

## APPENDIX

### WILDERNESS PLANNING CRITERIA AND QUALITY STANDARDS - RELATION TO THE PROPOSED ACTION

DUNCAN CREEK WSA - 111-7B - Recommendation WN-1.2

#### 1. Criteria #1: Wilderness Values

##### a. Mandatory Wilderness Characteristics

- 10,005 acres, adjacent to 54,835 acres Big Jacks Creek WSA, which is adjacent to 58,040 acre Little Jacks Creek WSA; recommendation would result in a wilderness block of 93,275 acres
- 99% natural appearing; recommendation would remove existing imprints and allow management to maintain pristine quality
- outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation

##### b. Special Features

- ecological values; 65% in good ecological condition (sagebrush steppe) (about equally divided between big and low sagebrush communities)
- population of "sensitive" mountain quail
- "sensitive" red-banded trout in creek

##### c. Multiple Resource Benefits

- not applicable to recommendation

##### d. Diversity in the National Wilderness Preservation System

- less than 35,500 acres of sagebrush steppe designated wilderness
- recommendation would add 9,400 acres with 65% in good ecological condition

#### 2. Criteria #2: Manageability

- effective management would require acquisition of the state inholding or agreement by the state that only wilderness compatible uses would be permitted; suitable recommendation is dependent upon this condition being satisfied
- imprints of man have been removed from area recommended suitable which will permit management to maintain pristine quality of proposed wilderness area

### 3. Quality Standards

#### a. Energy and Mineral Resources

- no known energy or mineral conflicts

#### b. Impacts on Other Resources

- no other known resource conflicts

#### c. Impact of Nondesignation on Wilderness Values

- increased livestock grazing could affect ecological values of good condition sagebrush steppe
- affirmative safeguards of wilderness designation would be lacking; accretion of small projects could erode wilderness characteristics; pristine character probably would not be maintained

#### d. Public Comment

- During the public comment period following MFP Step 2 recommendations; 38 comments were received on Duncan Creek (33 supporting wilderness and 4 opposed). Proponents of wilderness cited the following values: ecological values (11), wildlife habitat or sensitive species (2), rare plants (2), and general wilderness characteristics (2).

#### e. Local Social and Economic Effects

- there are no significant social impacts
- there are no significant economic effects on Owyhee County or the State of Idaho

#### f. Consistency with Other Plans

- recommendation does not conflict with the 1974 Owyhee County Comprehensive Land Use Plan; Owyhee County Commissioners have however opposed BLM wilderness in Owyhee County
- recommendation is consistent with Idaho Fish and Game Departments big game management plans which specify the area will be managed for quality mule deer hunting and preservation of its back-country nature.

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### WILDERNESS PLANNING CRITERIA AND QUALITY STANDARDS - RELATION TO THE PROPOSED ACTION

#### BIG JACKS CREEK WSA - 111-7C - Recommendation WN-1.3

##### 1. Criteria #1: Wilderness Values

###### a. Mandatory Wilderness Characteristics

- 54,835 acres, adjacent to 58,040 acre Little Jacks WSA and 10,005 acre Duncan Creek WSA
- 98% natural appearing
- opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are exceptional when compared to other WSAs in the district

###### b. Special Features

- ecological values; 50% in good ecological condition (sagebrush steppe); 16,000 acres of good condition plateau (75% big sagebrush and 25% low sagebrush)
- identified by Idaho Fish and Game Department as potential bighorn sheep habitat
- population of "sensitive" mountain quail
- "sensitive" red-banded trout in creek
- Class A scenery

###### c. Multiple Resource Benefits

- preservation of natural plant communities

###### d. Diversity in the National Wilderness Preservation System

- less than 35,500 acres of sagebrush steppe ecosystem is in designated wilderness
- recommendation would add about 48,000 acres of sagebrush steppe with about 50% in good condition; included would be about 15,500 acres of good condition plateau
- there is no representation of the Salt Desert Shrub ecosystem in designated wilderness
- the WSA includes about 3,000 acres of Salt Desert Shrub vegetation; about 2,000 acres is included in the wilderness recommendation; all of the Salt Desert Shrub vegetation is in poor ecological condition

2. Criteria #2: Manageability

- 4,500 acres were trimmed from the northeastern portion of the WSA because the area does not have sufficient wilderness values to justify management actions necessary to incorporate it into the proposed wilderness

3. Quality Standards

a. Energy and Mineral Resources

- no known energy or mineral conflicts

b. Impacts on Other Resources

- The proposed Jacks Creek livestock watering pipeline would water plateaus to the west of Big Jacks. Two laterals of this pipeline conflict with the proposed wilderness. Specific AUMs involved will be analysed in the Wilderness EIS.
- the boundary of the proposed wilderness has been adjusted to accommodate a utility corridor 1/8 mile on both sides of the El Paso Natural Gas Pipeline
- no other known conflicts

c. Impact of Nondesignation on Wilderness Values

- Jacks Creek livestock watering pipeline laterals would severely impair wilderness characteristics of affected areas
- increased livestock grazing could affect ecological values of good condition sagebrush steppe
- affirmative safeguards of wilderness designation would be lacking; accretion of small projects could erode wilderness characteristics

d. Public Comment

- see discussion under Little Jacks WSA

e. Local Social and Economic Effects

- there are no significant social impacts
- there are no significant economic effects on Owyhee County or the State of Idaho

f. Consistency with Other Plans

- recommendation does not conflict with the 1974 Owyhee County Comprehensive Land Use Plan; Owyhee County Commissioners have however opposed BLM wilderness in Owyhee County

- recommendation is consistent with Idaho Fish and Game Department's Draft big game management plans which specify priority management of bighorn sheep habitat for sheep with remainder of the area managed for quality mule deer hunting and preservation of its back-country nature

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### WILDERNESS PLANNING CRITERIA AND QUALITY STANDARDS - RELATION TO THE PROPOSED ACTION

LITTLE JACKS CREEK WSA - 111-6 - Recommendation WN-1.4

#### 1. Criteria #1: Wilderness Values

##### a. Mandatory Wilderness Characteristics

- 58,040 acres, adjacent to 54,835 acre Big Jacks WSA which is adjacent to 10,005 acre Duncan Creek WSA; combined recommendations for these three WSAs would result in a wilderness block of 93,275 acres
- 98% natural appearing; recommendation would remove 12 livestock improvements and 3 1/2 miles of cherry stem roads from the proposed wilderness
- opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are exceptional when compared to other WSAs in the district

##### b. Special Features

- ecological values; 30% in good ecological condition; 10,000 acres of good condition sagebrush steppe plateau
- occupied by herd of 100 to 125 "sensitive" California bighorn sheep; proposed wilderness would include virtually all of the presently used habitat for this population
- population of "sensitive" mountain quail
- includes proposed Research Natural Area (sagebrush steppe); proposed wilderness would include all of the Research Natural Area
- "sensitive" red-banded trout in creek
- Little Jacks Canyon complex Class A scenery

##### c. Multiple Resource Benefits

- preservation of bighorn sheep habitat
- preservation of natural plant communities

##### d. Diversity in the National Wilderness Preservation System

- less than 35,500 acres of sagebrush steppe ecosystem is in designated wilderness
- recommendation would add 34,000 acres of sagebrush steppe including about 6,000 acres of good condition plateau

- there is no representation of the Salt Desert Shrub ecosystem in designated wilderness
- the WSA contains about 2,000 acres of salt desert shrub vegetation but none of it is included in the suitable recommendation; salt desert shrub vegetation is all in poor ecological condition and prospects for recovery are remote; areas containing salt desert shrub vegetation would be difficult to manage to maintain their wilderness characteristics

## 2. Criteria #2: Manageability

- 2,700 acres impacted by private inholdings; voluntary acquisition of these inholdings is unlikely; this portion of WSA recommended as non-suitable
- 3,300 acres with marginal wilderness values impacted by adjacent road; this portion of WSA recommended as non-suitable
- 2,350 acres have been trimmed from east boundary to improve physical configuration
- Cherry stem roads which service 11 livestock reservoirs could compromise effective management of about 16,500 acres. Preservation of wilderness characteristics would require management commitment to close the cherry stem roads. In the Proposed Action this area is recommended as non-suitable to improve naturalness and manageability of the proposed wilderness.

## 3. Quality Standards

### a. Energy and Mineral Resources

- no known energy or mineral conflicts

### b. Impacts on Other Resources

- recommendation does not conflict with proposed Jacks Creek livestock watering pipeline
- the boundary of the proposed wilderness has been adjusted to accommodate a utility corridor 1/8 mile on both sides of the El Paso Natural Gas Pipeline
- 500 acres proposed for seeding of non-native species; this area recommended as non-suitable because of impact of adjacent road
- 700 acres proposed for herbicide spray (brush control); area recommended as suitable

### c. Impact of Nondesignation on Wilderness Values

- wilderness values will be irreversibly lost on 500 acres scheduled for seeding of non-native species

- increased livestock grazing could affect ecological values of good condition sagebrush steppe
- affirmative safeguards of wilderness designation would be lacking; accretion of small projects could erode wilderness characteristics; pristine character probably would not be maintained

d. Public Comment

- Controversy over the proposed Jacks Creek livestock watering pipeline has created very strong public interest in the two affected wilderness study areas. Most public comments have lumped the adjacent Little Jacks and Big Jacks WSAs together.
- In the public comment period following MFP Step 2 recommendations, 76 public comments were received (69 supporting wilderness and 6 opposed). Proponents of wilderness cited the following reasons: bighorn sheep habitat (17); ecological values of relatively undisturbed vegetation communities (12); wildlife habitat (9); wilderness characteristics (9); red-banded trout (4); and recreation (3). Public comment would indicate the local pro-wilderness constituency is primarily concerned with ecological and wildlife values of wilderness. Preserving recreation opportunities is not a primary objective. This is why preserving substantial portions of plateau acreage is important to this group. Most of the unique ecological values of these areas are associated with the plateaus (rare and endangered plants, natural plant communities, and ecosystems not currently represented in the wilderness system).

e. Local Social and Economic Effects

- there are no significant social impacts
- there are no significant economic effects on Owyhee County or the State of Idaho

f. Consistency with Other Plans

- recommendation does not conflict with the 1974 Owyhee County Comprehensive Land Use Plan; Owyhee County Commissioners have however opposed BLM wilderness in Owyhee County
- recommendation is consistent with Idaho Fish and Game Department's Draft big game management plans which specify priority management of bighorn sheep habitat for this species



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### WILDERNESS PLANNING CRITERIA AND QUALITY STANDARDS - RELATION TO THE PROPOSED ACTION

UPPER DEEP CREEK WSA - 111-44B - Recommendation WN-1.5

#### 1. Criteria #1: Wilderness Values

##### a. Mandatory Wilderness Characteristics

- 11,510 acres; recommendation would reduce the size of the proposed wilderness to 5,700 acres
- 95% natural appearing
- outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation

##### b. Special Features

- ecological values; includes 1,200 acre area with interspersed climax juniper stands in fair ecological condition; best representation of juniper ecosystem in Boise District WSAs

##### c. Multiple Resource Benefits

- not applicable to recommendation

##### d. Diversity in the National Wilderness Preservation System

- no representation of juniper forest component of Sagebrush Steppe ecosystem in wilderness system
- recommendation would include 1,200 acre area with interspersed climax juniper stands in fair ecological condition

#### 2. Criteria #2: Manageability

- 1,230 acres of flat elongated plateau lying between WSA boundary roads and canyon rims trimmed to improve physical configuration
- about 4,600 acres of relatively flat plateau have been removed from the southeastern portion of the WSA; this area is susceptible to unauthorized ORV use and does not add to recreational or ecological values of the proposed wilderness. Intensive management of this plateau area for livestock will reduce grazing pressure in the riparian zones and juniper areas of the adjacent proposed wilderness. Excluding this plateau, therefore, will allow better management for protection of the recreational and ecological values that have been identified in the WSA

### 3. Quality Standards

#### a. Energy and Mineral Resources

- no known energy or mineral conflicts

#### b. Impacts on Other Resources

- 1,250 acres proposed for herbicide spraying (brush control); excluded from area recommended as suitable for wilderness
- 900 acres proposed for herbicide spraying or controlled burning

#### c. Impact of Nondesignation on Wilderness Values

- 900 acres of herbicide spraying could affect ecological value of climax juniper areas
- affirmative safeguards of wilderness designation would be lacking; accretion of small projects could erode wilderness characteristics; pristine character probably would not be maintained

#### d. Public Comment

- Following MFP Step 2 recommendations, 34 comments were received on Upper Deep Creek (31 supporting and 3 opposed).

#### e. Local Social and Economic Effects

- there are no significant social impacts
- there are no significant economic effects on Owyhee County or the State of Idaho

#### f. Consistency with Other Plans

- recommendation does not conflict with the 1974 Owyhee County Comprehensive Land Use Plan; Owyhee County Commissioners have however opposed BLM wilderness in Owyhee County
- recommendation is consistent with Idaho Fish and Game Departments big game management plans which specify the area will be managed for quality mule deer hunting and preservation of its back-country nature.

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### WILDERNESS PLANNING CRITERIA AND QUALITY STANDARDS - RELATION TO THE PROPOSED ACTION

#### POLE CREEK WSA - 111-18 - Recommendation WN-1.6

#### 1. Criteria #1: Wilderness Values

##### a. Mandatory Wilderness Characteristics

- 25,220 acres
- 95% natural appearing
- outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation

##### b. Special Features

- Major concentration of archaeological sites in Pole and Camas Creek drainages; include habitation sites, caves, hunting blinds, rock alignments, and numerous petroglyphs; has been identified as eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Sites. The Archaeological District encompasses about 35% of the WSA.

##### c. Multiple Resource Benefits

- not applicable to recommendation

##### d. Diversity in the National Wilderness Preservation System

- less than 35,500 acres of sagebrush steppe designated wilderness
- this WSA would be a poor representative of the sagebrush steppe since 60% of the vegetation is in poor ecological condition, 35% is in fair condition, and less than 3% is in good condition

#### 2. Criteria #2: Manageability

- The entire WSA cannot be effectively managed as wilderness because of scattered private inholdings. The distribution of the six inholdings and the open vistas characteristic of this terrain indicate that wilderness characteristics in the central core of the WSA could be severely compromised by potential impacts from these inholdings. Voluntary federal acquisition of these inholdings is unlikely.

#### 3. Quality Standards

##### a. Energy and Mineral Resources

- no known energy or mineral conflicts

b. Impacts on Other Resources

- 3,050 acres proposed for herbicide spraying (brush control)
- Cultural resource objectives to stabilize archaeological resources on Camas Creek may be inconsistent with wilderness management policy. Wilderness restrictions on excavations could impede continuation of important archaeological research that has been conducted for the past six years. (These conflicts could be mitigated by including special stipulations in wilderness designation legislation).

c. Impact of Nondesignation on Wilderness Values

- activities on private inholdings could impair wilderness characteristics of adjacent federal land
- affirmative safeguards of wilderness designation would be lacking; accretion of small projects could erode wilderness characteristics; pristine character probably would not be maintained

d. Public Comment

- Following MFP Step 2 recommendations, 26 comments were received on Pole Creek (25 supporting wilderness, 1 opposed). Individuals commented on the impact of the private inholdings and the need to protect the area's archaeological values.

e. Local Social and Economic Effects

- there are no significant social impacts
- there are no significant economic effects on Owyhee County or the State of Idaho

f. Consistency with Other Plans

- recommendation does not conflict with the 1974 Owyhee County Comprehensive Land Use Plan

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### WILDERNESS PLANNING CRITERIA AND QUALITY STANDARDS - RELATION TO THE PROPOSED ACTION

SHEEP CREEK WEST WSA - 111-36A - Recommendation WN-1.7

#### 1. Criteria #1: Wilderness Values

##### a. Mandatory Wilderness Characteristics

- 11,620 acres
- 94% natural appearing
- outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation
- wilderness inventory found unit lacked outstanding opportunities for solitude

##### b. Special Features

- ecological values; widest diversity of plant communities and highest percentage of good ecological condition vegetation of all WSAs in the District; 75% in good condition with five major ecological communities well represented (big sagebrush, low sagebrush, mountain brush, aspen woodland, and riparian).

##### c. Multiple Resource Benefits

- not applicable to recommendation

##### d. Diversity in the National Wilderness Preservation System

- less than 35,500 acres of sagebrush steppe ecosystem in designated wilderness
- recommendation would add 11,620 acres of sagebrush steppe vegetation with 75% in good ecological condition

#### 2. Criteria #2: Manageability

- no manageability problems

#### 3. Quality Standards

##### a. Energy and Mineral Resources

- no known energy or mineral conflicts

##### b. Impacts on Other Resources

- no other known resource conflicts

c. Impact on Nondesignation on Wilderness Values

- increased livestock grazing could affect ecological values of good condition sagebrush steppe
- affirmative safeguards of wilderness designation would be lacking; accretion of small projects could erode wilderness characteristics; pristine character probably would not be maintained

d. Public Comment

- Thirty letters were received following MFP Step 2 recommendations (26 supporting wilderness, 4 opposed).

e. Local Social and Economic Effects

- there are no significant social impacts
- there are no significant economic effects on Owyhee County or the State of Idaho

f. Consistency with Other Plans

- recommendation does not conflict with the 1974 Owyhee County Comprehensive Land Use Plan; Owyhee County Commissioners have however opposed BLM wilderness in Owyhee County
- recommendation is consistent with Idaho Fish and Game Department's big game management plans which specify the area will be managed for quality mule deer hunting and preservation of its back-country nature

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BRUNEAU RIVER WSA - 111-17 - Recommendation WN-1.8

#### 1. Criteria #1: Wilderness Values

##### a. Mandatory Wilderness Characteristics

- 107,020 acres
- 97% natural appearing
- opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are exceptional when compared to other WSAs in the district; nationally recognized as an outstanding recreational opportunity for experienced white-water kayakers and floatboaters

##### b. Special Features

- Bruneau Canyon and rim have been identified as eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places because of the national significance of its archaeological resources
- canyon is major scenic attraction (identified on Idaho State tourist maps)
- ecological values; 20,000 acres of salt desert shrub vegetation
- includes one threatened and two uncommon plant species
- population of sensitive red-banded trout
- potential habitat for California bighorn sheep

##### c. Multiple Resource Benefits

- not applicable to recommendation

##### d. Diversity in the National Wilderness Preservation System

- there is no representation of the Salt Desert Shrub ecosystem in designated wilderness
- WSA contains 20,000 acres of salt desert shrub vegetation but all 20,000 acres is in poor ecological condition; prospects for recovery are remote; because of its ecological condition this WSA would be a poor representative of the Salt Desert Shrub community; none of the salt desert shrub has been included in the proposed wilderness; this will leave the Boise District with no representation of winterfat communities in its proposed wilderness recommendations