

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
Payette National Forest
McCall, Idaho 83638

2310

June 1, 1972

Dr. Albert Erickson
Wilderness Research Center
University of Idaho
Moscow, Idaho 83843



Dear Dr. Erickson:

You and numerous other persons have expressed an interest in what undeveloped areas, if any, on the Payette National Forest I would propose as "candidate areas" to be studied for possible inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. I have made my tentative selections as shown on the enclosed map.

My selections are based on oral and written comments from the public coupled with basic land resource information, objectives of management for Forest Service lands and various Congressional Acts including the Multiple Use and Sustained Yield Act and the Environmental Policy Act.

Before I make my proposal to the Regional Forester on June 20, I would appreciate receiving any constructive comments you may have concerning my selections. You may do this in person or by letter addressed to:

Forest Supervisor
Payette National Forest
McCall, Idaho 83638

As shown on the enclosed map, undeveloped areas number 3, 5, 7, 6, 9, 22 and part of 16 have been selected as candidate areas. These, I feel, contain Wilderness qualities deserving study. They meet the criteria of suitability which includes such factors as containing ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value and has outstanding opportunities for solitude and unconfined type of recreation. They generally appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. These areas are available and do not contain stands of high quality timber essential to the economic welfare of existing dependent communities. The areas are not needed for developed recreation areas, such as winter sports sites, campgrounds, picnic areas and

other forms of recreation use requiring man-made developments. There is a need for Wilderness, and it will increase with the growing awareness and appreciation of Wilderness values. We can all be sure that acreage for Wilderness will decrease as the demands upon public lands increase.

The net acreage contained in the candidate areas I have proposed amounts to 231,765 acres. Please keep in mind that these areas are only proposed for study and may or may not be established by Congress as Wilderness, depending upon the results of more intensive studies.

The remaining undeveloped areas were not selected for numerous reasons, even though some may be suitable for Wilderness. For example, area 2a, the northern part of the Hells Canyon-Seven Devils Scenic Area, was not selected because it is already a classified area and under a comprehensive land use study in conjunction with the Rapid River Drainage, area 24. It is possible, however, that the area could at a later date be designated for Wilderness study, pending results of the present study. Area 2 has mineral deposits which show economic mining potential. The same can be said for area 23. Areas like number 4, which contain many of the factors which make it suitable for Wilderness, appear to me to be better suited to a less restrictive type of use such as Back Country, which would preclude permanent roads and managed for near-primitive recreation experience level opportunities in a natural setting reached primarily by trail. Administrative and resource management activities would be conducted to maintain the scenic, wildlife, water quality, vegetative cover, and near-primitive outdoor recreation values of the area. I feel the remaining areas 25, 25a, 15, 16, 17, 18, 14, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13 are not suitable, available or needed because some contain valuable stands of timber essential to the economic welfare of existing dependent communities. They are not unique from a Wilderness standpoint. I feel much of the area will be needed for recreation developments and will supply a need for expanding uses for relatively new recreation activities such as trail bike and snow machine use. Also, there is an increasing need for development of recreation ways to be built that can be traveled by car. These are only a few of the reasons for my decisions. It is impossible for me to go through my complete evaluation procedure by letter. I thank you and all others who submitted your thoughts and ideas for me to consider in making these difficult but important decisions.

Sincerely,



W. B. SENDT
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure