

*Grazing.*—High ridges and lower meadows provide forage for sheep and cattle. Sheep grazing is limited to the eastern drainages of the Primitive Area. Allotments for 5,000 sheep exist around the East Fork of the Wind River and on Bear Creek. There are allotments for 4,700 sheep on Wood River drainage, and 1,200 sheep on Owl Creek drainage. Cattle are being grazed near the mouth of Frontier Creek, on East and West DuNoir Creeks, and in Ramshorn Basin. Cattle grazing is mostly outside of the present boundaries of the Primitive Area. There are allotments for 300 cattle near Wood River Guard Station. There is no overgrazing.

*Wildlife.*—The Stratified Primitive Area is the chief summer range of the Wind River elk herd, probably about 1,500 head. The recommended DuNoir Extension and the western edge of the area, along DuNoir Creek, serves as a migration route for elk from the South Absaroka Wilderness Area to the East Fork Elk Winter Pasture. Deer are plentiful. There are some moose, and Bighorn sheep appear to be making a comeback.

*Fishing.*—Fishing may be considered as only fair, the best streams being Frontier Creek, Wiggins Fork, East Fork, and Emerald Creek. Due to the geological formations there is an almost entire absence of lakes. Sudden and heavy depletion of the fishing resources may occur at any time, due to the terrific cloud-bursts which periodically sweep down from the enormous areas of bare, steep rock at the headwaters of all the drainages. The Kisinger Lakes, up the West DuNoir valley, were stocked by plane the summer of 1959 with five inch grayling. The records of the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission indicate that this is an area of severe winter kill, so subsequent recommendations were not to stock these lakes. Prior to that time brook trout were planted, and they too may have winter killed. Orrin Bonney fished Kisinger Lakes for about one and a half hours in September 1966 and found no sign of fish.

*Minerals.*—With the possible exception of the Kirwin area, commercially valuable minerals are limited to the low grade semi-precious stones and exotic pieces of petrified wood found in certain areas, especially in the Petrified Forest along Frontier Creek. The Petrified Forest has been closed to mineral entry.

The Kirwin area has been subjected to sporadic but intensive mineral exploration for the last eighty years. No commercially valuable deposits of ore have been discovered within or adjacent to the Stratified Primitive Area.

The U.S. Geological Survey's 1965 mineral survey of the area and its environs found little evidence of valuable minerals in significant quantities. The results of the American Metal Climax, Inc., explorations undertaken in the last two years are confidential. But there is no activity in the Kirwin area which suggests that American Metal Climax, Inc., has found commercially valuable quantities of ore. Taken together, the U.S.G.S. report and the lack of intense activity in the Kirwin area strongly suggest that there are no commercially significant mineral deposits within the present or contemplated boundaries of the wilderness area.

Except for the strip about one-half mile wide between Dollar and Dundee Mountains, the U.S.G.S. summarized their study in the area in 1965 as follows (p. E25) :

1. No minable concentrations of minerals were discovered during the present investigation.
2. No minable concentrations of minerals have been discovered by prospectors over a 75-year period.
3. No significant amount of ore has been mined elsewhere in the southern Absarokas.
4. Extensive zones of highly altered rock, commonly associated with ore in most productive districts, are lacking in the Primitive Area.
5. Possible deposits of bedded nonmetallic minerals such as coal and phosphate in the Primitive Area would be too deeply buried by barren rock to be exploitable now or in the near future.
6. Intrusive rocks are likely to have rendered any possible oil and gas reservoirs unproductive.
7. Sand and gravel deposits are small and of poor quality.

The report states (p. E1) : "Deposits of coal, bentonite, and phosphate are found outside the Primitive Area in the same sedimentary formations that underlie parts of the Primitive Area. If deposits of these materials exist within the bounds of the Primitive Area, they are so deeply buried under a thick blanket of younger barren rocks that they would be uneconomic to mine at the present time.