



Domestic livestock grazing



Mule deer



Wildfire



Gooding City of Rocks WSA, BLM Shoshone Field Office

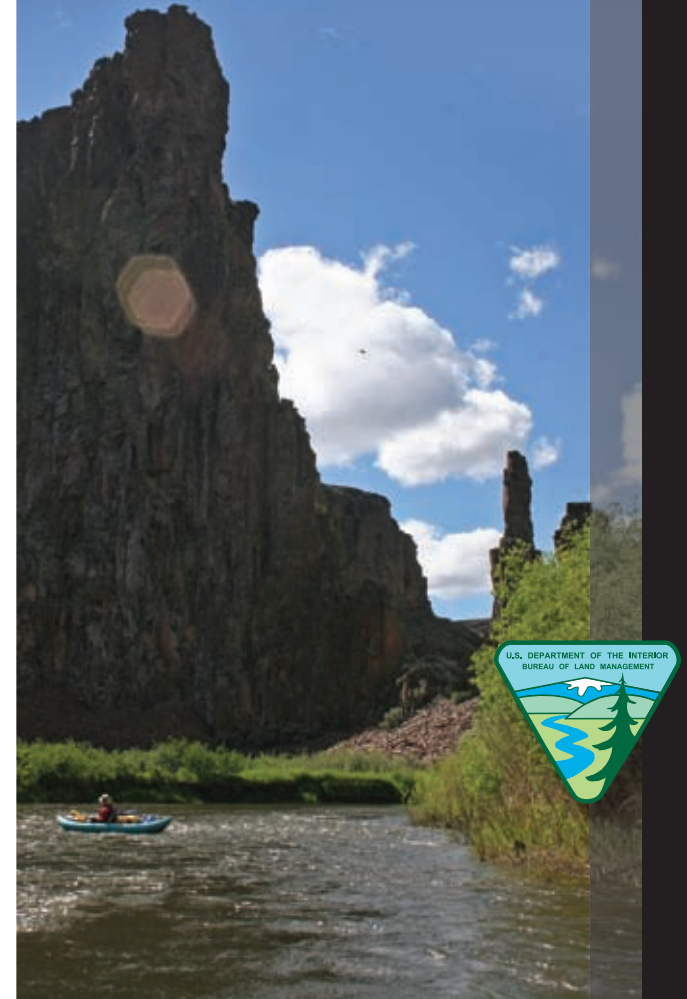
### Please keep these tips in mind when you visit WSAs:

- Plan ahead and tell someone where you are going.
- Contact the local BLM office for area maps or information.
- Take care of your trash and belongings. If you pack it in, make sure you pack it out.

Managing WSAs takes everyone’s help and cooperation. Thanks for your interest in Idaho’s natural resources. For more information please visit our web site.

[www.blm.gov/id/st/en/prog/blm\\_special\\_areas/wilderness\\_study\\_areas.html](http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/prog/blm_special_areas/wilderness_study_areas.html)

# Experiencing Your Wilderness Study Areas





K. Jones, Idaho Statesman

Deep Creek, BLM Owyhee Field Office

## What activities can take place in WSAs?

### *Grazing*

Domestic livestock grazing may continue as it took place before October 21, 1976.

### *Recreation*

Most recreation activities, including hiking, cross country skiing, river running, horseback riding and rock-hounding are allowed in WSAs. Primitive camping is allowed and BLM encourages campers to follow *Leave No Trace* practices when camping in WSAs. Hunting and fishing are also allowed in accordance with the Idaho Fish and Game regulations.

### *Motorized and Bicycle Use*

Motorized and mechanized travel is limited to designated roads and trails and to designated sand dunes or snow areas. Cross-country travel is prohibited.

### *Cultural Resources*

Such resources may be viewed and photographed; however, artifacts, paleontological resources, and historic sites on all public lands, including WSAs, are protected by law. Removal or defacing of any such resource is illegal.

### *Wildfire*

Suppression may take place, using caution to avoid unnecessary impairment to the wilderness characteristics.

### *Wood Gathering*

Dead and downed wood can be gathered for onsite campfires but not for offsite use.

### *Emergencies*

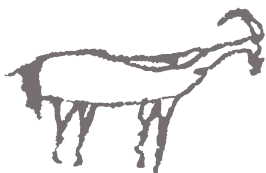
Search and rescue can take place in WSAs.

## What is a Wilderness Study Area?

In 1976 Congress instructed the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, to inventory public land for areas that meet the minimum criteria for wilderness designation under the Wilderness Act of 1964. These areas are called Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs).

### Criteria for WSA designation are:

- outstanding opportunities for solitude
- primitive, unconfined recreation
- ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, scenic or historical value
- in natural condition substantially uninfluenced by humans



Congress also asked the BLM to provide recommendations about which areas would be most suitable for designation as wilderness. After a 15-year study process, the BLM completed the Idaho Wilderness Study Report in 1991. The Report identified 67 WSAs within the state. The BLM is required to manage WSAs so they remain suitable for wilderness designation until Congress decides to officially designate the land as wilderness or to release it for other purposes.

## Why are WSAs important?

- WSAs can provide essential habitat for wildlife.
- WSAs provide unmodified lands for future generations.
- WSAs are places where we can connect with the past and where we can be reminded of how the American frontier helped to shape our present-day culture.