

FROM THE OFFICE OF
FRANK CHURCH
U. S. SENATE

REPORT OF THE MAGRUDER CORRIDOR REVIEW COMMITTEE

Submitted to The Secretary of Agriculture
April 17, 1967

Committee

Kenneth P. Davis
James R. Meiman
Donald J. Obee
Daniel A. Poole
William L. Reavley
George A. Selke, Chairman

ISHS - Bruce Bowler Papers
MS 721
Box 35 Folder 1

WHAT YOU CAN DO!

✓ Write your Senators and Congressmen and the Secretary of Agriculture urging that the Upper Selway Area (Area E) be given protection from destruction by logging and roads—

Your Senators' address is the Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. Your Congressmen's address is the House Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. The address of the Secretary of Agriculture is the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.

✓ Ask that—

The Upper Selway Unit be protected as wilderness until full review of proposals to return it to Wilderness status by—

- adding the Little Clearwater River area to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Area.
- adding the unprotected headwaters of the Selway River (south of the Magruder Road) and the Bargamin Creek Unit to the wilderness of the Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area and the Idaho Primitive Area when these units are placed in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

These wilderness lands can be added to the National Wilderness Preservation System only through Act of Congress—with support of conservation-minded people in Idaho, Montana and throughout the Nation!

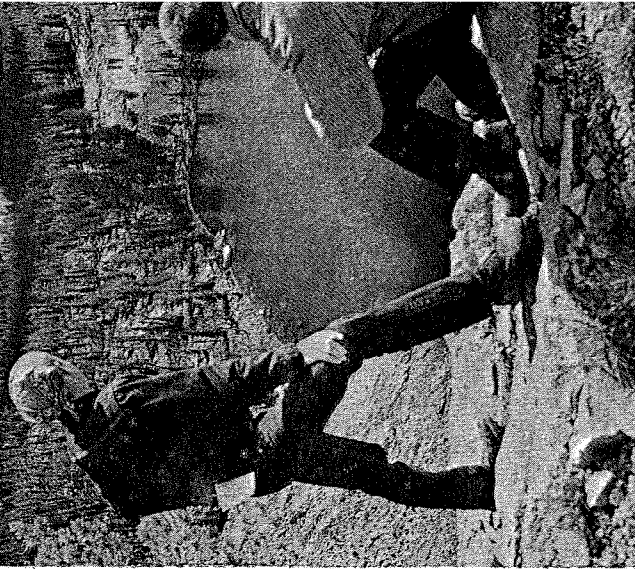
✓ Money is needed to carry on the fight to save the Upper Selway! Your help will be sincerely appreciated. Send your contribution to Doris Milner, Chairman, Save the Upper Selway Committee, Route 1, Box 355, Hamilton, Montana.

The following organizations are among those who have urged the preservation of the Upper Selway as wilderness: Idaho Wildlife Federation, Montana Wilderness Association, Montana Wildlife Federation, The Wilderness Society, The Sierra Club, The Federation of Western Outdoor

SAVE THE UPPER SELWAY COMMITTEE
ROUTE 1, BOX 355, HAMILTON, MONTANA

AN URGENT REQUEST
FOR YOUR HELP

SAVE THE WILDERN
of the
UPPER SELW



ONE QUARTER MILLION AC
WILDERNESS ARE THREA
BY LOGGING AND

THE WILDERNESS OF THE UPPER SELWAY SHOULD NOT BE SACRIFICED!

ACT NOW TO SAVE—

One of the Most Spectacular Whitewater Streams and Scenic Mountain Canyons in the United States!

Great Runs of Steelhead Trout That Now Spawn in the Silt-Free Mountain Waters of This Spectacular Stream and Its Tributaries!

Most of the natural spawning streams of these great sea-run fish already have been dammed or choked with silt from logging and other man-caused disturbances that destroy natural watersheds. Extreme steepness of slopes and loose, highly erosive soils make it urgent that this drainage remain undeveloped.

Unequaled At-Edge-of-Wilderness Opportunities!

The present road from Magruder to Elk City affords access to edges of the wilderness from which outdoorsmen, family groups, hunters, and fishermen can penetrate the extensive areas of wilderness country in the Upper Selway and Bargamin Creek drainages (Area E on map). Since 1936—a period of over 27 years—this had been protected as part of the Selway-Bitterroot Primitive Area. On January 11, 1963, the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Area was administratively established, but all of Area E was excluded.

Wilderness Wildlife!

Conservationists, sportsmen, and the Idaho Fish and Game Department have stressed the importance of preserving the Upper Selway in its natural condition because of its anadromous and native fisheries, wilderness qualities of elk, deer, and other big game hunting, and the outstanding opportunities for observing wildlife in an unspoiled, primitive setting.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED —

On January 11, 1963, Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman announced the reclassification of the 1,875,306-acre Selway-Bitterroot Primitive Area as a Wilderness Area.

The Secretary's decision removed some 446,906 acres (22% of the original primitive area) from wilderness protection.

Left in protected status were the 1,239,840 acres reclassified as the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Area and the Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area con-

LEFT WITHOUT PROTECTION:

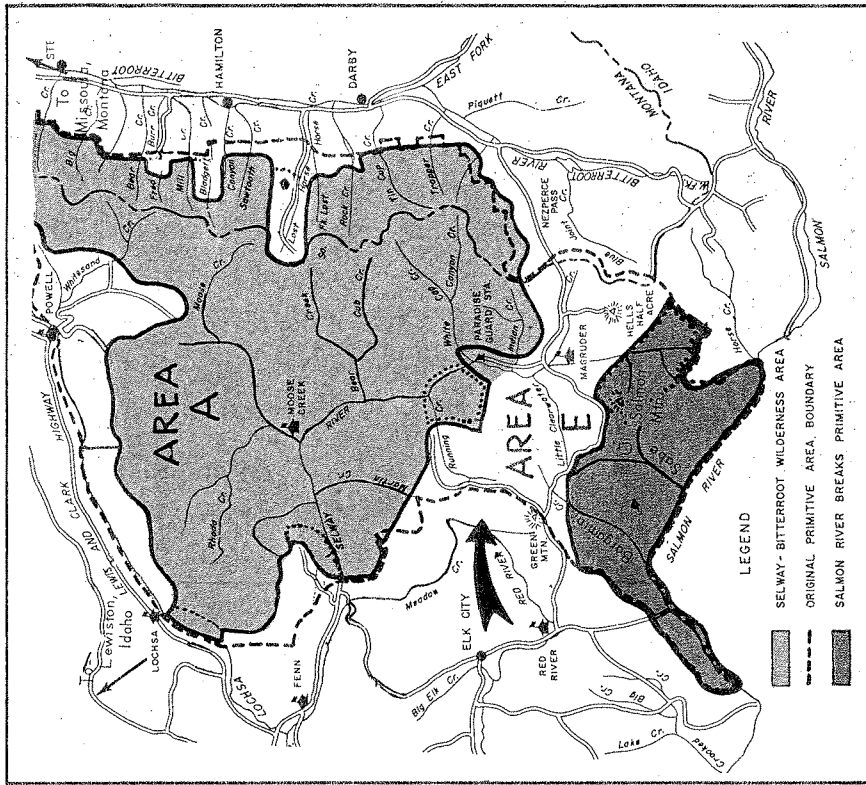
230,000 acres within the Little Clearwater River and other headwaters of the Selway River.

32,830 acres in Upper Bargamin Creek in the Salmon River watershed.

Both of these units had been protected as part of the original Selway-Bitterroot Primitive Area since 1936.

Both are vitally important parts of the Upper Selway-Salmon River wilderness. The Upper Selway is one of the last, free-flowing streams of the Columbia River sys-

Both are now unprotected and subject to active proposals for road construction. logg-



The Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Area (Area A) with the Upper Selway River, Little Clearwater River, Bargamin Creek Exclusions shown as Area E.

1

Save the Selway!

UPPER SELWAY VALLEY THREATENED

Save the Selway!

April 1, 1965

If the Forest Service has its way, a vast area of wilderness in the upper Selway River Valley, Idaho outdoor paradise, will soon feel the bite of the bulldozer.

A recent decision by the Secretary of Agriculture has placed 230,000 acres designated as Area E (see map attached) in the category of ordinary forest land subject to multiple use development. This area has been protected as part of the Selway-Bitterroot Primitive Area since June 11, 1936.

The Selway River has always been an outstanding example of a beautiful mountain stream. Logging anywhere in the watershed would damage its priceless cutthroat trout water and hinder a major effort being made to re-establish chinook salmon in the drainage. Steelhead trout and eastern brook would also be adversely affected along with dolly varden, whitefish and other species. When tons of silt are washed into a stream formerly so clear one can count pebbles through ten feet of water, there can be only one result.

Since the Selway is the only major undamaged wilderness stream left in the northern part of Idaho, and is one of a very few left in the whole United States, a good hard look at the Forest Service plans is in order.

Of the 230,000 acres in Area E, 173,000 acres lie in the Magruder Ranger District of the Bitterroot National Forest. The remainder of 57,000 acres lies in the Bargamin Creek and Running Creek drainages. At present the threat of logging appears most imminent in the Magruder district. The Forest Service plans to widen the road from Magruder to the Montana line where it connects with a recently widened road. Wide roads are necessary for logging.

How many logs are there to harvest in the Magruder District, and what basis would these logs provide for a permanent wood manufacturing operation? The Forest Service says that the allowable annual cut on this 173,000 acres is 12 million feet.

A modern stud or board mill with one headrig, if operating two shifts, cuts about a million feet of timber per week. This annual cut would operate such a mill only about three months, give or take a few weeks.

Vast areas in the upper Selway are covered with lodgepole pine of small size. The elevations are too high and the climate too severe over most of the area for good saw-timber production.

Recent floods should serve as a reminder of what happens downstream when sudden thaws and a deluge of rain occur in damaged watersheds. While there is still time it might pay to consider the Selway valley timber as a preventer of future floods.

The Forest Service cites browse production for big game as a reason for logging the Magruder District. Surveys made by the Idaho Fish and Game Department in the winter of 1956-57 showed that only $8\frac{1}{2}$ percent of the elk

in the Selway drainage were to be found this far upriver. Of 6,774 elk counted in the drainage, only 579 were counted above White Cap Creek, and only 186 above Magruder Station. Only 34 mule deer were counted in this area, and not a single white tail deer was seen. From these figures it is obvious that any effort to provide browse for major elk herds in the Selway country will have to be elsewhere than in the Magruder District if it is to be effective. Browse released by logging would be mainly on north slopes where cold temperatures and snow depths would prevent use by animals. Construction of logging roads would kill part of the browse plants presently available. A Forest Service plan to protect scenic values along the river with a "River-break Zone" a mile wide would do nothing to provide forage in the most critical area.

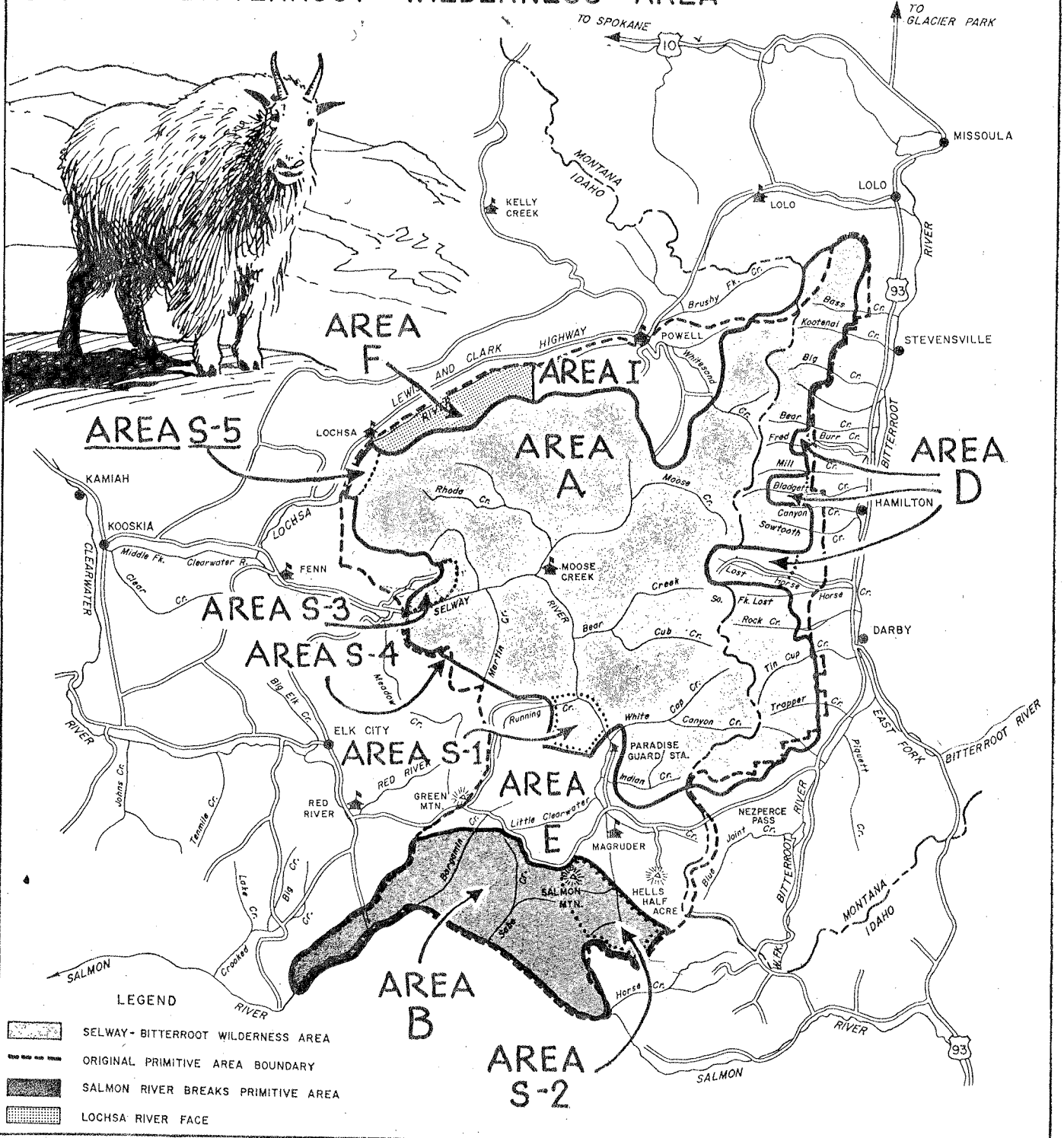
How does the upper Selway compare to other timberlands in the Northwest in timber production per acre? Mike McCloskey, former conservation representative of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs, has assembled some figures, which I quote as follows: "Based on a 100 year rotation period, an average per acre yield for eastern Washington sites for mixed species is 17,000 board feet. On 173,000 acres, this would produce about 30 million board feet annual allowable cut. For average sites in western Oregon and Washington with the same rotation period, the yield would be about 50,000 board feet per acre, and the annual cut on 173,000 acres would be 86.5 million board feet. Thus the 12 million annual allowable cut in the upper Selway is only about one-half as much as a good east side cut, and one seventh of a good west side cut. In short, it really looks marginal."

The Forest Service plans call for so much road building in this scenic area to harvest this dribble of timber that one wonders if the roads will cost more than the timber is worth. It would be necessary to look far and wide to find a better example of spending public funds to create soil erosion. Taxpayers have a right to expect the Forest Service to stand for more than stumps and muddy water.

Protests to the Forest Service relative to their plans for the Selway should be sent to Harold E. Anderson, Supervisor, Bitterroot National Forest, Hamilton, Montana, with copies to Neal M. Rahm, Regional Forester, Federal Building, Missoula, Montana. Correspondence with senators and representatives in Congress should stress requests that Area E be retained as Wilderness by legislation for that purpose.

North Idaho Wilderness Committee
Morton R. Brigham, Chairman
3519 13th Street
Lewiston, Idaho 83501

SELWAY - BITTERROOT WILDERNESS AREA



THE SELWAY-BITTERROOT WILDERNESS MAPPED TO SHOW ORIGINAL AND NEWLY NAMED PRIMITIVE AREAS AND NEWLY ESTABLISHED WILDERNESS AREA

STATEMENT BY SECRETARY FREEMAN ON THE REPORT OF THE
REVIEW COMMITTEE FOR THE MAGRUDER CORRIDOR

The Magruder Corridor is a 173,000-acre area of northcentral Idaho within the Bitterroot National Forest. It lies between the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness and the Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area.

During the spring and summer of 1966, I received numerous expressions of concern about the plans which the Forest Service had drawn for the development and use of the various resources in the Corridor. The concern was directed at such matters as the area's fragile soils, its ecological relationships, the possible effects of various land use on fisheries values, and the general overall management of the area.

These public expressions, following so closely the floods of 1964 and 1965 in western Montana and northern Idaho and the resulting damage, indicated that I needed additional information in order to make knowledgeable judgments as to the future use and development of the Magruder Corridor. Therefore, last September, I appointed a special citizens Committee to review, on a broad basis, Forest Service plans for the management of the Magruder Corridor and to advise me whether, in its opinion, it would be feasible to execute such plan or plans of such character for the general public good. The Committee was asked to study the land, the resources, and especially the effect of planned development on the area's fragile soils and on the local and downstream fisheries. I reminded the Committee that the management objectives for the Corridor should realize for the people who live in the vicinity and for the people of the country as a whole, a pattern of use which will assure the highest long-term public values.

This special Review Committee was composed of carefully selected men with a broad experience and specialized training in a range of natural resource fields. The Committee was chaired by Dr. George A. Selke, former Chancellor of the University of Montana and former Commissioner of Conservation in the State of Minnesota. Other members of the Committee were: Kenneth P. Davis, professor, School of Forestry, Yale University; James R. Meiman, professor of watershed management, College of Forestry and Natural Resources, Colorado State University; Donald J. Obee, professor of botany, and Chairman, Division of Life Sciences, Boise College, Boise, Idaho; Daniel A. Poole, Secretary, Wildlife Management Institute, Washington, D.C.; and William S. Reavley, Western Field Representative, National Wildlife Federation, Salt Lake City, Utah.

The citizens Review Committee and its individual members made several trips into the area. Committee members traveled the roads, hiked some of the trails, and observed it from the air. The Committee held public meetings in Missoula, Montana; and in Boise and Grangeville, Idaho. It had extensive correspondence with people and organizations interested in the Magruder Corridor, and it consulted with technical experts in many fields related to the subject.

June 1, 1967

The Committee presented its report to me on April 20, 1967. I am now releasing it to the public.

The Review Committee has done an excellent job of identifying problems and recommending solutions. Those interested in the details of the recommendations and the carefully developed thinking of the Committee should read the report.

I am today announcing decisions on those recommendations that lie within the Department's power to act.

I have studied the Committee's report and its recommendations very carefully. While some of the data collected in the limited time available may need further verification and some of the judgments may be debatable, I accept the overall intent of the Review Committee's recommendations. I agree that, under the special circumstances involved, the Forest Service should refine its plans for developing and managing the Magruder Corridor. I also agree with the Committee that the Forest Service can and should manage the Magruder Corridor, recognizing its existing and potential values in proper balance, without resorting to special designation or classification. Further, as the Review Committee emphasized in one of its recommendations, I see a distinct need for the Forest Service to keep the public informed in this regard.

The Review Committee sets forth three primary values which they believe should govern the management of the Magruder Corridor:

- It has important watershed-fisheries values.
- It is a historic and natural connecting route between Idaho and Montana.
- It has important existing and potential recreational values, particularly because of its proximity to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness and the Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area.

I agree. In support of these principles, I am asking the Forest Service to prepare a new integrated plan for the orderly development and management of the Magruder Corridor. It will coordinate resource management plans, using the guiding policy that all land management shall reflect and maintain wild land conditions consonant with these primary values. Roads will be constructed in the area only on the basis of a clear need established by the plan. This determination of need for each road will include careful economic analysis, recognizing the inherent costs involved in the erosion control measures required in this area.

In directing that such an integrated plan be prepared, I am aware, and the Committee recognized, the Forest Service has developed a multiple use management plan for the area. Adequate resource inventories take time, and there has been little time to complete all the necessary surveys and inventories or to develop detailed and coordinated plans for all resources.

Also, I recognize that such a special plan for the Magruder Corridor goes beyond that which the Forest Service should be expected to formulate to guide the management of most other areas for which it is responsible.

The Review Committee recommended that management of the Corridor must promote water quality and flow conditions to maintain and, if possible, enhance the environment of salmon and steelhead populations.

I agree. The Selway River is one of the most strategic streams with regard to anadromous fish production in the Columbia River drainage system. I am directing the Forest Service to take special precautions to protect and improve watershed and fisheries values in the Upper Selway River drainage as the Committee recommends.

The Committee recommended that timber harvesting and associated logging road construction be deferred until certain conditions were met.

I agree with this recommendation and, therefore, am directing the Forest Service to delay any harvesting of timber until commercial timber and timberland values have been more specifically and comprehensively evaluated. I am also directing that timber harvesting be delayed until a clear need is established for each road, as I have discussed above on the Committee's first recommendation. The Forest Service will further evaluate the scenic aspects of timber harvesting methods to determine where and how cutting may reasonably be done consistent with maintaining an esthetic landscape in areas of public use for travel and recreation.

The Review Committee also recommended that all road construction and maintenance be based on integrated planning for the area as a whole in consonance with its primary values. Such an overall integrated plan would recognize the high costs of building and maintaining roads which will not result in significant erosion and stream sedimentation.

I agree. In accepting this and related recommendations of the Committee, I have been assured by the Forest Service that it has no plans for constructing a road from the Magruder Ranger Station to Thompson Flat at the boundary of the Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area. The Review Committee concluded, and I agree, there is no foreseeable need for such a road.

The Committee specifically recommended that the Selway River Road from Magruder Crossing to Paradise Guard Station be maintained primarily as a recreation and administrative service road and that it should be improved promptly for safety and for the stabilization of cuts and fills.

I accept this recommendation. This recommendation is in harmony with present planning. I am directing the Forest Service to give increasing emphasis to solutions to these problems regarding safety and erosion-siltation. The Forest Service will proceed with its plans to repair the sources of sedimentation along this road.

The Review Committee recommends the Nezperce Trail Road from Darby, Montana to Elk City, Idaho be improved as use justifies and given thorough maintenance. It is the main road of the Magruder Corridor. It has the greatest use and constructed width; and, special care should be taken, particularly in the Deep Creek section, to prevent erosion and stream sedimentation. Dust-proofing and paving of some portions may be advisable.

I am in agreement with this recommendation. The Nezperce Trail Road was originally constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930's to facilitate fire control activities. There will be an increasing need for a "recreation way" across the Magruder Corridor. Most of such a road will be on the location of the present road; but some sections of it will have to be relocated in order to protect soil and water values, to make it safe for public travel, and adequate for other resource uses.

I am directing the Forest Service to proceed with its specific plan to pave the recently constructed $8\frac{1}{2}$ -mile section of the Nezperce Trail Road which is in the Deep Creek drainage. Further, seeding, fertilizing, and mulching to heal the raw cut and fill slopes along this section will be continued until it is effective. Of course, continued maintenance of this and of other sections to be constructed will be necessary.

In this same regard and in response to another related Committee recommendation, I am asking the Forest Service to develop realistic road maintenance plans for the Magruder Corridor and to estimate the cost of maintenance as a part of overall and specific road transportation planning.

The Review Committee also recommends that a long-range recreation plan be prepared to give thorough consideration to recreation uses and values. The plan would provide for maintenance of quality, primitive-type recreation; identification of specific recreational locations; delineation of scenic views and other points of interest; provide for adequate interpretive marking of historic features; and location of potential packer-outfitter sites.

I accept this recommendation. In addition to treating this subject in its integrated plan for the Corridor as a whole, I am asking the Forest Service to prepare a long-range recreation plan which will give thorough consideration to all recreation uses and values.

The Committee recommended that research related to erosion and sedimentation on granitic and related soil materials of the Idaho batholith should be strengthened. It further recommended that such research should include classification of materials, description of erosion processes on various types of materials, evaluation of man-influenced versus natural erosion, and development of logging and roading practices on these areas to minimize erosion and sedimentation.

I accept the intent of this recommendation. I am directing the Forest Service to develop a plan for a strengthened research program to more adequately

meet the needs suggested by the Committee and assure that the most advanced knowledge available is utilized in planning the land management and development practices which are necessary to control erosion and sedimentation in the Magruder Corridor.

My acceptance of the Review Committee's recommendations and the actions I am directing the Forest Service to take may not go as far as some people hoped. Others will object to actions that limit or delay use in order to protect and enhance the primary values of the Magruder Corridor. I have made my decision after careful study of all information pertinent to management of this area.

The Review Committee members have made an important public contribution to public land management in the United States and in the State of Idaho. I publicly express my appreciation and indebtedness to them.

Reappraisal Ordered For Upper Selway

September 15, 1966

Members of local, state and national conservation organizations are highly gratified that Senators Lee Metcalf of Montana and Frank Church of Idaho have been successful in convincing Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman of the urgent need to appoint a special committee from non-involved sources to re-study land and water values in the Upper Selway. Such a re-study has long been urged by conservationists who believe it is manifestly impossible to have a wilderness with an unpolluted wild river downstream when there is an intensively developed, roaded and logged area upstream. In response to specific requests from the Senators, the Secretary has indicated that a committee would be appointed before the end of August and asked to make a full report by January of 1967.

Senator Metcalf suggested to Secretary Freeman that the study be made by a non-partisan group of specialists, like the Leopold Committee appointed by Secretary Udall who called in experts from various disciplines. All could then feel assured that the investigation would be carried out by men well qualified in scientific fields who would be able to recognize and evaluate the biological and ecological factors and to weigh them against the limited economic gain to be derived from logging.

Senator Metcalf, in his letter to Secretary Freeman of May 24, pinpointed the misgivings of conservationists when he stated:

Serious questions have been raised about soil fragility, ecological relationships, the effect of cutting on downstream fisheries. In my opinion, you will have to go outside the Federal Government to get some of the persons most qualified to serve on the study committee, which will have to have sufficient time to make a comprehensive ecological analysis and arrive at an independent judgment.

In this same connection, Senator Church in a news release of August 1 commented:

I am most hopeful that such a committee can provide the answers we need—particularly whether or not the logging would result in siltation of the river, which would ruin the salmon runs now being re-established in the Selway. The Selway is one of the rivers we plan to include in the initial National Wild Rivers System, and I will vigorously oppose any activity which might impair the fish runs or mar this beautiful river.

Conservationists concur with and applaud these sentiments.

We also wish to point out that the controversial Area E, which has been eliminated from protected status as either wilderness or primitive area, contains nearly 100,000 acres more than the 170,000 acres referred to recently by the Secretary and the Forest Service, and that it includes territory in the Salmon River drainage as well as in the Selway-Clearwater drainage. It is urgent that the study group, in addition to being composed of individuals of stature and proven judgment, be given ample time to go over this immense acreage carefully **on the ground**, making their own measurements, estimates, and evaluations. We would like further to suggest that the Committee evaluate public sentiment before submitting its final report to the Secretary. With winter approaching, there is valid reason for concern that the January deadline will not permit the thorough study that is demanded.

An important advance has been made. Senators Metcalf and Church and Secretary Freeman are to be congratulated for their parts in it.

The saving of the Selway is still an uphill fight. The Save-the-Upper-Selway committees need financial contributions to continue the struggle and to make it possible to keep you informed. The present achievement was brought about by loyal support of an enlightened public.

Doris Milner, Chairman
Save-the-Upper-Selway Committee
Rt. 1, Box 355, Hamilton, Montana

Morton Brigham, Chairman
North Idaho Wilderness Association
3519 13th Street, Lewiston, Idaho

Woodman, Spare That Tree

Freeman Chops Down Forest Logging Plan

By WILLIAM STEIF

Scraps-Howard Staff Writer

Agriculture Secretary Orville L. Freeman today rejected a Forest Service plan to permit commercial logging in the heart of the largest remaining wilderness area in the continental U.S.

At stake was a 173,000-acre area known as "The Magruder Corridor" which bisects a 1.5 million-acre wilderness in north-central Idaho. The corridor was named for a tiny settlement, Magruder, near the headwaters of the Clearwater river.

Conservationists, led by Sens. Lee Metcalf (D., Mont.) and Frank Church (D., Idaho), hailed Mr. Freeman's decision as an important victory in their four-year fight to save the mountain wilderness.

WILD LIFE

The area's silt-free streams furnish spawning grounds for steelhead trout and Chinook salmon and its high country is the home of remnant populations of mountain goats, elk and other wild species.

The Forest Service sought to turn over the Magruder Corridor's acreage to loggers, altho the timber is of low quality and the quantity would have to be trucked 1000 miles to market, conservationists said. The Forest Service plan would have doomed the Clearwater river — mentioned prominently in President Johnson's program for a scenic rivers system — to pollution.

Conservationist protests had slowed the Forest Service, but as late as last fall it was making plans to build logging roads in the area.

GROUP PROBE

Sens. Metcalf and Church demanded that Mr. Freeman appoint an impartial group outside the Forest Service to study what should be done with the Corridor. The group's six members, headed by former Minnesota Conservation Commissioner George A. Selke, sent Mr. Freeman their report six weeks ago. It was highly critical of the Forest Service.

As a result, Mr. Freeman to-



ORVILLE L. FREEMAN

day ordered the Forest Service to:

- Make plans for the 173,000 acres "consonant with the primary values" of the Corridor. Mr. Freeman named the primary values as "watershed, fisheries, historic and recreational."
- Forget about building logging roads.
- Delay all logging until it's decided what commercial value the area's timber has, and then permit logging only where it is "consistent with maintaining esthetic landscapes."
- Develop a better research program for the area.

This is an important breakthrough!

Bundy