

which included members of the Society and representatives of cooperating sportsmen and conservation organizations, traversed various sections and completed several penetrations into the Primitive Area from road ends near its boundaries. The group consisted of Mr. Ernest Day, Chairman of the Idaho Wilderness Committee, and past President of the Idaho Wildlife Federation, Boise; Mr. Art Manley, Vice President of the Idaho Wildlife Federation, Coeur d'Alene; Fred Swan, sportsman, of Coeur d'Alene; Michael McCloskey, Field Representative, Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs, Eugene, Oregon, and Dr. John Hurst, Sierra Club, Berkeley, California.

During the course of its coverages of the Sawtooth Primitive Area, the group consulted with and received much information and assistance from the following representatives of the U.S. Forest Service: Max Rees, Supervisor, and Melvin Hyatt, Assistant Supervisor, of The Challis National Forest; Harold Woodley, Ranger, Stanley Ranger District; Ralph Cisco, Ranger, Sawtooth Valley Ranger District, John Lavin, Assistant Supervisor, Sawtooth National Forest. The helpfulness of these Forest Service representatives aided greatly the group's investigation of the reclassification proposal.

THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY'S RECOMMENDATION

The boundary proposed by the Regional Forester for the Sawtooth Wilderness Area would include 192,402 acres in an area some 30 miles in length and 18 miles between its eastern and western edges. The Wilderness Society urges that the boundaries, as proposed by the Regional Forester, be established for all of the Wilderness Area with the exception of the relatively small adjustments which are recommended below. The Society's comments and recommendations on the proposals contained in the Forest Service's regional brochure, "Sawtooth Wilderness Area Proposal" (Feb. 8, 1963), are arranged in accordance with the lettering and numerals used by the Forest Service in describing areas affected by the reclassification. The areas recommended by the Society for addition to the proposed Wilderness Area are designated as Units 4, 5, 6, and 7. These are indicated on the attached map.

The Society's strong support of the proposal to establish the Sawtooth Wilderness Area should be emphasized. We feel that the protection of the 192,402 acres within the proposed Wilderness Area should be achieved as quickly as this reclassification can be given full and complete consideration by the Forest Service and the Secretary of Agriculture. We are also recommending the addition of small areas, totaling some 13,300 acres, to this unit of wilderness so that a greater opportunity for public use of the protected wilderness lands may be provided.

The exclusion of Unit C from the proposed Wilderness Area is concurred in by The Wilderness Society. However, it is recommended that a substantial part of the 9,670 acres within Unit A and Unit B be included within the Wilderness Area. The extensive stands of large ponderosa pine in these two units (within watersheds of the North Fork of the Boise River and tributaries of Johnson Creek, and the Queens River) are valued assets of the present Primitive Area. It is our recommendation that a large and representative portion of the extensive stands of pine be encompassed in accomplishing boundary adjustments for these two units. Thus it would be possible to include within this outstanding area of National Forest wilderness a significant representation of one of the most majestic and important members of the western forest communities.

Any portion of Units A and B that may be excluded from the Wilderness Area should be managed with Unit C to provide the greatest possible "at the edge of wilderness" recreation opportunity. It is important that management practices be developed to afford the fullest possible protection of their vegetative, watershed, and scenic values so that none of their potential will be lost for the types of recreation that are best enjoyed in primitive settings.

Deletions within Unit D, consisting of some 1,390 acres, are concurred in with the exception of the exclusion of the area at the Western end of Pettit Lake. Protection of the small flat on the upper end of the lake, by extension of the Wilderness Area boundary to the high water mark of the lake's western shore, would provide opportunity for camping and other uses of lands protected as wilderness.

It is important that this western edge of the lake and the stream valley (Unit 4) be protected through their inclusion in the Wilderness Area. Intrusions by roads, private lodges, and developments of the type that are seen along the other perimeters of the lake should be avoided on this western shore. By inclusion of this small area of less than 500 acres in the Wilderness Area, such future threats would be avoided.