATURALNESS

Narrative:

Summary: Does the area or island generally appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable?

YES NO (circle one)

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

3. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITY FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION ANALYSIS

A. SOLITUDE

Narrative:

Summary: Does the area have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

YES NO (circle one)

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

B. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION

Narrative:

Summary: Does the area have outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?

YES NO (circle one)

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

4. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES

Narrative:

Summary: Does the area contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value?

YES NO (circle one)

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

5. POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION

Narrative:

Summary: If the area or island were to become a wilderness area, could the imprint of man's work be reduced by either natural processes or by hand labor to a level judged to be substantially unnoticeable?

YES NO (circle one)

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

6. MAP DOCUMENTATION

Attach a map depicting the following: (1) inventory unit boundary and number, wilderness study area boundary, (2) areas with possibility of returning to a natural state, and (3) photo points.

PHOTO LOG

Attach, key to map, and describe each photo that visually explains any of the points covered in the narrative. (Reference list to a photo index as an appendix or companion photo case envelope is acceptable.)

In conducting the intensive inventory, BLM will look first at areas where there is interest in resource development, including energy development. For example, in the Rocky Mountain "Overthrust Belt," which is considered to have oil and gas potential, the full inventory including a 90-day comment period and issuance of a final decision will be completed late this year. Therefore, as publicized, information on units in the Overthrust Belt area is needed by July 30, 1979. Publication of the proposed list of WSA's in the Overthrust Belt area and possibly several other units is tentatively scheduled for early August, 1979. Announcement of the disposition of these remaining units is scheduled for April, 1980.

Information on all other units (except those published with Overthrust Belt units) should be acquired this season and submitted as it becomes available.

After the intensive inventory, lands determined to have wilderness characteristics will be designated as Wilderness Study Areas and will be managed so as not to impair their suitability as wilderness until Congress decides the future use of the lands. An "interim management policy" and regulations on surface disturbance by mining designed to provide such protection have been reviewed extensively by the public and are under final consideration by the Interior Department.

Who to Contact

These Wyoming BLM managers are available for contact regarding input to the wilderness inventory or to answer questions about BLM's wilderness review process. **STATE DIRECTOR**, Bureau of Land Management, 2515 Warren Avenue, P. O. Box 1828, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001.

WORLAND DISTRICT MANAGER, P. O. Box 119, 1700 Robertson Avenue, Worland, Wyoming 82401.

AREA MANAGER, Washakie Resource Area, P. O. Box 119, 1700 Robertson Avenue, Worland, Wyoming 82401.

AREA MANAGER, Cody Resource Area, P. O. Box 528, Federal Building, 1131-13th, Cody, Wyoming 82414.

RAWLINS DISTRICT MANAGER, P. O. Box 670, 1300 Third Street, Rawlins, Wyoming 82301.

AREA MANAGER, Divide Resource Area, P. O. Box 670, 1300 Third Street, Rawlins, Wyoming 82301.

AREA MANAGER, Medicine Bow Resource Area, P. O. Box 670, 1300 Third Street, Rawlins, Wyoming 82301.

AREA MANAGER, Lander Resource Area, P. O. Box 589, Lander, Wyoming 82520.

ROCK SPRINGS DISTRICT MANAGER, P. O. Box 1869, Highway 187 North, Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901.

AREA MANAGER, Green River Resource Area, P. O. Box 1869, Highway 187 North, Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901.

AREA MANAGER, Salt Wells Resource Area, P. O. Box 1869, Highway 187 North, Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901.

AREA MANAGER, Pinedale Resource Area, P. O. Box 768, Molyneux Building, Pinedale, Wyoming 82941.

AREA MANAGER, Kemmerer Resource Area, P. O. Box 632, Kemmerer, Wyoming 83101.

CASPER DISTRICT MANAGER, 951 Union Boulevard, Casper, Wyoming 82601.

AREA MANAGER, Platte River Resource Area, 951 Union Boulevard, Casper, Wyoming 82601.

AREA MANAGER, Buffalo Resource Area, P. O. Box 670, Buffalo, Wyoming 82834.

AREA MANAGER, Newcastle Resource Area, Highway 16 Bypass, Newcastle, Wyoming 82701.

Other Publications

Additional copies of this publication may be obtained from any of the BLM offices.

Copies of the Wilderness Inventory Handbook are also available.

The decisions of the initial inventory are also displayed on a transparent overlay map (Overlay No. 1 revised June, 1979) to the 1:500,000 scale colored status map of Wyoming which is available at all BLM offices in the state for

public review and inspection. This map and overlay are the official record of the BLM wilderness review and may be printed individually upon request. They are available from BLM's Wyoming State Office at the following costs:

1:500,000 scale colored status map \$5.00 ea. copy.

Transparent overlay No. 1 revised June, 1979 \$4.00 ea. copy.

Paper copy overlay No. 1 revised \$2.50 ea. copy.

