

APR 5 1977

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# United States Senate

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April 1, 1977

John Ehrenreich, Dean  
 College of Forestry  
 Wildlife and Range Science  
 University of Idaho  
 Moscow, Idaho 83843

Dear John:

As you know, the future of the Gospel-Hump area in north central Idaho has long been contested by conservationists, the timber industry, wildlife interests and others. Forest Service land use planning began in the area in 1969. The first two unit plans were completed, but then successfully appealed on the grounds that the entire roadless area had not been adequately considered. The uncertainty and delay in a land use decision for Gospel-Hump is a critical concern to the citizens of North Idaho.

It has recently been proposed that the most expeditious way to decide the future of the area is for all interested groups and agencies to sit down and work out a plan for Gospel-Hump as a basis for possible legislation.

In preparation for those meetings, and to begin this process, I would appreciate it if the College of Forestry could provide me with all the resource data you have available on the Gospel-Hump area. I would also like to have your comments on the need for a comprehensive resource study -- including soils, wildlife, and timber -- of all or part of the area, and how such a study might be implemented as part of a legislative proposal.

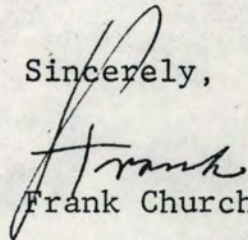
If in addition you wish to provide me with a proposal for classification and management of the Gospel-Hump area, such a proposal would, of course, be welcome. Any such proposal should address the following specific points: 1) Which portions of this area should be immediately classified as wilderness? 2) Which portions should be proposed for further wilderness study? 3) Which portions should be managed for multiple use? If the proposals were displayed on appropriate maps and were accompanied by supporting information, it would be of great assistance in expediting this process.

John Ehrenreich, Dean  
Page Two  
April 1, 1977

Receipt of this material prior to April 15 will allow me to begin assembling the necessary information and proposals for future meetings to be held before drafting legislation for the classification of Gospel-Hump.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

  
Frank Church