

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

*IPA mgmt  
post bill  
pre new mgmt  
interim mgmt.*

OCT 11 1976

2320  
OCT 7 1976



Professor Kenneth Sowles  
Director, Services and Special Programs  
Wilderness Research Center  
University of Idaho  
Moscow, Idaho 83843

Dear Professor Sowles:

As you know, the Idaho Primitive Area has been the subject of a recent Wilderness survey. On December 4, 1974, the President sent his Wilderness proposal to Congress. Congress has not yet taken final action on the proposal; and, until they do, the area within the existing boundary will continue to be managed as a Primitive Area.

In order to provide uniform management during this interim, we are preparing a management plan which will guide management until the Wilderness question is resolved. Enclosed is a draft copy of the plan. Since you are interested in the management of this area, we hope you will take this opportunity to review the plan and give us your comments.

We hope to finalize the plan by the end of this year, so we would appreciate your comments by November 15.

Thanks for your help in this matter.

Sincerely,

*Vern Hamre*  
for VERN HAMRE  
Regional Forester

Enclosure

12 January 1977

Mr. Vern Hamre  
Regional Forester  
U. S. Forest Service  
324 25th Street  
Ogden, Utah 84401

Dear Mr. Hamre:

I have recently completed reviewing a draft copy of the 1976 management plan for the Idaho Primitive Area.

If this is to be considered the plan which will be used under Wilderness classification for the IPA, I believe it workable and fairly reasonable.

There are a few questions and comments that need to be viewed from the standpoint of the interests of the University of Idaho.

First, the objective as stated on page 1, "to maintain the wilderness character of the Idaho Primitive Area" is brief but says everything rather well. Although there are some problems with inholdings, as far as meeting the "purest" wilderness ethic is concerned, I do not believe these are insurmountable, or should be considered a deterrent to cooperation between landowners and the Forest Service in establishing wilderness management.

If in fact the "Wilderness Ethic" is to be developed as indicated in c (1) on page 4, it will truly be a milestone and probably be very effective.

Second, most of the research needs that are mentioned in the draft are in the realm of capabilities of our college. As you are aware, we have been very active in research efforts in the IPA, especially since the acquisition of the Taylor Ranch Field Station. Our main problems with establishing or continuing research in the IPA is always adequate funding.

On page 4, number 15, are several research needs stated. Our College has been involved in research covering these needs for several years. It would not be difficult for us to conduct surveys and planning to determine a priority for research direction. To broaden our research capabilities, we are presently working with the Archaeological Research Center at Washington State University to conduct a survey of research potentials in the IPA.

Mr. Vern Hamre  
12 January 1977  
Page 2.

I believe when we come to research efforts concerning wildfire, it is significant to consider the natural aspects of fire on the control of insects, disease and litter. Due to present fire management, I doubt the IPA can be considered as being in it's natural state. This could lead to some very interesting and desirable research when considering all the effects (page 27 & 28).

On page 14, c (1) and c (8) may be considered by many to be in conflict. If the area is to be brought to a natural state, is the aerial stocking of fish in keeping with wilderness, or should the stocking be left to nature? And can nature restock to accommodate the pressure? Also on page 42, it states "one of these properties has been restored to a natural appearance". I assume this refers to the Dewey Moore place on Big Creek. It is impossible to retain any of these old ranches to a natural appearance and we should recognize this fact.

Third, considering the use of aircraft and airstrips in the IPA, it is of utmost importance to gather and evenly weigh the inputs from all groups involved with this use. The Universities main concern lies with the successful operation of the Taylor Ranch Field Station. The use of aircraft is essential to this operation. The Taylor Ranch Field Station ~~Airstrip~~ is not open to the public, therefore, if both the Soldier Bar and Cabin Creek strips are closed it will cause undue pressure on the capacity of the Taylor Ranch Field Station Airstrip. We do use many of the Forest Service and private airstrips in the IPA and reciprocate by allowing those parties to use the Taylor Ranch Field Station. This is in keeping with backcountry courtesies and should remain so.

In the past we have been pleased with the cooperation received from the Forest Service in our operation of the Taylor Ranch Field Station. The only pressing problem we are faced with now is the wire fencing. It would be more in keeping with wilderness management to replace the barbed wire fences with pole or rail fences. However we do not have sufficient trees in the property to construct rail fences.

I regret these comments have reached you at such a late date. I do hope they are of some help and you will respond in the near future.

Sincerely,

Kenneth M. Sowles  
Assistant Dean

KMS:bmh

cc: Earl Dodds

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE

324 25th Street  
Ogden, Utah 84401

JAN 31 1977

2320

JAN 26 1977

Mr. Kenneth M. Sowles  
Assistant Dean  
University of Idaho  
College of Forestry  
Moscow, Idaho 83843



Dear Mr. Sowles:

Thank you for your January 12 letter with suggestions for improving the 1976 Management Plan for the Idaho Primitive Area. We note that a copy of your letter was sent to Earl Dodds at McCall, Idaho. Mr. Dodds is handling preparation of the final draft of the management plan. Your comments are appreciated and will be considered in preparing the final version.

Sincerely,

*Vern Hamre*  
VERN HAMRE  
Regional Forester

JUN 27 1973

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

2320

June 25, 1973



F

L

Dear Mr. or Ms:

Regional Foresters Vern Hamre of the Intermountain Region and Steve Yurich of the Northern Region have asked me to advise you of plans which may interest you.

A public hearing is tentatively set for November 1973 for consideration of the Forest Service's preliminary recommendations, along with the related draft environmental statements, for management of the Salmon River Breaks and Idaho Primitive Areas and the Salmon River. The Primitive Areas have been studied as required by the Wilderness Act of 1964. The Salmon River has been studied as required by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968. The related draft environmental statements are required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

Under the Wilderness Act, a public hearing is required to consider the Primitive Area proposals. A public hearing is not required for consideration of the Salmon River under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. However, a significant portion of the river flows between the Salmon River Breaks and Idaho Primitive Areas and is closely related to them. Consequently, we believe that any proposal made for the river must be considered concurrently with proposals for the Primitive Areas. For this reason, proposals for all three study areas will be presented at the same public hearing. The final report and recommendations for the two Primitive Areas must be submitted to the Congress by September 3, 1974. Because of the procedural and review process and printing time, we need to conduct the public hearing in November of 1973.

We intend to complete and mail a copy of the proposals and statements to you in September for your consideration before the hearing. These documents will be subject to modification. All comments submitted before and during the public hearing and in the open record period

following the hearing will be carefully considered before firm recommendations are developed and submitted to the President and the Congress for appropriate consideration.

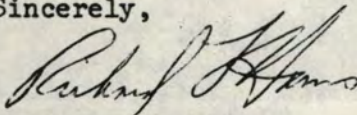
The study of the Salmon River, under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, is a joint venture of the State of Idaho and the Federal Government. We have been advised by the Governor that a University of Idaho "wild river" methodology study will be completed by July 1, 1973, and that a statewide sampling of public opinion concerning the Salmon River will be completed by early next year. The timing of the November public hearing and the open record time, along with the special review procedures called for by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, will permit full consideration of these two reports.

The tentative schedule for the public hearing is designed to provide an opportunity for anyone interested to visit the areas involved during the coming summer months. On-the-ground knowledge of the land and river values will facilitate objective evaluation of the proposals to be made and should aid in presentation of constructive views. We will advise you later of the exact dates and location of the hearing. This information will also be published in the Federal Register and announced through the news media.

All concerned should be aware that testimony at the hearing is not required. Recommendations and other comments can be submitted by letter any time before the end of the open record period.

Your continuing interest in the management of National Forest System lands is appreciated. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or suggestions.

Sincerely,



RICHARD L. HARRIS  
Assistant Regional Forester  
Division of Recreation and Lands