

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

Bitterroot National Forest
316 North Third
Hamilton, Montana 59840

MAR 1 1973

February 27, 1973



Dear Sir:

We wish to bring your attention to an important point dealing with the Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area study. The Big Mallard Creek and Upper Bargamin Creek Units contiguous to the Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area have not been examined for their mineral potential by the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Bureau of Mines. This was explained at each of the five public meetings in November 1970.

Primitive Area proposals to the President must be based upon a complete mineral survey by the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Bureau of Mines. Since a minerals survey has been completed for the Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area, a proposal will be submitted by September 3, 1974. Big Mallard and Upper Bargamin Creeks Units cannot be included in this proposal because a minerals survey has not been made.

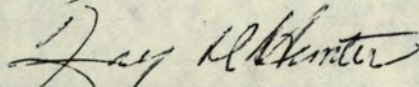
The Geological Survey and Bureau of Mines personnel were hard pressed because of limited manpower and time to complete the examination of the 34 National Forest Primitive Areas; therefore, mineral examinations of these contiguous areas were delayed until a later date.

Presently the areas of Big Mallard Creek and Upper Bargamin Creek, totaling about 38,000 acres, have only extrapolated minerals data as shown on pages 49 and 50 of the "Resource Inventory" booklet. The alternatives presented for these Units in the "Possible Management Alternatives" booklet were developed from these extrapolated data. When the U.S. Geological Survey and U.S. Bureau of

Mines report for Big Mallard Creek and Upper Bargamin Creek is available, the alternatives for these areas will be reevaluated. We invite your thoughts and comments on the entire study area at this time.

We plan to again touch on these points at the public workshops.

Sincerely,



Fol ORVILLE L. DANIELS
Forest Supervisor
Bitterroot National Forest

