

APPENDIX C

Roadless Area Evaluation

for the

Salmon National Forest

## Table of Contents

	<u>Page</u>
I. INTRODUCTION.....	C-1
Summary Table of Areas Identified and Acres.....	C-2
Contiguous Roadless Areas.....	C-3
II. ROADLESS AREA DESCRIPTIONS, CONDITIONS, AND/OR POTENTIALS.	C-4
Vicinity Map.....	C-5
<u>Code</u> <u>Area Name</u>	
13901          Camas Creek*.....	C-6
13902          Taylor Mountain*.....	C-20
13903          Lemhi Range*.....	C-33
13903a         Goldbug Ridge.....	C-48
13941          Blue Joint Mountain*.....	C-57
13942          Anderson Mountain*.....	C-78
13943          West Big Hole*.....	C-87
13944          Goat Mountain*.....	C-99
13945          Italian Peak*.....	C-108
13946          Allan Mountain*.....	C-116
13501          Napoleon Ridge.....	C-138
13504          West Panther Creek.....	C-148
13504a         South Panther.....	C-157
13505          McEleny.....	C-165
13506          Jureano.....	C-174
13507          Haystack Mountain.....	C-183
13508          Phelan.....	C-192
13509          Deep Creek.....	C-201
13509a         South Deep Creek.....	C-209
13510          Jesse Creek.....	C-217
13511          Perreau Creek.....	C-226
13512          Agency Creek.....	C-235
13513          Sal Mountain.....	C-244
13514          Little Horse.....	C-252
13515          Napias.....	C-260
13516          Oreana.....	C-268
13517          Musgrove.....	C-276
13518          Duck Peak.....	C-284
13520          Sheepeater.....	C-293
13521          Long Tom.....	C-302

\* Roadless Area is contiguous with other Forest(s) (see Table C-2).

## I. INTRODUCTION

The State of California and various environmental organizations claimed in a lawsuit (California vs. Bergland) that the Final EIS for the RARE II evaluation was legally flawed. On January 8, 1980, Judge Karlton of the U.S. District Court ruled that the RARE II Final EIS designation of certain roadless areas in California was legally inadequate. The RARE II Final EIS had designated National Forest roadless areas as either: (1) Recommended Wilderness, (2) Further Planning, or (3) Non-Wilderness. Areas designated for Further Planning were to be evaluated further in the Forest planning process. Areas recommended for Wilderness would remain unchanged in Forest planning alternatives. And areas designated as Non-Wilderness would be subject to other land and resource uses.

The United States appealed the decision to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, but this Court affirmed the District Court's decision on October 22, 1982. There were no additional appeals.

On February 1, 1983, John B. Crowell, Jr., Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, announced that roadless areas previously studied for wilderness potential would be subject to reevaluation. This required revisions of the Land and Resource Management Planning Regulations for National Forest System lands. The proposed rule to revise 36 CFR 219.17, Wilderness Designation, appeared in the Federal Register on April 18, 1983, for public review and comment. The final ruling that roadless areas on Forest Service lands would be reevaluated became effective October 7, 1983.

On March 9, 1983, R. Max Peterson, Chief of the Forest Service, issued field direction concerning management of roadless areas subject to reevaluation during the Forest planning process. Part of this direction was to involve public participation activities at the Forest level on roadless area reevaluation.

On July 8, 1983, J. S. Tixier, Regional Forester for the Intermountain Region, issued instructions to the Region IV Forests on methods to be used to initiate public involvement in roadless area reevaluations. The process would begin with the preparation of maps of roadless areas that had been inventoried either in RARE, RARE II, and/or unit plans, along with modifications that had occurred or had been planned since the last evaluation. Each roadless area also would be described as to its environmental, wilderness, and resource attributes. This information would be made available to federal, state, county, and local agencies; elected officials; public and private organizations; and the public, for review and comment during the later half of 1983.

See Appendix A for a description of public involvement conducted in conjunction with the Forest's planning process.

The Forest's Plan and DEIS were being developed when this change of direction was received. Thus, the various documents developed during the planning process were revised and the reevaluation of roadless areas has been incorporated into the applicable chapters of the DEIS, which is reflected in the Plan.

This Appendix includes site specific information used in the roadless area reevaluation. Thirty roadless areas on the Forest were inventoried. Impacts from resource development and road construction since the 1978 RARE II inventory are reflected on the individual writeups and maps. These inventoried roadless areas comprise about 47 percent of the land base administered by the Forest.

Table C-1 lists the roadless areas which were evaluated during the Forest's planning process.

Table C-1  
AREAS IDENTIFIED AS ROADLESS OR ESSENTIALLY ROADLESS ON THE  
SALMON NATIONAL FOREST

Code	Area Name	Total Acres	Acres not Meeting RA Criteria	Net Roadless Acres on Salmon NF
13901	Camas Creek*	35,876	849	34,887
13902	Taylor Mountain*	49,911	1,631	48,280
13903	Lemhi Range*	159,856	6,358	154,498
13903a	Goldbug Ridge	15,305	3,791	11,514
13941	Blue Joint Mtn.*	490	0	490
13942	Anderson Mtn.*	18,577	296	18,120
13943	West Big Hole*	83,118	2,000	81,068
13944	Goat Mountain*	36,954	1,466	35,488
13945	Italian Peak*	57,363	7,034	50,181
13946	Allan Mountain*	51,672	691	50,981
13501	Napoleon Ridge	60,431	10,248	50,183
13504	West Panther Cr.	39,338	3,223	36,064
13504a	South Panther	6,710	0	6,710
13505	McEleny	5,727	2,065	3,608
13506	Jureano	32,956	7,396	25,506
13507	Haystack Mtn.	12,661	411	12,118
13508	Phelan	12,793	328	12,465
13509	Deep Creek	16,230	10,913	5,265
13509a	South Deep Creek	12,975	0	12,975
13510	Jesse Creek	20,643	4,482	16,161
13511	Perreau Creek	10,281	1,701	8,493
13512	Agency Creek	10,771	5,081	5,690
13513	Sal Mountain	24,206	8,249	15,826
13514	Little Horse	7,620	0	7,620
13515	Napias	9,301	30	9,271
13516	Oreana	7,835	429	7,406
13517	Musgrove	21,648	13,425	8,223
13518	Duck Peak	53,363	4,572	48,791
13520	Sheepeater	47,221	15,021	31,954
13521	Long Tom	23,100	1,467	21,633
Totals:		944,932	111,963	830,469

\* Roadless Area is contiguous with other Forests (see Table C-2).



Nine roadless areas are shared with adjacent Forests. Regional direction is that roadless areas will be studied and evaluated in their entirety in one Forest Plan/EIS, if they are located on two or more Forests. The Regional Forester also assigned lead reevaluation responsibility for roadless areas administered by more than one Forest. The following is a list of the nine shared roadless areas, the acreage on the Forest and the adjacent Forests, the identity of the involved adjacent Forests, and the Forest assigned the lead responsibility.

Table C-2 -- Roadless Areas from Table C-1 that are Contiguous with other Forests.

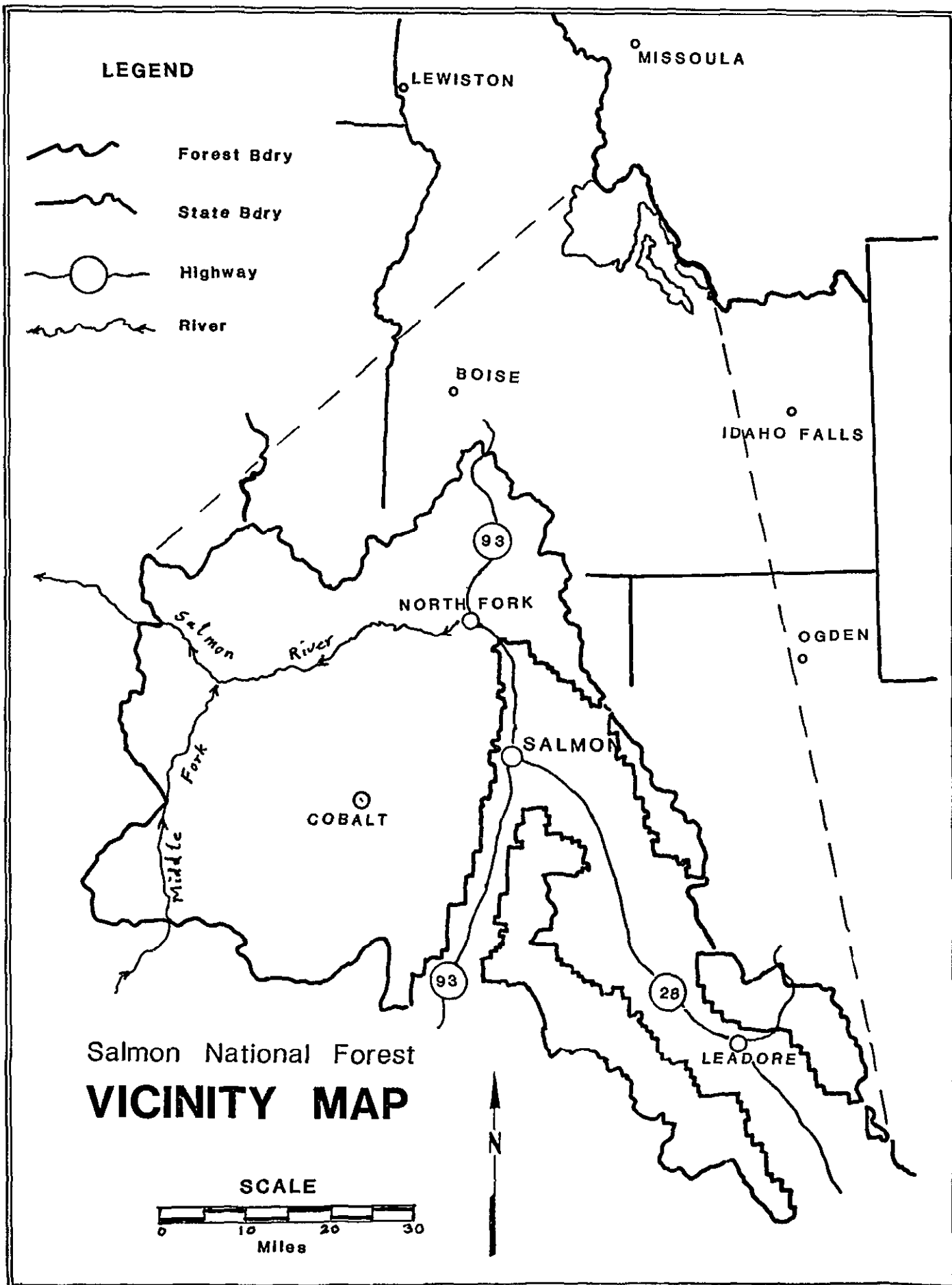
<u>Code</u>	<u>Area Name</u>	<u>Forests</u>	<u>Net Acres</u>	<u>Lead Forest</u>
13901	Camas Creek	Salmon Challis	34,887 63,949 <u>98,836</u>	Challis
13902	Taylor Mountain	Salmon Challis	48,280 14,940 <u>63,220</u>	Salmon
13903	Lemhi Range	Salmon Challis	153,498 149,629 <u>303,127</u>	Salmon
13941	Blue Joint Mtn.	Salmon Bitterroot	490 65,370 <u>65,860</u>	Bitterroot
13942	Anderson Mtn.	Salmon Beaverhead	18,120 30,331 <u>48,451</u>	Beaverhead
13943	West Big Hole	Salmon Beaverhead	81,068 130,710 <u>211,778</u>	Beaverhead
13944	Goat Mountain	Salmon Beaverhead	35,488 9,454 <u>44,942</u>	Beaverhead
13945	Italian Peak	Salmon Beaverhead Targhee	50,181 91,277 146,300 <u>287,758</u>	Beaverhead
13946	Allan Mountain	Salmon Bitterroot	50,981 102,286 <u>153,267</u>	Bitterroot

## II. ROADLESS AREA DESCRIPTIONS, CONDITIONS, AND/OR POTENTIALS

The inventoried roadless areas described herein are included in at least one of the DEIS Forest Planning Alternatives. When there were feasible boundary adjustments which better reflected the emphasis of an alternative, the modified area also was included in one or more of the DEIS alternatives described in Chapter II.

The following format was used to describe and evaluate each roadless area:

- A. Description (location, geography, vegetation, current uses, special attractions).
- B. Capability (wilderness characteristics, such as integrity, naturalness, solitude, opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences, and any special features). Possible boundary modifications also are discussed.
- C. Availability (the area's known resources and existing and potential uses).
- D. Need (proximity to designated wilderness, congressional and public interest in the area for wilderness, and other expressions of need).
- E. The effects of wilderness/nonwilderness designations for the roadless area, including:
  - 1. Management prescriptions by Alternatives.
  - 2. Effects of Alternatives on the areas wilderness character.
  - 3. Environmental consequences of wilderness/nonwilderness designations on the physical and biological environment.
- F. A map showing (1) inventoried boundaries, (2) boundary adjustments, made to delete developed areas identified since the RARE II inventory, and (3) lands with commercial timber that have been proposed for harvest.



## CAMAS CREEK

### ROADLESS AREA EVALUATION

No. 6-901 Challis National Forest

No. 13-901 Salmon National Forest

(Formerly RARE II Area No. 4-202; also includes part of past RARE I Area No. 288)

Challis Acres:	63,949
Salmon Acres:	<u>34,887</u>
	98,836

#### Description

The area is approximately 35 air miles southwest of Salmon, Idaho and 7 air miles northwest of Challis, Idaho. The area is bounded on the west by the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness, on the northwest by the Silver Creek Road (108), on the northeast by the Panther Creek Road (055), and on the north by an area that has been roaded for removal of timber.

The Silver Creek Roadless Area (RARE II 288), which was a part of the Red Rock Peak Planning Unit, has been included with the Camas Creek RARE II Area Number 04202. A portion of the Silver Creek area, the Black Mountain Management Unit, was recommended for roadless area management in the unit plan. A large part of the western portion of the original RARE II Area 04202 was included in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness.

Access to the area can be gained from the roads along Silver Creek, Panther Creek, Morgan Creek, Challis Creek and Camas Creek.

The area is dissected by numerous drainages flowing into Panther Creek, Silver Creek, Camas Creek, Morgan Creek and Challis Creek. Elevations range from approximately 5,200 feet on Silver Creek to 10,196 feet on East Twin Peak. The topography ranges from gentle slopes of benches and bottomlands to near vertical headwalls in cirque basins. Much of the high country above 7,000 feet has been glaciated, with lakes formed in the glacial cirque basins. This high country is typical of alpine glaciated country. Average annual precipitation is in the 15 to 20 inch range. The majority of the precipitation occurs as snow, and spring and fall rains. Temperatures range from summer highs of 80 to 90 degrees at the lower elevations to winter lows of 35 degrees below zero at the higher elevations. Acidic volcanic rocks form the bedrock for much of the area. Soils derived from this bedrock have a loamy sand to sandy texture. Quartzite is the parent material for some of the loamy sand textured soils.

Much of the area is covered by lodgepole pine and Douglas fir. Subalpine fir occurs in the higher elevations. Ponderosa pine occurs on some of the warmer sites. Scattered throughout the lower elevations are patches of sage and grass. The ecosystem found in the area is western spruce-fir and grand fir-Douglas fir.

Current recreation uses include hunting, fishing, backpacking, and horseback riding. Use is estimated at approximately 6,700 Recreation Visitor Days. A portion of the area is currently grazed by livestock where approximately 2,800 Animal Unit Months grazing use takes place annually.

The area is separated by road corridors from roadless area #06004 on the Challis National Forest, roadless area #13902 on the Challis and Salmon National Forests, and #13518 on the Salmon National Forest. It is bordered by a roaded area on the north and is contiguous with the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness on the west. Area attractions include scenics, anadromous fish spawning streams, and big game, including elk, deer, bear, bighorn sheep, goats, and cougar.

#### Capability

The area's east side is bordered by improved roads and timber sales, some of which penetrate the unit; the west side follows the wilderness boundary. Several four-wheel drive roads exist in the unit. In much of the unit, steep terrain makes access difficult. Administration of this unit is shared between the Challis and Salmon National Forests.

One option to manage the Camas Creek drainage would be to add it to the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness. The eastern boundary is very unmanageable due to road intrusions and timber sales. Any adjustments would cross numerous drainages and would be very unmanageable.

Logical and manageable boundaries could be developed for the northern part of the unit. A boundary change could be made along the north edge to delete intrusions related to mining.

There are no special features in the area. Some portions of the unit have a lack of visual features on which to orient oneself. Extended back country trips by foot or horse are possible. The unit is large enough, even if reduced substantially to eliminate intrusions, to qualify and be managed as wilderness.

Table B addresses the natural integrity of the unit, and the opportunities for solitude, primitive recreation, and challenging experiences.

#### Availability

Recreation activities consist of hunting, fishing, backpacking, trail riding, and trailbike use. Most recreation use occurs during the fall hunting season. Patterns, types, and amounts of recreation use are not expected to significantly change in the near future. The area's greatest recreation potential is for primitive recreation activities. Current use is significantly below present capacity.

A large portion of the area has good vegetative diversity, providing classic high elevation big game summer habitat. Elk, bighorn sheep, and mule deer are found in this area, as are black bear and many species of small birds and mammals. Spruce grouse are particularly abundant. The area also contains important big game winter habitat. There is good potential for big game population increases within existing habitat.

Several lakes provide excellent habitat for resident trout, and others have the potential to support fish but have not been stocked. Most streams are characterized as small, high gradient headwaters. The lower reaches most likely support small numbers of fish. Streams in the Castle Creek, Furnace Creek, and Silver Creek drainages influence anadromous fish production in Camas and Silver Creeks. Most of the fishing opportunity in the area is provided by high mountain lakes.

The area is located within tributaries of the Middle Fork and main Salmon Rivers. The predominant geology of the area is volcanic and is highly erosive. This results in high sedimentation rates in streams during spring runoff. The area produces a moderate water yield, resulting from precipitation levels as high as 40 inches a year in localized areas. There is potential to improve water quality in localized areas through sediment reduction and streambank stabilization.

Portions of the Camas Creek, Eddy Creek, and Morgan Creek-Prairie Basin cattle and horse allotments are within the roadless area. About 2,800 Animal Unit Months (AUM) grazing use are permitted on this roadless area. With the exception of a few heavy use sites, much of the suitable range is in good condition. There are numerous structural range improvements within the roadless area portion of the allotment. There is potential to improve range conditions and increase grazing use by about 200 AUMs with additional development and continued intensive management.

There are an estimated 370 million board feet (MBF) of sawtimber volume growing within the unit, with an estimated annual potential yield of 3.9 million board feet per year without other resource considerations. Extensive high cost roading through steep terrain would be required to support this harvest level. Annual harvest would be further reduced when constraints by other resources were applied.

Intrusions which might alter the roadless area boundary include timber activities and roads near Van Horn Creek, Annie Rooney Creek, Lick Creek, White Valley Creek, and Panther Creek. There are also roads in the Pats Creek, Alder Creek, and Spruce Gulch Lake areas.

Two intrusions totaling 849 acres were identified within the inventoried boundaries. One is a mining related access road which provides access to mining claims north of Arrastra Creek. The other resulted from timber sale activities in the northeast corner of the area. The areas directly impacted by these activities no longer meet roadless area criteria and those portions of the roadless area will not be considered further for wilderness.

Until access in the Challis National Forest is expanded, only small areas can be commercially logged. These areas include a 1984 proposed timber sale of 200 MBF at Van Horn Creek, a 1987 proposed timber sale of 500 MBF near upper Blowfly, and possible post and pole sales. There is a proposal for a 1.6 million board feet timber sale to be sold in Fiscal Year 1985 near Silver Creek on the Salmon National Forest.

The hardrock mineral potential of the northern part of the area was rated high in the RARE II evaluation. Subsequent work by the U.S. Geological Survey has

reaffirmed this rating. Past mineral production from the area includes gold and silver. In addition, there is a high potential for gold, silver, and fluor spar associated with volcanic rocks of the Twin Peak and Van Horn Peak Cauldron Complexes. There are three patented mining claims in the area. The rest of the area is believed to have little potential for mineral development. There is little potential for leasable minerals such as oil and gas.

Several prehistoric archeological sites have been identified and more are likely to be found in the roadless area. More information is needed to determine the significance of the archeological resource in the area. There are some mine structures located at the north edge of the unit that may have historical interest.

There are several system trails in the area. Many of these need increased levels of maintenance. A large portion of the area is used by outfitters and guides, specifically during the big game hunting season.

There have been several man caused and lightning fires during the last decade. Most of these were very small; however, fuels and large acreages of old growth timber provide potential for large wildfires. There is potential for using prescribed fire to improve livestock range and wildlife habitat.

The Douglas fir in several parts of the area has been repeatedly defoliated by western spruce budworm. Budworm periodically reduces Douglas fir growth and kills understory seedlings and saplings. There are endemic levels of mountain pine beetle, and Douglas fir beetles in the area. The mountain pine beetle appears to be increasing in the lodgepole pine and a major outbreak is a future possibility.

This area includes 79.8 acres of private land (patented mining claims) in Arrastra Creek and 60 acres of private land near the mouth of Eddy Creek. The Eddy Creek property could be excluded by a slight boundary modification.

#### Need

The roadless area is contiguous to the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness. In the wilderness, the majority of existing uses is associated with the Middle Fork of the Salmon River, the Bighorn Crags, and the Soldier Lakes area. Outside of these areas, recreation and hunting use are relatively light and are well below existing capacity.

The area is within one day's travel from the population centers of Missoula, Idaho Falls, Pocatello, Twin Falls, and Boise. The existing Selway, Frank Church River of No Return, Sawtooth and Gospel Hump Wildernesses are also a relatively short drive from these population centers, and currently provide them with wilderness recreation opportunities.

The western spruce-fir forest ecosystem has been identified as one needing representation in the national wilderness system; it is included and adequately represented in the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness. The Camas Creek roadless area does not represent any unique ecosystems.

The area has potential for recovery of the endangered gray wolf. This area could serve as a buffer zone or travel corridor for colonizing wolves inhabiting the adjacent Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness.

During RARE I this area was inventoried as Silver Creek #288, Camas Creek #120, and Eddy Creek #137 Roadless Areas. The decision in the RARE I FEIS was to manage these areas for non-wilderness resource development. Public opinion received on these areas during RARE I, wilderness/non-wilderness, was divided. The area was not considered highly controversial during RARE I.

Other public involvement efforts, including RARE II and Senator McClure's hearing in 1983, showed only limited support for this area as a wilderness, with 35% in favor during RARE II and no serious consideration during the hearings. It was recommended for wilderness by Idaho Environmental groups in their RARE II Idaho Citizens Alternative "W".

The western portion of this original area, #04-202, was included as part of the original RARE II proposal to Congress. Through Congressional action creating the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness, the western part was included in the wilderness, and the eastern portion was released to non-wilderness management.

A portion of this roadless area (RARE I #288 Silver Creek) was not part of the RARE II evaluation. It was evaluated in the Red Rock Peak Unit Plan (1975) where approximately 7,500 acres were to be managed for roadless recreation. The remaining area covered by the plan was to be managed for modified timber harvest and other uses.

The present Camas Creek Roadless Area was not included in Senator McClure's Idaho Forest Management Act, nor has it been included in any of the additional or modified wilderness recommendations. The area was not considered controversial during the Forest planning review of roadless lands.

The following numbers show the acreage adjustments since the RARE II inventory.

Challis N.F.	74,673	Part of RARE II #004-202
	<u>-10,724</u>	Boundary adjustments for timber sales & intrusions
	63,949	Total Challis NF Roadless Acres
Salmon N.F.	35,875	
	<u>- 988</u>	Intrusions and private
	34,887	Total Salmon NF Roadless Acres
	<u>98,949</u>	Total Roadless Acreage



Preferred Alternative Recommendation (Salmon National Forest portion)

This area is not proposed for wilderness designation in the preferred alternative on the Salmon National Forest portion.

On the Salmon National Forest portion, no resource activities are predicted which would preclude consideration of this portion for wilderness during the next Forest Plan revision. Mineral potential on the Salmon National Forest portion is high. Timing of possible mineral development is not known, but if development should occur the area disturbed by mining and access construction would be precluded from further wilderness consideration.

The entire roadless area is evaluated in Appendix C of the Challis National Forest's Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Salmon National Forest's preferred alternative is a recommendation until the final decision is approved in the Challis National Forest's Final Environmental Impact Statement.

TABLE A. MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION (GOAL) BY ACRES\*  
ROADLESS AREA 901  
CAMAS CREEK

PRESCRIPTION (GOAL)	ALT 1 NO ACTION (CURRENT PROGRAM) (1)	ALT 2 MARKET EMPHASIS (2)	ALT 3 NON- MARKET EMPHASIS (3)	ALT 4 RPA 1980 PROGRAM (4)	ALT 5 MANAGEMENT RESPONSE TO I C O. (7)	ALT 6 CONSTRAINED (-25%) BUDGET (6)	ALT 7 CURRENT PROGRAM CONSTRAINED BUDGET	ALT 8 MAXIMIZE WILDERNESS, AMENITY EMPHASIS (11)	ALT 9 HIGH WILDERNESS COMMODITY EMPHASIS (10)	ALT 10 CURRENT PROGRAM, UNCONSTR. BUDGET	ALT 11 1980 RPA MODIFIED (PREFERRED) (12)
LOW LEVEL MANAGEMENT					63,949						
CURRENT TREND	96,045			20,989		20,989	63,949				96,045
CURRENT TREND AMENITY				75,056		75,056					
HIGH LEVEL AMENITY			63,949							63,949	
HIGH LEVEL COMMODITY		96,045									
WILDERNESS			32,096		32,096			96,045	96,045		

\* The Salmon NF is considering 12 alternatives. The nine alternatives that are compatible with the Challis NF's are indicated in parenthesis. No data is available at this time (12/84) on the other three alternatives, except that in two of them, Wilderness is the chosen prescription.

TABLE B. IMPACTS ON WILDERNESS CHARACTER\*  
ROADLESS AREA 901  
CAMAS CREEK

	ALT 1	ALT 2	ALT 3	ALT 4	ALT 5	ALT 6	ALT 7	ALT 8	ALT 9	ALT 10	ALT 11
WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS	NO ACTION (CURRENT PROGRAM)	MARKET EMPHASIS	NON- MARKET EMPHASIS	RPA 1980 PROGRAM	MANAGEMENT RESPONSE TO I.C.O.	CONSTRAINED (-25%) BUDGET	CURRENT PROGRAM CONSTRAINED BUDGET	MAXIMIZE WILDERNESS, AMENITY EMPHASIS	HIGH WILDERNESS COMMODITY EMPHASIS	CURRENT PROGRAM, UNCONSTR. BUDGET	1980 RPA MODIFIED (PREFERRED)
NATURAL INTEGRITY APPARENT NATURALNESS	High.	Fairly high.	High.	High.	High.	High.	High.	Very high.	Very high.	High.	Fairly high
SOLITUDE	Good opportunity.	Fairly good opportunity.	Good opportunity.	Good opportunity.	Good opportunity.	Good opportunity.	Good opportunity.	Excellent opportunity.	Excellent opportunity.	Good opportunity.	Fairly good opportunity.
PRIMITIVE RECREATION	Good opportunity.	Fairly good opportunity.	Good opportunity.	Good opportunity.	Good opportunity.	Good opportunity.	Good opportunity.	Excellent opportunity.	Excellent opportunity.	Good opportunity.	Fairly good opportunity.
CHALLENGING EXPERIENCES	Cross-country travel and winter sports.	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1
SPECIAL FEATURES	Mountain peaks and lakes and rock forma- tions remain unaffected.	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1

\* Challis NF only.

TABLE C. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF WILDERNESS/NON-WILDERNESS DESIGNATIONS ON THE PHYSICAL AND BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT 1/ ROADLESS AREA 901 CAMAS CREEK

ENVIRONMENT		ALT 1 NO ACTION (CURRENT PROGRAM)	ALT 2 MARKET EMPHASIS	ALT 3 NON- MARKET EMPHASIS	ALT 4 RPA 1980 PROGRAM	ALT 5 MANAGEMENT RESPONSE TO I C O.	ALT 6 CONSTRAINED (-25%) BUDGET	ALT 7 CURRENT PROGRAM CONSTRAINED BUDGET	ALT 8 MAXIMIZE WILDERNESS, AMENITY EMPHASIS	ALT 9 HIGH WILDERNESS COMMODITY EMPHASIS	ALT 10 CURRENT PROGRAM, UNCONSTRAINED BUDGET	ALT 11 1980 RPA MODIFIED (PREFERRED)
POTENTIAL ADVERSE EFFECTS ON SOIL PRODUCTIVITY		Slight on 173 acres, none on rest of unit.	Very slight throughout the unit	Very slight on 791 acres, none on rest of unit.	Slight on 453 acres, none on rest of unit.	Very slight throughout the unit.	Slight on 165 acres, none on rest of unit.	Slight on 187 acres, none on rest of unit.	None.	None.	Very slight on 323 acres, none on rest of unit.	Severe on 435 acres. Slight on 228 acres, none on rest of unit
POTENTIAL EFFECTS ON WATER QUALITY		Very slightly adverse	None.	Very slightly beneficial.	Very slightly adverse	Very slightly adverse.	Very slightly adverse.	Very slightly adverse	None.	None.	Very slightly beneficial	Slightly adverse
AIR QUALITY		Class II. State Standards met.	Same as Alt 1	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1	Class I standards met.	State Same as Alt. 8	Same as Alt 1	Same as Alt 1
ACTIVITIES IN PLANT COMMUNITIES		173 acres of wildlife habitat improvement	None.	791 acres of wildlife habitat improvement	453 acres of wildlife habitat improvement.	None.	165 acres of wildlife habitat improvement	187 acres of wildlife habitat improvement.	None.	None.	323 acres of wildlife habitat improvement.	435 acres of old-growth Douglas-fir harvested. 238 acres of wildlife habitat improvement
WILDLIFE	DEER	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Moderate improvement.	Slight improvement.	Same as Alt. 2	Insignificant change.	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt 2	Same as Alt. 2	Insignificant change	Same as Alt. 1
HABITAT CAPABILITY 2/	ELK	Moderate improvement.	Insignificant change	Substantial improvement.	Significant improvement		Slight improvement.				Significant improvement.	
POTENTIAL EFFECTS ON FISH HABITAT CAPABILITY		Very slightly adverse.	None.	Very slightly beneficial.	Very slightly adverse.	Very slightly adverse	Very slightly adverse	Very slightly adverse.	None	None.	Very Slightly beneficial.	Slightly adverse.

1/ Challis NF only

2/ No change 0-2 9% acre increase, Slight improvement 3 0-4 9% acre increase, Moderate improvement 5 0-9.9% acre increase, Significant improvement 10 0-24.9% increase, Substantial improvement 25 0% + acre increase.

Effects of Wilderness/Nonwilderness Management Prescriptions-Salmon NF portion

TABLE A

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION BY FOREST PLAN ALTERNATIVE  
(Acres)

Roadless Area	13901 Camas Creek											Forest Plan Alternative
Management Prescription	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12 (preferred)
7A Proposed Wilderness			32,096				32,096	32,096	32,096	32,096	34,887	
Non-wilderness*												
2A	29,156					34,160						
2A-1												30,018
3A-5A							1,896					
3A-5B	3,671											4,869
3A-5C							895					
3A-5E						727		934	611			
3A-5F			1,540									
4B-1								370	580			
4B-3	2,060											
5A		4,295		3,917	3,721					2,237		
5B				30,970								
5C		30,592			31,166					554		
5D			1,251									
5E							1,487					
5F									1,600			

\* Refer to Alternative map for prescription description.

TABLE B

## IMPACTS ON WILDERNESS CHARACTER

Roadless Area 13901 Camas Creek

(See Challis write-up)

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS	ALT 1	ALT 2	ALT 3	ALT 4	ALT 5	ALT 6
Natural Integrity - Apparent Naturalness	Fairly high	Fairly high	Fairly high	Fairly high	Fairly high	Fairly high
Solitude	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity
Primitive Recreation	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity
Challenging Experiences	Winter sports and cross-country travel	Winter sports and cross-country travel	Winter sports and cross-country travel	Winter sports and cross-country travel	Winter sports and cross-country travel	Winter sports and cross-country travel
Special Features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features
WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS	ALT 7	ALT 8	ALT 9	ALT 10	ALT 11	ALT 12
Natural Integrity - Apparent Naturalness	Fairly high	Fairly high	Fairly high	Fairly high	Fairly high	Fairly high
Solitude	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity
Primitive Recreation	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity
Challenging Experiences	Winter sports and cross-country travel	Winter sports and cross-country travel	Winter sports and cross-country travel	Winter sports and cross-country travel	Winter sports and cross-country travel	Winter sports and cross-country travel
Special Features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features

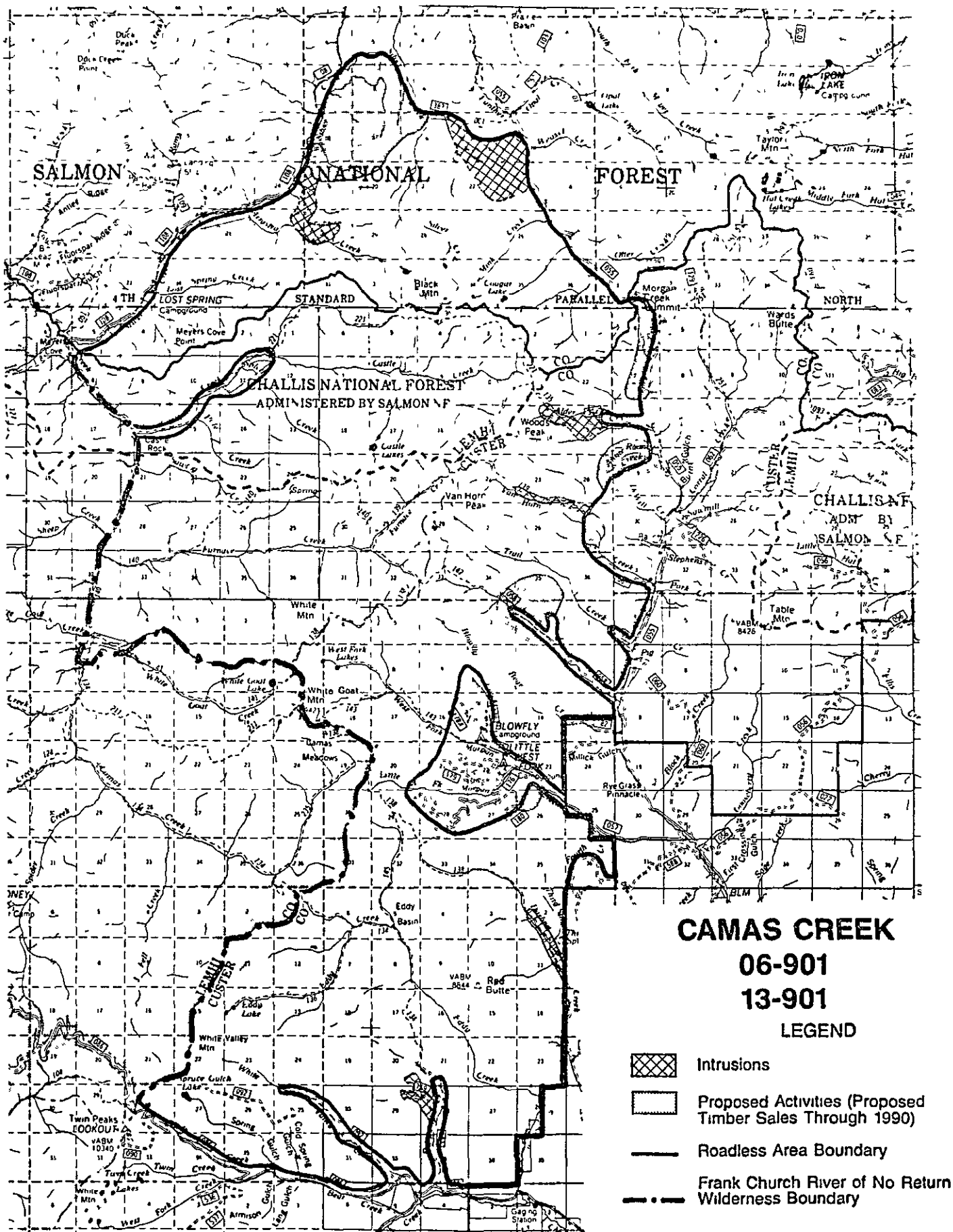
TABLE C  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF WILDERNESS/NON-WILDERNESS DESIGNATIONS ON  
THE PHYSICAL AND BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

Roadless Area. 13901 Camas Creek

ENVIRONMENT	ALT 1	ALT 2	ALT 3	ALT 4	ALT 5	ALT 6
Potential Adverse Effects on Soil Productivity	None	Very slight	None	Very slight	Very slight	None
Potential Effects on Water Quality	None	Very slight	None	Very slight	Very slight	None
Air Quality	Meets class II: state standards	Meets class II: state standards	Meets class II: state standards	Meets class II: state standards	Meets class II: state standards	Meets class II: state standards
Potential Effects on Plant Communities	None	Timber harvest	None	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	None
Wildlife Habitat Capability - Elk	Insignificant change	Slight adverse impact	Insignificant change	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact	Insignificant change
Potential Effects on Fish Habitat Capability	Insignificant change	Slight adverse impact	Insignificant change	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact	Insignificant change
ENVIRONMENT	ALT 7	ALT 8	ALT 9	ALT 10	ALT 11	ALT 12
Potential Adverse Effects on Soil Productivity	None	None	None	None	None	None
Potential Effects on Water Quality	None	None	None	None	None	None
Air Quality	Meets class II: state standards	Meets class II: state standards	Meets class II: state standards	Meets class II: state standards	Meets class II: state standards	Meets class II: state standards
Potential Effects on Plant Communities	None	None	None	None	None	None
Wildlife Habitat Capability - Elk	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change
Potential Effects on Fish Habitat Capability	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change







TAYLOR MOUNTAIN  
ROADLESS AREA EVALUATION

No. 06-902 Challis National Forest (Formerly RARE II No. 4-502)  
No. 13-902 Salmon National Forest (Formerly RARE II No. 4-502)

Challis Acres: 14,940  
Salmon Acres: 48,280  
63,220

Description

The Taylor Mountain Roadless Area is approximately 16 air miles southwest of Salmon, Idaho. The area is bounded on the southwest by the Panther Creek Road (055), and on the northeast by the Copper Creek-Swan Peak Road (099). The east boundary cuts across the Iron Creek and Hat Creek drainages. The west boundary cuts across the Iron Creek and Hat Creek drainages. The west boundary cuts across the drainages of Opal Creek, Moyer Creek, Salt Creek, and Woodtick Creek. Access to the area can be gained from roads along Panther Creek, Moyer Creek, and Copper Creek, from the Salmon River Mountain road to Iron Lake, and from roads in the Hat Creek and Iron Creek drainages.

Dissected by the headwaters of Moyer Creek, Woodtick Creek, Hat Creek, and Iron Creek, elevations of the area range from 5,500 feet along Panther Creek to over 9,000 feet at Taylor Mountain. Low elevation slopes are between 20 and 50 percent. Mid-elevation slopes are from 50 to 70 percent, and the upper elevation slopes are up to and over 70 percent. Much of the country above 7,000 feet is typical of alpine glaciated topography, with lakes formed in the cirque basins. Rains occurring in the spring and fall, together with winter snows, brings average annual precipitation to 40 inches. Summer highs of 80 to 90 degrees are contrasted by winter lows of 35 degrees below zero.

Challis volcanic bedrock on the lower elevations forms loamy clay to clay-like loam textured soils. Higher elevation quartzite bedrock forms the loamy sand textured soils.

Much of the mid to high elevational country is covered with stands of Douglas fir, lodgepole pine, with some subalpine fir at the higher elevations. The vegetation on the lower slopes is sagebrush and grass, with scattered stands of Douglas fir. The ecosystems occurring in this area are sagebrush steppe, grand fir/Douglas fir, and western spruce fir.

Recreation uses estimated at 2,700 recreation visitor days in 1982 include hunting, fishing, backpacking, and horseback riding.

The area contains man-made elements such as fences, water developments, and terracing.

Taylor Mountain is separated from roadless area 901 on its western boundary by the Morgan Creek/Panther Creek road corridor and is bordered on the north and east boundaries by lands of the Challis and Salmon National Forests. The southern boundary abuts against BLM administered lands.

The highly scenic Hat Creek Lakes area in the southern portion of the area receives the heaviest use.

### Capability

Logical and manageable boundaries could be developed for this unit. Roadless Area size is not a factor, existing and proposed intrusions related to timber harvest could easily be deleted by boundary changes.

Table B addresses the natural integrity of the unit, and the opportunities for solitude, primitive recreation, and challenging experiences.

### Availability

Patterns, types, and amounts of recreation use are not expected to change, regardless of the classification of the unit. The greatest potential for recreation opportunities occurs in the vicinity of the Hat Creek Lakes.

This area contains both key elk summer and winter range for the 200-250 animals in the Moyer Creek elk herd. Mule deer and black bear are commonly observed, and mountain goats are present within the area. The cover forage ratio on the upper portion of the Moyer Creek drainage is heavy to cover, thus big game habitat quality is below optimum.

There are several lakes within this area that provide suitable habitat for resident trout. One lake contains a population of Arctic grayling which are unique and found in only one other area on the Salmon National Forest. Several streams within the area provide habitat for trout. Habitat conditions within the lakes and streams are generally excellent. Fishing use in the lakes is moderate to light. Opal Lake and the Hat Creek Lakes receive the major portion of recreational use. The quality of lake fishing is excellent. Stream use is light and quality is fair.

The area lies within the headwaters of several streams tributary to Panther Creek, as well as the headwaters of two large drainages which are directly tributary to the Main Salmon River. Landforms in much of the area are typical of glaciated terrain and several small glacial lakes are found in the area. Water yield is moderate in the area. Watershed conditions in the area are generally excellent, as is water quality.

Portions of five cattle and horse grazing allotments occur within the boundary of the roadless area, including Deer-Iron, Hat Creek, Morgan Creek-Prairie Basin, Forney, and Williams basin-Napias Creek. Approximately 3,000 animal unit months of use are permitted within the boundary of the roadless area. Fifteen water developments and 18.4 miles of fence are within the boundary. The majority of the suitable range is rated as good, with small amounts of excellent, fair, and poor condition range.

An estimated 122 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated potential annual yield of 1.6 million board feet per year.

This potential timber harvest would be reduced due to constraints by other resource needs, such as wildlife habitat, watershed, recreation, etc., and due to the cost of harvesting timber on steep slopes, the marginal quality of the sawtimber and the high cost of road access.

There is an existing intrusion on the northern boundary of the unit resulting from timber sales in 1972 and 1976, which harvested approximately two million board feet of timber from within the area. A small intrusion exists in the

southwest resulting from a small lodgepole pine timber sale in 1978. Two small intrusions on the eastern border are a result of timber harvest in 1965 that was erroneously included in the original roadless area review. The final acreage calculated for this roadless unit was adjusted to exclude these intrusions. A timber sale of approximately six million board feet is planned for Fiscal Year 1985 in the northern portion.

The hardrock mineral potential of this area was rated as moderate in the RARE II evaluation. Subsequent work by the U.S. Geological Survey puts this idea into a high potential category. There has been no mineral production from this area; however, mining claim owners are continuing assessment work. There is a high potential for gold and silver deposits associated with the volcanics of the Van Horn Peak cauldron complex. The Blackbird cobalt-copper trend passes through the northernmost portion of the area. There is no known potential for currently leasable minerals.

Little is known about the existence of prehistoric cultural resources. The potential would be considered moderate in major drainage bottoms and along the Salmon River Mountain road, and low elsewhere. The potential for the existence of historic cultural resources is unknown, though the Thunder Mountain Trail (mining related) passes along the north edge of this unit.

This area includes seven system trails for a total of 18.9 miles, and two system roads within intrusion areas for a total of 5.3 miles. There also is 0.6 mile of non-system road, and a Special Use Ditch permit of 0.5 mile within the intrusion area. Part of the area has previously been (but is not now) under permit for outfitter/guide purposes.

#### Management Considerations

Fire occurrence is light in the area.

The area is predominantly a lodgepole pine type. There was a mountain pine beetle epidemic in the lodgepole pine and whitebark pine about 50 years ago, and conditions are developing which favor another outbreak. Douglas fir stands in Little Hat Creek are deteriorating due to dwarf mistletoe.

There are no private lands within the area.

#### Need

The Taylor Mountain Roadless Area is located approximately 12 air miles from the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness. The portion of the wilderness nearest this area generally receives light use.

The roadless area is located approximately 25 road miles from Salmon, Idaho, 165 miles from Idaho Falls, Idaho, and 155 miles from Missoula, Montana.

During RARE I, this area was inventoried as the Hat Creek #309, Moyer Peak #278, and Table Mountain #140 Roadless Areas. The decision in the RARE I FEIS was to manage these areas for non-wilderness resource development. Public opinion received on these areas during RARE I, wilderness/non-wilderness, was divided. The area was not considered highly controversial during RARE I.

The Hat Creek #309, Moyer Peak #278, and Table Mountain #140 Roadless Areas were inventoried and evaluated in RARE II as the Taylor Mountain #04-502 Roadless Areas. The decision in the RARE II FEIS was to manage these lands for non-wilderness resource development. The public opinion was for non-wilderness uses for the area. The wilderness/non-wilderness issue was not highly controversial.

The area does not appear to represent any unique ecosystems.

During the development and passage of the Central Idaho Wilderness Act establishing the River of No Return Wilderness (Public Law 996-312 - July 23, 1980), the House/Senate Joint Committee in consideration of S.2009 did express an opinion on page PS-9 of their Conference Report that the area will "remain subject to sustained yield multiple use management under the statutes and regulations generally applicable to all non-wilderness National Forest system lands".

Senator McClure held "Idaho Forest Management Act" hearings in Coeur d'Alene, Lewiston, Boise, and Idaho Falls during August 1983. Prior to these meetings, the Senator sent out a constituent letter with four proposals, i.e., the Forest Service RARE II, Forest Industries, other commodity user groups, and the 1979 Idaho Wildlife Federation proposal. Following the hearings, Senator McClure has received additional input from environmental groups and the Governor of Idaho. The environmental groups and Governor Evans have included these areas in their wilderness proposals. The Idaho Fish and Game Commission provided input to Governor Evans for both wilderness and roadless management areas over the State. They did not include this area in their proposal. Additional input from individuals favored either wilderness or non-wilderness designation for this roadless unit.

The following numbers show acreage adjustments made since the RARE II inventory for the Challis National Forest.

17,480	RARE II acreage
16,941	Acreage recalculation
<u>-2,001</u>	Timber sale intrusions
14,940	Present roadless acreage

For the Salmon National Forest the adjustments made since RARE II are:

48,105	RARE II acreage
49,911	Acreage recalculation
<u>-1,631</u>	Intrusions
48,280	Present roadless acreage

Preferred Alternative Recommendation (Salmon National Forest portion)

This area is not proposed for wilderness designation in the preferred alternative.

Some resource activities would occur on about 25 percent of the area which would preclude those portions where activities occurred from consideration for wilderness during the next Plan revision. Most of the unit will retain its wilderness attributes and be available for wilderness evaluation during the next Plan revision. Mineral potential is low.

Effects of Wilderness/Nonwilderness Management Prescriptions

TABLE A  
MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION BY FOREST PLAN ALTERNATIVE  
(Acres)

Roadless Area	Forest Plan Alternative											
13902	(Compatible Challis NF Alternatives are in parentheses)											
06902 Taylor Mountain												
Management Prescription	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12 (preferred)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)		(6)	(5)			(9)	(8)	(11)
Salmon NF												
7A Proposed												
Wilderness		12,553	23,174				23,174	35,727	35,727	35,727	48,280	
Challis NF												
Proposed Wilderness									14,940	14,940		
Total		12,553	23,174				23,174	35,727	35,727	50,667	63,220	
Salmon NF												
Nonwilderness*												
2A						42,550						21,608
3A-5A												1,134
3A-5B	3,161											15,028
3A-5C												2,814
3A-5E			4,273				6,925	2,945	5,996			
4A			533				500	1,166				304
4B-1	6,546	2,031	6,863		5,979			3,645	2,698	1,806		3,396
4B-3	5,152											
5A	3,008	3,536					212			713		
5B	27,818	5,449		15,285	25,494		9,412			7,877		
5C		19,009		31,429	11,056		404			319		
5D			1,426					2,489	1,931			
5E			4,387			4,377	1,801	2,308	398			
5F			5,946							1,527		
8A	2,595	5,682	1,678	1,566	5,751	1,353	5,852			1,838		3,996
Challis NF												
Nonwilderness <sup>2/</sup>	14,940	14,940	14,940	14,940	14,940	14,940						14,940

\* See Alternative map for prescription description.

<sup>1/</sup> Two Challis NF Alternatives are not compatible with Salmon NF Alternatives Neither Alternative proposes wilderness

<sup>2/</sup> Nonwilderness prescriptions for the Challis NF portions of the roadless area are analyzed in the Challis NF DEIS

TABLE B  
IMPACTS ON WILDERNESS CHARACTER

Roadless Area 13902 Taylor Mountain

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS	ALT 1	ALT 2	ALT 3	ALT 4	ALT 5	ALT 6
Natural						
Integrity - Apparent		High in core area.				
Naturalness	Moderate	Low in remaining area.	Fairly high	Low	Low	Fairly high
Solitude	Some opportunity	Good opportunity in core area. No opportunity in remaining area.	Good opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	Good opportunity
Primitive Recreation	Some opportunity	Good opportunity in core area. No opportunity in remaining area.	Some opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	Some opportunity
Challenging Experiences	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence
Special Features	Mountain lakes unaffected	Mountain lakes unaffected	Mountain lakes unaffected	Mountain lakes unaffected	Mountain lakes unaffected	Mountain lakes unaffected
WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS	ALT 7	ALT 8	ALT 9	ALT 10	ALT 11	ALT 12
Natural						
Integrity - Apparent						
Naturalness	Fairly high	Fairly high	Fairly high	Fairly high	Fairly high	Fairly high
Solitude	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity
Primitive Recreation	Some opportunity	Some opportunity	Some opportunity	Some opportunity	Some opportunity	Some opportunity
Challenging Experiences	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence
Special Features	Mountain lakes unaffected	Mountain lakes unaffected	Mountain lakes unaffected	Mountain lakes unaffected	Mountain lakes unaffected	Mountain lakes unaffected



TABLE C

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF WILDERNESS/NON-WILDERNESS DESIGNATIONS ON  
THE PHYSICAL AND BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

Roadless Area 13902 Taylor Mountain

ENVIRONMENT	ALT 1	ALT 2	ALT 3	ALT 4	ALT 5	ALT 6
Potential Adverse Effects on Soil Productivity	: : Very slight	: : Slight	: : None	: : Moderate	: : Moderate	: : None
Potential Effects on Water Quality	: : Very slight	: : Slight	: : None	: : Moderate	: : Moderate	: : None
Air Quality	: : Meets class II state standards	: : Meets class II state standards	: : Meets class II state standards	: : Meets class II state standards	: : Meets class II state standards	: : Meets class II state standards
Potential Effects on Plant Communities	: : Timber harvest	: : Timber harvest	: : None	: : Timber harvest	: : Timber harvest	: : None
Wildlife Habitat Capability - Elk	: : Insignificant change	: : Slight adverse impact	: : Insignificant change	: : Moderate adverse impact	: : Moderate adverse impact	: : Insignificant change
Potential Effects on Fish Habitat Capability	: : Insignificant change	: : Slight adverse impact	: : Insignificant change	: : Moderate adverse impact	: : Moderate adverse impact	: : Insignificant change
ENVIRONMENT	ALT 7	ALT 8	ALT 9	ALT 10	ALT 11	ALT 12
Potential Adverse Effects on Soil Productivity	: : Very slight	: : None	: : None	: : None	: : None	: : Very slight
Potential Effects on Water Quality	: : None	: : None	: : None	: : None	: : None	: : None
Air Quality	: : Meets class II state standards	: : Meets class II state standards	: : Meets class II state standards	: : Meets class II state standards	: : Meets class II state standards	: : Meets class II state standards
Potential Effects on Plant Communities	: : Timber harvest	: : None	: : None	: : None	: : None	: : Timber harvest
Wildlife Habitat Capability - Elk	: : Insignificant change	: : Insignificant change	: : Insignificant change	: : Insignificant change	: : Insignificant change	: : Insignificant change
Potential Effects on Fish Habitat Capability	: : Insignificant change	: : Insignificant change	: : Insignificant change	: : Insignificant change	: : Insignificant change	: : Insignificant change

TABLE A. MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION (GOAL) BY ACRES  
ROADLESS AREA 902  
TAYLOR MOUNTAIN  
(Challis N F Portion)

	ALT 1	ALT 2	ALT 3	ALT 4	ALT 5	ALT 6	ALT 7	ALT 8	ALT 9	ALT 10	ALT 11
PRESCRIPTION (GOAL)	NO ACTION (CURRENT PROGRAM)	MARKET EMPHASIS	NON- MARKET EMPHASIS	RPA 1980 PROGRAM	MANAGEMENT RESPONSE TO I C O	CONSTRAINED (-25%) BUDGET	CURRENT PROGRAM CONSTRAINED BUDGET	MAXIMIZE WILDERNESS, AMENITY EMPHASIS	HIGH WILDERNESS COMMODITY EMPHASIS	CURRENT PROGRAM, UNCONST. BUDGET	1980 RPA MODIFIED (PREFERRED)
LOW LEVEL MANAGEMENT											
CURRENT TREND	14,940						14,940				14,940
CURRENT TREND AMENITY				14,940		14,940					
HIGH LEVEL AMENITY			14,940							14,940	
HIGH LEVEL COMMODITY		14,940			14,940						
WILDERNESS								14,940	14,940		

TABLE 3. IMPACTS ON WILDERNESS CHARACTER  
ROADLESS AREA 902  
TAYLOR MOUNTAIN  
(Challis N F. Portion)

	ALT 1	ALT 2	ALT 3	ALT 4	ALT 5	ALT 6	ALT 7	ALT 8	ALT 9	ALT 10	ALT 11
WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTIC	NO ACTION (CURRENT PROGRAM)	MARKET EMPHASIS	NON- MARKET EMPHASIS	RPA 1980 PROGRAM	MANAGEMENT RESPONSE TO I C.O	CONSTRAINED (~25%) BUDGET	CURRENT PROGRAM CONSTRAINED BUDGET	MAXIMIZE WILDERNESS, AMENITY EMPHASIS	HIGH WILDERNESS COMMODITY EMPHASIS	CURRENT PROGRAM, UNCONSTR. BUDGET	1980 RPA MODIFIED (PREFERRED)
NATURAL INTEGRITY APPARENT NATURALNESS	Fairly low.	Low because of roading and range improve- ments	Moderate.	Moderate.	Same as Alt. 2	Moderate.	Fairly low.	Fairly high.	Fairly high.	Moderate.	Low
SOLITUDE	Limited oppor- tunity in south half, some opportu- nity in north half.	No opportunity in south half, limited oppor- tunity in north half.	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 2	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1	Some opportu- nity in south half; good opportunity in north half.	Same as Alt. 8	Same as Alt. 1	Limited opportunity
PRIMITIVE RECREATION	Some opportunity.	Limited opportunity	Fairly good opportunity.	Fairly good opportunity.	Limited opportunity.	Fairly good opportunity.	Some opportunity.	Good opportunity.	Good opportunity.	Fairly good opportunity.	Limited opportunity
CHALLENGING EXPERIENCES	Winter sports	Winter sports	Winter sports	Winter sports	Winter sports	Winter sports	Winter sports	Winter sports	Winter sports	Winter sports	Winter sports
SPECIAL FEATURES	Rock features remain unaffected.	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1

TABLE C. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF WILDERNESS/NON-WILDERNESS DESIGNATIONS ON THE PHYSICAL AND BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT ROADLESS AREA 902 TAYLOR MOUNTAIN (Challis N.F. Portion)

ENVIRONMENT	ALT 1 NO ACTION (CURRENT PROGRAM)	ALT 2 MARKET EMPHASIS	ALT 3 NON- MARKET EMPHASIS	ALT 4 RPA 1980 PROGRAM	ALT 5 MANAGEMENT RESPONSE TO I C O	ALT 6 CONSTRAINED (-25%) BUDGET	ALT 7 CURRENT PROGRAM CONSTRAINED BUDGET	ALT 8 MAXIMIZE WILDERNESS, AMENITY EMPHASIS	ALT 9 HIGH WILDERNESS COMMODITY EMPHASIS	ALT 10 CURRENT PROGRAM, UNCONSTR.	ALT 11 1980 RPA MODIFIED (PREFERRED)
POTENTIAL ADVERSE EFFECTS ON SOIL PRODUCTIVITY	Slight on 44 acres, none on rest of unit.	Very slight throughout the unit.	Very slight on 202 acres, none on rest of unit.	Slight on 115 acres, none on rest of unit.	Same as Alt. 2	Slight on 42 acres, none on rest of unit.	Slight on 48 acres, none on rest of unit.	None.	None.	Very slight on 83 acres, none on rest of unit.	Severe on 175 acres, slight on 50 acres
POTENTIAL EFFECTS ON WATER QUALITY	None.	Very slightly adverse	None.	None.	Very slightly adverse.	None.	None.	None.	None.	None.	Moderately adverse
AIR QUALITY	Class II. State Standards met	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1	Class I. State standards met.	Same as Alt. 8	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1
ACTIVITIES IN PLANT COMMUNITIES	44 acres of wildlife habitat improvement.	None.	202 acres of wildlife habitat improvement.	115 acres of wildlife habitat improvement.	None.	42 acres of wildlife habitat improvement.	48 acres of wildlife habitat improvement.	None.	None.	83 acres of wildlife habitat improvement.	50 acres of wildlife habitat improvement, 175 acres of old-growth Douglas-fir harvested.
WILDLIFE HABITAT CAPABILITY*	DEER Insignificant change.	Insignificant change.	Moderate improvement.	Slight improvement.	Same as Alt. 2	Insignificant change.	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 2	Same as Alt. 2	Insignificant change.	Same as Alt. 1
	ELK Moderate improvement.	Insignificant change.	Substantial improvement.	Significant improvement.		Slight improvement.				Significant improvement.	
POTENTIAL EFFECTS ON FISH HABITAT CAPABILITY	No known fishery.	No known fishery.	No known fishery	No known fishery.	No known fishery.	No known fishery.	No known fishery.	No known fishery.	No known fishery.	No known fishery.	No known fishery

\* No change 0-2.9% acre increase, Slight improvement 3.0-4.9% acre increase, Moderate improvement 5.0-9.9% acre increase, Significant improvement. 10.0-24.9% increase, Substantial improvement. 25.0% + acre increase.

**13902**  
**TAYLOR MOUNTAIN**

**13902**

**13902**

**13902**

**LEGEND** 2/1/84

1 1/2 0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles

Scale

ROADLESS AREA BOUNDARY .....

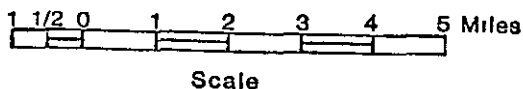
EXISTING DEVELOPMENTS .....


PLANNED DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY...


13902


1-3902

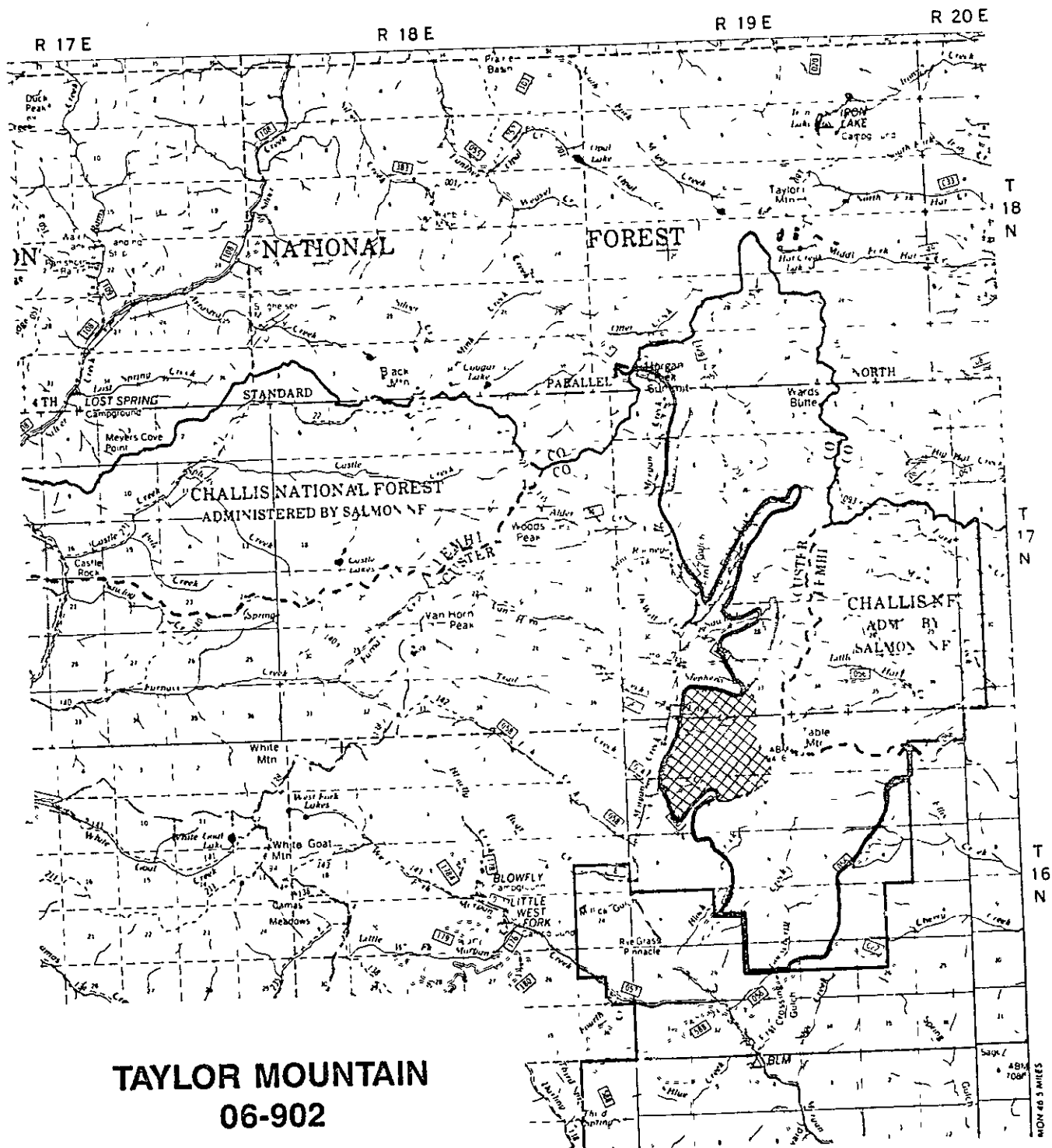
2/1/84



ROADLESS AREA BOUNDARY ..... 

EXISTING DEVELOPMENTS ..... 

PLANNED DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY-- 



## LEMHI RANGE

### ROADLESS AREA EVALUATION

No. 06-903 Challis National Forest (Formerly RARE I 4-503)

No. 13-903 Salmon National Forest (Formerly RARE I 4-503)

Challis Acres:	149,629
Salmon Acres:	153,498
	<u>303,127</u>

#### Description

The northern portion of the area is approximately 15 air miles south of Salmon, Idaho, and 20 air miles east of Challis, Idaho. The area continues in a southeasterly direction for a distance of 45 miles. This area lies within the Challis and Salmon National Forests. The area extends for approximately 50 miles along the Lemhi Mountain Range, and varies from three to ten miles wide. Except for a large area in Hayden Creek-Mill Creek, and smaller areas in Big Eightmile Creek and Little Timber Creek, the east boundary generally follows the Salmon Forest boundary. The west boundary generally follows the Challis Forest boundary. Access to the area can be gained via Forest roads originating in the Lemhi and Pahsimeroi Valleys.

The area is dissected by numerous small streams that drain into the Lemhi and Pahsimeroi Rivers. The streams in the northern portion drain into the Main Salmon River. Elevations range from 5,000 feet to 11,300 feet. The area is in the northern extension of the basin and range topography found in Utah and Nevada. The range trends northwest-southeast. Much of the high country has been glaciated and lakes have formed in the glacial cirque basins at the heads of many of the major drainages. The high country is typical of alpine glaciated country. Barren, rocky peaks and ridges occur throughout the area. Annual precipitation ranges from 15 to 25 inches, most of which occurs as snow. Temperatures range from summer highs of 80 to 90 degrees, and winter lows of 45 degrees below zero. Granites, quartzites, limestones, and volcanic rocks form the bedrock from which the soils are formed. The soil textures range from loamy sands to loamy clays. Lodgepole pine, Douglas fir, and subalpine fir are the tree species that occur in the area. Sage-grass communities are interspersed throughout the area. This area is classified as a western spruce-fir ecosystem type.

Current uses include livestock grazing, minerals exploration, firewood harvest, and recreation uses which include hunting, fishing, backpacking, horseback riding, and trailbike riding. Use was estimated at 20,100 Recreation Visitor Days in 1982.

The unit is substantially natural appearing.

Practically the entire area is a special attraction due to the outstanding scenery provided by the Lemhi Range. Several unconfirmed sightings in 1976-78 indicate the probable presence of the gray wolf. Mountain goat and bighorn sheep are also found in the area.

## Capability

The roadless area boundary generally follows the Forest boundaries. These boundaries do not follow natural topographical features. Logical and manageable boundaries could be developed but would require eliminating large acreages from the roadless area. The effects of existing intrusions could be mitigated by boundary changes. Size is not a factor with this unit as it is over 300,000 acres.

Table B addresses the natural integrity of the unit, and the opportunities for solitude, primitive recreation, and challenging experiences.

The Idaho Natural Area Coordinating Committee has recommended Federal Threatened status for a plant (Cymopterus donglassii) found in the proposed Sheep Mountain Research Natural Area, which is in this roadless area.

## Availability

### Resource Potentials and Use

Patterns, types, and amounts of recreation use could be expected to change should this unit be designated wilderness. Current motorized uses would be banned. The amount of use would increase slightly with the added interest of designated wilderness. The area contains outstanding scenery and excellent opportunities for hunting and fishing, all of which would become better known with the increased publicity accompanying designation.

This portion of the Lemhi Range is a large area with excellent vegetative and topographic diversity. Low timber productivity and ruggedness have combined to keep the area roadless and big game numbers reflect this condition. Key summer big game habitat in the form of abundant meadows and large blocks of dense lodgepole pine-subalpine fir timber exists throughout this area. Elk numbers are particularly high. Goats are common along the crest of the area. Excellent black bear habitat and populations exist in the major canyons and lower timber fringe areas. Antelope inhabit the lower elevation sagebrush slopes in the area and key big game winter range is present in the lower elevations of several major drainages. A wide variety of small birds and mammals ranging from sage grouse to snowshoe hares inhabit the area.

Numerous lakes and streams provide habitat for fish. Habitat conditions within the lake are excellent. One lake provides habitat for Arctic grayling which is found in only one other area on the Forest. Many of the streams support fish populations. The major resource coordination need at present is between livestock grazing and riparian management. Fishing use on the lakes is moderate to light with Basin, Bear Valley, and Buck Lakes receiving the most use. Fishing quality in the lakes is excellent. Fishing use of the streams is generally light. Big Timber Creek receives the heaviest use and supports the highest quality fishing. Fishing quality on area streams ranges from fair to excellent.

The area contains headwaters of many moderate sized parallel drainages, which are tributary to the Lemhi River along the east, the Pahsimeroi River along the west, and to the Salmon River on the north. Precipitation amounts range from low to moderate throughout the area. Much of the water yield is used



extensively for irrigation on downstream ranches. Many of the headwaters are in glaciated basins and contain small basin lakes. Watershed conditions are generally excellent, as is the quality of water produced.

There are portions of two sheep and goat, and 15 cattle and horse allotments within the roadless area. Sheep and goat allotments include Flat Iron and Gilmore. The two sheep allotments are currently grazed by 2,000 sheep and contribute approximately 800 Animal Unit Months (AUM) of livestock use. The majority of the suitable sheep range is classified as fair. The Gilmore sheep allotment is expected to be converted to cattle use in 1984, resulting in a decrease of 1200 sheep contributing 687 AUMs of use on the sheep allotments. Upon conversion, all sheep use will be within the roadless area. The fifteen cattle allotments are grazed by approximately 4,370 cattle and contributed approximately 9,920 AUMs of livestock use within the roadless area. Cattle use will be increased by about 300 AUMs with the conversion of the Gilmore allotment from sheep use. Range condition on the suitable cattle range is approximately 10 percent-excellent, 40 percent-fair, and 10 percent-poor. Range improvements within the roadless area boundary amount to 31 water developments, 82.4 miles of fence, and one stock bridge on McKim Creek.

Two proposed research natural areas (RNA), Mill Lake and Bear Valley, are within the roadless area and a third proposed RNA, Sheep Mountain, is partially within the roadless area. Due to the large size and diversity of the roadless area, it is likely there are other areas of ecological significance.

There is an estimated 526 million board feet (MBF) of sawtimber growing stock volume within the unit with an estimated potential annual yield of approximately 3.3 MMBF per year. This potential annual timber yield would be reduced due to the cost of roads and constraints by other resource needs, such as visuals, wildlife habitat, recreation, watershed, etc.

One intrusion in the extreme north unit resulted from a 1978 timber sale which harvested 1 million board feet from within the unit. Portions of the intrusions in the Hayden Creek area are a result of timber harvest in 1960 to 1970 which were erroneously included in the original roadless area review. An additional estimated 1 million board feet was harvested from these areas in two timber sales in 1974 and 1977. Approximately 1 million board feet were harvested from a 1971 timber sale in the Big Timber drainage. There has been a significant amount of post, pole, and firewood harvest along the Allison Creek Road. Timber sales are proposed in 1984 in the Mill Creek area for 2.3 million board feet, which will result in approximately 4.6 miles of roads. In 1985 a timber sale in the Big Eightmile Creek area for 1.5 million board feet will result in approximately 2.7 miles of roads. In 1986, a timber sale in the Hayden Creek area for 1.5 million board feet will result in approximately four miles of roads. In addition, a 1 million board feet sale is proposed in the Alder Creek area, a 100,000 board feet sale in Cow Creek for 1987, and a 300,000 board feet sale in Sagebrush Creek and a 1.5 million board feet sale is proposed in the Basin Creek area for 1988. The latter sales are not shown on the map due to lack of definite information as to their final locations.

The hardrock mineral potential of this area was rated as high in the RARE II evaluation. There is no new data to modify the original RARE II rating. Mineral production of record includes gold, silver, copper, lead, zinc, and

molybdenum. There is one producing mine within the roadless area boundaries. There are also a number of patented mining claims. Mining claim owners continue to do assessment work in this roadless area, with some expanding their claim activity. The area currently contains no active mining operations. Roads in Ennis Gulch, Fred and Mary Draw, and Allison Creek access mining claims and mineral exploration activity. There are lands prospectively valuable for geothermal resources in the northern portion of the area. There is currently one pending geothermal lease application for 640 acres in the Warm Springs Creek drainage. Oil and gas potential for the area varies from none to moderate. There are currently six pending oil and gas lease applications and eight oil and gas leases within the area. There is no potential for other currently leasable minerals.

Numerous prehistoric and historic cultural resources are known to exist in this unit. It is likely that several of the historic sites would warrant further investigation for their suitability for inclusion on the National Register.

There are several mining access roads within the area. Dairy Lake, Mill Creek, and Basin Lake are under Special Use Permit for irrigation water storage purposes. Parts of the area are used by four Outfitter and Guide permittees.

#### Management Considerations

Known fire occurrence is light in the area. Understory fuels are generally sparse and there is little potential for large fires.

Western spruce budworm is periodically killing understory Douglas fir seedlings and saplings and occasionally killing the tops of larger trees in portions of the area. The larger diameter stands of lodgepole at lower elevations run the risk of another mountain pine beetle epidemic. Dwarf mistletoe is common in lodgepole pine.

The area includes 12 tracts of private land totaling 2,088 acres.

#### Need

The nearest existing wilderness is the F C - River of No Return Wilderness located approximately 90 road miles to the west. Use throughout that wilderness area ranges from high to low, depending on the particular location. Use generally has not exceeded capacity, however.

The Lemhi Range roadless area is located approximately 30 miles from Salmon, Idaho, 110 miles from Idaho Falls, Idaho, and 160 miles from Missoula, Montana.

During RARE I this area was inventoried as the Lemhi Range #293, and Goldbug Ridge #308 roadless areas. The decision in the RARE I FEIS was to manage these areas for non-wilderness resource development. Public opinion received on the areas during RARE I, wilderness/nonwilderness, was divided. The area was not considered highly controversial during RARE I.

The Goldburg Ridge Roadless Area #308 was further evaluated in the Twelvemile Unit Land Management Plan (LMP). The decision in the LMP was to manage this area for non-wilderness resource development with a portion of the area being managed in a roadless condition. Again, public opinion was divided, but the wilderness/nonwilderness issue was not highly controversial in the LMP process.

The Lemhi Range Roadless Area #308 was further evaluated in the Twelvemile Unit Land Management Plan (LMP). The decision in the LMP was to manage this area for non-wilderness resource development with a portion of the area being managed in a roadless condition. Again, public opinion was divided, but the wilderness/non-wilderness issue was not highly controversial in the LMP process.

The Lemhi Range Roadless Area #293, Mogg Mountain #123, Big Creek #117, and Firebox #139 were inventoried and evaluated in RARE II as the Lemhi Range #04503. During the evaluation, the area was "split" into two units - East and West. The decision in the RARE II FEIS for the eastern unit was for non-wilderness resource management and further planning for the western unit. However, during the Carter Administration, the RARE II recommendations were reviewed, and the further planning recommendation was changed to a wilderness recommendation. During RARE II, public opinion was again divided but the wilderness/non-wilderness issue because highly controversial. The environmental groups included the area for wilderness in their RARE II Idaho Citizens' Alternative "W". The environmental groups have strongly supported the Carter Administration recommendation for 168,456 acres of wilderness.

Senator McClure held "Idaho Forest Mangement Act" hearings in Coeur d'Alene, Lewiston, Boise, and Idaho Falls during August 1983. Prior to these meetings, the Senator sent out a constituent letter with four proposals, i.e., the Forest Service RARE II, Forest Industries, other commodity user groups, and the 1979 Idaho Wilderness Federation proposal. Following the hearings, Senator McClure has received additional input from the environmental groups and the Governor of Idaho. The environmental groups have recommended wilderness for approximately 180,000 acres on the "North Lemhis". Governor Evans recommended roadless management for 280,660 acres on the "West Lemhi" area (the RARE II Forest Service Further Planning recommendation with no boundary adjustments for manageability).

The Idaho Fish and Game Commission provided input to Governor Evans for both wilderness and roadless management areas over the State. They did not make any recommendations on the Lemhi Range.

This roadless area serves to contribute to stream and river water quality maintenance. As a result of this river quality, a salmonid fishery is sustained. This fishery is a part of an integral food chain which ultimately supports the endangered bald eagle as well as other unlisted mammalian and avian predators.

Public opinion continues to be divided on this area and the wilderness/non-wilderness/roadless management issue is considered highly controversial on the Lemhi Range Roadless Areas.

The following numbers show adjustments made since the RARE II inventory for the Challis National Forest.

146,950	RARE II acreage
150,743	Acreage recalculation
<u>-1,114</u>	Timber sale intrusion
149,629	Present roadless acreage

For the Salmon National Forest the adjustments made since RARE II are:

193,480	RARE II acreage	<u>1/</u>
159,856	Acreage recalculation	
<u>-6,358</u>	Intrusions	
153,498	Present	

Preferred Alternative Recommendation (Salmon National Forest portion)

This area is not recommended for wilderness designation in the preferred alternative.

Natural integrity will be impacted slightly in certain areas by wildlife habitat and range improvements. No other resource activities are predicted which would preclude this area from consideration for wilderness during the next Plan revision. Mineral potential is high. Timing of possible mineral development is not known, but if development should occur, the area disturbed by mining and access construction would be precluded from further wilderness consideration.

1/ This acreage includes the area now designated as Roadless Area 13903a Goldbug Ridge.

Effects of Wilderness/Nonwilderness Management Prescriptions

TABLE A  
MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION BY FOREST PLAN ALTERNATIVE

(Acres)

13903 Roadless Area 06903 Lemhi Range		Forest Plan Alternative (Compatible Challis NF Alternatives are in parentheses)										
Management Prescription	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12 (preferred)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)		(6)	(5)			(9)	(8)	(11)
Salmon NF												
7A Proposed												
Wilderness	76,749	84,424	102,844	102,844			72,144	102,844	128,938	128,938	153,498	
Challis NF												
Proposed												
Wilderness	93,000		149,629							149,629	149,629	
Total	169,749	84,424	252,473	102,844			72,144	102,844	128,938	278,567	303,127	
Salmon NF												
Nonwilderness*												
2A			9,526			149,821	115			282	159	28,104
2A-1												71,272
2B			38,145									10,466
3A-5B												4,242
3A-5E	2,844					948	1,577	4,441	1,005			
4A								1,868	922			
4B-1	3,060	1,776		2,834	2,709	15	7,137	6,191	8,589	2,552		3,479
4B-3	6,660											
5B		32,003		16,887	107,944					11,969		16,375
5C	33,450	21,434		21,139	40,534		18,506	21,043		6,532		18,008
5E	24,367						28,595	7,870	7,818			
5F						519	20,598	1,401	1,181			
8A	6,368	13,861	2,893	9,704	2,311	2,195	4,826	7,750	4,763	3,348		1,552
Challis NF												
Nonwilderness <u>2/</u>	56,629	149,629		149,629		149,629	149,629					149,629

\* See Alternative map for prescription description.

1/ Two Challis NF Alternatives are not compatible with Salmon NF Alternatives. Neither Alternative proposes wilderness.

2/ Nonwilderness prescriptions for the Challis NF portions of the roadless area are analyzed in the Challis NF DEIS

TABLE B  
IMPACTS ON WILDERNESS CHARACTER

Roadless Area 13903 Lemhi Range

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS	ALT 1	ALT 2	ALT 3	ALT 4	ALT 5	ALT 6
Natural Integrity - Apparent Naturalness	High	High	High	High	High	High
Solitude	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity
Primitive Recreation	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity
Challenging Experiences	Cross-country travel	Cross-country travel	Cross-country travel	Cross-country travel	Cross-country travel	Cross-country travel
Special Features	Mountain peaks unaffected	Mountain peaks unaffected	Mountain peaks unaffected	Mountain peaks unaffected	Mountain peaks unaffected	Mountain peaks unaffected
WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS	ALT 7	ALT 8	ALT 9	ALT 10	ALT 11	ALT 12
Natural Integrity - Apparent Naturalness	High	High	High	High	High	High
Solitude	High	High	High	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity
Primitive Recreation	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity
Challenging Experiences	Cross-country travel	Cross-country travel	Cross-country travel	Cross-country travel	Cross-country travel	Cross-country travel
Special Features	Mountain peaks unaffected	Mountain peaks unaffected	Mountain peaks unaffected	Mountain peaks unaffected	Mountain peaks unaffected	Mountain peaks unaffected

TABLE C

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF WILDERNESS/NON-WILDERNESS DESIGNATIONS ON  
THE PHYSICAL AND BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

Roadless Area 13903 Lemhi Range

ENVIRONMENT	ALT 1	ALT 2	ALT 3	ALT 4	ALT 5	ALT 6
Potential Adverse Effects on Soil Productivity	None	None	None	None	None	None
Potential Effects on Water Quality	None	None	None	None	None	None
Air Quality	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards
Potential Effects on Plant Communities	None	None	None	None	None	None
Wildlife Habitat Capability - Elk	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change
Potential Effects on Fish Habitat Capability	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change
ENVIRONMENT	ALT 7	ALT 8	ALT 9	ALT 10	ALT 11	ALT 12
Potential Adverse Effects on Soil Productivity	None	None	None	None	None	None
Potential Effects on Water Quality	None	None	None	None	None	None
Air Quality	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards
Potential Effects on Plant Communities	None	None	None	None	None	None
Wildlife Habitat Capability - Elk	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change
Potential Effects on Fish Habitat Capability	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change

TABLE A. MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION (GOAL) BY ACRES  
ROADLESS AREA 903  
LEHIGH RANGE  
(Challis N.F. Portion)

	ALT 1	ALT 2	ALT 3	ALT 4	ALT 5	ALT 6	ALT 7	ALT 8	ALT 9	ALT 10	ALT 11
PRESCRIPTION (GOAL)	NO ACTION (CURRENT PROGRAM)	MARKET EMPHASIS	NON- MARKET EMPHASIS	RPA 1980 PROGRAM	MANAGEMENT RESPONSE TO I.C.O.	CONSTRAINED (-25%) BUDGET	CURRENT PROGRAM CONSTRAINED BUDGET	MAXIMIZE WILDERNESS, AMENITY EMPHASIS	HIGH WILDERNESS COMMODITY EMPHASIS	CURRENT PROGRAM, UNCONSTR. BUDGET	1980 RPA MODIFIED (PREFERRED)
LOW LEVEL MANAGEMENT						116,850				116,850	
CURRENT TREND	56,629			149,629	116,850	32,779	149,629				149,629
CURRENT TREND AMENITY		32,779									
HIGH LEVEL AMENITY										32,779	
HIGH LEVEL COMMODITY		116,850			32,779						
WILDERNESS	93,000		149,629					149,629	149,629		



TABLE B. IMPACTS ON WILDERNESS CHARACTER  
ROADLESS AREA 903  
LEHMI RANGE  
(Challis N.F. Portion)

	ALT 1	ALT 2	ALT 3	ALT 4	ALT 5	ALT 6	ALT 7	ALT 8	ALT 9	ALT 10	ALT 11
	NO ACTION (CURRENT PROGRAM)	MARKET EMPHASIS	NON- MARKET EMPHASIS	RPA 1980 PROGRAM	MANAGEMENT RESPONSE TO I C O	CONSTRAINED (-25%) BUDGET	CURRENT PROGRAM CONSTRAINED BUDGET	MAXIMIZE WILDERNESS, AMENITY EMPHASIS	HIGH WILDERNESS COMMODITY EMPHASIS	CURRENT PROGRAM, UNCONSTR. BUDGET	1980 RPA MODIFIED (PREFERRED)
WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS											
NATURAL INTEGRITY APPARENT NATURALNESS	High, few intrusions.	Fairly high at higher eleva- tions, intru- sions at lower elevations.	Very high, reduced intrusions.	Same as Alt. 2	Same as Alt. 2	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 3	Same as Alt. 3	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1
SOLITUDE	Good opportunity.	Fairly good opportunity at higher elevations.	Excellent opportunity	Same as Alt. 2	Same as Alt. 2	Same as Alt. 2	Good opportunity.	Excellent opportunity.	Excellent opportunity.	Good opportunity.	Good opportunity.
PRIMITIVE RECREATION	Very good opportunity.	Good opportunity.	Excellent opportunity	Good opportunity.	Good opportunity.	Good opportunity.	Very good opportunity.	Excellent opportunity.	Excellent opportunity.	Very good opportunity.	Very good opportunity.
CHALLENGING EXPERIENCES	Technical and non-technical climbing, cross-country travel, and long distance trail hiking.	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1
SPECIAL FEATURES	Mountain peaks, Same as mountain lakes, Alt. 1 alpine coun- try, and rock formations remain unaffected.		Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1

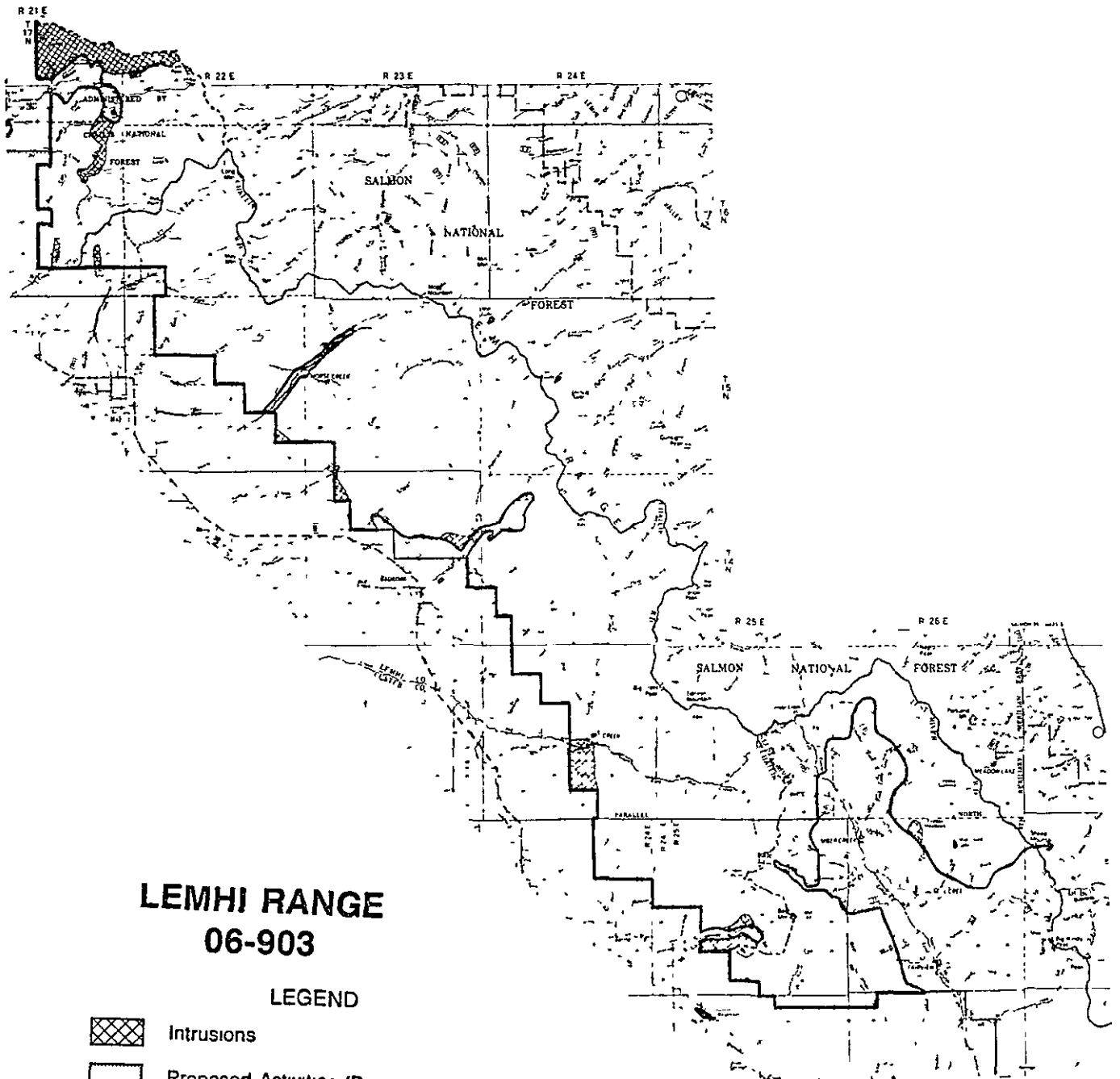
TABLE C. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF WILDERNESS/NON-WILDERNESS DESIGNATIONS ON THE PHYSICAL AND BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT  
ROADLESS AREA 903  
LEMHI RANGE  
(Challis N.F. Portion)

ENVIRONMENT	ALT 1 NO ACTION (CURRENT PROGRAM)	ALT 2 MARKET EMPHASIS	ALT 3 NON- MARKET EMPHASIS	ALT 4 RPA 1980 PROGRAM	ALT 5 MANAGEMENT RESPONSE TO I C O	ALT 6 CONSTRAINED (~25%) BUDGET	ALT 7 CURRENT PROGRAM CONSTRAINED BUDGET	ALT 8 MAXIMIZE WILDERNESS, AMENITY EMPHASIS	ALT 9 HIGH WILDERNESS COMMODITY EMPHASIS	ALT 10 CURRENT PROGRAM, UNCONSTR. BUDGET	ALT 11 1980 RPA MODIFIED (PREFERRED)
POTENTIAL ADVERSE EFFECTS ON SOIL PRODUCTIVITY	Slight on 291 acres, none on rest of unit.	Severe on 1595 acres, slight on rest of unit.	None	Severe on 1595 acres, slight on 1465 acres, None on rest of unit.	Severe on 1595 acres, slight on 325 acres, Very slight on rest of unit.	Slight on 1595 acres, slight on 122 acres, Very slight on rest of unit.	Slight on 605 acres, none on rest of unit.	None.	None.	Very slight throughout the unit.	Slight on 639 acres, none on rest of unit.
POTENTIAL EFFECTS ON WATER QUALITY	None	Moderately adverse.	None.	Moderately adverse.	Moderately adverse.	Moderately adverse.	None.	None.	None.	Very slightly adverse.	None
AIR QUALITY	Class II State Standards met	Same as Alt. 1	Class I State standards met.	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 3	Same as Alt. 3	Same as Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 1
ACTIVITIES IN PLANT COMMUNITIES	291 acres of wildlife habitat improvement.	257 acres of wildlife habitat improvement, 1595 acres of old-growth Douglas-fir harvested	None.	1465 acres of wildlife habitat improvement, 1595 acres of old-growth Douglas-fir harvested.	325 acres of wildlife habitat improvement, 1595 acres of old-growth Douglas-fir harvested.	122 acres of wildlife habitat improvement, 1595 acres of old-growth Douglas-fir harvested.	605 acres of wildlife habitat improvement.	None.	None.	240 acres of wildlife habitat improvement.	639 acres of wildlife habitat improvement.
WILDLIFE HABITAT CAPABILITY*	DEER Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Same as Alt. 2	Slight improvement.	Same as Alt. 2	Same as Alt. 2	Insignificant change.	Same as Alt. 2	Same as Alt. 2	Same as Alt. 2	Same as Alt. 7
	ELK Slight improvement	Insignificant change		Significant improvement.			Moderate improvement.				
POTENTIAL EFFECTS ON FISH HABITAT CAPABILITY	None.	Moderately adverse	None.	Moderately adverse.	Moderately adverse.	Moderately adverse	None.	None.	None.	Very slightly adverse.	None

\* No change 0-2 9% acre increase, Slight improvement 3 0-4 9% acre increase, Moderate improvement 5 0-9 9% acre increase, Significant improvement 10 0-24.9% increase, Substantial improvement 25 0% + acre increase.











# **LEMHI RANGE 06-903**

## **LEGEND**

-  Intrusions
-  Proposed Activities (Proposed Timber Sales Through 1990)
-  Roadless Area Boundary
-  Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness Boundary

## ROADLESS AREA EVALUATION

### GOLDBUG RIDGE ROADLESS AREA

SALMON NATIONAL FOREST #13903A -- 11,514 Net Acres

#### 1. Description

During the Forest Planning initial review of inventoried roadless lands, the Goldbug Ridge Roadless Area #13903A was included in the Lemhi Range Roadless Area #13903. Recent public and in-service reviews of RARE II areas have identified existing roads on Long Ridge and in upper Copper and Warm Spring Creeks. This road system has created a roadless area not contiguous with the rest of the Lemhi Range Roadless Area and is now being evaluated as a separate roadless area.

The Goldbug Ridge Roadless Area is approximately 15 air miles south of Salmon, Idaho, and 20 air miles east of Challis, Idaho. The western boundary follows the Forest boundary. The eastern boundary follows the ridge between Twelvemile Creek and the main Salmon River tributaries of Dummy, Briney, and Second Creeks, crosses the head of Meadow Creek, then crosses the upper Warm Spring Creek drainage to the Forest boundary. The southern boundary follows Long Ridge in the Phantom Creek area. Access to the Goldbug Ridge Roadless Area can be gained via roads and trails in Twelvemile, Warm Spring, Poison, and Phantom Creeks.

The roadless area is dissected by numerous small streams that drain into the Salmon River. Elevations range from 5000 feet to over 9300 feet at Poison Peak. The area is the northern extension of the basin and range topography found in Utah and Nevada. The high country does not have the evidence of alpine glaciation that is typical of the area to the south. The topography is more subdued with broad rounded ridges. Annual precipitation ranges from 15 to 25 inches, most of which occurs as snow. Temperatures range from summer highs of 80 to 90 degrees to wintertime lows of -40 degrees. Quartzites, limestones, and volcanic rocks form the bedrock. Soil textures range from loamy sands to loamy clays. Lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir, and subalpine fir are the tree species. Sagebrush and grass are interspersed throughout the area. The ecosystems are western spruce-fir and sagebrush.

Three intrusions were identified within the inventory boundary. One is timber related and located along Goldbug Ridge on the north end of the roadless area. The other two are mining and ORV related road corridors up Poison Creek and Phantom Creek on the southwest, southern and southeastern portion of the area. The area directly impacted by these activities total 3,791 acres which no longer meet roadless area criteria and will not be considered further for wilderness. No additional activities are currently planned in the remaining area.

Current uses include grazing, minerals, exploration, and recreation uses primarily related to big game hunting, fishing, backpacking, horseback riding, trailbike riding, and use of natural hot springs. Use was estimated at 1200 RVD's in 1982.

The area is essentially natural appearing.

horseback riding, trailbike riding, and use of natural hot springs. Use was estimated at 1200 RVD's in 1982.

The area is essentially natural appearing.

The hot spring pools located in Warm Spring Creek are a significant special attraction.

## 2. Capability

Logical and manageable boundaries could easily be developed for this unit. Size is not a factor.

There has been a very low influence of man on the natural integrity of most of the area. A few trails dissect the area.

Visitors would find this unit to be apparently natural.

Due to moderate size, very good topographic screening, good vegetative screening, good diversity, and lack of developed recreation facilities, the area offers a high opportunity for solitude and for primitive recreation experiences.

The area offers few opportunities for challenging experiences or encountering serious hazards.

## 3. Availability

Patterns, types and amounts of recreation use are not expected to significantly change regardless of classification. Current high use of the hot springs will continue.

The Goldbug Ridge area is a large area with excellent vegetative and topographic diversity. Low timber productivity and ruggedness have combined to keep the area roadless, and big game numbers reflect this condition. Key summer elk and mule deer habitat in the form of abundant meadows and large blocks of dense lodgepole pine - subalpine fir timber exists throughout this area. Elk numbers are particularly high. Mountain goats are found along the crest of the area and bighorn sheep are occasionally observed throughout. Excellent black bear habitat and populations exist in the major canyons and fringes of lower elevation timber. Antelope inhabit the lower elevation sagebrush slopes in the area, and key big game winter range is present in the lower elevations of several major drainages. A wide variety of small birds and mammals ranging from sage grouse to snowshoe hares inhabit the area.

This area contains two streams supporting populations of resident trout. Fish production is very high because of the limestone parent materials in the drainage. Habitats have been influenced by

grazing and ORV use of the area. Fishing use is light to moderate with quality being good to excellent.

The area contains headwaters of several moderate sized drainages which are tributary to the main Salmon River. Much of the water yield is used for irrigation on ranches in the Salmon River valley. Watershed conditions are generally excellent as is the quality of water produced.

Portions of two cattle and horse allotments are within the roadless area. The two allotments are grazed by 633 cattle and produce approximately 2214 AUM's of livestock use. Range conditions are mostly good and fair with a small amount of poor condition range. Range improvements within the roadless area boundary amount to 6 water developments, 10.3 miles of fence, and 1 stock bridge.

An estimated 37 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated potential annual yield of approximately 0.25 million board feet per year.

The area has moderate to high potential for silver.

There are lands prospectively valuable for geothermal resources on the western edge of this area. There is currently one pending geothermal lease application within the area. Oil and gas potential of the area is low. There is no potential for other currently leasable minerals. There is one BPA-identified potential power corridor through the area.

Little is known about the existence of prehistoric or historic cultural resources in the area. The potential for prehistoric sites would be considered moderate in the vicinity of the hot springs pools.

#### Management Considerations

Known fire occurrence is very light in the area. Understory fuels are generally sparse and there is little potential for large fires.

Western spruce budworm periodically kills understory Douglas-fir seedlings and saplings, and occasionally kills the tops of larger trees in portions of the area. The stands of large diameter lodgepole at lower elevations run the risk of a mountain pine beetle epidemic. Dwarf mistletoe is common in lodgepole pine.

#### 4. Need

The nearest existing wilderness is the Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness, located approximately 80 road miles to the west. Use of that wilderness ranges from high to low, depending on the particular location. Use generally has not exceeded capacity, however.



The Goldbug Ridge Roadless Area is approximately 20 miles from Salmon, Idaho; 110 miles from Idaho Falls, Idaho; and, 160 miles from Missoula, Montana.

During RARE I this area was inventoried as the Goldbug Ridge #308 roadless area. The decision in the RARE I FEIS was to manage this area for non-wilderness resource development. Public opinion received on the area during RARE I, wilderness/non-wilderness, was divided. The area was not considered highly controversial during RARE I.

The Goldbug Ridge Roadless Area #308 was further evaluated in the Twelvemile unit Land Management Plan (LMP). The decision in the LMP was to manage this area for non-wilderness resource development, with the area south and west of Twelvemile Creek managed in a roadless condition. Again public opinion was divided but the wilderness/non-wilderness issue was not highly controversial in the LMP process.

The Goldbug Ridge Roadless Area #308 was not inventoried in RARE II because of decisions reached in the Twelvemile Land Management Plan.

The area does not contain any ecosystems determined from RARE II to be in need of representation in the wilderness system.

Senator McClure held "Idaho Forest Management Act" hearings in Coeur d'Alene, Lewiston, Boise, and Idaho Falls during August 1983. Prior to these meetings, the Senator sent out a constituent letter with four proposals, i.e., the Forest Service RARE II, Forest Industries, Other Commodity user groups, and the 1979 Idaho Wildlife Federation proposal. Following the hearings, Senator McClure received additional input from the environmental groups for approximately 180,000 acres on the "North Lemhis."

A small portion of this acreage is actually within the Goldbug Ridge Roadless Area.

During the Forest Planning review of inventoried roadless lands, public opinion was again divided ranging from no wilderness to all wilderness. Earth First! recommended wilderness for the entire area. The Idaho Mining Association, Idaho Cattlemen's Association, Outdoors Unlimited, Idaho Farm Bureau, Idaho Wool Growers, Idaho Trail Machine Association, Idaho Forest Industries Council, and Idaho Women in Timber all recommended no wilderness for Goldbug Ridge Roadless Area.

Senator McClure has introduced the Idaho Forest Management Act (IFMA) in the Senate. The proposed legislation has unanimous support from the Idaho Congressional Delegation and would designate approximately 526,064 acres of roadless lands as wilderness across the State. The Goldbug Ridge Roadless Area was not included in the IFMA.

Following introduction of the IFMA new and/or modified recommendations have been submitted to the Idaho Congressional Delegation for the inclusion of more roadless lands as wilderness.

The Idaho Wildlands Defense Coalition recommendation remained at 180,000 acres for the Lemhi Range which included part of Goldbug Ridge. No other recommendations were specific for Goldbug Ridge.

The Goldbug Ridge Roadless Area was considered slightly controversial during the Forest Plan review of roadless lands.

#### Preferred Alternative Recommendation

This area is not recommended for wilderness designation in the preferred alternative.

No activities are predicted which would preclude consideration of this area for wilderness during the next Forest Plan revision. Mineral potential for silver is moderate to high. Timing of possible development of the minerals resource is not known, but if development should occur, the areas disturbed by mining and access construction would be precluded from further wilderness consideration.

Effects of Wilderness/Nonwilderness Management Prescriptions

TABLE A

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION BY FOREST PLAN ALTERNATIVE

(Acres)

Roadless Area. 13903A Goldbug Ridge		Forest Plan Alternative										
Management Prescription	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12 (preferred)
7A Proposed Wilderness			8,175	8,175				8,175	8,175	8,175	11,514	
Nonwilderness*												
2A	10,724		678			11,280	11,234					
2B			1,784									7,208
4B-1		1,318	95			26		194	800			3,653
5B										284		239
5C							254			2,373		414
5D							26	701				
5E								2,444	2,539			
5F						208					682	

\* Refer to Alternative map for prescription description

TABLE B  
IMPACTS ON WILDERNESS CHARACTER

Roadless Area 13903A Goldbug Ridge

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS	ALT 1	ALT 2	ALT 3	ALT 4	ALT 5	ALT 6
Natural Integrity - Apparent Naturalness	High	High	High	High	High	High
Solitude	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity
Primitive Recreation	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity
Challenging Experiences	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence
Special Features	Warm Springs Canyon not affected	Warm Springs Canyon not affected	Warm Springs Canyon not affected	Warm Springs Canyon not affected	Warm Springs Canyon not affected	Warm Springs Canyon not affected

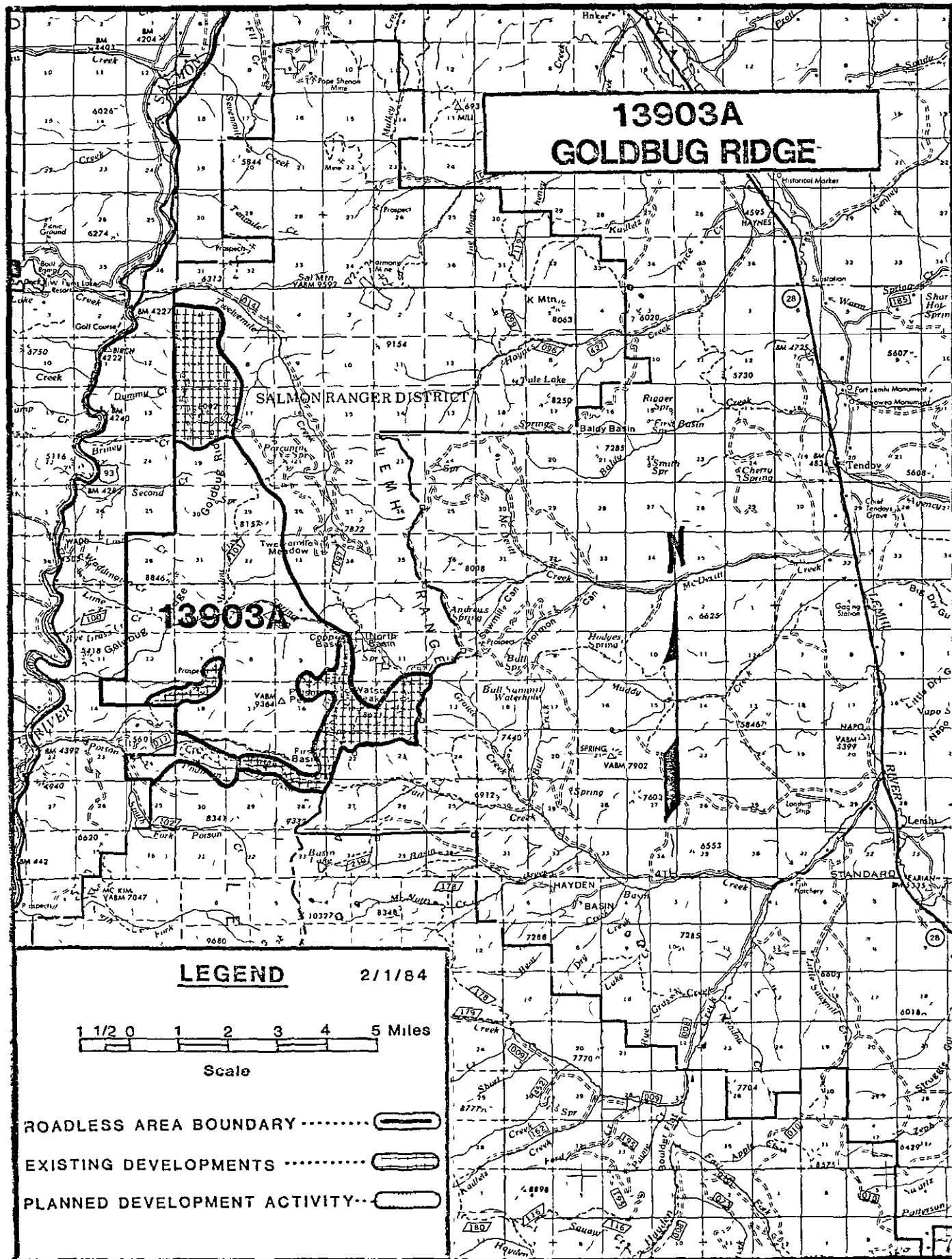
WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS	ALT 7	ALT 8	ALT 9	ALT 10	ALT 11	ALT 12
Natural Integrity - Apparent Naturalness	High	High	High	High	High	High
Solitude	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity
Primitive Recreation	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity
Challenging Experiences	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence
Special Features	Warm Springs Canyon not affected	Warm Springs Canyon not affected	Warm Springs Canyon not affected	Warm Springs Canyon not affected	Warm Springs Canyon not affected	Warm Springs Canyon not affected

TABLE C

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF WILDERNESS/NON-WILDERNESS DESIGNATIONS ON  
THE PHYSICAL AND BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

Roadless Area 13903A Goldbug Ridge

ENVIRONMENT	ALT 1	ALT 2	ALT 3	ALT 4	ALT 5	ALT 6
Potential Adverse Effects on Soil Productivity	None	None	None	None	None	None
Potential Effects on Water Quality	None	None	None	None	None	None
Air Quality	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards
Potential Effects on Plant Communities	None	None	None	None	None	None
Wildlife Habitat Capability - Elk	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change
Potential Effects on Fish Habitat Capability	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change
ENVIRONMENT	ALT 7	ALT 8	ALT 9	ALT 10	ALT 11	ALT 12
Potential Adverse Effects on Soil Productivity	None	None	None	None	None	None
Potential Effects on Water Quality	None	None	None	None	None	None
Air Quality	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards
Potential Effects on Plant Communities	None	None	None	None	None	None
Wildlife Habitat Capability - Elk	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change
Potential Effects on Fish Habitat Capability	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change



ROADLESS AREA EVALUATION

BLUE JOINT ROADLESS AREA  
SALMON NATIONAL FOREST #13941  
BITTERROOT NATIONAL FOREST #01941

This entire roadless area is evaluated in Appendix C of the Bitterroot National Forest Draft Environmental Impact Statement. That evaluation is reproduced on the following pages.

## II. BLUE JOINT ROADLESS AREA

This area is identified by number 01941 (Bitterroot Forest) and 13941 (Salmon Forest). Roadless area acreage is:

<u>National Forest</u>	<u>Gross Acres</u>	<u>Net Acres</u>
Bitterroot	65,370	65,370
Salmon	490	490
Total	65,860	65,860

### A. Description

The roadless area is located in the Bitterroot Mountains in southwestern Ravalli County in western Montana with a small portion in Lemhi County, Idaho. Hamilton, Montana, is about 45 air miles to the north and Salmon, Idaho, is 40 air miles to the south. Access is provided at many points along the boundary by Forest roads which tie in with U.S. Highway 93, some 20 miles to the northeast. Within the area, a network of eight trails provides access along major drainages and ridgetops.

Blue Joint is a triangular-shaped area running 13 miles north and south and ranging in width from 4 to 13 miles. The west side borders the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness in Idaho for about 17 miles. The rest of the area is defined by roads; primarily the West Fork Road and extensions from it. The Nez Perce Road defines the northern boundary separating this area from the adjacent Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness and contiguous roadless lands. Likewise, the Reynolds Lake Road defines the southern boundary, separating the area from that portion of the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness in the headwaters of Reynolds Creek. Seventy-five percent of the boundary is well-defined by topographic features such as ridgetops or streams, and the remainder is at midslope above roads and/or timber harvest.

Elevations range from 4,900 to 8,600 feet. The area is generally a high, mountainous region with 50 percent of the area over 7,000 feet. Razorback Ridge and Razorback Mountain, dominant features, divide the area into northwest and southeast portions. Blue Joint Creek, by far the largest stream, drains the northwestern segment; and Chicken, Deer, and West Creeks drain the southeast. Stream bottoms are generally narrow with sideslopes rising steeply to narrow ridges. Slopes on more than one-half of the area are in excess of 60 percent, thereby confining most use to stream bottoms or ridgetops.

The area is forested except for the unique large meadows in the headwaters of Deer and Blue Joints Creeks and dry, south-facing slopes. At higher elevations rock rubble and grassy balds are common. Tree species are predominantly Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine on the warmer, lower elevation sites and lodgepole pine on cooler sites at midslope. Near the top of the higher ridges, whitebark pine is a dominant species. Ground cover is primarily pine grass, snowberry, and ninebark at lower elevations and beargrass or grouse whortleberry on higher, cooler sites.

In the Blue Joint drainage, forest fires in the late 1800's burned over most of the area. Today, small lodgepole pine stands cover this portion contrasting with the rest of the area.



## **B. Analysis of Wilderness Suitability**

### **1. Wilderness Attributes**

#### **a. Natural Integrity and Appearance**

Activities that have significantly altered natural processes are minimal and just inside the eastern and southeastern boundaries. These include all or portions of seven timber sale cutting units totaling about 170 acres and 3 miles of associated access roads. The boundary could be defined to exclude these impacts. There is a 3/4-mile fire road in the extreme headwaters of Blue Joint Creek, and about 1 mile of dozer trail in lower Blue Joint Creek.

These impacts are readily apparent to any visitor when onsite; however, the remainder of the area appears natural. The roads have permanently altered natural processes, but cutting units will recover to nearly natural conditions in 20-30 years.

#### **b. Opportunities for Solitude**

The northwest portion of the area is entirely enclosed by high ridges and provides outstanding solitude. This feeling is enhanced by the many miles of wilderness to the west and south. No development can be seen or heard.

Solitude is somewhat lower in the southeast portion. About 2 miles of road in Deer Creek, outside the area, form a roaded intrusion into the headwaters of that drainage. Distant views include roads and timber sale activity just outside the area.

Civilization appears close at hand along the northern and eastern boundaries and from that portion within Woods Creek. About 40 percent of the area provides outstanding opportunities for solitude, another 40 percent provides high to moderate opportunities, and 20 percent provides low opportunities.

#### **c. Primitive Recreation Opportunities**

These include hiking, big- and small-game hunting, fishing, and viewing a moderate diversity of vegetation and wildlife.

#### **d. Other Features**

Significant scenic attractions include two prominent landmarks, meadows in the upper reaches of Blue Joint and Deer Creeks, and wide panoramas viewed from the major divides. The landmarks are Castle Rock, the remnant of a volcanic plug, and a natural rock arch east of the confluence of Jack the Ripper and Blue Joint Creeks. Parts of the Southern Nez Perce Indian Trail traverse the Montana/Idaho ridge and Bare Cone Lookout is in the northern portion of the area. Several archeological sites are associated with the trail.

## 2. Manageability and Boundaries

RARE II area A1941 comprises the roadless area. The following adjustment in net acres has taken place since the RARE II inventory:

<u>Adjustment</u>	<u>---National Forest---</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>Bitterroot</u>	<u>Salmon</u>	<u>Acres</u>
RARE II inventory	126,500	19,905	146,405
Added to wilderness (P.L. 96-312)	-65,100	-19,415	-85,005
Land added to inventory	--		
Refined acreage calculation	+3,970		+3970
Current inventory	65,370	+490	65,860

Approximately 85,000 acres have been designated wilderness (P.L.96-312, establishing the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness). Boundary decisions excluded two parcels in Idaho from wilderness. These are contiguous with the Congressionally designated Blue Joint Wilderness Study Area (P.L. 95-150) in Montana and will be further evaluated for wilderness/nonwilderness uses in that process.

The Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness is about 2,230,000 acres, bordering the west side of this area for about 17 miles. Boundaries are well-defined by topography along 75 percent of the perimeter. The remainder would be difficult to describe and locate on-the-ground since it is midslope, either passing through or lying immediately above roads and development. Roads and timber harvest in Coal Creek and Woods Creek would not be realistic to manage as wilderness. Eliminating these impacts would remove about 4,000 acres from consideration as wilderness and would place boundaries on recognizable topographic features. The area could be managed as an addition to the Frank Church-River of No Return or as a separate wilderness.

A large core area composed of the Blue Joint drainage (45 percent of the area) with exceptional wilderness characteristics has been identified. It is entirely enclosed by high ridgetops which effectively screen out off-area evidence of civilization. Another 15 percent in the upper reaches of Deer and Chicken Creeks has high wilderness characteristics but is less effectively screened from off-area impacts. The above boundary adjustment enhance the area's naturalness and solitude and retains most of the highest primitive recreation attributes and special features. Solitude is also enhanced by the adjoining wilderness. The adjustment also removes much of the better timber producing lands that are the most physically suited for development, and nonconforming uses and development. Most areas of high mineral potential cannot be separated without seriously eroding wilderness characteristics.

The area is entirely National Forest. Nonconforming uses consist of a minor amount of trailbiking, chain saws for clearing trails, and firewood cutting by hunters and campers. There are no contractual agreements or known statutory rights, and no oil/gas leases.

# C. Availability for Wilderness

## 1. Resource Potential and Use

Table C-6

Blue Joint Roadless Area Resource Potential and Use

Category	Unit	-----Forest-----		Total
		Bitterroot	Salmon	
Gross area	Acres	65,370	490	65,860
Net area	Acres	65,370	490	65,860
Recreation				
Primitive	RVD's	0	0	0
Semiprim. nonmotor.	RVD's	0	0	0
Semiprim. motor.	RVD's	1,300	0	1,300
Roaded natural	RVD's	200	100	300
Wildlife habitat				
Elk & deer				
Summer range	Acres	60,919	490	61,409
Winter range	Acres	4,451	0	4,451
Rocky mountain goat	Acres	400	0	400
Bighorn sheep	Acres	2,000	0	2,000
Fisheries streams	Miles	51	0	51
Lakes	Number	0	0	0
Fisheries lakes	Acres	0	0	0
Water developments	Number	0	0	0
Range				
Current use	AUM's	130	0	130
Suitable rangeland	Acres	1,172	0	1,172
Current allotments	Number	1	0	1
Other suitable	Acres	0	0	0
Timber				
Tentatively suitable	Acres	43,662	427	44,089
Standing volume	MMBF	409.4	1.2	410.6
Corridors				
Existing/potential	Number	1	0	1
Mineral potential				
Very high	Acres	0	0	0
High	Acres	26,413	0	26,413
Moderate	Acres	37,477	0	37,477
Low	Acres	1,480	490	1,970
Mining claims	Number	15	0	15
Oil & gas potential				
Very high	Acres	0	0	0
High	Acres	0	0	0
Moderate	Acres	0	0	0
Low	Acres	65,370	490	65,860
Leases	Number	0	0	0
Leased area	Acres	0	0	0

## 2. Selected Resource Values

### a. Recreation

Current use is very light consisting primarily of big-game hunting but also includes day hiking, wildlife viewing, horseback riding, camping, and fishing. Major attractions include trails and campsites along the several larger streams and meadows. The State Line and Razorback Ridge Trails provide varied alpine scenery near the crests.

### b. Wildlife

Wildlife includes elk, mule deer, bighorn sheep, moose, black bears, mountain lions, wolverines, pileated woodpeckers, golden eagles, hawks, ravens, blue ruffed and Franklin grouse, cutthroat, dolly varden, and brook trout, and a host of smaller animals and birds.

A unique wildlife resource is the bighorn sheep herd believed to be genetically pure, a rarity in the contiguous 48 States. Sheep use is concentrated along the northern boundary in the vicinity of Castle Rock, where rocky sections are used for lambing. This herd also inhabits the Selway-Bitterroot roadless area and the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness area to the north.

### c. Water

This is a relatively high water-producing area. Stream runoff is estimated at 85,000 acre-feet/year, much of which is stored behind Painted Rocks Dam for irrigation and to maintain instream flows on the lower Bitterroot River. There are no structures, diversions, or ditches within the area.

### d. Livestock

Approximately 130 animal unit months of grazing occur in meadows bordering the upper reaches of Deer and Blue Joint Creeks.

### e. Ecology

Varied topography, aspect, elevation and precipitation contribute towards a moderate diversity of ecosystems. The area is on the fringes of the Selway-Bitterroot ecosystem which has been identified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a possible grizzly bear recovery area. Penstemon lemhiensis is considered vulnerable to extinction and may be present (Bosworth, 1984).

### f. Timber

About 44,000 acres, 65 percent of the area, is tentatively suitable for timber production. Unsuitable lands are concentrated at the highest elevations along the state line, Razorback Ridge, and south-to west-facing slopes dispersed through the area. Lower elevation, warmer sites are the most productive. Potential productivity on about 40 percent of the suitable land is low (20-49 cubic feet/acre/year) and the remainder is moderate (50-84 cubic feet/acre/year). The standing timber volume is 420 million board feet.

Currently, the area is not in the timber base nor does it contribute to the sales program.

#### g. Minerals and Energy Resources

The U.S. Geological Survey and Bureau of Mines have conducted a mineral survey and prepared a report for the area (Lund and others, 1984). Hardrock mineral potential is rated high for about 40 percent of the area in the vicinity of Bare Cone Lookout, Jack the Ripper Creek, Steep Hill, Deer Creek Point, and Lower Deer Creek. Forty claims have been located, of which 15 are lode and 25 placer. Examination of claims revealed only a few prospect pits and trenches with little or no evidence of production.

Traditional theory places the oil and gas potential as low. There are no oil and gas leases.

#### h. Cultural

A portion of the Southern Nez Perce Indian Trail traverses the ridge crest forming the divide between Blue Joint Creek and the Nezperce Fork of the Bitterroot River. Several archaeological sites are associated with the trail. Little else is known about cultural remains.

#### i. Land Use Authorizations

This consists of two outfitter permits.

#### j. Nonfederal Lands

The area is entirely National Forest.

#### k. Other Considerations

##### (1) Fire

Fire occurrence is low and the potential for large, intense fires is moderate due to heavy accumulations of down fuels, particularly in lodgepole pine stands that were decimated by mountain pine beetles in the 1930's. Heavy fuels are concentrated in the mid reaches of Chicken and Deer Creeks.

##### (2) Insects and Disease

Insects and diseases are generally endemic; however, dwarf mistletoe reduces annual growth in some areas as does spruce budworm, a recurrent pest. There are also areas of high-risk lodgepole pine that will become increasingly susceptible to mountain pine beetle attack.

#### D. Need

##### 1. Proximity to Existing Wilderness and Population Centers

See Tables C-1 and C-2.

Table C-1  
Regional Wilderness and Proximity to Bitterroot Forest

Wilderness	General Location	Proximity to Blue Joint Area	Thousand Acres
Anaconda-Pintler	Western Montana	Less than 50 miles	159
Selway-Bitterroot	West central Montana	Less than 50 miles	251
	East central Idaho	Less than 50 miles	1,089
Welcome Creek	Western Montana	Less than 50 miles	28
Subtotal	Three areas	Less than 50 miles	1,527*
Gospel Hump	Central Idaho	50 to 100 miles	206
Mission Mountains	Western Montana	50 to 100 miles	74
Rattlesnake	Western Montana	50 to 100 miles	33
Frank Church-River of			
No Return	Central Idaho	50 to 100 miles	2,239
Sagecoat	Western Montana	50 to 100 miles	240
Subtotal	Five areas	50 to 100 miles	2,792**
Abundant-Beartooth	South central Montana	100 to 200 miles	922
Bob Marshall	Western Montana	100 to 200 miles	1,009
Cabinet Mountains	Northwestern Montana	100 to 200 miles	94
Eagle Cap	Northeastern Oregon	100 to 200 miles	294
Gates of the Mountain	Central Montana	100 to 200 miles	29
Great Bear	Western Montana	100 to 200 miles	287
Hells Canyon	West central Idaho	100 to 200 miles	84
Hells Canyon	Northeastern Oregon	100 to 200 miles	108
Lee Metcalf	South central Montana	100 to 200 miles	259
Red Rock Lakes	South central Montana	100 to 200 miles	32
Sawtooth	Central Idaho	100 to 200 miles	217
Wenaha-Tucannon	Northeastern Oregon	100 to 200 miles	66
Wenaha-Tucannon	Southeastern Washington	100 to 200 miles	111
Subtotal	11 areas	100 to 200 miles	3,513
Total	19 areas	Less than 200 miles	7,832

\* Another 309,000 acres in four areas have been administratively endorsed for wilderness in RAFE II.

\*\* Another 395,000 acres in four areas have been administratively endorsed for wilderness in RAFE II.

Table C-2  
Regional Population Centers and Distance from Roadless Areas

Population Center	Less Than 50 Miles		51-100 Miles		101-200 Miles		201-300 Miles	
	Areas	M Acres	Areas	M Acres	Areas	M Acres	Areas	M Acres
Spokane, WA	0	0	0	0	5	240	6	160
Boise, ID	0	0	0	0	5	290	6	110
Pocatello, ID	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	400
Missoula, MT	3	155	8	245	0	0	0	0
Great Falls, MT	0	0	0	0	11	400	0	0
Billings, MT	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	400

## 2. Contribution to the Wilderness Preservation System

Classification as wilderness would add streamside meadows which are rare in the northern portion of the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness. Other ecosystems and wildlife species are well-represented in existing wilderness. It would provide added width to the Selway-Bitterroot and Frank Church-River of No Return Wildernesses, which are relatively narrow in this vicinity. Climax forest wildlife such as marten and pileated woodpecker would benefit, and unroaded security areas for big-game animals would be provided. Habitat for the genetically pure bighorn sheep herd would be added.

## 3. Public Interest

Most of the Montana portion is a congressionally designated wilderness study area (P.L. 95-150). No wilderness is proposed in the Idaho state bill (1984) nor has the Governor recommended wilderness for any portion. The Montana state bill (S. 2850) is silent on this area.

In the 1983 public involvement on roadless areas, the Blue Joint area was one of the priority areas with public support for wilderness classification. The area is valued because of its wildlife, scenic beauty--especially the high elevation meadows--and its proximity to existing wilderness areas. There is also concern that without a formal unroaded classification, this type of use would be short-lived.

The area is valued by other publics for nonwilderness uses because of snowmobile and motorcycle use, and timber and mineral potential. A typical concern is the need for additional acres developed for commodity production to expand and improve the depressed economy of the valley and Montana.

In RARE II, approximately 84 percent of responses to the DEIS supported wilderness for the area. The majority of local publics supported nonwilderness in the 1974 unit planning process, but not necessarily development options.

## E. Alternatives and Environmental Consequences

### 1. Management Emphasis by Alternative

Management prescriptions providing for roads have been grouped into a roaded management emphasis since roading will preclude wilderness in the long term. The semiprimitive recreation emphasis will maintain the roadless character. Table C-7 displays total acreage assignment by management emphasis and development by decade for each alternative. Table C-8 shows suitable timberland and mineral potential acreage by management emphasis and alternative. Salmon Forest alternatives are in the preliminary stages of development and those that are similar have been matched with Bitterroot Forest alternatives. Precise boundaries and acreage figures for each management emphasis are not available and may change.

Section E2 discusses Bitterroot Forest impacts since the Salmon portion is so small.

Table C-7  
Management Emphasis (Blue Joint)  
(thousand acres)

Management Emphasis	Bitterroot Salmon	Alternative								
		A 1	B 2	C 2	E*** 12	E1 12	F 1	G 8	H 2	J 11
Nonwilderness designation		65.9	65.9	49.1	37.4	37.4	65.9	21.2	6.3	0
Roaded Emphasis		49.5	49.0	35.2	17.6	17.6	.5	18.7	1.0	0
Bitterroot Forest		49.0	49.0	35.2	17.6	17.6	0.0	18.7	1.0	0
Salmon Forest		.5	0	0	*	*	.5	0	0	0
Unroaded Emphasis		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bitterroot Forest		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Salmon Forest		0	0	0	*	*	0	0	0	0
Semiprimitive recreation Emphasis		16.4	16.9	13.9	19.3	19.3	65.4	2.5	5.3	0
Bitterroot Forest		16.4	16.4	13.4	19.3	19.3	65.4	2.5	5.3	0
Salmon Forest		0	.5	.5	*	*	0	0	0	0
Wilderness designation		0	0	16.8	28.5	28.5	0	44.7	59.6	65.2
Bitterroot Forest		0	0	16.8	28.5	28.5	0	44.2	59.1	64.7
Salmon Forest		0	0	0	0	0	0	.5	.5	.5
Area developed by										
Decade 1		4.8	12.2	3.5	8.8	8.8	0	4.7	0	0
Bitterroot Forest		4.8	12.2	3.5	8.8	8.8	0	4.7	0	0
Salmon Forest		0	0	0	*	*	0	0	0	0
Decade 5		65.9	65.9	35.7	17.6	17.6	.5	0	0	0
Bitterroot Forest		65.4	65.4	35.2	17.6	17.6	0	18.7	1.0	0
Salmon Forest		.5	.5	.5	*	*	.5	0	0	0
Area roadless in **										
Decade 1		61.1	53.7	45.6	28.1	28.1	65.9	16.5	5.3	0
Bitterroot Forest		60.6	53.2	45.1	28.1	28.1	65.4	16.5	5.3	0
Salmon Forest		.5	.5	.5	*	*	.5	0	0	0
Decade 5		0	0	13.4	19.3	19.3	65.4	2.5	5.3	0
Bitterroot Forest		0	0	13.4	19.3	19.3	65.4	2.5	5.3	0
Salmon Forest		0	0	0	*	*	0	0	0	0
Current roadless acres		65.9	65.9	65.9	65.9	65.9	65.9	65.9	65.9	65.9
Bitterroot Forest		65.4	65.4	65.4	65.4	65.4	65.4	65.4	65.4	65.4
Salmon Forest		.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5

\* Salmon Forest will develop nonwilderness management emphasis at a later date.

\*\* Does not include wilderness designations.

\*\*\* Proposed Action



Table C-8

Suitable Timberland and Mineral Potential (Blue Joint)  
(thousand acres)

Management Emphasis	Forest Bitterroot Salmon	Alternative								
		A	B	C	E**	E1	F	G	H	J
		1	2	2	12		1	8	2	11
Tentatively suitable land										
Roaded emphasis		44.1	43.7	31.2	16.2	16.2	.4	17.5	.9	0
Bitterroot Forest		43.7	43.7	31.2	16.2	16.2	0	17.5	0	0
Salmon Forest		.4	0	0	*	*	.4	0	0	0
Unroaded emphasis		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bitterroot Forest		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Salmon Forest		0	0	0	*	*	0	0	0	0
Semiprimitive recreation emphasis		0	.4	6.8	15.4	15.4	43.7	2.4	4.5	0
Bitterroot Forest		0	0	6.4	15.4	15.4	43.7	2.4	4.5	0
Salmon Forest		0	.4	.4	*	*	0	0	0	0
Wilderness emphasis		0	0	6.1	12.1	12.1	0	24.2	38.7	43.5
Bitterroot Forest		0	0	6.1	12.1	12.1	0	23.8	38.3	43.1
Salmon Forest		0	0	0	*	*	0	.4	.4	.4
High mineral potential										
Roaded emphasis		21.9	21.9	19.7	11.6	11.6	0	11.6	0	0
Bitterroot Forest		21.9	21.9	19.7	11.6	11.6	0	11.6	0	0
Salmon Forest		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unroaded emphasis										
Bitterroot Forest										
Salmon Forest										
Semiprimitive recreation emphasis		4.5	4.5	3.8	9.0	9.0	26.4	1.9	2.0	0
Bitterroot Forest		4.5	4.5	3.8	9.0	9.0	26.4	1.9	2.0	0
Salmon Forest		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wilderness emphasis		0	0	2.9	5.8	5.8	0	12.9	24.4	26.4
Bitterroot Forest		0	0	2.9	5.8	5.8	0	12.9	24.4	26.4
Salmon Forest		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

\* Salmon Forest will develop nonwilderness management emphasis at a later date.

\*\* Proposed Action

## 2. Impacts

### a. Designation: Wilderness Management Emphasis: Wilderness

Virtually the entire area is recommended for wilderness in Alternative J with recommendations of 25, 43, 69, and 90 percent in Alternatives C, E, G, and H respectively. Recommendations would expand the wilderness system either as an addition to the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness or as a new wilderness. Alternative C preserves land with high wilderness attributes while minimizing effects on market outputs. Alternative E incorporates that portion having the highest wilderness attributes, G adds land with high attributes, and H and J add more land with moderate to low attributes.

Timber production is precluded on tentatively suitable land: all land in Alternative J, 14 percent in C, and 27, 54, and 87 in E, G, and H respectively. All land tentatively suitable for timber production amounts to 8 percent of the Forest-wide total.

Wilderness precludes consideration of semiprimitive recreation management in Alternative J and reduces the acreage available in C, E, G, and H. Recreation use will continue to be dominated by hunting, fishing, and camping.

Mineral exploration and development is foreclosed subject to valid existing rights. All land rated as high potential is withdrawn in Alternative J and 11, 22, 49, and 96 percent in Alternatives C, E, G, and H respectively.

Nonpriced benefits and costs include:

- A natural level of visual quality is maintained.
- The wilderness system expands.
- A natural level of big-game forage and cover is maintained. Cover/forage ratios will be determined by natural events such as wildfire.
- Vegetative diversity tends toward old growth as modified by a more nearly natural role for wildfire.
- Old-growth dependent wildlife species are favored.
- Natural levels of watershed and fisheries are maintained.
- Local wood products employment decreases in Alternative G, H, and J, but should remain stable in C and E.

Economic and social effects vary depending on the amount of tentatively suitable timberland and area of high mineral potential recommended for wilderness. The wood products and mining industries would not be supported by this emphasis. Wilderness could attract more tourism and enhance outfitter activities. Publics interested in wilderness and primitive recreation opportunities would be supported, whereas those favoring mechanized use in a natural setting would not.

**b. Designation: Nonwilderness**  
**Management Emphasis: Roaded**

Timber, range, winter range, partial retention, roaded retention, and riparian management prescriptions are in this emphasis. Some land is included in the emphasis in all alternatives except F, H and J. The highest level is in A and B where about 75 percent of the roadless area is in this emphasis; the lowest in H at 2 percent.

Virtually all tentatively suitable timberland is assigned to this emphasis in Alternatives A and B, 71 percent in C, and 37 percent in E and G. High-value old growth is scheduled for early removal; however, due to long rotations, old growth will be retained above the minimum level in partial retention, roaded retention, and riparian prescriptions. Early harvest is also scheduled in lodgepole pine stands which occupy much of the area.

Roads and timber harvest will foreclose future consideration for wilderness by the end of the fifth decade; however, from 50-90 percent will remain roadless at the end of decade 1. The roadless character would be changed to one including roads, lessening the naturalness of the area as well as solitude. Present semiprimitive recreation use would be disrupted as the recreation setting changes to roaded.

Access for mineral and energy exploration is enhanced as the road system expands. Lands of high mineral potential would be readily accessible in Alternatives A, B and C, and about 44 percent in C, E, and G.

Transitory forage for livestock and wildlife is created by timber harvest.

Nonpriced benefits and costs include:

- Visual quality will be at the lowest level (maximum modification) in Alternatives A and B and the highest in G.
- Characteristics for future consideration as wilderness or semiprimitive recreation are foregone by the end of the fifth decade.
- Security cover for elk and other game will be greatly reduced in Alternatives A, B, and C; however, road closures will mitigate this effect.
- Vegetative diversity tends towards younger age classes in Alternatives A, B, C, and E, but retains a sizeable old growth component in G.
- Water quality is reduced but mitigated by high road construction and maintenance standards.
- Local wood products employment increases significantly in Alternatives A, B, and C, remains at current levels in E and F, and declines in G.

Economic effects vary depending on the amount of land that is suitable for timber production and the degree of constraints for visual, wildlife, and watershed values. The greatest positive effect is for Alternatives A, B, and C where most tentatively suitable land is retained in the timber base with few constraints. The wood products and mining industries are supported by this emphasis. Publics favoring roadless or wilderness characteristics would not be supported; however, much of the area would remain like it is for another 10 years. Those publics seeking semiprimitive recreation would have to shift use elsewhere. Outfitters could continue operations although the hunting experience would be altered.

c. Designation: Nonwilderness  
Management Emphasis: Semiprimitive Recreation

The semiprimitive recreation prescription is the only one in this emphasis. Some land is included in this emphasis in all alternatives except J. The highest level is in Alternative F with virtually the entire area and the lowest in G at 4 percent. Unroaded management in A and B is confined to several relatively large, high elevation blocks that are not suitable for timber production.

Except for possible mineral entry, roadless characteristics will be retained within a core area in Alternatives C, E, E1, F, G and H, and the land will remain available for future consideration as wilderness. The roadless character of the land would be maintained as would the wilderness attributes of naturalness and solitude. Current forms of recreation use will continue. Trailbike, snowmobile, and chain saw use are compatible.

Current levels of livestock use would continue.

Cover/forage relationships for wildlife will basically be determined by natural events such as wildfire, but can be modified by prescribed fire.

Roads are not needed for surface management purposes but will be permitted for mineral activities where construction is justified on the basis of mineral showings or data, and where it is the next logical step in development of the mineral resource. Fourteen, 13, and 100 percent of lands with high mineral potential are assigned this emphasis in Alternatives C, E, and F respectively.

Timber production is precluded on 15, 35, and 99 percent of the tentatively suitable timber base in Alternatives C, E and F respectively. No tentatively suitable timberland is assigned this emphasis in Alternatives A and B, and only isolated and intermingled lands in Alternative C. Alternatives E and G incorporate lands of higher site quality, much of which would be difficult to develop because of low product values and/or difficult terrain.

Nonpriced benefits and costs include:

- A natural level of visual quality is maintained.
- The wilderness option is retained for future consideration.
- Near natural cover/forage ratios for big game are retained but may be modified by prescribed fire.
- Vegetative diversity tends toward old growth, but may be modified by prescribed fire.
- Old-growth dependent wildlife are favored.
- Natural levels of watershed and fisheries are retained.
- The current mix of recreation use is retained.
- Local wood products employment decreases in Alternatives F, G, and H, should be retained in E, and would increase in A, B, and C.
- Access for mineral exploration would not be provided.

Economic and social effects vary depending upon the amount of tentatively suitable timberland in this emphasis. The effect is greatest in Alternatives E, F, and G with no effect in A and B. The wood products industry is not supported by this emphasis. Miners could continue to operate; however, costs would be higher without road access. Land would remain much like it is, thus supporting current recreation use, livestock grazing, and outfitters.

Preferred Alternative Recommendation (Salmon National Forest portion)

This roadless area is not recommended for wilderness designation in the preferred alternative on the Salmon National Forest portion.

On the Salmon National Forest portion, no resource activities are predicted which would preclude consideration of this area for wilderness during the next plan revision. Mineral potential is low.

The entire roadless area is evaluated in Appendix C of the Bitterroot National Forest's Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Salmon National Forest's preferred alternative is a recommendation until the final decision is approved in the Bitterroot National Forest's Final Environmental Impact Statement.

Effects of Wilderness/Nonwilderness Management Prescriptions 1/

TABLE A

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION BY FOREST PLAN ALTERNATIVE  
(Acres)

Roadless Area		13941 Blue Joint Mountain				Forest Plan Alternative							
Management													
Prescription		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12 (preferred)
7A Proposed													
Wilderness			490	490	490			490	490	490	490	490	
Nonwilderness*													
2A							490						490
3A-5B		490											
5A						490							

\* Refer to Alternative map for prescription descriptions

1/Salmon Forest portion only.

TABLE B  
IMPACTS ON WILDERNESS CHARACTER

Roadless Area 13941 Blue Joint

7

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS	AIT 1	AIT 2	AIT 3	AIT 4	AIT 5	AIT 6
Natural Integrity - Apparent Naturalness	Fairly high	Fairly high	Fairly high	Fairly high	Low	Fairly high
Solitude	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity
Primitive Recreation	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity
Challenging Experiences	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence
Special Features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features
WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS	AIT 7	AIT 8	AIT 9	AIT 10	AIT 11	AIT 12
Natural Integrity - Apparent Naturalness	Fairly high	Fairly high	Fairly high	Fairly high	Fairly high	Fairly high
Solitude	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity
Primitive Recreation	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity
Challenging Experiences	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence
Special Features	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	No identified special features	No identified special features



TABLE C

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF WILDERNESS/NON-WILDERNESS DESIGNATIONS ON  
THE PHYSICAL AND BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

Roadless Area 13941 Blue Joint Mountain

1

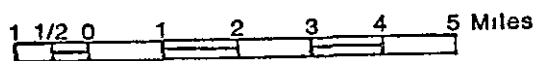
ENVIRONMENT	ALT 1	ALT 2	ALT 3	ALT 4	ALT 5	ALT 6
Potential Adverse Effects on Soil Productivity	None	None	None	None	Slight	None
Potential Effects on Water Quality	None	None	None	None	Slightly adverse	None
Air Quality	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards
Potential Effects on Plant Communities	None	None	None	None	Timber harvest	None
Wildlife Habitat Capability - Elk	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Moderate adverse impact	Insignificant change
Potential Effects on Fish Habitat Capability	No known fishery	No known fishery	No known fishery	No known fishery	No known fishery	No known fishery
ENVIRONMENT	ALT 7	ALT 8	ALT 9	ALT 10	ALT 11	ALT 12
Potential Adverse Effects on Soil Productivity	None	None	None	None	None	None
Potential Effects on Water Quality	None	None	None	None	None	None
Air Quality	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards
Potential Effects on Plant Communities	None	None	None	None	None	None
Wildlife Habitat Capability - Elk	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change
Potential Effects on Fish Habitat Capability	No known fishery	No known fishery	No known fishery	No known fishery	No known fishery	No known fishery

# 13941 BLUE JOINT

13941

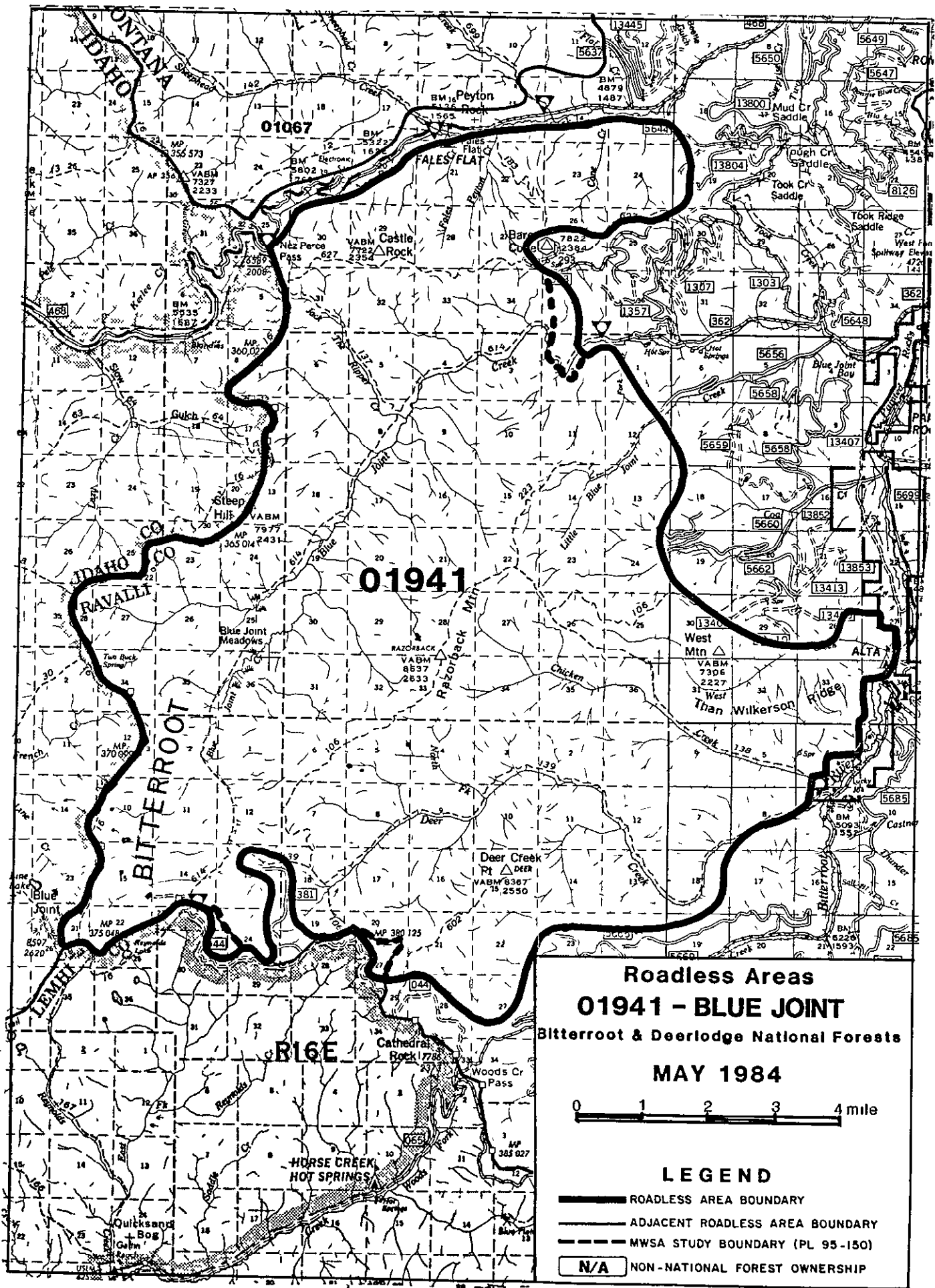
## LEGEND

2/1/84



Scale

- ROADLESS AREA BOUNDARY .....
- EXISTING DEVELOPMENTS .....
- PLANNED DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY.....



## ROADLESS AREA EVALUATION

ANDERSON MOUNTAIN ROADLESS AREA  
SALMON NATIONAL FOREST #13942 - 18,120 Acres

### I. Description (Salmon National Forest portion)

For a complete description of the entire roadless area, refer to the Beaverhead National Forest Plan DEIS.

The Anderson Mountain Roadless Area is approximately 30 air miles north of Salmon, Idaho. The area is bounded on the east by the Continental Divide which is the Idaho-Montana state boundary; on the south by a road along Dahlenega Creek (079) and by a road along Threemile Creek; on the west by the ridge between Anderson Creek and Crone Gulch, by the ridge between Crone Gulch and Pierce Creek, and Highway 93. Access to the area can be gained from Highway 93, from the ridge road to Anderson Mountain, and from the road along Dahlenega Creek.

The southern portion is dissected by Anderson Creek, Nez Perce Creek and Threemile Creek. Pierce Creek drains the northern portion. Elevations range from about 4,600 feet near Gibbonsville, to over 8,000 feet at Anderson Mountain. Slopes are between 30 and 70 percent throughout most of the area. This area contains neither cirque basins nor lakes. Average annual precipitation of 30 to 35 inches occurs mostly as snow, spring rains, and fall rains. Summer highs of 80 to 90 degrees at the low elevations are contrasted by winter lows of 35 to 40 degrees below zero at the higher elevations. Quartzites bedrock forms the sandy loam to loamy sand textured soils.

Much of the area is timbered by Douglas-fir, with ponderosa pine occurring on the hotter-drier sites and Lodgepole pine and sub-alpine fir occurring at the higher elevations. Engelmann spruce is found in creek bottoms and on wet sites. Open, grassy, dry-land meadows are scattered throughout the higher elevational areas. The ecosystems found in the area are western spruce-fir and grand fir/Douglas fir.

Current recreation uses include backpacking, trail bike riding, horseback riding, cross country skiing, and hunting. Use was estimated at approximately 1,200 RVD's in 1982.

Timber sale activities have occurred on 296 acres in the southwest corner. The area impacted by these activities no longer meet roadless area criteria and this portion of the roadless area will not be considered further for wilderness.

The unit is essentially natural appearing.

Anderson Mountain Roadless Area is contiguous with roadless area #01942 (Beaverhead NF) on the east and north and is bordered by

lands that have been intensively managed for timber harvest on the west and south.

The scenery in this unit is considered common for the Salmon National Forest. The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail corridor passes through this roadless area.

## II. Capability

Logical and manageable boundaries could be developed for this area; minor boundary changes would be necessary to eliminate an intrusion on the southwest corner. Size is not a factor with this area.

Man's influence on the area's natural integrity has been very low. The impacts that exist are long term in nature, but are limited to a small percentage of the land and can easily be separated by boundary modification.

Most visitors would find this roadless area to be apparently natural and free from disturbance.

The area provides only moderate opportunities for solitude. The vegetative screening is dense, but the topographic screening is moderate. The distance from the perimeter to the area core rates as moderate and there are some permanent off-site intrusions. The size of the unit rates as low potential, contributing to the overall rating for solitude as moderate.

The opportunity for primitive recreation is high due to vegetation, diversity, and lack of recreation facilities. Opportunities would include hiking, hunting, camping, cross-country skiing and horse-back riding. The opportunity for challenging experiences or encountering serious hazards is rare.

## III. Availability

### Resource Potentials and Uses

Recreation use associated with the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail is expected to increase as implementation of the trail proceeds. Hunting use will likely increase as access to and through the unit improves.

This large area of key elk summer range includes a significant portion of the migration corridor that is used by elk and mule deer herds that primarily summer in Montana and winter in Idaho. Wet meadows in the heads of Anderson, Smithy and Threemile Creeks and abundant dry meadows in Pierce and Nez Perce Creeks contribute to a near optimum cover/forage ratio for big game, as well as overall wildlife habitat diversity. The normal complement of small birds and mammals are present, and black bear, mountain lion and lynx are known to occur.

Four streams within this area are known to have trout. Habitat characteristics are representative of small, moderate-to-high gradient streams. Habitat condition would be rated as good to excellent. Game fish species present include rainbow, cutthroat, and bull trouts. Fishing use of the streams is rated as light, with fishing quality fair.

The headwaters of two major streams tributary to the North Fork of the Salmon River are located below the Continental Divide in this area. The headwaters of Pierce Creek and Dahlenega Creek produce excellent quality water.

Except for a small amount of recreational horse use, the area is not grazed by livestock.

The area does not contain any ecosystems determined from RARE II to be in need of representation in the wilderness system.

Approximately 95 percent of the area is potentially suitable timberland. The estimated standing volume is approximately 94.9 million board feet with an estimated potential annual yield of .9 million board feet. The volume is composed of ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, and lodgepole pine. One existing intrusion results from a trespass timber harvest in 1979. A 5 million board feet timber sale is proposed for fiscal year 1985 in the southwest portion. In addition, a one million board feet sale is proposed in the southeastern portion for fiscal year 1987, and a three million board feet timber sale is proposed in the northern portion for fiscal year 1988. Exact cutting areas are not yet determined for the 1987 and 1988 proposed sales.

The hardrock mineral potential of the area was rated as unknown in the RARE II evaluation, and no new data modifies the original rating. Gold and copper occur within this area. Mining claim owners continue to do assessment work, with some expanding their claim activity. The roadless area currently contains no active mining operations. There is no known potential for currently leasable minerals.

The potential for prehistoric cultural resources is considered moderate. Historic structures are known to exist, but their significance has not been evaluated.

Approximately 1.5 miles of System Road are within the perimeter of the roadless area. In addition, the area includes 8.37 miles of the Continental Divide Trail and 16.53 miles of System Trail. A trail easement is needed for about 1.4 miles of System Trail on private land. Within the planned intrusion are 7.75 miles of proposed System Road. Trail easements are needed across private lands within the intrusion for 1.13 miles of System Trail. Part of the Keating Outfitter and Guide permit area is within the roadless area.

### Management Considerations

Fire occurrence is moderate.

As the lodgepole pine increase in diameter there is an increasing hazard of a major mountain pine beetle epidemic. However, many lodgepole stands have slow growth due to dwarf mistletoe or overstocking. Western spruce budworm is periodically killing some of the understory Douglas-fir, especially on the drier sites. Occasionally, the tops of the larger trees are killed. The Douglas-fir beetle periodically kills small groups of the older, larger Douglas-fir. Dwarf mistletoe is causing serious deterioration in some Douglas-fir stands.

There are private lands within the intrusion in Anderson Creek, and at the forks of Dahlonga Creek and Nez Perce Creek. These areas total 100 acres, and 61 acres, respectively.

### IV. Need

The Anderson Mountain Roadless Area is located approximately 55 road miles from the River of No Return Wilderness. Use of this wilderness ranges from low to high, depending on the particular area.

The Roadless Area is located approximately 45 miles from Salmon, Idaho; 185 miles from Idaho Falls, Idaho; and 95 miles from Missoula, Montana.

The area does not represent any unique ecosystem.

During RARE I this area was inventoried as the Anderson - Nez Perce Roadless Area #290. The decision in the RARE I FEIS was to manage this area for non-wilderness resource development. Public opinion was in general agreement that the area should not be studied further for wilderness. It was not a controversial area during RARE I.

The Anderson - Nez Perce Roadless Area #290 was inventoried and evaluated in RARE II as the Anderson Mountain Roadless Area #04942. The decision on the RARE II FEIS was to manage this area for non-wilderness resource development. Anderson Mountain was not controversial during the RARE II process.

Senator McClure held "Idaho Forest Management Act" hearings in Coeur d'Alene, Lewiston, Boise and Idaho Falls in August 1983. Prior to the meetings the Senator sent out a constituent letter with four proposals i.e., the Forest Service RARE II, Forest Industries, other commodity user groups and the 1979 Idaho Wildlife Federation proposal. Following the hearings Senator McClure has received additional input from the environmental groups and the Governor of Idaho. Neither group made any special recommendation on this area. However, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game

provided input to Governor Evans and recommended further planning for this area. The issue at hand in this case is roadless management to provide for an interstate migratory elk herd rather than wilderness. It is expected that this will be an issue as the Forest Plan develops.

The Anderson Mountain roadless area is contiguous to roadless lands on the Beaverhead National Forest in Montana. The wilderness/non-wilderness issue has not been highly controversial on the Beaverhead.

During the Forest Planning review of inventoried roadless lands, public opinion was again divided ranging from no wilderness to all wilderness. The Idaho Wildlife Federation (IWF) and Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association (IOGA) recommended a "Reserved" status for the area which is basically development only if it can be done without impairing environmental values. The Idaho Environmental Council supported the IWF and IOGA recommendations. Earth First! and the Idaho Fish and Game Commission recommended wilderness for the entire area. The Idaho Mining Association, Idaho Cattlemen's Association, Outdoors Unlimited, Idaho Farm Bureau, Idaho Wool Growers, Idaho Trail Machine Association, Idaho Forest Industries Council, and Idaho Women in Timber all recommended no wilderness for Anderson Mountain. No specific recommendation was received from Governor Evans or the Idaho Wildlands Defense Coalition. The wilderness/non-wilderness issue on Anderson Mountain generated a moderate level of controversy during Forest Plan review of roadless areas.

Senator McClure has introduced the Idaho Forest Management Act in the Senate. The Anderson Mountain Roadless Area was not included in this proposed wilderness legislation.

Preferred Alternative Recommendation (Salmon National Forest portion)

This area is not recommended for wilderness designation in the preferred alternative on the Salmon National Forest portion.

On the Salmon National Forest portion, some resource activity would occur on about 50 percent of the area which would preclude that portion of the area from consideration for wilderness during the next plan revision. Mineral potential is unknown.

The entire roadless area is evaluated in Appendix C of the Beaverhead National Forest's Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Salmon National Forest's preferred alternative is a recommendation until the final decision is approved in the Beaverhead National Forest's Final Environmental Impact Statement.



Effects of Wilderness/Nonwilderness Management Prescriptions 1/

TABLE A

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION BY FOREST PLAN ALTERNATIVE  
(Acres)

Roadless Area	13942 Anderson Mountain											Forest Plan Alternative
Management Prescription	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12(preferred)
7A Proposed Wilderness								15,946	15,946	15,946	18,120	
Nonwilderness*												
2A								1,241				9,179
2B			17,542									
3A-5A							10,536	346	37			8,941
3A-5D	18,120					10,039						
3A-5E						8,081						
4B-1			350							264		
4B-3							7,584	587				
4C			228							2,174		
5A		3,624		3,513	18,120							
5B		14,496		14,607								

\* Refer to Alternative map for prescription description.

1/ Salmon Forest portion only Refer to Beaverhead National Forest DEIS for description of the complete Roadless area

TABLE B  
IMPACTS ON WILDERNESS CHARACTER

Roadless Area 13942 Anderson Mountain

7

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS	ALT 1	ALT 2	ALT 3	ALT 4	ALT 5	ALT 6
Natural	:	:	:	:	:	:
Integrity -	:	:	:	:	:	:
Apparent	:	:	:	:	:	:
Naturalness	:	:	:	:	:	:
:	Fairly high	Low	High	Low	Low	Fairly high
Solitude	Limited opportunity	No opportunity	Some opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	Limited opportunity
:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Primitive Recreation	Some opportunity	No opportunity	Good opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	Some opportunity
:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Challenging Experiences	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence
:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Special Features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features
:	:	:	:	:	:	:
:	:	:	:	:	:	:
WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS	ALT 7	ALT 8	ALT 9	ALT 10	ALT 11	ALT 12
Natural	:	:	:	:	:	:
Integrity -	:	:	:	:	:	:
Apparent	:	:	:	:	:	:
Naturalness	:	:	:	:	:	:
:	Fairly high	High	High	High	High	Fairly high
Solitude	Limited opportunity	Some opportunity	Some opportunity	Some opportunity	Some opportunity	Limited opportunity
:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Primitive Recreation	Some opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Some opportunity
:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Challenging Experiences	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence
:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Special Features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features
:	:	:	:	:	:	:
:	:	:	:	:	:	:

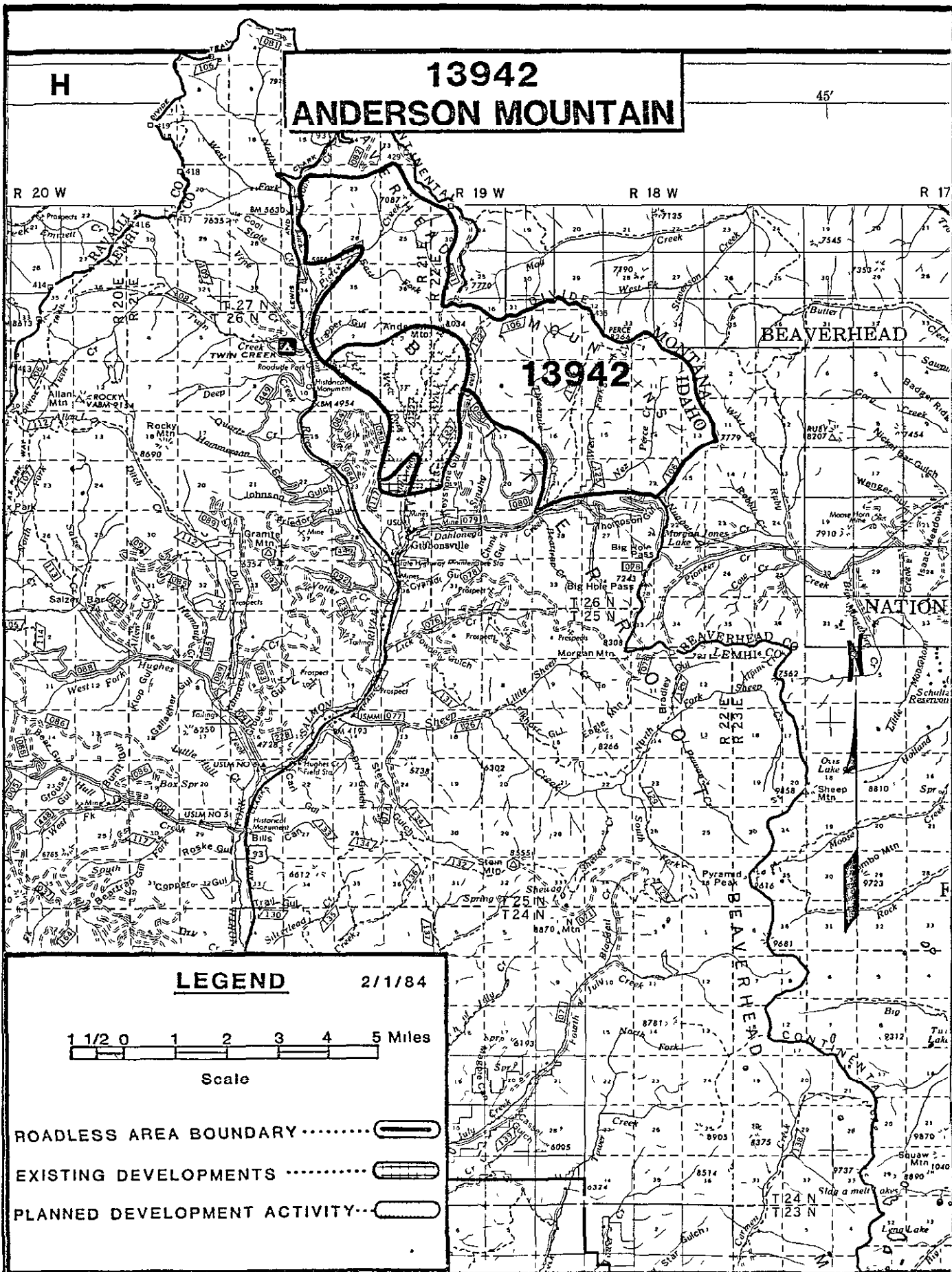
TABLE C

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF WILDERNESS/NON-WILDERNESS DESIGNATIONS ON  
THE PHYSICAL AND BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

Roadless Area 13942 Anderson Mountain

7

ENVIRONMENT	ALT 1	ALT 2	ALT 3	ALT 4	ALT 5	ALT 6
Potential Adverse Effects on Soil Productivity	Very slight	Slight	None	Slight	Slight	Very slight
Potential Effects on Water Quality	Very slight	Moderately adverse	None	Moderately adverse	Moderately adverse	Slightly adverse
Air Quality	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards
Potential Effects on Plant Communities	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	None	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	Timber harvest
Wildlife Habitat Capability - Elk	Slight adverse impact	Significant adverse impact	Insignificant change	Significant adverse impact	Significant adverse impact	Slight adverse impact
Potential Effects on Fish Habitat Capability	Slight adverse impact	Moderate adverse impact	Insignificant change	Moderate adverse impact	Moderate adverse impact	Slight adverse impact
ENVIRONMENT	ALT 7	ALT 8	ALT 9	ALT 10	ALT 11	ALT 12
Potential Adverse Effects on Soil Productivity	Very slight	None	None	Very slight	None	Very slight
Potential Effects on Water Quality	Slightly adverse	None	None	Slightly adverse	None	Slightly adverse
Air Quality	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards
Potential Effects on Plant Communities	Wildlife habitat improvement timber harvest	None	None	None	None	Wildlife habitat improvement timber harvest
Wildlife Habitat Capability - Elk	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Slight adverse impact
Potential Effects on Fish Habitat Capability	Slight adverse impact	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Slight adverse impact



## ROADLESS AREA EVALUATION

WEST BIG HOLE ROADLESS AREA  
SALMON NATIONAL FOREST #13943 - 81,068 Acres

### I. Description (Salmon National Forest portion)

For a complete description of the entire roadless area, refer to the Beaverhead National Forest Plan DEIS.

The West Big Hole Roadless Area is approximately 10 air miles northeast of Salmon, Idaho. The entire area is bounded on the east by the Continental Divide. The Divide is the boundary between Idaho and Montana and also the boundary between the Salmon National Forest and the Beaverhead National Forest. The area is divided into two parts where the Forest boundary is separated by lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management. The southern portion of the area is bounded on the east by the Forest boundary and on the south by the Kenney Creek road. The western portion of the area is bounded by the Forest boundary, the ridge between Tower Creek and Fourth of July Creek, the Fourth of July Creek from Fourth of July to Stein Mountain and back to Magpie Canyon, then northwesterly around the slope to Wagonhammer Creek, the Wagonhammer Creek road to Highway 93, northwest and northerly across the slope above Highway 93, the ridge south at Bill's Canyon east to the head of Silverleads Creek, north along Stein Gulch to Sheep Creek. The north boundary is a ridge between Little Sheep Creek and Lick Creek. Access to the area can be gained from the roads up the many drainages that have their headwaters in the area.

The area is dissected by many streams that drain into the Lemhi, the Salmon, and the North Fork of the Salmon Rivers. Elevations range from approximately 5,600 feet to over 10,200 feet at Freeman Peak. Glaciation has formed broad U-shaped valleys at the heads of the major drainages, however, there was very little cirque development. Many high rocky peaks and rocky ridges occur throughout the area. This high country is typical of alpine glaciated country. Average annual precipitation is between 15 and 35 inches, falling mostly as spring and fall rains or winter snow. Summer high temperatures of 80 and 90 degrees at the lower elevations are contrasted by high elevation winter lows of 40 degrees below zero. Quartzite bedrock forms the area's loamy sand to sandy loam textured soils.

Ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir at the lower elevations are replaced by lodgepole pine, subalpine fir, Engelmann spruce and some white-bark pine at the higher elevations. Grass openings and wet meadows are scattered throughout the area. Rock outcroppings and talus slopes occur on the high peaks and ridges. The three ecosystem types represented in the area are western spruce-fir, grand fir/Douglas-fir, and alpine meadows and barren.

Recreation use was estimated at 3100 RVD's in 1982 and is primarily related to hunting and backpacking with limited trail bike riding.

Several intrusions were identified in the area through public and in-service input. There are seven road corridors: 1) Pratt Creek, 2) Wimpy Creek, 3) Freeman Creek, 4) Eagle Mountain, 5) Bradley Gulch, 6) Sandy Creek, and, 7) Kenney Creek associated with mineral and timber activities and private land access. These roads have been and will continue to be periodically maintained. There are six intrusions associated with timber sale activity: Two of these are in the Carmen Creek drainage, one is in the Black Tail Creek drainage, one in Silverleads, one in Dry Gulch, and one in Sheep Creek. These intrusions total 2000 acres. The areas directly impacted by these activities no longer meet roadless area criteria and those portions of the roadless area will not be considered further for wilderness.

Also, during public involvement, input was received to the effect that the "jeep road" separating the West Big Hole and the Silverleads Roadless Areas was not a road, but a trail along the old phone line. This was verified and the inventory was adjusted by combining the Silverleads Roadless Area #13519 with West Big Hole #13943. The entire area is now identified as West Big Hole #13943.

The area is essentially natural appearing.

The area is contiguous with another roadless area (#01943) on the Beaverhead National Forest on the east, and lands administered by the BLM on the south. It is bordered by developed National Forest System lands on the west and north.

The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail Corridor passes through this roadless area. The area contains significant amounts of outstanding scenery.

## II. Capability

Logical and manageable boundaries could be developed for this unit. Boundary changes would be necessary, as the existing unit has been virtually cut in two by a timber related intrusion. Size is not a factor with this unit.

There has been virtually no influence by man on the natural integrity of this unit, with the exception of a timber sale in the Carmen Creek drainage and near the head of Little Silverleads Creek and a few scattered mining related impacts. Existing roads up Carmen, Freeman, Pratt and Wimpy Creeks effectively provide access to the interior of the roadless area. Mining impacts are very apparent in the head of Wimpy Creek and especially Pratt Creek where there remains numerous buildings and other structures from past activities.

Visitors would find this unit to be natural appearing, except in areas of past extensive mining.

This area provides a very high opportunity for solitude based on its large size, distance from core to perimeter, topographic and

vegetative screening. Only the existence of some permanent off-site intrusions prevent it from being rated as outstanding. The area also provides very high opportunities for primitive recreation due to the above factors and a high degree of diversity and minimal developed recreation facilities.

The area offers many opportunities for challenging experiences due primarily to terrain features.

### III. Availability

#### Resource Potentials and Uses

Recreation use in this unit is expected to increase significantly in the future as implementation of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail proceeds. Increases will be primarily in backpacking, hiking, and horseback riding, with some increase in hunting as access is improved.

This large area is bounded on the east by the Continental Divide and consists primarily of rugged high-elevation lands, with numerous peaks in excess of 9,500 feet high. Mountain goats are found in much of the area, as are marmots and pikas. This area contains the entire upper portion of the Sheep Creek drainage and the Goldstone Pass-Kenney Creek area, both of which are considered "core" areas of paramount importance to the migration corridor for interstate mule deer and elk herds. It also contains areas of key big game range in Little Sheep Creek, Stein Gulch, and Kenney Creek. Black bear and mountain lion are particularly numerous in the Sheep Creek portion of this area, but are found throughout. Resident elk are present in small numbers in most drainages, and resident mule deer occur throughout the area. Bighorn sheep are occasionally observed, but actual status of this species is not known. Wildlife habitat diversity is very good, primarily due to the broad range of elevations and habitat types inherent to this area. The Silverleads-Wagonhammer portion of the area is key big game winter range for mule deer and elk. It is of vital importance to approximately 600 elk that constitute almost one-half of an interstate (Idaho-Montana) herd and over twice that many migratory mule deer. Very few elk or deer summer in this area.

This area contains significant anadromous fish habitat in Sheep Creek, which is in essentially pristine condition. In addition, numerous other streams provide habitat for resident trout. Present habitat condition in these other streams is excellent. Three mountain lakes within the area have the potential to support fish. Fishing use of most area streams is light, with quality rated as fair to good. The anadromous production potential is substantial.

The southern portion of the roadless area produces essential irrigation supplies for numerous ranchers and residences. Stream conditions are generally good, and the area produces excellent quality water. A pipeline has been constructed for transporting water in the Wimpey Creek area.

Six cattle and horse grazing allotments extend into the roadless area along the western and southern boundaries. The six allotments are Sheep Creek, Burns Basin, Fourth of July Creek, Carmen Creek, Pattee Creek, and Sandy Creek. Very little suitable range is actually within the boundary of the roadless area. In total, the roadless area contributes fewer than 750 AUM's of permitted use each year. There are approximately 4.5 miles of fence and 13 water developments within the roadless area boundary. Approximately 60 percent of the suitable range is rated fair and 40 percent rated good.

Although the elk sedge meadow in Davis Canyon represents a unique vegetative community, the area does not contain any ecosystems determined from RARE II to be in need of representation in the wilderness system.

There are two proposed Research Natural Areas (Kenney Creek and Davis Canyon) within the boundary of the roadless area. The Davis Canyon site contains an excellent representation of an elk sedge meadow.

Approximately 28 percent of the area is potentially suitable timberland. An estimated 139.4 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated annual potential yield of 1.5 million board feet. The volume is composed primarily of Douglas-fir at lower elevations and lodgepole pine at higher elevations. Alpine fir and Engelmann spruce also occur as minor components. One sale of approximately two million board feet was sold in the center of the unit in Carmen Creek in 1981. A small intrusion on the northwest border resulted from part of a cutting unit from a 1968 timber sale that was erroneously included in the original roadless evaluation. A salvage sale of blown down material is proposed for 1983 in the head of Fourth of July Creek. If a purchaser is not found, it is proposed to provide access to the area to allow the material to be gathered for firewood. An additional small intrusion would result from a portion of a one million board feet sale in 1986 on the northwest border. Several cutting units of a 5.3 million board feet sale in 1975 intrude at the head of Little Silverleads Creek. A 3.9 million board feet sale which was sold in 1981 in the head of Wagonhammer Creek has had no activities started to date.

The hardrock mineral potential of this area was rated as high in the RARE II evaluation, and no new data modifies the original rating. Past mineral production from this area includes silver, gold, lead, zinc, and copper. There are numerous patented mining claims and associated low standard access roads within the area. Mining claim owners are continuing assessment work in this roadless area. Although one oil and gas lease has been issued within the area since RARE II, there is no known potential for currently leasable minerals.

Little is known of the existence of prehistoric cultural resources. The potential would be considered moderate in major drainage



bottoms and low elsewhere. There are known historic resources scattered throughout the unit, but none have been evaluated for significance.

Roadless area lands in the North Fork of the East Fork of Tower Creek, for a length of 0.6 mile, are under permit to Thomas Conrad for culinary and irrigation water purposes. Parts of the area have previously been, but are not now, under permit for Outfitter/Guide purposes. The roadless area also includes 31.6 miles of System trail, 3.8 miles of which are within the upper Carmen Creek intrusion. There are also 3.3 miles of the historic Lewis and Clark Trail in the Silverleads-Wagonhammer portion of the area.

#### Management Considerations

Fire occurrence is high in the Silverleads-Wagonhammer portion with potential for large fires. It is moderate over the rest of the area.

Much of the area contains high elevation (non-commercial) timber types, which are less susceptible to insect attack. However, there is an increasing hazard of a mountain pine beetle epidemic in the lower elevation lodgepole stands. Many lodgepole stands have slow growth due to dwarf mistletoe or over stocking. Western spruce budworm is periodically killing some of the understory Douglas-fir, especially on the drier sites. Occasionally, the tops of the larger trees are being killed. The Douglas-fir beetle periodically kills small groups of the older, larger Douglas-fir. Dwarf mistletoe is causing serious deterioration in many Douglas-fir stands north of Kirtley Creek.

There are two tracts of private land in upper Fourth of July Creek and two tracts in Gold Star Gulch, totaling 36.7 acres and 13.6 acres, respectively.

#### IV. Need

The West Big Hole Roadless Area is approximately 50 road miles from the River of No Return Wilderness. Use of this area ranges from low to high, depending on the particular location.

The Roadless Area is approximately 15 road miles from Salmon, Idaho; 155 miles from Idaho Falls, Idaho; and 115 miles from Missoula, Montana.

During RARE I this area was inventoried as the Silverleads #291, Beaverhead I #292 and Beaverhead II #294 roadless areas. The decision in the RARE I FEIS was to manage these areas for non-wilderness resource development. Public opinion received on the areas during RARE I was divided. The area was not considered controversial during RARE I.

The RARE I Silverleads #291 portion of the area was inventoried and evaluated in the Silverleads Unit Land Management Plan (LMP). The

decision in the LMP was to manage this area for non-wilderness resource development, with a portion of the area being managed in a roadless condition. Again, the public opinion was for non-wilderness resource development. The wilderness/non-wilderness issue was not highly controversial in the LMP process. During this evaluation, the Stein Mountain Lookout phone line trail was considered a jeep road which accounted for the individual evaluation. This portion of the Roadless Area was not evaluated in RARE II because of the LMP process.

During RARE II the Beaverhead I #292 and Beaverhead II #294 roadless areas were inventoried and evaluated as the West Big Hole Roadless Area #04943. During the evaluation, the area was "split" into three segments, i.e., the North, South, and Middle West Big Hole units. The decision on the RARE II FEIS was for non-wilderness resource management for all three segments. Public opinion was divided but there was strong sentiment from environmental organizations that the area should be wilderness. They included the area as a wilderness candidate in their RARE II Idaho Citizens' Alternative "W." The area was considered controversial during RARE II.

The area is contiguous with roadless lands on the Beaverhead National Forest in Montana (Roadless Area #01943). A portion of this area was recommended for wilderness in the Beaverhead Forest Land Management Plan. The area was highly controversial on the Beaverhead during RARE II and their Forest Planning process.

Senator McClure held "Idaho Forest Management Act" hearings in Coeur d'Alene, Lewiston, Boise, and Idaho Falls in August 1983. Prior to the meetings the Senator sent out a constituent letter with four proposals, i.e., Forest Service RARE II, Forest Industries, Other Commodity user groups, and the 1979 Idaho Wildlife Federation proposal. Following the hearings Senator McClure has received additional input from the environmental groups and the Governor of Idaho. The environmental groups have recommended wilderness for approximately 51,000 acres on the Idaho portion of the West Big Hole. The area was not included in any of the Governor's recommendations for wilderness or roadless management. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game recommended 7,190 acres on the RARE II portions known as North West Big Hole (N4943) and 44,505 acres on Middle West Big Hole (M4943) for further planning.

During the Forest Planning review of inventoried roadless lands, public opinion was again divided ranging from no wilderness to all wilderness. The Idaho Wildlands Defense Coalition recommended 51,000 acres for wilderness. The Idaho Fish and Game Commission recommended the RARE II North - West Big Hole (7190 acres) and the Middle - West Big Hole (44,505 acres) for wilderness. Earth First! recommended the entire area for wilderness. The Idaho Wildlife Federation (IWF) and Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association (IOGA) recommended wilderness status for 70,500 acres. The Idaho Environmental Council supported the IWF and IOGA recommendations.

The Idaho Mining Association, Idaho Cattlemen's Association, Outdoors Unlimited, Idaho Farm Bureau, Idaho Wool Growers, Idaho Trail Machine Association, Idaho Forest Industries Council, and Idaho Women in Timber all recommended no wilderness for the West Big Hole area. The wilderness/non-wilderness issue on the West Big Hole generated a relatively low level of controversy during Forest Plan review of roadless areas.

Senator McClure has introduced the Idaho Forest Management Act in the Senate. The West Big Hole Roadless Area was not included in this proposed wilderness legislation.

Following the introduction of Senator McClure's proposed Idaho Forest Management Act, considerable concern was expressed by the various environmental groups over the low acreage in the Bill. Governor Evans has also expressed concern and has modified his recommendation to Senator McClure. His letter, dated April 4, 1984, in part, states:

"In addition to the areas I have listed, there are other areas worthy of special consideration. First, the North Lemhis and the West Bigholes near Salmon are currently the topic of negotiations involving ranchers, conservationists, and people associated with the forest products industry. I support the negotiations on these areas and I am hopeful that the recommendations made will ultimately be incorporated in this bill."

Preferred Alternative Recommendation (Salmon National Forest portion)

This roadless area is not recommended for wilderness designation in the preferred alternative on the Salmon National Forest portion.

On the Salmon National Forest portion, no resource activities are predicted which would preclude consideration of this area for wilderness during the next plan revision. Mineral potential is high. Timing of possible development of mineral resources is not known but if development should occur the area disturbed by mining and access construction would be precluded from further wilderness consideration.

The entire roadless area is evaluated in Appendix C of the Beaverhead National Forest's Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Salmon National Forest's preferred alternative is a recommendation until the final decision is approved in the Beaverhead National Forest's Final Environmental Impact Statement.

Effects of Wilderness/Nonwilderness Management Prescriptions 1/

TABLE A

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION BY FOREST PLAN ALTERNATIVE  
(Acres)

Roadless Area	13943 West Big Hole											Forest Plan Alternative
Management Prescription	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12 (preferred)
7A Proposed Wilderness		45,398	46,209	46,209			52,694	59,990	72,961	72,961	81,068	
Nonwilderness*												
2A	6,598	175	16,104			79,446	227	198	120	378		12,079
2A-1												21,461
2B			16,194		18,924		24,296	20,115	2,589	168		26,065
3A-4A												143
3A-5A									352			
3A-5D	21,658		1,726									3,370
4A			835	2,553			187		1,164			10,122
4B-1	2,283					60			1,017	329		
4C		5,835		8,197	8,315			451				
5A		6,824		10,687	21,820					115		
5B		15,841		9,521	32,009	247				5,785		7,828
5C	40,996											
5D	2,718											
5E	6,815					718	3,237	314	2,865			
5F		6,995		3,901								
8A						485	427			1,332		

\* Refer to Alternative map for prescription description

1/ Salmon Forest portion only. Refer to Beaverhead National Forest DEIS for description of the complete Roadless area

TABLE B  
IMPACTS ON WILDERNESS CHARACTER

Roadless Area 13943 West Big Hole

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS	ALT 1	ALT 2	ALT 3	ALT 4	ALT 5	ALT 6
Natural Integrity - Apparent Naturalness	Fairly high	Fairly high	Fairly high	Fairly high	Moderate	Fairly high
Solitude	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Some opportunity	Good opportunity
Primitive Recreation	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Some opportunity	Good opportunity
Challenging Experiences	Winter sports and cross-country travel	Winter sports and cross-country travel	Winter sports and cross-country travel	Winter sports and cross-country travel	Winter sports and cross-country travel	Winter sports and cross-country travel
Special Features	Mountain peaks unaffected	Mountain peaks unaffected	Mountain peaks unaffected	Mountain peaks unaffected	Mountain peaks unaffected	Mountain peaks unaffected

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS	ALT 7	ALT 8	ALT 9	ALT 10	ALT 11	ALT 12
Natural Integrity - Apparent Naturalness	Fairly high	Fairly high	Fairly high	Fairly high	Fairly high	Fairly high
Solitude	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity
Primitive Recreation	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity
Challenging Experiences	Winter sports and cross-country travel	Winter sports and cross-country travel	Winter sports and cross-country travel	Winter sports and cross-country travel	Winter sports and cross-country travel	Winter sports and cross-country travel
Special Features	Mountain peaks unaffected	Mountain peaks unaffected	Mountain peaks unaffected	Mountain peaks unaffected	Mountain peaks unaffected	Mountain peaks unaffected

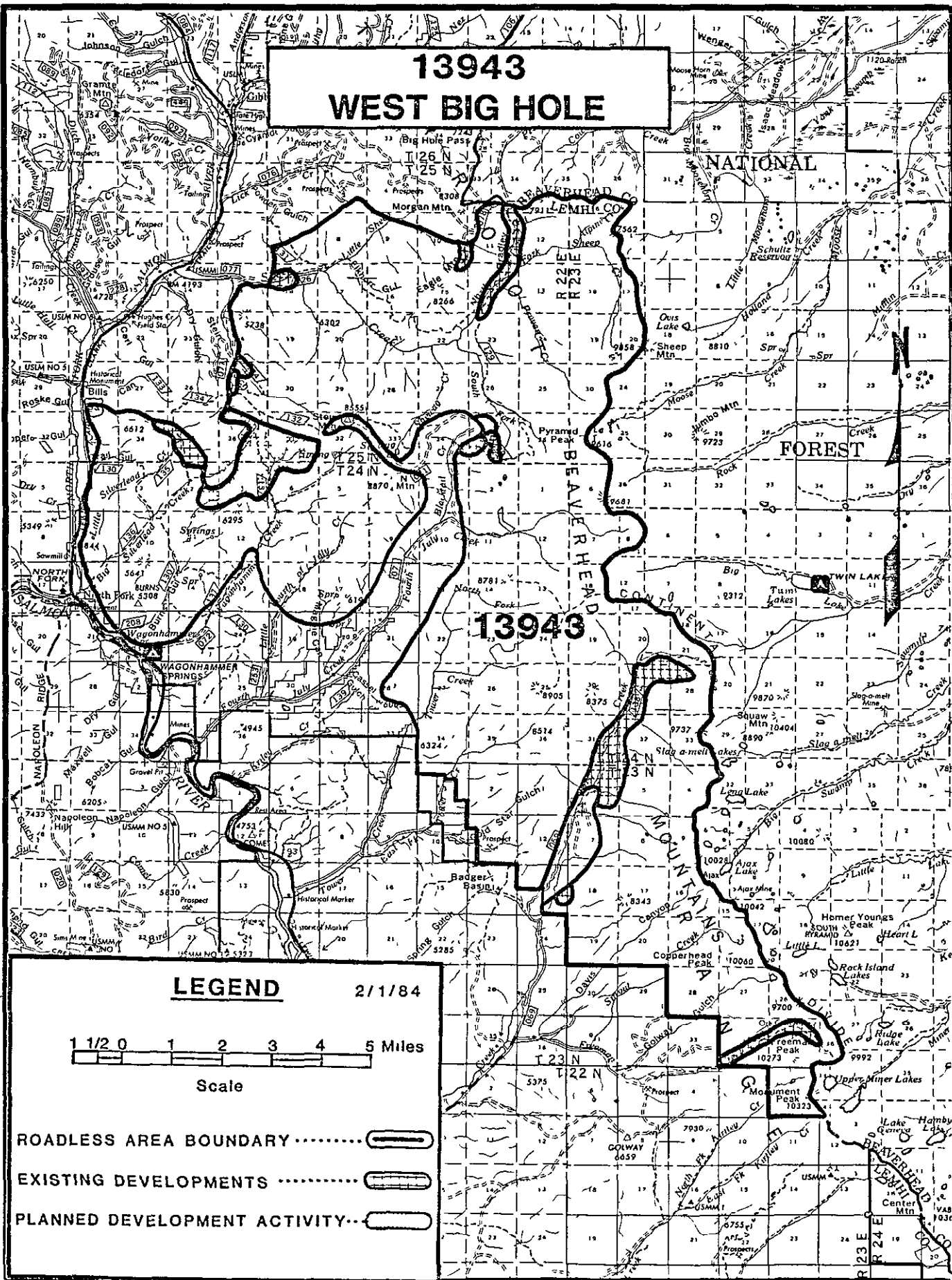
TABLE C

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF WILDERNESS/NON-WILDERNESS DESIGNATIONS ON  
THE PHYSICAL AND BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

Roadless Area 13943 West Big Hole

ENVIRONMENT	ALT 1	ALT 2	ALT 3	ALT 4	ALT 5	ALT 6
Potential Adverse Effects on Soil Productivity	None	None	None	None	Very slight	None
Potential Effects on Water Quality	None	None	None	None	Slightly adverse	None
Air Quality	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards
Potential Effects on Plant Communities	None	None	None	None	Timber harvest	None
Wildlife Habitat Capability - Elk	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Significant adverse impact	Insignificant change
Potential Effects on Fish Habitat Capability	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Slightly adverse impact	Insignificant change
ENVIRONMENT	ALT 7	ALT 8	ALT 9	ALT 10	ALT 11	ALT 12
Potential Adverse Effects on Soil Productivity	None	None	None	None	None	None
Potential Effects on Water Quality	None	None	None	None	None	None
Air Quality	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards
Potential Effects on Plant Communities	None	None	None	None	None	None
Wildlife Habitat Capability - Elk	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change
Potential Effects on Fish Habitat Capability	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change

13943  
WEST BIG HOLE



**13943**  
**WEST BIG HOLE**

**LEGEND** 2/1/84

1 1/2 0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles

Scale

ROADLESS AREA BOUNDARY .....

EXISTING DEVELOPMENTS .....

PLANNED DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY.....



## ROADLESS AREA EVALUATION

GOAT MOUNTAIN ROADLESS AREA  
SALMON NATIONAL FOREST #13944 -- 35,488 Acres

### I. Description (Salmon National Forest portion)

For a complete description of the entire roadless area, refer to the Beaverhead National Forest Plan DEIS.

The Goat Mountain Roadless Area is approximately 30 air miles southeast of Salmon, Idaho, and three air miles north of Leadore. The area is bounded on the south and east by the Forest boundary, on the north by the Idaho-Montana border and by the Grizzly Hill road (012) along the border, on the east by State Highway 29. Access to the area can be gained from these roads.

The area is dissected by one major stream, Little Eightmile Creek, and numerous smaller streams. The highest point in the roadless area is 9,900 feet at Goat Mountain, the low point is 6,200 feet above sea level. The topography of the area is broad rounded ridges with slopes ranging from 20 to 50 percent. The headlands of Little Eightmile Creek are rugged alpine glaciated topography. Average annual precipitation of 15 to 20 inches occurs mostly as snow. Temperatures vary from summer highs of 80 to 90 degrees, to 40 below zero in the winter. Sedimentary limestone bedrock forms the loamy textured soils of this area, much of which is covered with sagebrush and grass. Lodgepole pine occurs at the higher elevations and Douglas-fir patches are scattered throughout the area. The ecosystems that occur in the area are western spruce-fir and sagebrush.

Recreation use was estimated at 2,800 RVD's in 1982 and is primarily related to hunting and off road vehicles.

Two intrusions were identified within the inventoried boundaries. One is mining related impacts just inside the Forest boundary on Little Eightmile Creek (226 acres) and the second is timber sale related impacts on 1240 acres near Grizzly Hill. The area directly impacted by these activities no longer meets roadless area criteria and will not be considered further for wilderness.

The majority of the area is essentially natural appearing.

The unit is contiguous with roadless lands on the Beaverhead National Forest along its northeast side (#01944).

The unit contains some outstanding scenery, particularly in the vicinity of Goat Mountain, and East and West Peak. The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail corridor passes through this roadless area.

## II. Capability

Logical and manageable boundaries could be developed for the area, but boundary changes would be necessary to delete existing intrusions. Size is not a factor with this area.

Man's influence on the natural integrity of this unit has been very low except in some areas near Grizzly Hill, where mining exploration has scarred the landscape. The impacts that exist are long term in nature, but are limited to a small percentage of the unit and can be separated by boundary modification.

This unit would be apparently natural to most visitors, but there are impacts that would be apparent to some visitors.

The area provides moderate opportunity for solitude due to moderate size, little topographic or vegetative screening, moderate distance from core to perimeter and the existence of some permanent off-site intrusions. Due to these factors and the lack of diversity, the area has a low opportunity for primitive recreation.

Opportunities for challenging experiences or encountering serious hazards are rare.

This area may have the endangered gray wolf present. The presence of the wolf has not been confirmed, but evidence is such that it is included in the "Wolf Coordination Area" with the Beaverhead National Forest. Activities in the area are evaluated for possible impacts to the wolf.

## III. Availability

### Resource Potentials and Uses

Recreation use associated with the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail will increase as implementation of the trail proceeds. Hunting use could be expected to decline somewhat should motorized use of the area be prohibited.

The lower elevations of this area comprise a large block of key big game winter range, particularly in the Little Eightmile drainage. The drainage is also important to waterfowl in that the numerous basin potholes are used for nesting and brood-rearing. Approximately 400-450 antelope migrate through the Railroad Canyon portion each spring and fall, and mule deer migrate through the Little Eightmile-Grizzly Hill country. Sage grouse, chukars and blue grouse are found in this area. Prairie falcons and golden eagles commonly nest in this area, and moose are occasionally observed. A small herd (8-10 animals) of mountain goats inhabit Goat Mountain.

Only one small stream within the area contains habitat presently supporting fish, and it has moderate to high channel gradients. Cutthroat trout are found in the stream. There is also one water storage pond located within the Little Eightmile drainage that provides habitat for fish. Present fishing use is very light.

The area includes several small drainages with headwaters along the Continental Divide. Many of the streams are intermittent. Water which does leave the Forest is used for irrigation of ranch lands. Watershed quality is generally good, however, a few localized disturbances have been identified which resulted from past management practices. All streams are within the Lemhi River drainage.

Three grazing allotments are entirely within the roadless area, and the Grizzly Hill Allotment is partially in the area. The Peterson Creek, Little Eightmile, and Grizzly Hill cattle and horse allotments provide about 2,650 AUM's of cattle use each year; whereas the Mollie Gulch sheep and goat allotment is grazed by 1,200 sheep and contributes approximately 400 AUM's of permitted use. Located within the boundary of the roadless area are 15 water developments and 32.9 miles of fence. Although a small amount of excellent and poor condition range exists, the majority of the suitable range is rated as good and fair.

There are no known areas of ecological significance.

Approximately 8 percent of the area is potentially suitable timberland. The estimated standing volume is approximately 15 million board feet having an estimated annual potential yield of .5 million board feet. The volume is composed primarily of Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine. A 1.074 million board feet timber sale was sold in this roadless area in 1980. No other sales are planned within the area at this time.

The hardrock mineral potential of this area was rated high in the RARE II evaluation, and no new data modifies the original rating. Past mineral production from this area includes silver, gold, copper, lead and zinc. There is one patented mining claim within the area. Mining claim owners continue to do assessment work, with some expanding activities on their claims. There are no active mining operations at this time within the roadless area. Oil and gas potential for this area is considered low. There is no known potential for other currently leasable minerals. There are currently one oil and gas lease and two oil and gas lease applications pending.

Prehistoric and historic cultural resources are known to exist within this unit, but their significance has not been determined.

This roadless area includes six separate Special Use permits for mining access roads totaling about 10.5 miles. There is an Electronic Communications Site permitted adjacent to the intrusion area and the State of Idaho has requested an additional electronic site inside the area. Four-tenths mile of permitted System road and .6 mile of permitted powerline (12.5 KV) are also within the intrusion. About 4.3 miles of the power line are outside of the intrusion. The area has previously been (but is not now) used for Outfitter and Guide purposes. There are 8.5 miles of System Trail, 13.7 miles of non-System horse and jeep trail, and 3.5 miles of old railroad bed within the area. Approximately 6.2 miles of the

Continental Divide Trail are within the northeast perimeter of the area.

#### Management Considerations

Fire occurrence is light.

Since most of the area contains high elevation non-timber types and sagebrush grass types, disease considerations are minimal.

There is one tract of private land at the Commodore Mine totaling 19.5 acres.

#### IV. Need

This unit is located approximately 90 road miles from the River of No Return Wilderness. Use of this wilderness ranges from low to high depending on the particular area.

The roadless area is located approximately 40 miles from Salmon, Idaho; 100 miles from Idaho Falls, Idaho; and 170 miles from Missoula, Montana.

The area does not contain any ecosystems determined from RARE II to be in need of representation in the wilderness system.

During RARE I this area was inventoried as the Beaverhead III Roadless Area #295. The decision in the RARE I FEIS was to manage this area for non-wilderness resource development. Public opinion received on the area during RARE I, wilderness/non-wilderness, was against further study for wilderness. The area was not considered highly controversial during RARE I.

The Beaverhead III Roadless Area #295 was inventoried and evaluated in RARE II as the Goat Mountain Roadless Area #04-944. During RARE II public opinion was against further study for wilderness and the wilderness/non-wilderness issue was not highly controversial. The area is contiguous with roadless lands on the Beaverhead NF in Montana and the area has not been an issue on the Beaverhead.

Senator McClure held "Idaho Forest Management Act" hearings in Coeur d'Alene, Lewiston, Boise, and Idaho Falls during August 1983. Prior to these meetings the Senator sent out a constituent letter with four proposals, i.e., the Forest Service RARE II, Forest Industries, other commodity user groups, and the 1979 Idaho Wildlife Federation proposal. Following the hearings, Senator McClure has received additional input from environmental groups and the Governor of Idaho. The environmental groups and Governor Evans have not included this area in their proposals. The Idaho Fish and Game Commission provided input to Governor Evans for both wilderness and roadless management areas over the State. They did not include this area in their proposal.

During the Forest Planning review of inventoried roadless lands, public opinion was again divided ranging from no wilderness to all wilderness. The Idaho Wildlife Federation (IWF) and Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association (IOGA) recommended a "Reserved" status for the area which is basically development only if it can be done without impairing environmental values. The Idaho Environmental Council supported the IWF and IOGA recommendations. Earth First! recommended wilderness. The Idaho Mining Association, Idaho Cattlemen's Association, Outdoors Unlimited, Idaho Farm Bureau, Idaho Wool Growers, Idaho Trail Machine Association, Idaho Forest Industries Council, and Idaho Women in Timber all recommended no wilderness for Goat Mountain. No recommendations were received from Governor Evans, the Idaho Wildlands Defense Coalition, or the Idaho Fish and Game Commission. The wilderness/non-wilderness issue on Goat Mountain generated a relatively low level of controversy during Forest Plan review of roadless area.

Senator McClure has introduced the Idaho Forest Management Act in the Senate. The Goat Mountain Roadless Area was not included in this proposed wilderness legislation.

Preferred Alternative Recommendation (Salmon National Forest portion)

This roadless area is not recommended for wilderness designation in the preferred alternative on the Salmon National Forest portion.

On the Salmon National Forest portion, no resource activities are predicted which would preclude consideration of this area for wilderness during the next plan revision. Mineral potential is high. Timing of possible development of mineral resources is not known but if development should occur the area disturbed by mining and access construction would be precluded from further wilderness consideration.

The entire roadless area is evaluated in Appendix C of the Beaverhead National Forest's Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Salmon National Forest's preferred alternative is a recommendation until the final decision is approved on the Beaverhead National Forest's Final Environmental Impact Statement.

Effects of Wilderness/Non-wilderness Management Prescriptions <sup>1/</sup>

TABLE A

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION BY FOREST PLAN ALTERNATIVE  
(Acres)

Roadless Area: 13944 Goat Mountain

Forest Plan Alternative

Management Prescription	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12 (preferred)
7A Proposed Wilderness	10,646								35,488	35,488	35,488	
Non-wilderness*												
2A			28,063				26,760	28,065				35,222
2B			7,425				7,935	6,471				
4A						18,440						
5B					262							266
5E	9,843						502	243				
5F						536						
8A	25,645	24,842		35,488	35,226	16,472	291	709				

\* Refer to Alternative map for prescription descriptions.

<sup>1/</sup> Salmon Forest portion only. Refer to Beaverhead National Forest DEIS for description of the complete Roadless area.

TABLE B  
IMPACTS ON WILDERNESS CHARACTER

Roadless Area 13944 Goat Mountain

T

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS	ALT 1	ALT 2	ALT 3	ALT 4	ALT 5	ALT 6
Natural Integrity - Apparent Naturalness	Fairly high	Fairly high	Fairly high	Fairly high	Fairly high	Fairly high
Solitude	Some opportunity	Some opportunity	Some opportunity	Some opportunity	Some opportunity	Some opportunity
Primitive Recreation	Some opportunity	Some opportunity	Some opportunity	Some opportunity	Some opportunity	Some opportunity
Challenging Experiences	Cross-country travel	Cross-country travel	Cross-country travel	Cross-country travel	Cross-country travel	Cross-country travel
Special Features	Mountain peaks unaffected	Mountain peaks unaffected	Mountain peaks unaffected	Mountain peaks unaffected	Mountain peaks unaffected	Mountain peaks unaffected

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS	ALT 7	ALT 8	ALT 9	ALT 10	ALT 11	ALT 12
Natural Integrity - Apparent Naturalness	Fairly high	Fairly high	Fairly high	Fairly high	Fairly high	Fairly high
Solitude	Some opportunity	Some opportunity	Some opportunity	Some opportunity	Some opportunity	Some opportunity
Primitive Recreation	Some opportunity	Some opportunity	Some opportunity	Some opportunity	Some opportunity	Some opportunity
Challenging Experiences	Cross-country travel	Cross-country travel	Cross-country travel	Cross-country travel	Cross-country travel	Cross-country travel
Special Features	Mountain peaks unaffected	Mountain peaks unaffected	Mountain peaks unaffected	Mountain peaks unaffected	Mountain peaks unaffected	Mountain peaks unaffected

TABLE C  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF WILDERNESS/NON-WILDERNESS DESIGNATIONS ON  
THE PHYSICAL AND BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

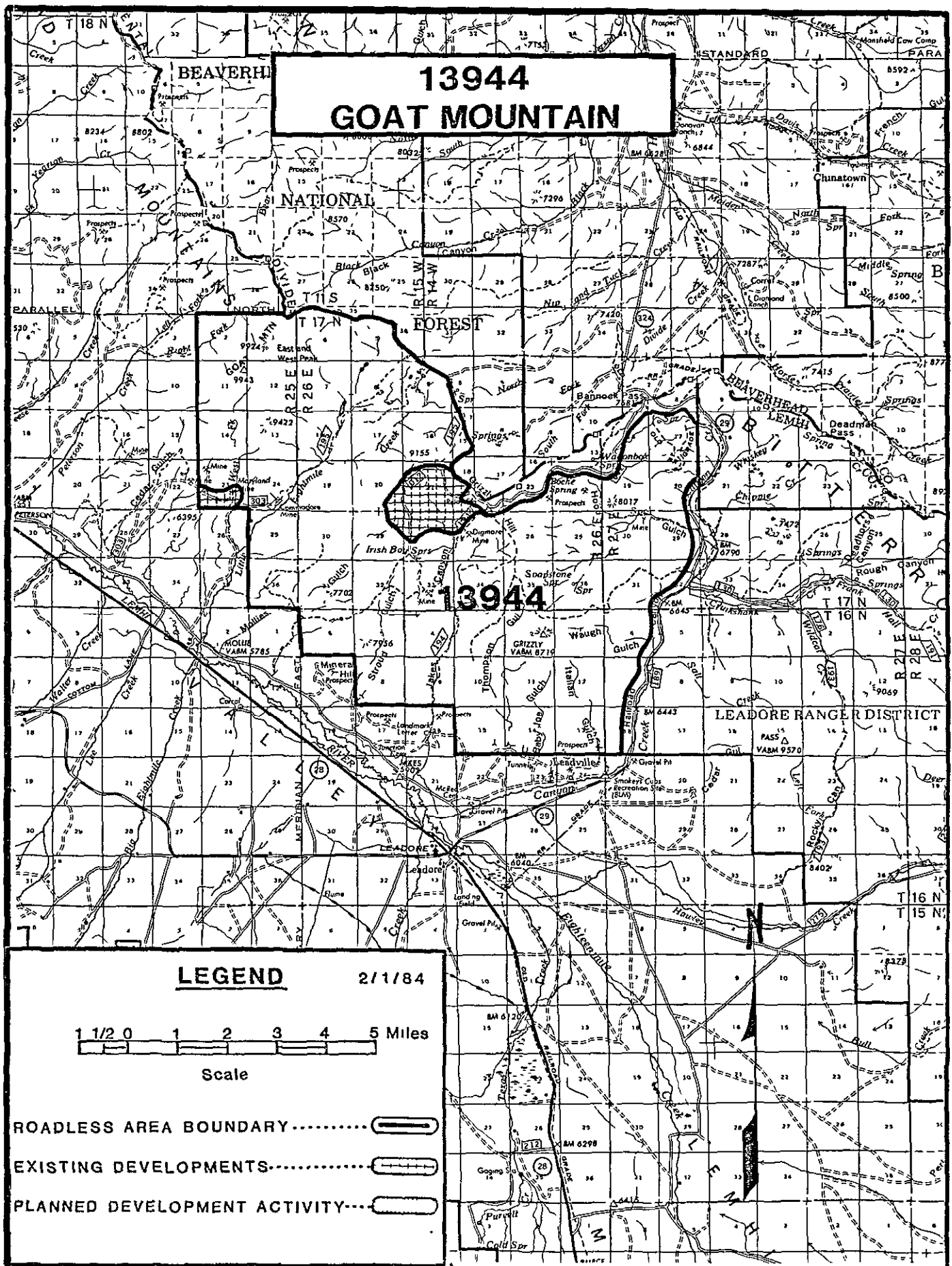
Roadless Area 13944 Goat Mountain

ENVIRONMENT	ALT 1	ALT 2	ALT 3	ALT 4	ALT 5	ALT 6
Potential Adverse Effects on Soil Productivity	None	None	None	None	None	None
Potential Effects on Water Quality	None	None	None	None	None	None
Air Quality	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards
Potential Effects on Plant Communities	None	None	None	None	None	None
Wildlife Habitat Capability - Elk	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change
Potential Effects on Fish Habitat Capability	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change

ENVIRONMENT	ALT 7	ALT 8	ALT 9	ALT 10	ALT 11	ALT 12
Potential Adverse Effects on Soil Productivity	None	None	None	None	None	None
Potential Effects on Water Quality	None	None	None	None	None	None
Air Quality	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards
Potential Effects on Plant Communities	None	None	None	None	None	None
Wildlife Habitat Capability - Elk	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change
Potential Effects on Fish Habitat Capability	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change





## ROADLESS AREA EVALUATION

### ITALIAN PEAK ROADLESS AREA

SALMON NATIONAL FOREST #13945 ~ 50,181 Acres

#### I. Description (Salmon National Forest portion)

For a complete description of the entire roadless area, refer to the Beaverhead National Forest Plan DEIS.

The Italian Peak Roadless Area is approximately 40 air miles south-east of Salmon, Idaho, and five air miles east of Leadore. The area is bounded on the northeast by State Highway 29, and by the Forest boundary on the rest of the area. A BLM wilderness study area abuts the southern portion of the area. Access to the Italian Peak Roadless Area can be gained from the state highway and from road 130 along Cruikshank Creek, Forest road 177 along Hawley Creek, and Forest road 188 in Dry Canyon.

The area is dissected by two major drainages, Cruikshank Creek and Hawley Creek. Elevations range from 6,800 feet to over 10,700 feet at Baldy Mountain. The area forms the western slope of the Continental Divide and is the northern extension of the basin and range topography found in Utah and Nevada. Glaciation has formed rocky ridges and high peaks with broad U-shaped canyons in the headlands of the drainages. Steep canyon walls with rock outcroppings are typical of the lower elevation topography. Precipitation, mostly in the form of snow, ranges from 15 to 20 inches annually. Summer high temperatures of 80 to 90 degrees are contrasted by winter lows of 40 below zero. A mixture of limestone, quartzite, and volcanic rocks forms the bedrock, producing soils with textures ranging from loamy clays to loamy sands. Much of the country is covered with sagebrush and grass. Douglas-fir occurs throughout the lower elevations, with lodgepole pine and subalpine fir occurring on the higher elevations. The ecosystems that occur in the area are western spruce-fir and sage-grass.

Recreation use, estimated at 9,400 RVD's in 1982, includes hunting, fishing, backpacking, horseback riding, trail bike riding, snowmobiling, and ORV use.

Three intrusions were identified within the inventory boundary. Two are mining related and are located in the vicinity of Big Bear Creek and Bull Creek. Together, they combine for a total of 5130 acres. One is timber related and is located between Frank Hall Creek and Wildcat Creek for a total of 2004 acres. The area directly impacted by these activities no longer meets roadless area criteria and will not be considered further for wilderness.

The majority of the area is essentially natural appearing.

The Italian Peak Roadless Area is contiguous with another roadless area (#01945 Beaverhead NF) on the east; the BLM Eighteenmile Wilderness Study Area on the south and southwest; BLM administered

lands on the west and north; and is separated by a road corridor from another roadless area (#13944) on the northwest.

This area contains some outstanding scenery, particularly in the high divide country. The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail passes through this roadless area.

## II. Capability

Logical and manageable boundaries could be developed for this unit, with boundary changes to delete existing intrusions. Size is not a factor with this unit.

Man's influence on the natural integrity of this unit has been low. The long term impacts that exist can be deleted by boundary modification, or have a moderate feasibility of correcting.

This roadless area would be apparently natural to most visitors.

The area has significant size and good distance from core to perimeter, but only moderate amounts of topographic and vegetative screening and there are some permanent off-site intrusions, all of which result in a moderate opportunity for solitude. Due to these factors and only moderate amounts of diversity, the opportunity for primitive recreation is moderate.

Opportunities for challenging experiences or encountering serious hazards are rare.

## III. Availability

### Resource Potentials and Uses

Recreation use of this unit is expected to increase as implementation of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail proceeds. Certain types of recreational use would decrease should motorized use be prohibited.

Inherent vegetative diversity and a wide range of elevation make this area important to many wildlife species. Elk calving and mule deer fawning areas are located in the upper portion of the Cruikshank and Hawley Creek drainages, as are important riparian areas for small birds and mammals. This area contains both key big game winter and summer range. Moose are occasionally observed. Natural cover/forage ratios in this area are near to below optimum.

The area contains two streams with significant resident fisheries, but habitat conditions have been influenced by past livestock management. Several other streams support populations of resident rainbow, cutthroat, and rainbow-cutthroat hybrid trout. One lake provides excellent trout habitat. Fishing use of the streams ranges from light to heavy. The majority of use is within the Hawley Creek drainage. General fishing quality would be rated as good to excellent.

The area is located in the headwaters of the Lemhi River and includes portions of the Canyon Creek drainage, Hawley Creek drainage and several small intermittent streams which contribute directly to the Lemhi River. Generally, water yield is low to moderate and is used extensively for irrigation. A few small, localized areas have been identified in which watershed stability has been reduced, due in part to previous land management activities. Small watershed stability projects, such as gully plugs, have been initiated to restore these areas.

There are three cattle and horse allotments, and one sheep and goat allotment within the roadless area. Grizzly Hill, Hawley Creek and Powderhorn cattle allotments account for nearly 7,000 AUM's of permitted use annually. The Chamberlain Sheep Allotment is grazed by 1200 sheep and contributes approximately 360 AUM's of permitted use. Most of the suitable range is in either good or fair condition, with small amounts of poor and excellent condition range present. There are 47 water developments and 61.1 miles of fence within the roadless area.

The area does not contain any ecosystems identified from the RARE II analysis to be in need of representation in the wilderness system.

Approximately 16 percent of the area is potentially suitable timberland. The estimated standing volume is 59 million board feet with an estimated annual potential yield of .6 million board feet. The volume is composed primarily of Douglas-fir with some lodgepole pine also occurring. A 1.717 million board feet timber sale was sold in this unit in 1982. No other sales are planned within the unit at this time.

The hardrock mineral potential of this area was rated high in the RARE II evaluation, and no new data modifies the original rating. There has been no mineral production from this area, however, mining claim owners continue to do assessment work. Gold, copper, and thorium occurrences are present and there are substantial potential phosphate resources within this area. Phosphate prospecting permit applications have been filed with the BLM. Oil and gas potential for the area is considered low. There are 7 pending oil and gas lease applications and one oil and gas lease within the area. There is no known potential for other currently leasable minerals.

Prehistoric and historic cultural resources are known to exist in this roadless area, but their significance has not been determined.

This area includes five special use permits for access roads totaling about 10.4 miles. Also included are 21.4 miles of System Trails (1½ miles within the intrusion), and 13.7 miles of non-system trails. The Continental Divide Trail is along the east perimeter for 10.8 miles. This area has previously been used, but is not now used, for Outfitter and Guide purposes.

#### Management Considerations

Fire occurrence is light.

Although western spruce budworm has not caused severe defoliation, the insect does reduce Douglas-fir cone crops and kill some of the understory Douglas-fir. The Douglas-fir beetle periodically kills small groups of the older, larger Douglas-fir.

The area contains one tract of private land (HES #659) totaling 148.2 acres.

#### IV. Need

The Italian Peak Roadless Area is approximately 90 road miles from the River of No Return Wilderness. Use of this wilderness ranges from low to high, depending on the particular area.

The Italian Peak Roadless Area is approximately 40 miles from Salmon, Idaho; 100 miles from Idaho Falls, Idaho; and 170 miles from Missoula, Montana.

During RARE I this area was inventoried as the Beaverhead IV Roadless Area #296. The decision in the RARE I FEIS was to manage this area for non-wilderness resource development. Public opinion received on the area during RARE I, wilderness/non-wilderness, was against further study for wilderness. The area was not considered controversial during RARE I.

During the RARE II inventory and evaluation process, the Beaverhead IV Roadless Area #296 was combined with adjacent roadless areas on the Targhee NF and the Beaverhead NF. This combined area was divided into three parts. The south part (S4-945) on the Targhee NF was proposed for non-wilderness. The middle part (M4-945) on the Targhee NF and a portion of the north area (B1001) on the Beaverhead NF were recommended for wilderness, which was later changed to further planning in the final Carter Administration proposal to Congress. The north part (N4-945) on the Salmon NF and the remaining north part (A1001) on the Beaverhead NF were recommended for non-wilderness. Public opinion on M4-945 and B1001 was divided and the core area was considered highly controversial.

The decision in the RARE II FEIS was to manage the lands (N4-945) on the Salmon NF for non-wilderness resource development. Public opinion was for non-wilderness resource development for the Salmon portion area. The wilderness/non-wilderness issue was not highly controversial on the Salmon area.

Senator McClure held "Idaho Forest Management Act" hearings in Coeur d'Alene, Lewiston, Boise, and Idaho Falls during August 1983. Prior to these meetings the Senator sent out a constituent letter with four proposals i.e., the Forest Service RARE II, Forest Industries, other commodity user groups, and the 1979 Idaho Wildlife Federation Proposal. Following the hearings, Senator McClure

Effects of Wilderness/Nonwilderness Management Prescriptions 1/

TABLE A

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION BY FOREST PLAN ALTERNATIVE  
(Acres)

Roadless Area	13945 Italian Peak				Forest Plan Alternative							
Management Prescription	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12 (preferred)
7A Proposed Wilderness								20,574	50,181	50,181	50,181	
Nonwilderness												
2A		23,074	50,181	16,820			49,918					
2B		2,653		2,592				29,383				2,364
4A						15,376						2,596
4B-1	21,979											18,021
5B		1,182		1,230	1,752							428
5C					5,886							
5E							124	138				
8A	28,202	23,272		29,539	42,543	34,805	139	86				26,772

\* Refer to Alternative map for prescription description.

1/ Salmon Forest portion only Refer to Beaverhead National Forest DEIS for description of the complete Roadless area

TABLE B  
IMPACTS ON WILDERNESS CHARACTER

Roadless Area 13945 Italian Peak

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS	ALT 1	ALT 2	ALT 3	ALT 4	ALT 5	ALT 6
Natural Integrity - Apparent Naturalness	Fairly high	Fairly high	Fairly high	Fairly high	Fairly high	Fairly high
Solitude	Some opportunity	Some opportunity	Some opportunity	Some opportunity	Some opportunity	Some opportunity
Primitive Recreation	Some opportunity	Some opportunity	Some opportunity	Some opportunity	Some opportunity	Some opportunity
Challenging Experiences	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence
Special Features	Mountain peaks unaffected	Mountain peaks unaffected	Mountain peaks unaffected	Mountain peaks unaffected	Mountain peaks unaffected	Mountain peaks unaffected

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS	ALT 7	ALT 8	ALT 9	ALT 10	ALT 11	ALT 12
Natural Integrity - Apparent Naturalness	Fairly high	Fairly high	Fairly high	Fairly high	Fairly high	Fairly high
Solitude	Some opportunity	Some opportunity	Some opportunity	Some opportunity	Some opportunity	Some opportunity
Primitive Recreation	Some opportunity	Some opportunity	Some opportunity	Some opportunity	Some opportunity	Some opportunity
Challenging Experiences	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence
Special Features	Mountain peaks unaffected	Mountain peaks unaffected	Mountain peaks unaffected	Mountain peaks unaffected	Mountain peaks unaffected	Mountain peaks unaffected

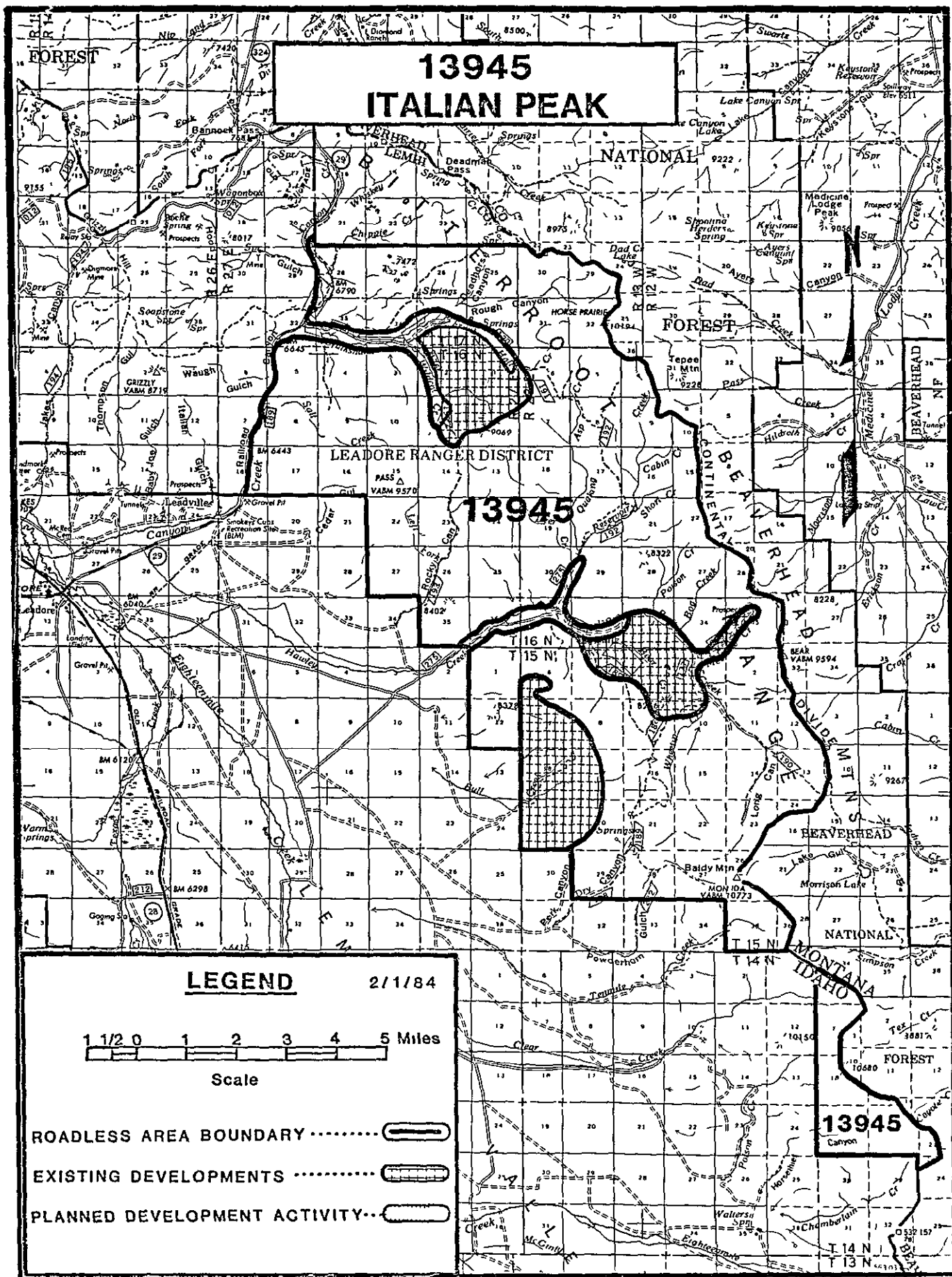
TABLE C

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF WILDERNESS/NON-WILDERNESS DESIGNATIONS ON  
THE PHYSICAL AND BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

Roadless Area. 13945 Italian Peak

ENVIRONMENT	ALT 1	ALT 2	ALT 3	ALT 4	ALT 5	ALT 6
Potential Adverse Effects on Soil Productivity	None	None	None	None	None	None
Potential Effects on Water Quality	None	None	None	None	None	None
Air Quality	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards
Potential Effects on Plant Communities	None	None	None	None	None	None
Wildlife Habitat Capability - Elk	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change
Potential Effects on Fish Habitat Capability	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change
ENVIRONMENT	ALT 7	ALT 8	ALT 9	ALT 10	ALT 11	ALT 12
Potential Adverse Effects on Soil Productivity	None	None	None	None	None	None
Potential Effects on Water Quality	None	None	None	None	None	None
Air Quality	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards
Potential Effects on Plant Communities	None	None	None	None	None	None
Wildlife Habitat Capability - Elk	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change
Potential Effects on Fish Habitat Capability	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change





ROADLESS AREA EVALUATION

ALLEN MOUNTAIN ROADLESS AREA  
SALMON NATIONAL FOREST #13946  
BITTERROOT NATIONAL FOREST #01946

This entire roadless area is evaluated in Appendix C of the Bitterroot National Forest Draft Environmental Impact Statement. That evaluation is reproduced on the following pages.

## I. ALLAN MOUNTAIN ROADLESS AREA

### A. Description

This area is identified by numbers 01946 (Bitterroot Forest) and 13946 (Salmon Forest). RARE II numbers were L1YAG and 04946. Roadless area acreage is:

<u>National Forest</u>	<u>Gross Acres</u>	<u>Net Acres</u>
Bitterroot (Montana)	102,386	102,286
Salmon (Idaho)	50,981	50,981
Total	153,367	153,267

About two-thirds of this roadless area is in Montana and about one-third is in Idaho. Resource values are identified for the whole area, and state and Forest portions.

The Allan Mountain area is located in the southern end of Ravalli County in western Montana and the northern portion of Lemhi County in east central Idaho. It lies approximately 45 miles south of Hamilton, Montana, and 40 miles north of Salmon, Idaho.

Primary access is via U.S. Highway 93 which parallels the east side of the area and by the West Fork Road on the west. Various Forest roads leading from these roads serve trailheads which provide access to the interior. Thirty trails totaling about 150 miles provide for travel within the area. Four mining roads totaling 17 miles intrude into the area.

The area extends 28 miles from north to south with a width of up to 13 miles east to west. The area is shaped like a comma with a consolidated core area containing Overwhich Falls (Montana) at the north end and a tail running to the southwest. There are several appendages on the north and the southern portion is almost bisected by mining roads.

Elevations range from about 4,800 feet to 9,154 feet at Allan Mountain in Idaho. Approximately 60 percent of the area is above 7,000 feet. The Idaho portion drains into the Salmon River while the Montana portion drains into the Bitterroot River.

Topography is steep and generally rocky with shallow, sandy-loam soils. Drainage bottoms are narrow with steepened slopes rising to relatively narrow ridges in the Montana portion and wider, rounder ridges in the Idaho portion.

The area is mostly forested except for peaks in the Allan and Piquett Mountain areas (Montana) and at spots along the Montana-Idaho border. Lodgepole pine, subalpine fir and whitebark pine are the major tree species above 7,000 feet. At lower elevations, Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine, and Engelmann spruce prevail.

Ground cover varies with elevation and aspect but grouse whortleberry, pinegrass, beargrass, and elk sedge are common with bunchgrasses on south slopes at lower elevations. Large areas east of Piquett Mountain and in the Straight Creek drainages (Montana) burned in 1917 and 1919 and some fairly large, grassy openings favored by wildlife were created.

Streams are small, cold, fast-flowing with gravelly, rocky bottoms and support a native fishery.

Current uses in the area are grazing, mineral exploration, and a variety of recreation activities.

## B. Analysis of Wilderness Suitability

### 1. Wilderness Attributes

#### a. Natural Integrity and Appearance

Mining, range management, and fire control activities are the primary impacts in the area. Most of the mining and range impacts are located on the Montana side. Mining activity includes dozer trails and prospect holes in the Overwhich Falls area. Stub roads and pads for core drilling have been reclaimed to approximate natural contours. The jeep trail from Road No. 5702 to Overwhich Falls primarily consists of wheel tracks with an incised portion near Overwhich Falls. Wheel tracks are healing naturally, but the incised portions will be evident in the foreseeable future. A short spur road has also been incised through unstable slopes a short distance down Overwhich Creek (Montana) creating a permanent scar. Mining access road corridors in Hughes and Mine Creeks (Montana) and Indian and McConn Creeks (Idaho) are outside the roadless area but are blemishes on an otherwise natural appearing landscape. Corridors in Mine and Indian Creeks almost bisect the southern portion of the roadless area.

On the Montana side, evidence of range activities are fences, stock water tanks, and a cabin in Warm Springs Creek. Cattle have created bare spots around salting grounds and watering areas. Removal of cattle and facilities would allow these areas to heal.

The most evident fire control impacts are the helispots which have been cut along ridgetops. In most cases, a gradual return of tree cover would heal these areas.

Man-caused impacts occur on less than 1 percent of the roadless area with most near the center in the vicinity of Overwhich Falls. These would be evident to users when onsite. Overall, the area is natural appearing.

#### b. Opportunities for Solitude

The size of the core area and topography around Overwhich Falls offer excellent opportunities for solitude. This opportunity decreases in the southern portion along the state border due to its long, narrow configuration, and the greater opportunity to view man's activities because of midslope boundaries. Lower slopes leading away from this portion are roaded and timber has been harvested.

Solitude opportunities are also excellent on the Idaho side in the vicinity of Allan Mountain. Here the mountainous region and steep drainages allow for escape from the timber harvest and roads on adjacent lands. Most of the appendages offer few opportunities for solitude.

### c. Primitive Recreation Opportunities

The area is well-suited to primitive types of recreation. The existing trail system is well-maintained and suitable for foot, horse, and trailbike travel. Some opportunities exist for cross-country travel and water is available throughout the area. Opportunities for high-risk activities such as rock climbing are rare.

### d. Other Features

Subalpine larch stands on Allan Mountain represent the southern limit of this tree species.

Overwhich Falls, while carrying a relatively small volume of water, is spectacular. The geologic processes which led to Overwhich Creek cutting back through erosive materials and capturing the upper reaches of Fault Creek are significant.

High scenic values exist in the area around Allan and Piquett Mountains. Important cultural resources include a portion of the historic Southern Nez Perce Indian Trail and remnants of Forest Service, miner and trapper cabins scattered through the area.

## 2. Manageability and Boundaries

The area was inventoried and evaluated for wilderness in the 1979 RARE II (Roadless Area Review and Evaluation) Final Environmental Impact Statement. The area was designated for nonwilderness uses. Since 1979 timber has been harvested and some roading has occurred. On the Bitterroot Forest, the effects of the activities have been minimal because most were in appendages that rate low in wilderness attributes or were at midslope adjacent to previous activity. On the Salmon Forest, area no longer meeting roadless criteria are associated with the two mining roads and mineral activity in Indian and McConn Creeks and timber sale activity in the northeast corner. The following adjustment in net acres has taken place since the RARE II inventory:

<u>Adjustment</u>	<u>---National Forest---</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>Bitterroot</u>	<u>Salmon</u>	<u>Acres</u>
1979 RARE II inventory	111,200	46,670	157,870
Timber activity and roads	-9,549	-691	-10,240
Refined acreage calculation	+635	+5,002	+5,637
1983 roadless inventory	102,286	50,981	153,267

Most of the current boundary is not on readily identifiable topographic features, but is defined by the upper limits of development in individual drainages. There are opportunities to move boundaries to topographic features to enhance wilderness attributes.

A large core area (45 percent of the roadless area) with the highest wilderness characteristics has been identified. It is enclosed by high ridgetops which screen out most off-area evidence of civilization and encompasses the upper reaches of Warm Springs, Slate, and Overwhich Creeks in Montana and Indian,

Hughes, and Twin Creeks in Idaho. The core area has solitude and most of the highest primitive recreation values and special features. Much of the more productive timberland that is the most physically suited for development is excluded. However, areas of high mineral potential, particularly around Overwhich Falls, cannot be excluded without seriously compromising wilderness characteristics. Most oil and gas leases are outside the core area. Boundary changes would also eliminate some of the nonconforming mining uses that are around the periphery.

Separate wilderness boundaries could be identified for each state's portion. On the Montana side an area around Overwhich Falls is possible, and on the Idaho side, a smaller portion around Allan Mountain is possible.

# C. Availability for Wilderness

## 1. Resource Potential and Use

Table C-3

Allan Mountain Roadless Area Resource Potential and Use

Category	Unit	-----Forest-----		Total
		Bitterroot	Salmon	
Gross area	Acres	102,386	50,981	153,367
Net area	Acres	102,286	50,981	153,267
Recreation				
Primitive	RVD's	0	0	0
Semiprim. nonmotor.	RVD's	200	0	200
Semiprim. motor.	RVD's	4,000	2,400	6,400
Roaded natural	RVD's	400	100	500
Wildlife habitat				
Elk & deer				
Summer range	Acres	88,201	50,981	139,182
Winter range	Acres	14,085	0	14,085
Rocky mountain goat	Acres	3,000	5,000	8,000
Bighorn sheep	Acres	0	0	0
Fisheries streams	Miles	64	18	82
Lakes	Number	5	1	6
Fisheries lakes	Acres	30	15	45
Water developments	Number	0	0	0
Livestock range				
Current use	AUM's	419	0	419
Suitable rangeland	Acres	2,823	0	2,823
Current allotments	Number	4	0	4
Other suitable	Acres	0	0	0
Timber				
Tentatively suitable	Acres	64,976	36,335	101,311
Standing volume	MMBF	570.9	187.0	757.9
Corridors				
Existing/potential	Number	0	0	0
Mineral potential				
Very high	Acres	19,789	0	19,789
High	Acres	17,403	50,981	68,384
Moderate	Acres	42,829	0	42,829
Low	Acres	22,265	0	22,265
Mining claims	Number	449	22	471
Oil & gas potential				
Very high	Acres	0	0	0
High	Acres	0	0	0
Moderate	Acres	0	0	0
Low	Acres	102,286	50,981	153,267
Leases	Number	7	0	7
Leased area	Acres	4,410	0	4,410

## 2. Selected Resource Values

### a. Recreation

Current use is light consisting of big-game hunting but includes hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, fishing, camping, and ski touring. Major attractions include trails and campsites along the major streams and lakes and Overwhich Falls, and geologic attractions in that vicinity. The State Line, Saddle to Piquett Mountain, Allan Mountain, and Butcherknife Ridge trails provide varied subalpine scenery. Use is concentrated in these areas.

### b. Wildlife

Wildlife includes elk, Rocky Mountain goat, black bears, mule deer, moose, mountain lions, wolverines, martens, pileated woodpeckers, golden eagles, hawks, ravens, blue and Franklin grouse, cutthroat and brook trout, and smaller animals and birds that are typical of moderate to high elevation land. The area also provides security areas for game during the hunting season. The Idaho portion contains tributaries of five important anadromous fish streams, which are directly influenced by habitat conditions in these headwaters.

### c. Water

This is a relatively high water-producing area. Annual precipitation ranges from 40 to 50 inches. Watershed conditions are generally excellent and water quality is high. Headwater streams are tributary to the North Fork and main Salmon Rivers and the East and West Forks of the Bitterroot River.

### d. Livestock

A moderate amount of recreational horse use occurs during the fall big-game hunting season. Although the Indian Ridge cattle allotment (Idaho) extends into the roadless area, practically all use occurs outside. The remaining allotments are in Montana with use confined primarily to meadows bordering Warm Springs Creek and grassy ridgetops to the north of Saddle Mountain and Medicine Point.

### e. Ecology

Topography, aspect, elevation, and precipitation create ecosystems that are characteristic of local mountainous areas. Subalpine larch stands on Allan Mountain represent the southernmost limit of this species. Penstemon lemhiensis is considered vulnerable to extinction and may be present (Bosworth, 1984).

### f. Timber

About 65 percent of the area is tentatively suitable for timber production. Unsuitable lands are concentrated at the highest elevations along the state line and prominent lateral ridges, in the vicinity of Allan Mountain and Piquett/Rombo Mountains (Montana), and on south- to west-facing slopes dispersed throughout the area. Potential productivity ranges from 20 to 84 cubic feet per acre per year. Lands of higher site quality and those most suitable for development, due to favorable topography, are generally found at the lower/warmer elevations.



#### g. Minerals and Energy Resources

Mineral potential is high or very high on about 55 percent of the area. The very high rating is near Overwhich Falls where some 400 claims have been located and core drilling of low grade copper has occurred. High ratings are also concentrated in Overwhich Creek and in the Idaho portion. No new data modifies the RARE II rating which was high for the entire Idaho side. Minerals recorded include copper, iron, barite, gold, thorium, and rare earths. The oil and gas potential is considered low. Oil and gas leases are confined to the northeast portion and are all in Montana.

#### h. Cultural

A branch of the Southern Nez Perce Indian Trail is believed to have traversed the southern portion near the state line. Sites are assumed to be near the trail; however, little is known about cultural sites within the roadless area.

#### i. Land Use Authorizations

There are five outfitter permits in the Montana portion and three in Idaho.

#### j. Nonfederal Lands

There are about 100 acres of privately-owned land along the exterior boundary in a tributary of Hughes Creek in Montana.

#### k. Other Considerations

##### (1) Fire

Fire occurrence is low to moderate. The potential for large, intense fires is moderate due to heavy accumulations of down fuels, particularly in lodgepole pine stands decimated by mountain pine beetles in the 1930's.

##### (2) Insects and Disease

Insects and diseases are generally endemic; however, dwarf mistletoe reduces annual growth in some areas as does spruce budworm, a recurrent pest. There are areas of high-risk lodgepole pine that will become increasingly susceptible to mountain pine beetle attack.

#### D. Need

##### 1. Proximity to Other Designated Wildernesses and Population Centers

See Tables C-1 and C-2.

##### 2. Contribution to the Wilderness Preservation System

Classification as wilderness would add ecosystems and wildlife species which are well-represented in existing wilderness. Climax species such as marten and pileated woodpecker would also benefit, as would unroaded security for big game.

### 3. Public Interest

No wilderness is proposed in either the Montana or Idaho congressional delegations' bills of 1984, nor has either governor recommended wilderness for any portion of the area.

In the 1983 roadless area public involvement on the Bitterroot Forest, there was little public support for wilderness; however, there was strong support for roadless management emphasizing wildlife needs and primitive recreation opportunities. Conversely there was also support for managing the area for nonwilderness uses due to snowmobiling, timber, and mineral potential. On the Salmon Forest, public involvement generated a relatively low level of response with opinion about equally divided between wilderness and nonwilderness.

In RARE II, 15 percent of the responses to the DEIS supported wilderness, 23 percent nonwilderness, and 62 percent further planning. Response favoring further planning came primarily from the Idaho Citizens' RARE II Alternative W. Response was similar for both the Montana and Idaho portions.

Legislative history for the Central Idaho Wilderness Act (P.L.96-312) supported nonwilderness management for the entire area (H.R.96-1126, Conference Report).

In the unit planning process, a large core area centering around Overwhich Falls was identified for roadless management. This designation was generally acceptable to concerned groups. The Salmon Forest was prepared to evaluate a complimentary management emphasis.

### E. Alternatives and Environmental Consequences

#### 1. Management Emphasis by Alternative

Management prescriptions providing for roads have been grouped into a roaded management emphasis since roading will preclude wilderness in the long term. Management prescriptions that do not provide for roads, except for possible mineral entry, are identified under an unroaded management emphasis. Development such as timber sale activity would preclude wilderness in the short term. The semiprimitive recreation emphasis will maintain the roadless character. Table C-4 displays total acreage assignments by management emphasis and development by decade for each alternative. Table C-5 shows suitable timberland and mineral potential acreage by management emphasis and alternative.

Salmon Forest alternatives are in the preliminary stages of development and those that are similar have been matched with Bitterroot Forest alternatives. Precise boundaries and acreage figures for each management emphasis are not available and may change. However, enough is known to display a full range of roaded, unroaded, and wilderness emphases.

Section E2 uses Bitterroot Forest alternative names such as Alternative A, but describes the entire roadless area.

Table C-1  
Regional Wilderness and Proximity to Bitterroot Forest

Wilderness	General Location	Proximity to Allan Mtn. Area	Thousand Acres
Anaconda-Pintler	Western Montana	Less than 50 miles	159
Selway-Bitterroot	West central Montana	Less than 50 miles	251
	East central Idaho	Less than 50 miles	1,089
Welcome Creek	Western Montana	Less than 50 miles	28
Subtotal	Three areas	Less than 50 miles	1,527*
Gospel Hump	Central Idaho	50 to 100 miles	206
Mission Mountains	Western Montana	50 to 100 miles	74
Rattlesnake	Western Montana	50 to 100 miles	33
Frank Church-River of No Return	Central Idaho	50 to 100 miles	2,239
Sagepoat	Western Montana	50 to 100 miles	240
Subtotal	Five areas	50 to 100 miles	2,792**
Absaroka-Beartooth	South central Montana	100 to 200 miles	922
Bob Marshall	Western Montana	100 to 200 miles	1,009
Cabinet Mountains	Northwestern Montana	100 to 200 miles	94
Eagle Cap	Northeastern Oregon	100 to 200 miles	294
Gates of the Mountain	Central Montana	100 to 200 miles	29
Great Bear	Western Montana	100 to 200 miles	287
Hells Canyon	West central Idaho	100 to 200 miles	84
Hells Canyon	Northeastern Oregon	100 to 200 miles	108
Lee Metcalf	South central Montana	100 to 200 miles	259
Red Rock Lakes	South central Montana	100 to 200 miles	32
Sawtooth	Central Idaho	100 to 200 miles	217
Wenaha-Tucannon	Northeastern Oregon	100 to 200 miles	66
Wenaha-Tucannon	Southeastern Washington	100 to 200 miles	111
Subtotal	11 areas	100 to 200 miles	3,513
Total	19 areas	Less than 200 miles	7,832

\* Another 309,000 acres in four areas have been administratively endorsed for wilderness in RARE II.

\*\* Another 395,000 acres in four areas have been administratively endorsed for wilderness in RARE II.

Table C-2  
Regional Population Centers and Distance from Roadless Areas

Population Center	Less Than 50 Miles		51-100 Miles		101-200 Miles		201-300 Miles	
	M		M		M		M	
	Areas	Acres	Areas	Acres	Areas	Acres	Areas	Acres
Spokane, WA	0	0	0	0	5	240	6	160
Boise, ID	0	0	0	0	5	290	6	110
Pocatello, ID	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	400
Missoula, MT	3	155	8	245	0	0	0	0
Great Falls, MT	0	0	0	0	11	400	0	0
Billings, MT	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	400

Table C-4  
Management Emphasis (Allan Mountain)  
(thousand acres)

Management Emphasis	Bitterroot Salmon	Alternative								
		A 4	B 2	C 2	E*** 12	E1	F 1	G 10	H 2	J 11
Nonwilderness designation		153.3	144.9	144.9	153.3	153.3	153.3	116.7	73.5	0
Roaded Emphasis		128.1	120.6	99.3	32.8	32.8	61.2	43.1	49.7	0
Bitterroot Forest		77.1	78.0	56.7	32.8	32.8	22.4	28.7	7.1	0
Salmon Forest		51.0	42.6	42.6	*	*	38.8	14.4	42.6	0
Unroaded Emphasis		0	0	0	*	*	24.0	8.1	0	0
Bitterroot Forest		0	0	0	0	0	11.8	8.1	0	0
Salmon Forest		0	0	0	*	*	12.2	0	0	0
Semiprimitive recreation Emphasis		25.2	24.3	45.6	69.5	69.5	68.1	65.5	23.8	0
Bitterroot Forest		25.2	24.3	45.6	69.5	69.5	68.1	65.5	23.8	0
Salmon Forest		0	0	0	*	*	0	0	0	00
Wilderness designation		0	8.4	8.4	0	0	0	36.6	79.8	152.3
Bitterroot Forest		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	71.4	101.3
Salmon Forest		0	8.4	8.4	0	0	0	36.6	8.4	51.0
Area developed by										
Decade 1		53.7	33.9	20.1	16.4	19.7	19.0	23.6	16.8	0
Bitterroot Forest		39.3	19.5	5.7	16.4	19.7	8.6	9.2	2.4	0
Salmon Forest		14.4	14.4	14.4	*	*	10.4	14.4	14.4	0
Decade 5		153.3	144.9	99.3	32.8	32.8	85.2	51.2	49.7	0
Bitterroot Forest		102.3	102.3	56.7	32.8	32.8	34.2	36.8	7.1	0
Salmon Forest		51.0	42.6	42.6	*	*	51.0	14.4	42.6	0
Area roadless in **										
Decade 1		99.6	111.0	124.8	85.9	82.6	134.3	93.1	56.7	0
Bitterroot Forest		63.0	82.8	96.6	85.9	82.6	93.7	93.1	28.5	0
Salmon Forest		36.6	28.2	28.2	*	*	40.6	0	42.6	0
Decade 5		0	0	45.6	69.5	69.5	68.1	65.5	23.8	0
Bitterroot Forest		0	0	45.6	69.5	69.5	68.1	65.5	23.8	0
Salmon Forest		0	0	0	*	*	0	0	0	0
Current roadless acres		153.3	153.3	153.3	153.3	153.3	153.3	153.3	153.3	153.3
Bitterroot Forest		102.3	102.3	102.3	102.3	102.3	102.3	102.3	102.3	102.3
Salmon Forest		51.0	51.0	51.0	51.0	51.0	51.0	51.0	51.0	51.0

\* Salmon Forest will develop nonwilderness management emphasis at a later date.

\*\* Does not include wilderness designations.

\*\*\* Proposed Action

Table C-5  
Suitable Timberland and Mineral Potential (Allan Mountain)  
(thousand acres)

Management Emphasis	Forest Bitterroot Salmon	Alternative								
		A	B	C	E**	E1	F	G	H	J
		4	2	2	12		1	10	2	11
Tentatively suitable land										
Roaded emphasis		101.3	99.3	79.5	21.5	21.5	48.2	30.0	38.5	0
Bitterroot Forest		65.0	65.0	45.2	21.5	21.5	22.2	19.8	4.2	0
Salmon Forest		36.3	34.3	34.3	*	*	26.0	10.2	34.3	0
Unroaded emphasis		0	0	0	0	0	14.1	7.7	0	0
Bitterroot Forest		0	0	0	0	0	3.8	7.7	0	0
Salmon Forest		0	0	0	*	*	10.3	0	0	0
Semiprimitive recreation emphasis		0	0	19.8	43.5	43.5	39.0	37.5	10.9	0
Bitterroot Forest		0	0	19.8	43.5	43.5	39.0	37.5	10.9	0
Salmon Forest		0	0	0	*	*	0	0	0	0
Wilderness emphasis		0	2.0	2.0	0	0	0	26.1	51.9	100.5
Bitterroot Forest		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	49.9	64.2
Salmon Forest		0	2.0	2.0	0	0	0	26.1	2.0	36.3
High mineral potential										
Roaded emphasis		77.2	68.8	59.4	5.7	5.7	43.9	22.0	43.5	0
Bitterroot Forest		26.2	26.2	16.8	5.7	5.7	5.1	7.6	.9	0
Salmon Forest		51.0	42.6	42.6	*	*	38.8	14.4	42.6	0
Unroaded emphasis		0	0	0	0	0	17.8	2.1	0	0
Bitterroot Forest		0	0	0	0	0	5.6	2.1	0	0
Salmon Forest		0	0	0	0	0	12.2	0	0	0
Semiprimitive recreation emphasis		10.9	10.9	20.3	31.4	31.4	26.5	27.4	9.0	0
Bitterroot Forest		10.9	10.9	20.3	31.4	31.4	26.5	27.4	9.0	0
Salmon Forest		0	0	0	*	*	0	0	0	0
Wilderness emphasis		0	8.4	8.4	0	0	0	36.6	35.5	88.1
Bitterroot Forest		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27.1	37.1
Salmon Forest		0	8.4	8.4	0	0	0	36.6	8.4	51.0

\* Salmon Forest will develop nonwilderness management in their proposed action.

\*\* Proposed Action

## 2. Impacts

### a. Designation: Wilderness Management Emphasis: Wilderness

Nearly the entire area is recommended for wilderness in Alternative J with recommendations of 5 percent in Alternatives B and C, 24 percent in G, and 52 percent in H. Recommendations would expand the wilderness system by creating a new wilderness.

Alternatives B and C preserve those lands with high wilderness attributes while minimizing effects on market outputs. Alternative G incorporates that portion of the area having the highest wilderness attributes, and H and J include additional lands with low attributes.

Timber production is precluded on 100 percent of the tentatively suitable timberland in Alternative J, 2 percent in B and C, 26 percent in G and 51 percent in H. All tentatively suitable timberland amounts to 11 percent of the total for the Bitterroot Forest and five percent for the Salmon Forest.

Wilderness classification precludes management for semiprimitive recreation in Alternative J and reduces the acreage available in Alternatives B, C, G, and H. Recreation use will continue to be dominated by hunting, fishing, and camping. Mechanized trailbike, snowmobile, and chain saw use would be prohibited.

Mineral exploration and development is foreclosed subject to valid existing rights. All land rated as very high or high is withdrawn from entry in Alternative J. Ten percent is withdrawn in Alternatives B and C, and about 40 percent is withdrawn in G and H.

Nonpriced benefits and costs include:

- A natural level of visual quality is maintained.
- The wilderness system expands.
- A natural level of big-game forage and cover is maintained. Cover/forage ratios would be determined by natural events such as fire.
- Vegetation diversity tends toward old growth as modified by a more nearly natural role for wildfire.
- Old-growth dependent wildlife species are favored.
- Natural levels of watershed and fisheries are maintained.
- Local wood products employment decreases in Alternative G, H, and J, but should remain stable in B and C.

Economic and social effects vary depending on the amount of tentatively suitable timberland and area of high or very high mineral potential recommended for wilderness. The wood products and mining industries would not be supported by this emphasis. Alternatives G and J would probably result in the loss of jobs in both counties and H would result in a loss in Ravalli County. Wilderness could attract more tourism to the two counties and enhance outfitter activities. Publics interested in wilderness and primitive recreation opportunities would be supported.

b. Designation: Nonwilderness  
Management Emphasis: Roaded

Bitterroot prescriptions in this emphasis are range, winter range, partial retention, roaded retention, and riparian. All roaded prescriptions are in the Salmon roaded management emphasis. Some land is assigned to this emphasis in all alternatives except J. The highest level is in A and B with about 80 percent of the roadless area and the lowest in Alternative G at 28 percent.

Virtually all tentatively suitable timberland is available for timber management in Alternatives A and B, 78 percent in C, and 30-50 percent in other alternatives. High-value old growth is scheduled for early removal; however due to long rotations, old growth will be retained above the minimum level in partial retention, retention, and riparian prescriptions. Early harvest is also scheduled in lodgepole pine stands which blanket much of the area.

Roads and timber harvest will foreclose future consideration for wilderness by the end of the fifth decade; however, from 45 to 80 percent would remain roadless at the end of decade 1. The roadless character would be changed as roads reduce the naturalness and solitude of the area. Present semiprimitive recreation use would be disrupted as the recreation setting shifts to roaded.

Access for mineral and energy exploration is enhanced as the road system expands. Lands of very high and high mineral potential would be readily accessible in Alternatives A and B.

Transitory forage for livestock and wildlife is created by timber harvest.

Nonpriced benefits and costs include:

- Visual quality will be at the lowest level (maximum modification) in Alternatives A, B and H, and the highest in Alternative G.
- Characteristics for future consideration as wilderness or semiprimitive recreation are foregone by the end of the fifth decade.
- Security cover for elk and other game will be greatly reduced in A, B, C, and H; however, road closures will mitigate this effect.
- Vegetative diversity tends towards younger age classes in A, B, C, E, and H, but retains a sizeable old growth component in others.
- Water quality is reduced but mitigated by high road construction and maintenance standards.
- Local wood products employment increases significantly in Alternatives A, B, and C, remains at current levels in E and F, and declines in G and H.

Economic effects vary depending on the amount of land that is suitable for timber production and the degree of constraints for visual, wildlife, and watershed values. The greatest positive effect is for Alternatives A, B, and C where most tentatively suitable lands are retained in the timber base with few constraints. The wood products and mining industries would be supported. Publics favoring roadless or wilderness characteristics would not be supported; however, much of the area would remain like it is for another 10 years. Those publics desiring a semiprimitive recreation experience would have to shift use elsewhere. Outfitters could continue but hunting experience would be altered.

c. Designation: Nonwilderness  
Management Emphasis: Semiprimitive Recreation

The semiprimitive recreation management prescription is in the Bitterroot management emphasis, the Salmon has no prescriptions in this emphasis. The emphasis includes some land in all alternatives except J. In Alternatives E, F, and G, 64 to 68 percent of the roadless area is assigned to this emphasis. In A and B only relatively large, high elevation blocks that are not suitable for timber production are assigned.

Except for possible mineral entry, roadless characteristics will be retained within a core area in Alternatives C, E, E1, F and G, and the land will remain available for future wilderness consideration. The roadless character, naturalness and solitude would be maintained. Recreation use will continue to be dominated by hunting, fishing, and camping; trailbike, snowmobile, and chain saw use is compatible.

Current levels of livestock use would continue.

Big-game cover forage relationships will be determined by natural events but can be modified by prescribed fire.

Roads are not needed for surface management purposes but will be permitted for mineral activities where construction is justified on the basis of mineral showings or data and where it is the next logical step in development of the mineral resource. Roaded access would not be provided on 25 to 85 percent of those lands having high mineral potential.

Timber production is precluded on 17 to 70 percent of the tentatively suitable timber base of the Bitterroot Forest. No tentatively suitable land is assigned this emphasis in Alternatives A and B, and only isolated and intermingled suitable land in Alternative C. Tentatively suitable timberland with low product values or difficult access are assigned this emphasis in Alternatives E, F, and G.

Nonpriced benefits and costs include:

- A natural level of visual quality is maintained.
- The wilderness option is retained for future consideration.
- Near natural cover/forage ratios for big game are retained but may be modified by prescribed fire.
- Old-growth dependent wildlife are favored.
- Natural levels of watershed and fisheries are retained.
- The current mix of recreation is retained.
- Local wood products employment levels decrease in Alternatives F and G, should be retained in E, and would increase in A, B, and C.

Economic and social effects vary depending on the amount of tentatively suitable timberland in this emphasis. The effect is greatest in E, F, and G with no effect in A and B, and little in C. The wood products industry is not supported by this emphasis. Miners could continue to operate; however, costs would be higher without road access. Land would remain much like it currently is, thus supporting the current recreation mix, livestock grazing, and outfitters.



d. Designation: Nonwilderness  
Management Emphasis: Unroaded

All Salmon Forest unroaded prescriptions are in this emphasis. The Bitterroot Forest unroaded retention prescription is in this emphasis. Land assigned to this emphasis is confined to Alternatives F and G with 16 and 5 percent of the roadless acreage respectively.

Timber harvest forecloses future consideration for wilderness by the end of the fifth decade; however, nearly all these acres would remain roadless at the end of decade 1. The current level and mix of recreation use will be maintained. Fourteen and 8 percent of tentatively suitable timberland is included in this emphasis in Alternatives F and G, respectively.

High-value old growth is scheduled for early harvest; however, due to long rotations significant old growth will be maintained. Economic efficiency of this emphasis is poor since timber harvest is limited to expensive aerial systems. Removal of large, old-growth ponderosa pine is efficient but harvest of other species may not be.

Mineral exploration and development is an appropriate use but would be difficult due to the lack of road access. Twenty percent of the lands rated as high mineral potential are included in this emphasis in Alternative F and 2 percent in G.

Transitory forage for livestock and wildlife is created by timber harvest.

Nonpriced benefits and costs include:

- A high level of visual quality will be retained.
- Future consideration for semiprimitive recreation will be retained.
- Vegetative diversity tends towards a balance in age classes including old growth.
- Water quality and fisheries remain at high levels.
- Unroaded big-game security areas are retained.
- Present recreation opportunities are maintained.

Timber is available to support the wood products industry. Mining is compatible with the emphasis although costs to the miners would be high without road access. The naturalness of the area would be impacted, but the roadless character would not be altered. Current semiprimitive recreation uses would be maintained and future consideration for wilderness would be possible.

Preferred Alternative Recommendation (Salmon National Forest portion)

This roadless area is not recommended for wilderness designation in the preferred alternative on the Salmon National Forest portion.

On the Salmon National Forest portion, no resource activities are predicted which would preclude consideration of this area for wilderness during the next plan revision. Mineral potential is high. Timing of possible development of mineral resources is not known but if development should occur the area disturbed by mining and access construction would be precluded from further wilderness consideration.

The entire roadless area is evaluated in Appendix C of the Bitterroot National Forest's Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Salmon National Forest's preferred alternative is a recommendation until the final decision is approved in the Bitterroot National Forest's Final Environmental Impact Statement.

Effects of Wilderness/Non-wilderness Management Prescriptions <sup>1/</sup>

TABLE A

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION BY FOREST PLAN ALTERNATIVE  
(Acres)

Roadless Area: 13946 Allan Mountain

Forest Plan Alternative

Management Prescription	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12 (preferred)
7A Proposed Wilderness		8,157	36,706				36,706	36,706	36,706	36,706	50,981	
Non-wilderness*												
2A	4,018		1,617			50,981						42,755
2B			11,382				14,231	14,099	14,275	5,121		
3A-5A												7,852
3A-5B												374
3A-5D	46,963						44					
3A-5E			427					176		2,887		
4B-1		11,984	849	11,324	12,006					2,684		
5A		7,587		8,550	38,975					3,583		
5B												
5C		23,253		31,107								

\* Refer to Alternative map for prescription description.

<sup>1/</sup> Salmon Forest portion only.

TABLE B  
IMPACTS ON WILDERNESS CHARACTER

Foadless Area 13946 Allen Mountain

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS	ALT 1	ALT 2	ALT 3	ALT 4	ALT 5	ALT 6
Natural Integrity - Apparent Naturalness	Fairly high	Fairly low	Fairly high	Fairly low	Fairly low	Fairly high
Solitude	Good opportunity	Limited opportunity	Good opportunity	Limited opportunity	Limited opportunity	Good opportunity
Primitive Recreation	Good opportunity	Limited opportunity	Good opportunity	Limited opportunity	Limited opportunity	Good opportunity
Challenging Experiences	Cross-country travel	Cross-country travel	Cross-country travel	Cross-country travel	Cross-country travel	Cross-country travel
Special Features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS	ALT 7	ALT 8	ALT 9	ALT 10	ALT 11	ALT 12
Natural Integrity - Apparent Naturalness	Fairly high	Fairly high	Fairly high	Fairly high	Fairly high	Fairly high
Solitude	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity
Primitive Recreation	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity
Challenging Experiences	Cross-country travel	Cross-country travel	Cross-country travel	Cross-country travel	Cross-country travel	Cross-country travel
Special Features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features

TABLE C

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF WILDERNESS/NON-WILDERNESS DESIGNATIONS ON  
THE PHYSICAL AND BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

Roadless Area 13946 Allan Mountain

ENVIRONMENT	ALT 1	ALT 2	ALT 3	ALT 4	ALT 5	ALT 6
Potential Adverse Effects on Soil Productivity	None	Very slight	None	Slight	Slight	None
Potential Effects on Water Quality	None	Slightly adverse	None	Moderately adverse	Moderately adverse	None
Air Quality	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards
Potential Effects on Plant Communities	None	Timber harvest	None	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	None
Wildlife Habitat Capability - Elk	Insignificant change	Slight adverse impact	Insignificant change	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact	Insignificant change
Potential Effects on Fish Habitat Capability	Insignificant change	Slight adverse impact	Insignificant change	Moderate adverse impact	Moderate adverse impact	Insignificant change
ENVIRONMENT	ALT 7	ALT 8	ALT 9	ALT 10	ALT 11	ALT 12
Potential Adverse Effects on Soil Productivity	None	None	None	Very slight	None	None
Potential Effects on Water Quality	None	None	None	Slightly adverse	None	None
Air Quality	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards
Potential Effects on Plant Communities	None	None	None	None	None	None
Wildlife Habitat Capability - Elk	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change
Potential Effects on Fish Habitat Capability	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Slight adverse impact	Insignificant change	Insignificant change

F

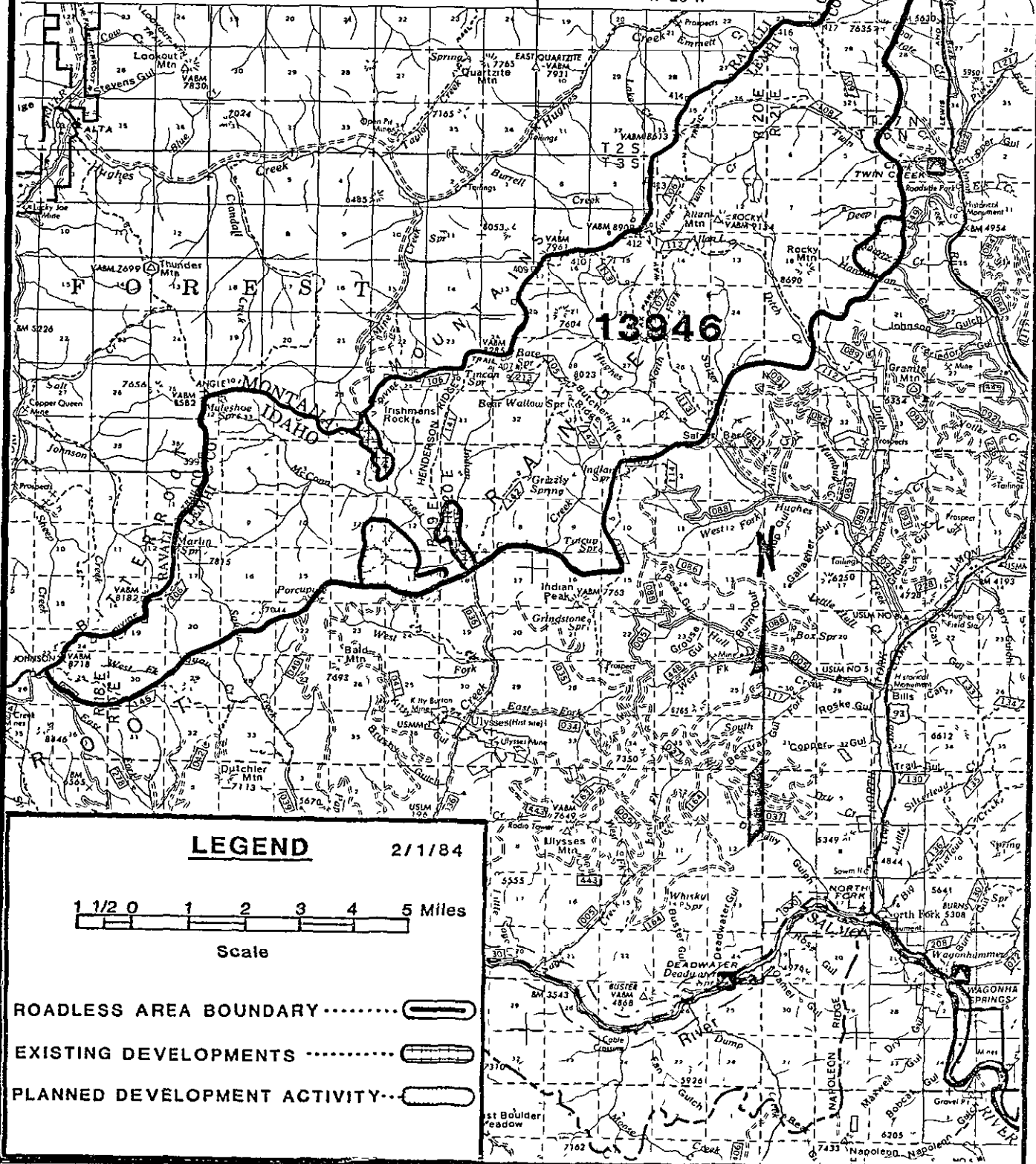
15'

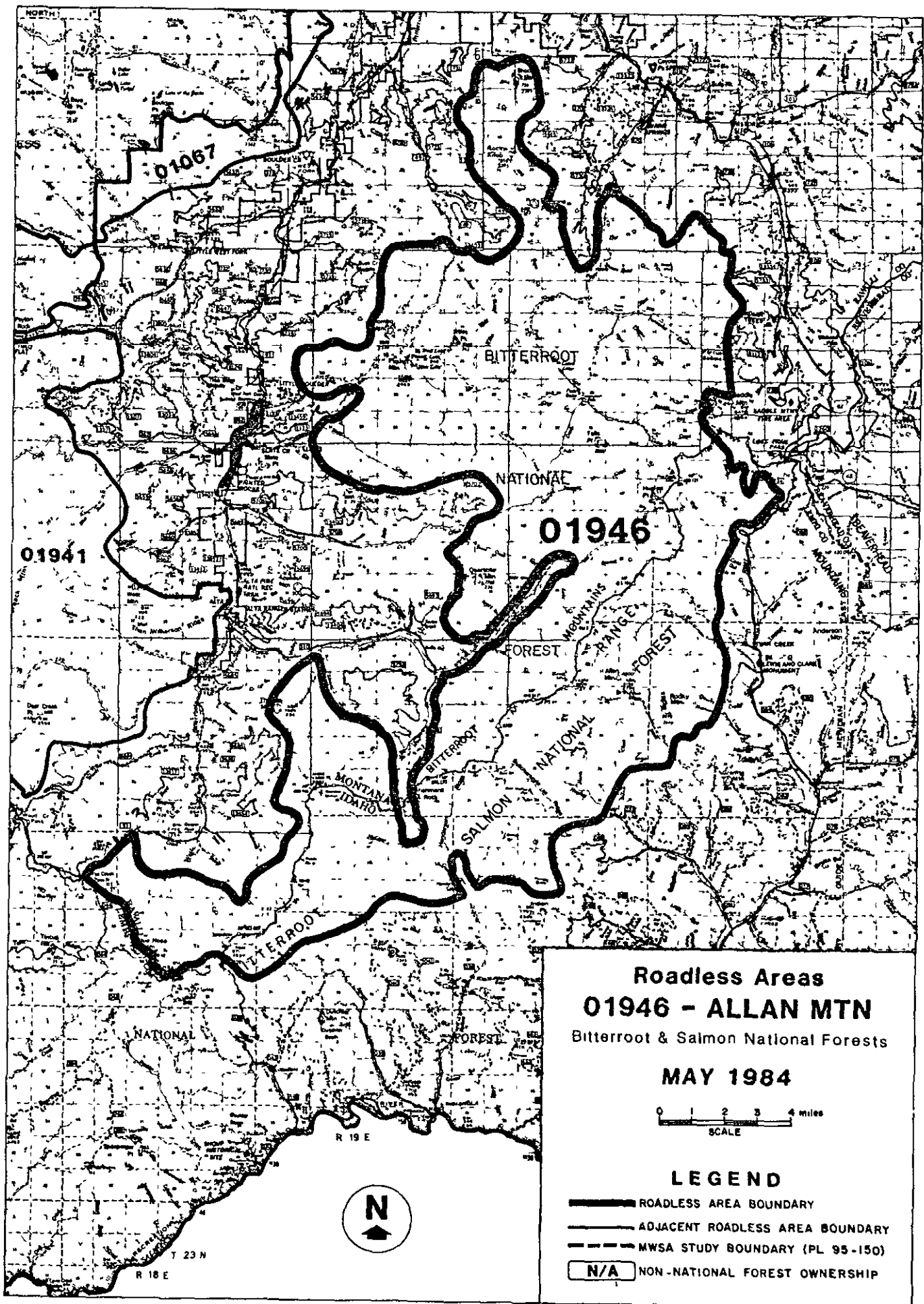
# 13946 ALLAN MOUNTAIN

22 W

R 21 W

R 20 W





## ROADLESS AREA EVALUATION

### NAPOLEON RIDGE ROADLESS AREA

SALMON NATIONAL FOREST #13501 - 50,183 Net Acres

#### 1. Description

The Napoleon Ridge Roadless Area is located approximately 10 air miles north of Salmon, Idaho. The area is bounded on the north by a portion of the Salmon Wild and Scenic River, on the east by Forest road 020 along Napoleon Ridge; on the south by Forest road 023, on the west by Forest road 032 along Pine Creek. The Pine Creek road also separates the roadless area to the west, which was included as a part of the Stormy Peak-Dump Creek roadless area. Access to this area can be gained from the Forest roads adjacent to the area.

The area is dissected by four major drainages, Pine Creek, Moose Creek, East Boulder Creek, and Dump Creek. The topography is steep, +70 percent slopes, along the Salmon River. Above 6800 feet the topography is relatively flat, forming a large basin. Elevations range from about 4000 feet to over 8300 feet at Point of Rocks. Granite from the Idaho Batholith is the bedrock from which the soils are derived, resulting in loamy sand to sand textured soils. Summer highs of 80 to 90 degrees are contrasted by winter lows of 35 degrees below zero. The vegetation along the Salmon River Breaks is Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine, with openings of sagebrush and grass. The vegetation at higher elevations is lodgepole pine, with large grassy meadows along the streams. The ecosystems are western spruce-fir, grand fir/Douglas-fir, and western ponderosa.

Recreation use estimated at 200 RVD's in 1982 includes hunting and firewood gathering.

Nine intrusions totaling 2330 acres were identified within the inventoried boundaries. Five of these have resulted from two timber sales and the other four are road corridors. A 1980 timber sale of approximately 1.1 million board feet was located in the Napoleon Gulch-Comet Creek vicinity. Approximately half the volume of this sale was located within the area. A 1982 timber sale of 3.450 million board feet was located in the Moose Creek-Fan Gulch vicinity. Slightly over half the volume in this sale was located within the roadless area. A pre-harvest roading project is currently under way along a corridor in the northcentral and northwestern portions. Road corridors were also identified near Haystack Mountain, in Napoleon Gulch and west towards Little Moose Creek from the junction of Moose Creek and Daly Creek. A non-contiguous portion of the inventoried area, which is also less than 5000 acres, lies west of the Pine Creek road. There is also an area in the Napoleon Gulch-Comet Creek area that is "cut off" from the rest of the area by a narrow strip of roadless land less than one-half mile wide. The area "cut off" by this narrow neck is less than 5000 acres in size. It also has five of the nine intrusions



within it. The areas directly impacted by these activities no longer meet roadless area criteria and those portions of the roadless area will not be considered further for wilderness.

A timber sale of 2.2 million board feet is proposed for 1984 in the southern portion. One timber sale of 8.5 million board feet and two timber sales of 1.5 million board feet each are proposed for sale in 1986.

This area is substantially natural appearing, but is bordered by lands that have been intensively managed for timber harvest on the east and west. It is separated from three other roadless areas (#13506, #13507, #13515) by road corridors on the south.

Although there is outstanding scenery along the Salmon River Breaks, the scenery in the remainder of the area is considered common for the Salmon NF.

## 2. Capability

Due to the area's shape, the existing intrusions and fingers caused by road corridors and the terrain in the southern two-thirds of the unit, it would be virtually impossible to develop logical and manageable boundaries for this area. Mitigation by boundary change would be difficult at best. Size is a factor with this unit, as portions no longer meeting minimum size requirements for wilderness designation have been isolated by intrusions and portions remaining are in long, narrow bands.

Man's influence on the natural integrity of this area has been very low. The mining related impacts that exist are long term in nature, with little feasibility of correction; however, they comprise a small percentage of the area. Existing and proposed timber activities have had a substantial impact by breaking the area into smaller parcels.

This unit would be apparently natural to most visitors, but there are impacts that would be apparent to some.

Due to small size, small distance from perimeter to core, only moderate topographic and vegetative screening and lack of diversity, the area provides little opportunity for solitude and primitive recreation.

Opportunities for challenging experiences are rare.

### 3. Availability

#### Resource Potentials and Use

Current low recreation use related to hunting is not expected to significantly change in the future. Firewood gathering would be prohibited should the area be classified wilderness.

Wildlife habitat diversity in this area ranges from the harsh river breaks along the main Salmon River and lower Pine Creek, to the homogeneous lodgepole pine stands on Upper East Boulder Creek. The lower elevations of this area provide key big game winter range, particularly on the east side of the Pine Creek drainage. Forage is limiting on the higher summer range areas, and timber management on these sites could increase big game habitat potential by creating a more favorable cover/forage ratio. Old growth timber in the mid-elevational zone provides abundant habitat for cavity nesters and other species such as pileated woodpeckers and pine martin. Bighorn sheep are common in the northwestern portion, where mountain goats are occasionally observed. The western portion provides high quality mountain lion habitat. The upper portion of the Virginia Gulch drainage currently offers near optimum summer habitat for elk and mule deer.

Pine Creek has anadromous fish habitat. Several streams contain populations of resident trout. Stream habitats are generally characterized by moderate to high channel gradients with associated plunge pool holding areas. Habitat condition is good to excellent. Anadromous fish production potential is moderate. Fishing use in most streams is very light.

The area has small and moderate size drainages directly tributary to the Salmon River and Panther Creek. Hot Springs Creek has a natural hot spring used extensively for recreational bathing. Most of area is in good to excellent hydrologic condition; however, past mining has had an extensive impact in this area. In the late 19th century, the upper Moose Creek watershed was diverted into the smaller Dump Creek channel. The resulting erosion and channel cutting in Dump Creek formed an enormous chasm. Other impacts from mining are seen in Boulder Creek. Water yield from this area is generally low to moderate, as annual precipitation is usually less than 20 inches.

Portions of Napoleon Gulch, Pine Creek and Diamond-Moose cattle and horse grazing allotments are within the roadless area. Napoleon Gulch grazing allotment has not been used for several years. Pine Creek is grazed by domestic horses and contributes approximately 150 AUM's of use each year. Diamond/Moose C&H allotment contributes approximately 1000 AUM's. There are no structural improvements on either allotment.

An estimated 170.6 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated annual potential yield of 1.9 million board feet. A 1980 timber sale of approximately 1.1 million board feet was located in the Napoleon Gulch-Comet Creek

vicinity. Approximately half the volume of this sale was located within the area.

A small eastern portion of this area (4-501 in RARE II) was rated as high hardrock mineral potential in the RARE II evaluation, which subsequent company drilling has further substantiated. Past mineral production from the eastern area includes gold and silver. There are six patented mining claims within the eastern area. Mineral potential in the eastern area includes gold, silver, copper, and molybdenum. Most of the Napoleon Ridge Roadless Area was not included in the RARE II evaluation. Large portions of the additional area have an unknown hard rock mineral potential. Past mineral production from this additional area includes lode and placer gold. Known mineral potential for portions of this additional area include gold, thorium, rare earths, and uranium. The extreme western portion of 13501 has an undetermined potential for geothermal development. An estimated 320 acres of an existing geothermal lease is within this portion of 13501. There is no known potential for the occurrence of any other currently leasable minerals. Mining claim owners continue to do assessment work. Some claimants are currently expanding their claim activity.

The potential for prehistoric cultural resources is considered high along the Salmon River, moderate to low throughout the remainder of the unit.

The area includes ten System trails totaling 38 miles, and four segments of System roads totaling 2.5 miles. There is one Special Use permit within the area for irrigation water purposes in lower Maxwell Gulch. The area previously has been, but is not now, used for Outfitter and Guide purposes.

#### Management Considerations

Fire occurrence is moderate.

As the lodgepole pine increase in diameter, there is an increasing hazard of a major mountain pine beetle epidemic. However, many lodgepole stands have slow growth due to dwarf mistletoe or overstocking. Western spruce budworm is periodically killing some of the understory Douglas-fir, especially on the drier sites. Occasionally the tops of the larger trees are being killed. The Douglas-fir beetle periodically kills small groups of the older, larger Douglas-fir. Similar mortality occurs in the old ponderosa pine due to the western pine beetle. Dwarf mistletoe is causing serious deterioration in many Douglas-fir stands.

The area includes 152 acres of private land situated in five separate tracts.

#### 4. Need

Napoleon Ridge Roadless Area is located approximately 15 road miles from the Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness. Use of this wilderness ranges from low to high, depending on the particular area.

The Roadless Area is located approximately 30 road miles from Salmon, Idaho; 170 miles from Idaho Falls, Idaho; and 110 miles from Missoula, Montana.

During RARE I this area was inventoried as the Stormy Peak - Dump Creek #304 and Haystack Mountain #313 Roadless Areas. The decision in the RARE I FEIS was to manage these areas for non-wilderness resource development. Public opinion received on the areas during RARE I, wilderness/non-wilderness, was against further study for wilderness. The areas were not considered highly controversial during RARE I.

Ecosystems found in this area represented throughout the Forest and in the Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness.

The Stormy Peak - Dump Creek and Haystack Mountain Roadless Areas were further evaluated in the Moose Creek Unit Land Management Plan (LMP). The decision in the LMP was to manage these areas for non-wilderness resource development, with a portion of the area to be managed in a roadless condition. Again public opinion was against further study for wilderness. The wilderness/non-wilderness issue was not highly controversial in the LMP process.

The Stormy Peak-Dump Creek and Haystack Mountain Roadless Areas were not evaluated during RARE II because of decisions reached through the Moose Creek Unit Land Management Plan.

The Napoleon Ridge Roadless Area #04-501, which was not inventoried as a Roadless Area in RARE I was inventoried and evaluated in RARE II. The decision in the RARE II FEIS was to manage these lands for non-wilderness resource development. Public opinion was for non-wilderness uses. The wilderness/non-wilderness issue was not highly controversial.

During the development and passage of the Central Idaho Wilderness Act establishing the River of No Return Wilderness <sup>1/</sup> (Public Law 96-312 - July 23, 1980), the House/Senate Joint Committee in consideration of S.2009 did express an opinion on page PS-9 of their Conference Report that the Napoleon Ridge Roadless Area #04-501 will "remain subject to sustained - yield multiple use management under the statutes and regulations generally applicable to all non-wilderness National Forest system lands."

Senator McClure held "Idaho Forest Management Act" hearings in Coeur d' Alene, Lewiston, Boise, and Idaho Falls during August, 1983. Prior to these meetings the Senator sent out a constituent letter with four proposals i.e., the Forest Service RARE II, Forest

<sup>1/</sup> The name of this Wilderness was changed to the "Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness" through P.L. 98-231, March 14, 1984, to honor Idaho Senator Frank Church who was instrumental in passing the Central Idaho Wilderness Act of 1980 and the Wilderness Act of 1964.

Industries, other commodity user groups, and the 1979 Idaho Wildlife Federation proposal. Following the hearings, Senator McClure has received additional input from environmental groups and the Governor of Idaho. The environmental groups and Governor Evans have not included this area in their proposals. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game Commission provided input to Governor Evans for both wilderness and roadless management areas over the state. They did not include this area in their proposal.

During the Forest Planning review of inventoried roadless lands, public opinion was again divided ranging from no wilderness to all wilderness. Earth First! recommended wilderness for the entire area. The Idaho Mining Association, Idaho Cattlemen's Association, Outdoors Unlimited, Idaho Farm Bureau, Idaho Wool Growers, Idaho Trail Machine Association, Idaho Forest Industries Council, and Idaho Women in Timber all recommended no wilderness for Napoleon Ridge Roadless Area.

Senator McClure has introduced the Idaho Forest Management Act (IFMA) in the Senate. The proposed legislation has unanimous support from the Idaho Congressional Delegation and would designate approximately 526,064 acres of roadless lands as wilderness across the State.

Following introduction of the IFMA new and/or modified recommendations have been submitted to the Idaho Congressional Delegation for the inclusion of more roadless lands as wilderness.

The Napoleon Ridge Roadless Area was not included in the IFMA nor has it been included in any of the additional or modified recommendations. The area was not considered controversial during the Forest Planning review of roadless lands.

#### Preferred Alternative (Alternative 12)

This area is not recommended for wilderness designation in the preferred alternative.

Some resource activity would occur on about 25 percent of the area which would preclude that portion of the area from consideration for wilderness during the next plan revision. Some portions of the area have a high mineral potential while the majority of the area has an unknown potential. Timing of any mineral development activities is unknown.

Effects of Wilderness/Non-wilderness Management Prescriptions

TABLE A

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION BY FOREST PLAN ALTERNATIVE  
(Acres)

Roadless Area: 13501 Napoleon Ridge

Forest Plan Alternative

Management Prescription	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12 (preferred)
7A Proposed Wilderness								12,044	12,044	35,630	50,183	
Non-wilderness*												
2A			48,999						37,593			
2B	7,388							2,125				
3A-5C							4,563					
3A-5D	3,595											
3A-5E			326			5,980	49	2,961				
4A						6,222	7,870	8,443				38,233
4B-1		7,128	135	6,845		6,816	7,807	7,143				10,715
5A		63			12,042							
5B	37,454	24,016		38,696	32,009					14,553		
5C	1,746	18,976		4,642	6,132							1,235
5E			723			27,113	29,894	17,467	546			
5F						4,049						

\* Refer to Alternative map for prescription description.

TABLE B  
IMPACTS ON WILDERNESS CHARACTER

Roadless Area 13501 Napoleon Ridge

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS	AIT 1	AIT 2	AIT 3	AIT 4	AIT 5	AIT 6
Natural Integrity - Apparent Naturalness	Moderate	Low	Fairly high	Low	Low	Moderate
Solitude	Limited opportunity	No opportunity	Limited opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	Limited opportunity
Primitive Recreation	Limited opportunity	No opportunity	Limited opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	Limited opportunity
Challenging Experiences	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence
Special Features	Limited outstanding scenery	Limited outstanding scenery	Limited outstanding scenery	Limited outstanding scenery	Limited outstanding scenery	Limited outstanding scenery
WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS	AIT 7	AIT 8	AIT 9	AIT 10	AIT 11	AIT 12
Natural Integrity - Apparent Naturalness	Moderate	Moderate	Fairly high	Fairly high	Fairly high	Moderate
Solitude	Limited opportunity	Limited opportunity	Limited opportunity	Limited opportunity	Limited opportunity	Limited opportunity
Primitive Recreation	Limited opportunity	Limited opportunity	Limited opportunity	Limited opportunity	Limited opportunity	Limited opportunity
Challenging Experiences	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence
Special Features	Limited outstanding scenery	Limited outstanding scenery	Limited outstanding scenery	Limited outstanding scenery	Limited outstanding scenery	Limited outstanding scenery

TABLE C

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF WILDERNESS/NON-WILDERNESS DESIGNATIONS ON  
THE PHYSICAL AND BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

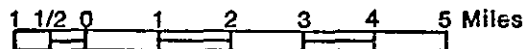
Roadless Area 13501 Napoleon Ridge

ENVIRONMENT	ALT 1	ALT 2	ALT 3	ALT 4	ALT 5	ALT 6
Potential Adverse Effects on Soil Productivity	Very slight	Slight	None	Slight	Slight	None
Potential Effects on Water Quality	Slightly adverse	Moderately adverse	None	Moderately adverse	Moderately adverse	None
Air Quality	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards
Potential Effects on Plant Communities	Wildlife habitat improvement & timber harvest	Wildlife habitat improvement & timber harvest	None	Wildlife habitat improvement & timber harvest	Wildlife habitat improvement & timber harvest	Wildlife habitat improvement & timber harvest
Wildlife Habitat Capability - Elk	Slight adverse impact	Moderate improvement	Significant change	Moderate improvement	Moderate improvement	Significant change
Potential Effects on Fish Habitat Capability	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change
ENVIRONMENT	ALT 7	ALT 8	ALT 9	ALT 10	ALT 11	ALT 12
Potential Adverse Effects on Soil Productivity	Very slight	Very slight	None	Very slight	None	Very slight
Potential Effects on Water Quality	Slightly adverse	Slightly adverse	None	Slightly adverse	None	Slightly adverse
Air Quality	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards
Potential Effects on Plant Communities	Wildlife habitat improvement & timber harvest	Wildlife habitat improvement & timber harvest	None	None	None	Wildlife habitat improvement & timber harvest
Wildlife Habitat Capability - Elk	Moderate improvement	Moderate improvement	Insignificant change	Moderate improvement	Insignificant change	Moderate improvement
Potential Effects on Fish Habitat Capability	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change



## 13501

2/1/84



### Scale

ROADLESS AREA BOUNDARY .....

EXISTING DEVELOPMENTS ..... ☐

PLANNED DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY..

LESS THAN 5000 ACRES ..... #

## ROADLESS AREA EVALUATION

WEST PANTHER CREEK ROADLESS AREA  
SALMON NATIONAL FOREST #13504 - 36,064 Net Acres

### 1. Description

The West Panther Creek Roadless Area is approximately 23 air miles due west of the City of Salmon. It is bounded on the northwest and west by the Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness, on the south by Blackbird Ridge and the lower one from Salmon to Blackbird Mine, and on the east by Panther Creek. Access can be gained to the area at the mouths of Clear Creek and Big Deer Creek along the Panther Creek Road, and from a mining road near the Blackbird Mine.

During the Forest Planning review of inventoried roadless areas, the powerline was considered as an intrusion into the West Panther Creek Roadless Area that separated a portion of the area in the southeast corner from the rest of the roadless area. This non-contiguous area is now being evaluated as a separate roadless area, South Panther #13504a. Another non-contiguous area to the southwest is separated by the powerline and does not meet the 5000 acre wilderness criteria. This area is no longer considered for wilderness potential.

The area is dissected by one major stream, Big Deer Creek, and two smaller drainages, Little Deer Creek and Quartz Gulch. Several small drainages feed directly into Big Deer Creek and Panther Creek. The side slopes along Panther Creek and the lower reach of Big Deer Creek are steep (+70%) with many rock outcrops and near surface rock, and talus slopes. Remaining slopes are from 20 to 60 percent. The lowest point in the Roadless Area is along Panther Creek, which is 3500 feet; the highest point is located along Blackbird Ridge, and is over 9000 feet. Big Deer Creek forms a boundary between the granite bedrock to the north and the quartzite bedrock to the south. Granitic bedrock forms loamy sand textured soils; quartzite forms sandy loam textured soils. Much of the area is timbered with lodgepole pine, subalpine fir, Douglas-fir, and ponderosa pine. Sage and grass occupy the open hillsides. Western ponderosa, the western spruce-fir, and grand fir/Douglas-fir are the ecosystem types represented in the area.

During 1982 an estimated 6200 RVD's of recreation use occurred in the Panther Creek Roadless Area, primarily related to hunting, backpacking, and horseback riding.

Mining related access road intrusions totaling 886 acres were identified within the southern portion of the unit from the Blackbird Mine properties to Big Deer Creek and approximately one mile up Indian Creek. The Cobalt Townsite and Blackbird Mine powerline corridors cross the southeastern end of the unit and split it into three separate parcels. The southwestern parcel is less than 5000 acres. This isolated portion of the roadless area

and the road intrusion portion no longer meet roadless area criteria and will not be considered further for wilderness.

A timber sale of 8.0 million board feet is proposed for FY 1985 in the Big Deer Creek drainage.

The southeastern tip split off by the powerline is greater than 5000 acres and will be considered further as a new inventoried area #13504A South Panther Creek.

The area is essentially natural appearing.

It is bordered on the west and north by the Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness; by mining activities and lands managed intensively for timber harvest on the south; and separated by a road corridor from Roadless Area 13506 on the east.

The unit is comprised primarily of scenery that would be considered common for the Salmon National Forest.

## 2. Capability

Logical and manageable boundaries could be developed for a large portion of this unit. Size does not affect consideration of this area for wilderness as it is adjacent to the Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness.

The overall influence of man's past activities on natural integrity has been low to moderate. The primary existing impacts are a mining impact in the Big Deer Creek Drainage and a powerline corridor in the southern tip which has little feasibility of correcting. The powerline corridor could be easily deleted from any proposed wilderness by a boundary modification. One portion of the area is "split" by the powerline and no longer meets size qualifications for consideration as wilderness.

Most visitors would find the majority of this unit to be apparently natural.

Due to large size, good topographic and vegetative screening, proximity to existing wilderness, high diversity and lack of developed recreation facilities, there is a very high opportunity for solitude and primitive recreation. Few opportunities for challenging experiences exist.

## 3. Availability

### Resource Potentials

Recreation use at present is considered moderate and is primarily related to hunting and wilderness access. There would likely be a slight increase should this area become designated as wilderness,

as it provides early and late season access to the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness.

Mule deer, elk, and bighorn sheep are year-round residents here, where they spend winters along the Panther Creek face. Natural mineral licks which occur in the Lick Creek and Mud Lick Creek areas are frequented by these big game species. Black bear and mountain lion are also abundant. Mixed stands of old growth ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir between Lick Creek and Indian Creek provide high quality habitat for cavity nesting birds and mammals.

Fish habitat is limited to the upper reaches of Panther Creek and Big Deer Creek because of mining induced pollution further downstream. Conditions previously were considered good to excellent. Fishing use in Upper Big Deer Creek is light and quality would be high.

The small drainages in this area are in an excellent hydrologic condition and produce moderate to large volumes of excellent quality water. However, several streams have been significantly impacted by historic mining activities. Acid mine drainage has severely damaged the water quality of Blackbird Creek, lower Big Deer Creek, and lower Panther Creek, making these streams no longer favorable fish habitat.

With the exception of a small amount of recreational horse use, the area is not grazed by livestock.

An estimated 194 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated annual potential yield of 2.1 million board feet.

The area's hardrock mineral potential was rated high in the RARE II evaluation and no new data modifies the high rating. No mineral production has occurred from this area, which lies immediately adjacent to the Blackbird Mine, a major past producer of cobalt, copper and gold. Mining claim owners are continuing to do assessment work. Numerous cobalt-copper occurrences lie throughout the south half of #13504. No known potential for currently leasable minerals exists.

The potential for prehistoric cultural resources is considered high adjacent to Panther Creek, and moderate to low throughout the remainder of the unit. Historic structures exist within the unit, but they have not been evaluated for their significance.

This area includes six system trails totaling 39 miles. There are 1.2 miles of system road and 8.6 miles of 69 KV powerline within the intrusion and guide permits are issued for the area.

#### Management Considerations

Fire occurrence is moderate.

Some Douglas-fir stands in the lower portions of Big Deer Creek are infested with dwarf mistletoe, and there are endemic levels of Mountain Pine Beetle and Douglas-fir Beetle within the unit.

The area includes two tracts of private land totaling 51 acres in Birch Creek and Little Deer Creek.

#### 4. Need

The Panther Creek Roadless Area is adjacent to the Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness. The adjacent portion of the wilderness receives moderate to light use, primarily hunting related, and as access to the high lakes.

This unit is approximately 35 miles from Salmon, Idaho; 175 miles from Idaho Falls, Idaho; and 165 miles from Missoula, Montana.

The area does not contain any ecosystems determined from RARE II to be in need of representation in the wilderness systems.

During RARE I this area was inventoried as the Clear Creek-Garden Creek #282 and the Big Deer Creek #283 roadless areas. The decision in the RARE I FEIS was to manage Big Deer Creek for non-wilderness resource management and Clear Creek-Garden Creek was recommended for further study. The public was generally in agreement that both areas needed further study. The areas were considered controversial in RARE I.

The Clear Creek-Garden Creek #282 and Big Deer Creek #283 roadless areas were inventoried and evaluated in RARE II as the Panther Creek Roadless Area #04504. During the evaluation the area was "split" into three units i.e., East Panther Creek E4504, South Panther Creek S4504 and West Panther Creek W4504. The environmental groups recommended the entire area for wilderness in their RARE II Idaho Citizens Alternative "W." The decision in the RARE II FEIS was to manage the East and South units for non-wilderness resource management and the West Panther Creek unit was recommended for wilderness. West Panther Creek was subsequently legislated into wilderness, with minor boundary adjustments for manageability, through the Central Idaho Wilderness Act (Public Law 96-312 July 23, 1980). Public opinion was divided on the area and it was considered highly controversial during RARE II.

During the development and passage of the Central Idaho Wilderness Act establishing the River of No Return Wilderness <sup>1/</sup> the House/Senate Joint Committee, in consideration of S2009, expressed an opinion on page PS-9 of their Conference Report that East Panther Creek E4504 and South Panther Creek S4504 will "remain

<sup>1/</sup> The name of this Wilderness was changed to the "Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness" through P.L. 98-231, March 14, 1984, to honor Idaho Senator Frank Church who was instrumental in passing the Central Idaho Wilderness Act of 1980 and the Wilderness Act of 1964.

subject to sustained yield multiple use management under the statutes and regulations generally applicable to all non-wilderness National Forest system lands."

Senator McClure held "Idaho Forest Management Act" hearings in Coeur d'Alene, Lewiston, Boise and Idaho Falls during August 1983. Prior to these meetings the Senator sent out a constituent letter with four proposals i.e., the Forest Service RARE II, Forest Industries, other user groups and the 1979 Idaho Wildlife Federation proposal. Following the hearings Senator McClure received additional input from the environmental groups and the Governor of Idaho. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game had provided input to Governor Evans. None of the groups expressed any special preferences for the East or South Panther Creek units.

During the Forest Planning review of inventoried roadless lands, public opinion was again divided ranging from no wilderness to all wilderness. Earth First! recommended wilderness for the entire area. The Idaho Mining Association, Idaho Cattlemen's Association, Outdoors Unlimited, Idaho Farm Bureau, Idaho Wool Growers, Idaho Trail Machine Association, Idaho Forest Industries Council, and Idaho Women in Timber all recommended no wilderness for Panther Creek Roadless Area.

Senator McClure has introduced the Idaho Forest Management Act (IFMA) in the Senate. The proposed legislation has unanimous support from the Idaho Congressional Delegation and would designate approximately 526,064 acres of roadless lands as wilderness across the State.

Following introduction of the IFMA new and/or modified recommendations have been submitted to the Idaho Congressional Delegation for the inclusion of more roadless lands as wilderness.

The Panther Creek Roadless Area was not included in the IFMA nor has it been included in any of the additional or modified recommendations. The area was not considered controversial during the Forest Planning review of roadless lands.

#### Preferred Alternative (Alternative 12)

This area is not recommended for wilderness designation in the preferred alternative.

Some resource activity would occur on about 65 percent of the area which would preclude that portion of the area from consideration for wilderness during the next plan revision. Mineral potential is high. Timing of possible mineral development is not known but if development should occur the area disturbed by mining and access construction would be precluded from further wilderness consideration.

Effects of Wilderness/Non-wilderness Management Prescriptions

TABLE A

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION BY FOREST PLAN ALTERNATIVE  
(Acres)

Roadless Area: 13504 West Panther

Forest Plan Alternative

Management Prescription	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12 (preferred)
7A Proposed Wilderness			25,966					25,966	25,966	36,064	36,064	
Non-wilderness*												
4A	2,663					4,140	3,464		470			3,296
4B-1			1,244	6,623			788		695			
4B-2	6,459					13,172						
4B-3	2,754						13,745					
5A					22,281		18,067					
5B		22,144		15,792		13,806						27,662
5C		13,920		13,649	13,782							5,106
5E	24,188		8,854					10,098	8,933			
5F						4,946						

\* Refer to Alternative map for prescription description.

TABLE B  
IMPACTS ON WILDERNESS CHARACTER

Roadless Area 13504 West Panther Creek

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS	ALT 1	ALT 2	ALT 3	ALT 4	ALT 5	ALT 6
Natural Integrity - Apparent Naturalness	Low	Low	High	Low	Low	Low
Solitude	No opportunity	No opportunity	Good opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity
Primitive Recreation	No opportunity	No opportunity	Good opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity
Challenging Experiences	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence
Special Features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS	ALT 7	ALT 8	ALT 9	ALT 10	ALT 11	ALT 12
Natural Integrity - Apparent Naturalness	Low	High	High	High	High	Low
Solitude	No opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	No opportunity
Primitive Recreation	No opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	No opportunity
Challenging Experiences	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence
Special Features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features



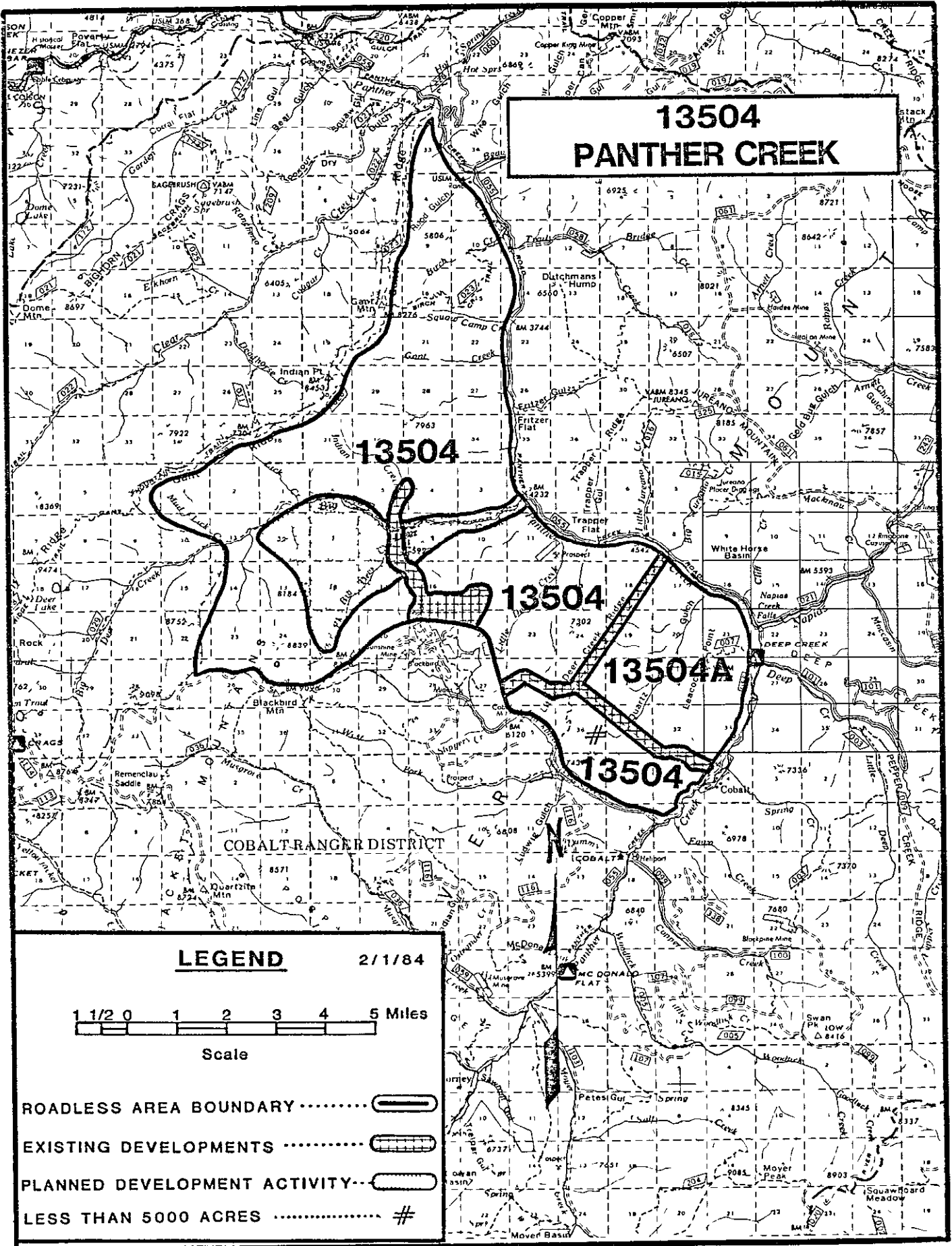
TABLE C

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF WILDERNESS/NON-WILDERNESS DESIGNATIONS ON  
THE PHYSICAL AND BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

Roadless Area 13504 West Panther

ENVIRONMENT	ALT 1	ALT 2	ALT 3	ALT 4	ALT 5	ALT 6
Potential Adverse Effects on Soil Productivity	Slight	Slight	None	Slight	Slight	Slight
Potential Effects on Water Quality	Moderately adverse	Moderately adverse	None	Moderately adverse	Moderately adverse	Moderately adverse
Air Quality	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards
Potential Effects on Plant Communities	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	None	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	Timber harvest
Wildlife Habitat Capability - Elk	Insignificant change	Moderate, adverse impact	Insignificant change	Moderate adverse impact	Moderate adverse impact	Moderate adverse impact
Potential Effects on Fish Habitat Capability	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change
ENVIRONMENT	ALT 7	ALT 8	ALT 9	ALT 10	ALT 11	ALT 12
Potential Adverse Effects on Soil Productivity	Slight	Very slight	Very slight	None	None	Slight
Potential Effects on Water Quality	Moderately adverse	Slightly adverse	Slightly adverse	None	None	Moderately adverse
Air Quality	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards
Potential Effects on Plant Communities	Timber harvest	None	None	None	None	Timber harvest
Wildlife Habitat Capability - Elk	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Moderate adverse impact
Potential Effects on Fish Habitat Capability	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change

# 13504 PANTHER CREEK



## ROADLESS AREA EVALUATION

### SOUTH PANTHER ROADLESS AREA

SALMON NATIONAL FOREST #13504A -- 6,710 Net Acres

#### 1. Description

The South Panther Roadless Area, which was part of the West Panther Roadless Area in the initial review of inventoried roadless areas, is being evaluated as a separate area. The powerline from Salmon to the Blackbird Mine was considered an intrusion which made this area no longer contiguous with West Panther Roadless Area.

The South Panther Roadless Area is approximately 23 air miles due west of the City of Salmon. The area is bounded on the northwest and southwest by the powerline. On the north and east the area is bounded by Panther Creek. Quartz Gulch forms the drainage for this area. The topography of the area is broad rounded ridges and a dendritic drainage pattern formed by Quartz Gulch. Elevations range from 4000 feet at Panther Creek to 8000 feet. Quartzite forms the bedrock and soil textures are loamy sand. Most of the area is timbered with Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine. Grand fir/Douglas-fir are the ecosystems represented in this area.

Recreation uses are extremely light and are related to big game hunting. Use was estimated as insignificant in 1982.

The south Panther Creek Roadless Area has no intrusions within it and none are planned for the near future.

The area is essentially natural appearing. There are no special features or attractions.

#### 2. Capability

Logical and manageable boundaries exist for this unit. Size is a factor as the unit is near the minimum size required.

Man's influence on the natural integrity of the unit has been moderate and is evidenced by the powerline corridor which forms two boundaries.

Visitors would find the interior of the unit to be apparently natural.

Due to small size, poor distance from core to perimeter, lack of topographic screening and lack of diversity, this unit offers very low opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation experiences.

Opportunities for challenging experiences or encountering serious hazards are rare.

### 3. Availability

Current inconsequential recreation use is not expected to change.

There are no known prehistoric or historic cultural resources in the area.

Mule deer, elk, and bighorn sheep are year-round residents here, where they spend winters along the Panther Creek face. Black bear and mountain lion are also abundant. Mixed stands of old growth ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir provide high quality habitat for cavity nesting birds and mammals.

An estimated 36 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated annual potential yield of 0.40 million board feet.

The area's hardrock mineral potential was rated high in the RARE II evaluation and no new data modifies the high rating. No mineral production has occurred from this area. Mining claim owners are continuing to do assessment work. Numerous cobalt-copper occurrences lie throughout the south half of #13504A. No known potential for currently leasable minerals exists.

Prehistoric cultural resources potential is considered low throughout the unit. Historic structures exist within the unit, but have not been evaluated for their significance.

#### Management Considerations

Fire occurrence is moderate.

Endemic levels of Mountain Pine Beetle and Douglas-fir Beetle occur within the unit.

### 4. Need

The South Panther Creek Roadless Area is directly north of the Cobalt Townsite. The unit receives light use which is primarily hunting related.

It is not known if the area represents any unique ecosystems.

During RARE I this area was inventoried as the Clear Creek-Garden Creek #282 and the Big Deer Creek #293 roadless areas. The decision in the RARE I FEIS was to manage Big Deer Creek for non-wilderness resource management and Clear Creek-Garden Creek was recommended for further study. The public was generally in agreement that both areas needed further study. The areas were considered controversial in RARE I.

The Clear Creek-Garden Creek #282 and Big Deer Creek #283 roadless areas were inventoried and evaluated in RARE II as the Panther Creek Roadless Area #04504. During the evaluation the area was

"split" into three units, i.e., East Panther Creek E4504, South Panther Creek S4504, and West Panther Creek W4504. The environmental groups recommended the entire area for wilderness in their RARE II Idaho Citizens Alternative "W." The decision in the RARE II FEIS was to manage the East and South units for non-wilderness resource management and the West Panther Creek unit was recommended for wilderness. West Panther Creek was subsequently legislated into wilderness, with minor boundary adjustments for manageability, through the Central Idaho Wilderness Act (Public Law 96-312 July 23, 1980). Public opinion was divided on the area and it was considered highly controversial during RARE II.

During the development and passage of the Central Idaho Wilderness Act establishing the River of No Return Wilderness <sup>1/</sup> the House/Senate Joint Committee, in consideration of S2009, expressed an opinion on page PS-9 of their Conference Report that East Panther Creek E4504 and South Panther Creek S4504 will "remain subject to sustained yield multiple use management under the statutes and regulations generally applicable to all non-wilderness National Forest System Lands."

Senator McClure held "Idaho Forest Management Act" hearings in Coeur d'Alene, Lewiston, Boise, and Idaho Falls during August 1983. Prior to these meetings the Senator sent out a constituent letter with four proposals i.e., the Forest Service RARE II, Forest Industries, other user groups and the 1979 Idaho Wildlife Federation proposal. Following the hearings Senator McClure received additional input from the environmental groups and the Governor of Idaho. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game had provided input to Governor Evans. None of the groups expressed any special preference for the East or South Panther Creek units.

During the Forest Planning review of inventoried roadless lands, public opinion was again divided ranging from no wilderness to all wilderness. Earth First! recommended wilderness for the entire area. The Idaho Mining Association, Idaho Cattlemen's Association, Outdoors Unlimited, Idaho Farm Bureau, Idaho Wool Growers, Idaho Trail Machine Association, Idaho Forest Industries Council, and Idaho Women in Timber all recommended no wilderness for South Panther Creek Roadless Area.

Senator McClure has introduced the Idaho Forest Management Act (IFMA) in the Senate. The proposed legislation has unanimous support from the Idaho Congressional Delegation and would designate approximately 526,064 acres of roadless lands as wilderness across the State.

1/ The name of this Wilderness was changed to the "Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness" through P.L. 98-231, March 14, 1984, to honor Idaho Senator Frank Church who was instrumental in passing the Central Idaho Wilderness Act of 1980 and the Wilderness Act of 1964.

Following introduction of the IFMA new and/or modified recommendations have been submitted to the Idaho Congressional Delegation for the inclusion of more roadless lands as wilderness.

The South Panther Creek Roadless Area was not included in the IFMA nor has it been included in any of the additional or modified recommendations. The area was not considered controversial during the Forest Planning review of roadless lands.

Preferred Alternative (Alternative 1?)

This area is not recommended for wilderness designation in the preferred alternative.

Predicted resource activities would preclude this area from further consideration for wilderness during the next plan revision. Mineral potential is high. Timing of possible mineral development is not known but if development should occur the area disturbed by mining and access construction would be precluded from further wilderness consideration.

Effects of Wilderness/Non-wilderness Management Prescriptions

TABLE A

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION BY FOREST PLAN ALTERNATIVE  
(Acres)

Roadless Area: 13504A South Panther

Forest Plan Alternative

Management Prescription	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12 (preferred)
7A Proposed Wilderness								6,710	6,710	6,710	6,710	
Non-wilderness*												
4A	1,478		1,864			1,339	1,031					2,192
4B-1			2,872				3,026					
4B-2						2,878						
5A					6,710		2,653					
5B		6,710		6,710								4,518
5E	5,232		1,974									

\* Refer to Alternative map for prescription description.

TABLE B  
IMPACTS ON WILDERNESS CHARACTER

Roadless Area 13504A South Panther

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS	ALT 1	ALT 2	ALT 3	ALT 4	ALT 5	ALT 6
Natural Integrity - Apparent Naturalness	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Solitude	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity
Primitive Recreation	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity
Challenging Experiences	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence
Special Features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features
WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS	ALT 7	ALT 8	ALT 9	ALT 10	ALT 11	ALT 12
Natural Integrity - Apparent Naturalness	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Low
Solitude	No Opportunity	Limited Opportunity	Moderate	Moderate	Limited Opportunity	No Opportunity
Primitive Recreation	No opportunity	Limited opportunity	Limited opportunity	Limited opportunity	Limited opportunity	No opportunity
Challenging Experiences	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence
Special Features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features

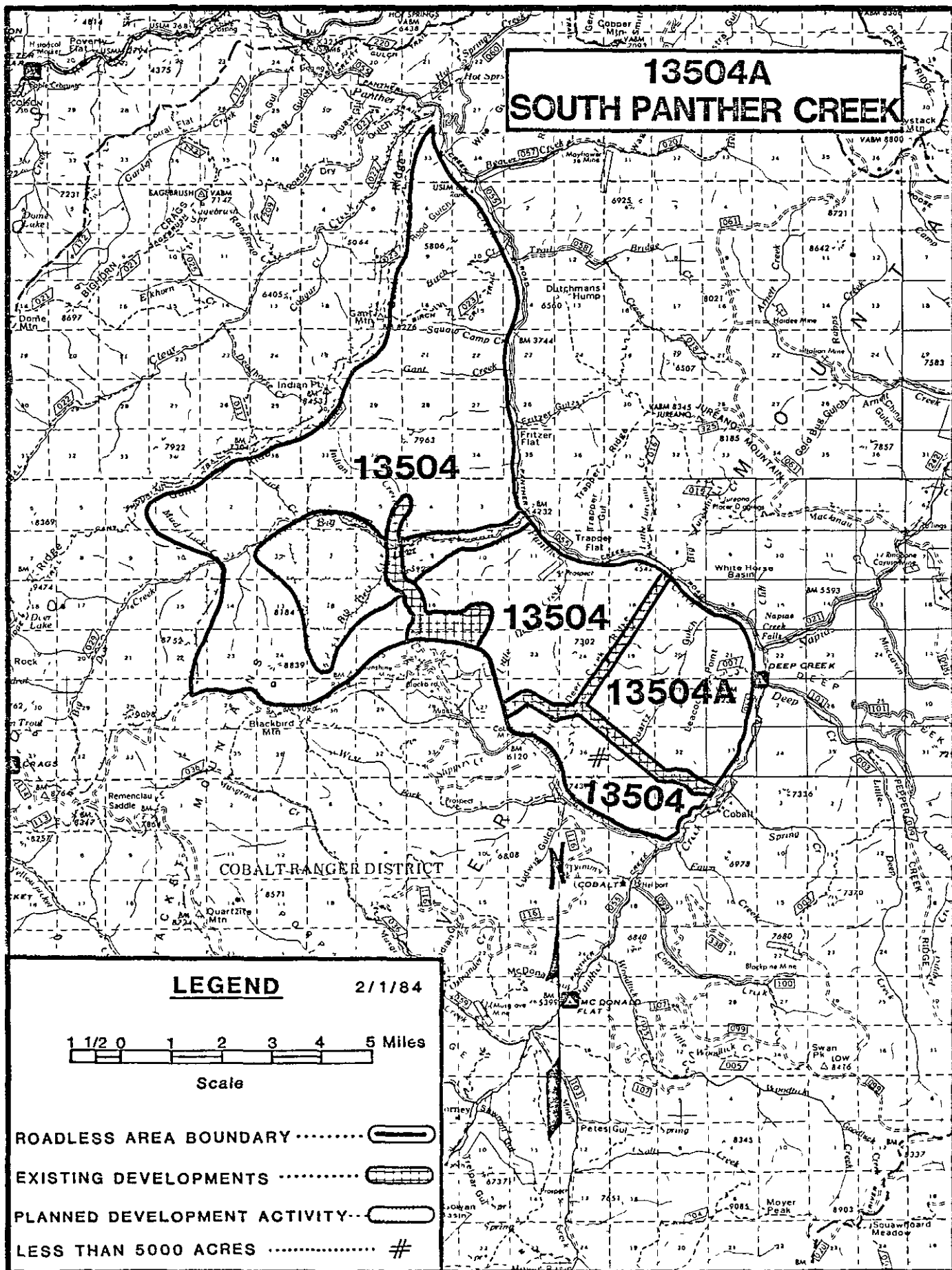


TABLE C

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF WILDERNESS/NON-WILDERNESS DESIGNATIONS ON  
THE PHYSICAL AND BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

Roadless Area 13504A South Panther

ENVIRONMENT	ALT 1	ALT 2	ALT 3	ALT 4	ALT 5	ALT 6
Potential Adverse: Effects on Soil Productivity	Slight	Slight	Very slight	Slight	Slight	Very slight
Potential Effects on Water Quality	Moderately adverse	Moderately adverse	Slightly adverse	Moderately adverse	Moderately adverse	Slightly adverse
Air Quality	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards
Potential Effects on Plant Communities	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	Timber harvest
Wildlife Habitat Capability - Elk	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact	Moderate improvement	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact	Moderate improvement
Potential Effects on Fish Habitat Capability	No known fishery	No known fishery	No known fishery	No known fishery	No known fishery	No known fishery
ENVIRONMENT	ALT 7	ALT 8	ALT 9	ALT 10	ALT 11	ALT 12
Potential Adverse Effects on Soil Productivity	Very slight	None	None	None	None	Slight
Potential Effects on Water Quality	Slightly adverse	None	None	None	None	Moderately adverse
Air Quality	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards
Potential Effects on Plant Communities	Timber harvest	None	None	None	None	Timber harvest
Wildlife Habitat Capability - Elk	Moderate improvement	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Slight adverse impact
Potential Effects on Fish Habitat Capability	No known fishery	No known fishery	No known fishery	No known fishery	No known fishery	No known fishery



## ROADLESS AREA EVALUATION

### MCELENY ROADLESS AREA

SALMON NATIONAL FOREST #13505 - 3,608 Net Acres

#### 1. Description

McEleny Roadless Area is 35 air miles southwest of Salmon, Idaho. It is bounded by the Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness on the north, east, and west, and on the south by the Yellowjacket Creek Forest road 112 and an area of mining activity.

Dissected by small drainages tributary to Yellowjacket and Hoodoo Creeks, the area's topography is a result of the dendritic drainage pattern that these small streams developed. The slopes are between 50 and 70 percent along Hoodoo Creek and Yellowjacket Creek, and 30 to 50 percent along and near the ridges. Elevations range from 5,500 feet to over 8,900 feet. Glaciation has developed a small cirque pocket at the head of Black Eagle Creek. Summer highs of 80 to 90 degrees are contrasted by winter lows of 40 below zero. Annual precipitation between 15 and 25 inches falls mostly as snow. Soils are formed from quartzite bedrock; textures range from sandy loams to loamy sand. Most of the area is covered with Douglas- fir and lodgepole pine, with talus and rock outcroppings at the higher elevations. The ecosystems represented are western spruce- fir and grand fir/Douglas-fir.

Several intrusions were identified within the unit during review of the inventory. One timber sale of approximately 900 thousand board feet was sold in 1982. In addition, there are numerous roads associated with mining activities and a water line/spring development. These intrusions total 2065 acres which no longer meet roadless area criteria and will not be considered further for wilderness.

No additional intrusions have been planned in the area through current action plans.

Recreation use, estimated as inconsequential in 1982, is limited to an occasional hunter.

Portions of the area have been significantly altered by mining activity.

The unit is adjacent to the Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness on the west, north, and east, it is separated from roadless area #13518 by a road corridor on the south.

The scenery and features in this area are considered common for the Salmon National Forest.

## 2. Capability

It is not likely that logical and manageable boundaries could be developed for this area, which is the remainder of a much larger roadless area that was included in the Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness. It was necessary to delete this portion of the larger roadless area in order to develop a manageable boundary for the wilderness. Size is not a factor as it is contiguous with existing wilderness.

Man's influence on the natural integrity of this unit has been high. There are numerous mines and associated roads throughout the area.

The area is obviously impacted in many sections. Although the area has dense vegetative screening, its small size and existing impacts offers low opportunity for solitude and primitive recreation, and opportunities for challenging experiences are rare.

## 3. Availability

### Resource Potential and Use

Current low recreation use is not expected to change.

This small area provides some summer big game habitat, but its most important attribute is transitional spring-fall range for mule deer and elk. The lower elevations are primarily occupied by sagebrush communities, and habitat management opportunities through timber harvest methods are very limited.

There are no known fisheries or fish habitat in this area.

The area is located in a moderate precipitation zone in tributaries to Yellowjacket Creek. Generally, watershed conditions are good, but small areas within and adjacent to the roadless area have been subject to historic mining activities. The area contributes generally excellent quality water to the Middle Fork of the Salmon River.

With the exception of a small amount of recreational horse use, the area is not grazed by livestock.

An estimated 13 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated annual potential yield of 0.1 million board feet per year.

The hardrock mineral potential of this area was rated high in the RARE II evaluation and no new data modifies the original rating. Past mineral production includes gold, silver, copper, and zinc. The area contains five past producing mines, several patented

mining claims, and associated low standard access roads. Non-patented mining claim owners continue assessment work, with some expanding their claim activity. There is no known potential for currently leasable minerals.

The potential for prehistoric cultural resources is unknown. The area's numerous mining related structures have not been evaluated for historic significance.

The area includes 0.4 mile of System trail and 0.3 mile of non-System trail, and 0.2 mile of non-System road. Outfitter/Guide Permittees do not currently use McEleny Roadless Area.

#### Management Considerations

Fire occurrence is light.

As the lodgepole and whitebark pine increase in diameter there is an increasing hazard of a major mountain pine beetle epidemic in the lodgepole stands in the upper part of the area. The Douglas-fir in the lower elevations has been repeatedly attacked by western spruce budworm, which kill much of the understory Douglas-fir. Occasionally, the tops of the larger trees are killed. The Douglas-fir beetle periodically kills small groups of the older, larger trees.

The area includes two tracts of private land, one at Black Eagle Mine and one in lower Hoodoo Creek, totaling 54 acres.

#### 4. Need

McEleny Roadless Area is adjacent to a portion of the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness where use is extremely light.

The Roadless Area is located approximately 60 miles from Salmon, Idaho; 200 miles from Idaho Falls, Idaho; and 190 miles from Missoula, Montana.

The area does not contain any ecosystems determined from RARE II to be in need of representation in the wilderness system.

During RARE I this area was inventoried as the Yellowjacket Creek Roadless Area #286. The decision in the RARE I FEIS was to manage the land for non-wilderness resource management. Public opinion was divided on the area during RARE I. The area was considered controversial.

During RARE II the Yellowjacket Creek Roadless Area #286 was inventoried as the McEleny Roadless Area #04505. The recommendation in the RARE II FEIS was for wilderness designation. Public opinion on the area was highly divided and the area was considered highly controversial.

The area was considered by Congress during the development of the Central Idaho Wilderness Act establishing the River of No Return Wilderness 1/ (Public Law 36-312 July 23, 1980). Most of the area was included in the Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness. Boundary adjustments were made for manageability and to exclude areas of high mineral activity. These boundary adjustments were considered by Congress in the final passage of the Central Idaho Wilderness Act. The residual portions of the McEleny Roadless Area are being further evaluated in the Forest Planning process as Roadless Area #13505.

Senator McClure held "Idaho Forest Management Act" hearings in Coeur d'Alene, Lewiston, Boise and Idaho Falls in August 1983. Prior to these meetings the Senator sent out a constituent letter with four proposals i.e., the Forest Service RARE II, Forest Industries, other commodity user groups and the 1979 Idaho Wildlife Federation proposal. Following the hearings Senator McClure has received additional input from the environmental groups and the Governor of Idaho. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game provided input to Governor Evans. Neither the environmental groups, Governor Evans nor the Idaho Department of Fish and Game recommended any special classification for the residual portions of the McEleny Roadless Area.

During the Forest Planning review of inventoried roadless lands, public opinion was again divided ranging from no wilderness to all wilderness. Earth First' recommended wilderness for the entire area. The Idaho Mining Association, Idaho Cattlemen's Association, Outdoors Unlimited, Idaho Farm Bureau, Idaho Wool Growers, Idaho Trail Machine Association, Idaho Forest Industries Council, and Idaho Women in Timber all recommended no wilderness for the McEleny Roadless Area.

Senator McClure has introduced the Idaho Forest Management Act (IFMA) in the Senate. The proposed legislation has unanimous support from the Idaho Congressional Delegation and would designate approximately 526,064 acres of roadless lands as wilderness across the State.

Following introduction of the IFMA new and/or modified recommendations have been submitted to the Idaho Congressional Delegation for the inclusion of more roadless lands as wilderness.

The McEleny Roadless Area was not included in the IFMA nor has it been included in any of the additional or modified recommendations. The area was not considered controversial during the Forest Planning review of roadless lands.

1/ The name of this Wilderness was changed to the "Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness" through P.L. 98-231, March 14, 1984, to honor Idaho Senator Frank Church who was instrumental in passing the Central Idaho Wilderness Act of 1980 and the Wilderness Act of 1964.

Preferred Alternative (Alternative 12)

This area is not recommended for wilderness designation in the preferred alternative.

Predicted resource activities would preclude this area from further consideration for wilderness during the next plan revision. Mineral potential is high. Timing of possible mineral development is not known but if development should occur the area disturbed by mining access construction would be precluded from further wilderness consideration.

Effects of Wilderness/Non-wilderness Management Prescriptions

TABLE A

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION BY FOREST PLAN ALTERNATIVE  
(Acres)

Roadless Area: 13505 McEleny

Forest Plan Alternative

Management Prescription	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12 (preferred)
7A Proposed Wilderness			1,948					1,948		1,948	3,608	
Non-wilderness*												
2B			779				3,608					3,608
3A-5B	3,608					3,608		1,660	3,608			
3A-5E			881									
5B		3,608		3,608	3,608					1,660		
5C												

\* Refer to Alternative map for prescription description.



TABLE B  
IMPACTS ON WILDERNESS CHARACTER

Roadless Area. 13505 McCleeny

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS	ALT 1	ALT 2	ALT 3	ALT 4	ALT 5	ALT 6
Natural Integrity - Apparent Naturalness	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Solitude	Limited opportunity	Limited opportunity	Limited opportunity	Limited opportunity	Limited opportunity	Limited opportunity
Primitive Recreation	Limited opportunity	Limited opportunity	Limited opportunity	Limited opportunity	Limited opportunity	Limited opportunity
Challenging Experiences	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence
Special Features	No identified special features	No identified special unaffected	No identified special unaffected	No identified special unaffected	No identified special unaffected	No identified special unaffected

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS	ALT 7	ALT 8	ALT 9	ALT 10	ALT 11	ALT 12
Natural Integrity - Apparent Naturalness	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Solitude	Limited opportunity	Limited opportunity	Limited opportunity	Limited opportunity	Limited opportunity	Limited opportunity
Primitive Recreation	Limited opportunity	Limited opportunity	Limited opportunity	Limited opportunity	Limited opportunity	Limited opportunity
Challenging Experiences	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence
Special Features	No identified special features	No identified special unaffected	No identified special unaffected	No identified special unaffected	No identified special unaffected	No identified special unaffected

TABLE C  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF WILDERNESS/NON-WILDERNESS DESIGNATIONS ON  
THE PHYSICAL AND BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

Roadless Area 13505 McEleny

ENVIRONMENT	ALT 1	ALT 2	ALT 3	ALT 4	ALT 5	ALT 6
Potential Adverse Effects on Soil Productivity	Very slight	Very slight	None	Very slight	Very slight	Very slight
Potential Effects on Water Quality	Slightly adverse	Slightly adverse	None	Slightly adverse	Slightly adverse	Slightly adverse
Air Quality	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards
Potential Effects on Plant Communities	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	Timber harvest
Wildlife Habitat Capability - Elk	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change
Potential Effects on Fish Habitat Capability	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact	Insignificant change	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact
ENVIRONMENT	ALT 7	ALT 8	ALT 9	ALT 10	ALT 11	ALT 12
Potential Adverse Effects on Soil Productivity	Very slight	None	Very slight	None	None	Very slight
Potential Effects on Water Quality	Slightly adverse	None	Slightly adverse	None	None	Slightly adverse
Air Quality	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards
Potential Effects on Plant Communities	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	None	Timber harvest
Wildlife Habitat Capability - Elk	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change
Potential Effects on Fish Habitat Capability	Slight adverse impact	Insignificant change	Slight adverse impact	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Slight adverse impact



## ROADLESS AREA EVALUATION

### JUREANO ROADLESS AREA

SALMON NATIONAL FOREST #13506 - 25,506 Net Acres

#### 1. Description

Jureano Roadless Area is 15 air miles west of Salmon, Idaho. The area is bounded on the east by road 061 along Moose Creek, on the southeast by the powerline from Salmon to the Cobalt Mine, on the west by the Panther Creek Road 055, and on the north by a developed area in Hot Springs Creek. Access can be gained from these Forest roads.

The area is dissected by Trail Creek, Beaver Creek, and smaller drainages that flow into Panther Creek. The slopes along Panther Creek are steep (+70 percent) and rocky. Elevations range from 3,500 feet to over 8,300 feet at Jureano Lookout. Summer highs of 80 and 90 degrees are contrasted by winter lows of 40 degrees below zero. Soils are derived from granite of the Idaho Batholith and quartzite bedrock. Textures range from sandy loam to sand. Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine cover much of the area, with openings of sagebrush and grass. Much of the Panther Creek face is rock outcrop and talus slopes. The ecosystem is western spruce-fir and grand fir/Douglas-fir.

Recreation use estimated at 2,700 RVD's in 1982 is primarily related to hunting.

Three intrusions totaling 290 acres were identified during the review of the roadless area inventory. One is a road corridor up Beaver Creek, one resulted from a 1968 timber sale in the northeast corner of the area near the headwaters of Beaver Creek, and one on the south end resulted from the Cobalt Townsite powerline. Two portions of the inventoried area are now separated from the main roadless area. The first on the northwest corner was separated by the Beaver Creek Road. The second on the southern edge was separated by the Cobalt Townsite powerline. Both of these separated parcels are less than 5000 acres in size. These areas no longer meet roadless area criteria and will not be considered further for wilderness.

Two timber sales are planned in the Roadless Area. One in the center portion in 1986 for an estimated 6 million board feet and one in the northern portion in 1988 for 4.5 million board feet. The location of this sale has not been finalized.

The area is essentially natural appearing.

Road corridors separate Jureano from three other roadless areas (#13504, #13507, and #13501) on the west, southwest and northeast. Developed lands border it on the north and southeast.

The area contains limited amounts of outstanding scenery in the Panther Creek canyon. The scenery in the remainder of the unit is considered common for the Salmon National Forest.

## 2. Capability

Logical and manageable boundaries could be developed for this area with minor boundary changes to delete existing intrusions. Size is not a factor.

Man's influence on the area's natural integrity has been very low. The primary existing impacts are a primitive road with moderate feasibility of correction, and a powerline corridor which will be deleted. A portion of the area is segregated from the rest of the area by the powerline. This segregated area does not meet the minimum size standards stated in the Wilderness Act.

This area would be apparently natural to most visitors.

Due to large size, good topographic screening, and moderate vegetative screening, the area offers a high opportunity for solitude. In addition, the lack of developed recreation facilities results in a high opportunity for primitive recreation experiences.

Opportunities for challenging experiences or encountering serious hazards are few.

## 3. Availability

### Resource Potentials and Use

Current recreation use is related almost entirely to hunting. Due to the lack of attractions in the area, types and amounts of use are not expected to change significantly.

The extremely rough, rocky nature of the area's lower two-thirds provide ideal bighorn sheep habitat. Elevational differences make it possible for sheep to summer and winter. Mule deer and elk summer throughout, and winter primarily on the Panther Creek face. Habitat potential could be increased for these two species in the Jureano Mountain area through timber management, but the existing (natural) cover/forage ratio in the remainder is at or below optimum. Mountain lion are particularly abundant, and bobcats are commonly encountered.

These are only minor amounts of fish habitat, primarily in Beaver Creek and to a lesser degree Trail Creek. Habitat conditions would be rated as fair and population densities would be low. Fishing use is very light and quality would be fair.

Located in several small drainages which are tributary to Panther Creek, the area receives from 20 to 35 inches of precipitation a year. Generally, water quality is good, but some mining activities have caused damaged stream channel and watershed conditions in a few locations.

Portions of the Williams Basin-Napias Creek Cattle and Horse Allotment are within the roadless area; however, very little suitable range and only a small number of grazing AUM's actually occur within the roadless area portion of the allotment. Few, if any, structural improvements are located in the roadless area.

An estimated 101.6 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated annual potential yield of 0.8 million board feet per year.

The hardrock mineral potential of this area was rated moderate in the RARE II evaluation. Subsequent data changes the hardrock mineral potential to high. Past mineral production includes silver, and lode and placer gold. There are several patented mining claims within the area, and non-patented mining claim owners continue assessment work. Some non-patented mining claim owners are expanding their claim activity. Hardrock mineral potential includes gold, silver, copper, cobalt, and molybdenum. There is an existing geothermal lease in the extreme northwestern portion of the area. Geothermal potential is high just north of the unit, but low to non-existent within the unit. There is no known potential for other currently leasable minerals, and there are no currently active mining operations.

Prehistoric cultural resource potential is considered moderate in the Panther Creek canyon and low throughout the remainder of the area. Several historic structures are known to exist, but their significance has not been determined.

This area includes three System trails totaling 12.5 miles, two System roads of three miles, and 1.9 miles of 69KV powerline within the intrusion.

The area was previously used, but is not now used, for Outfitter and Guide purposes.

#### Management Considerations

Fire occurrence is moderate.

As the lodgepole pine increase in diameter there is an increasing hazard of a major mountain pine beetle epidemic in the northeast portion. Western spruce budworm is periodically killing some of the understory Douglas-fir, especially on the drier sites. Occasionally, the tops of the larger trees are being killed. The Douglas-fir beetle periodically kills small groups of the older, larger trees. Dwarf mistletoe is causing serious deterioration in a few Douglas-fir stands along Trail Creek.

The area includes a patented homestead and a patented mining claim, both tracts totaling 53.9 acres.

4. Need

Jureano Roadless Area lies within two miles of the Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness. This portion of the wilderness receives light to moderate use, primarily as access to the high lakes and for hunting.

The Roadless Area is located approximately 70 road miles from Salmon, Idaho; 210 miles from Idaho Falls, Idaho; and 170 miles from Missoula, Montana.

The area does not contain any ecosystems determined from RARE II to be in need of representation in the wilderness system.

During RARE I this area was inventoried as the Jureano Peak Roadless Area #281. The decision in the RARE I FEIS was to manage this area for non-wilderness resource development. Public opinion received on the area during RARE I, wilderness/non-wilderness, was against further study for wilderness. The area was not considered highly controversial during RARE I.

The Jureano Peak Roadless Area #281 was inventoried and evaluated in RARE II as the Jureano Roadless Area #04-506. The decision in the RARE II FEIS was to manage the land for non-wilderness resource development. Public opinion was for non-wilderness resource development. The wilderness/non-wilderness issue was not highly controversial.

During the development and passage of the Central Idaho Wilderness Act establishing the River of No Return Wilderness <sup>1/</sup> (Public Law 96- 312 July 23, 1980), the House/Senate Joint Committee in consideration of S. 2009 did express an opinion on page PS-9 of their Conference Report that the area will "remain subject to sustained yield multiple use management under the statutes and regulations generally applicable to all non-wilderness National Forest system lands."

Senator McClure held "Idaho Forest Management Act" hearings in Coeur d'Alene, Lewiston, Boise, and Idaho Falls during August, 1983. Prior to these meetings the Senator sent out a constituent letter with four proposals i.e., the Forest Service RARE II, Forest Industries, other commodity user groups, and the 1979 Idaho Wildlife Federation proposal. Following the hearings, Senator McClure received additional input from environmental groups and the Governor of Idaho. The environmental groups and Governor Evans have not included these areas in their proposals. The Idaho Fish and Game Commission provided input to Governor Evans for both wilderness and roadless management areas over the state. They did not include this area in their proposal.

<sup>1/</sup> The name of this Wilderness was changed to the "Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness" through P.L. 98-231, March 14, 1984, to honor Idaho Senator Frank Church who was instrumental in passing the Central Idaho Wilderness Act of 1980 and the Wilderness Act of 1964.

During the Forest Planning review of inventoried roadless lands, public opinion was again divided ranging from no wilderness to all wilderness. Earth First! recommended wilderness for the entire area. The Idaho Mining Association, Idaho Cattlemen's Association, Outdoors Unlimited, Idaho Farm Bureau, Idaho Wool Growers, Idaho Trail Machine Association, Idaho Forest Industries Council, and Idaho Women in Timber all recommended no wilderness for Jureano Roadless Area.

Senator McClure has introduced the Idaho Forest Management Act (IFMA) in the Senate. The proposed legislation has unanimous support from the Idaho Congressional Delegation and would designate approximately 526,064 acres of roadless lands as wilderness across the State.

Following introduction of the IFMA new and/or modified recommendations have been submitted to the Idaho Congressional Delegation for the inclusion of more roadless lands as wilderness.

The Jureano Roadless Area was not included in the IFMA nor has it been included in any of the additional or modified recommendations. The area was not considered controversial during the Forest Planning review of roadless lands.

#### Preferred Alternative (Alternative 12)

This area is not recommended for wilderness designation in the preferred alternative.

Predicted resource activities would preclude this area from further consideration for wilderness during the next plan revision. Mineral potential is high. Timing of possible mineral development is not known but if development should occur the area disturbed by mining and access construction would be precluded from further wilderness consideration.



Effects of Wilderness/Non-wilderness Management Prescriptions

TABLE A

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION BY FOREST PLAN ALTERNATIVE  
(Acres)

Roadless Area: 13506 Jureano

Forest Plan Alternative

Management Prescription	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12 (preferred)
7A Proposed Wilderness										22,700	25,506	
Non-wilderness*												
4A	6,577		4,801			7,450	4,602	8,536	6,439			6,325
4B-1			655					631				
5A					17,579		1,938			76		
5B	4,970	18,823		18,957			15,707			2,607		14,195
5C		6,683		6,549	7,927		3,259			123		4,986
5E	13,959		20,050			14,853 3,203		16,339	19,067			

\* Refer to Alternative map for prescription description.

TABLE B  
IMPACTS ON WILDFRNESS CHARACTER

Roadless Area 13506 Jureano

WILDFRNESS CHARACTERISTICS	ALT 1	ALT 2	ALT 3	ALT 4	ALT 5	ALT 6
Natural Integrity - Apparent Naturalness	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Solitude	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity
Primitive Recreation	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity
Challenging Experiences	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence
Special Features	Scenery affected by roading	Scenery affected by roading	Scenery affected by roading	Scenery affected by roading	Scenery affected by roading	Scenery affected by roading
WILDFRNESS CHARACTERISTICS	ALT 7	ALT 8	ALT 9	ALT 10	ALT 11	ALT 12
Natural Integrity - Apparent Naturalness	Low	Low	Low	High	High	Low
Solitude	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	No opportunity
Primitive Recreation	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	No opportunity
Challenging Experiences	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Winter sports and cross-country travel	Winter sports and cross-country travel	Little or no occurrence
Special Features	Scenery affected by roading	Scenery affected by roading	Scenery affected by roading	Scenery affected by roading	Limited outstanding scenery	Scenery affected by roading

TABLE C

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF WILDERNESS/NON-WILDERNESS DESIGNATIONS ON  
THE PHYSICAL AND BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

Roadless Area 13506 Jureano

ENVIRONMENT	ALT 1	ALT 2	ALT 3	ALT 4	ALT 5	ALT 6
Potential Adverse Effects on Soil Productivity	Very slight	Slight	Very slight	Slight	Slight	Very slight
Potential Effects on Water Quality	Slightly adverse	Moderately adverse	Slightly adverse	Moderately adverse	Moderately adverse	Slightly adverse
Air Quality	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards
Potential Effects on Plant Communities	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	Timber harvest
Wildlife Habitat Capability - Elk	Moderate improvement	Slight adverse impact	Moderate improvement	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact	Moderate improvement
Potential Effects on Fish Habitat Capability	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change
ENVIRONMENT	ALT 7	ALT 8	ALT 9	ALT 10	ALT 11	ALT 12
Potential Adverse Effects on Soil Productivity	Very slight	Very slight	Very slight	None	None	Very slight
Potential Effects on Water Quality	Slightly adverse	Slightly adverse	Slightly adverse	None	None	Slightly adverse
Air Quality	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards
Potential Effects on Plant Communities	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	None	None	Timber harvest
Wildlife Habitat Capability - Elk	Moderate improvement	Moderate improvement	Moderate improvement	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Moderate improvement
Potential Effects on Fish Habitat Capability	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change

# 13506 JUREANO

13506

## LEGEND

2/1/84

1 1/2 0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles

Scale

ROADLESS AREA BOUNDARY .....

EXISTING DEVELOPMENTS .....

PLANNED DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY.....

LESS THAN 5000 ACRES .....

## ROADLESS AREA EVALUATION

### HAYSTACK MTN. ROADLESS AREA

SALMON NATIONAL FOREST #13507 -- 12,118 Net Acres

#### 1. Description

The Haystack Mountain Roadless Area is 10 air miles west of Salmon, Idaho, is bounded entirely by the Moose Creek Road (061), the Leesburg Road (242), and the Arnett Creek Road (060), all of which provide access to the area.

The area forms a part of the Leesburg Basin and is dissected by tributaries of Arnett Creek and the headwaters of Napias Creek. Slopes vary from 30 to 60 percent. The high point is at 8,700 feet, the low is at 6,500 feet. Summer highs of 80 to 90 degrees are contrasted by winter lows of 40 below zero. Soils are formed from granite, quartzite, and volcanic bedrock, and have textures from loamy clay to sand. Lodgepole pine and Douglas-fir cover much of the area. Wet, grassy meadows occur along some of the drainages. The ecosystem is grand fir/Douglas-fir.

Recreation use estimated at 1,100 RVD's in 1982 is primarily related to hunting.

One mining related intrusion was identified along the southwest boundary during public and management review. This area does not meet roadless area criteria and has been removed from the inventory. Three timber sales are planned in the area. One cutting unit of 2.2 million board feet timber sale proposed for 1984 would fall within the northern edge. Approximately 1 million board feet of a proposed 1984 timber sale of 13.7 million board feet would fall within the southern boundary. In addition, a 1.5 million board feet timber sale is proposed in the center portion for 1987. This latter sale is not shown on the map because definite information about its location is not known at this time.

The Roadless Area is natural appearing, but contains no special attractions or features.

Road corridors separate Haystack Mountain Roadless Area from four other roadless areas (#13506, #13501, #13515, and #13508) on the west, north, and east. It is bordered by developed lands on the south.

#### 2. Capability

Logical and manageable boundaries could be developed for this roadless area. Size is not a factor.

Man's influence on the area's natural integrity has been virtually none, and visitors would find it to be apparently natural.

Although this area is not large and the relatively gentle topography does not provide good screening, there is dense vegetative screening to help provide a high opportunity for solitude. A lack

of diversity, as well as the above factors, contribute to only a moderate opportunity for primitive recreation experience.

Opportunities for challenging experiences or encountering serious hazards are rare.

### 3. Availability

#### Resource Potentials and Use

Current recreation use is related almost entirely to hunting. Due to the lack of attractions in the area, types and amounts of use are not expected to significantly change.

This relatively small area is predominantly covered by dense lodgepole and mixed conifer timber. Forage for mule deer and elk is limited, and the habitat potential for these species could be improved through timber management activities. Pine marten are abundant in this area, and snowshoe hares are commonly observed.

Many of the streams have been influenced by past placer mining activity. A small amount of fish habitat might be present in the lower reaches of Camp and Rapps Creeks. It is not likely that any appreciable amount of fishing occurs within this area.

The Roadless Area is located in the headwaters of several small drainages in the Napias Creek watershed. Watershed conditions are generally good, but the lower portions of the watersheds have had historic mining activities which caused some damage to stream channels. Water yield from moderate precipitation levels of up to 35 inches a year results in generally good to excellent water quality.

The majority of the roadless area is within the Williams Basin-Napias Creek Cattle and Horse Allotment. However, due to limited suitable range, actual grazing use is insignificant. There are no structural improvements within the roadless area.

An estimated 42.8 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated annual potential yield of .4 million board feet.

The hardrock mineral potential of this area was originally rated low in the RARE II evaluation. Re-evaluation of then available data changes the rating to high. Past mineral production includes substantial amounts of gold. There are numerous patented mining claims within the unit, and owners of non-patented mining claim are continuing to do assessment work. Some claim owners are expanding their claim activity. There are four past producing mines within the area, but there are currently no active mining operations.

Potential resources include lode and placer gold. There is no known potential for currently leasable minerals.

Prehistoric and historic cultural resource potential is unknown.

The area includes 0.5 mile of non-System trail and 1.5 miles of non-System road within the intrusion. Haystack Mountain Roadless Area is not used for Outfitter/Guide purposes.

#### Management Considerations

Fire occurrence is moderate.

As the lodgepole pine increase in diameter there is an increasing hazard of a major mountain pine beetle epidemic. However, many lodgepole stands have slow growth due to dwarf mistletoe or over stocking.

The area includes three tracts of private land totaling 132 acres.

#### 4. Need

The Haystack Mountain Roadless Area lies approximately six miles from the Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness. The nearest portion of the wilderness receives light to moderate use, primarily as access to the high lakes and for hunting.

The Roadless Area is located approximately 40 road miles from Salmon, Idaho; 180 miles from Idaho Falls, Idaho; and 170 miles from Missoula, Montana.

The area does not contain any ecosystems determined from RARE II to be in need of representation in the wilderness system.

During RARE I this area was inventoried as the Haystack Mountain Roadless Area #313. The decision in the RARE I FEIS was to manage the area for non-wilderness resource development. Public opinion received during RARE I, wilderness/non-wilderness, was against further study for wilderness. The area was not considered highly controversial during RARE I.

The Haystack Mountain Roadless Area #313 was inventoried and evaluated in the Leesburg Unit Land Management Plan (LMP). The decision in the LMP was to manage this area for non-wilderness resource development. Public opinion was for non-wilderness resource development. The wilderness/non-wilderness issue was not highly controversial in the LMP process.

The Haystack Mountain Roadless Area #313 was also inventoried and evaluated in RARE II as the Haystack Mountain Roadless Area #04-507. The decision in the RARE II FEIS was to manage the land for non-wilderness resource development. Public opinion was for non-wilderness resource development. The wilderness/non-wilderness issue was not highly controversial.

During the development and passage of the Central Idaho Wilderness Act establishing the River of No Return Wilderness <sup>1/</sup> (Public Law 96-312 - July 23, 1980), the House/Senate Joint Committee in consideration of S.2009 did express an opinion on page PS-9 of their Conference Report that the area will "remain subject to sustained - yield multiple use management under the statutes and regulations generally applicable to all non-wilderness National Forest system lands."

Senator McClure held "Idaho Forest Management Act" hearings in Coeur d'Alene, Lewiston, Boise, and Idaho Falls during August 1983. Prior to these meetings the Senator sent out a constituent letter with four proposals, i.e., the Forest Service RARE II, Forest Industries, other commodity user groups, and the 1979 Idaho Wildlife Federation proposal. Following the hearings, Senator McClure received additional input from environmental groups and the Governor of Idaho. The environmental groups and Governor Evans have not included this area in their proposals. The Idaho Fish and Game Commission provided input to Governor Evans for both wilderness and roadless management areas over the State. They did not include this area in their proposal.

During the Forest Planning review of inventoried roadless lands, public opinion was again divided ranging from no wilderness to all wilderness. Earth First! recommended wilderness for the entire area. The Idaho Mining Association, Idaho Cattlemen's Association, Outdoors Unlimited, Idaho Farm Bureau, Idaho Wool Growers, Idaho Trail Machine Association, Idaho Forest Industries Council, and Idaho Women in Timber all recommended no wilderness for Haystack Mountain Roadless Area.

Senator McClure has introduced the Idaho Forest Management Act (IFMA) in the Senate. The proposed legislation has unanimous support from the Idaho Congressional Delegation and would designate approximately 526,064 acres of roadless lands as wilderness across the State.

Following introduction of the IFMA new and/or modified recommendations have been submitted to the Idaho Congressional Delegation for the inclusion of more roadless lands as wilderness.

The Haystack Mountain Roadless Area was not included in the IFMA nor has it been included in any of the additional or modified recommendations. The area was not considered controversial during the Forest Planning review of roadless lands.

1/ The name of this Wilderness was changed to the "Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness" through P.L. 98-231, March 14, 1984, to honor Idaho Senator Frank Church who was instrumental in passing the Central Idaho Wilderness Act of 1980 and the Wilderness Act of 1964.



Preferred Alternative (Alternative 12)

This area is not recommended for wilderness designation in the preferred alternative.

Predicted resource activities would preclude this area from further consideration for wilderness during the next plan revision. Mineral potential is high. Timing of possible mineral development is not known but if development should occur the area disturbed by mining and access construction would be precluded from further wilderness consideration.

Effects of Wilderness/Non-wilderness Management Prescriptions

TABLE A

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION BY FOREST PLAN ALTERNATIVE  
(Acres)

Roadless Area: 13507 Haystack Mountain

Forest Plan Alternative

Management Prescription	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12 (preferred)
7A Proposed Wilderness										12,118	12,118	
Non-wilderness*												
4B-1			1,091					953	1,124			
5A					78		67					
5B	12,118	11,707		11,440	44		11,854					12,118
5C		411		678	11,996		197					
5E			11,027			6,120		11,165	10,994			
5F						5,998						

\* Refer to Alternative map for prescription description.

TABLE B  
IMPACTS ON WILDERNESS CHARACTER

Roadless Area 13507 Haystack Mountain

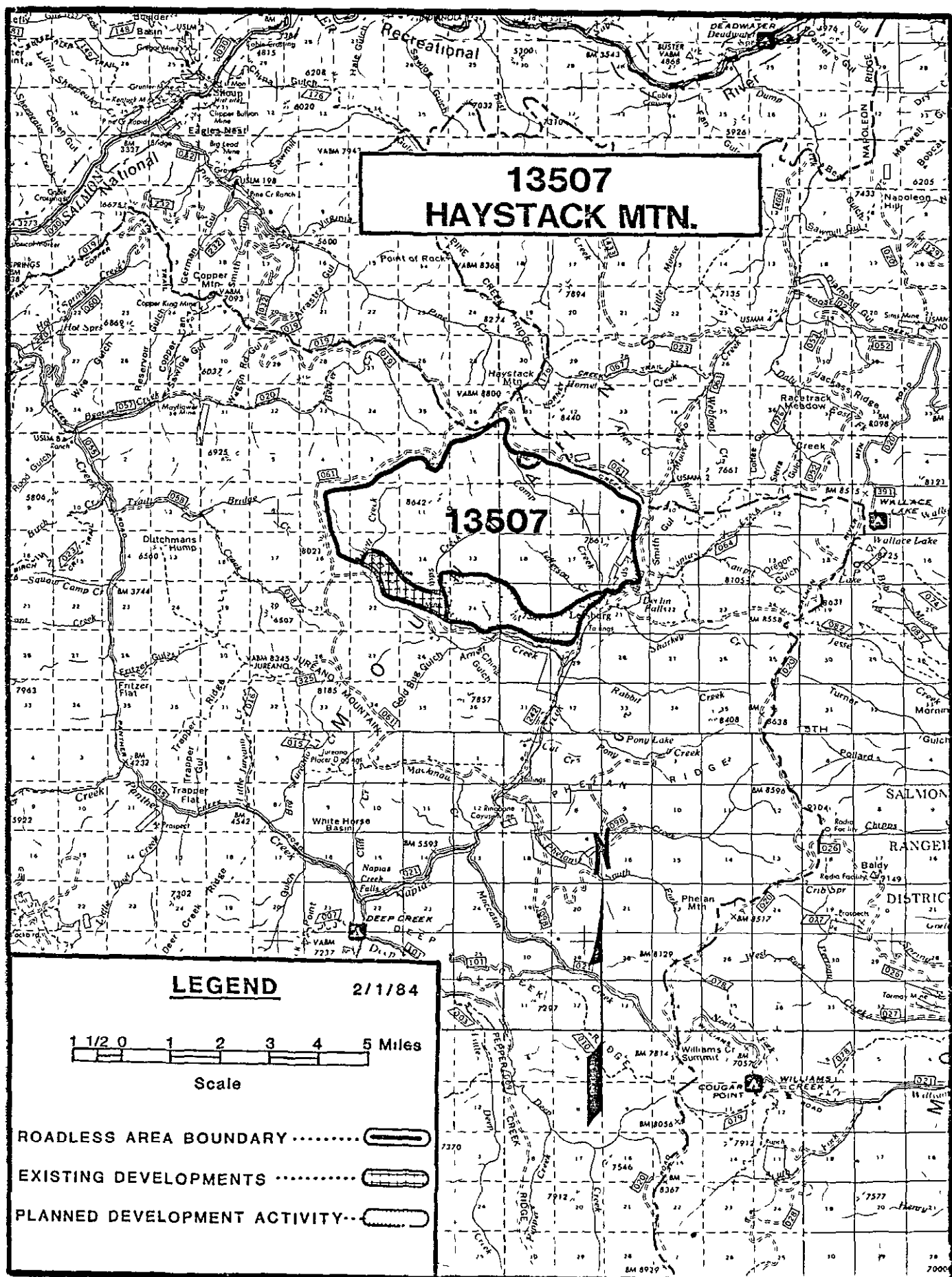
WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS	AIT 1	AIT 2	ALT 3	ALT 4	ALT 5	ALT 6
Natural Integrity - Apparent Naturalness	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Solitude	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity
Primitive Recreation	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity
Challenging Experiences	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence
Special Features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features
WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS	ALT 7	AIT 8	ALT 9	ALT 10	AIT 11	AIT 12
Natural Integrity - Apparent Naturalness	Low	Low	Low	high	High	Low
Solitude	no opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	No opportunity
Primitive Recreation	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	Some opportunity	Some opportunity	No opportunity
Challenging Experiences	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence
Special Features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features

TABLE C

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF WILDERNESS/NON-WILDERNESS DESIGNATIONS ON  
THE PHYSICAL AND BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

Roadless Area 13507 Haystack Mountain

ENVIRONMENT	ALT 1	ALT 2	ALT 3	ALT 4	ALT 5	ALT 6
Potential Adverse Effects on Soil Productivity	Slight	Slight	Very slight	Slight	Slight	Slight
Potential Effects on Water Quality	Moderately adverse	Moderately adverse	Slightly adverse	Moderately adverse	Moderately adverse	Moderately adverse
Air Quality	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards
Potential Effects on Plant Communities						
Wildlife Habitat Capability - Elk	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact	Moderate improvement	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact
Potential Effects on Fish Habitat Capability	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change
ENVIRONMENT	ALT 7	ALT 8	ALT 9	ALT 10	ALT 11	ALT 12
Potential Adverse Effects on Soil Productivity	Slight	Very slight	Very slight	None	None	Slight
Potential Effects on Water Quality	Moderately adverse	Slightly adverse	Slightly adverse	None	None	Moderately adverse
Air Quality	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards
Potential Effects on Plant Communities	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	None	None	Timber harvest
Wildlife Habitat Capability - Elk	Slight adverse impact	Moderate improvement	Moderate improvement	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Slight adverse impact
Potential Effects on Fish Habitat Capability	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change



## ROADLESS AREA EVALUATION

### PHELAN ROADLESS AREA

SALMON NATIONAL FOREST #13508 -- 12,465 Net Acres

#### 1. Description

Phelan Roadless Area is eight air miles west of Salmon, Idaho. It is bounded on the east by Forest road 020, on the north by the old Leesburg road, on the west by logging roads and timber harvest activities, and on the south by Forest road 021 along Moccasin Creek. Access to the area can be gained from the Forest roads.

The area is in the Leesburg Basin and is dissected by Sharkey Creek, Rabbit Creek, Pony Creek, and Phelan Creek. Slopes are relatively gentle, between 15 and 50 percent. Elevations range from 6,500 feet to over 8,800 feet at Phelan Mountain. Summer highs of 80 to 90 degrees are contrasted by winter lows of 40 degrees below zero. Soils are formed from quartzite and volcanic bedrock. Lodgepole pine and Douglas-fir cover most of the area, although some grassy meadows occur throughout. The ecosystem is western spruce-fir.

One intrusion was identified in the area during the inventory process. This resulted from a 1969 timber sale which was in operation during the RARE I inventory. There are 328 acres harvested. The harvested area no longer meets roadless area criteria and will not be considered further for wilderness.

Three other sales are planned in the area under current action plans. The major portion of a proposed 1984 timber sale of 13.7 million board feet is located in the western half. Two cutting units of a proposed 1985 timber sale of 2.5 million board feet are located within the southeastern boundary, and approximately one-third of a proposed 1986 timber sale of 2.5 million board feet lies within the northern portion.

Recreation use estimated at 5,400 RVD's in 1982 includes hunting, firewood gathering, snowmobiling, and cross country skiing.

The area is essentially natural appearing.

It is separated by road corridors from five other roadless areas (#13515, #13510, #13511, #13509, and #13507) on the north, east, and south, and is bordered by developed lands on the west. This area contains no special attractions or features.

#### 2. Capability

Logical and manageable boundaries could be developed for this area without size being a factor if planned intrusions on the area do not take place.

Man's influence on the natural integrity of this area has been very low, with the existing affected area a result of timber harvesting. The affected portion could be deleted by a boundary change.

Most visitors would find this unit apparently natural.

Although this area has relatively gentle topography and is not large in size, its very dense screening contributes to a high opportunity for solitude. Lack of diversity and the above factors result in a low opportunity for primitive recreation experiences.

Opportunities for challenging experiences or encountering serious hazards are rare.

### 3. Availability

#### Resource Potentials and Use

Hunting use is not expected to change significantly. Wilderness classification would prohibit motorized recreational uses such as snowmobiles.

Mule deer and elk occur throughout, but limited forage keeps their numbers below potential. Phelan Ridge serves as a rutting area for elk. The entire area provides dense lodgepole-mixed conifer timber needed for security cover during hunting seasons.

Many of the streams within this area have been influenced by past placer mining. Only a very minor amount of fish habitat is present within this area, which provides no appreciable amount of fishing.

The area lies in several tributaries of Napias Creek and receives moderate precipitation of up to 30 inches a year. Watershed conditions are generally excellent, as is water quality. Towards the south end of the area, roads in volcanic soils have resulted in some unstable watershed conditions. To the north, small mining and exploration activities have caused soil disturbance in the past, but have stabilized.

The entire roadless area contributes 150 grazing AUM's annually to the Williams Basin-Napias Creek Cattle and Horse Allotment. Condition of the suitable range is mostly good. There are no structural improvements.

An estimated 47 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated annual potential yield of 0.67 million board feet.

The hardrock mineral potential of this area was originally rated as unknown in the RARE II evaluation, and no new data modifies the original rating. Placer gold has been produced from the area in

the past, but there currently are no active mining operations. Mining claim owners do continue their assessment work. There is no known potential for currently leasable minerals.

The potential for prehistoric and historic cultural resources is unknown.

No roads or trails exist within the area, and no authorized Special Use Permits have been issued.

#### Management Considerations

Fire occurrence is very light.

As the lodgepole pine increase in diameter there is an increasing hazard of a major mountain pine beetle epidemic. However, many lodgepole stands have slow growth due to dwarf mistletoe or over stocking.

There is no private land within the area.

#### 4. Need

This Phelan Roadless Area lies approximately 10 miles from the Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness. The nearest portion of the wilderness receives light to moderate use, primarily as access to high lakes and for hunting.

The Roadless Area is located approximately 40 road miles from Salmon, Idaho; 180 miles from Idaho Falls, Idaho; and 170 miles from Missoula, Montana.

The area does not contain any ecosystems determined from RARE II to be in need of representation in the wilderness system.

During RARE I this area was inventoried as the Phelan Mountain Roadless Area #280. The decision in the RARE I FEIS was to manage this area for non-wilderness resource development. Public opinion received on the area during RARE I, wilderness/non-wilderness, was against further study for wilderness. The area was not considered highly controversial during RARE I.

The area was further evaluated in the Leesburg Unit Land Management Plan (LMP). The decision in the LMP was to manage this area for non-wilderness resource development. Public opinion was for non-wilderness resource development. The wilderness/non-wilderness issue was not highly controversial in the LMP process.

The Phelan Roadless Area #280 was also inventoried and evaluated in RARE II as the Phelan Roadless Area #04-508. The decision in the RARE II FEIS was to manage these lands for non-wilderness resource development. Public opinion was for non-wilderness resource development. The wilderness/non-wilderness issue was not highly controversial.



During the development and passage of the Central Idaho Wilderness Act establishing the River of No Return Wilderness 1/ (Public Law 96-312 - July 23, 1980), the House/Senate Joint Committee in consideration of S.2009 did express an opinion on page PS-9 of their Conference Report that the area will "remain subject to sustained - yield multiple use management under the statutes and regulations generally applicable to all non-wilderness National Forest system lands."

Senator McClure held "Idaho Forest Management Act" hearings in Coeur d'Alene, Lewiston, Boise, and Idaho Falls during August 1983. Prior to these meetings the Senator sent out a constituent letter with four proposals, i.e., the Forest Service RARE II, Forest Industries, other commodity user groups, and the 1979 Idaho Wildlife Federation proposal. Following the hearings, Senator McClure received additional input from environmental groups and the Governor of Idaho. The environmental groups and Governor Evans have not included this area in their proposals. The Idaho Fish and Game Commission provided input to Governor Evans for both wilderness and roadless management areas over the State. They did not include this area in their proposal.

During the Forest Planning review of inventoried roadless lands, public opinion was again divided ranging from no wilderness to all wilderness. Earth First! recommended wilderness for the entire area. The Idaho Mining Association, Idaho Cattlemen's Association, Outdoors Unlimited, Idaho Farm Bureau, Idaho Wool Growers, Idaho Trail Machine Association, Idaho Forest Industries Council, and Idaho Women in Timber all recommended no wilderness for the Phelan Roadless Area.

Senator McClure has introduced the Idaho Forest Management Act (IFMA) in the Senate. The proposed legislation has unanimous support from the Idaho Congressional Delegation and would designate approximately 526,064 acres of roadless lands as wilderness across the State.

Following introduction of the IFMA new and/or modified recommendations have been submitted to the Idaho Congressional Delegation for the inclusion of more roadless lands as wilderness.

The Phelan Roadless Area was not included in the IFMA nor has it been included in any of the additional or modified recommendations. The area was not considered controversial during the Forest Planning review of roadless lands.

1/ The name of this Wilderness was changed to the "Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness" through P.L. 98-231, March 14, 1984, to honor Idaho Senator Frank Church who was instrumental in passing the Central Idaho Wilderness Act of 1980 and the Wilderness Act of 1964.

Preferred Alternative (Alternative 12)

This area is not recommended for wilderness designation in the preferred alternative.

Predicted resource activities would preclude this area from further consideration for wilderness during the next plan revision. Mineral potential is unknown. Timing of possible mineral development is not known but if development should occur the area disturbed by mining and access construction would be precluded from further wilderness consideration.

Effects of Wilderness/Non-wilderness Management Prescriptions

TABLE A

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION BY FOREST PLAN ALTERNATIVE  
(Acres)

Roadless Area: 13508 Phelan

Forest Plan Alternative

Management Prescription	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12 (preferred)
7A Proposed Wilderness										8,850	12,465	
Non-wilderness*												
4B-1	365	1,109				416		1,380	1,557			
4B-3						154						
5A							314					
5B	12,100	12,465		12,465	12,465	2,057	12,151			3,615		12,465
5E			11,356			2,072		11,085	10,908			
5F						7,766						

\* Refer to Alternative map for prescription description.

TABLE B  
IMPACTS ON WILDERNESS CHARACTER

Roadless Area 13508 Phelan

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS	ALT 1	ALT 2	ALT 3	ALT 4	ALT 5	ALT 6
Natural Integrity - Apparent Naturalness	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Solitude	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity
Primitive Recreation	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity
Challenging Experiences	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence
Special Features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features
WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS	ALT 7	ALT 8	ALT 9	ALT 10	ALT 11	ALT 12
Natural Integrity - Apparent Naturalness	Low	Low	Low	High	High	Low
Solitude	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	No opportunity
Primitive Recreation	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	Limited opportunity	Limited opportunity	No opportunity
Challenging Experiences	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence
Special Features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features

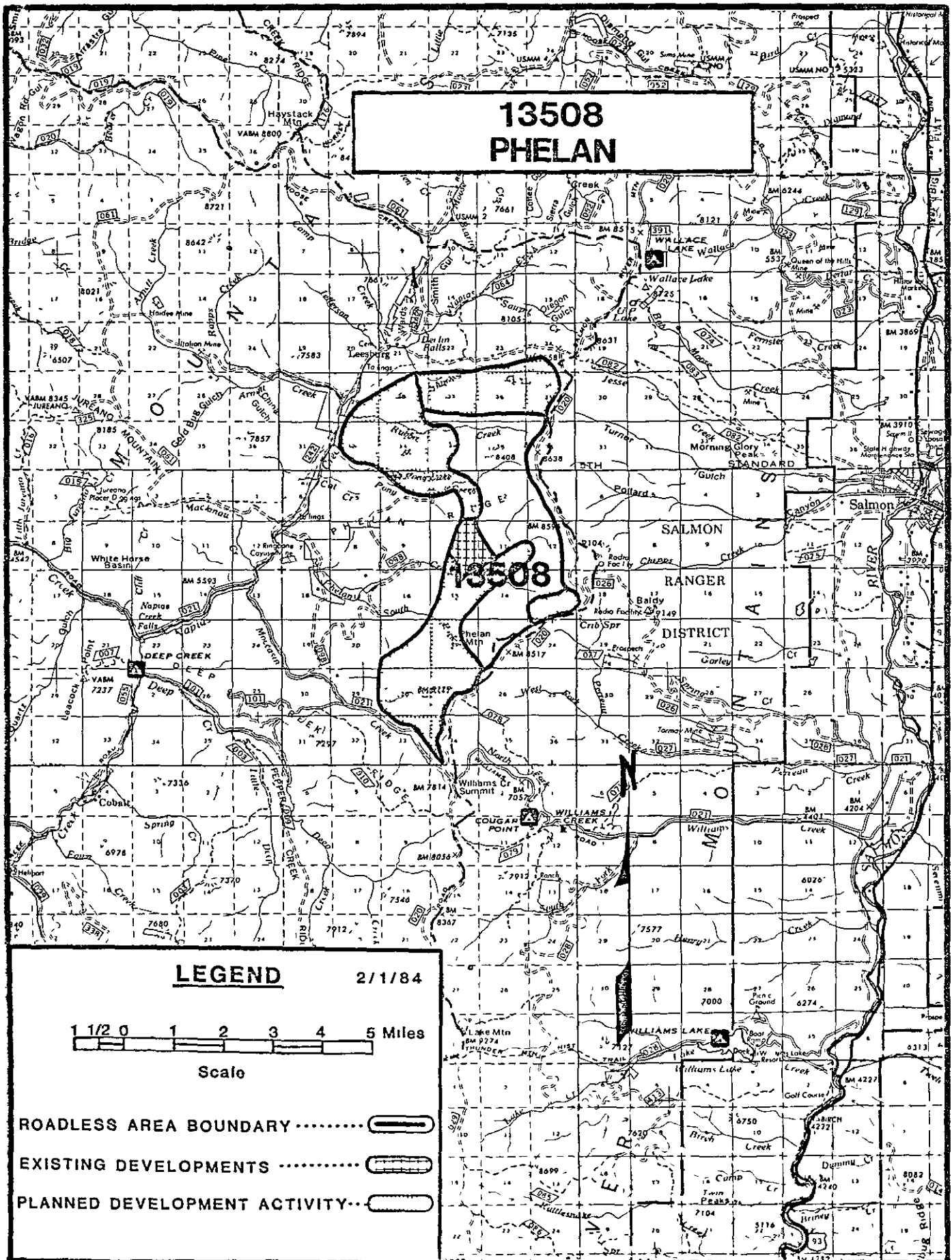
TABLE C

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF WILDERNESS/NON-WILDERNESS DESIGNATIONS ON  
THE PHYSICAL AND BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

Roadless Area 13508 Phelan

ENVIRONMENT	ALT 1	ALT 2	ALT 3	ALT 4	ALT 5	ALT 6
Potential Adverse Effects on Soil Productivity	Very slight	Slight	Very slight	Slight	Slight	Very slight
Potential Effects on Water Quality	Slightly adverse	Moderately adverse	Slightly adverse	Moderately adverse	Moderately adverse	Slightly adverse
Air Quality	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards
Potential Effects on Plant Communities	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	Timber harvest
Wildlife Habitat Capability - Elk	Insignificant change	Slight adverse impact	Moderate improvement	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact	Moderate improvement
Potential Effects on Fish Habitat Capability	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change
ENVIRONMENT	ALT 7	ALT 8	ALT 9	ALT 10	ALT 11	ALT 12
Potential Adverse Effects on Soil Productivity	Slight	Very slight	Very slight	None	None	Slight
Potential Effects on Water Quality	Moderately adverse	Slightly adverse	Slightly adverse	None	None	Moderately adverse
Air Quality	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards
Potential Effects on Plant Communities	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	None	None	Timber harvest
Wildlife Habitat Capability - Elk	Slight adverse impact	Moderate improvement	Moderate improvement	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Slight adverse impact
Potential Effects on Fish Habitat Capability	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change

# 13508 PHELAN



## ROADLESS AREA EVALUATION

### DEEP CREEK ROADLESS AREA

SALMON NATIONAL FOREST #13509 - 5,265 Net Acres

#### 1. Description

Deep Creek Roadless area is 10 air miles southwest of Salmon, Idaho. It is bounded on the south by a timber sale and associated roads, on the west by Forest roads 099, 100, on the northwest by Forest road 055 along Panther Creek, and on the north by Forest road 101 and timber harvest activities. Access to this area can be gained from the Forest roads.

Deep Creek and Little Deep Creek dissect the roadless area, which has slopes ranging from relatively gentle (15 to 30 percent) at the higher elevations, to steep (60 to 70 percent) along Panther Creek and Deep Creek. Elevations range from 5000 feet to 8000 feet. Summer highs of 80 to 90 degrees are contrasted by winter lows of 40 below zero. Annual precipitation between 15 and 30 inches occurs mostly as snow. Soils are formed from quartzite bedrock and have loamy sand to sandy loam textures. Lodgepole pine and Douglas-fir cover most of the area, with sagebrush and grass meadows occurring throughout the area. Western spruce-fir, grand fir/Douglas-fir are the ecosystem types represented in the Deep Creek Roadless Area.

Recreation use was estimated at 3,600 RVD's in 1982 and includes hunting and firewood gathering.

One timber sale intrusion has occurred in the middle portion of the area. This sale extends across the entire width of the roadless area and splits into two separate areas; #13509 Deep Creek and #13509A South Deep Creek. The South Deep Creek area will be addressed in a separate write-up.

The above timber sale covers 10,913 acres and resulted from a 1980 sale for 9.9 million board feet and two sales in 1982 totaling 2.3 million board feet. The area impacted by these timber sale activities no longer meets roadless area criteria and will not be considered further for wilderness.

In addition, a 1.5 million board feet sale is planned in the northeastern portion in 1988, but the actual location has not been firmed up yet.

Most of the area is essentially natural appearing, with the exception of road construction activities. However, there is a timber

sale under contract that will significantly alter the natural appearance of almost half the area.

Road corridors separate Deep Creek from three other roadless areas (#12504, #13508, and #13902) on the northwest, northeast, and southwest. It is bordered by developed lands on the west, north, east, and southeast.

There are no special attractions or features in this area.

## 2. Capability

Recent roading into the center of this area has made development of logical and manageable boundaries difficult.

The boundary could not be expanded in any direction due to existing roads, and deleting impacted areas would leave an area for which logical boundaries would be impossible.

Past and current activities have a high influence on the area's natural integrity. The duration of impact will exceed 10 years and there is little feasibility of correction.

Natural appearance will be significantly altered when the timber sale cutting units under contract are harvested. The impacts will be readily apparent to all visitors.

This area has dense vegetative screening, but because of the small size, small distance from core to perimeter, and gentle topography the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation experiences are only low to moderate.

Opportunities for challenging experiences or encountering serious hazards are rare.

## 3. Availability

### Resource Potentials and Use

Hunting use is not expected to change significantly in the future.

Big game summer habitat potential is high, but existing low numbers of mule deer and elk reflect an unbalanced cover/forage ratio. Current timber management activities will create much needed forage and should increase habitat potential for deer and elk. Security cover has been the most important attribute of this area for big game. Deep Creek Roadless Area is also characterized by old growth Douglas-fir stands along the ridge tops, and thus provides excellent habitat for pileated woodpecker and other species. Pine marten are abundant along drainages. The upper elevations of this



Douglas-fir beetle periodically kills small groups of the older, larger Douglas-fir.

There are 52 acres of private land at the Blackpine Mine.

#### 4. Need

Deep Creek Roadless Area lies approximately 40 road miles from the Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness. Use of this wilderness ranges from low to high, depending on the particular location.

The Roadless Area is located approximately 15 road miles from Salmon, Idaho; 155 miles from Idaho Falls, Idaho; and 145 miles from Missoula, Montana.

The area does not contain any ecosystems determined from RARE II to be in need of representation in the wilderness system.

During RARE I this area was inventoried as the Deep Creek Roadless Area #279. The decision in the RARE I FEIS was to manage this area for non-wilderness resource development. Public opinion received on the area during RARE I, wilderness/non-wilderness, was against further study for wilderness. The area was not considered highly controversial during RARE I.

The area was further evaluated in the Leesburg Unit Land Management Plan (LMP). The decision in the LMP was to manage this area for non-wilderness resource development. Public opinion was for non-wilderness resource development. The wilderness/non-wilderness issue was not highly controversial in the LMP process.

The Deep Creek Roadless Area #279 was also inventoried and evaluated in RARE II as the Deep Creek Roadless Area #04-509. The decision in the RARE II FEIS was to manage these lands for non-wilderness resource development. Public opinion was for non-wilderness resource development for the area. The wilderness/non-wilderness issue was not highly controversial.

During the development and passage of the Central Idaho Wilderness Act establishing the River-of-No-Return Wilderness <sup>1/</sup> (Public Law 96- 312 July 23, 1980), the House/Senate Joint Committee in consideration of S. 2009 did express an opinion on page PS-9 of their Conference Report that the area will "remain subject to sustained-yield multiple use management under the statutes and regulations generally applicable to all non-wilderness National Forest System lands."

<sup>1/</sup> The name of this Wilderness was changed to the "Frank--Church River of No Return Wilderness" through P.L. 98-231, March 14, 1984, to honor Idaho Senator Frank Church who was instrumental in passing the Central Idaho Wilderness Act of 1980 and the Wilderness Act of 1964.

Senator McClure held "Idaho Forest Management Act" hearings in Coeur d'Alene, Lewiston, Boise, and Idaho Falls during August, 1983. Prior to these meeting the Senator sent out a constituent letter with four proposals i.e., the Forest Service RARE II, Forest Industries, other commodity user groups, and the 1979 Idaho Wildlife Federation proposal. Following the hearings, Senator McClure received additional input from environmental groups and the Governor of Idaho. The environmental groups and Governor Evans had not included this area in their proposals. The Idaho Fish and Game Commission provided input to Governor Evans for both wilderness and roadless management areas over the state. They did not include this area in their proposal.

During the Forest Planning review of inventoried roadless lands, public opinion was again divided ranging from no wilderness to all wilderness. Earth First! recommended wilderness for the entire area. The Idaho Mining Association, Idaho Cattlemen's Association, Outdoors Unlimited, Idaho Farm Bureau, Idaho Wool Growers, Idaho Trail Machine Association, Idaho Forest Industries Council, and Idaho Women in Timber all recommended no wilderness for Deep Creek.

Senator McClure has introduced the Idaho Forest Management Act (IFMA) in the Senate. The proposed legislation has unanimous support from the Idaho Congressional Delegation and would designate approximately 526,064 acres of roadless lands as wilderness across the State.

Following introduction of the IFMA new and/or modified recommendations have been submitted to the Idaho Congressional Delegation for the inclusion of more roadless lands as wilderness.

The Deep Creek Roadless Area was not included in the IFMA nor has it been included in any of the additional or modified recommendations. The area was not considered controversial during the Forest Planning review of roadless lands.

#### Preferred Alternative (Alternative 12)

This area is not recommended for wilderness designation in the preferred alternative.

Predicted resource activities would preclude this area from further consideration for wilderness during the next plan revision. Mineral potential is high. Timing of possible mineral development is not known but if development should occur the area disturbed by mining and access construction would be precluded from further wilderness consideration.

Effects of Wilderness/Non-wilderness Management Prescriptions

TABLE A

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION BY FOREST PLAN ALTERNATIVE  
(Acres)

Roadless Area: 13509 Deep Creek

Forest Plan Alternative

Management Prescription	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12 (preferred)
7A Proposed Wilderness						682	575	712	569		5,265	773
Non-wilderness*								590	676			
4A	867		867				4,690			5,265		4,492
4B-1			1,451			4,583						
5A	4,398	5,265		5,265	5,265			3,963	4,020			
5B												
5D			2,938									

\* Refer to Alternative map for prescription description.

TABLE B  
IMPACTS ON WILDERNESS CHARACTER

Roadless Area 13509 Deep Creek

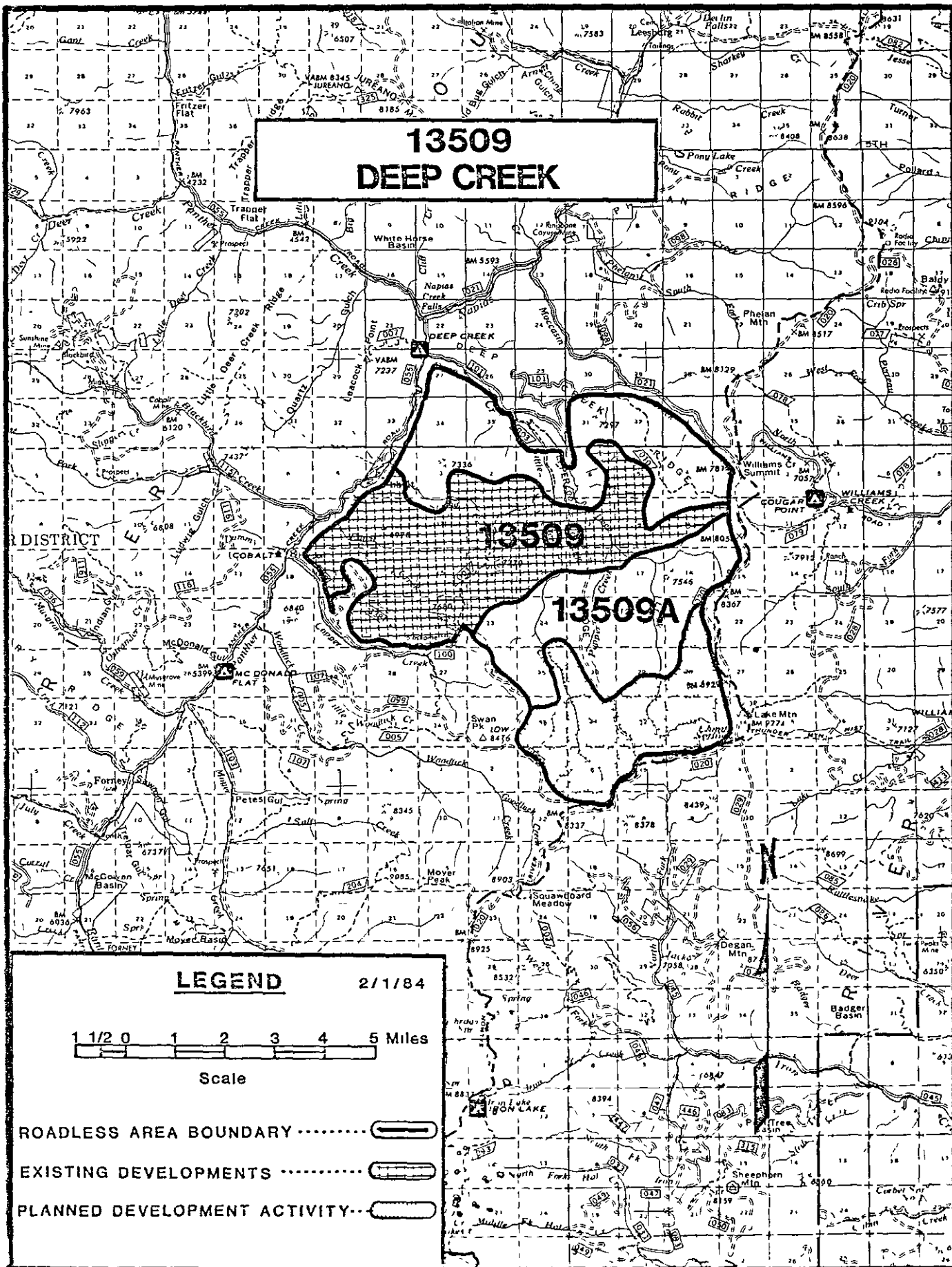
WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS	ALT 1	ALT 2	ALT 3	ALT 4	ALT 5	ALT 6
Natural Integrity - Apparent Naturalness	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Solitude	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity
Primitive Recreation	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity
Challenging Experiences	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence
Special Features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features
WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS	ALT 7	ALT 8	ALT 9	ALT 10	ALT 11	ALT 12
Natural Integrity - Apparent Naturalness	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Solitude	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	Limited opportunity	No opportunity
Primitive Recreation	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	Limited opportunity	No opportunity
Challenging Experiences	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence
Special Features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features

TABLE C

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF WILDERNESS/NON-WILDERNESS DESIGNATIONS ON  
THE PHYSICAL AND BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

Roadless Area 13509 Deep Creek

ENVIRONMENT	ALT 1	ALT 2	ALT 3	ALT 4	ALT 5	ALT 6
Potential Adverse Effects on Soil Productivity	Very slight	Slight	Very slight	Slight	Slight	Very slight
Potential Effects on Water Quality	Slightly adverse	Moderately adverse	Slightly adverse	Moderately adverse	Moderately adverse	Slightly adverse
Air Quality	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards
Potential Effects on Plant Communities	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	Timber harvest
Wildlife Habitat Capability - Elk	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact
Potential Effects on Fish Habitat Capability	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact
ENVIRONMENT	ALT 7	ALT 8	ALT 9	ALT 10	ALT 11	ALT 12
Potential Adverse Effects on Soil Productivity	Very slight	Very slight	Very slight	Slight	None	Very slight
Potential Effects on Water Quality	Slightly adverse	Slightly adverse	Slightly adverse	Moderately adverse	None	Slightly adverse
Air Quality	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards
Potential Effects on Plant Communities	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	None	Timber harvest
Wildlife Habitat Capability - Elk	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact	Insignificant change	Slight adverse impact
Potential Effects on Fish Habitat Capability	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact	Insignificant change	Slight adverse impact



## ROADLESS AREA EVALUATION

### SOUTH DEEP CREEK ROADLESS AREA

SALMON NATIONAL FOREST #13509A -- 12,975 Net Acres

#### 1. Description

This southern part of the initial inventoried Deep Creek Roadless Area was separated from the northern portion by a timber sale and associated roads. This southern part will be evaluated as a separate roadless area, South Deep Creek #13509A.

The South Deep Creek Roadless Area is 10 air miles southwest of Salmon, Idaho. It is bounded on the north by a timber sale and associated roads, on the east and south by Forest Road #020, on the southwest by Forest Road #099. Access to the area can be gained from the Forest roads.

Little Deep Creek is the major drainage. Slopes range from relatively gentle (15 to 30 percent) at the higher elevations, to steep slopes adjacent to Little Deep Creek. Elevations range from 5,000 feet to over 8,000 feet near Swan Peak. Summer high temperatures of 80 to 90 degrees are contrasted by winter low temperatures of 40 below zero. The 15 to 30 inches of annual precipitation occurs mainly as snow. Soils textures are loamy sand and sandy loam. Quartzite forms the bedrock. Lodgepole pine and Douglas-fir cover much of the area. Sagebrush and grass meadows are scattered throughout the area. Western spruce fir, grand fir/Douglas-fir are the ecosystems.

The South Deep Creek Roadless Area #13509A was originally inventoried as part of the Deep Creek Roadless Area #13509, but due to timber sale intrusions, is now a separate roadless area. No intrusions have occurred in this area, but a 10.3 million board foot timber sale was sold in the south half of the area in 1981. No sale activities have been started to date, but the area is under a valid contract.

Recreation use was estimated at 400 RVD's in 1982 and is related to big game hunting.

Most of the area is essentially natural appearing.

There are no special features or attractions.

#### 2. Capability

Recent roading into and around this area has made development of logical and manageable boundaries difficult.

The boundary could not be expanded in any direction due to existing roads, and deleting impacted areas would leave an area for which logical boundaries would be impossible to delineate.

Past and current activities have a high influence on the area's natural integrity. The duration of impact will exceed 10 years and there is little feasibility of correction.

Natural appearance will be significantly altered when the timber sale cutting units under contract are harvested. The impacts will be readily apparent to all visitors.

This area has dense vegetative screening, but because of the small size, small distance from core to perimeter, and gentle topography, the opportunities for solitude and for primitive recreation experiences are only low.

Opportunities for challenging experiences or encountering serious hazards are fair.

### 3. Availability

#### Resource Potentials and Use

Hunting use is not expected to change significantly.

The potential for prehistoric or historic cultural resources is low.

Big game summer habitat potential is high, but existing low numbers of mule deer and elk reflect an unbalanced cover/forage ratio. Current timber management activities will create much needed forage and should increase habitat potential for deer and elk. Security cover has been the most important attribute of this area for big game. South Deep Creek Roadless Area is also characterized by old growth Douglas-fir stands along the ridge tops, and thus provides excellent habitat for pileated woodpecker and other species. Pine marten are abundant along drainages. The upper elevations of this area are very rocky, non-productive areas occupied primarily by sparse whitebark pine stands.

This area contains the headwater reaches of Deep, Little Deep, and Pepper creeks. All three streams contain resident trout populations. The streams are small with moderate to high gradients. Fishing use is light. Development activities would likely influence habitat features within this area and in the adjoining #13509 which is downstream. Lower Deep Creek was historical anadromous fish habitat.

The area is located predominantly in the Deep Creek drainage which is a major tributary of Panther Creek. Generally, the upper watersheds are in excellent condition and produce excellent quality water. The lower reaches of these streams are adjacent to roads, which have historically caused stream sedimentation. However, most streams are in generally good condition.



The entire roadless area is within the Williams Basin - Napias Creek Cattle and Horse Allotment and contributes 245 AUM's annually to the allotment. Condition of the suitable range is mostly good, although small areas of fair and poor condition range do exist. Structural improvements are limited to one water development.

An estimated 23.2 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated annual potential yield of 0.21 million board feet.

The area's hardrock mineral potential was rated high in the RARE II evaluation, and no new data modifies the original rating. Past mineral production includes gold, cobalt, and copper from the nearby Blackpine Mine. There is no known potential for currently leasable minerals.

No active mining operations currently exist.

The potential for prehistoric and historic cultural resources is low.

There are 10 miles of system trails and 3.6 miles of non-system trails within the intrusion. There are 26.6 miles of system roads within the intrusion and 1.4 miles of non-system road. Outside the intrusion are 8.2 miles of system roads and 4.6 miles of non-system roads. An electronic site is located about one-half mile west of the private land at the Blackpine Mine.

#### Management Considerations

Fire occurrence is light.

As the lodgepole pine increase in diameter there is an increasing hazard of a major mountain pine beetle epidemic. However, many lodgepole stands have slow growth due to dwarf mistletoe or over stocking. Western spruce budworm is periodically killing some of the understory Douglas-fir, especially on the drier sites. Occasionally the tops of the larger trees are being killed. The Douglas-fir beetle periodically kills small groups of the older larger Douglas-fir.

#### 4. Need

During the Forest planning review of inventoried roadless lands, public opinion was again divided ranging from no wilderness to all wilderness. Earth First! recommended wilderness for the entire area. The Idaho Mining Association, Idaho Cattlemen's Association, Outdoors Unlimited, Idaho Farm Bureau, Idaho Wool Growers, Idaho Trail Machine Association, Idaho Forest Industries Council, and Idaho Women in Timber all recommended no wilderness for the South Deep Creek Roadless Area.

Senator McClure has introduced the Idaho Forest Management Act (IFMA) in the Senate. The proposed legislation has unanimous support from the Idaho Congressional Delegation and would designate approximately 526,064 acres of roadless lands as wilderness across the State.

Following introduction of the IFMA, new and/or modified recommendations have been submitted to the Idaho Congressional Delegation for the inclusion of more roadless lands as wilderness.

The South Deep Creek Roadless Area was not included in the IFMA nor has it been included in any of the additional or modified recommendations. The area was not considered controversial during the Forest planning review of roadless lands.

Preferred Alternative (Alternative 12)

This area is not recommended for wilderness designation in the preferred alternative.

Predicted resource activities would preclude this area from further consideration for wilderness during the next plan revision. Mineral potential is high. Timing of possible mineral development is not known but if development should occur the area disturbed by mining and access construction would be precluded from further wilderness consideration.

Effects of Wilderness/Non-wilderness Management Prescriptions

TABLE A

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION BY FOREST PLAN ALTERNATIVE  
(Acres)

Roadless Area. 13509A South Deep Creek

Forest Plan Alternative

Management Prescription	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12 (preferred)
7A Proposed Wilderness											12,975	
Non-wilderness*												
4B-1			2,266			707		1,692	4,297			
4B-2	3,289											
4B-3							2,011					
5A	9,686	292		284	179		279			4,908		167
5B		282			8,530	6,966	6,522					9,051
5C		12,401		12,691	4,266		4,163			8,067		3,757
5D			6,260					10,478	8,678			
5E								805				
5F			4,449			5,302						

\* Refer to Alternative map for prescription description.

TABLE B  
IMPACTS ON WILDERNESS CHARACTER

Roadless Area 13509A South Deep Creek

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS	ALT 1	ALT 2	ALT 3	ALT 4	ALT 5	ALT 6
Natural Integrity - Apparent Naturalness	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Solitude	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity
Primitive Recreation	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity
Challenging Experiences	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence
Special Features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features

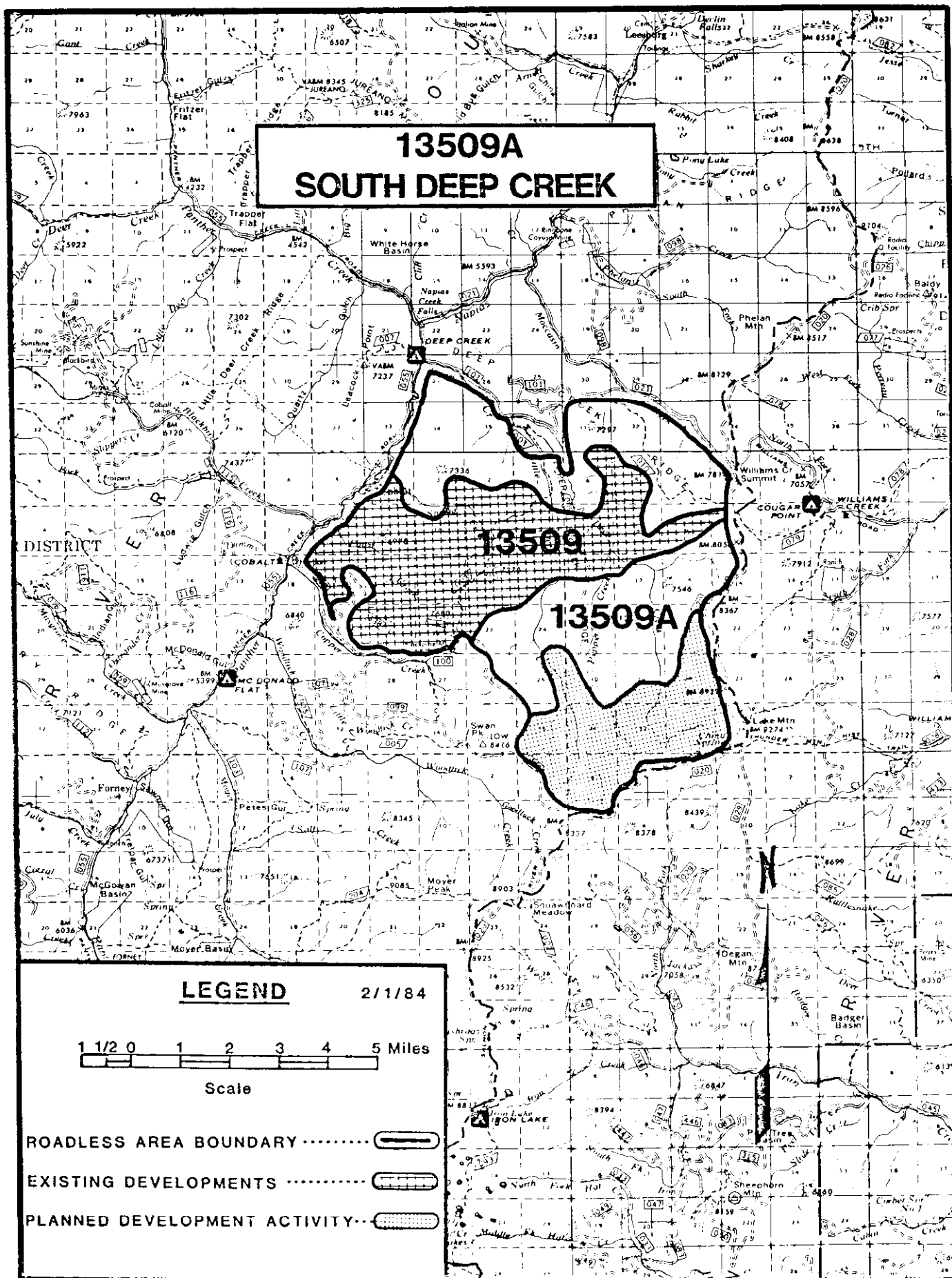
WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS	ALT 7	ALT 8	ALT 9	ALT 10	ALT 11	ALT 12
Natural Integrity - Apparent Naturalness	Low	Low	Low	Low	Fairly high	Low
Solitude	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	Limited opportunity	No opportunity
Primitive Recreation	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	Limited opportunity	No opportunity
Challenging Experiences	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence
Special Features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features	No identified special features

TABLE C

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF WILDERNESS/NON-WILDERNESS DESIGNATIONS ON  
THE PHYSICAL AND BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

Roadless Area 13509A South Deep Creek

ENVIRONMENT	ALT 1	ALT 2	ALT 3	ALT 4	ALT 5	ALT 6
Potential Adverse Effects on Soil Productivity	Very slight	Very slight	Very slight	Slight	Slight	Very slight
Potential Effects on Water Quality	Slightly adverse	Slightly adverse	Slightly adverse	Moderately adverse	Moderately adverse	Slightly adverse
Air Quality	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards
Potential Effects on Plant Communities	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	Timber harvest
Wildlife Habitat Capability - Elk	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact	Insignificant change	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact
Potential Effects on Fish Habitat Capability	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact
ENVIRONMENT	ALT 7	ALT 8	ALT 9	ALT 10	ALT 11	ALT 12
Potential Adverse Effects on Soil Productivity	Very slight	Very slight	Very slight	Slight	None	Slight
Potential Effects on Water Quality	Slightly adverse	Slightly adverse	Slightly adverse	Moderately adverse	None	Moderately adverse
Air Quality	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards
Potential Effects on Plant Communities	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	None	Timber harvest
Wildlife Habitat Capability - Elk	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Moderate improvement	Slight adverse impact	Insignificant change	Slight adverse impact
Potential Effects on Fish Habitat Capability	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact	Insignificant change	Slight adverse impact



## ROADLESS AREA EVALUATION

### JESSE CREEK ROADLESS AREA

SALMON NATIONAL FOREST #13510 - 16,161 Net Acres

#### 1. Description

The Jesse Creek Roadless Area is one air mile west of Salmon, Idaho. The area is bounded on the east by the Forest boundary, on the north by the powerline from Salmon to the Cobalt Mine, on the west and south by the Salmon River Mountain Road (020) and the Spring Creek Road (026). This area can be accessed from the Forest roads.

The area is dissected by one major drainage, Jesse Creek, and several smaller drainages. Slopes range from 30 to 70 percent. Baldy Mountain is the highest point at over 9,100 feet, the low point is 4,400 feet. Summer highs of 85-95 degrees are contrasted by winter lows of 40 below zero. Annual precipitation, mostly in the form of snow, ranges from 15 to 25 inches. Quartzite and volcanic bedrock form loamy clay to loamy sand textured soils. The lower elevational slopes are covered with sagebrush and grass, with lodgepole pine and Douglas-fir at the higher elevations. The ecosystems represented are sage-grass and grand fir/Douglas-fir.

Recreation uses estimated at 300 RVD's in 1982 are related primarily to hunting.

Five intrusions have been identified in the roadless area. The Cobalt Townsite powerline crosses the northern portion of the area and the area north of the powerline has been impacted by a 2.9 million board feet timber sale sold in 1983. Three other intrusions occur along the south eastern edge. One is the Jesse Creek Administrative Site and storage area and the other two are water transmission and storage facilities which were constructed and are periodically maintained by heavy equipment. The areas impacted by these activities total 4482 acres which no longer meet roadless area criteria and will not be considered further for wilderness. No other intrusions are currently planned in the remaining area.

Approximately three-fourths of the roadless area is essentially natural appearing, with the remainder affected by road construction and timber harvest activities.

The area is separated by road corridors from three other roadless areas (#13515, #13508, #13511) on the west and south. It is bordered by developed National Forest lands on the north, and developed BLM and private lands on the east.

Outstanding scenery exists in some of the major canyons, with the remainder of the area considered common for the Salmon National Forest.

## 2. Capability

Logical and manageable boundaries could be developed for this area. Size would not be a factor when making necessary boundary modification to delete timber related intrusions in the north.

Man's influence on the natural integrity of this area has been very low in the southern three-fourths, and high in the remainder of the area.

The southern three-fourths of the unit would be apparently natural to most visitors; but the remainder is obviously affected in many sections, with the impacts readily apparent to all visitors.

Due to the area's size and little to moderate vegetative and topographic screening, it offers only low opportunity for solitude. In addition, it has little diversity and offers only low opportunity for primitive recreation experiences.

Opportunities for challenging experiences or encountering serious hazards are rare.

## 3. Availability

### Resource Potential and Use

This area is generally not considered available for recreation use because it contains the Salmon municipal watershed. Recreation use is not prohibited, but it also is not encouraged.

This entire area provides good summer range for mule deer, but contains more cover than needed at the upper elevations and less cover than needed at the lower elevations. These lower slopes do, however, constitute key winter range for mule deer. Elk are present on the southern portion of the area in small numbers, but do not presently occur throughout. Some opportunity for big game habitat improvement exists in the dense lodgepole stands in the higher elevations. Abundant, large, rock outcrops provide good nesting habitat for several species of raptors.

Jesse Creek has a minor amount of suitable fish habitat, with lower reaches supporting a small number of fish. U-P Lake provides habitat for cutthroat trout, which is stocked on a three-year cycle. No fishing pressure is expected on the streams. U-P Lake receives moderate to heavy use because of its close proximity to Salmon.

Portions of this area have been recognized as the Salmon City Municipal Watershed, and is the source of much of Salmon's domestic water supply. Watershed conditions are generally excellent, as is the water quality. Minimal disturbance has occurred in the southern three-fourths of the unit; the remainder, which includes Bob Moore Creek, has had recent road and timber entries. However,



watershed conditions should remain good, and water quality will remain high. All area streams are irrigation sources.

The area is not grazed by livestock.

There are no known areas of ecological significance, and the area does not represent any unique ecosystems.

An estimated 38.4 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated annual potential yield of .2 million board feet.

The hardrock mineral potential of this area was rated as moderate in the RARE II evaluation and no new data modifies that rating. There are no active mining operations, but past mineral production includes minor amounts of gold, silver, copper, lead, and zinc. Minor occurrences of tungsten have also been recorded within the area. There is no known potential for currently leasable minerals.

The potential for prehistoric cultural resources is considered moderate, and the potential for historic cultural resources is considered low.

The intrusion area includes 2.6 miles of trails and 12.5 miles of roads. There are 1.4 miles of roads and 2.6 miles of trails outside of the intrusion area. The Chippys Creek-Pollard Creek-Jesse Creek area is the watershed for the Salmon City Municipal Water system and is managed under a Co-op Agreement signed on June 8, 1939, by the Secretary of Agriculture. In addition, the City has several permits for related water facilities, and there are two water impoundment permits for use on adjacent private land.

#### Management Considerations

Fire occurrence is light in the area.

As the lodgepole pine increase in diameter there is an increasing hazard of a major mountain pine beetle epidemic. However, many lodgepole stands have slow growth due to dwarf mistletoe or over stocking. Western spruce budworm is periodically killing some of the understory Douglas-fir. Occasionally the tops of the larger trees are being killed. The Douglas-fir beetle periodically kills small groups of the older, larger Douglas-fir. Dwarf mistletoe is causing serious deterioration in some Douglas-fir stands.

The intrusion area includes 40 acres of private land at U-P Lake.

#### 4. Need

This unit lies approximately 60 road miles from the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness. Use of this wilderness ranges from low to high, depending on the particular location.

Senator McClure has introduced the Idaho Forest Management Act (IFMA) in the Senate. The proposed legislation has unanimous support from the Idaho Congressional Delegation and would designate approximately 526,064 acres of roadless lands as wilderness across the State.

Following introduction of the IFMA new and/or modified recommendations have been submitted to the Idaho Congressional Delegation for the inclusion of more roadless lands as wilderness.

The Jesse Creek Roadless Area was not included in the IFMA nor has it been included in any of the additional or modified recommendations. The area was not considered controversial during the Forest Planning review of roadless lands.

#### Preferred Alternative (Alternative 12)

This area is not recommended for wilderness designation in the preferred alternative.

Some resource activity would occur on about 20 percent of the area during the first planning period which would preclude that portion of the area from consideration for wilderness during the next plan revision. Mineral potential is moderate in the area.

Effects of Wilderness/Nonwilderness Management Prescriptions

TABLE A

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION BY FOREST PLAN ALTERNATIVE  
(Acres)

Roadless Area	13510 Jesse Creek										Forest Plan Alternative
Management Prescription	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
7A Proposed Wilderness		16,161						7,596	7,596	16,161	16,161
Nonwilderness*											
2A	13,504		15,524	15,360		15,923	15,850			8,179	
2B								7,322			
4A			907					868			
5B	2,657			801	16,161						
5E								375		121	
8A						238	311			265	

\* Refer to Alternative map for prescription description

Roadless Area 13510 Jesse Creek

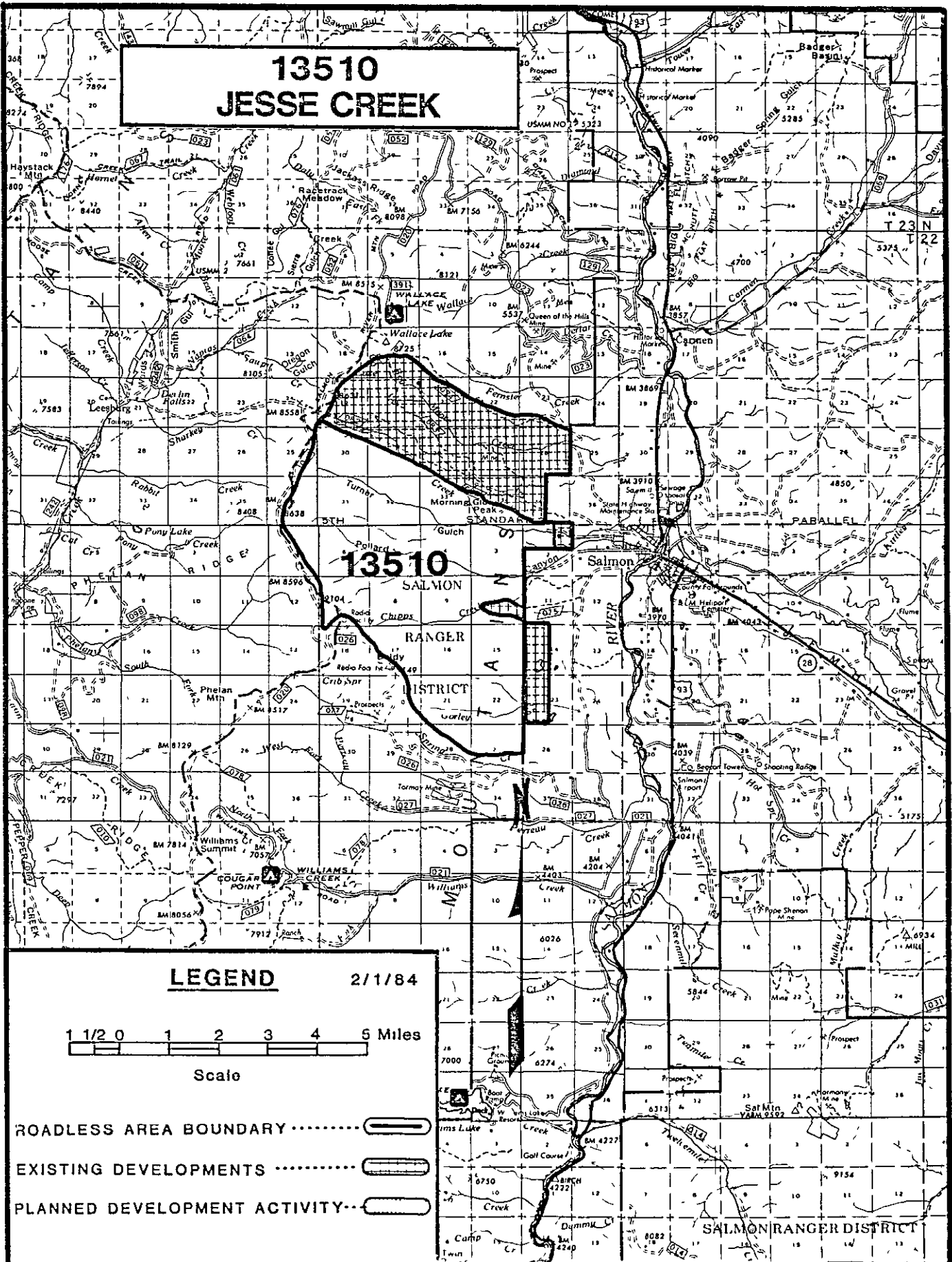
[illegible]

TABLE C  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF WILDERNESS/NON-WILDERNESS DESIGNATIONS ON  
THE PHYSICAL AND BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

Roadless Area. 13510 Jesse Creek

ENVIRONMENT	ALT 1	ALT 2	ALT 3	ALT 4	ALT 5	ALT 6
Potential Adverse Effects on Soil Productivity	None	None	None	None	Slight	None
Potential Effects on Water Quality	None	None	None	None	Moderately adverse	None
Air Quality	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards
Potential Effects on Plant Communities	None	None	None	None	Timber harvest	None
Wildlife Habitat Capability - Elk	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Slight adverse impact	Insignificant change
Potential Effects on Fish Habitat Capability	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change
ENVIRONMENT	ALT 7	ALT 8	ALT 9	ALT 10	ALT 11	ALT 12
Potential Adverse Effects on Soil Productivity	None	None	None	None	None	Very slight
Potential Effects on Water Quality	None	None	None	None	None	Slightly adverse
Air Quality	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards
Potential Effects on Plant Communities	None	None	None	None	None	Timber harvest
Wildlife Habitat Capability - Elk	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change
Potential Effects on Fish Habitat Capability	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change

# 13510 JESSE CREEK



## ROADLESS AREA EVALUATION

### PERREAU CREEK ROADLESS AREA

SALMON NATIONAL FOREST #13511 -- 8,493 Net Acres

#### 1. Description

The Perreau Creek roadless area lies approximately six air miles and nine road miles southwest of Salmon, Idaho. Roads bounding and providing access to the area are the Baldy Mountain Road on the north, the Williams Creek Road on the south, and the Salmon River Mountain Road on the west. Access also can be gained by an old mining road that penetrates the area and follows along Perreau Creek.

Perreau Creek is the primary drainage for the area, but a portion of the southern part drains into Williams Creek. Elevations range from 4,500 to 8,800 feet. Topography varies from very steep side slopes at the lower end of the drainage, to moderately gentle slopes at the head of the drainage. Large areas of quartzite talus rock are found in parts of the area south of Baldy Mountain. Sandy loam soils are derived from the quartzite bedrock. The clay loam soils found on the area's south half are formed from Challis volcanic bedrock. The climate is typical of high mountain locations, with extreme temperature variations from winter to summer. Annual precipitation varies from 15 inches in the lower elevations to 25 inches in the higher elevations. Much of the precipitation is in the form of snow.

Much of the area is timbered with Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine, with the south facing slopes at the lower elevations being covered by sagebrush and grass. The area is in the grand fir/Douglas-fir Forest section of the Rocky Mountain Forest province.

Recreation uses estimated at 400 RVD's in 1982 include hunting, fishing, hiking, cross country skiing, snowmobiling, horseback riding, and trailbike riding.

One mining access special use road intrusion was identified in the eastern portion of the area. The road goes up Perreau Creek entering the unit near the Forest boundary and exits near Baldy Mountain. The road cuts off 1701 acres along the eastern edge. This unit is less than 5000 acres and will not be considered further for wilderness.

A 2.5 million board feet timber sale is planned in the northwest portion of the area in 1985.

The area is essentially natural appearing.

The roadless area is bordered on the south by a road corridor and lands that have been intensively managed for timber harvest; on the west by a road corridor and lands proposed for intensive timber management; on the north by a road corridor that leads to an

electronics site (outside the roadless area); and on the east by BLM administered lands.

The area contains limited amounts of outstanding scenery in the canyon bottoms. The remainder of the area would be considered common for the Salmon National Forest.

## 2. Capability

Logical and manageable boundaries could be developed for this Roadless Area. Sufficient size would remain after deletion of intrusion.

There has been only minor influence by man on the natural integrity of this area, and most visitors would find the area to be apparently natural.

Due to size, low topographic screening, moderate vegetative screening, and lack of diversity, the area offers moderate opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation experiences.

Opportunities for challenging experiences or encountering serious hazards are rare.

## 3. Availability

### Resource Potentials and Use

Wilderness designation would adversely affect current use of snowmobiles and trail bikes. Other types of recreation use would likely increase slightly due to proximity to Salmon, Idaho.

This small area is characterized by rough, steep slopes, with patches of Douglas-fir interspersed with sagebrush covered openings. Mule deer and elk occur in this area during all seasons of the year, but habitat potential for deer exceeds that for elk due primarily to the vegetative capability of the land.

Perreau Creek contains habitat suitable for maintaining a substantial cutthroat trout population, but habitat condition is currently below optimum because of high sedimentation. Fishing use is light to moderate, with the majority of users being area youth. Fishing is classed as good.

The Perreau Creek watershed is an important source of surface and ground water irrigation supplies to downstream landowners and ranchers. Channel conditions are fair to good in lower Perreau Creek, while in the upper reaches of the watershed hydrologic conditions are excellent.



Much of the area is within the Williams Basin/Napias Creek Grazing Allotment. Three permittees are allowed approximately 1,500 AUM's of livestock use. Most of the suitable range is in fair to good condition. There are a number of existing water developments and fences.

Little is known about the existence of prehistoric cultural resources in the area. The potential for such is considered moderate, with little likelihood of historic resources.

An estimated 17.6 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated potential annual yield of .3 million board feet.

The hardrock mineral potential of this area was rated as high in the RARE II evaluation, and there has been no new data to modify that rating. Past mineral production includes gold and copper, and tungsten occurrences have been reported in the northwestern portion. There is no known potential for the occurrence of currently leasable minerals. Mining claim owners continue to do assessment work, but there are no active mining operations.

The area includes 8.4 miles of System trails, and 1.3 miles of Special Use Permit mining access road.

#### Management Considerations

Fire occurrence is very light.

Mountain Pine Beetle is present in some of the lodgepole pine stands. Although not a problem at this time, there is potential for a major outbreak of Mountain Pine Beetle due to the age, size, condition, and location of the lodgepole pine in the roadless area.

There are endemic levels of Douglas-fir Beetle present in the Douglas-fir. Some stands of Douglas-fir are infected with dwarf mistletoe, which will continue to spread to uninfected trees.

There is a private tract of approximately 87 acres within the area, part of which has potential for recreation subdivision development.

#### 4. Need

The Perreau Creek Roadless Area lies approximately 50 road miles from the Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness. Current use in the portion of the Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness closest to this roadless area is considered high to moderate.

The proximity to Salmon makes this Roadless Area somewhat unique, with the nearest boundary approximately seven road miles from town. The area is approximately 140 miles from Idaho Falls, Idaho and 140 miles from Missoula, Montana.

The area does not contain any ecosystems determined from RARE II to be in need of representation in the wilderness system. Douglas-fir and sage-grass ecosystems found in this area are well represented throughout the Forest.

During RARE I this area was inventoried as the Perreau Creek Roadless Area #310. The decision in the RARE I FEIS was to manage this area for non-wilderness resource development. Public opinion received on these areas during RARE I, wilderness/non-wilderness, was against further study for wilderness. The area was not considered highly controversial during RARE I.

The Perreau Creek Roadless Area #310 was inventoried and evaluated in RARE II as the Perreau Creek Roadless Area #04-511. The decision in the LMP was to manage this land for non-wilderness resource development. Public opinion was for non-wilderness uses for the area. The wilderness/non-wilderness issue was not highly controversial.

During the development and passage of the Central Idaho Wilderness Act establishing the River of No Return Wilderness 1/ (Public Law 96-312 - July 23, 1980), the House/Senate Joint Committee in consideration of S.2009 did express an opinion on page PS-9 of their Conference Report that the area will "remain subject to sustained - yield multiple use management under the statutes and regulations generally applicable to all non-wilderness National Forest system lands."

Senator McClure held "Idaho Forest Management Act" hearings in Coeur d'Alene, Lewiston, Boise, and Idaho Falls during August 1983. Prior to these meetings the Senator sent out a constituent letter with four proposals, i.e., the Forest Service RARE II, Forest Industries, other commodity user groups, and the 1979 Idaho Wildlife Federation proposal. Following the hearings, Senator McClure has received additional input from environmental groups and the Governor of Idaho. The environmental groups and Governor Evans have not included these areas in their proposals. The Idaho Fish and Game Commission provided input to Governor Evans for both wilderness and roadless management areas over the State. They did not include this area in their proposal.

Some controversy has recently arisen on this area in regards to a proposed timber sale. However, the concern appears to be roadless management, as opposed to wilderness.

1/ The name of this Wilderness was changed to the "Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness" through P.L. 98-231, March 14, 1984, to honor Idaho Senator Frank Church who was instrumental in passing the Central Idaho Wilderness Act of 1980 and the Wilderness Act of 1964.

During the Forest Planning review of inventoried roadless lands, public opinion was again divided ranging from no wilderness to all wilderness. Earth First! recommended wilderness for the entire area. The Idaho Mining Association, Idaho Cattlemen's Association, Outdoors Unlimited, Idaho Farm Bureau, Idaho Wool Growers, Idaho Trail Machine Association, Idaho Forest Industries Council, and Idaho Women in Timber all recommended no wilderness for the Perreau Creek Roadless Area.

Senator McClure has introduced the Idaho Forest Management Act (IFMA) in the Senate. The proposed legislation has unanimous support from the Idaho Congressional Delegation and would designate approximately 526,064 acres of roadless lands as wilderness across the State.

Following introduction of the IFMA new and/or modified recommendations have been submitted to the Idaho Congressional Delegation for the inclusion of more roadless lands as wilderness.

The Perreau Roadless Area was not included in the IFMA nor has it been included in any of the additional or modified recommendations. The area was not considered controversial during the Forest Planning review of roadless lands.

#### Preferred Alternative (Alternative 12)

This area is not recommended for wilderness designation in the preferred alternative.

Predicted resource activities would preclude this area from further consideration for wilderness during the next plan revision. Mineral potential is high. Timing of possible mineral development is not known but if development should occur the area disturbed by mining and access construction would be precluded from further wilderness consideration.

Effects of Wilderness/Non-wilderness Management Prescriptions

TABLE A

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION BY FOREST PLAN ALTERNATIVE  
(Acres)

Roadless Area: 13511 Perreau Creek

Forest Plan Alternative

Management Prescription	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
7A Proposed Wilderness								7,219	7,219	7
Non-wilderness*										
4A			5,181					113		
4B-1			3,312					594	898	
4B-3	1,499									
5B	6,258	8,493		8,493	8,493					1
5E						7,648	8,493	567		
5F						845				
8A	736								376	

\* Refer to Alternative map for prescription description.

TABLE B  
IMPACTS ON WILDERNESS CHARACTER

Roadless Area 13511 Perreau Creek

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS	ALT 1	ALT 2	ALT 3	ALT 4	ALT 5	ALT 6
Natural Integrity - Apparent Naturalness	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Solitude	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity
Primitive Recreation	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity	No opportunity
Challenging Experiences	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence
Special Features	Winter sports	Winter sports	Winter sports	Winter sports	Winter sports	Winter sports
WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS	ALT 7	ALT 8	ALT 9	ALT 10	ALT 11	ALT 12
Natural Integrity - Apparent Naturalness	Low	Fairly high	Fairly high	Fairly high	Fairly high	Low
Solitude	No opportunity	Some opportunity	Some opportunity	Some opportunity	Some opportunity	No opportunity
Primitive Recreation	No opportunity	Some opportunity	Some opportunity	Some opportunity	Some opportunity	No opportunity
Challenging Experiences	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence
Special Features	Winter sports	Winter sports and cross-country travel	Winter sports and cross-country travel	Winter sports and cross-country travel	Winter sports and cross-country travel	Winter sports

TABLE C

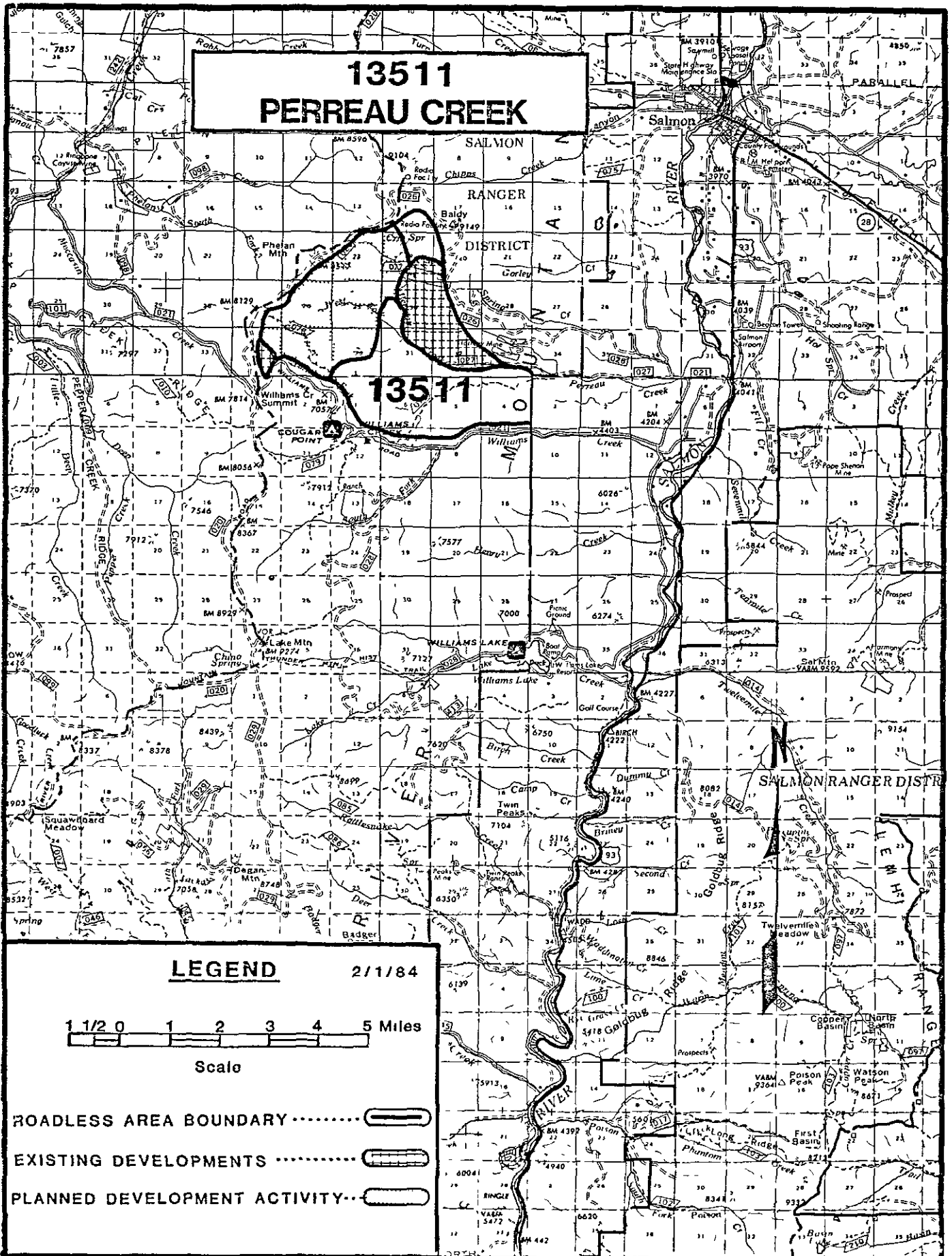
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF WILDERNESS/NON-WILDERNESS DESIGNATIONS ON  
THE PHYSICAL AND BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

Roadless Area: 13511 Perreau Creek

ENVIRONMENT	ALT 1	ALT 2	ALT 3	ALT 4	ALT 5	ALT 6
Potential Adverse Effects on Soil Productivity	Very slight	Slight	None	Slight	Slight	Very slight
Potential Effects on Water Quality	Slightly adverse	Moderately adverse	None	Moderately adverse	Moderately adverse	Slightly adverse
Air Quality	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards
Potential Effects on Plant Communities	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	Wildlife habitat improvement	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	Timber harvest
Wildlife Habitat Capability - Elk	Moderate adverse impact	Moderate, adverse impact	Moderate improvement	Moderate adverse impact	Moderate adverse impact	Moderate adverse impact
Potential Effects on Fish Habitat Capability	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact	Insignificant change	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact

ENVIRONMENT	ALT 7	ALT 8	ALT 9	ALT 10	ALT 11	ALT 12
Potential Adverse Effects on Soil Productivity	Slight	None	None	None	None	Very slight
Potential Effects on Water Quality	Moderately adverse	None	None	None	None	Slightly adverse
Air Quality	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards
Potential Effects on Plant Communities	Timber harvest	None	None	None	None	Timber harvest
Wildlife Habitat Capability - Elk	Moderate adverse impact	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Moderate adverse impact
Potential Effects on Fish Habitat Capability	Slight adverse impact	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Slight adverse impact

# 13511 PERREAU CREEK



## ROADLESS AREA EVALUATION

AGENCY CREEK ROADLESS AREA  
SALMON NATIONAL FOREST #13512 -- 5,690 Net Acres

### 1. Description

Agency Creek Roadless Area is approximately 15 air miles southeast of Salmon. Access to the area can be gained from roads along Warm Springs Creek, Pattee Creek, Agency Creek, and a road that traverses the Continental Divide between Agency Creek and Warm Springs Creek.

The area is bounded on the east by the road along the Continental Divide, on the south by the Forest boundary, on the west by a timber sale and associated roads, and on the north by the Warm Springs Creek road. Dissected by the headwaters of Pattee and Flume Creeks, sideslopes in the Roadless Area range from 20 percent to 70+ percent. The Challis volcanic bedrock forms a smooth and subdued topography, and results in clay loam textured soils. Vegetation on much of the area is sagebrush and grass, with Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine found on the higher elevational slopes. The area receives from 15 to 20 inches of moisture, mostly in the form of snow. The western spruce-fir, and the alpine meadows and barren ecosystems are found here.

Three small intrusions on the east side of the area resulted from portions of cutting units of a 1976 timber sale. An intrusion through the center of the area is a result of a 2.7 million board feet timber sale in 1980. These intrusions total 1290 acres which no longer meet roadless area criteria and will not be considered further for wilderness. Also, the 1980 sale separated the area into two parcels. The western portion is less than 5000 acres and will not be considered further for wilderness.

A 1 million board feet sale is proposed in the eastern portion during 1988. The exact location has not been determined to date.

Current uses include livestock grazing, firewood gathering and hunting. There were approximately 4,700 RVD's in 1982.

The majority of the area is essentially natural appearing, with the exception of road construction activities. However, there is a timber sale under contract that will substantially alter the natural appearance in the center of the unit.

Agency Creek Roadless Area is surrounded by previously harvested areas and sagebrush rangeland.

The scenery in this unit is generally considered common for the Salmon National Forest.

The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, and Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail pass in the vicinity of this roadless area.



## 2. Capability

Recent roading into the center of the unit has resulted in a difficult situation for the development of logical and manageable boundaries.

The boundary could not be expanded in any direction due to existing roads, and deleting impacted areas would barely leave sufficient acres to meet minimum size requirements.

Past and current activities have a high influence on the area's natural integrity. The duration of impact will exceed 10 years and there is little feasibility of correcting.

Natural appearance will be significantly altered when the timber sale units under contract are harvested. The impacts will be readily apparent to virtually all visitors.

This roadless area has a low opportunity for solitude due to size, distance from perimeter to core, lack of topographical screening, and permanent intrusions.

Agency Creek Roadless Area has a low opportunity for primitive recreation due to the same factors as solitude, plus the lack of diversity and the lack of opportunity for challenging experiences.

## 3. Availability

### Resource Potential and Use

Recreation use at present is primarily related to hunting and firewood gathering. Hunting use will not be affected by designation or non-designation of the area as wilderness. Firewood gathering would be eliminated.

The mid to lower elevational portions of this area provide good mule deer summer range and excellent big game winter range in the form of open sagebrush slopes and small stringers of Douglas-fir timber. Several hundred mule deer and elk winter in this area in the vicinity of Pasture Mountain. Antelope also summer and winter on the lower slopes within this area. The higher elevations (along the Continental Divide) consist primarily of large expanses of dense lodgepole pine timber that could be improved for summer big game habitat through timber harvest. However, mule deer and elk migrate through this portion of the area to reach their winter range, thus increased road access and possible effects on this animal movement could easily outweigh accrued benefits to resident big game. Elk calve within this area during heavy snow years when their return towards summer range areas is delayed.

Several streams within the area have habitat suitable for fish, but fish densities are expected to be low because the streams have predominantly high gradient channels with minimal holding areas for fish. Fishing use of the area streams is light and quality would be fair.

This moderate water producing area is an important source of excellent quality irrigation water to ranchers in the Lemhi Valley. Hydrologic conditions vary throughout the area, showing impacts of previous grazing activities. However, the streams currently provide good fish habitat and water sources for wildlife and livestock.

The area is within the Agency Creek Allotment and a portion of the Pattee Creek Allotment and provides approximately 700 AUM's of livestock use each grazing season. The majority of the suitable range is in fair to good condition. There are four existing water developments and approximately four miles of existing fence.

An estimated 12.8 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated annual potential yield of .3 million board feet.

The hardrock mineral potential of this area was rated moderate in the RARE II evaluation, and there is no new data to modify the original rating. There has been no mineral production from this area, however, mining claim owners continue to do assessment work. The southern portion of the area includes part of the Lemhi Pass thorium - rare-earth's belt. Copper occurs in the southeastern portion of the unit. Oil and gas lease applications have been filed on this area since RARE II. However, these applications were totally speculative. There is no known potential for currently leasable minerals.

The potential for cultural resources in this unit is unknown.

The area includes 4.7 miles of trail and there are 8.0 miles of road within the intrusion area. Segments of two permitted 69KV aerial powerlines cross a part of the area near Flume Creek and at Pattee Creek.

#### Management Considerations

Fire occurrence is very light in the area.

Mountain Pine Beetle exists in endemic levels in the lodgepole pine in this unit. The most susceptible stands have been harvested, or will be harvested, under existing timber sale contracts.

There are no private lands within the perimeter of the area.

#### 4. Need

The Agency Creek Roadless Area is approximately 95 miles from the Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness. While use is heavy in particular popular locations, the majority of the wilderness receives extremely light use.

The Agency Creek Roadless Area is approximately 35 miles from Salmon, Idaho; 140 miles from Idaho Falls, Idaho; and 170 miles from Missoula, Montana. The area does not contain any ecosystems determined from RARE II to be in need of representation in the wilderness system.

The western spruce-fir, alpine meadows and barren ecosystems are not unique to the Forest.

During RARE I this area was inventoried as the Beaverhead III Roadless Area. The decision in the RARE I FEIS was to manage this area for non-wilderness resource development. Public opinion received on the area during RARE I, wilderness/non-wilderness, was against further study for wilderness. The area was not considered highly controversial during RARE I.

The Agency Creek Roadless Area #13512 was inventoried and evaluated in RARE II as the Agency Creek Roadless Area #04-512. During RARE II public opinion was against further study for wilderness and the wilderness/non-wilderness issue was not highly controversial.

Senator McClure held "Idaho Forest Management Act" hearings in Coeur d'Alene, Lewiston, Boise, and Idaho Falls during August 1983. Prior to these meetings the Senator sent out a constituent letter with four proposals, i.e., the Forest Service RARE II, Forest Industries, other commodity user groups, and the 1979 Idaho Wildlife Federation proposal. Following the hearings, Senator McClure has received additional input from environmental groups and the Governor of Idaho. The environmental groups and Governor Evans have not included this area in their proposals. The Idaho Fish and Game Commission provided input to Governor Evans for both wilderness and roadless management areas over the State. They did not include this area in their proposal.

During the Forest Planning review of inventoried roadless lands, public opinion was again divided ranging from no wilderness to all wilderness. Earth First' recommended wilderness for the entire area. The Idaho Mining Association, Idaho Cattlemen's Association, Outdoors Unlimited, Idaho Farm Bureau, Idaho Wool Growers, Idaho Trail Machine Association, Idaho Forest Industries Council, and Idaho Women in Timber all recommended no wilderness for Agency Creek Roadless Area.

Senator McClure has introduced the Idaho Forest Management Act (IFMA) in the Senate. The proposed legislation has unanimous support from the Idaho Congressional Delegation and would designate approximately 526,064 acres of roadless lands as wilderness across the State. The Agency Creek Roadless Area was not included in the IFMA.

Following introduction of the IFMA new and/or modified recommendations have been submitted to the Idaho Congressional Delegation for the inclusion of more roadless lands as wilderness. The Idaho Wildlife Federation and Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association recommended wilderness for the area.

The area was not considered highly controversial during Forest Planning review of roadless lands.

Preferred Alternative (Alternative 12)

This area is not recommended for wilderness designation in the preferred alternative.

Predicted resource activities would preclude this area from further consideration for wilderness during the next plan revision. Mineral potential is moderate.

Effects of Wilderness/Non-wilderness Management Prescriptions

TABLE A

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION BY FOREST PLAN ALTERNATIVE  
(Acres)

Roadless Area: 13512 Agency Creek

Forest Plan Alternative

Management Prescription	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
7A Proposed Wilderness									
Non-wilderness*									
2B								5,283	5,078
4B-1			1,607						
5B		5,690		5,690	5,690				
5E	5,690		4,083				5,690	407	612
5F						5,690			

\* Refer to Alternative map for prescription description.

Roadless Area 13512 Agency Creek

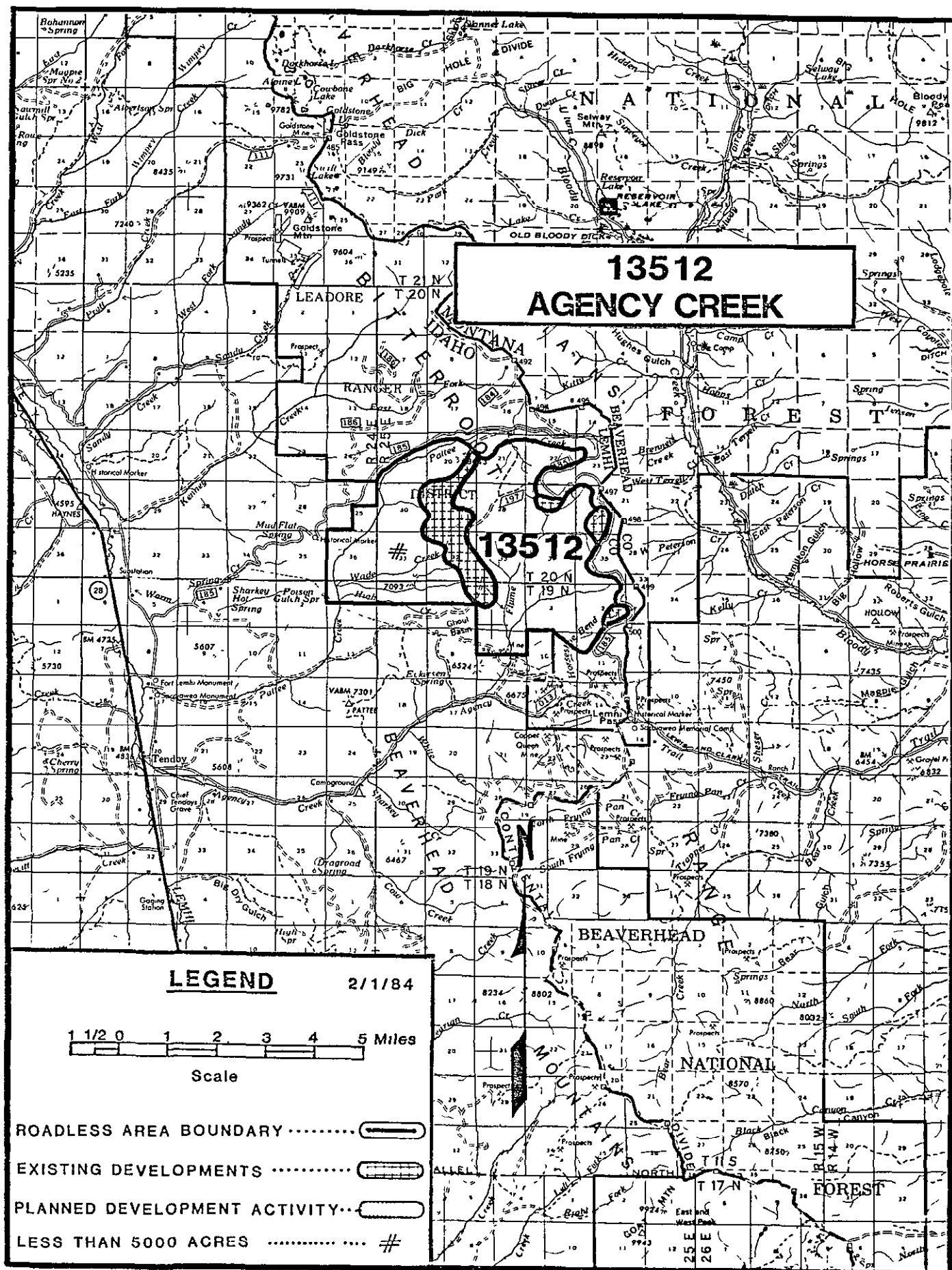
[illegible][illegible]

TABLE C

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF WILDERNESS/NON-WILDERNESS DESIGNATIONS ON  
THE PHYSICAL AND BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

Roadless Area 13512 Agency Creek

ENVIRONMENT	ALT 1	ALT 2	ALT 3	ALT 4	ALT 5	ALT 6
Potential Adverse Effects on Soil Productivity	Very slight	Slight	Very slight	Slight	Slight	Slight
Potential Effects on Water Quality	Slightly adverse	Moderately adverse	Slightly adverse	Moderately adverse	Moderately adverse	Moderately adverse
Air Quality	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards
Potential Effects on Plant Communities	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	Timber harvest
Wildlife Habitat Capability - Elk	moderate adverse impact	Moderate, adverse impact	Slight adverse impact	Moderate adverse impact	Moderate adverse impact	Moderate adverse impact
Potential Effects on Fish Habitat Capability	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change
ENVIRONMENT	ALT 7	ALT 8	ALT 9	ALT 10	ALT 11	ALT 12
Potential Adverse Effects on Soil Productivity	Slight	None	None	Slight	None	Slight
Potential Effects on Water Quality	Moderately adverse	None	None	Moderately adverse	None	Moderately adverse
Air Quality	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards
Potential Effects on Plant Communities	Timber harvest	None	None	Timber harvest	None	Timber harvest
Wildlife Habitat Capability - Elk	Moderate adverse impact	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Moderate adverse impact	Insignificant change	Moderate adverse impact
Potential Effects on Fish Habitat Capability	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change





## ROADLESS AREA EVALUATION

### SAL MTN. ROADLESS AREA

SALMON NATIONAL FOREST #13513 -- 15,826 Net Acres

#### 1. Description

The Sal Mtn. Roadless Area is seven air miles south of Salmon, Idaho. The area is bounded primarily by the Forest boundary on the north, east and west. On the southwest, the divide between Haynes Creek and Withington Creek form the boundary Forest Road 014 along Twelvemile Creek forms the southwest boundary. Access to the area can be gained from the Twelvemile, Withington Creek, and Haynes Creek roads.

The area is dissected by Withington Creek, Haynes Creek and Twelvemile Creek. Slopes are from 30 to 70 percent. Elevations range from 4,600 feet, to over 9,500 feet at Sal Mtn. Summer highs of 80 to 90 degrees are contrasted by winter lows of 40 below zero. Annual precipitation, mostly in the form of snow, is from 15 to 30 inches. Quartzite and volcanic bedrock forms the loamy sand to loamy clay textured soils. Lodgepole pine and Douglas-fir cover much of the area. Sagebrush and grass meadows occur throughout the area. The ecosystems represented are sagebrush and western spruce-fir.

Current recreation uses include backpacking, trailbike riding, and hunting. Use was estimated at approximately 200 RVD's in 1982.

Seven intrusions totaling 3542 acres were identified within the inventoried boundaries. Three of these are mining related road corridors located near the Forest boundary in Tenmile and Twelvemile Creeks, and the Harmony Mine access road in Withington Creek, Kadletz Creek and Twelvemile Creek. The area impacted by these activities no longer meet roadless area criteria and will not be considered further for wilderness. In addition, the timber sale activity in the Withington Creek area split the roadless area into two units. The small unit in the Haynes Creek drainage is less than 5000 acres and will not be considered further for wilderness.

No activities are scheduled to occur in the area under current action plans.

The majority of the acres in this unit are in a natural condition. However, numerous intrusions are scattered throughout. The unit is bordered by lands administered by the BLM on the west, north, and east. It is bordered by developed National Forest lands on the south.

There is a limited amount of outstanding scenery in the vicinity of Sal Mtn. and in the Haynes Creek Canyon. The remainder of the unit is considered common for the Salmon National Forest.

## 2. Capability

Due to existing intrusions, it would be extremely difficult to develop logical and manageable boundaries for this unit. Size is a factor, as portions of the unit have been isolated by intrusions and no longer meet minimum size requirements.

Man's influence on the natural integrity of this unit has been high. Intrusions are scattered throughout the unit and there is little feasibility of correction.

The unit is impacted in many sections, with the impacts readily apparent to visitors.

The area offers only moderate opportunities for solitude due to moderate size, little topographic or vegetative screening, moderate distance from core to perimeter, and the existence of permanent intrusions. Due to these factors and lack of diversity, the area has a moderate opportunity for primitive recreation experiences.

Opportunities for challenging experiences or encountering serious hazards are rare.

## 3. Availability

### Resource Potential and Use

Current low recreation use is not expected to change significantly, due to the lack of attractions in the area.

This area contains high quality summer range for mule deer and elk. Some areas of excess cover exist in the upper portion of the area, but topography and presence of surface rock precludes most habitat management opportunities. The lower elevations provide key winter range areas for mule deer, elk, and antelope. Antelope summer range is also present at the lower elevations. The area around Tule Lake is an elk calving ground. A small bighorn sheep herd occupies Sal Mtn., and a few mountain goats may still be present in Haynes Creek. Mountain lions are present, and black bear are common throughout the area.

No known fisheries occur in this area.

The area contains several small tributaries of the Salmon and Lemhi Rivers. Water yields are relatively low in this area, and much of the streamflow is used by irrigators. Watershed conditions are generally good; however, historic mining and roading activities have resulted in some localized watershed instability and water quality problems. Stream channel projects have been completed to stabilize these problem areas.

Much of the roadless area is within the Twelvemile Cattle and Horse Allotment. Approximately 400 AUM's of use occur on the roadless area. The majority of the suitable range is in fair condition. Approximately three miles of fence and two water developments are located within the roadless area.

An estimated 23.6 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated annual potential yield of .3 million board feet.

The area has moderate to high potential for gold and copper. There is no known potential for currently leasable minerals. Mining claim owners continue to do assessment work. The area currently contains no active mining operations.

The potential for prehistoric cultural resources is considered moderate. Several historic structures are known to exist in the area, but their significance has not been determined.

The area includes 5.9 miles of trails, and the intrusion areas include 14.8 miles of roads. Part of the area is used under an Outfitter and Guide permit.

#### Management Considerations

Fire occurrence is light.

Much of the area contains non-commercial Douglas-fir or brush growing in talus rock. Dwarf mistletoe is a serious problem in the few commercial stands of Douglas-fir.

The area includes two tracts of private land totaling 131.2 acres.

#### 4. Need

The Sal Mtn. Roadless Area is approximately 60 road miles from the Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness. Use of this wilderness ranges from low to high, depending on the particular location.

The Roadless Area is 7 miles from Salmon, Idaho; 135 miles from Idaho Falls, Idaho; and 135 miles from Missoula, Montana.

During RARE I this area was inventoried as the Haynes-Mulkey #306 and Sal Mtn. #307 Roadless Areas. The decision in the RARE I FEIS was to manage these areas for non-wilderness resource development. Public opinion received on these areas during RARE I, wilderness/non-wilderness, was against further study for wilderness. The areas were not considered highly controversial during RARE I.

Ecosystems found in this area are represented throughout the Forest and in the Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness.

These areas were further evaluated in the Twelvemile Unit Land Management Plan (LMP). The decision in the LMP was to manage these

areas for non-wilderness resource development, with a portion being managed in a roadless condition. Public opinion was for non-wilderness resource development. The wilderness/non-wilderness issue was not highly controversial in the LMP process. Neither of these areas were considered in RARE II because of decisions reached in the Twelvemile Land Management Plan.

Senator McClure held "Idaho Forest Management Act" hearings in Coeur d'Alene, Lewiston, Boise, and Idaho Falls during August 1983. Prior to these meetings the Senator sent out a constituent letter with four proposals, i.e., the Forest Service RARE II, Forest Industries, other commodity user groups, and the 1979 Idaho Wildlife Federation proposal. Following the hearings, Senator McClure has received additional input from environmental groups and the Governor of Idaho. The environmental groups and Governor Evans have not included this area in their proposals. The Idaho Fish and Game Commission provided input to Governor Evans for both wilderness and roadless management areas over the State. They did not include this area in their proposal.

During the Forest Planning review of inventoried roadless lands, public opinion was again divided ranging from no wilderness to all wilderness. Earth First! recommended wilderness for the entire area. The Idaho Mining Association, Idaho Cattlemen's Association, Outdoors Unlimited, Idaho Farm Bureau, Idaho Wool Growers, Idaho Trail Machine Association, Idaho Forest Industries Council, and Idaho Women in Timber all recommended no wilderness for the Sal Mountain Roadless Area.

Senator McClure has introduced the Idaho Forest Management Act (IFMA) in the Senate. The proposed legislation has unanimous support from the Idaho Congressional Delegation and would designate approximately 526,064 acres of roadless lands as wilderness across the State.

Following introduction of the IFMA new and/or modified recommendations have been submitted to the Idaho Congressional Delegation for the inclusion of more roadless lands as wilderness.

The Sal Mountain Roadless Area was not included in the IFMA nor has it been included in any of the additional or modified recommendations. The area was not considered controversial during the Forest Planning review of roadless lands.

#### Preferred Alternative (Alternative 12)

This area is not recommended for wilderness designation in the preferred alternative.

No activities are predicted which would preclude consideration of this area from wilderness during the next forest plan revision. The area has moderate to high mineral potential. Timing of possible development of mineral resources is not known but if development should occur the areas disturbed by mining and access construction would be precluded from further wilderness consideration.

Effects of Wilderness/Non-wilderness Management Prescriptions

TABLE A

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION BY FOREST PLAN ALTERNATIVE  
(Acres)

Roadless Area: 13513 Sal Mountain

Forest Plan Alternative

Management Prescription	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
7A Proposed Wilderness		6,488							6,488
Non-wilderness*									
4B-1			2,110		355				
5B	15,315	9,031		15,826	15,471	15,393	15,826	14,670	2,101
5E			13,716						5,171
5F									

\* Refer to Alternative map for prescription description.

Roadless Area 13513 Sal Mountain

[illegible]

TABLE C

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF WILDERNESS/NON-WILDERNESS DESIGNATIONS ON  
THE PHYSICAL AND BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

Roadless Area 13513 Sal Mountain

ENVIRONMENT	ALT 1	ALT 2	ALT 3	ALT 4	ALT 5	ALT 6
Potential Adverse Effects on Soil Productivity	None	None	None	Slight	Slight	None
Potential Effects on Water Quality	None	None	None	Moderately adverse	Moderately adverse	None
Air Quality	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards
Potential Effects on Plant Communities	None	None	None	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	None
Wildlife Habitat Capability - Elk	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact	Insignificant change
Potential Effects on Fish Habitat Capability	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact	Insignificant change
ENVIRONMENT	ALT 7	ALT 8	ALT 9	ALT 10	ALT 11	ALT 12
Potential Adverse Effects on Soil Productivity	None	None	None	None	None	None
Potential Effects on Water Quality	None	None	None	None	None	None
Air Quality	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards
Potential Effects on Plant Communities	None	None	None	None	None	None
Wildlife Habitat Capability - Elk	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change
Potential Effects on Fish Habitat Capability	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change

# 13513 SAL MTN

13513

13513

SALMON RIVER DISTRICT

## LEGEND

2/1/84

1 1/2 0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles

Scale

ROADLESS AREA BOUNDARY .....

EXISTING DEVELOPMENTS .....

PLANNED DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY .....

LESS THAN 5000 ACRES .....

#

N



## ROADLESS AREA EVALUATION

### LITTLE HORSE ROADLESS AREA

SALMON NATIONAL FOREST #13514 - 7,620 Net Acres

#### 1. Description

The Little Horse Roadless Area is 35 air miles northwest of Salmon, Idaho. The area is bounded on the north by the Oreana Ridge Road (067), on the west and south by the Long Tom Ridge Road (123) and on the east by the Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness. Access can be gained from the Forest roads.

The area is dissected by Little Horse Creek drainage, which includes several small drainages. The topography is a result of the dendritic pattern that Little Horse Creek has developed. Side slopes range from 30 to 60 percent. Horse Creek Butte is the highest point in the roadless area at over 8,300 feet, the lowest point is located at 6,000 feet. Summer highs of 80 to 90 degrees are contrasted by winter lows of 40 degrees below zero. Granite of the Idaho Batholith and the Metamorphosed Border Zone bedrock forms the soils. The soil textures range from sandy loams to sand. Most of the area is timbered with Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine. The ecosystem represented in this Roadless Area is the western spruce-fir.

Current limited recreation use, estimated at less than 100 RVD's in 1982, is related mostly to hunting.

No intrusions were identified in this area. A one million board feet timber sale is planned for 1988, but the exact location has not been determined at this time.

This area is natural appearing.

Separated by road corridors from two other roadless areas (#13516, #13520) on the north and east, and contiguous with the Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness on the west, Little Horse is bordered by developed lands on the south.

The scenery in this unit is considered common for the Salmon National Forest. There are no special features.

#### 2. Capability

Logical and manageable boundaries could be developed for this area. Size is not an important factor.

Man's influence on the natural integrity of this area has been virtually none.

Visitors would find this area to be apparently natural.

Due to size, proximity to the Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness, good topographic screening, very good vegetative screening, and lack of off-site intrusions, this area offers a high opportunity for solitude. The existence of some diversity and the lack of developed recreation facilities combine with the previous factors to provide a high opportunity for primitive recreation experiences.

Opportunities for challenging experiences or encountering serious hazards are rare.

### 3. Availability

#### Resource Potential and Use

Current low recreation use is not expected to significantly change, due to rugged terrain and lack of attractions in the area.

This area is currently below its habitat potential for big game because of the excessively high cover component and corresponding lack of forage. Mule deer and elk use the entire area during the summer, but use is centered around the few natural meadow complexes. Habitat improvement opportunities for these species are limited by topography and low timber quality. Mountain goats occur in the lower portions of this area on sparsely timbered rocky outcrops and ridge points. Elk rutting activity occurs on the flatter, densely timbered benches along the south side of Oreana Ridge.

A minor resident fishery may exist in Little Horse Creek. The lower reach may also provide rearing habitat for anadromous fish. Fishing use is expected to be very light and quality would be fair.

Little Horse Creek watershed produces a high amount of water, as the area receives over 40 inches of precipitation a year. Erosive granitic soils dominate the area, and streams carry a naturally high amount of sediment. Water quality is considered excellent throughout the area. All water produced in this area enters Horse Creek, and eventually the Salmon River.

With the exception of a small amount of recreational horse use, the area is not grazed by livestock.

An estimated 38.6 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated annual potential yield of .6 million board feet.

Hardrock mineral potential is unknown. There is no known potential for currently leasable minerals. The area contains no active mining operations. Mining claim owners continue to do assessment work in this roadless area.

The potential for prehistoric cultural resources is unknown.

The area contains no System trails, and the only road is a 0.1 mile prospecting road north of Dish Pan Spring.

#### Management Considerations

Fire occurrence is light.

As the lodgepole pine and whitebark pine increase in diameter there is an increasing hazard of a major mountain pine beetle epidemic. However, many lodgepole stands have slow growth due to dwarf mistletoe or overstocking.

There is no private land within the area.

#### 4. Need

The Little Horse Roadless Area is adjacent to the Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness. Use in the adjacent portion of the Wilderness is considered light.

The roadless area is approximately 60 road miles from Salmon, Idaho; 200 miles from Idaho Falls, Idaho; and 170 miles from Missoula, Montana.

During RARE I this area was inventoried as the Little Horse Creek Roadless Area #297. The decision in the RARE I FEIS was to manage this area for non-wilderness resource development. Public opinion received on this area during RARE I, wilderness/non-wilderness, was divided. The area was not considered highly controversial during RARE I.

The area was further evaluated in the Dutchler-Beartrap Unit Land Management Plan (LMP). The decision in the LMP was to manage this area for non-wilderness resource development. Public opinion was for non-wilderness resource development. The wilderness/non-wilderness issue was not highly controversial in the LMP process.

The Area was not evaluated in RARE II because of decisions reached in the Beartrap-Dutchler Land Management Plan.

Ecosystems found in this area are represented throughout the Forest and in the Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness.

Senator McClure held "Idaho Forest Management Act" hearings in Coeur d'Alene, Lewiston, Boise, and Idaho Falls during August 1983. Prior to these meetings the Senator sent out a constituent letter with four proposals, i.e., the Forest Service RARE II, Forest Industries, other commodity user groups, and the 1979 Idaho Wildlife Federation proposal. Following the hearings, Senator McClure received additional input from environmental groups and the Governor of Idaho. The environmental groups and Governor Evans have not included this area in their proposals. The Idaho Fish and

Game Commission provided input to Governor Evans for both wilderness and roadless management areas over the State. They did not include this area in their proposal.

During the Forest Planning review of inventoried roadless lands, public opinion was again divided ranging from no wilderness to all wilderness. Earth First' recommended wilderness for the entire area. The Idaho Mining Association, Idaho Cattlemen's Association, Outdoors Unlimited, Idaho Farm Bureau, Idaho Wool Growers, Idaho Trail Machine Association, Idaho Forest Industries Council, and Idaho Women in Timber all recommended no Wilderness for Little Horse Roadless Area.

Senator McClure has introduced the Idaho Forest Management Act (IFMA) in the Senate. The proposed legislation has unanimous support from the Idaho Congressional Delegation and would designate approximately 526,064 acres of roadless lands as wilderness across the State.

Following introduction of the IFMA new and/or modified recommendations have been submitted to the Idaho Congressional Delegation for the inclusion of more roadless lands as wilderness.

The Little Horse Roadless Area was not included in the IFMA nor has it been included in any of the additional or modified recommendations. The area was not considered controversial during the Forest Planning review of roadless lands.

#### Preferred Alternative (Alternative 12)

This area is not recommended for wilderness designation in the preferred alternative.

Some resource activity would occur on about 50 percent of the area which would preclude that portion of the area from consideration for wilderness during the next plan revision. Mineral potential is unknown.

Effects of Wilderness/Non-wilderness Management Prescriptions

TABLE A

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION BY FOREST PLAN ALTERNATIVE  
(Acres)

Roadless Area: 13514 Little Horse

Forest Plan Alternative

Management Prescription	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
7A Proposed Wilderness			7,620					7,620	7,620
Non-wilderness*									
3A-5B	6,785								
3A-5E						7,620	7,620		
4B-1	835								
5A		3,287		3,319	7,620				
5C		4,333		4,301					

\* Refer to Alternative map for prescription description.

Roadless Area. 13514 Little Horse

[illegible]

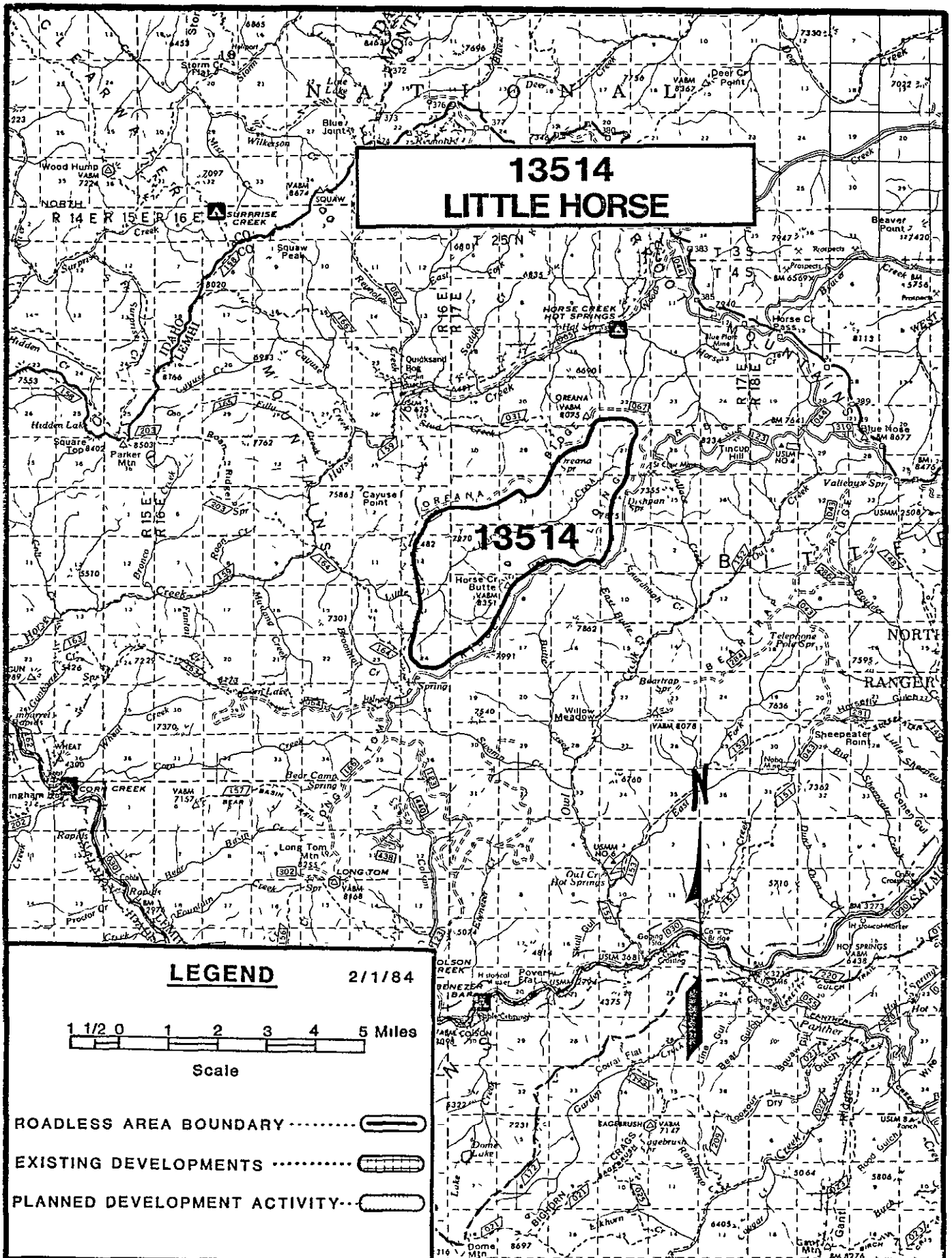
TABLE C

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF WILDERNESS/NON-WILDERNESS DESIGNATIONS ON  
THE PHYSICAL AND BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

Roadless Area\* 13514 Little Horse

ENVIRONMENT	ALT 1	ALT 2	ALT 3	ALT 4	ALT 5	ALT 6
Potential Adverse Effects on Soil Productivity	Very slight	Slight	None	Slight	Slight	Very slight
Potential Effects on Water Quality	Slightly adverse	Moderately adverse	None	Moderately adverse	Moderately adverse	Slightly adverse
Air Quality	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards
Potential Effects on Plant Communities	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	None	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	Timber harvest
Wildlife Habitat Capability - Elk	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact	Insignificant change	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact
Potential Effects on Fish Habitat Capability	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact	Insignificant change	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact
ENVIRONMENT	ALT 7	ALT 8	ALT 9	ALT 10	ALT 11	ALT 12
Potential Adverse Effects on Soil Productivity	Very slight	None	None	None	None	Very slight
Potential Effects on Water Quality	Slightly adverse	None	None	None	None	Slightly adverse
Air Quality	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards
Potential Effects on Plant Communities	Timber harvest	None	None	None	None	Timber harvest
Wildlife Habitat Capability - Elk	Slight adverse impact	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Slight adverse impact
Potential Effects on Fish Habitat Capability	Slight adverse impact	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Slight adverse impact

# 13514 LITTLE HORSE





## ROADLESS AREA EVALUATION

### NAPIAS ROADLESS AREA

SALMON NATIONAL FOREST #13515 - 9,271 Net Acres

#### 1. Description

The Napias Roadless Area is seven air miles northwest of Salmon, Idaho. The area is bounded on the east by Forest road 023, on the south by a powerline and the old Leesburg road, and on the west by the Salmon Mountain Road (020) and timber harvest activity. Access to the area can be gained from the Forest roads.

The area is dissected by the headwaters of Moose Creek and Napias Creek, and lies in the basins of both creeks at elevations between 7000 and 8000 feet. Slopes range from 15 to 50 percent. Summer highs of 80 to 90 degrees are contrasted by winter lows of 40 below zero. Annual precipitation of 20 to 35 inches falls mostly as snow. Soils are formed from granite and quartzite bedrock. Textures range from sand to sandy loams. Lodgepole pine is the major tree species, with some Douglas-fir. Grassy, wet meadows occur throughout the area. The ecosystems are grand fir/Douglas-fir and western spruce-fir.

One mineral related intrusion (access road) was identified in the southwest corner of the area. This road corridor does not meet roadless area criteria and has been removed from the inventory. About two-thirds of a 2.5 million board feet timber sale is planned in the southeastern portion of the area in 1986.

Recreation use, estimated at less than 100 RVD's in 1982, is considered extremely light and is related to hunting.

The area is essentially natural appearing.

Road corridors separate Napias from four other roadless areas (#13501, #13507, #13508, #13510) on the north, west, south, and southeast. Napias is bordered by developed lands on the east.

The scenery in this unit is considered common for the Salmon National Forest. There are no special attractions or features.

#### 2. Capability

Size would not be a factor in developing logical boundaries for this area. However, manageable boundaries would be extremely difficult due to terrain and the surrounding roads.

Man's influence on the natural integrity of this area has been low.

The area would be apparently natural to most visitors. However, there are mining related impacts that would be apparent to some visitors.

Due to size, surroundings, lack of topographic screening, small distance from core to perimeter and lack of diversity, this unit

provides only low opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation experiences.

Opportunities for challenging experiences or encountering serious hazards are rare.

### 3. Availability

#### Resource Potential

Current low recreation use is not expected to change, due to the lack of attractions in the area.

The dense, homogeneous lodgepole pine and mixed conifer timber on this area provides good security cover for mule deer and elk. However, the area is currently below habitat potential for both species due to the scarcity of natural openings or forage areas. Opportunities do exist for creating a more desirable cover/forage ratio through timber management activities. Some wet areas with old growth spruce and/or mixed conifer timber are present, but overall wildlife habitat diversity is low for small birds and mammals. Pine marten and snowshoe hares are present in moderate numbers.

This area contains a small amount of fish habitat, primarily confined to upper Napias Creek. Past placer mining has adversely influenced certain sections of Napias Creek and several of its tributaries. Fishing use is light and quality would be rated as fair.

The area is located in the headwaters of the Napias Creek drainage to the south, and the Moose Creek drainage to the north. Water yield is moderate. Watershed conditions are generally good in the area, but several areas have been significantly impacted by mining and other land management activities. Especially impacted have been the stream channel bottoms. These areas are continuing to stabilize with time.

Approximately 300 AUM's of grazing use in the area result from portions of the Diamond-Moose and Williams Basin-Napias Creek Cattle and Horse Allotments. The majority of the suitable range is in fair condition. There is one water development.

An estimated 46.3 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated annual potential yield of .7 million board feet.

Hardrock mineral potential is high. Mining claim owners continue to do assessment work, with some expanding their claim activity. The area has been a past producer of lode and placer gold, but there are currently no active mining operations. There is no known potential for currently leasable minerals.

The potential for prehistoric cultural resources is considered low, but the potential for historic cultural resources is considered high.

This area includes 9.9 miles of System trails, and two roads totaling 2.9 miles not located within intrusions. The area was previously used, but is not now used, for Outfitter/Guide purposes. The area may include additional trails used for prospecting access.

#### Management Considerations

Fire occurrence is very light in this area.

As the lodgepole pine and whitebark pine increase in diameter there is an increasing hazard of a major mountain pine beetle epidemic, especially in the lower elevation lodgepole stands. However, many lodgepole stands have slow growth due to dwarf mistletoe or over stocking.

There are no private lands in this area.

#### 4. Need

The Napias Roadless Area is approximately 15 miles from the Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness. Use of this wilderness ranges from high to low, depending on the particular location.

The area is approximately 40 road miles from Salmon, Idaho; 180 miles from Idaho Falls, Idaho; and 170 miles from Missoula, Montana.

During RARE I this area was inventoried as the Napias Creek Roadless Area #312. The decision in the RARE I FEIS was to manage this area for non-wilderness resource development. Public opinion received on this area during RARE I, wilderness/non-wilderness, was against further study for wilderness. The area was not considered highly controversial during RARE I.

The Napias Creek Roadless Area was further evaluated in the Moose Creek Unit Land Management Plan (LMP). The decision in the LMP was to manage this area for non-wilderness resource development. Public opinion was for non-wilderness resource development. The wilderness/non-wilderness issue was not highly controversial in the LMP process.

The roadless area was not evaluated in RARE II, because of decisions reached in the Moose Creek Land Management Plan.

Ecosystems found in this area are represented throughout the Forest and in the Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness.

Senator McClure held "Idaho Forest Management Act" hearings in Coeur d'Alene, Lewiston, Boise, and Idaho Falls during August 1983. Prior to these meetings the Senator sent out a constituent letter

with four proposals, i.e., the Forest Service RARE II, Forest Industries, other commodity user groups, and the 1979 Idaho Wildlife Federation proposal. Following the hearings, Senator McClure has received additional input from environmental groups and the Governor of Idaho. The environmental groups and Governor Evans have not included this area in their proposals. The Idaho Fish and Game Commission provided input to Governor Evans for both wilderness and roadless management areas over the State. They did not include this area in their proposal.

During the Forest Planning review of inventoried roadless lands, public opinion was again divided ranging from no wilderness to all wilderness. Earth First! recommended wilderness for the entire area. The Idaho Mining Association, Idaho Cattlemen's Association, Outdoors Unlimited, Idaho Farm Bureau, Idaho Wool Growers, Idaho Trail Machine Association, Idaho Forest Industries Council, and Idaho Women in Timber all recommended no wilderness for the Napias Roadless Area.

Senator McClure has introduced the Idaho Forest Management Act (IFMA) in the Senate. The proposed legislation has unanimous support from the Idaho Congressional Delegation and would designate approximately 526,064 acres of roadless lands as wilderness across the State.

Following introduction of the IFMA new and/or modified recommendations have been submitted to the Idaho Congressional Delegation for the inclusion of more roadless lands as wilderness.

The Napias Roadless Area was not included in the IFMA nor has it been included in any of the additional or modified recommendations. The area was not considered controversial during the Forest Planning review of roadless lands.

#### Preferred Alternative (Alternative 12)

This area is not recommended for wilderness designation in the preferred alternative.

Predicted resource activities would preclude this area from further consideration for wilderness during the next plan revision. Mineral potential is high. Timing of possible mineral development is not known but if development should occur the area disturbed by mining and access construction would be precluded from further wilderness consideration.

Effects of Wilderness/Non-wilderness Management Prescriptions

TABLE A

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION BY FOREST PLAN ALTERNATIVE  
(Acres)

Roadless Area: 13515 Napias

Forest Plan Alternative

Management Prescription	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
7A Proposed Wilderness								7,880 111	7,880
Non-wilderness*						4,436			
4B-1			8,415				5,090		
4B-3	1,109					4,143	4,181	1,280	1,391
5B	8,162	9,271		9,271	9,271	692			
5E			856						
5F									

\* Refer to Alternative map for prescription description.

Roadless Area: 13515 Napias

[illegible]

TABLE C

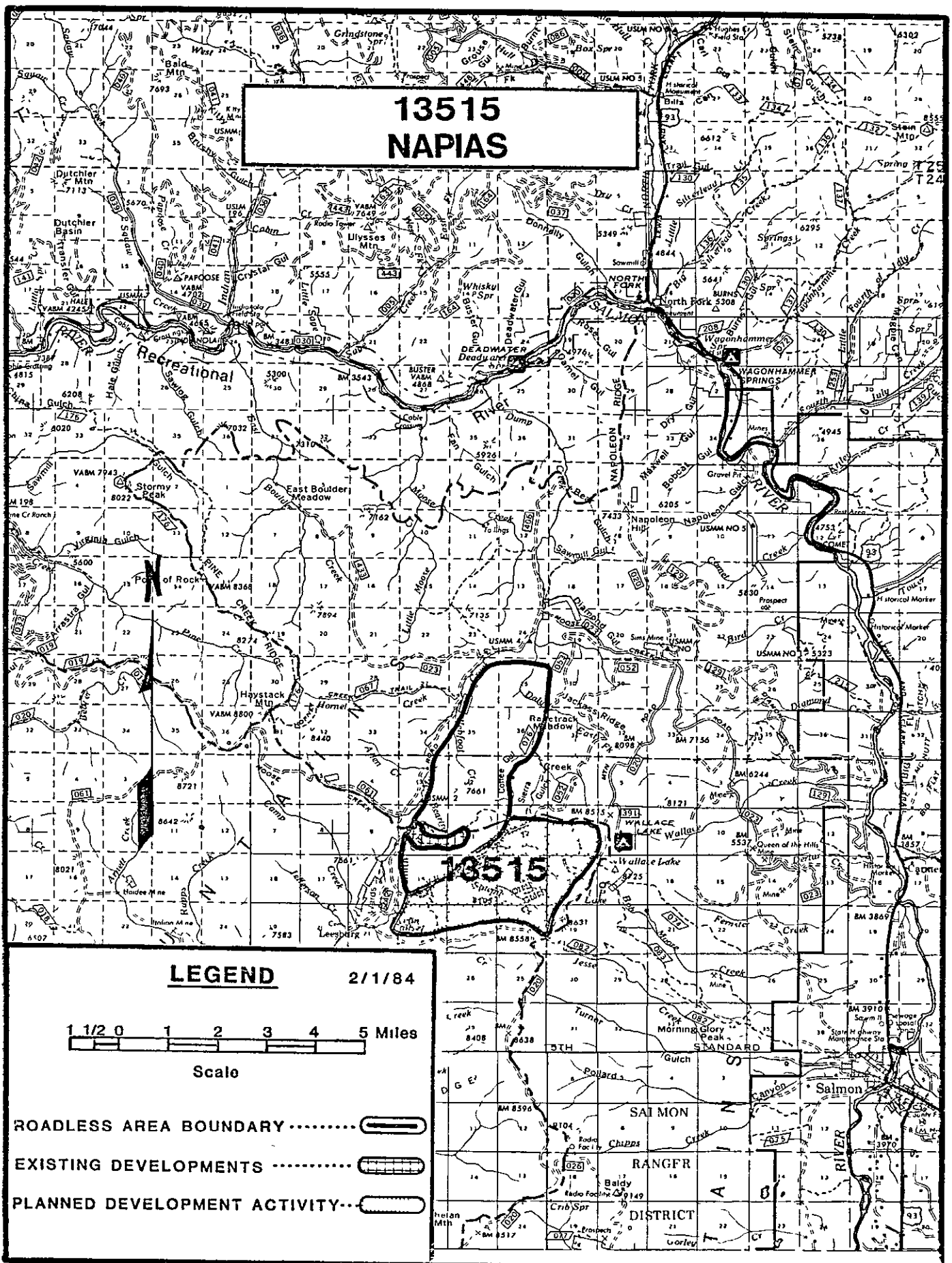
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF WILDERNESS/NON-WILDERNESS DESIGNATIONS ON  
THE PHYSICAL AND BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

Roadless Area: 13515 Napiaa

ENVIRONMENT	ALT 1	ALT 2	ALT 3	ALT 4	ALT 5	ALT 6
Potential Adverse Effects on Soil Productivity	Very slight	Very slight	None	Very slight	Very slight	Very slight
Potential Effects on Water Quality	Slightly adverse	Slightly adverse	None	Slightly adverse	Slightly adverse	Slightly adverse
Air Quality	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards
Potential Effects on Plant Communities	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	Timber harvest
Wildlife Habitat Capability - Elk	Moderate improvement	Slight adverse impact	Significant improvement	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact	Insignificant change
Potential Effects on Fish Habitat Capability	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change

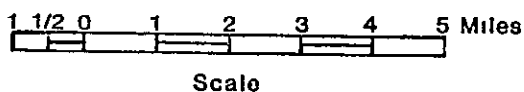
ENVIRONMENT	ALT 7	ALT 8	ALT 9	ALT 10	ALT 11	ALT 12
Potential Adverse Effects on Soil Productivity	Very slight	None	None	None	None	Very slight
Potential Effects on Water Quality	Slightly adverse	None	None	None	None	Slightly adverse
Air Quality	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards
Potential Effects on Plant Communities	Timber harvest	None	None	None	None	Timber harvest
Wildlife Habitat Capability - Elk	Slight adverse impact	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Slight adverse impact
Potential Effects on Fish Habitat Capability	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change

# 13515 NAPIAS



## LEGEND

2/1/84



- ROADLESS AREA BOUNDARY .....
- EXISTING DEVELOPMENTS .....
- PLANNED DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY...



## ROADLESS AREA EVALUATION

OREANA ROADLESS AREA  
SALMON NATIONAL FOREST #13516 - 7406 Net Acres

### 1. Description

The Oreana Roadless Area is 32 air miles northwest of Salmon, Idaho. The area is bounded on the north by a Forest road (065) along Horse Creek and mining road in Horse Creek, on the east by the Horse Creek Pass road (044), on the south by past timber activities near Tincup Hill and the Oreana Ridge road (067), and on the west by the Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness. Access to the area can be gained from the three bordering roads.

The area is dissected by the small drainages that flow into Horse Creek. The side slopes range from 30 to 60 percent. The topography is a result of the dendritic drainage pattern that Horse Creek has developed. Oreana Lookout, at over 8,000 feet, is the highest point in the area; the low point is at 6,000 feet. Summer highs of 80 to 90 degrees are contrasted by winter lows of 40 below zero. Idaho Batholith granite bedrock has resulted in loamy sand to sand textured soils. Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine cover the area. The ecosystem represented is western spruce-fir.

Current recreation use is considered extremely light and is related to hunting. Use was estimated at less than 100 RVD's in 1982.

A 429 acre intrusion was identified on the east end of the area during the inventory review. This intrusion resulted from a 1969 timber sale which was under contract, but had not been harvested when the RARE I inventory was done. The harvest was completed, the area no longer meets roadless area criteria and it will not be considered further for wilderness.

Approximately 3 million board feet of a proposed 1988 timber sale would come from the roadless area, but the sale is not shown on the map as its exact location is not known at this time.

The area is substantially natural appearing.

The Oreana Roadless Area is separated by a road corridor from two other roadless areas (#13514, #13520) on the south, is adjacent to the Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness on the west and northwest, and is bordered by developed lands on the northeast and east.

The scenery is considered common for the Salmon National Forest, and the area has no special features or attractions.

### 2. Capability

Logical and manageable boundaries could be developed for this area. Boundary modification would be necessary to delete a timber related intrusion on the east. Size is not a factor.

Man's influence on the natural integrity of the area has been very low. The existing timber related impact could be mitigated by deletion.

The area would be apparently natural to most visitors.

Due to size, proximity to existing wilderness, good topographic screening, very good vegetative screening and lack of off-site intrusions, this area offers a high opportunity for solitude. The existence of some diversity and the lack of developed recreation facilities combine with the previous factors to provide a high opportunity for primitive recreation experiences. Opportunities for challenging experiences or serious hazards are rare.

### 3. Availability

#### Resource Potentials and Use

Current low recreation use is not expected to significantly change, due to terrain and the lack of attractions in the area.

The steep, moist slopes along Oreana Ridge provide good summer habitat for big game. However, the lower elevations are covered by dense lodgepole pine stands, with some Douglas-fir on the drier ridge tops and south slopes, and thus offer limited summer forage. Mule deer and elk use the entire area, but current habitat conditions for these species is below site potential. With the exception of a few natural meadows and old burns, habitat diversity for all wildlife species is fairly low and could be improved by timber harvesting activities.

Only minimal fisheries are found within the area. Upper Horse Creek provides the most significant amount of fish habitat, where rainbow trout and bull trout are found. The lower portions of the drainage provide a substantial amount of anadromous fish habitat. Fishing use is moderate, and quality would be good to excellent.

Located in the headwaters of Horse Creek, the area's high water yield results from an average annual precipitation greater than 40 inches. Geology in the area is dominated by granitic rock, and the soils are quite erosive and subject to movement. Previous logging activities in the area have demonstrated that this area is highly sensitive to disturbance. While streams carry a high natural level of sediment, water quality is generally excellent.

With the exception of a small amount of recreational horse use, the area is not grazed by livestock.

An estimated 36.9 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated annual potential yield of .5 million board feet.

Hardrock mineral potential is unknown, but there are documented occurrences of gold, silver, and molybdenum within the area. There is no known potential for currently leasable minerals. There is no current mineral activity in this roadless area.

The potential for prehistoric cultural resources is unknown. Historic cultural resource potential is low.

The area includes 4.1 miles of System trail, 2.4 miles of System road, and 3.9 miles of non-System trail used for prospecting access. Part of the area is used for Outfitter and Guide purposes.

#### Management Considerations

Fire occurrence is very light.

As the lodgepole pine increase in diameter there is an increasing hazard of a major mountain pine beetle epidemic, especially in the lower elevation lodgepole stands. However, many lodgepole stands have slow growth due to dwarf mistletoe or over stocking.

There are no private lands within the area.

#### 4. Need

The Oreana Roadless Area is adjacent to the Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness. Use in the adjacent portion of the wilderness is considered light.

The Roadless Area is approximately 60 road miles from Salmon, Idaho; 200 miles from Idaho Falls, Idaho; and 170 miles from Missoula, Montana.

Ecosystems found in this area are represented throughout the Forest and in the Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness.

During RARE I this area was inventoried as the Oreana Roadless Area #299. The decision in the RARE I FEIS was to manage this area for non-wilderness resource development. Public opinion received during RARE I, wilderness/non-wilderness, was divided. The area was not considered highly controversial during RARE I.

The area was further evaluated in the Beartrap-Dutchler Unit Land Management Plan (LMP). The decision in the LMP was to manage this area for non-wilderness resource development. Public opinion was for non-wilderness resource development. The wilderness/non-wilderness issue was not highly controversial in the LMP process.

The area was not evaluated in RARE II because of decisions reached in the Beartrap-Dutchler Land Management Plan.

Senator McClure held "Idaho Forest Management Act" hearings in Coeur d'Alene, Lewiston, Boise, and Idaho Falls during August 1983. Prior to these meetings the Senator sent out a constituent letter

with four proposals, i.e., the Forest Service RARE II, Forest Industries, other commodity user groups, and the 1979 Idaho Wildlife Federation proposal. Following the hearings, Senator McClure received additional input from environmental groups and the Governor of Idaho. The environmental groups and Governor Evans have not included this area in their proposals. The Idaho Fish and Game Commission provided input to Governor Evans for both wilderness and roadless management areas over the State. They did not include this area in their proposal.

During the Forest Planning review of inventoried roadless lands, public opinion was again divided ranging from no wilderness to all wilderness. Earth First! recommended wilderness for the entire area. The Idaho Mining Association, Idaho Cattlemen's Association, Outdoors Unlimited, Idaho Farm Bureau, Idaho Wool Growers, Idaho Trail Machine Association, Idaho Forest Industries Council, and Idaho Women in Timber all recommended no wilderness for the Oreana Roadless Area.

Senator McClure has introduced the Idaho Forest Management Act (IFMA) in the Senate. The proposed legislation has unanimous support from the Idaho Congressional Delegation and would designate approximately 526,064 acres of roadless lands as wilderness across the State.

Following introduction of the IFMA new and/or modified recommendations have been submitted to the Idaho Congressional Delegation for the inclusion of more roadless lands as wilderness.

The Oreana Roadless Area was not included in the IFMA nor has it been included in any of the additional or modified recommendations. The area was not considered controversial during the Forest Planning review of roadless lands.

#### Preferred Alternative (Alternative 12)

This area is not recommended for wilderness designation in the preferred alternative.

Some resource activity would occur on about 65 percent of the area which would preclude that portion of the area from consideration for wilderness during the next plan revision. Mineral potential is unknown.

Effects of Wilderness/Non-wilderness Management Prescriptions

TABLE A

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION BY FOREST PLAN ALTERNATIVE  
(Acres)

Roadless Area: 13516 Oresana

Forest Plan Alternative

Management Prescription	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
7A Proposed Wilderness			6,739					6,739	6,739
Non-wilderness*									
3A-5B	3,652								
3A-5E			342			7,406	7,406	69	667
3A-5F			16					598	
4B-1	3,754		309						
5A		4,052		4,234	7,406				
5B									
5C		3,354		3,172					

\* Refer to Alternative map for prescription description.

Roadless Area 13516 Oregana

[illegible]

TABLE C

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF WILDERNESS/NON-WILDERNESS DESIGNATIONS ON  
THE PHYSICAL AND BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

Roadless Area 13516 Oreana

ENVIRONMENT	ALT 1	ALT 2	ALT 3	ALT 4	ALT 5	ALT 6
Potential Adverse Effects on Soil Productivity	Very slight	Slight	None	Slight	Slight	Very slight
Potential Effects on Water Quality	Slightly adverse	Moderately adverse	None	Moderately adverse	Moderately adverse	Slightly adverse
Air Quality	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards
Potential Effects on Plant Communities	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	None	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	Timber harvest
Wildlife Habitat Capability - Elk	Insignificant change	Slight adverse impact	Insignificant change	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact
Potential Effects on Fish Habitat Capability	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact

ENVIRONMENT	ALT 7	ALT 8	ALT 9	ALT 10	ALT 11	ALT 12
Potential Adverse Effects on Soil Productivity	Very slight	None	None	None	None	Very slight
Potential Effects on Water Quality	Slightly adverse	None	None	None	None	Slightly adverse
Air Quality	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards
Potential Effects on Plant Communities	Timber harvest	None	None	None	None	Timber harvest
Wildlife Habitat Capability - Elk	Slight adverse impact	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Slight adverse impact
Potential Effects on Fish Habitat Capability	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change

# 13516 OREANA

13516

## LEGEND

2/1/84

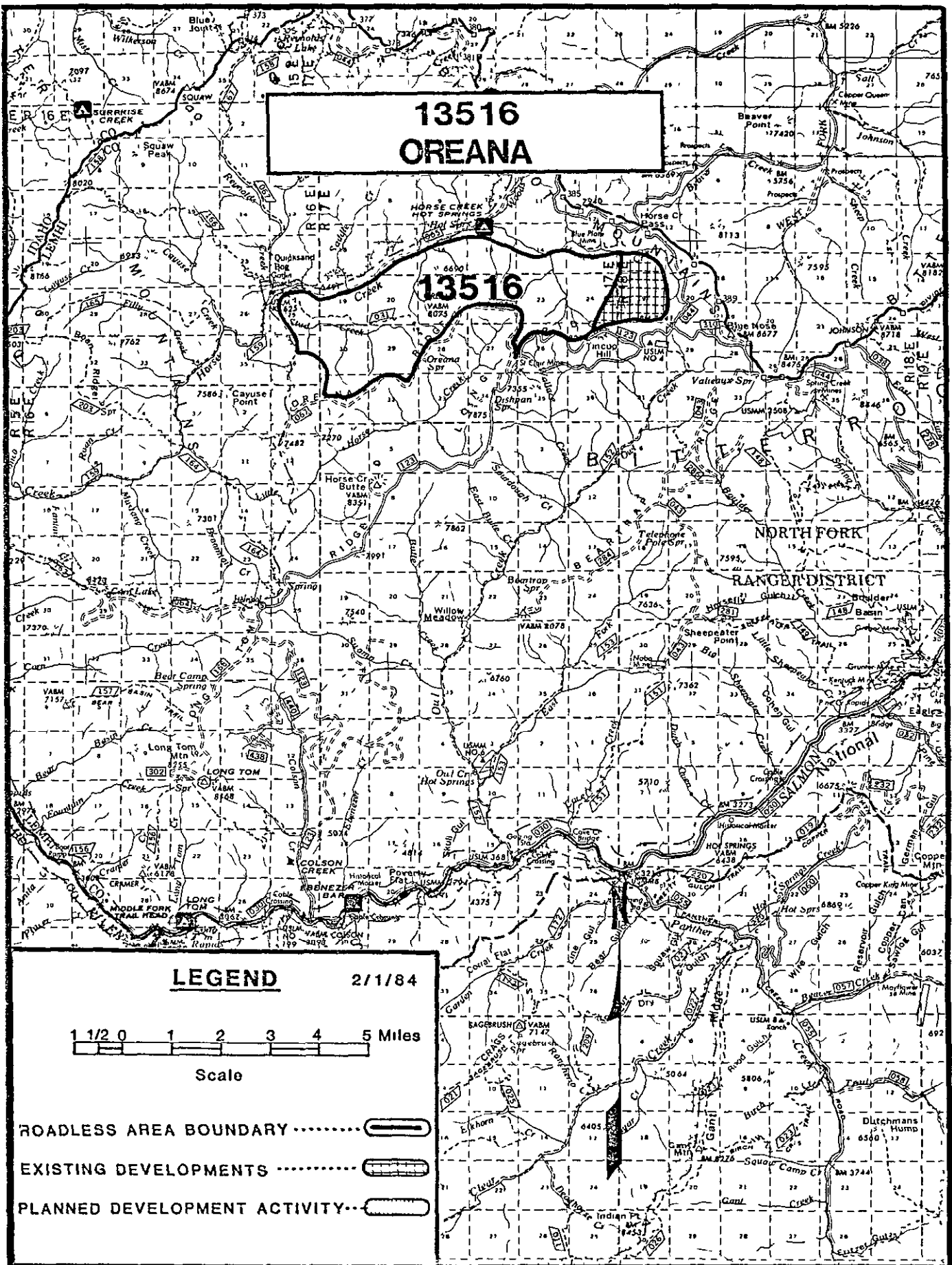
1 1/2 0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles

Scale

ROADLESS AREA BOUNDARY .....

EXISTING DEVELOPMENTS .....

PLANNED DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY.....





## ROADLESS AREA EVALUATION

MUSGROVE ROADLESS AREA  
SALMON NATIONAL FOREST #13517 - 8,223 Net Acres

### 1. Description

The Musgrove Roadless Area is approximately 20 miles southwest of Salmon, Idaho. It is bounded on the north by a road to the Blackbird Mine and by timber harvest activities, on the east by a timber sale and associated roads, on the south by Forest road 012 along Porphyry Creek, and on the east by Forest road 059 along Musgrove Creek. The Forest roads provide access to the roadless area.

Musgrove Creek's headwaters dissect this land, which has slopes ranging from 20 to 60 percent. Blackbird Mountain, at 9,000 feet, is the highest point in the area, the lowest point is at 6,000 feet. Temperatures range from summer highs of 90 degrees, to winter lows of 40 below zero. Annual precipitation of 20 to 35 inches falls mostly as snow. Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine cover much of the area, with sagebrush and grass common on south aspects. Western spruce/fir, and grand fir/Douglas-fir are the ecosystems represented. Soils are formed from quartzite bedrock, and textures vary from sandy loam to loamy sand.

Recreation use, less than 100 RVD's in 1982, is limited almost entirely to hunting.

The area has a modified forested appearance.

An intrusion from the southern arm through the center of the area resulted from a 7.7 million board feet timber sale in 1975 and a 5.7 million board feet timber sale in 1978. This intrusion has split the area, and the eastern portion of the roadless area no longer meets minimum size requirements for consideration as wilderness, i.e., less than 5000 acres. The area impacted by these intrusions total 10,357 acres which no longer meet roadless area criteria and will not be considered further for wilderness.

Road corridors separate Musgrove from two other roadless areas (#13504, #13518) on the northwest and southeast. It is adjacent to the Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness on the southwest and west, and is bordered by developed lands on the northeast, east and south.

The scenery in this unit is considered common for the Salmon NF and there are no special features or attractions.

### 2. Capability

Due to past road construction activities, the unit has been split into several areas. Logical and manageable boundaries cannot be developed for this unit.

Man's influence on the natural integrity of this unit has been high, and is readily apparent. The majority of the unit has been affected, with little feasibility of correction.

The unit offers a moderate opportunity for solitude and primitive recreation, but opportunities for challenging experiences are rare.

There are no known special attractions or features in the area.

### 3. Availability

#### Resource Potentials and Use

Current low recreational use is not expected to significantly change, due to the lack of attractions in the area.

The big game cover/forage ratio in the upper portion of the Musgrove Creek drainage is nearly optimum on the north side, and almost entirely cover on the the south (north facing slopes). This area is key elk summer range and is also an elk calving area. The heavy cover in the area is utilized by big game during hunting season. Increasing forage on the south side of the drainage to benefit summering elk would greatly decrease the cover value it provides to this elk herd. Mule deer, black bear and mountain lion occur in the area in normal densities. Blue grouse are particularly abundant on the north side of the area.

Only a minor amount of fish habitat is found in the headwaters of the Musgrove Creek drainage. Habitat would be similar to other high gradient streams. Fishing pressure would be very light, and quality would be fair.

The roadless area includes the headwaters of the West Fork of Blackbird Creek and Musgrove Creek, within the Panther Creek Drainage. Watershed conditions are generally excellent, and precipitation of about 30 inches a year results in excellent quality water. Downstream uses have included mining activities in the Blackbird drainage.

A small portion of the Forney cattle and horse allotment extends into the roadless area. Due to topographic features and the small amount of suitable range, grazing use within the roadless area is insignificant. There are no structural range improvements.

An estimated 28.6 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated annual potential yield of .4 million board feet. Approximately one-fourth of a five million board feet timber sale is proposed for 1987 in the north-east portion of the area, and a five million board feet timber sale is proposed in the western portion in 1987. These two sales are

not shown on the map because definite information about their locations is not known at this time.

Hardrock mineral potential is unknown, and there is no known potential for currently leasable minerals. Mining claim owners continue to do assessment work, with some expanding their claim activity. The area currently contains no active mining operations.

The potential for prehistoric cultural resources is considered low, and for historic cultural resources is considered moderate due to past mining activity.

There are no System trails within the area. The area of intrusion includes one mile of System road. There are an additional 4.4 miles of non-System road within the area. Musgrove Roadless Area may receive some outfitter and guide use by permittees from adjoining areas.

#### Management Considerations

Fire occurrence is light.

As the lodgepole pine increase in diameter there is an increasing hazard of a major mountain pine beetle epidemic. However, many lodgepole stands have slow growth due to dwarf mistletoe or over stocking. Western spruce budworm is periodically killing some of the understory Douglas-fir, especially on the drier sites. Occasionally the tops of the larger trees are being killed. The Douglas-fir beetle periodically kills small groups of the older, larger Douglas-fir; however, many of the higher hazard stands are being logged.

There is no private land within the area.

#### 4. Need

The Musgrove Roadless Area is adjacent to the Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness. Use in the adjacent portion of the wilderness is considered high.

The area is approximately 40 road miles from Salmon, Idaho; 180 miles from Idaho Falls, Idaho; and 170 miles from Missoula, Montana.

During RARE I this area was inventoried as the Musgrove Creek Roadless Area #285. The decision in the RARE I FEIS was to manage this area for non-wilderness resource development. Public opinion received on this area during RARE I, wilderness/non-wilderness, was divided. The area was not considered highly controversial during RARE I.

Ecosystems found in this area are represented throughout the Forest and in the Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness.

The area was further evaluated in the Red Rock Peak Unit Land Management Plan (LMP). The decision in the LMP was to manage this area for non-wilderness resource development. Public opinion was for non-wilderness resource development. The wilderness/non-wilderness issue was not highly controversial in the LMP process.

The area was not evaluated in RARE II because of decisions reached in the Red Rock Peak Land Management Plan.

Senator McClure held "Idaho Forest Management Act" hearings in Coeur d'Alene, Lewiston, Boise, and Idaho Falls during August 1983. Prior to these meetings the Senator sent out a constituent letter with four proposals, i.e., the Forest Service RARE II, Forest Industries, other commodity user groups, and the 1979 Idaho Wildlife Federation proposal. Following the hearings, Senator McClure received additional input from environmental groups and the Governor of Idaho. The environmental groups and Governor Evans have not included this area in their proposals. The Idaho Fish and Game Commission provided input to Governor Evans for both wilderness and roadless management areas over the State. They did not include this area in their proposal.

During the Forest Planning review of inventoried roadless lands, public opinion was again divided ranging from no wilderness to all wilderness. Earth First! recommended wilderness for the entire area. The Idaho Mining Association, Idaho Cattlemen's Association, Outdoors Unlimited, Idaho Farm Bureau, Idaho Wool Growers, Idaho Trail Machine Association, Idaho Forest Industries Council, and Idaho Women in Timber all recommended no wilderness for the Musgrove Roadless Area.

Senator McClure has introduced the Idaho Forest Management Act (IFMA) in the Senate. The proposed legislation has unanimous support from the Idaho Congressional Delegation and would designate approximately 526,064 acres of roadless lands as wilderness across the State.

Following introduction of the IFMA new and/or modified recommendations have been submitted to the Idaho Congressional Delegation for the inclusion of more roadless lands as wilderness.

The Musgrove Roadless Area was not included in the IFMA nor has it been included in any of the additional or modified recommendations. The area was not considered controversial during the Forest Planning review of roadless lands.

#### Preferred Alternative (Alternative 12)

This area is not recommended for wilderness designation in the preferred alternative.

Predicted resource activities would preclude this area from further consideration for wilderness during the next plan revision. Mineral potential is unknown.

Effects of Wilderness/Nonwilderness Management Prescriptions

TABLE A

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION BY FOREST PLAN ALTERNATIVE  
(Acres)

Roadless Area	13517 Musgrove										
Management	Forest Plan Alternative										
Prescription	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
7A Proposed Wilderness								5,838	5,838	7,071	8,2
Nonwilderness*											
3A-5B						132	1,958	870			
4B-1			4,526			4,591					
4B-2							403				
4B-3	4,769					3,500	124			1,152	
5A					1,891		5,738				
5B	3,454	1,253		1,106				1,515	2,385		
5C		6,970		7,117	6,332						
5E			3,697								

\* Refer to Alternative map for prescription description

Roadless Area 13517 Musgrove

[illegible]

TABLE C

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF WILDERNESS/NON-WILDERNESS DESIGNATIONS ON  
THE PHYSICAL AND BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

Roadless Area: 13517 Musgrove

ENVIRONMENT	ALT 1	ALT 2	ALT 3	ALT 4	ALT 5	ALT 6
Potential Adverse Effects on Soil Productivity	Very slight	Slight	Very slight	Slight	Slight	Very slight
Potential Effects on Water Quality	Slightly adverse	Moderately adverse	Slightly adverse	Moderately adverse	Moderately adverse	Slightly adverse
Air Quality	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards
Potential Effects on Plant Communities	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	Timber harvest
Wildlife Habitat Capability - Elk	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact	Insignificant change	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact	Insignificant change
Potential Effects on Fish Habitat Capability	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact
ENVIRONMENT	ALT 7	ALT 8	ALT 9	ALT 10	ALT 11	ALT 12
Potential Adverse Effects on Soil Productivity	Very slight	None	None	None	None	Very slight
Potential Effects on Water Quality	Slightly adverse	None	None	None	None	Slightly adverse
Air Quality	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards
Potential Effects on Plant Communities	Timber harvest	None	None	None	None	Timber harvest
Wildlife Habitat Capability - Elk	Slight adverse impact	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Slight adverse impact
Potential Effects on Fish Habitat Capability	Slight adverse impact	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Slight adverse impact

# 13517 MUSGROVE

13517

COBALT RANCH DISTRICT

## LEGEND

2/1/84

1 1/2 0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles

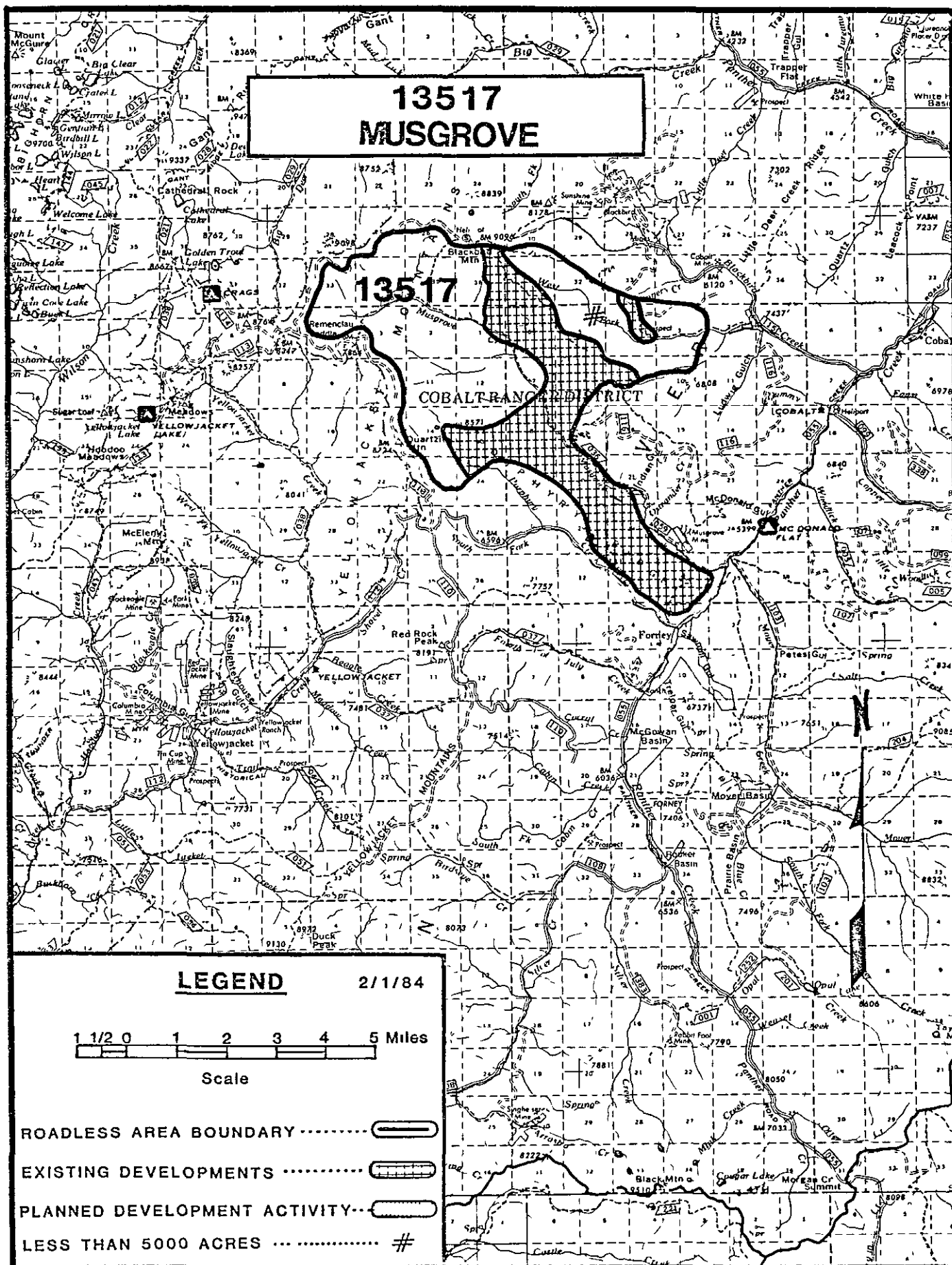
Scale

ROADLESS AREA BOUNDARY .....

EXISTING DEVELOPMENTS .....

PLANNED DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY.....

LESS THAN 5000 ACRES ..... #





## ROADLESS AREA EVALUATION

### DUCK PEAK ROADLESS AREA

SALMON NATIONAL FOREST #13518 -- 48,791 Net Acres

#### 1. Description

The Duck Peak Roadless Area is approximately 25 miles southwest of Salmon, Idaho. It is bounded on the east by Forest Road 055 along Panther Creek, on the southeast by Forest Road 108 along Silver Creek, on the southwest by a fluorspar mine and the Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness, on the northwest by Forest Road 112 along Yellowjacket Creek, and on the north by Forest Road 112 along Porphyry Creek. The Forest Roads provide access to the Roadless Area.

Panther, Silver, Camas, and Yellowjacket Creeks dissect the area with slopes ranging between 20 and 60 percent. Duck Peak is the highest point at 8,900 feet, the low point is 4,800 feet. Summer highs of 90 degrees are contrasted by winter lows of 40 below zero. Annual precipitation of 20 to 35 inches falls mostly as snow. Quartzite and volcanic bedrock form sand to loamy sand textured soils. Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine, interspersed with sagebrush and grass meadows, cover much of the area. Some ponderosa pine occurs along Silver Creek. Western spruce-fir, and grand fir/Douglas-fir are the ecosystems represented.

Timber sale intrusions have occurred in the Fourth of July Creek drainage on the northeast corner, west of Silver Creek on the eastern boundary, north of Red Rock Peak in the northwest corner and east of the Yellowjacket road across from Slaughter House Gulch. Two road intrusions were identified near the head of Cabin Creek. These intrusions total 4572 acres. The area impacted by these intrusions no longer meet roadless area criteria and will not be considered further for wilderness.

A 2.5 million board feet timber sale is proposed for 1987 in the northeast portion of the area in the vicinity of the existing intrusions. A 2.9 million board feet sale is proposed for 1984, and a 2 million board feet sale is proposed for 1988, in the northwest portion. The 1987 and 1988 sales are not shown on the map because their definite locations are not known at this time.

Recreation use, estimated at 2,300 RVD's during 1982, includes hunting, fishing, horseback riding, and backpacking.

The area is essentially natural appearing, with outstanding scenery along Camas Creek, Cabin Creek, and other scattered areas.

Road corridors separate Duck Peak from three other roadless areas (#13505, #13517, #13901) on the northwest, northeast, and southeast. Adjacent to the Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness on the south and west, it is bordered by developed lands on the east.

## 2. Capability

Boundary adjustments would be necessary to delete existing intrusions before this area would be capable of being designated wilderness. Logical and manageable boundaries could be developed for this unit without its size being a critical factor.

Man's influence on the natural integrity of this unit has been very low, and intrusions could be deleted by boundary adjustment.

Visitors would find this unit to be natural appearing.

Due to its large size, good diversity, good topographic and vegetative screening, good distance from core to perimeter and lack of developed recreation facilities, this area provides a high opportunity for solitude and primitive recreation experiences.

Opportunities for challenging experiences or encountering serious hazards are rare.

## 3. Availability

### Resource Potential

Current patterns, types, and amounts of recreation use are not expected to change significantly in the near future, regardless of the area's classification. The area's greatest recreation potential is to provide a primitive setting.

This large area is extremely diverse in terms of vegetative and topographic features, containing a wide variety of wildlife habitats over almost a mile of vertical relief. Key big game winter ranges occur along Camas and lower Yellowjacket Creeks. The entire area is utilized by summering mule deer and elk, but the northern half has particularly high quality big game summer range and elk calving areas. Mountain goats, black bear, mountain lion, and a wide variety of small mammals and birds occur in this area.

Numerous small streams drain into the significant anadromous fish habitat of the Middle Fork drainage. Several of these streams provide habitat for small populations of resident trout. Fishing use of the area streams is rated as light, with quality rated as fair to good.

The area includes a wide range of water producing zones, as precipitation rates vary from 20 to 45 inches. Watershed conditions are generally good throughout; however, naturally erosive volcanic soils in much of the area results in high stream sedimentation rates. Streamflow from the area contributes to tributaries of the Middle Fork of the Salmon River, as well as Panther Creek.

Much of the Camas Creek cattle and horse allotment is within the roadless area; however, due to the rugged topography and small amounts of suitable range in the roadless area portion, only a small percentage of the 900 permitted AUM's on the allotment occur within the roadless area. There are no structural range improvements.

The proposed Dry Gulch-Forge Creek Research National Area is partially within the roadless area, containing rare plants, water falls and hot springs of ecological significance.

An estimated 199.3 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated annual potential yield of 2.9 million board feet.

The southwestern half of the area has a high hardrock mineral potential for gold, silver, and fluorspar associated with the volcanics of the Van Horn Cauldron complex, and portions have been classified as prospectively valuable for geothermal resources. The hardrock mineral potential of the northeastern half of the area is unknown, but it has produced minor amounts of lead, zinc, and silver in the past. There are currently no active mining operations within the area. Mining claim owners continue to do assessment work, with some expanding their claim activity. There is no known potential for other currently leasable minerals.

The potential for prehistoric cultural resources is considered high along Camas Creek and low throughout the remainder of the unit. Historic cultural resource potential is considered low.

This area includes eight trails totaling 29.3 miles, and nine roads totaling 11.4 miles within the intrusion area. Part of the area may be used for outfitter and guide purposes.

#### Management Considerations

Fire occurrence is light.

As the lodgepole pine increase in diameter there is an increasing hazard of a major mountain pine beetle epidemic, especially in the lower elevation lodgepole stands. However, many lodgepole stands have slow growth due to dwarf mistletoe or over stocking. Western spruce budworm is periodically killing some of the understory Douglas-fir, especially on the drier sites. Occasionally, the tops of the larger trees are being killed. The Douglas-fir beetle periodically kills small groups of the older, larger, Douglas-fir.

There are no private lands within the area.

#### 4. Need

The Duck Peak Roadless Area is adjacent to a portion of the Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness which receives light use most of the year; during hunting season use is moderate to heavy.

The Roadless Area is approximately 60 road miles from Salmon, Idaho; 200 miles from Idaho Falls, Idaho; and 190 miles from Missoula, Montana.

Additional field investigations are needed to determine if the habitat types and rare plants are components of a unique system.

During RARE I this area was inventoried as the Duck Peak Roadless Area #287. The decision in the RARE I FEIS was to manage this area for non-wilderness resource development. Public opinion received on this area during RARE I, wilderness/non-wilderness, was against further study for wilderness. The area was not considered highly controversial during RARE I.

The area was further evaluated in the Red Rock Peak Unit Land Management Plan (LMP). The decision in the LMP was to manage this area for non-wilderness resource development. Public opinion was for non-wilderness resource development. The wilderness/non-wilderness issue was not highly controversial in the LMP process.

The area was not evaluated in RARE II because of decisions reached in the Red Rock Peak Unit Land Management Plan.

Senator McClure held "Idaho Forest Management Act" hearings in Coeur d'Alene, Lewiston, Boise, and Idaho Falls during August 1983. Prior to these meetings the Senator sent out a constituent letter with four proposals, i.e., the Forest Service RARE II, Forest Industries, other commodity user groups, and the 1979 Idaho Wildlife Federation proposal. Following the hearings, Senator McClure has received additional input from environmental groups and the Governor of Idaho. The environmental groups and Governor Evans have not included this area in their proposals. The Idaho Fish and Game Commission provided input to Governor Evans for both wilderness and roadless management areas over the State. They did not include this area in their proposal.

During the Forest Planning review of inventoried roadless lands, public opinion was again divided ranging from no wilderness to all wilderness. Earth First! recommended wilderness for the entire area. The Idaho Mining Association, Idaho Cattlemen's Association, Outdoors Unlimited, Idaho Farm Bureau, Idaho Wool Growers, Idaho Trail Machine Association, Idaho Forest Industries Council, and Idaho Women in Timber all recommended no wilderness for Duck Peak Roadless Area.

Senator McClure has introduced the Idaho Forest Management Act (IFMA) in the Senate. The proposed legislation has unanimous support from the Idaho Congressional Delegation and would designate approximately 526,064 acres of roadless lands as wilderness across the State.

Following introduction of the IFMA new and/or modified recommendations have been submitted to the Idaho Congressional Delegation for the inclusion of more roadless lands as wilderness.

The Duck Peak Roadless Area was not included in the IFMA nor has it been included in any of the additional or modified recommendations. The area was not considered controversial during the Forest Planning review of roadless lands.

Preferred Alternative (Alternative 12)

This area is not recommended for wilderness designation in the preferred alternative.

Some resource activity would occur on about 25 percent of the area which would preclude that portion of the area from consideration for wilderness during the next plan revision. Mineral potential in the southwestern half is high and is unknown in the northwestern half. Timing of possible mineral development is not known but if development should occur the area disturbed by mining and access construction would be precluded from further wilderness consideration.

Effects of Wilderness/Nonwilderness Management Prescriptions

TABLE A

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION BY FOREST PLAN ALTERNATIVE  
(Acres)

Roadless Area	13518 Duck Peak										
Management	Forest Plan Alternative										
Prescription	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
7A Proposed											
Wilderness			37,081					37,081	37,081	38,057	48,791
Nonwilderness*											
2A						48,062					
2B			9,472				47,902		9,690		
3A-5A	2,004										
3A-5B	2,986						248				
3A-5C	37,837										
3A-5E			2,238			596		9,909			
4A	573						209	402	441		
4B-1		10,231		10,949	10,629						
5A		4,000		4,192	10,550					3,482	
5B	5,319	7,262		7,111		133	432			2,017	
5C		27,298		26,539	27,612					5,235	
5E								1,399	1,579		

\* Refer to Alternative map for prescription description

TABLE B  
IMPACTS ON WILDERNESS CHARACTER

Roadless Area. 13518 Duck Peak

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS	ALT 1	ALT 2	ALT 3	ALT 4	ALT 5	ALT 6
Natural Integrity - Apparent Naturalness	:	:	:	:	:	:
:	High	Fairly high	High	Fairly high	Fairly high	High
:						
Solitude	Good opportunity	Some opportunity	Good opportunity	Some opportunity	Some opportunity	Good opportunity
:						
:						
Primitive Recreation	Good opportunity	Some opportunity	Good opportunity	Some opportunity	Some opportunity	Good opportunity
:						
:						
Challenging Experiences	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence
:						
:						
Special Features	Limited outstanding scenery	Limited outstanding scenery	Limited outstanding scenery	Limited outstanding scenery	Limited outstanding scenery	Limited outstanding scenery
:						

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS	ALT 7	ALT 8	ALT 9	ALT 10	ALT 11	ALT 12
Natural Integrity - Apparent Naturalness	:	:	:	:	:	:
:	High	High	High	High	High	High
:						
Solitude	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity
:						
:						
Primitive Recreation	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity
:						
:						
Challenging Experiences	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence
:						
:						
Special Features	Limited outstanding scenery	Limited outstanding scenery	Limited outstanding scenery	Limited outstanding scenery	Limited outstanding scenery	Limited outstanding scenery
:						

TABLE C

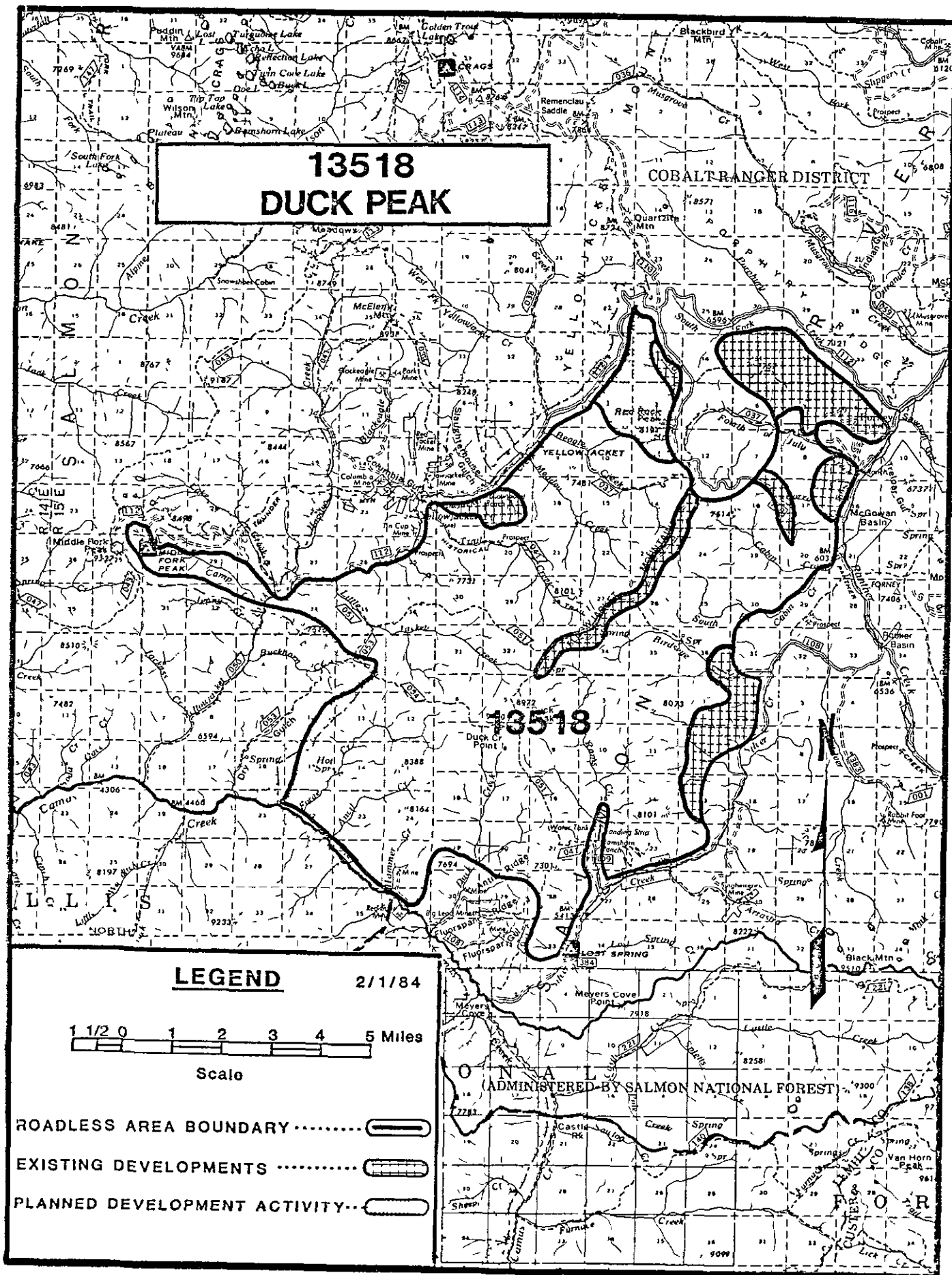
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF WILDERNESS/NON-WILDERNESS DESIGNATIONS ON  
THE PHYSICAL AND BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

Roadless Area 13518 Duck Peak

ENVIRONMENT	ALT 1	ALT 2	ALT 3	ALT 4	ALT 5	ALT 6
Potential Adverse Effects on Soil Productivity	Very slight	Very slight	None	Very slight	Very slight	None
Potential Effects on Water Quality	Slightly adverse	Slightly adverse	None	Slightly adverse	Slightly adverse	None
Air Quality	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards
Potential Effects on Plant Communities	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	None	Timber harvest	Timber harvest	None
Wildlife Habitat Capability - Elk	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact	Insignificant change	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact	Insignificant change
Potential Effects on Fish Habitat Capability	Insignificant change	Slight adverse impact	Insignificant change	Slight adverse impact	Slight adverse impact	Insignificant change

ENVIRONMENT	ALT 7	ALT 8	ALT 9	ALT 10	ALT 11	ALT 12
Potential Adverse Effects on Soil Productivity	None	None	None	Very slight	None	Very slight
Potential Effects on Water Quality	None	None	None	Slightly adverse	None	Slightly adverse
Air Quality	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards	Meets class II state standards
Potential Effects on Plant Communities	None	None	None	Timber harvest	None	Timber harvest
Wildlife Habitat Capability - Elk	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Slight adverse impact	Insignificant change	Slight adverse impact
Potential Effects on Fish Habitat Capability	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Insignificant change	Slight adverse impact	Insignificant change	Slight adverse impact





## ROADLESS AREA EVALUATION

### SHEEPEATER ROADLESS AREA

SALMON NATIONAL FOREST #13520 - 31,954 Net Acres

#### 1. Description

The Sheepeater Roadless Area lies approximately 30 air miles to the northwest of Salmon, Idaho. Access to the area can be gained by trails at the mouths of Owl Creek and Cove Creek, and near the Pine Creek bridge on the Salmon River. Road access may be gained from roads on Beartrap Ridge, Tincup Hill, and below Blue Nose Lookout.

The area is bounded on the north and northwest by a road along Long Tom Ridge, Tincup Hill and Blue Nose; on the northeast by Forest Road 043 and a timber sale and associated roads; on the south and southeast by the Salmon River road; on the west by the ridge between East Butte Creek and Swamp Creek; and on the southwest by the ridge between Ebenezer Creek and Owl Creek. The slopes along the Salmon River and the lower reach of Owl Creek are steep (+70%) with many rock outcroppings. The higher elevational country has broad rounded ridges with slopes less than 30 percent to 40 percent. The slopes into the major drainages are from 40 to 60 percent. Owl Creek and the East Fork of Owl Creek, along with their tributaries, form the major drainages. Elevations are from 3,000 feet at the mouth of Owl Creek, to over 8,000 feet at Beartrap Lookout. The bedrock is the granite of the Idaho Batholith and the altered sediments of the Border Zone. Soils formed from these bedrocks range in texture from loamy sands to sandy loams. The vegetation on the south slopes is sagebrush and grass, with scattered stands of ponderosa pine. The higher elevations and cooler slopes have Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine. The ecosystems represented are western ponderosa, western spruce-fir, and grand fir/Douglas-fir.

Current uses include timber harvest, mining, and hunting (200 RVD's in 1982). There are also portions of one horse allotment which receives minimal use.

Seven intrusions were identified within the area during the inventory process. These resulted from timber harvest activities from sales in 1977, 1978, and 1980. Five of the impact areas are in the Owl Creek drainage, one in Cover Creek, and one in Boulder Creek. A total of 11,705 acres were impacted by these sales. The areas impacted no longer meet roadless area criteria and will not be considered further for wilderness. In addition, the sale in the Boulder Creek drainage bisected one arm of the roadless area and isolated a unit of less than 5000 acres. This area no longer meets roadless area criteria and will not be considered further for wilderness.

A sale was sold in the East Fork of Owl Creek in 1983 and another sale is planned in the Sourdough-Wallace Creek area for 1985.

From high vantage points the area appears to have undergone modification, primarily through timber harvest activities. There are pockets remaining where this modification would not be noticeable.

The area is surrounded by other areas of similar road and harvest densities.

The scenery in this unit is considered common for the Salmon National Forest. There are no special features or attractions.

## 2. Capability

Past timber activities and associated roading have resulted in an impossible situation for the development of logical and manageable boundaries. The boundary could not be expanded in any direction due to existing roads. Deleting impacted acres would leave sufficient acres to meet minimum size requirements, but these acres are in long, narrow bands with no opportunity for manageable boundaries.

Past and current activities have a high influence on the area's natural integrity. The duration of impacts will exceed 10 years, and the areas of impact cannot be logically separated from the remainder of the unit.

Natural appearance has been significantly impacted. The impacts are readily apparent to visitors.

The area has a low opportunity for solitude due to size, distance from perimeter to core, and permanent intrusions.

The area has a low opportunity for primitive recreation, due to the same factors as solitude plus the lack of diversity and the lack of opportunity for challenging experiences.

## 3. Availability

### Resource Potentials and Use

Recreation use at present is considered light and is primarily related to hunting. Designation as wilderness would neither restrict current use nor significantly increase use, due to the lack of features or attractions in the area.

This extremely rugged area contains high quality mountain goat and bighorn sheep habitat in the lower, or river breaks, zone. This portion of the area also serves as winter range for those two species plus mule deer and elk. Limited numbers of mule deer summer throughout the entire area, and the upper elevations provide summer elk habitat. Habitat potential for mule deer and elk could be improved in the northern portion by breaking up the homogeneous

lodgepole stands and creating quality forage openings. The lower portion of the area is very near habitat potential for big game, and cover reduction would not be desirable.

Boulder Creek and Owl Creek drainages provide the only fish habitat within the area. Boulder Creek contains a resident population of cutthroat trout. Past mining activity has adversely influenced habitat in the upper portion of the drainage. Owl Creek contains both resident trout and anadromous steelhead trout. Habitat condition is good to excellent. Only a minor amount of fishing occurs in Boulder Creek and quality would be rated as fair. Owl Creek provides a moderate amount of good to excellent fishing. The anadromous fish production potential is substantial.

The area is located within several drainages tributary to the main Salmon River. Precipitation ranges from highs of 45 to 50 inches in the headwaters along the Forest boundary, to approximately 15 inches adjacent to the Salmon River. The area is dominated by granitic soils, which results in relatively high natural sediment rates. Generally, watershed conditions are excellent, as is water quality. Small scale mining activities have occurred in several parts of the roadless area, however, watershed conditions are stabilizing in most of these areas.

With the exception of a small amount of recreational horse use, the area is not grazed by domestic livestock.

An estimated 128.2 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated potential yield of 2.9 million board feet.

Sheepeater Roadless Area has an undefined potential for gold and molybdenum associated with Tertiary intrusive activity. There has been minor past gold production and extensive exploration for molybdenum. This area would require further study to adequately assess hardrock mineral potential. There is no known potential for currently leasable minerals. (Note private land in lower and upper Owl Creek and Upper Spring Creek.)

The greatest potential for cultural resources and related research occurs in a relatively narrow band adjacent to the Salmon River and in major drainages. The bulk of the roadless area would be classified as having moderate potential.

The roadless area includes five System trails totaling 32.1 miles, 11 roads totaling 19.0 miles, and 10 roads within the intrusion totaling 27.4 miles. The area also includes several miles of prospecting/mining access roads.

#### Management Considerations

Fire occurrence is high in the area, with some fires reaching sizes over 100 acres.

Mountain Pine Beetle is present at endemic levels in some of the lodgepole pine. Age and size conditions of the lodgepole pine, coupled with the proximity of other lodgepole pine areas, increases the potential for a major outbreak of the Mountain Pine Beetle. There are endemic levels of Douglas-fir Beetles present in the Douglas-fir and Western Pine Beetles in the ponderosa pine. Dwarf mistletoe is present in some widely scattered stands of lodgepole pine and Douglas-fir.

The area includes four separate tracts of private lands (patented mining claims) totaling 246 acres.

#### 4. Need

The area is within three air miles of the Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness. Current use of the wilderness portion nearby is considered extremely light outside of hunting season.

The area is located approximately 50 miles from Salmon, Idaho; 190 miles from Idaho Falls, Idaho; and 140 miles from Missoula, Montana.

Ecosystems found in this area are represented throughout the Forest and in the Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness.

During RARE I this area was inventoried as the Owl Creek #300, Sheepeater #302, and Upper Owl #305 Roadless Areas. The decision in the RARE I FEIS was to manage these areas for non-wilderness resource development. Public opinion received on these areas during RARE I, wilderness/non-wilderness, was divided. The areas were not considered highly controversial during RARE I.

The Owl Creek, Sheepeater, and Upper Owl Creek areas were further evaluated in the Beartrap-Dutchler Unit Land Management Plan (LMP). The decision in the LMP was to manage the areas for non-wilderness resource development, with a portion being managed in a roadless condition. Again, public opinion was divided. But the wilderness/non-wilderness issue was not highly controversial in the LMP process.

The area was not evaluated in RARE II because of decisions made in the Beartrap-Dutchler Land Management Plan.

Senator McClure held "Idaho Forest Management Act" hearings in Coeur d'Alene, Lewiston, Boise, and Idaho Falls during August 1983. Prior to these meetings the Senator sent out a constituent letter with four proposals, i.e., the Forest Service RARE II, Forest Industries, other commodity user groups, and the 1979 Idaho Wildlife Federation proposal. Following the hearings, Senator McClure has received additional input from environmental groups and the Governor of Idaho. The environmental groups and Governor Evans made no special recommendations for this area. The Idaho Fish and Game Commission provided input to Governor Evans for both

wilderness and roadless management. They did not make any recommendations on the area.

During the Forest Planning review of inventoried roadless lands, public opinion was again divided ranging from no wilderness to all wilderness. Earth First' recommended wilderness for the entire area. The Idaho Mining Association, Idaho Cattlemen's Association, Outdoors Unlimited, Idaho Farm Bureau, Idaho Wool Growers, Idaho Trail Machine Association, Idaho Forest Industries Council, and Idaho Women in Timber all recommended no wilderness for the Sheepeater Roadless Area.

Senator McClure has introduced the Idaho Forest Management Act (IFMA) in the Senate. The proposed legislation has unanimous support from the Idaho Congressional Delegation and would designate approximately 526,064 acres of roadless lands as wilderness across the State.

Following introduction of the IFMA new and/or modified recommendations have been submitted to the Idaho Congressional Delegation for the inclusion of more roadless lands as wilderness.

The Sheepeater Roadless Area was not included in the IFMA nor has it been included in any of the additional or modified recommendations. The area was not considered controversial during the Forest Planning review of roadless lands.

#### Preferred Alternative (Alternative 12)

This area is not recommended for wilderness designation in the preferred alternative.

Predicted resource activities would preclude this area from further consideration for wilderness during the next plan revision. Mineral potential is unknown.

Effects of Wilderness/Non-wilderness Management Prescriptions

TABLE A

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION BY FOREST PLAN ALTERNATIVE  
(Acres)

Roadless Area\* 13520 Sheepwater

Forest Plan Alternative

Management Prescription	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
7A Proposed Wilderness								12,143	19,492
Non-wilderness*									
2A			30,838			31,954			
2B									8,766
3A-5B									
3A-5D	20,811								
3A-5E	3,823								
4A	7,206	837	591	572	1,213	30,966	17,066	2,576	
4B-1			525			632	2,232		1,120
5A		31,117		31,382	30,741				
5B									
5E	114						356		
5F								513	

\* Refer to Alternative map for prescription description.

Roadless Area 13520 Sheepeater

[illegible]



Roadless Area 13520 Sheepeater

[illegible]

# 13520 SHEEPEATER

13520

13520

## LEGEND

2/1/84

1 1/2 0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles

Scale

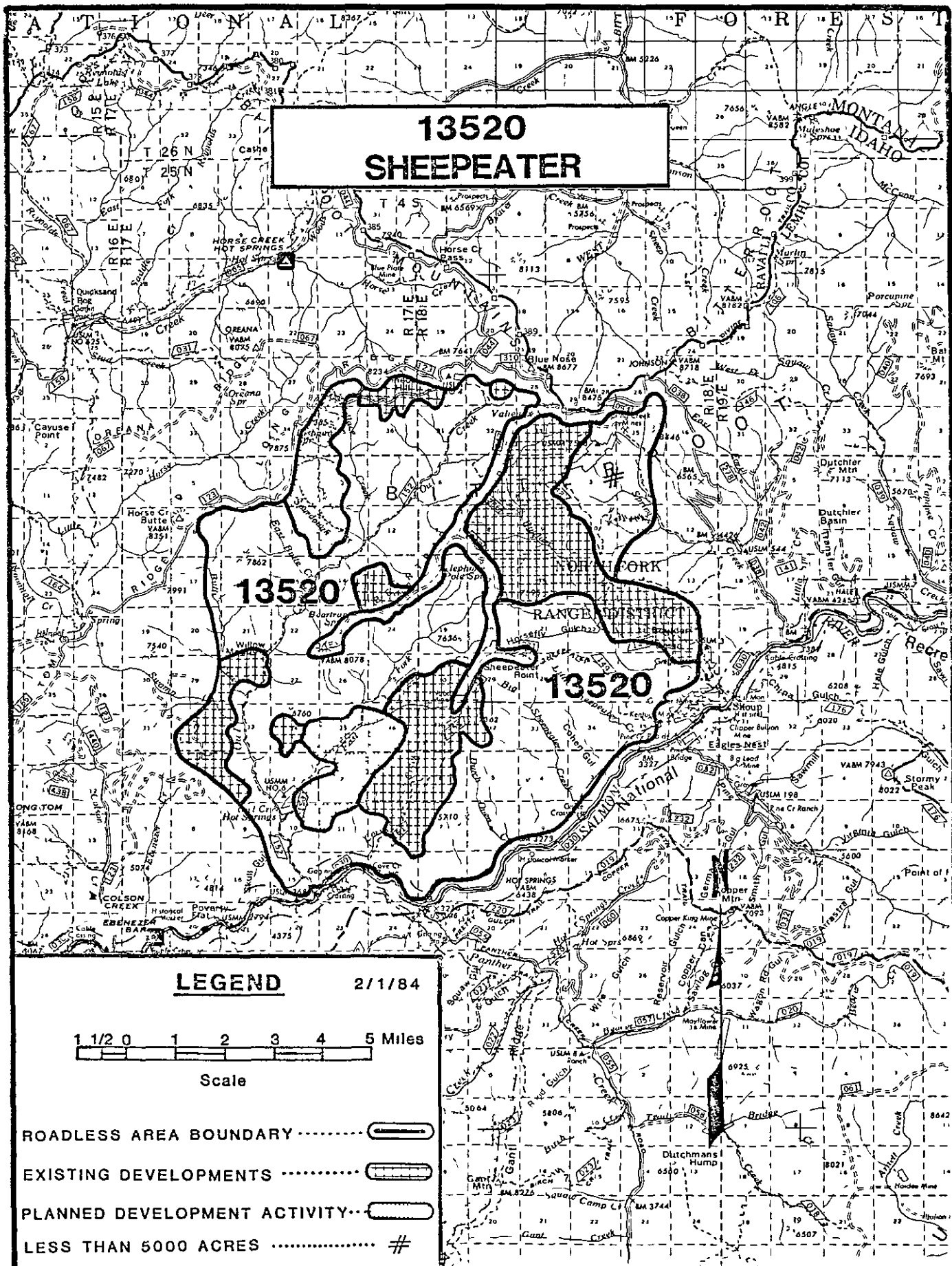
ROADLESS AREA BOUNDARY .....

EXISTING DEVELOPMENTS .....

PLANNED DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY .....

LESS THAN 5000 ACRES .....

#



## ROADLESS AREA EVALUATION

### LONG TOM ROADLESS AREA

SALMON NATIONAL FOREST #13521 - 21,633 Net Acres

#### 1. Description

The Long Tom Roadless Area is approximately 35 air miles northwest of Salmon, Idaho. Access to the area can be gained along the Salmon River road, from the road along Long Tom ridge, and from the road along the ridge to Corn Lake.

The area is bounded on the south and southwest by the Salmon River road, on the north by the Corn Lake road, on the east by the Long Tom ridge road, and is adjacent to the Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness on the northwest. The area is dissected by small drainages that flow directly into the Salmon River. Wheat Creek, Corn Creek, and Bear Basin Creek are the major drainages. The slopes along the Salmon River are steep (+70%) and form a portion of the Wild and Scenic River corridor. The higher country consists of moderately dissected mountain slopes (20% to 60%). Elevations range from 3,000 feet to over 8,000 feet. The steep slopes adjacent to the Salmon River have numerous rock outcroppings and near surface bedrock. The Border Zone rocks that have been altered by the intrusion of the Idaho Batholith form the bedrock from which the sandy loam textured soils have been formed. The vegetation on the steep canyon slopes is a sagebrush and grass community. The higher elevations are timbered with ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, and subalpine fir. Western ponderosa and grand fir/Douglas-fir are the two ecosystems found in this area.

Current use would primarily be recreation related, and is mostly hunting (100 RVD's in 1982). There is a small amount of mining activity and timber harvesting along the edge of the roadless area.

Three intrusions were identified in the area during the inventory process. These total 273 acres and are located near Corn Lake in the northeast corner of the unit at the head of Corn Creek and in the southeast part of the unit below Long Tom Lookout. These are all road corridors (loops on existing roads) that were erroneously included in original inventories. Also, a timber sale was made in the southeast corner of the unit in 1983 covering approximately 1194 acres and harvest activities have started. These areas no longer meet roadless area criteria and will not be considered further for wilderness.

No other activities are planned in the area through current action plans.

The area is essentially natural appearing.

The unit is bordered by the Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness on the west and north, the Salmon Wild and Scenic River on the south, and a road corridor on the east.

== ==

This unit contains outstanding scenery, particularly along the Salmon River Breaks.

## 2. Capability

Logical and manageable boundaries could be developed for this unit.

Size is not a factor.

Man's activities have had no overall influence on the area's natural integrity. The specific sites that have been impacted are on the perimeter, and could easily be deleted. Most visitors would find this unit to be apparently natural.

Due to size, proximity to existing wilderness, very good topographic screening, good vegetative screening, high diversity, good distance from core to perimeter, and lack of developed recreation facilities, this area provides a very high opportunity for solitude and for primitive recreation experiences.

Opportunities for challenging experiences or encountering serious hazards are few and are related to the rugged terrain.

## 3. Availability

### Resource Potentials and Use

Recreation use at present is considered very light and is hunting related. Patterns of use or numbers of users are not likely to be affected by designation or non-designation of the area as wilderness.

This extremely rough, rocky area contains approximately one mile of vertical relief from the Salmon River up to Long Tom Mountain. High quality summer and winter range areas for bighorn sheep and mountain goats are present throughout the area. Elk and mule deer are present yearlong. Black bear and mountain lion are abundant. A wide variety of small birds and mammals ranging from blue grouse to pika inhabit the area.

Only a minor amount of fish habitat is found within the area. Most streams are small, with high channel gradients and boulder cobble substrates. Corn Creek provides habitat for resident trout and a minor amount of steelhead habitat in the extreme lower end. Fishing pressure is very light, and quality would be fair.

The area contains several small stream drainages which are directly tributary to the main Salmon River. Water yield in the area is generally low, as annual precipitation averages 25 inches or less. Soils in the area are dominated by granitics and result in generally high natural sediment rates, however, water quality is usually excellent throughout the entire area.

With the exception of a moderate amount of recreational horse use, the area is not grazed by domestic livestock. Most of the use by horses occurs during the big game hunting seasons and is largely confined to scattered riparian meadows and open parks.

An estimated 59.2 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated annual potential yield of .9 million board feet.

This area has an undefined potential for cobalt and copper. The Salmon Canyon Copper Mine (minor production) is located in the extreme southeastern portion of the unit. This area would require further study to adequately assess hardrock mineral potential. There is no known potential for currently leasable minerals. The area has an active mining operation.

There is a high potential for cultural resources and related research in a band adjacent to the Salmon River. The remainder of the unit has low potential.

This area includes two system trails totaling 8.8 miles, and one system road totaling 1.0 miles. Part of the area is used for Outfitter and Guide purposes.

#### Management Considerations

Fire occurrence is high, with potential for large fires.

Mountain Pine Beetle is present in some of the lodgepole pine. There is a potential for a major outbreak of Mountain Pine Beetle in the unit due to the age, size and location of the lodgepole pine. Endemic levels of Douglas-fir Beetle are present in the Douglas-fir, and endemic levels of Western Pine Beetle in the ponderosa pine. Dwarf mistletoe is present in some widely scattered stands of lodgepole pine and Douglas-fir.

There are no private lands within the area.

#### 4. Need

The unit lies adjacent to the Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness. Use in the adjacent portion of the wilderness is considered light and is related primarily to hunting. The area is approximately 50 miles from Salmon, Idaho; 190 miles from Idaho Falls, Idaho; and 140 miles from Missoula, Montana.

The ecosystems found in this area are represented throughout the Forest and in the Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness.

During RARE I this area was inventoried as the Long Tom Mountain #298 Roadless Area. The decision in the RARE I FEIS was to manage this area for non-wilderness resource development. Public opinion received on the area during RARE I, wilderness/non-wilderness, was

divided. The area was not considered highly controversial during RARE I.

The Long Tom Roadless Area was further evaluated in the Beartrap-Dutchler Unit Land Management Plan (LMP). The decision in the LMP was to manage this area for non-wilderness resource development with a portion of the area being managed in a roadless condition. Again public opinion was divided, but the wilderness/non-wilderness issue was not highly controversial in the LMP process.

This area was not evaluated in RARE II because of decisions reached in the Beartrap Dutchler Land Management Plan.

Senator McClure held "Idaho Forest Management Act" hearings in Coeur d'Alene, Lewiston, Boise, and Idaho Falls during August 1983. Prior to these meetings the Senator sent out a constituent letter with four proposals i.e., the Forest Service RARE II, Forest Industries, other commodity user groups, and the 1979 Idaho Wildlife Federation proposal. Following the hearings, Senator McClure as received additional input from environmental groups and the Governor of Idaho. The environmental groups and Governor Evans made no special recommendations for this area. The Idaho Fish and Game Commission provided input to Governor Evans for both wilderness and roadless management areas over the state. They did not make any special recommendation for the area.

During the Forest Planning review of inventoried roadless lands, public opinion was again divided ranging from no wilderness to all wilderness. Earth First! recommended wilderness for the entire area. The Idaho Mining Association, Idaho Cattlemen's Association, Outdoors Unlimited, Idaho Farm Bureau, Idaho Wool Growers, Idaho Trail Machine Association, Idaho Forest Industries Council, and Idaho Women in Timber all recommended no wilderness for the Long Tom Roadless Area.

Senator McClure has introduced the Idaho Forest Management Act (IFMA) in the Senate. The proposed legislation has unanimous support from the Idaho Congressional Delegation and would designate approximately 526,064 acres of roadless lands as wilderness across the State.

Following introduction of the IFMA new and/or modified recommendations have been submitted to the Idaho Congressional Delegation for the inclusion of more roadless lands as wilderness.

The Long Tom Roadless Area was not included in the IFMA nor has it been included in any of the additional or modified recommendations. The area was not considered controversial during the Forest Planning review of roadless lands.

Preferred Alternative (Alternative 12)

This area is not recommended for wilderness designation in the preferred alternative.

No activities are predicted which would preclude consideration of this area for wilderness during the next forest plan revision. The area has unknown mineral potential.

Effects of Wilderness/Nonwilderness Management Prescriptions

TABLE A

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION BY FOREST PLAN ALTERNATIVE  
(Acres)

Roadless Area	13521 Long Tom										Forest Plan Alternative
Management Prescription	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
7A Proposed Wilderness			19,470				19,470	19,470	11,682	19,470	21,633
Nonwilderness*											
2A						21,633					
2B	18,799		2,163						9,951		
3A-5B											
3A-5D	1,907						2,163				
3A-5E								2,163		2,163	
4A	947			6,995							
5A		575		375	3,061						
5C		21,058		14,263	18,572						

\* Refer to Alternative map for prescription description



TABLE B  
IMPACTS ON WILDERNESS CHARACTER

Roadless Area: 13521 Long Tom

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS	ALT 1	ALT 2	ALT 3	ALT 4	ALT 5	ALT 6
Natural Integrity - Apparent Naturalness	High	High	High	High	High	High
Solitude	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity
Primitive Recreation	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity
Challenging Experiences	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence
Special Features	Limited outstanding scenery	Limited outstanding scenery	Limited outstanding scenery	Limited outstanding scenery	Limited outstanding scenery	Limited outstanding scenery
WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS	ALT 7	ALT 8	ALT 9	ALT 10	ALT 11	ALT 12
Natural Integrity - Apparent Naturalness	High	High	High	High	High	High
Solitude	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity
Primitive Recreation	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity	Good opportunity
Challenging Experiences	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence	Little or no occurrence
Special Features	Limited outstanding scenery	Limited outstanding scenery	Limited outstanding scenery	Limited outstanding scenery	Limited outstanding scenery	Limited outstanding scenery

Roadless Area 13521 Long Tom

[illegible]

