

Area F-1 was not included in the President's proposal to Congress because it does not qualify for Wilderness under criteria set forth in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act. Timber has been harvested, some quite recently, on both sides of Lincoln Point on the slopes into Cartridge Creek and on the slopes into Wiggins Fork.

A primary consideration in the Forest Service decision to not recommend Areas 3 and 4 for Wilderness was the need to establish a satisfactory boundary. Our 44 years of experience in administering designated Wilderness has taught us much about the proper location of boundaries. We have found that far fewer administrative problems occur if the public is able to readily recognize the boundary on the ground. In Wiggins Fork and Caldwell Creek areas, we have recommended a boundary which follows a series of small ridges and drainages to connect prominent topographic features. The proposed line will be readily recognizable by users and will prevent accidental violations of the Wilderness. A line could technically be drawn to include the qualifying country on the face of the escarpment, but it would take extensive signing and/or fencing to make it recognizable to the visiting public.

Another principle of Wilderness boundary establishment used here is the desirability of placing the boundary on features which provide the best possible shield for the wilderness resource inside from nonwilderness activities outside the boundary. Ridges or high, rocky rims usually serve this purpose best.

Area 3 also contains lands which are needed to meet long-term public needs for auto-access recreation. The inclusion of the qualifying portion of Areas 3 and 4 in the Wilderness would increase the number of acres in Wilderness status, but it would add little to the enjoyment of visitors within the Wilderness.

#### *Bear Basin (Area D)*

This area was never a part of the Stratified Primitive Area. Proponents for its inclusion argue that it should be given Wilderness designation because it is important elk habitat.

A major reason for not including the area in the President's proposal is the fact that it is penetrated by approximately 2 miles of road into Bear Basin. The National Forest Recreation Survey also identified one recreation development site which will be needed to meet projected public demand in the year 2000. The area is not an integral and essential part of the proposed Washakie Wilderness.

The area is important elk range, and elk do migrate through it in the spring and fall. With the help of local Wyoming Game and Fish personnel we have identified the important elk-calving areas in that portion of the Shoshone National Forest. None of them are located within Area D. As stated earlier in our discussion of the DuNoir Drainages, there is no evidence that Wilderness designation is essential to the maintenance of these elk herds. Any conflicts which might occur between recreation and elk management will be resolved by special provisions in the Ranger District Multiple-Use Plan developed in cooperation with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

In urging all of these additions, a number of those who submitted views at the Forest Service hearing in Riverton expressed the concern that Wilderness should not consist of only "rocks in the Crest Zone." The proposed Wilderness is characterized by deep, narrow valleys exposing strata which were built up by volcanic activity. Broad flat-topped mountains and plateaus separate these valleys, and the unique geology is one of the area's principal charms. The area was not chosen as a forested Wilderness or to represent all ecological associations in Wyoming's mountains. However, we have carefully studied all proposed additions; and there are no ecological associations found in any of them which are not already well represented in the proposed Washakie Wilderness, the adjacent Teton Wilderness, or in other Wildernesses or Primitive Areas in the National Forests of northwestern Wyoming. Approximately 29 percent of the land proposed by the President for addition to the Wilderness System is forested, and 62 percent of that forested area supports timber of commercial size. A report prepared for Congress in 1961, when it was considering Wilderness legislation (S. 174), shows that the Wildernesses and Primitive Areas in Wyoming, other than the Stratified Primitive Area, contain 828,600 forested acres (38 percent of their total area) and that 44 percent of these forested acres support commercial-quality timber. That same report shows that approximately 10.8 percent of the commercial-quality timber acreage on the National Forests of Wyoming is in Wildernesses or Primitive Areas.

Total recreation visits to the Shoshone National Forest in 1966 was 715,200 visitor-days (12 patron hours make one visitor-day). Of this, 120,800 visitor-days or 16.9 percent of the total was made in the Forest's two Wildernesses and three Primitive Areas. The Stratified Primitive Area was the least popular. It received