

IDAHO PRIMITIVE AREA STUDY

Public Meeting Presentation

Thank you and good evening ladies and gentlemen. I want to thank _____ for assisting with the arrangements for this public meeting and a special thanks to you for attending. It is a pleasure to be here to discuss the Idaho Primitive Area Study.

We have a stenographer recording the highlights of tonight's session in order not to miss any questions and discussion; however, I want to make it clear that this is an informal meeting and not a formal public hearing. The recording will not become a part of any record but is primarily for my benefit.

An attendance register is located at the door; and, if you have not already done so, I would appreciate it if you would put down your name, address, and whom you represent--club, particular industry, or self--sometime before you leave.

I would also appreciate it if you could hold your questions or comments until after the presentation. If I may have the projector on and the lights off please.

I have three objectives which I hope to accomplish tonight:

1. First, to acquaint you with the Wilderness Act, its requirements, and its definition of Wilderness.
2. Second, to discuss with you the study boundary and the resource elements to be studied.
3. And, third, to discuss how you might participate in the study, and what you may provide.

(Slide No. 2)

The first two requirements indicated in the slide must be completed by September 1974. As you know, there is no time limit established for the President to advise the Congress nor for the Congress to act. The Wilderness Act of 1964 also tells us that we will manage Primitive Areas under the rules and regulations that were in effect at the time of the passage of the Wilderness Act (in September 1964) until Congress designates the area as Wilderness or declassifies it.

Wilderness Act Requirements

The Secretary of Agriculture shall, by 1974:

Review each Primitive Area, "as to its suitability or nonsuitability for preservation as Wilderness," and report his findings to the President.

The President shall advise the United States Senate and the House of Representatives of his recommendations.

Designation as "Wilderness" shall become effective only if so provided by an act of Congress.

(Slide No. 3)

The definition of Wilderness as defined in the Wilderness Act is worthy of some discussion tonight.

The Wilderness Act defines Wilderness as an area:

- Where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. (Untrammelled means not bound. Man has not or should not impede the free role of natural forces.)
- Of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation.
- Which generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable.
- Which has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation, and
- Which may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

(Slide No. 4)

These prohibitions were set up in the Wilderness Act of 1964. There are exceptions to the list of No's you see here, and they are as necessary to meet minimum requirements for the administration of the area (including measures required in emergencies involving health and safety of persons within the area.) Each Wilderness designation requires an act by Congress, and it may or may not assume the same wording as we are discussing tonight.

Exceptions to No's:

1. The Wilderness Act (Sec. 4(d)(6)) says that "commercial services may be performed to the extent necessary to provide for activities which are proper for realizing the recreation or other Wilderness purposes."
2. Wilderness is recognized as a resource in the Wilderness Act.
3. Grazing of domestic livestock.
4. Hunting.
5. Fishing.
6. An ecological benchmark to measure against areas outside the Primitive Area.
7. Primitive recreation opportunities.

8. Water production and watershed.

9. Public purposes of recreational, scenic, educational, conservation, and historical use.

Prohibitions of Certain Uses

Except as specifically provided for in this Act and subject to existing prior rights, there shall be:

- No commercial enterprises.
- No permanent road.
- No temporary road.
- No use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment, or motorboats.
- No landing of aircraft.
- No other form of mechanical transport.
- No structure or installation 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).

(Slide No. 5) - Special Provisions

- Established uses may be permitted to continue subject to restrictions.
- Nothing shall prevent any activity for the purpose of gathering information about mineral or other resources.

Within Wilderness areas designated by this Act:

Established uses such as aircraft or motorboats may be permitted to continue subject to restrictions of the Secretary of Agriculture. Measures may also be taken to control fire, insects, and diseases.

Nothing in this Act, referring to the Wilderness Act of 1964, shall prevent within National Forest Wilderness areas any activity, including prospecting, for the purpose of gathering information about mineral or other resources, if such activity is carried on in a manner compatible with the preservation of the Wilderness environment.

(Slide No. 6) - State and Private Lands Within the Wilderness

- State and private landowners shall be assured adequate access.
- Valid mining claims, or other valid occupancy, shall be permitted ingress and egress.

Private land can be acquired if:

1. The owner concurs, or if
2. Congress specifically authorizes.
3. Both are subject to Congress appropriating funds.

In any case, where State and private land is completely surrounded by Wilderness, the landowners shall be given the rights necessary to assure adequate access.

Where valid mining claims or other valid occupancy are within a Wilderness, the Secretary of Agriculture shall, by reasonable regulations consistent with the preservation of the area as Wilderness, permit ingress and egress as is customarily being enjoyed by other similarly located areas.

Lands within Wilderness cannot be condemned. In order for them to be acquired, the owner must agree with the acquisition or it must be specifically authorized by Congress.

That, very quickly, is the Wilderness Act, not in totality, but a review of the more important aspects as they pertain to the study and us here tonight.

Now, I would like to go on to the area of land that is under study--the Idaho Primitive Area and contiguous areas.

(Slide No. 7) - Map 1" = 1 Mile

Orientation - Point out Salmon River, Middle Fork, Chamberlain Basin, Big Creek-Red Ridge-Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area. South Fork of Salmon River-Horse Creek area is part of the Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area which is presently under study by the northern Region of the Forest Service. The Salmon River is also under study under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

The study area includes the Idaho Primitive Area with a little over 1,200,000 acres, of which there are about 8,500 acres of State and private land, and over 200,000 acres of contiguous unroaded areas, which are adjacent to the Idaho Primitive Area, comprising a total study area of nearly 1 1/2 million acres.

(Slide No. 8)

Here are more exact figures, if you are interested:

Primitive Area	1,232,744 acres
State and private land	8,465 acres
Contiguous area	205,000 acres
TOTAL STUDY AREA	1,437,744 acres

Due to the large area involved, the U. S. Geological Survey and the U. S. Bureau of Mines will be unable to analyze contiguous areas in addition to those already in the study area until after 1973. During the course of the possible study and evaluation and public hearings, additional adjacent land will be identified for study as potential Wilderness additions.

(Slide No. 9) - Map 1/2" = 1 Mile

Orientation - Idaho Primitive Area - Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area - Salmon River - Middle Fork Salmon - areas contiguous to study area. South Fork of the Salmon River.

Eight contiguous areas, which may require future study, outside the study area have already been identified. These are being or will be examined by each National Forest to determine if they warrant the intensive study for suitability or nonsuitability that we are doing on the study area. If these preliminary studies show sufficient primary values as Wilderness, a mineral survey may be requested from the U. S. Geological Survey and U. S. Bureau of Mines, and a formal study conducted. We will consider recommendations from you on additional adjacent areas of this type or deletion of any of those we have shown. With your recommendations, we hope you will give us some reasons or background upon which you make your recommendations. These comments and suggestions can be given here tonight or submitted in writing or verbally to any of the Forest Supervisors or District Rangers involved or to me. Either way you care to do it, they will be taken into consideration in the evaluation process.

(Slide No. 10) - Map 1" = 1 Mile

Now that we have an idea of what is contained in the Wilderness Act, the study area, and its size, I would like to discuss with you the resource elements that we are in the process of gathering data on. At this time we don't know how this data will affect the final proposal boundary.

(Slide No. 11)

This is a list of the resource elements that we are planning to study at this time:

1. Wilderness resource
2. Recreation resource
3. Soil and hydrology
4. Water resource
5. Timber resource
6. Archeology
7. History
8. Fires
9. Airfields and use of aircraft
10. Transportation
11. Land status and uses
12. Ecological analysis
13. Range
14. Fisheries
15. Wildlife
16. Insect and disease
17. Research
18. Minerals
19. Socio-economic

If you see a need to add anything to this list, we would appreciate hearing from you.

Technical specialists have been assigned to each of the above elements, and they will be contacting individuals, groups, or agencies whom they may think have potential inputs into their resource elements. I said whom they think because we may not know of everyone who could help; and if you can and are willing to help, we would appreciate your letting us know.

I would like to discuss each one of the above elements briefly. Hopefully, this will better identify for you the data we are collecting. Please remember, as we go through these, that if you feel that we are inadequate or have left something out, we would like to hear about it.

Now, I won't attempt to read all of these to you, but I will point out some areas where I think some of you may help. I will also state some of the questions that we will be looking for answers to during the next year.

(Slide No. 12)

1. Wilderness Resource

- a. Land use factors, uses, and activities
- b. The environment
- c. The challenge
- d. Primitive recreational opportunities
- e. Opportunities for scientific study

(Slide No. 13)

2. Recreation Resource

- a. Analyze recreation uses
- b. Describe patterns of use and access. Evaluate the use by boaters and the effects aircraft have on recreational activities.
- c. Describe effects and magnitude of commercial outfitters, including packers, guides, and boaters on recreational use patterns and activities.
- d. Analyze data gathered to determine:
 - (1) Where use is occurring
 - (2) Patterns of use--past and present

- (3) Use by roads and airfields
- (4) Projected use
- (5) Ability of area to meet projected use

(Slide No. 14)

3. Soils and Hydrology report will discuss the:

a. Potentials for:

- (1) Timber
- (2) Wildlife
- (3) Recreation
- (4) Mining
- (5) Road construction

b. Identify productivity of soils

c. Watershed conditions

A rough draft of this report is about complete now.

(Slide No. 15)

4. Water Resource

- a. Evaluate water production potential
- b. General water quality
- c. On-site uses of water

(Slide No. 16)

5. Timber

- a. Total volume by size, classes, types, and species, including commercial or noncommercial timber types
- b. Acreage by similar categories
- c. Acreages by standard site classes
- d. Rough estimate of full sustained-yield potential

(Slide No. 17)

6. Archeology - Here is an area where some of you know the Idaho Primitive Area better than we can ever get to know it. If you know of some archeological sites you could be of great help in identifying and locating them.

- a. Review of available publications
- b. Limited field reconnaissance
- c. Specific data for some sites or situations

(Slide No. 18)7. History

a. The historical report will probably be a summary of existing historical information with a bibliography to cite more extensive historical information available on the Idaho Primitive Area.

(Slide No. 19)8. Fire

- a. Review history of fire activities
- b. Inventory and evaluate fuels
- c. Evaluate present detection, prevention, presuppression, and control practices.
- d. Identify fire's past role in perpetuating or maintaining the resource.
- e. Determine long-range effects of fire control in altering or maintaining the vegetative types.
- f. Consider alternate future objectives in all fire activities.

(Slide No. 20)9. Airfields and Use of Aircraft

- a. Past and present use of aircraft
- b. Provide an inventory and analyze the existing situation. Provide an inventory and map showing airfields and heliports and helispots.
- c. Discuss needs of aircraft for administrative uses, as well as private and State use.
- d. Evaluate practices concerning clearing of helispots for fire.
- e. Discuss future needs for existing airfields and effects of reducing aircraft.
- f. Discuss the use of herbicides, fertilizers, and irrigation practices on airfields.

(Slide No. 21) - We are concerned with transportation outside as well as inside the study area.

10. Transportation System

- a. Existing and needed roads leading to and trails within the study area.
- b. Cost of new construction or needed reconstruction
- c. Highway plans which might affect the area
- d. Signing

(Slide No. 22)

11. Land Status and Uses

- a. Inventory alienated land and discuss current use, existing improvements, and market value.
- b. Inventory structures or administrative improvements, including communications systems.

(Slide No. 23)

12. Ecological Analysis

- a. Identify areas of scientific value, such as pristine plant communities, unusual plant associations or unusual plant and animal relationships.
- b. Describe future ecological trends under Wilderness management.

(Slide No. 24)

13. Range Resource

- a. Past and present use by all kinds of livestock.
- b. Evaluate use of pack and saddle stock, particularly trend and management needs at areas of concentrated use.

(Slide No. 25)

14. Fisheries

- a. Identify important fishing lakes and streams and conditions and stocking.
- b. Management needed to perpetuate or improve fisheries.
- c. Evaluate anticipated future use and potentials of the resource.

(Slide No. 26)15. Wildlife

- a. Inventory of wildlife species and habitat, and identify rare or endangered species.
- b. Identify areas of conflicting uses.
- c. Evaluate habitat management needs.

(Slide No. 27)16. Insect and Disease

- a. Status of threats to vegetation.
- b. Trends under Wilderness management.

(Slide No. 28)17. Research

- a. List past and present research projects.
- b. Potential values for future studies and research.
- c. Evaluate University of Idaho Study Center. Consider their research plans and the effect they might have on the area.

(Slide No. 29)18. Minerals Report

- a. Is now in progress by U. S. Geological Survey and Bureau of Mines.
- b. Rough draft due March 1972.

(Slide No. 30)19. Socio-economics Evaluation

- a. Data on population
- b. Assure necessary data are collected by other reports.

This has been a quick look at the data we are in the process of collecting. If you feel we have missed anything or you noted an item of particular interest to you that you want to become involved in, we would like to hear from you.

(Slide No. 31)

Tentative Schedule

1. Collect data by - October 1971
2. Finish functional reports by - February 1972
3. Preliminary proposal and brochure to Washington Office by -
November 1972
4. Distribute brochure and public notice by - April 1973
5. Hold public hearings by - September 1973

The Idaho Primitive Area is undoubtedly the most complex and one of the largest Primitive Areas to be analyzed in the National Forest System.