

SRB Study

Bitterroot

FORM 6200-8 (11/64)

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum



Department of Agriculture - Forest Service
Region 9, One Missoula, Montana 59801

TO : The Record

File No. 2320

FROM : Charles R. Joy, Forester

Date: April 2, 1968

SUBJECT: Wildernesses and Primitive Areas
(Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area)

Your reference:

On March 20-21, Ed Barry, Ed Slusher, Dick Joy of the R.O. and Nezperce Forest Supervisor Everett Sanderson met with R-4 personnel in Ogden. The meeting in the afternoon of March 20 dealt with basic considerations for classification of the Salmon River and adjacent areas; i.e., Idaho Primitive Area in R-4 and Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area in R-1. On March 21, we sat in on a R-4 task force meeting regarding field recommendations for management of the Idaho Primitive Area.

Salmon River and Adjacent Areas:

The objective was to discuss alternatives for classification of the Salmon River and adjacent areas. Presently, 1,441,446 acres of Primitive Area are adjacent to the Salmon River. Both areas will need to be studied for Wilderness considerations in the near future. It is agreed by both Regions that close coordination and cooperation will be needed in these studies.

Much discussion centered around the Salmon River itself and several pertinent questions were raised, i.e.:

1. Is the Salmon River thoroughfare really Wilderness environment? With the power boats is the environment deteriorating?
2. Should the river and seen area be a separate management unit? If so, how should it be classified - Wilderness, Scenic River, N.R.A.?
3. If not a separate management unit, and adjacent lands were classified Wilderness, who would have legal jurisdiction of the river itself below high water mark? Who owns the land under the river and has legal control of activities on the water - Federal or State?

	Action
Supv.	_____
Lands	_____
Timber	_____
Control	_____
Engrs.	_____
Admin. Offr.	_____
Dispatcher	_____
M.B.&F.	_____
B.M.A.S.	_____
B.M.P.&R.	_____
Comm. Tech.	_____
Lands Asst.	_____
Timber Asst.	_____
Engr. Asst.	_____

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The outcome was an agreement that the Forest Service needs legal assistance to determine who has jurisdiction of the Salmon River waters. This may take a court case and decision but it was agreed that action should be started soon.

Ed Barry brought up for discussion the possibility of the Salmon River Breaks and Idaho Primitive Areas being considered as a National Recreation Area. John Herbert feels that it wouldn't meet the criteria for a N.R.A. This was discussed at length.

Region 4 personnel described the vast amount of non-conforming uses in the Idaho Primitive Area and the possible mineral content. They stated that until they had some minerals information from the Geologic Survey they were not sure how much of the Primitive Area would be considered for Wilderness; however, they did favor Wilderness over a N.R.A. Ed Barry expressed favor of a N.R.A. for the Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area.

The group decided that future classification was complex and that personnel from both Regions needed to get together to explore all alternatives of classification and their pros and cons and present a package to the two Regional Foresters. While no definite date was set, it was agreed that "the sooner, the better" as much was to be done in a relatively short period of time - 2 to 3 years.

It was further agreed that both Regions should announce to the public that the two areas are to be studied. Ed Slusher is to draft a proposed letter to the public and send to R-4 for their review. Upon mutual approval, it would be distributed and a public announcement made.

On March 21, personnel of the four Forests involved in the Idaho Primitive Area met with Regional Forester Iverson and his staff. They had met previously among themselves to prepare management recommendations pertaining to the Idaho Primitive Area. The variety of topics presented is reflected by the enclosed program.

There are several items of Wilderness management that need to be coordinated between Regions; i.e., use of motorized equipment, especially chain saws. Problems could arise in the public's understanding of F.S. Wilderness management if our differences are not resolved.

cc: Bitterroot
Nezperce
Region 4

151 Charles R. Jay

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SALMON, IDAHO - 83467

Salmon River
Breaks

May 28, 1970

Mr. Ray Hunter
Multiple Use Co-ordinator
Bitterroot National Forest
Hamilton, Montana

Dear Mr. Hunter:

I enjoyed speaking with you at the Outfitters and Guides meeting. Determining the destiny of so great and so valuable wilderness resource as the Idaho and Salmon River Breaks Primitive Areas is a great responsibility. It appears that you are taking the job very seriously and give the impression of being willing to listen and exchange ideas on the subject open mindedly.


Since our conversation I have spoken with quite a number of people and have made an effort to reach as many varied backgrounds as I could.

I can honestly say that the interest in our back country is increasing considerably in the Salmon Valley.

You mentioned the possibility of meeting with the citizens of our area for an exchange of ideas in the Salmon Forest Headquarters here. I would like to talk with you further concerning this matter at the meeting of the Sierra Club on the Magruder Corridor June 13th and 14th.

Incidentally, I have been reading the Magruder Corridor Resource Inventory with great interest. I particularly agree with Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman when in 1967 he stated that the existing and potential values which the Forest Service could and should manage were: important watershed-fisheries, natural connecting route between Idaho and Montana, and the important existing and potential recreational values, particularly those resulting from the proximity of the Corridor to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness and Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area. Perhaps the controversy arose from the interpretation of those remarks.

Sincerely,



Richard R. Smith, D.D.S.

RRS:js

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e-RDH