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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE  
Payette National Forest  
Big Creek Ranger District  
McCall, Idaho 83638

2320  
July 3, 1974



This is written to summarize the management changes to be put into effect in the Idaho Primitive Area as announced at the Idaho Outfitters and Guides meeting on May 3, in Salmon, Idaho. A brief summary of the principal points announced at the meeting is as follows:

1. Idaho Primitive Area Studies. The Idaho Primitive Area has been under study by the Forest Service for several years. A preliminary wilderness classification proposal for the area was developed and a hearing held on the proposal in November 1973. The Forest Service's final proposal will be sent to the President and the Congress later this year.
2. Primitive Area Interim Management Plan. Until wilderness classification is made, the Idaho Primitive Area will be managed following the guidelines for wilderness management as provided in the Wilderness Act. An interim management plan is needed to provide guidance and direction for the concerned administrators so that wilderness values and characteristics of the Idaho Primitive Area are managed in accord with the Act. To accomplish this, the Forest Supervisors of the Challis, Payette, and Salmon National Forests wish to appoint a committee to work on this management plan. The Outfitters and Guides Association has been asked to provide representation on the committee. Work on the plan is anticipated to begin later this year. Operating procedures prescribed by the committee, of course, must be within the framework of the Wilderness Act and Forest Service policies.

### 3. Primitive Area Policies and Rules.

#### A. Camps

In keeping with the Wilderness Act, the policy is that permanent camps will be removed. This means that in 1975 the Forest Service will be well on its way toward converting camps to temporary facilities. Still, it is recognized that a time schedule will have to be worked out for each camp because of the different locations and levels of development involved, but conversion of all camps to temporary facilities must be accomplished. Storage of poles and other native materials in caches within the primitive area may be possible. This will be considered during the management planning process. The practice of setting up camps in choice locations well in advance of season of use must be changed. This practice has been creating undue impact on the wilderness resources.

As to specific concern for the dismantling and removal of camp facilities and equipment at the end of each summer season, the Forest Service has given this matter careful consideration. It is realized there are inconveniences to the outfitters who must dismantle and remove their camps each fall and then establish them the following year. However, the problem is related basically to the fact that many of these camps have been permitted to develop and become more complex and more modern than intended under the Wilderness Act. Section 4(c) of the Act reads as follows:

#### "PROHIBITION OF CERTAIN USES

Except as specifically provided for in this Act, and subject to existing private rights, there shall be no commercial enterprise and no permanent road within any wilderness area designated by this Act, and, except as necessary to meet minimum requirements for the administration of the area for the purpose of this Act (including measures required in emergencies involving the health and safety of persons within the area), there shall be no temporary road, no use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment or motorboats, no landing of aircraft, no other form of mechanical transport, and no structure or installation within any such area."

The Act specifically prohibits any structure or installation, so we have no choice but to administer the Wilderness Act in line with direction. We certainly agree that the outfitters and guides serve a useful function which helps many people seeking

such services to realize the recreational aspects of a wilderness. However, this service must be provided in harmony with the Act. Equipment, such as cooking ranges, beds, and spring mattresses are not normal elements in the wilderness experience. Wilderness travel is not supposed to be "life as usual." In contrast to those areas where man is dominant, a wilderness is recognized as an area not disturbed by man, where man himself is just a visitor. It is an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primitive character and influence without permanent improvements or human habitation.

Removal of outfitter equipment each season may involve additional use of trails, but this impact will be minimized as the outfitters obtain lighter, more mobile camping facilities and equipment to be used in the wilderness. Another measure that will be used as needed to avoid site deterioration will be to place camps on a rest and/or rotation use system to prevent excessive trampling, site damage, or destruction. Existing beat-out campsites will be rested until they are restored to a natural or near-natural condition. Impact on camping sites should actually be less under these policies.

#### B. Motorized Equipment

The use of motorized equipment will be limited so that the primitive area is managed for the purposes of the Wilderness Act while maintaining wilderness values. The use of mechanical transport or motorized equipment will not be allowed, except that aircraft or motorboat use established prior to 1964 may be allowed to continue and except that motorized equipment may be used for ingress to and egress from private lands and as authorized for mining purposes. Use of generators, power-saws, and other motorized equipment will be discontinued this season, except as may be needed for emergency, safety, and administrative purposes under certain conditions.

#### C. Garbage Disposal

The "pack it in-pack it out" policy of garbage disposal has worked very well on the Middle Fork of the Salmon River. The problems of cleanup and garbage disposal have been greatly minimized since this policy was put into effect. The "pack it in-pack it out" policy is to be vigorously applied in the Idaho Primitive Area starting in 1974. You will be required to cover up all existing garbage pits and pack out all unburnable waste to an approved sanitary landfill. There are no approved sanitary solid waste disposal sites within the Payette National Forest.

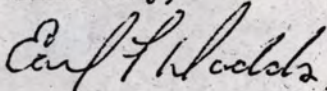
4. Wilderness Use and Protection. With increasing public use, greater attention must be given to protection of the lands and plant life. Nails should not be driven in trees, and campsites should be protected from excessive trampling and kept clean at all times. Use of wire for corrals and other purposes will have to be further evaluated as part of the management planning. Decisions will have to be made concerning how much wire can be used and for what purposes. Limits on size of parties and number of horses may have to be established in the future to protect wilderness qualities and to preserve the solitude environment.

Air safety is a growing problem. Air traffic going in and coming out of some landing fields is creating hazardous conditions. Air safety is the responsibility of the State. However, the Forest Service is concerned about the situation which is developing. Action is needed to get FAA to alert pilots flying over the primitive area at low altitudes to tune their radios to local air frequency so they are aware of traffic flows.

We solicit ideas from the outfitters and guides in developing working procedures and requirements related to outfitter operation within the Idaho Primitive Area as presented by policy guidelines mentioned here. It is realized, as the interim management plan is developed and implemented, there will have to be some adjustment in operating procedures and the type of equipment used by commercial operators in providing their services in accord with the Wilderness Act.

If you have any questions on these changes, I will be glad to discuss the matter with you.

Sincerely,



EARL F. DODDS  
District Forest Ranger

Enclosures