~~Appendix I~~
File Wilderness Centre

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
Sawtooth National Forest
1525 Addison Avenue East
Twin Falls, Idaho 83301

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June 2, 1971

Dr. Ernest W. Hartung
President, University of Idaho
Moscow, Idaho 83843

Dear Dr. Hartung:

We are writing to give you an interim progress and status report on our ongoing White Cloud-Boulder-Pioneer Mountains Comprehensive Land Use Planning Study. For your convenience, we are enclosing a brief summary of each of the various reports and maps compiled to date. Details of the study approach are covered in the study plan which was distributed last year.

Because of the special importance of the White Cloud Peaks, Boulder Mountains, and Pioneer Mountains in central Idaho, we are studying the area to obtain rather complete information for comprehensive planning. Such information will provide a basis for determining the best uses of the area and portions thereof.

Although conducted by the Forest Service, this is a multidisciplinary study designed to utilize contributions from the public and other interested organizations. We appreciate the contributions made by everyone who has participated in the study. To date, about 24 different professions, representing some 40 agencies and organizations, have been involved in some manner in the study.

The study is one of the most intensive efforts that has been conducted on a National Forest area of this size in the Intermountain Region. The study is divided into two principal phases--Phase I being the inventory phase, and Phase II the decision-making phase. Our work has been directed toward the inventory phase thus far.

The purpose of the inventory phase is simply to identify available facts and professionally interpret them, as best can be accomplished within reasonable time limits. Among the various components of the study, minerals information remains the most difficult to obtain with certainty and is the least complete inventory of what exists, mainly due to the difficulty in identifying what lies beneath the ground. The U. S. Geological Survey and Bureau of Mines will conduct a survey on most of the White Cloud Peaks and Boulder Mountains portions of the study area beginning in 1971.

Data collected during the 1970 field season has been put together in an Interim Report consisting of a combined ecological report, reports from specialists responsible for the various ecological components of the land area, and economic and sociologic information which will provide a framework for later analysis of the socio-economic considerations important in decisions to be made for the study area.

Because of the great bulk of material already compiled in the Interim Report, it is impractical for us to produce it in quantity. Therefore, we have copies located at the Challis and Sawtooth National Forest Supervisors' Offices at Challis and Twin Falls, Idaho, and at the Regional Forester's Office in Ogden, Utah, for review by those interested. The report consists of rough drafts of the various technical reports, with a series of maps and overlays graphically depicting such things as ecological hazards, special features, and existing uses and activities. We earnestly solicit review of and comments on the inventory and will be happy to explain the study and the information collected, in detail, at any of the locations mentioned. Appointments should be made in advance, to assure that qualified personnel are available to discuss and explain the material. Upon request, it will be possible for a Forest Service representative to present the information to members of an interested organization at some other location.

During the 1971 field season, we anticipate a continued intensive effort in a number of the study categories. We hope that by the end of the 1971 field season, we will essentially have the inventory phase completed. However, there may be some categories of the study that will not be completed by this time. We are advised that the U. S. Geological Survey and Bureau of Mines' mineral survey will not be completed until 1973.

If you have any comments or questions, we will be happy to consider and/or respond to them.

Sincerely,

E. A. FOURNIER
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure

May 1971

INTERIM PROGRESS AND STATUS REPORT

White Cloud-Boulder-Pioneer Mountains
Comprehensive Land Use Planning Study

Specific reports and information constituting the Interim Report of the White Cloud-Boulder-Pioneer Mountains Comprehensive Land Use Planning Study are described as follows:

A. Reports

1. Legal. Summarizes the basic legal parameters and principles in which the Forest Service is obligated under law.

2. Interim Ecologic Evaluation. Summarizes some of the more significant data from the other technical reports dealing with the ecology of the area. This report also summarizes the geologic, soil, and hydrologic information collected. It identifies five geomorphic land groups that represent relatively homogeneous hydrologic and soil types and other ecologic situations. These land groups provide the basis for stratifying the area in a common frame of reference to which the various ecologic components can be related. For example, vegetative habitat types, wildlife habitat, and scenic characteristics are described and evaluated in each of the five groups. Additional review is necessary to refine the land group boundaries and ecologic relationships within them. Particular emphasis will be given to evaluating the effects of possible land uses and activities within each group and in defining biological potentials and constraints.

3. Mineral Activity. Summarizes information collected on mineral activity within the study area. Forty-six areas have been identified on which various claimants have conducted mineral activity. Considerable

additional investigation is needed. Most of the White Cloud Peaks and Boulder Mountains portion of the area will be more intensively studied by the U. S. Geological Survey and Bureau of Mines. Their study will be conducted in the same manner that surveys of Primitive Areas are carried out. It is expected that their effort will not be completed until 1973. Additional Forest Service investigation will be concentrated on the remaining portions of our study area. There is excellent opportunity for other than Forest Service inputs.

4. Vegetation. Gives a preliminary description of the vegetation of the area, including an evaluation of plant ecology in relation to possible management practices. Twenty vegetative or habitat types have been identified and described. The report includes a review of timber management practices in the Douglas-fir type and comments on overgrazing problems. It identifies elements and components which are potentially dangerous to livestock, wildlife, and humans. It specifically lists potentially poisonous plants and plant groups. Additional investigation is needed to identify and evaluate additional habitat types and more carefully define those already identified.

5. Wildlife. Gives a preliminary description of the nonaquatic wildlife of the area, including an evaluation of wildlife ecology in relation to possible management practices. The report lists all large and small animals that have been identified within the area, including birds, amphibians, and reptiles. For the more dominant species, it describes the habitat requirements with particular emphasis on habitat potentials and limitations. Potential uses and activities are described in relation to impacts on wildlife habitat which could be considered critical.

Additional information is necessary to refine data collected thus far and to further identify habitat areas and potentials and constraints for species such as mountain goat, antelope, and sage grouse. The report refers to wildlife habitat within and, when relevant, outside the immediate boundaries of the study area.

6. Aquatic Environment. Gives a description of most of the aquatic habitat and fisheries of the area, including an evaluation of aquatic ecology in relation to possible management practices. This report is the result of several years of investigation; it defines the resource and present management practices. It evaluates the lacustrine and fluvial habitats and hydrochemistry in the White Cloud, Boulder, and Pioneer Mountain areas. Additional investigation is necessary to complete a review of the other lakes and streams within the area.

7. Forest Insects. Gives a preliminary description of the insects and their activity in the area. The report covers past and present insect impacts on the study area in addition to a prognostication on insect related problems which could occur in the future. Particular attention is given to mountain pine beetle, Douglas-fir beetle, spruce beetle, and fir engravers. Additional investigation is necessary to refine the evaluation and to identify non-tree insects and assess the effects of possible uses and activities as they relate to insect activity.

8. Plant Pathology. Gives a preliminary description of plant diseases and their ecologic relationship within the area. The report identifies the more important plant diesease problems existing within the area. It identifies diseases that could cause toxic effects upon humans and animals. Additional investigation is necessary to further refine the evaluation of the consequences of possible uses and activities as they may affect disease trends in the area.

9. Scenic Analysis. Gives a preliminary description and evaluation of the scenic aspects of the area. Additional investigation is necessary to refine a procedure for evaluating scenery in forest environments and to identify and describe the more important scenic sites existing within the study area.

10. Pristine Land. Describes pristine lands and preliminarily identifies such lands within the area. Pristine lands are described as those lands which are basically unroaded and undeveloped and sufficiently removed from the sights and sounds of civilization to provide a feeling of isolation. On these areas, existing developments and motorized use do not seriously impair their pristine character. Such developments or uses could be removed without leaving major adverse environmental traces. The report defines a systematic method of combining other uses and activity potentials to delineate pristine areas as might be practicable to maintain in pristine character. This inventory is essentially complete, except that the boundaries must be reviewed for refinement.

11. Interpretive Inventory. Identifies sites, features, and stories of primary interpretive interest within and directly related to the study area. The report describes such sites, features, and stories in detail. Examples are the Alexander Ross trail and campsites, geologic features, and historical stories relating to early mining and livestock use of the area. Additional investigation will be made to add to the inventory as additional items of interest can be identified.

12. Archeological. Summarizes the archeologic situations within the study area. The report simply gives an overview of the archeologic situation. Considerable additional work is necessary to identify significant sites and locations of archeological interest.

13. Economic Overview. Gives a preliminary description of the economic factors and relationships operative in the area and establishes a framework from which analyses can be made in Phase II of the study. The report is essentially complete except that refinement may be necessary as additional information is identified. A plan, which is not included in the report, to complete an input-output economic study has been developed with State agencies. Such information is necessary as a basis for resource allocation decision making. It is anticipated that the information will be available for Phase II, planning analysis.

14. Social Statistics for Blaine and Custer Counties. Summarizes some statistics relating to social and cultural factors in the area. Statistics include such things as census data on population, personal and per capita income, population densities, educational achievement, and birth and death rates. Considerable additional effort is needed to collect information for Blaine, Custer, and Butte Counties and to develop a framework for evaluating sociological considerations as they apply to natural resource allocation decisions within the study area.

15. Index to Land Status and Special Use Overlay. Identifies land status and special uses. Landowners and permittees are shown for the Sawtooth National Forest. Recreation residences remain to be added. Ownership and permittee data remains to be added for the Challis National Forest.

B. Maps

1. Study area map.

2. Geomorphic Overlay. Shows the geomorphic units identified within the study area.

3. Geomorphic Land Group Overlay. Shows the five (5) land groups which are used as basic classification units for most of the various ecologic descriptions and evaluations.

4. Geology Overlay. Shows the broad geologies of the area.

5. Watershed Overlay. Shows the watersheds and watershed units.

6. Precipitation Overlay. Shows rates of total precipitation by area, in inches per year.

7. Water Yield Overlay. Shows water yield by area, in inches per year.

8. Elevation Overlay. Shows elevation relief at 1,000 foot intervals. Also shows peaks over 10,000 feet in elevation.

9. Slope Steepness Overlay. Shows slope steepness of the area in broad scale.

10. Inherent Erosion Hazard Overlay. Broadly identifies inherent erosion hazards.

11. Flood Hazard Overlay. Broadly identifies flood hazard areas.

12. Avalanche Hazard Overlay. Broadly identifies avalanche hazard areas.

13. Vegetation Potential Overlay. Broadly identifies vegetative production potentials.

14. Wildlife Range Use Overlay. Shows "key" habitat areas for game species.

15. Pristine Land Overlay. Shows lands which are basically unroaded, undeveloped, and sufficiently removed from the sights and sounds of civilization, to provide a feeling of isolation.

16. Disease and Fire Hazard Overlay. Broadly identifies existing disease areas and landforms on which fire control is necessary to protect the basic soil resource.

17. Range Improvements and Allotments Overlay. Shows existing range improvements and livestock grazing allotments.

18. Land Status and Special Uses Overlay. Shows existing land status and use, keyed to index by National Forest.

19. Existing Roads and Trails Overlay. (Self explanatory.)

20. Existing Recreation Sites Overlay. (Self explanatory.)

21. Fire Occurrence Overlay. Shows fire occurrence by size class by year.

22. Interpretive Sites and Land Features Overlay. Shows features and story sites of primary interpretive interest, keyed to Interpretive Inventory Report.