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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
324 25th Street
Ogden, Utah 84401

2320

April 1, 1971

Dean Ernest Wohletz
College of Forestry, Wildlife, and
Range Sciences
University of Idaho
Moscow, Idaho 83844
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Dear Mr. Wohletz:

The Wilderness Act of September 3, 1964 (78 Stat. 890), created the National Wilderness Preservation System. This Act also provides that all National Forest Primitive Areas shall be reviewed as to their suitability or unsuitability for inclusion in the System.

The Sawtooth Primitive Area is located within the Boise, Challis, and Sawtooth National Forests in Blaine, Boise, Custer, and Elmore Counties, Idaho. The study of this area and contiguous lands has been completed. With certain modifications in boundaries, I am proposing that it be added to the National Wilderness Preservation System. I am also proposing that, subject to existing valid rights, the Sawtooth Wilderness, effective on the date of inclusion of this area in the System, be withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the mining laws and from disposition under any laws pertaining to mineral leasing and all amendments thereto.

The Wilderness Act provides for a public hearing or hearings, at a location or locations convenient to the area affected, prior to submission of any recommendations which the Secretary of Agriculture may make to the President and which the President may make to the Congress, with respect to the area.

Enclosed is a copy of a brochure describing my proposal and a notice of related public hearings. Additional copies may be obtained from the respective Forest Supervisors or Regional Forester, as shown on the public notice.

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 requires the preparation of a statement relating to any proposal for legislation and other major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of

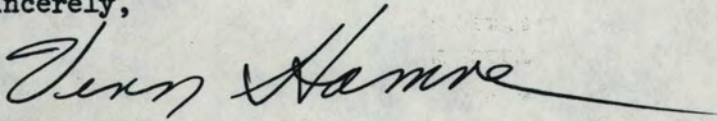
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the human environment. A draft copy of the statement for this proposal is enclosed for your review and comments. This statement is subject to revision after the public hearings.

The public hearings will be held beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the Opera House in Sun Valley, Idaho, on May 3, 1971, and at 9:00 a.m. in the Rodeway Inn, 29th Street and Chinden Boulevard, in Boise, Idaho, on May 4, 1971. You are invited to present your views at either of these hearings or to submit them to me in writing by June 3.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Vern Hamre". The signature is written in dark ink and has a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

VERN HAMRE
Regional Forester

3 Enclosures