

C.I.F.F. Wood -

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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National Wilderness Preservation System

Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness

file →

I hereby certify that the legal description and map herewith represent the boundary of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness on the Lolo, Bitterroot, Clearwater and Nezperce National Forests as it existed as of the date of the Wilderness Act.

July 1, 1945  
Date

*Wesley M. Rahn*  
Regional Forester

## SELWAY-BITTERROOT WILDERNESS

The exterior boundary of Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, Lolo, Bitterroot, Clearwater and Nezperce National Forests, Northern Region, as reported to Congress pursuant to Section 3(a)(1) of the Wilderness Act, Public Law 88-577.

### Description

Beginning at the top of Indian Hill in the northwest quarter of unsurveyed Section 29, T. 31 N., R. 10 E., Boise Meridian; thence northerly along the ridge between Squirrel Creek and Bluff Creek and continuing northerly along the ridge between Bat Creek and the next parallel drainage below it to the mouth of this latter drainage. Thence across the Selway River and northerly up the ridge between Packer Creek and Tepee Creek, thence generally northeasterly around the head of the most westerly fork of Renshaw Creek to cross the easterly fork of the west fork at a point in the southeast quarter of unsurveyed Section 29, T. 32 N., R. 10 E., B.M. Thence northeasterly crossing the east fork of Renshaw Creek near the west one-quarter corner of said Section 29, and crossing the west fork of Cupboard Creek at the stream junction in the south half of unsurveyed Section 21, T. 32 N., R. 10 E. Thence continuing northeasterly crossing the east fork of Cupboard Creek at its upper major fork in the west half of unsurveyed Section 22, T. 32 N., R. 10 E., thence northeasterly and northerly around the head of the easternmost fork of Cupboard Creek. Thence westerly down the ridge between the main forks of the south fork of Canteen Creek and crossing the southernmost fork of the south fork at its lowest stream junction and continuing down the ridge between the south fork and the drainage just south of it to cross Canteen Creek at the forks in the south half of unsurveyed Section 8, T. 32 N., R. 10 E. Thence northerly up a ridge north of this point to the top of the ridge between Canteen Creek and Gedney Creek. Thence northwesterly down a minor ridge of Gedney Creek crossing main Gedney Creek at the fork in the northeast corner of unsurveyed Section 7, T. 32 N., R. 10 E. Thence northwesterly up a ridge to Gedney Mountain. Thence westerly along a ridge running west from Gedney Mountain crossing West Fork Gedney Creek at its major fork near the southeast corner of unsurveyed Section 34, T. 33 N., R. 9 E. Thence generally northwesterly along the ridge between the West Fork Gedney Creek and its major tributary to the south to Ghost Mountain. Thence southwesterly along the ridge separating West Fork Gedney Creek and Split Creek and thence northwesterly along the ridge between Fire Creek and Split Creek to Fire Creek Point. Thence continuing northwesterly along this same ridge to a point on this ridge near the south one-quarter corner of unsurveyed Section 18, T. 33 N., R. 9 E. Thence northeasterly down a minor ridge crossing Split Creek at the mouth of the small drainage east of this ridge. Thence up the ridge running northeasterly from this point to the top of the ridge between Split Creek and Old Man Creek. Thence northwesterly along this ridge over Split Creek Point

and down the ridge to a point near the center of unsurveyed Section 31, T. 34 N., R. 9 E., and thence northerly down a minor ridge to cross Old Man Creek. Thence down the mean high water mark on the north bank of Old Man Creek to the Lochsa River. Thence up the southeast bank (mean high water mark) of the Lochsa River to the point of a ridge and thence southerly up this ridge to Lochsa Point. Thence generally easterly on the ridge around the heads of West Fork Boulder Creek and Asparagus Creek and northeasterly down the ridge between Asparagus Creek and Cantaloupe Creek to Boulder Creek. Thence up the ridge running northeasterly from this point to Lone Knob.

From Lone Knob generally easterly along the ridge between Boulder Creek and the Lochsa River to Gold Hill and thence along this same ridge easterly to its junction with the ridge between the Long Lake Fork of Stanley Creek and the fork immediately to the west (Long Lake Point). Thence down this ridge to Stanley Creek crossing Stanley Creek at the mouth of a small tributary from the east and thence up the ridge running to the northeast to Gold Meadows. Thence northeasterly along the ridge between Sponge Creek and the Lochsa River over Greystone Butte and Flytrap Butte to Mocus Point. Thence easterly down a minor ridge to Lake Creek, crossing Lake Creek at the mouth of a small tributary from the east in the northeast corner of unsurveyed Section 31, T. 36 N., R. 12 E.

Thence southeasterly up a ridge to Freezeout Mountain and continuing on the ridge between Kinnikinnick Creek and Freezeout Creek to the Lake Creek-Warm Springs Creek divide. Thence northeasterly along this ridge to a point where this ridge joins the ridge between Pedro Creek and the drainage immediately to the north. Thence easterly and then northeasterly down this ridge to Warm Springs Creek, crossing this creek just below the falls and thence up the ridge to the east to Cooperation Point. Thence generally northeasterly along the ridge between Wind Lakes Creek and the Lochsa River to a point on this ridge in the southwest quarter of unsurveyed Section 20, T. 36 N., R. 14 E. Thence southeasterly down a minor ridge across the head of Tom Beal Creek and thence up the ridge running to the southeast to a point on this ridge south of Walton Lakes and near the south one-quarter corner of unsurveyed Section 28, T. 36 N., R. 14 E. Thence southerly down a spur ridge and across the head of Colt Creek, over the ridge between Colt Creek and Swamp Creek, crossing a fork of Swamp Creek at the forks of the small lakes basin in unsurveyed Section 9, T. 35 N., R. 14 E. Thence easterly along the ridge between this fork of Swamp Creek and the one immediately to the south and thence southeasterly up a ridge to Cedar Ridge and southerly along this ridge to a point in the southwest one-quarter corner of unsurveyed Section 35, T. 35 N., R. 14 E. From this point northeasterly and then southeasterly along the Lochsa River-Selway River divide to Hoodoo Mountain.

Thence easterly and then northeasterly around the head of Hoodoo Creek to the top of the ridge between Hoodoo Creek and Big Sand Creek. Thence generally northerly along this ridge crossing Hoodoo Creek at the mouth of a small tributary in the northwest corner of unsurveyed Section 20, T. 35 N., R. 15 E. Thence northerly up a minor ridge to the top of the ridge between Big Sand Creek and Swamp Creek. Thence northeasterly

along this ridge to cross Swamp Creek at a point near the south one-quarter corner of unsurveyed Section 4, T. 35 N., R. 15 E. Thence up the ridge running to the northeast to the top of the ridge between Big Sand Creek and Rabbit Creek. Thence northeasterly down the ridge to the mouth of Big Sand Creek and across White Sand Creek at this point.

Thence northerly up the ridge between Dan Creek and White Sand Creek and Dan Creek and Storm Creek and thence northerly down a minor ridge crossing Storm Creek near the center of unsurveyed Section 1, T. 36 N., R. 15 E. Thence northwesterly up a ridge to the top of the ridge between Beaver Creek and Storm Creek. Thence northeasterly along this ridge to the north line of Section 24, T. 37 N., R. 15 E., and thence east along the north line of said Section 24 and of Sections 19, 20, and 21, T. 37 N., R. 16 E. to the northeast corner of this Section 21. Thence up a ridge running to the northeast to the top of Beaver Ridge. Thence generally easterly and northerly along this ridge and thence northeasterly down a ridge to cross Spruce Creek in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 5, T. 37 N., R. 17 E. Thence up a spur ridge to the top of the Bitterroot River-Lochsa River divide (Idaho-Montana line). Thence northeasterly along this divide to a point where the ridge between South Fork Lolo Creek and Johnny Creek connects with it. Thence northeasterly along this ridge to a spur ridge connecting with it in the northeast corner of unsurveyed Section 36, T. 11 N., R. 22 W., MPM. Thence northeasterly down a ridge crossing the South Fork Lolo Creek and thence up ridge between Falls Creek and Meadow Creek to the South Fork Lolo Creek-Bitterroot divide. Thence northeasterly along this divide to Lolo Peak. Thence in a straight line by the shortest distance to the mean high water mark Carlton Lake No. 1 (Reservoir). Thence around the mean high water mark on the south side of this reservoir to the south bank of Carlton Creek. Thence easterly down the south bank (mean high water mark) of Carlton Creek about one mile to the mouth of a small tributary from the north. Thence across Carlton Creek and up a ridge to the northeast to the top of the main ridge north of Carlton Creek. Thence southeasterly down this ridge to the east line of Section 25, T. 11 N., R. 21 W.

Thence south along the east line of Sections 25 and 36, T. 11 N., R. 21 W. and Section 1, T. 10 N., R. 21 W., to One Horse Creek. Thence southwesterly up a minor ridge to the top of the One Horse-Sweeney Creek ridge, thence generally southerly down a minor ridge crossing Sweeney Creek at the mouth of a small tributary about one-eighth mile below the junction of the north and south forks of that stream. Thence southwesterly up a minor ridge to the top of the ridge between Sweeney Creek and Bass Creek and thence southeasterly down a minor ridge to Bass Creek, crossing that creek near the middle of the west half unsurveyed Section 36, T. 10 N., R. 21 W.

Thence southwesterly up a minor ridge to the top of the ridge between Bass Creek and Kootenai Creek, and thence southwesterly down a minor ridge and across Kootenai Creek near the south one-quarter corner of unsurveyed Section 11, T. 9 N., R. 21 W. Thence southwesterly up a ridge to the top of the ridge between Kootenai Creek and Sharrott Creek. Thence southerly down a minor ridge crossing Sharrott Creek at

a fork of that stream just north of the south one-quarter corner unsurveyed Section 22, T. 9 N., R. 21 W. Thence southwesterly and then westerly on a minor ridge between the middle and southern forks of this stream to the top of the ridge between Sharrott Creek and McCalla Creek, southeast of St. Mary Peak.

Thence southerly down a minor ridge crossing McCalla Creek at its highest fork (McCalla Lake tributary). Thence southerly to the top of the ridge between McCalla Creek and Big Creek. Thence generally southerly down a minor ridge to Big Creek crossing that creek at the mouth of two tributaries near the west line of unsurveyed Section 9, T. 8 N., R. 21 W. Thence southwesterly up a minor ridge to the top of the ridge between Big Creek and Sweathouse Creek. Thence westerly along this ridge for approximately one-half mile and thence generally down the southerly ridge between the Smith Creek and the Glen Lake tributary following down the lower 1/4 mile of the latter to Sweathouse Creek at the mouth of this tributary. Thence southwesterly approximately 1/2 mile to the top of the ridge between Sweathouse Creek and Gash Creek.

Thence southwesterly down a minor ridge crossing Gash Creek at the major forks in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 31, T. 8 N., R. 21 W. Thence southwesterly up a minor ridge to the top of the ridge between Gash Creek and Bear Creek. Thence southeasterly along this ridge for approximately 1/2 mile and thence southeasterly down a minor ridge to Bear Creek at a point south of the north 1/4 corner of unsurveyed Section 12, T. 7 N., R. 22W. Thence across Bear Creek and southwesterly up a minor ridge to the top of the ridge between Bear Creek and Fred Burr Creek. Thence generally westerly along this ridge to a point near the north one-quarter corner of unsurveyed Section 15, T. 7 N., R. 22 W. Thence southerly down a minor ridge to Fred Burr Creek.

Thence across Fred Burr Creek and southwesterly up a minor ridge to the top of the ridge between Fred Burr Creek and Sheafman Creek. Thence easterly along this ridge to a point in the north 1/2 of unsurveyed Section 25, T. 7 N., R. 22 W., and thence southeasterly down a minor ridge crossing Sheafman Creek at the mouth of a small tributary near the point where that creek meets the east line of unsurveyed Section 25, T. 7 N., R. 22 W. Thence southeasterly approximately 1/2 mile to the top of the ridge between Sheafman Creek and Mill Creek. Thence southeasterly down a minor ridge to Mill Creek, crossing Mill Creek at a point where the tributary from Tag Alder Lake joins it in the northeast 1/4 of Section 6, T. 6 N., R. 21 W. Thence southwesterly up a minor ridge to the top of the ridge between Mill Creek and Blodgett Creek (Mill Point).

Thence westerly along the ridge between Mill Creek and Blodgett Creek to a point near the center of unsurveyed Section 8, T. 6 N., R. 22 W., south of Sears Lake. Thence generally southerly down a minor ridge to Blodgett Creek crossing this creek at the mouth of a tributary joining it from the south near the center of unsurveyed Section 17, T. 6 N., R. 22 W. Thence southwesterly up a spur ridge and thence up the ridge between the Lake Lomo and High Lake tributaries of Blodgett Creek to the top of the ridge between Blodgett Creek on the north and Canyon

Creek and Sawtooth Creek on the south. Thence generally easterly along this ridge to a point where the ridge intersects the west line of Section 19, T. 6 N., R. 21 W. Thence south along the west lines of Sections 19, 30, and 31, T. 6 N., R. 21 W., to the top of the ridge between Canyon Creek and Sawtooth Creek.

Thence southeasterly along this ridge approximately  $3/4$  mile to its junction with ridges from the north and south. Thence southerly down the latter to Sawtooth Creek and thence southerly up a minor ridge through the middle of unsurveyed Section 7, T. 5 N., R. 21 W., to the top of the ridge between Sawtooth Creek and Roaring Lion Creek. Thence southwesterly down a minor ridge to Roaring Lion Creek. Thence across Roaring Lion Creek and southwesterly up a minor ridge passing through the southwest corner of unsurveyed Section 18, T. 5 N., R. 21 W., to the top of the ridge between Roaring Lion Creek and Camas and Lost Horse Creeks. Thence generally westerly along this ridge to the top of the Bitterroot Range.

Thence generally southwesterly along the top of the Bitterroot Range to a point about  $3/4$  of a mile south of Bailey Lake. Thence southeasterly down a minor ridge and crossing Bear Creek approximately one mile below Lower Bear Lake where it is joined by a short tributary from the north. Thence southeasterly up a minor ridge, along that ridge easterly and thence northeasterly crossing Bear Creek again, this time at the upper end of Lower Bear Lake. Thence northeasterly approximately  $3/4$  mile to the top of the Bitterroot Range.

Thence easterly along the ridge between Lost Horse Creek and South Fork Lost Horse Creek to a point near the center of unsurveyed Section 10, T. 4 N., R. 22 W., where it is joined by a ridge running to the south. Thence southerly down this ridge to the South Fork Lost Horse Creek and crossing this creek continues southeasterly to a fork of a tributary of this creek near the south  $1/4$  corner of unsurveyed Section 15, T. 4 N., R. 22 W. Thence up the east fork of this tributary to the top of the ridge between South Fork Lost Horse Creek and Rock Creek and southeasterly down a minor ridge to Rock Creek crossing that creek at the mouth of a small tributary in the southwest corner of unsurveyed Section 35, T. 4 N., R. 22 W.

Thence southwesterly up a minor ridge to the top of the ridge between Rock Creek and Little Rock Creek. Thence generally northeasterly along this ridge to a point near the east one-quarter corner of unsurveyed Section 2, T. 3 N., R. 22 W., and thence southeasterly approximately  $1/4$  mile crossing Little Rock Creek and thence southerly up a minor ridge to the top of the ridge between Little Rock Creek and Tin Cup Creek. Thence southeasterly down a spur ridge to Tin Cup Creek and across that creek at a point opposite a ridge approaching the stream from the southeast.

Thence southeasterly up this ridge to the top of the ridge between Tin Cup Creek and Little Tin Cup Creek. Thence southwesterly along this ridge to a point on the west line of Section 30, T. 3 N., R. 21 W. Thence south on this range line approximately  $8\frac{1}{2}$  miles to the top of the ridge between Christisen and Lavene Creeks. Thence southwesterly

on the ridge at the head of Lavene Creek to the top of the ridge between Lavene Creek and Boulder Creek. Thence southwesterly down a minor ridge to Boulder Creek crossing that creek and proceeding up a ridge to Boulder Point.

Thence westerly (and slightly northerly) along this ridge to Boulder Peak and thence southwesterly in a straight line to the northeast corner of Section 17, T. 1 N., R. 22 W. Thence south to the NE corner of Section 20, T. 1 N., R. 22 W., west to the NW corner and south to the SW corner of this same section. Thence west to the NW corner of Section 30, T. 1 N., R. 22 W., and south to the SW corner of that section. Thence south to the SW corner of Section 31, T. 1 N., R. 22 W. Thence west approximately 1/4 mile crossing the westernmost fork of Little West Fork Creek and thence southwesterly up a minor ridge to the top of the ridge between Little West Fork Creek and Watchtower Creek. Thence northwesterly on this ridge to a point near the center of unsurveyed Section 34, T. 1 N., R. 23 W. Thence southwesterly down a minor ridge to Watchtower Creek and crossing that creek at a point on the east line of unsurveyed Section 5, T. 1 S., R. 23 W., where it is joined by a major tributary from the west. Thence westerly up this tributary to the top of the ridge between Watchtower Creek and Sheephead Creek.

Thence southwesterly down a minor ridge to the Esplin Lake fork of Sheephead Creek and down this fork to the North Fork Sheephead Creek. Thence down the North Fork Sheephead Creek about 1/8 mile southwesterly up a minor ridge to the top of the ridge between the North Fork Sheephead Creek and Sheephead Creek. Thence northwesterly up this ridge to the top of the Bitterroot Range.

Thence southwesterly along the Bitterroot Range approximately two miles and thence southwesterly along the Indian Creek-Deep Creek Divide to Beaver Jack Mountain and thence northwesterly along this same divide to a point in the northwest quarter unsurveyed Section 17, T. 28 N., R. 14 E., B.M. Thence northeasterly down a minor ridge to Indian Creek and thence northerly up the ridge between Washout Creek and Indian Creek to Indian Ridge. Thence northeasterly on Indian Ridge to Green Mountain.

Thence northwesterly along the ridge at the head of Sheep Creek and the south fork of Snake Creek and down the ridge between the latter and Snake Creek to Snake Creek. Thence across Snake Creek near the point where it crosses the line between unsurveyed Sections 10 and 11, T. 29 N., R. 14 E., B.M., and northerly up a minor ridge to the top of the ridge between Snake Creek and White Cap Creek. Thence northwesterly down a minor ridge to White Cap Creek crossing it at the mouth of Wapiti Creek. Thence northwesterly up a minor ridge to Bad Luck Mountain.

Thence southwesterly along the ridge between White Cap Creek and Bad Luck Creek to cross the Selway River near the center of unsurveyed Section 8, T. 29 N., R. 14 E. Thence southwesterly up the ridge between the Selway River and Crooked Creek to Fire Mountain. Thence westerly along the ridge between the head of Crooked Creek on the north and Fire and Echo Creeks on the south and thence northwesterly along a continuation of that ridge to Eagle Creek crossing that creek at a sharp bend in the northeast corner of unsurveyed Section 25, T. 29 N., R. 12 E. Thence

westerly up a minor ridge to the top of Parachute Ridge. Thence north-easterly along Parachute Ridge to a point on this ridge above a conspicuous "U" in Running Creek on the line between unsurveyed Sections 6 and 7, T. 29 N., R. 13 E. Thence northwesterly down a minor ridge to this "U" bend in Running Creek.

Thence across Running Creek and northwesterly up a minor ridge to Grouse Ridge. Thence northwesterly along Grouse Ridge and the continuation of this ridge between Running Creek and Goat Creek to Bilk Mountain. Thence westerly around the south edge of the Bilk Lake basin and northwesterly down a minor ridge to Schwar Creek crossing it at a fork in the north half of unsurveyed Section .15, T. 30 N., R. 11 E. Thence northwesterly up a minor ridge to Indian Peak and thence northwesterly down the ridge north of Snowslide Creek to Buck Lake Creek crossing this creek at a horseshoe bend approximately 1/4 mile above the mouth of Snowslide Creek.

Thence northwesterly up a minor ridge to Little Copper Butte and northwesterly on a continuation of this same ridge to Copper Butte. Thence northwesterly along the Selway River-Meadow Creek Divide to Indian Hill, the point of beginning, containing 1,243,659 acres more or less.