

most interesting and scientific geological studies. The older Washakie Range is composed of rocks of pre-Cambrian, paleozoic, and mezozoic ages which were folded and dissected by erosion in the beginning of the tertiary period seventy million years ago. It is exposed along the south border of the area near Horse Creek and Wiggins Fork.

The Washakie Range was covered by volcanic sediment comprising the present Absaroka Range. These were layered in successive eruptions from Mount Washburn area in Yellowstone Park and Lava Mountain near Togwotee Pass. These rocks filled the valleys of the Washakie Range and overtopped its highest peaks forming a plateau which was then subjected to erosion. The layers can be seen in the canyon walls and have given the name "Stratified" to the area.

Remnants of ancient forests which were buried in the volcanic debris have become petrified, usually by molecular displacement of the original cells, the wood becoming agatized. There are also numerous limb casts. The petrified wood may be found on the gravel bars of almost all the streams, but particularly at the head of Frontier Creek, where even large standing petrified tree trunks and fallen logs are found.

Precipitation in the area averages twenty to thirty inches annually, occurring mostly as snow in the winter. Heavy summer thunder showers are frequent. Temperatures fall from -30 or -40 degrees in winter to +80 degrees in summer. The comparatively heavy precipitation causes rapid erosion and maintains a continuous stream flow.

Also in Shoshone National Forest and adjacent to Stratified Area on the north is the South Absaroka Wilderness Area of 505,552 (net) acres already within the wilderness system. We understand the Forest Service will recommend that these two areas be combined as one contiguous area and under one name with the name Washakie Wilderness Area suggested for the combined area.

The Stratified Area is part of the largest untamed wilderness in the central Rocky Mountains. Designated contiguous boundaries comprise the following:

	Acres
Stratified Primitive Area.....	202,000
North Absaroka Wilderness Area.....	359,700
South Absaroka Wilderness Area.....	505,552
Teton Wilderness Area.....	563,460
Grand Teton National Park.....	310,350
Yellowstone National Park.....	2,221,773
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>4,162,835</b>

Here, the traveler may wander for weeks with his pack outfit in a region of scenic splendour, abounding in wild game and fishing, and undisturbed by modern civilization.

#### RESOURCES

*Water.*—Water is probably the most economically valuable resource of the Stratified Primitive Area. Run-off from the region provides irrigation moisture for the farms and ranches in the vicinity north of Dubois. The area is part of the watershed which feeds Boysen Reservoir. Probably owing to the soft, porous nature of the local rock, there are no suitable dam sites within or immediately adjacent to the Primitive Area. The area itself has no agricultural value.

*Timber.*—About 30% of the proposed wilderness area is covered by timber. Much of this is affected by high altitude growth conditions, and most of the forested areas have little commercial value. Pockets of potentially merchantable timber, mostly spruce, fir, and lodgepole pine, exist in the Norton Point region, on Frozen Lake Creek, and around the headwaters of East and West DuNoir Creeks. In the latter drainages, extensive tie-hacking and logging at the end of the nineteenth century impaired the timber producing capacity of the area, though good potential continues to exist.

The original designation of 147,000 acres in 1932 showed the following estimate of dominant cover types:

	Acres
(a) Timberland bearing commercial stands.....	3,000
(b) Timberland bearing non-commercial stands.....	42,000
(c) Barren areas.....	62,600
(d) Brush areas other than sagebrush.....	1,200
(e) Sagebrush.....	600
(f) Grassland.....	37,000
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>146,400</b>