

SWAYNE & MCNICHOLS

ATTORNEYS

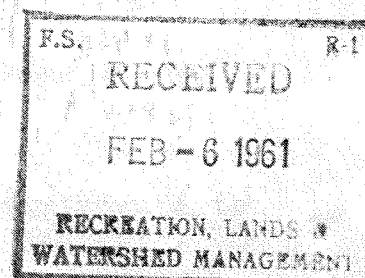
P. O. BOX 786

BURNS BUILDING

ORFIND, IDAHO

February 3, 1961

SAMUEL F. SWAYNE
RAY MCNICHOLS



Mr. Charles L. Tebbe, Regional Forester
Federal Building
Missoula, Montana

Re: Selway - Bitterroot Wilderness Area
Private Ownership Lands

Dear Mr. Tebbe:

We represent some responsible citizens who have land in the Selway area on which they have made improvements by way of hunting lodges. These people have become aware of the proposal to establish a Wilderness Area covering the locale in which their land exists.

According to certain printed brochures heretofore circulated, it would be part of the planning of the Forest Service that the tracts of fee land held in the Selway Forest by private individuals would be purchased by the government. We assume this means that originally offers of purchase would be made and if the owners were unwilling to sell an attempt would be made to exercise the right of eminent domain and condemn the property.

Our clients are very interested in knowing the attitude and intention of the Forest Service. These people have contemplated improvements and enlargement of the existing improvements on their land. In the event they are going to have to give this property up in the near future they, of course, do not want to continue with their plans for improvements, conversely, they are desirous of fully enjoying their property rights if possible, and want to make the improvements which they have in mind if the property is not going to be affected.

It therefore seems most fair that they be advised as fully as possible as to the planning and intention of the Forest Service regarding their property. Would you kindly give me as much information as is permitted, and I would also appreciate any unofficial

Archival research by
Dennis Baird
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Selway Historical Files

Mr. Charles L. Tebbe
February 3, 1961

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comments which you could make which might be of assistance to my people in their planning for the use of this property.

Warmest personal regards.

Yours very truly,

SWAYNE & McNICHOLS

By 
Ray McNichols

RM:1b

INTERNATIONAL BOND

25% HAO CONTENT

MADE IN U.S.A.

2320

February 10, 1961

Mr. Ray McNichols, Attorney
Swayne & McNichols
P.O. Box 786
Grofino, Idaho

Dear Mr. McNichols:

Reference is made to your letter of February 3, 1961.

We agree it is very important that the owners of private property in the proposed Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Area should have a clear understanding of the proposal as it may affect them.

The proposal which we have advertised and which will be the subject for the hearings to be held in March envisions the following program for acquisition of the private land and dedication to wilderness purposes:

1. The Forest Service would be a prospective purchaser of any tracts inside the wilderness area which might be offered for sale, providing the price is reasonable and money is appropriated for this purpose.
2. The Forest Service would serve as a willing recipient of any lands which an owner might wish to donate to the Government so that such land could be devoted to wilderness purposes.

As yet we have few expressions of support or opposition on this position. It is one of the many aspects of this proposal which the advisory hearings may help to give direction to.

Sincerely yours,

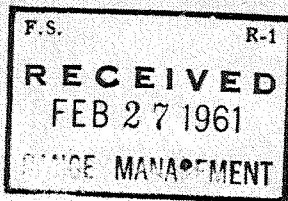
CHAS. L. TERRE, Regional Forester

By W. W. DRESSKELL

ECslusher/gwg

ea
PWS

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ED



2320

Missoula, Montana
February 24, 1961

*W.D.
Missoula
M.A.
J.W.*

NEAR-NATURAL AREAS
(Selway Bitterroot
Wilderness Area - Proposed)

MEMORANDUM TO DIVISION CHIEFS AND FOREST SUPERVISORS:

Due to the considerable interest being shown by people about the proposed classification of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Area, as well as the expressed desire by many Forest Service employees to attend the scheduled hearings in March, it seems that a word of caution is necessary to avoid any appearance that the Forest Service might be attempting to "pack" the hearings and interfere with free expression by those who might wish to testify or present papers.

For this reason, we think it is advisable to designate officially certain Forest Service people to attend the hearings. The following Forest Service employees should attend to be of assistance in the conduct of the hearings, and possibly answer questions about specific areas:

1. Forest supervisors of the forests concerned.
2. One forest staffman of the forests concerned.
3. All rangers of the districts involved.
4. The chief of the Division of Recreation, Lands, and Watershed Management. Edward C. Slusher, George Mahrt, Elva Anderson and Darlene Schmitt.
5. The Regional Forester or his "Acting."
6. The chief of the Division of Information and Education.

We will be prepared to pass out slips of paper to people who enter the hearing rooms, and arrange these in some manner so that as many as desire may testify under a schedule of time that may be required to accommodate everyone. For this reason, the Clearwater and Nezperce should have on hand at least two people who can look after that detail.

It is essential that someone be on hand at each hearing location to insure that the loudspeaking devices are in proper working order. The forest supervisor of the host forest is asked to provide this service, i.e., Missoula - Lolo, Lewiston - Clearwater, Grangeville - Nezperce.

E. F. Barry, Edward Slusher, and George Mahrt will wear uniforms at the hearings. Frank Blackmer may take Mahrt's place at the Lewiston hearing. If other Forest Service people do attend any of the hearings, it probably would be advisable for them to come in civilian clothes.

CHAS. L. TERRE, Regional Forester

By *[Handwritten Signature]*