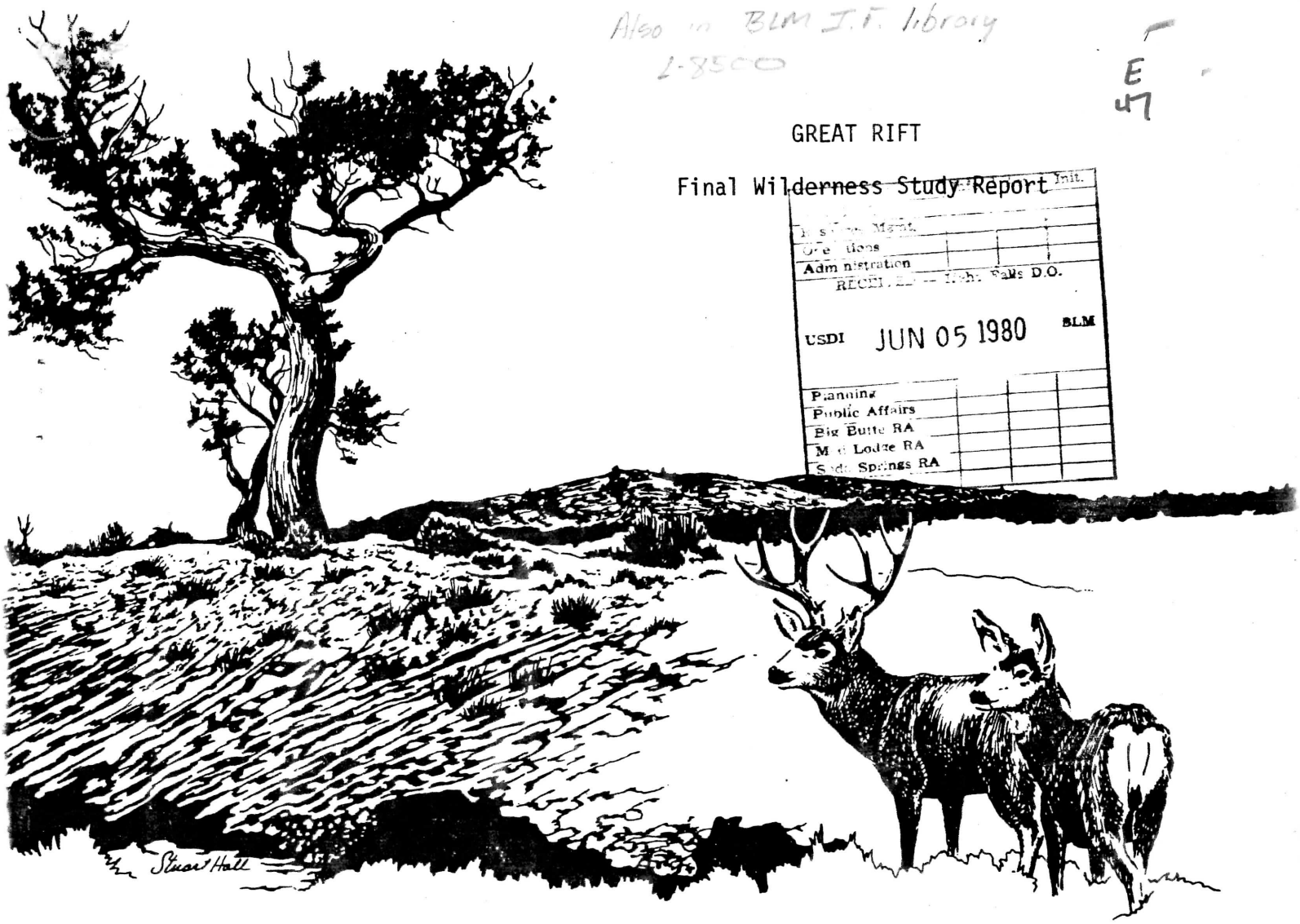
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GREAT RIFT

Final Wilderness Study Report

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Planning
Public Affairs
Big Butte RA
Soda Springs RA

Prepared by

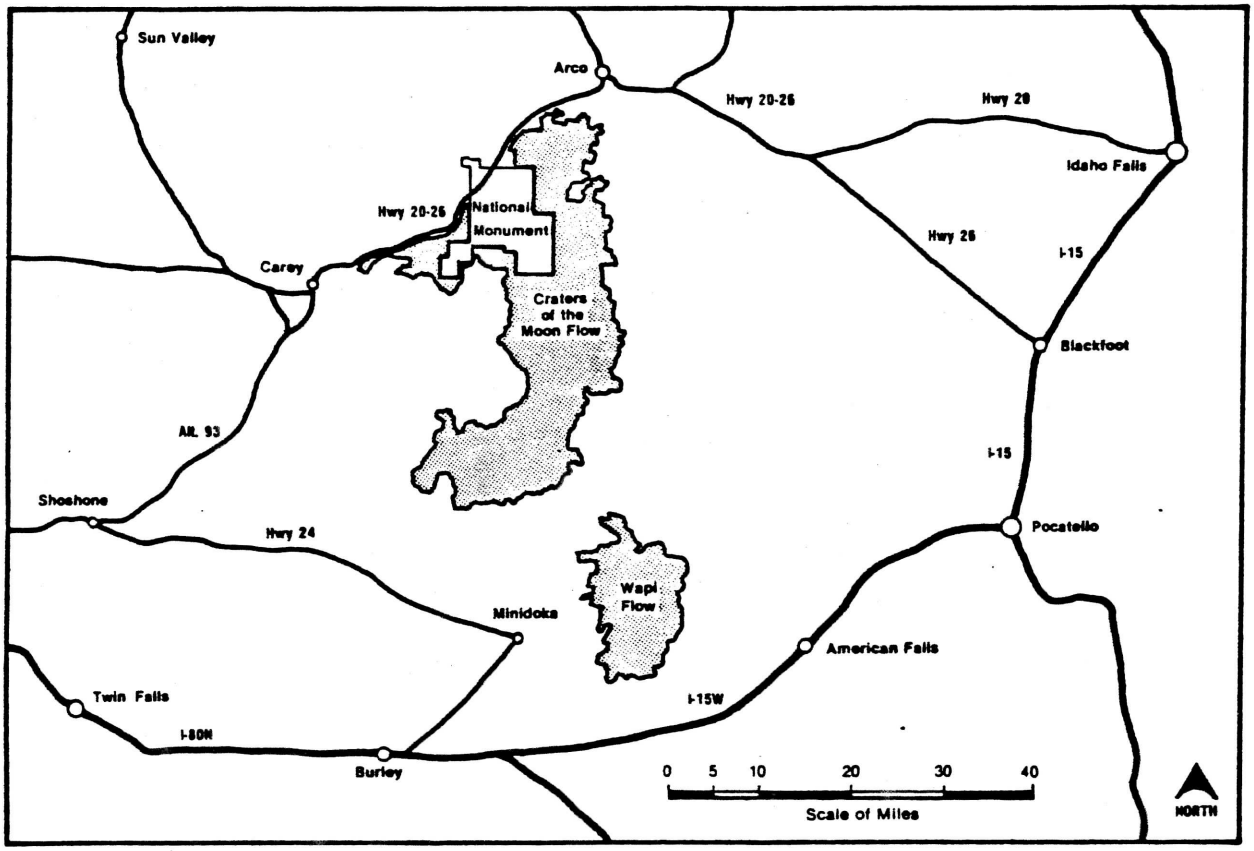
U.S. Department of the Interior

Bureau of Land Management

Idaho

May 1980

Location of Proposed Great Rift Wilderness



Proposed Wilderness Boundary

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Wilderness Suitability Recommendation

The Bureau of Land Management recommends that Congress incorporate the Great Rift into the National Wilderness Preservation System. The area includes most of the Craters of the Moon and Wapi lava flows and contiguous suitable public lands having wilderness characteristics. The Great Rift has outstanding wilderness values which meet the criteria of Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964. The area's vastness, naturalness, and ecologic, geologic, scenic and historic features enhance truly outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. Scientific and educational values are equally outstanding. The lava flows demonstrate a desert-lava ecosystem found in only one other, much smaller designated wilderness area, the contiguous Craters of the Moon National Monument Wilderness.

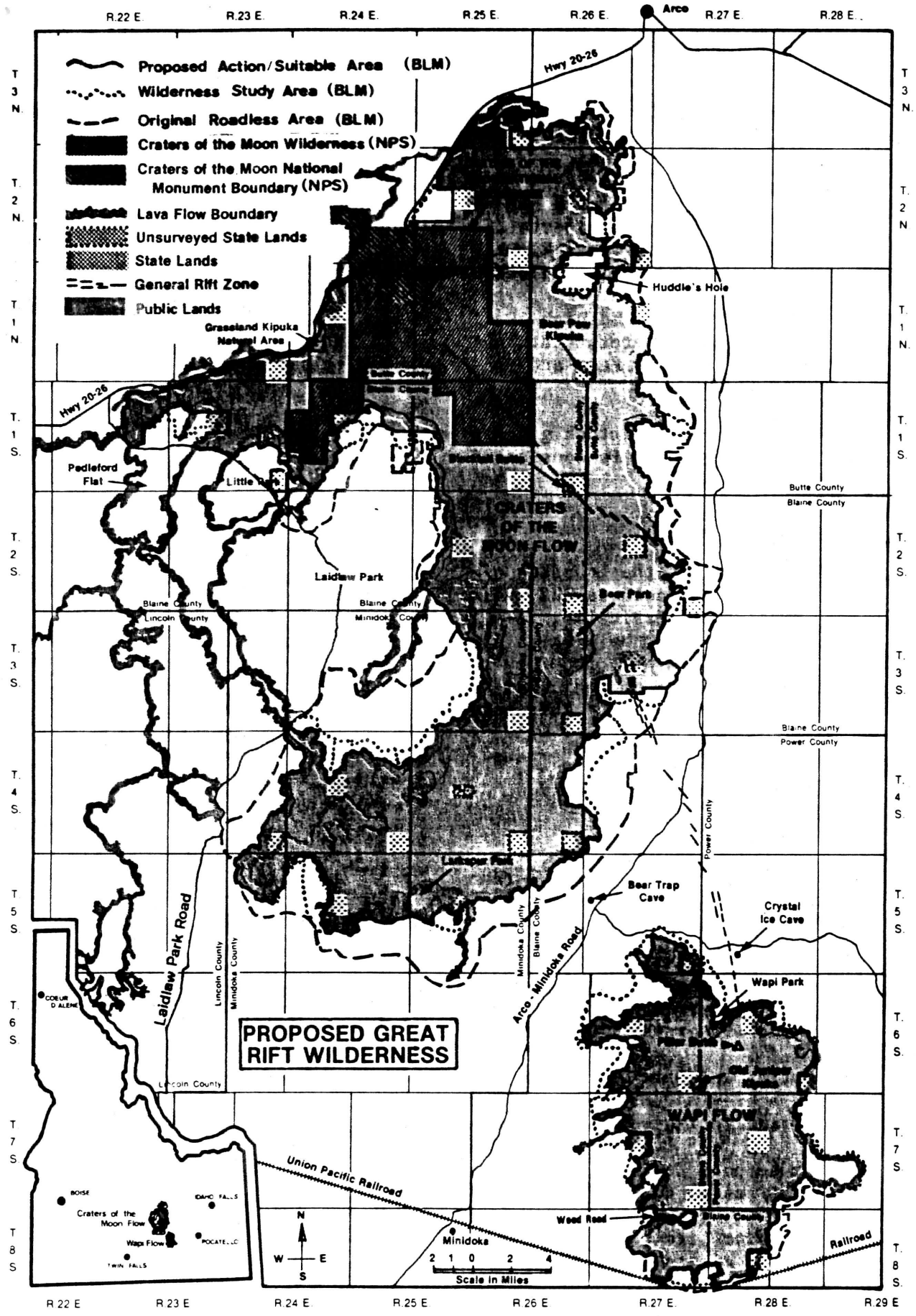
Analysis of the resources revealed that no significant resource conflicts would occur if Congress designated the area. The draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) on wilderness status for the Great Rift analyzed the proposed action and two alternatives: (1) Proposed Action--designate 322,450 acres of public lands as wilderness, (2) Wilderness Study Area (WSA)--designate 355,850 acres of public lands as wilderness, and (3) No Action--no wilderness designation. The draft and final statements identified no significant adverse impacts for any alternative at this time. They concluded that wilderness designation of 322,450 acres would offer the best alternative for protection of the wilderness values of the Great Rift.

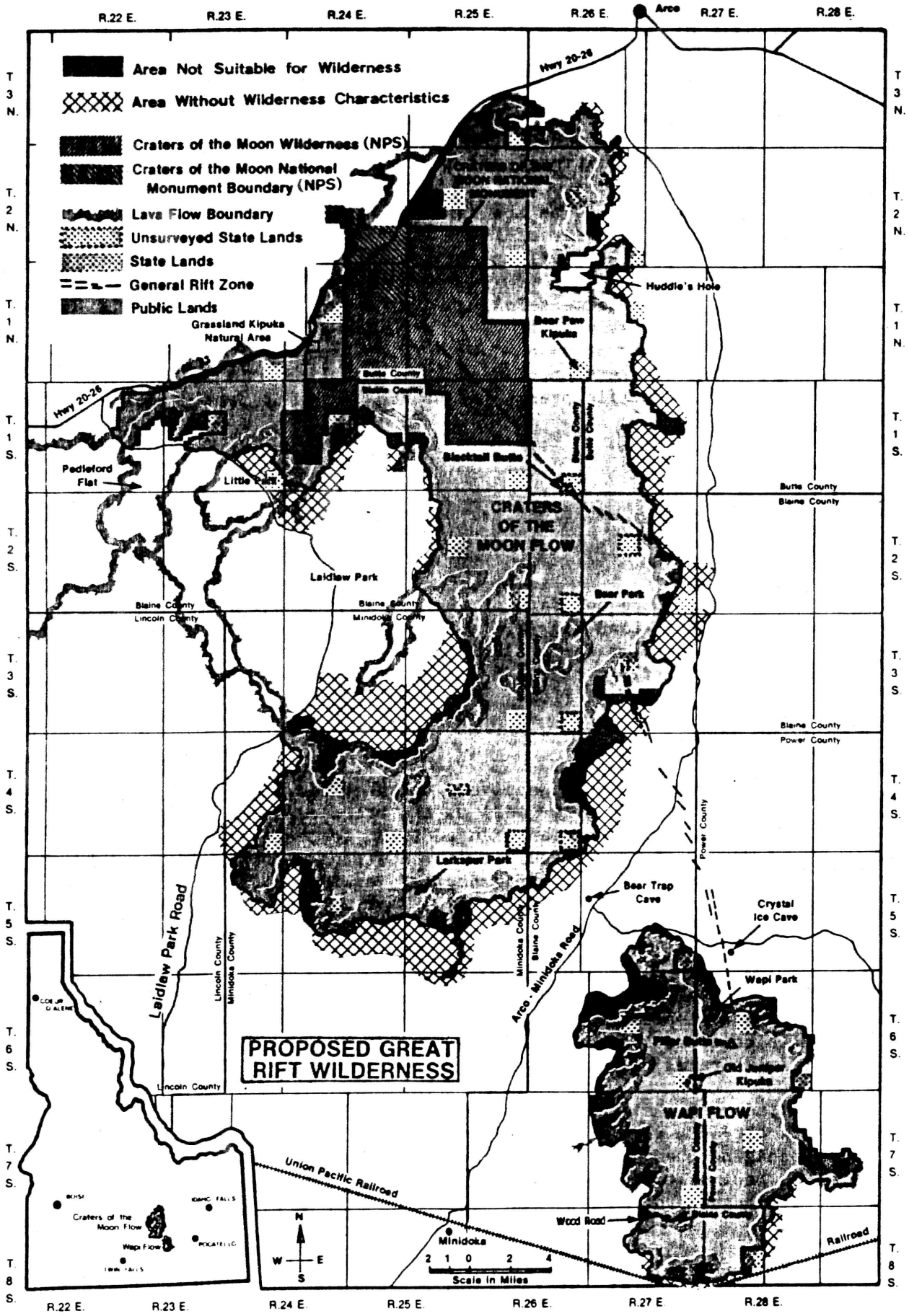
Recommendation _____ Date 5/21/80
Idaho Falls District Manager

Recommendation _____ Date 5/22/80
Shoshone District Manager

Approved _____ Date 6-2-80
Idaho State Director

Approved _____ Date _____
Director


Proposed Action/Suitable Area (BLM)
Wilderness Study Area (BLM)
Original Roadless Area (BLM)
Craters of the Moon Wilderness (NPS)
Craters of the Moon National Monument Boundary (NPS)
Lava Flow Boundary
Unsurveyed State Lands
State Lands
General Rift Zone
Public Lands
Arco
Hwy 20-26
Huddle's Hole
Grassland Kipuka Natural Area
Pedleford Flat
CRATERS OF THE MOON FLOW
Laidlaw Park
Bear Pass
Butte County
Blaine County
Lincoln County
Minidoka County
Power County
Laidlaw Park Road
Arco - Minidoka Road
Bear Trap Cave
Crystal Ice Cave
Wapi Park
WAPI FLOW
PROPOSED GREAT RIFT WILDERNESS
Union Pacific Railroad
Wood Road
Minidoka
Scale in Miles
COEUR D'ALENE
BOISE
IDAHO FALLS
POCATELLO
TWIN FALLS
Craters of the Moon Flow
Wapi Flow
R.22 E.
R.23 E.
R.24 E.
R.25 E.
R.26 E.
R.27 E.
R.28 E.
R.29 E
T 3 N.
T. 2 N.
T. 1 N.
T. 1 S.
T. 2 S.
T. 3 S.
T. 4 S.
T. 5 S.
T. 6 S.
T. 7 S.
T. 8 S.


Area Not Suitable for Wilderness
Area Without Wilderness Characteristics
Craters of the Moon Wilderness (NPS)
Craters of the Moon National Monument Boundary (NPS)
Lava Flow Boundary
Unsurveyed State Lands
State Lands
General Rift Zone
Public Lands
R.22 E.
R.23 E.
R.24 E.
R.25 E.
R.26 E.
R.27 E.
R.28 E.
T. 3 N.
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T. 4 S.
T. 5 S.
T. 6 S.
T. 7 S.
T. 8 S.
Arco
Hwy 20-26
Huddle's Hole
Bear Paw Kipuka
Grassland Kipuka Natural Area
Pedleford Flat
Little Park
Blacktail Butte
CRATERS OF THE MOON FLOW
Laidlaw Park
Bear Park
Lanspur Park
Bear Trap Cave
Crystal Ice Cave
Wapi Park
Old Juniper Kipuka
WAPI FLOW
Laidlaw Park Road
Arco - Minidoka Road
PROPOSED GREAT RIFT WILDERNESS
Union Pacific Railroad
Wood Road
Minidoka
Craters of the Moon Flow
Wapi Flow
Scale in Miles
Butte County
Blaine County
Lincoln County
Minidoka County
Power County

Previous Designation

Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA, 1976) states:

> That the Secretary shall report to the President by July 1, 1980, his recommendations on those areas which the Secretary has prior to November 1, 1975, formally identified as natural or primitive areas. The review required by this subsection shall be conducted in accordance with the procedure specified in Section 3(d) of the Wilderness Act.

The Secretary identified the Grassland Kipuka (160 acres of public land located 1.5 miles west of Craters of the Moon National Monument) as a Natural Area in 1965. It therefore falls under the purview of the 1980 reporting requirements. The BLM's Organic Act Directive (OAD) #79-40 requires simultaneous review and reporting on roadless lands contiguous to previously designated Natural Areas. The Craters of the Moon lava flow is contiguous to the Grassland Kipuka Natural Area and is therefore included.

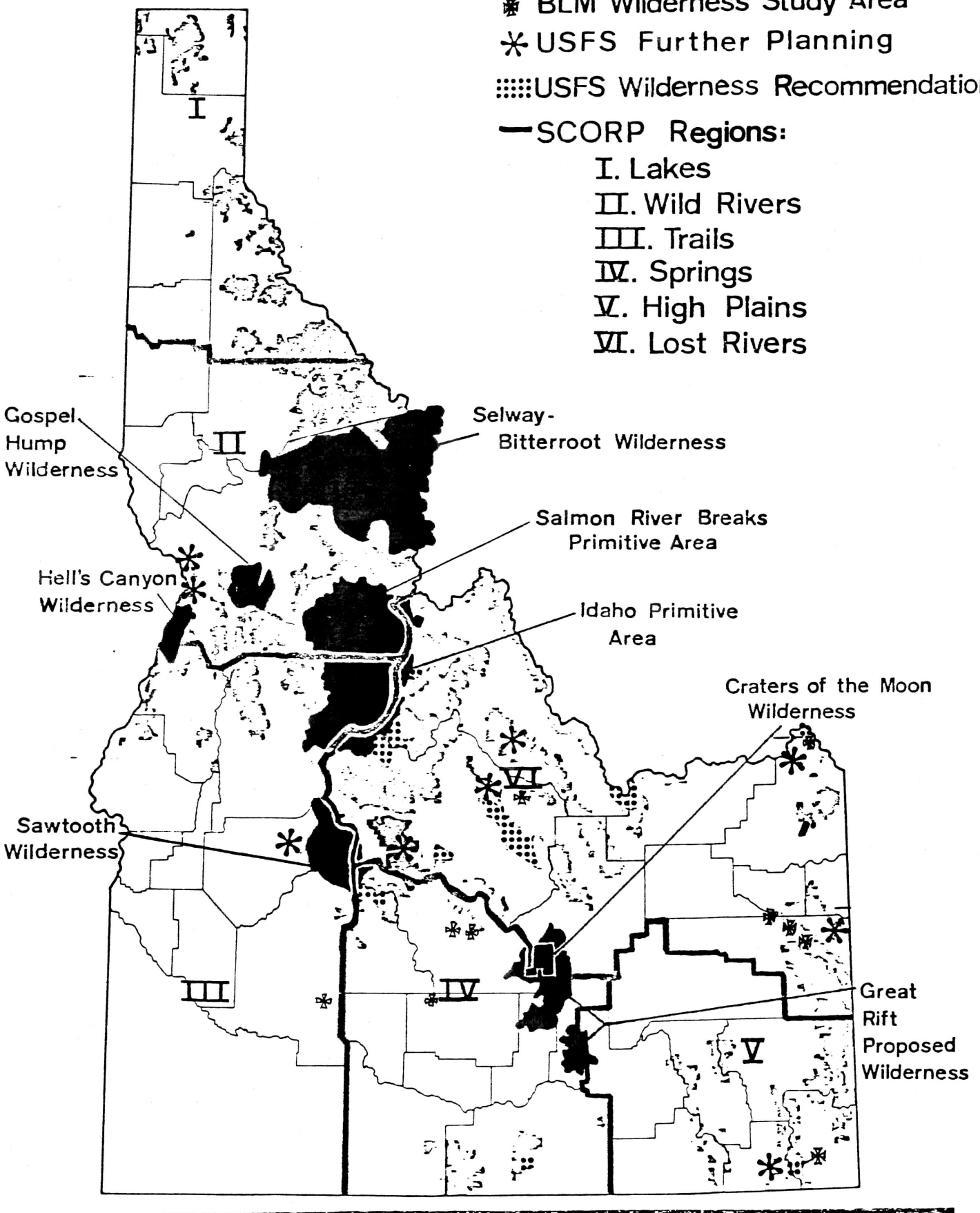
Both the Craters of the Moon flow (252,760 acres) and the Wapi flow (69,690 acres) were recommended for primitive area designation when the Big Desert Management Framework Plan was developed (1974). That recommendation led to a contracted study of primitive area values in 1975-76. The study called for designation for both lava flows. However, when Section 603 of FLPMA mandated a wilderness review of all BLM lands, primitive area designation work halted.

Regional Analysis

The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) for Idaho divides the state into six regions. The Great Rift is located in three of these regions known as the Springs, High Plains, and Lost River regions. The divisions of these areas are based on county lines and economic planning considerations (see page 5).

Within these regions are a variety of environments: the highest mountains in Idaho, many rivers and lakes, sagebrush and grass plateaus, sand dunes, and recent lava flows ranging from 2,000 to 15,000 years old.

Two designated wilderness areas, Craters of the Moon and Sawtooth, are found in the three regions. The proposed Great Rift Wilderness surrounds the Craters of the Moon Wilderness, which is part of Craters of the Moon National Monument. Part of two primitive areas, Salmon River Breaks and Idaho, are in the regions. Congress has passed a bill to designate these two areas, with a few boundary adjustments, as the River of No Return Wilderness. The two versions of the bill are in conference committee as of May, 1980. Seven other Forest Service areas are administratively endorsed for wilderness designation and six others for further wilderness planning. BLM has nine units with wilderness study area status. All these potential wilderness areas are located on the map on page 5.


BLM Wilderness Study Area
USFS Further Planning
USFS Wilderness Recommendation
SCORP Regions:
I. Lakes
II. Wild Rivers
III. Trails
IV. Springs
V. High Plains
VI. Lost Rivers
Gospel Hump Wilderness
Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness
Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area
Hell's Canyon Wilderness
Idaho Primitive Area
Craters of the Moon Wilderness
Sawtooth Wilderness
Great Rift Proposed Wilderness
I
II
III
IV
V
VI

Area	Acres	Managing Agency
1. Craters of the Moon Wilderness (Includes 80% of Craters of the Moon National Monument.)	43,243	National Park Service
2. Sawtooth Wilderness	216,383	U.S. Forest Service
3. River of No Return Wilderness (Final acreage unsettled as of May, 1980. House and Senate to resolve difference.)	2,234,000	U.S. Forest Service

The following are U. S. Forest Service RARE II areas within the three regions recommended for wilderness designation (W) or further wilderness planning (FP).

Name	Number		Acres	Recommendation
Worm Creek	4-179		41,565	W
Cache Peak	4-582		25,526	W
S.Boise-Yuba River	4-553		165,785	W
Pioneer Mountains	4-201		58,368	W
Borah Peak	4-210		138,304	W
Italian Peak	4-945		146,280	W
Lionhead	4-963		16,860	W
		TOTAL	592,688	
Mt. Naomi	4-758		28,800	FP
Palisades	W4-613		111,250	FP
Mt. Jefferson	W4-962		17,340	FP
Lemhi Range	4-503		146,876	FP
Pahsimeroi	S4-209		138,304	FP
White Cloud Boulder	4-551		242,248	FP
		TOTAL	684,818	

The following are BLM wilderness study areas within the three regions.

Name	Number	Acres
Goldburg	45-1	3,290
Black Butte	54-2	4,002
Little Wood River	53-4	4,385
Friedman Creek	53-5	9,773
South Fork of the Snake River Islands	34-3, 34-4	
	34-2	770
Henry's Lake	35-77	350
Worm Creek	37-77	40
	TOTAL	22,610

Approximately 350,000 people, or 40% of Idaho's population, resides in the Springs, High Plains, and Lost River regions. The population is expected to grow about 14% over the next decade (Idaho Outdoor Recreation Plan, 1977, page 3.29). Most of the population is concentrated along the Snake River, due to agricultural development there.

The two largest cities in the regions, Idaho Falls and Pocatello, are less than 100 miles from Craters of the Moon Wilderness and from the Great Rift. The Sawtooth Wilderness is about 200 miles from these cities; the River of No Return is farther. A small part of Yellowstone National Park lies in the northeast corner of Idaho about 100 miles from Idaho Falls and 160 miles from Pocatello. Most of Yellowstone and the neighboring Grand Teton National Park are currently recommended for wilderness designation.

All of the designated and proposed wilderness areas (except for Craters of the Moon Wilderness) are mountainous with numerous rivers and lakes. The proposed Great Rift Wilderness would significantly enlarge the size of designated wilderness on the Craters of the Moon flow, preserve the wilderness values of both the Craters and Wapi flows, and add many geologic and ecologic features not presently found in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Description of the Report Area

The Great Rift lies in the Snake River Plain in south-central Idaho. Nearby country known as the Big Desert is semi-arid land, receiving 10-14 inches of precipitation per year. Vegetation in the desert and in the kipukas of the lava flows is mostly sagebrush and grasses. The lava flows are sparsely vegetated. Wildlife species include antelope, mule deer, coyotes, rabbits, and 22 other types of mammals. Sage grouse, mourning doves, and a variety of raptors are among 140 bird species in the lava plain area.

The area surrounding the Great Rift is rural and sparsely populated by ranch and farm families living in small communities such as Arco, Carey, Minidoka, American Falls, and Aberdeen. Ranching is the primary land use in the desert, with a concentration of agricultural developments east of the Wapi flow. The Idaho National Engineering Laboratory, a nuclear research facility, occupies a large area of the desert about eight miles east of the Craters of the Moon flow and employs 9,600 persons.

Access to the Great Rift is provided primarily by U.S. Highway 93 (20-26) on the northwest, which crosses Craters of the Moon National Monument; the Arco-Minidoka Road, whch parallels the east side of the Craters flow then swings west of the Wapi flow; the Laidlaw Park Road, which provides access to the west side of the Craters of the Moon flow; and the Crystal Ice Cave Road, which passes near Wapi Park on the Wapi flow. U.S. Highway 93 (20-26) is the only paved road in the area. The Arco-Minidoka Road, Laidlaw Park Road, and Crystal Ice Cave Road are the most frequently used of the many roads and trails in the desert, but they are not well-maintained.

Summary of Inventory

The BLM has completed a wilderness inventory and study of the Great Rift as directed by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. Procedures for this inventory are contained in the BLM's Wilderness Inventory Handbook.

The original Great Rift inventory unit included 452,700 acres. After the intensive inventory was finished, the BLM recommended that 351,450 acres met the wilderness criteria. That proposed decision was announced in the Federal Register on March 27, 1979, and followed by a 60-day comment period. Nine public meetings and open houses were held, and 29 written comments received. Another 11 comments came in after the comment period, and were considered in the final boundary decision.

Public comment was generally supportive, however, several people disagreed with the proposed decision on lands bordering the lava flows. Some people commented that these lands should be dropped from wilderness consideration while others felt they should be retained.

After analyzing public comments and further field work, BLM re-evaluated the proposed boundary for the Wilderness Study Area (WSA). Lands were deleted where the imprint of man's work affected their naturalness, and where opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation were not outstanding. An increased acreage on the fringe of the lava flows was retained where naturalness was not impaired and where outstanding solitude and recreation opportunities existed. The final Wilderness Study Area, as announced in the Federal Register on July 12, 1979, included 374,400 acres. Not included were 78,300 acres lacking wilderness characteristics. On August 10, 1979, the WSA boundary decision became final.

Organic Act Directive No. 79-40 requires that a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) be submitted to the President by July, 1980, along with a suitability report, on those natural areas that the BLM recommends for wilderness designation. Although the actual writing of the statement did not begin until after the August 10, 1979 decision, BLM held a scoping meeting on May 23, 1979, to determine what significant issues needed to be included in the DEIS. The Great Rift Proposed Wilderness Draft Environmental Impact Statement was released on February 29, 1980. The Final EIS is expected to be released in June, 1980. The statements are included as appendices to this suitability report, but are separate documents.

Summary of Study Process

The BLM used its planning system to analyze data gathered in the intensive inventory and study. Specialists described study area resources such as wilderness, recreation, visual, cultural, wildlife, soil, vegetative, geologic, and mineral resources and identified the potential of each.

Actions that could increase wilderness qualities include: closing some vehicle ways in the study area, removing grazing from the few kipukas where it exists and from the border areas, prohibiting mineral and geothermal development, acquiring State Highway Department material sites, and increasing educational information. After evaluating present and future demands for wilderness-related uses only some of these actions were determined to be necessary. These are discussed under "Management Considerations."

Designating the Great Rift as wilderness would not significantly conflict with other resources such as grazing and minerals. However, the recommended wilderness boundary reflects some adjustments based on public comment and manageability. The recommended wilderness area is the Proposed Action in the DEIS and does not include 33,400 acres of the Wilderness Study Area which occur in small parcels around the borders of both flows.

The largest parcels deleted from the wilderness recommendation are the lava peninsula on the Wapi flow's east side, desert lands along the northwest border of the Wapi flow, and desert lands near Mule Butte on the Craters flow. The lava peninsula showed some signs of lava rock removal and its configuration could cause management problems. The two desert areas mentioned and many of the small excluded parcels are located near roads and are open enough to drive through. Excluding vehicles as required in the Wilderness Act would be a difficult management problem.

Wood Road on the southwest side of the Wapi flow was excluded from the WSA boundary up to the first lava crossing. The road provides access to four kipukas used as recreation sites. The Proposed Action excludes the entire road and four kipukas for two reasons: vehicle use to the area for recreation pursuits has been established, and the area would be difficult to manage as wilderness.

Participants in the scoping session on May 23, 1979, were asked to identify significant issues and resource conflicts. Identified issues considered for the draft environmental impact statement included: the need for wilderness designation, economic and social impacts, predator control, cultural and primitive recreation values, State land exchanges, mineral potential, range impacts, and educational and aesthetic values. For further discussion see the Great Rift Proposed Wilderness Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Final EIS. Two public hearings on the Draft EIS were held on March 25 and March 26, 1980, in Rupert and Idaho Falls, Idaho. Transcripts are included as an appendix to this report, but are separate documents.

Significant Resource Data

Wilderness Values

The Great Rift meets all the criteria for wilderness areas in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964. The land is unaffected by man except for historic artifacts. The desert rangeland near the lava's edge and within the proposed boundary shows a few signs of grazing, but these do not disqualify it from meeting the naturalness criteria.

Although access points in the form of roads and trails near the lava's edge are numerous, they are not well defined. Few people are aware of beginning or ending points for trips into the lava's interior. The unit's large size, remoteness, harsh environment, and access problems allow visitors outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities are numerous and outstanding. Activities focus on the area's volcanic features and biotic

communities and include hiking, camping, spelunking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, hunting, and photography. The study of natural features includes the discovery and exploration of fissures, cinder and spatter cones, craters, lava tubes, lava cascades, and kipukas. The harsh, rugged environment offers a challenge and a risk to every visitor.

Supplemental values listed in the Wilderness Act are "ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value." The lava surface, kipukas, and desert rangeland include examples of plant and animal communities in all stages of succession. The ecotone where limber pine makes the transition to junipers is normally found only in montane regions, but also occurs on the Craters flow. The largest juniper in the State of Idaho is located on the Wapi flow.

The Wapi flow of the Great Rift contains geological features not found in the Craters flow, such as hornitoes, driblet spires, and the youngest and best preserved example of a shield cone on the Snake River Plain. The Craters flow outside the National Monument provides further examples of volcanic cones, spatter ramparts, tree molds, the two largest federally-managed kipukas on the flow, and other lava features.

Many of the 450 kipukas are isolated and untouched, providing scientific and educational study sites. The Soil Conservation Service studied three kipukas for 10 years, and a study of the flora and fauna of a select group of kipukas was conducted by Idaho State University in 1979-80. The U.S. Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines have published geologic and mineral survey results. The National Monument has been used for studies of wildlife and invertebrates, and the Great Rift offers an expanded opportunity for these activities.

The scenic qualities of the lava flows are rated Class I under BLM's Visual Resource Management System. This ranking identifies important and significant visual resources and implies that careful consideration be given to actions which could affect the appearance of the landscape.

Historically, the lava flows of the Great Rift have received attention and merit continued study. At least three legends of the flow's origin were created and passed down by area Indians. Archaeologists found 15 cultural sites including many waste flakes, broken stone tools, projectile points, pottery fragments, grinding stones, caves, rock shelters, and rock structures. The State Historic Preservation Officer and State Archaeologist have reviewed all inventory reports. Individual sites or a group of sites may be eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Remnants of animals no longer found in the lavas, including grizzlies, elk, wolverines, and wolves, were discovered in a lava tube cave; horns of bison and bighorn sheep have also been found. Early explorers such as Captain Bonneville mentioned the flows in their journals, and travelers on the Oregon Trail used at least one lava feature as a landmark. The Craters flow achieved some notoriety in 1924 in a National Geographic article featuring the lava area. Southeast Idaho newspapers have carried several feature stories on the flows during the 1970's. Several environmental and recreation organizations printed articles in their newsletters discussing the Great Rift wilderness proposal during 1979-80.

Threatened or Endangered Species

No threatened or endangered plant or animal species are known to occur in the study area. However, the male fern (Dryopteris felis-mas) is found in deep crevices of some pahoehoe flows, and has a "rare" status on Oregon's plant list. The blind beetle (Glacicavicola bathyscioides) is found at the National Monument and at Crystal Ice Cave and is assumed to live in the study area. A formal petition filed with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (January, 1979) asked for a review of status and proposed an "endangered" federal status for the beetle. In the fall of 1979 an entomologist visiting the National Monument collected specimens of what may be a new species of camel cricket (Ceuthothilus sp.). Investigation of the cricket will occur in 1980.

Livestock Grazing

Livestock grazing is an allowed use of a wilderness area and will continue where it presently exists. About 6,000 acres of land, in small parcels, are suitable for grazing within the boundary of the Proposed Action. Only three kipukas, Bear Park, Larkspur Park and Grassland Kipuka in the Craters of the Moon flow, are known to be intermittently grazed. These kipukas are large and somewhat accessible, although two of them require trailing livestock over lava. Grazing will not be allowed in any kipukas where it does not presently exist. The small size and difficult access to most kipukas make them inappropriate grazing lands.

Lava Rock Collection

Several small areas on the Wapi flow and a few scattered areas on the Craters of the Moon flow contain lava rock like that used in the building industry. Difficult access to these areas make most rock collection unecomomical. Many other sources of rock are located in nearby flows and include developed access routes to the sites.

Geothermal Leasing

About 5,800 acres of the Proposed Action and WSA are under geothermal lease applications. If approved, BLM would impose a "no surface occupancy" stipulation, meaning no buildings or large rigs could be constructed or assembled on the lava's surface. Slant drilling remains a possibility.

Economic and Social Impacts

Livestock grazing and recreational use within the Great Rift are the only known economic activities. Grazing occurs on about 6,000 acres of land in the Proposed Action; the acreage is divided into many small parcels. There are no range improvements, roads or driveable trails within the areas. Livestock numbers would be unaffected by a wilderness designation.

The total recreational use of the Great Rift is not known, but is thought to be small, judging from letters and personal contacts. The nearby Craters of the Moon National Monument reported 132 overnight stays in the designated wilderness area in 1978, and 252 in 1979. If the Great Rift

were designated wilderness, increased public awareness could result in a small increase in recreational use. The National Monument's designation has not significantly increased use in the past 10 years.

The lifestyles of local people would not be affected by a designation. Unless visitation to the area increases significantly, the small communities near the Great Rift would not experience an influx of non-residents. No roads near the edge of the lavas would be closed or even affected, unless they were improved at some future date. The two areas now receiving the most local use, Wapi Park and Wood Road on the Wapi flow, will continue being open to vehicle use if designation occurs.

Over half of the written comments received after the intensive inventory were supportive of the proposal. About three-fourths of the written and oral comments on the draft EIS were also supportive of either the Proposed Action or the Wilderness Study Area alternative. Opposing comments from both review periods centered on either needing no more wilderness in Idaho or needing no wilderness designation for the Great Rift because of its inhospitable nature.

In October, 1979, County Commissioners in Blaine, Butte, and Power Counties had no objection to a wilderness designation if no adverse effects on local income occurred. Commissioners in Minidoka County were opposed to wilderness designation.

Options Foregone

Effective January 1, 1984, subject to existing rights, the minerals in land designated as wilderness will be withdrawn from all forms of appropriations under the mining laws and from disposition under all laws pertaining to mineral leasing. The U.S. Geological Survey and U.S. Bureau of Mines mineral report of 1980 mentions no mineral resources on the Great Rift except about a half million tons of building stone. The stone is saleable but no sales have been authorized and very little stone has been removed for construction. Access is poor, markets are distant, and other lava rock sources are readily available. The mineral report is available at the Idaho Falls and Shoshone District Offices, at the Idaho State Office in Boise, and at the USGS office in Reston, Virginia 22070.

No known deposits of natural gas or oil exist in the area.

Geothermal lease applications on about 5,800 acres would be approved only with a "no surface occupancy" stipulation.

If congress designates the Great Rift as wilderness, a wilderness management plan would be developed and implemented. Until such a plan could be developed, the following activities would be specifically prohibited:

> Except as specifically provided for in this Act, and subject to existing private rights, there shall be no commercial enterprise and no permanent road within any wilderness area designated by this Act and, except as necessary

> to meet minimum requirements for the administration of the area for the purpose of this Act (including measures required in emergencies involving the health and safety of persons within the area), there shall be no motorized equipment or motorboats, no landing of aircraft, no other form of mechanical transport, and no structure or installation within any such area (Wilderness Act, Section 4(c)).

The above subsection would be qualified by Section 4(d) of the Wilderness Act which allows "use of aircraft...where these uses have already become established." The present aerial predator program controlled by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would be allowed to continue under this section. Cultural resources would be protected from intentional or inadvertent loss or damage in accordance with the American Historical Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 469 et. seq.

Long-term and Short-term Effects

Designation of the Great Rift as wilderness would preserve existing wilderness values and ensure the long-term productivity of the lava and desert ecosystem. Natural succession would continue on the lava and in the kipukas, and the opportunity for comparative studies of the kipukas would be preserved.

Cultural resources would be preserved. Primitive and unconfined recreational opportunities would be enhanced. Off-road vehicles would not be allowed, but very little known use occurs.

Since there are no known locatable or leasable minerals or geothermal resources, they would not be adversely affected. There would be both minor short-term and long-term effects on the building stone industry due to the unavailability of some saleable stone. However, Congress could rescind a wilderness designation if the national need for these building stone resources became critical, or if other unknown resources are discovered.

Management Considerations

If Congress designates the Great Rift as a Wilderness Area, the following goals would guide the development of the management plan:

Goal #1: Wilderness Qualities - Protect, enhance, and maintain the natural beauty and wilderness character of the land; preserve the unique wildlife and vegetative communities in the isolated kipukas; and allow natural succession for scientific and other study.

Goal #2: Primitive Recreation - Provide meaningful and high quality primitive recreation through interpretation and information programs, and provide adequate staging areas and other needed visitor services.

Goal #3: Other Uses - Continue to allow those uses mentioned in Section 4 of the Wilderness Act of 1964, subject to the reasonable regulations deemed necessary by the Secretary of Interior.

To achieve these goals, the Great Rift Wilderness Management Plan would incorporate the specific restrictions in "Options Foregone" and would provide the following objectives:

Goal #1 - Wilderness Qualities

1. Monitor and evaluate the condition of each resource such as geologic features, cultural features, vegetation, and wildlife. Prevent damage to these resources through visitor education. Enhance resource conditions where it would not impair wilderness values.

2. Provide fire protection without the use of on-the-ground motorized vehicles. Develop a natural fire policy within the wilderness boundaries with provisions for emergency exceptions.

3. Monitor and restrict unauthorized uses on lava edges within the wilderness such as lava rock and artifact collecting, vehicle use, and damage to vegetation.

4. Allow collection of rocks, plants, and animals for scientific or other purposes only when consistent with maintaining the wilderness resource and when approved by the BLM, Idaho State Department of Fish and Game, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Goal #2 - Primitive Recreation

1. Monitor and record visitor use and needs by observation of parking areas and by personal contacts with known user groups.

2. Determine the facilities needed to meet visitor use and safety, yet protect wilderness values. Conduct a complete inventory of access routes and signs.

3. Develop visitor carrying capacity data to determine whether visitation levels are consistent with protecting wilderness values, yet maximize recreation enjoyment.

4. Develop projects and programs to educate visitors and help them enjoy and benefit from the area without damaging the resources. Programs would include an access map, surface feature map, hiking trip information, and a brochure describing the major features and geological proceses. An introductory slide program would be available in both the Idaho Falls and Shoshone District Offices.

5. Coordinate interpretive publications and programs with personnel at Craters of the Moon National Monument. Make literature available at the National Park Service visitor center as well as at the Idaho Falls and Shoshone District Offices.

6. Encourage scientific studies and educational use of the area by local schools and nearby universities.

7. Allow hunting within the boundaries, subject to rules and regulations of the Idaho State Department of Fish and Game.

Goal #3 - Other Uses

1. Continue domestic livestock grazing under the Taylor Grazing Act and FLPMA at a level consistent with range grazing capacity. Allow for continued grazing in all existing allotments. Do not allow grazing within kipukas where it was not an established use as of October 21, 1976.

2. Allotment Management Plans around the lava's perimeter should include programs for minimizing changes in plant composition and for monitoring grazing impacts.

3. Continue to coordinate the aerial predator control program with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

4. Continue to coordinate relevant management plans with personnel at Craters of the Moon National Monument.

5. Make a decision on the geothermal lease applications now on 5,800 acres. Include a "no surface occupancy" stipulation if the leases are approved.

Successful development and implementation of the mangement plan would require coordination with other BLM resource activities, federal, state, and local governments, and the public. Managing the area would require one permanent employee who would also serve as recreation planner or district wilderness coordinator and one or two summer employees.

Time Frame for Designation

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act requires that wilderness recommendations on all public land areas formally designated as natural or primitive areas prior to November 1, 1975, be reported to the President by July 1, 1980. The President must report his final recommendations within 2 years to Congress. Congress can then decide which areas become wilderness.

The Great Rift is one of the first and largest BLM wilderness study areas to be recommended for designation. The recommendation offers Congress the opportunity to preserve the wilderness values of an unusual and scientifically important area. Quick action will insure that management plans are written and put into effect while personnel most familiar with the area are still available.

Special Legislative Needs

The BLM and Idaho State Department of Lands would have to work out an exchange for 18,550 acres of State land within the proposed boundary if designation occurs. Legislation designating the wilderness should include language which allows the State land to automatically become part of the wilderness when the exchange is finalized.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY
PROPOSED GREAT RIFT WILDERNESS

Idaho Falls District BLM
Blaine, Butte, Minidoka, and Power Counties, Idaho

	Total[1]	Grassland Kipuka Natural Area	Contiguous Lands[2]	Associated Lands[3]
Acres in Inventory Unit	452,700	160	364,840	87,700
Acres without Characteristics	78,300	-	77,200	1,100
Acres with Characteristics[4]	374,400	160	287,640	86,600
Acres Recommended Suitable for Designation[5]	341,000	160	267,950	72,890
Acres Recommended Not Suitable for Designation	33,400	-	19,690	13,710

Note: All acreage figures include State lands.

Ownership of Lands in
Draft Environmental Impact Statement Alternatives[6]

	Total	Public Lands	State Lands	Private Lands
Acres in Proposed Action	341,000	322,450	18,550	0
Acres in Wilderness Study Area	374,400	355,850	18,550	0

[1]The Great Rift includes the Grassland Kipuka Natural Area, the Craters of the Moon flow, and the Wapi flow.

[2]The Craters of the Moon flow is contiguous to the previously designated Natural Area.

[3]The Wapi flow is separated from the Craters flow by five miles, but is considered in the same proposal.

[4]Wilderness Study Area

[5]Proposed Action

[6]The "No Action" alternative does not include any acres.

State Sections Inside the Proposed Boundary of the Great Rift Wilderness

Craters of the Moon Flow Surveyed Sections

Township	Range	Section	Acres
2N	25E	16	640
2N	25E	36	640
2N	26E	16	640
1N	23E	36	640
1N	24E	16	640
1N	26E	36	640
1S	24E	16	640
1S	25E	36	640
1S	27E	16	380
2S	25E	16	640
2S	25E	36	640
3S	25E	36	640
3S	27E	16	640
4S	23E	36	640
4S	24E	16	640
4S	24E	36	640
4S	25E	16	250
4S	25E	36	640
5S	24E	16	640
5S	25E	16	640
		TOTAL	12,150

Craters of the Moon Flow Unsurveyed Sections

Township	Range	Section	Acres
1S	26E	36	640
2S	27E	16	640
2S	26E	36	640
3S	26E	36	640
4S	26E	36	640
		TOTAL	3,200

Wapi Flow Surveyed Sections

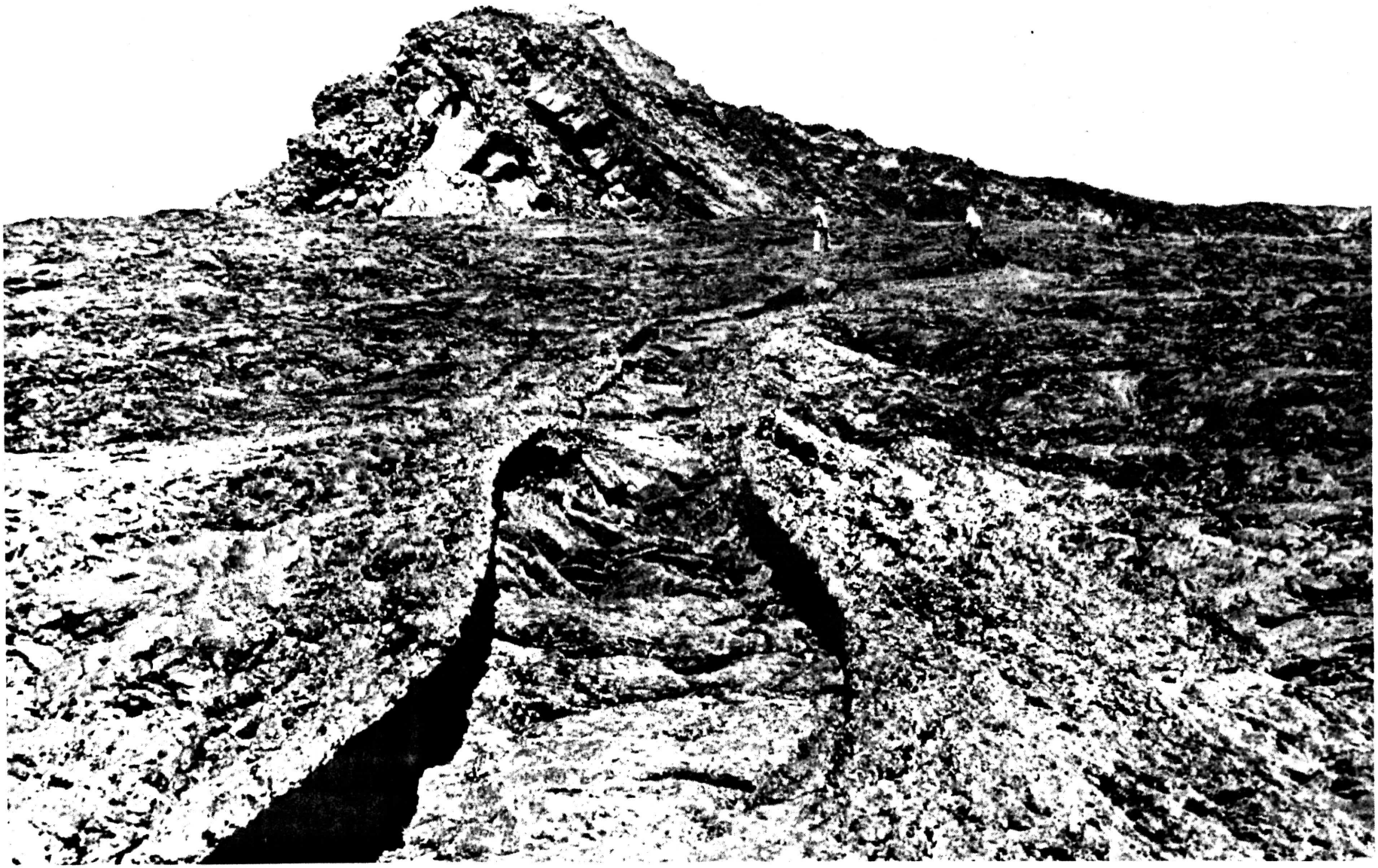
Township	Range	Section	Acres
6S	27E	16	640
6S	28E	16	640
6S	27E	36	640
7S	28E	16	640
7S	27E	36	640
		TOTAL	3,200

TOTAL Craters of the Moon Flow	15,350
TOTAL Wapi Flow	3,200
TOTAL State sections in the Craters and Wapi flows	18,550 acres

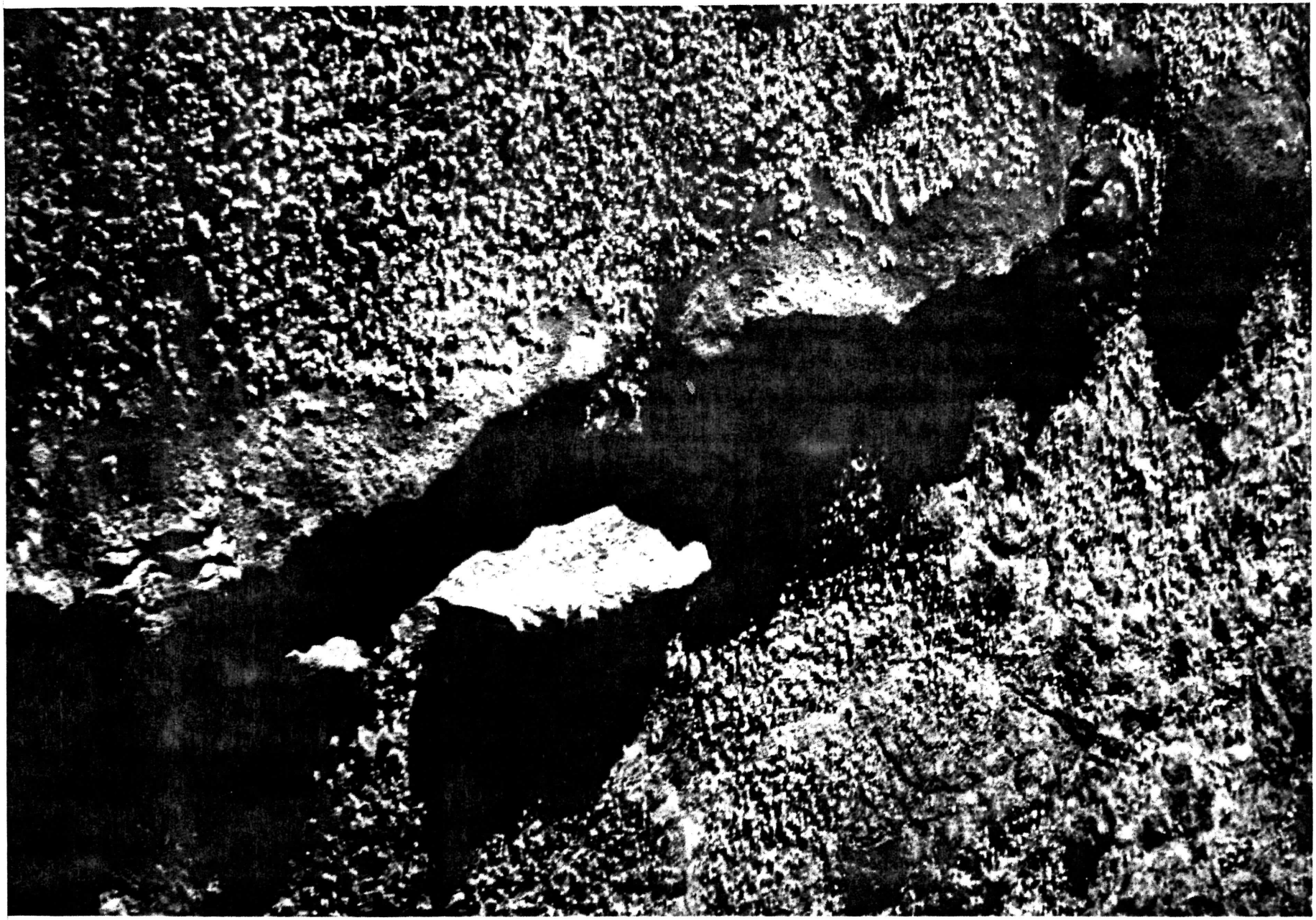
APPENDIX 1



Raven's Eye Butte on Craters of the Moon Lava Flow



Surface channel near Pillar Butte on the Wapi Lava Flow



Spatter ramparts along the main fissure of the Great Rift



Blacktail Butte and Devil's Cauldron on Craters of the Moon Lava Flow



General Rift Zone and Blacktail Butte on Craters of the Moon Lava Flow



"Lunar walkway" on a pahoehoe lava flow



Breadcrust bomb found on Blacktail Butte on Craters of the Moon Lava Flow



Recreationist exploring collapsed depression on Wapi Lava Flow



Backpackers traversing pahoehoe lava on Craters of the Moon Lava Flow



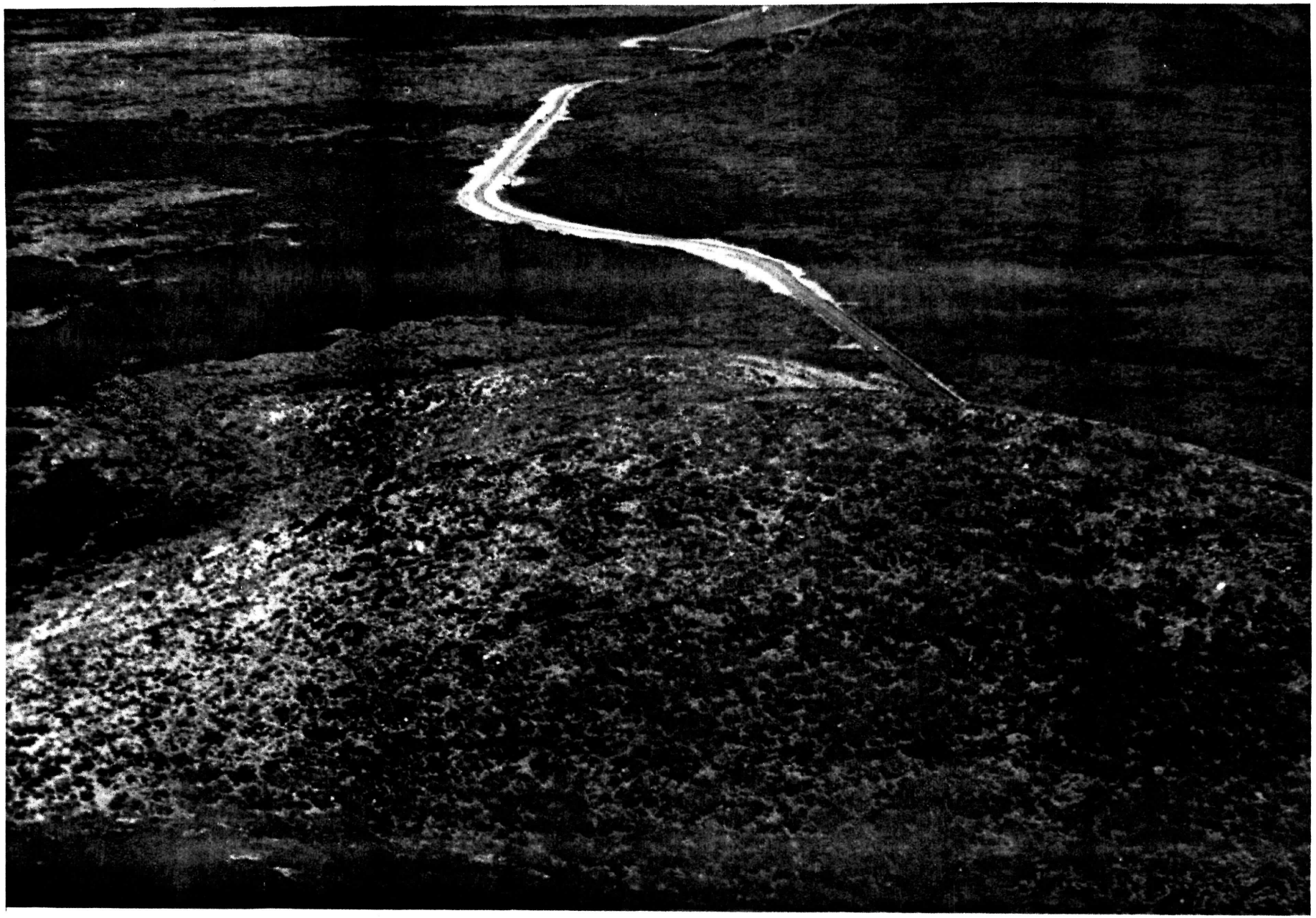
Evidence of historical tree removal on lava's edge



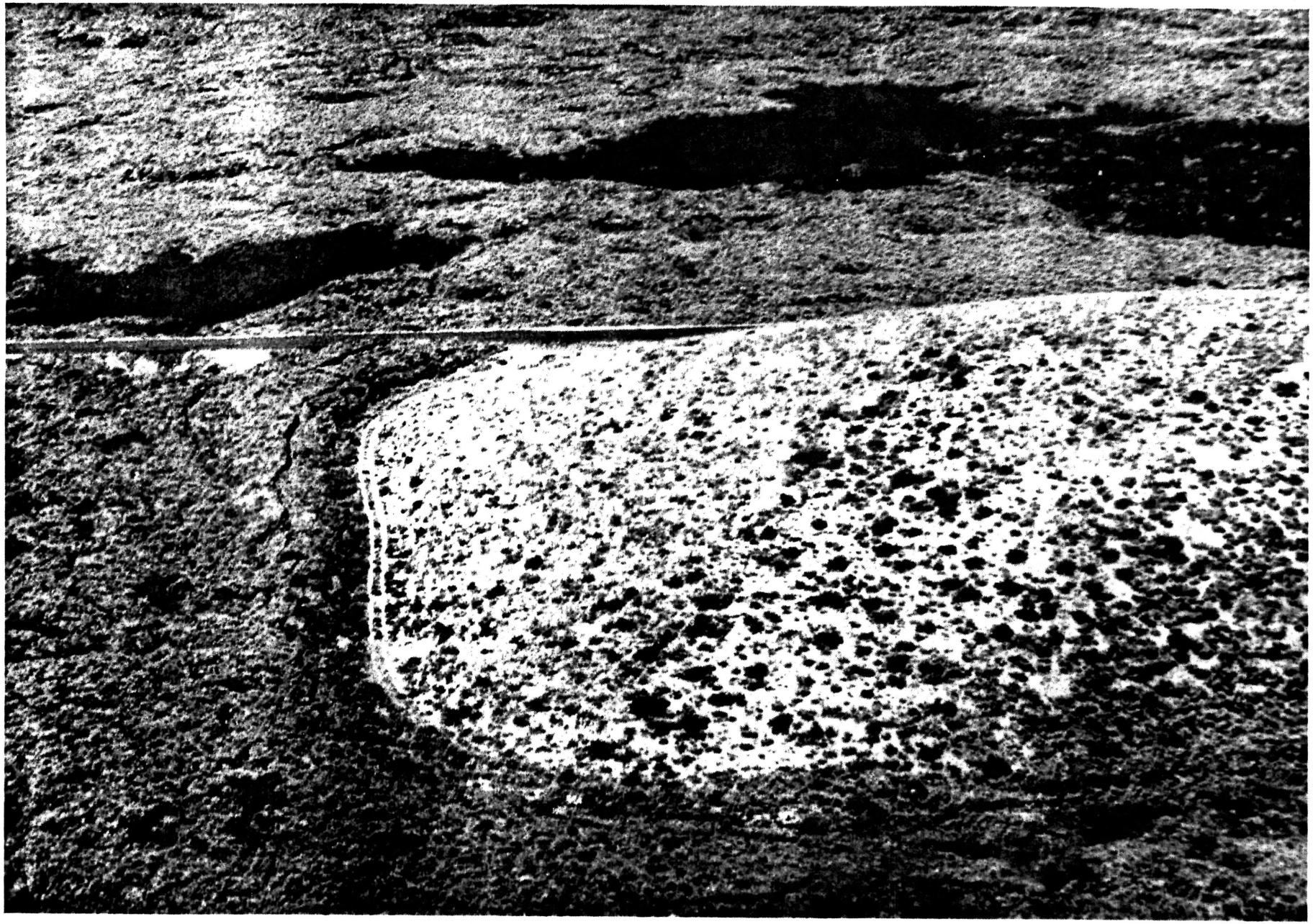
Evidence of recent lava rock removal on Wapi Lava Flow



Vehicular trail on margin of Wapi Lava Flow



Grassland Kipuka Natural Area along Highway 20-26



Grassland Kipuka Natural Area showing short jeep trail



View from Grassland Kipuka Natural Area looking south

APPENDIX 2

Appendix 2

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The proposed Great Rift Wilderness is located in parts of Blaine, Butte, Minidoka, and Power Counties in Idaho. The border basically follows the edges of the Wapi and Craters of the Moon lava flows, excluding the Craters of the Moon National Monument. About 6,000 acres of desert rangeland are included in small parcels on the edges of both flows. State lands within the boundaries are listed separately, and can be considered part of the proposal only with a land exchange agreement. The described border is for the Proposed Action of the Draft EIS.

Parts of the following townships and ranges are included in the proposals:

Craters of the Moon Lava Flow

T. 3 N., R. 25 E.; T. 3 N., R. 26 E.; T. 2 N., R. 25 E.; T. 2 N., R. 26 E;

T. 1 N., R. 23 E.; T. 1 N., R. 24 E.; T. 1 N., R. 25 E.; T. 1 N., R. 26 E;

T. 1 N., R. 27 E.; T. 1 S., R. 22 E.; T. 1 S., R. 23 E.; T. 1 S., R. 24 E;

T. 1 S., R. 25 E.; T. 1 S., R. 26 E.; T. 1 S., R. 27 E.; T. 2 S., R. 25 E;

T. 2 S., R. 26 E.; R. 2 S., R. 27 E.; T. 3 S., R. 24 E.; T. 3 S., R. 25 E;

T. 3 S.; R. 26 E.; T. 3 S., R. 27 E.; T. 4 S., R. 23 E.; T. 4 S., R. 24 E;

T. 4 S., R. 25 E.; T. 4 S., R. 26 E.; T. 4 S., R. 27 E.; T. 5 S., R. 23 E;

T. 5 S., R. 24 E.; T. 5 S., R. 25 E.; T. 5 S., R. 26 E.

Wapi Lava Flow

T. 5 S., R. 27 E.; T. 6 S., R. 26 E.; T. 6 S., R. 27 E.; T. 6 S., R. 28 E;

T. 7 S., R. 27 E.; T. 7 S., R. 28 E.; T. 8 S., R. 27 E.; T. 8 S., R. 28 E.

The following detailed boundary description should be correlated with USGS topographic maps located at the Idaho Falls and Shoshone District Offices, the Idaho State Office, and available from the U.S. Geological Survey at Reston, Virginia 22070.

Key to USGS Map Numbers

USGS Map #	Name	USGS Map #	Name
1	Nichols Reservoir	20	Bear Park West
2	Arco South	21	Fissure Butte
3	Fingers Butte	22	N. Laidlaw Butte
6	Pratt Butte	23	Little Park
8	Bear Park East	24	Crooks Planimetric
10	Mule Butte	25	Blizzard Mtn. South
11	Bear Trap Cave	26	Inferno Cone
12	Brigham Point	27	The Watchman
13	Larkspur Park	28	Grouse
14	Community Lake	A	Pillar Butte
15	Bear Park SW	B	Schodde Well
16	Bottleneck Lake	C	Rattlesnake Butte
17	Laidlaw Lake	D	Pillar Butte SE
18	Laidlaw Butte	E	Lake Walcott
19	Bear Den Butte	F	Yale

USGS MAP #	Craters of the Moon Flow
26, 28	Beginning at the National Park Service boundary in SE¼ Section 24, T. 2 N., R. 24 E.; follow Highway 20-26 (excluding a 200 foot right-of-way and material sites) northeast to private land in Section 27, T. 3 N., R. 25E.;
1	follow the private land boundary to the lava's edge; proceed along lava's edge to private land in Section 24; follow private land boundary to lava's edge in mid-Section 25; follow lava's edge to private land in SW¼ Section 25;
2	continue south to State Section 36; circumvent Section 36; follow private boundaries to lava's edge in Section 28, T. 3 N., R. 26 E; proceed along lava's edge to private land in Section 34; follow private boundary to lava's edge; proceed along lava's edge to southernmost point of lava peninsula in Section 11, T. 2 N., R. 26 E. Follow a direct line of sight approximately 1/3 mile to the northernmost tip of lava in SW¼ Section 11; proceed along the lava's
3	edge to a prominent ridge of older lava near the center of Section 22, T. 2 N., R. 26 E; follow the prominent ridge south to the new lava's edge, continue west, then south across base of lava peninsula to Huddles Hole road;
27	proceed to private land; follow private boundary around
3	Huddles Hole to Huddles Hole road; proceed along road to lava's edge; follow lava's edge to state Section 36; continue along western boundary of Section 36 to lava's edge. Follow lava's edge to state Section 16, circumvent state section to lava's edge in Section 21, T. 1 N., R. 27 E.;
6	follow lava's edge to road in Section 14, T. 1 S., R. 27 E.; continue along road to lava's edge; follow lava's edge to southernmost lava in NW¼SE¼ Section 16; continue along a direct line of sight approximately 3/8 mile to the easternmost lava in SE¼SW¼ Section 16; proceed along lava's edge to southernmost lava in SW¼SE¼ Section 3 T. 2 S., R. 27 E. Continue along a direct line of sight approximately 1.2 miles to the easternmost lava in SW¼SE¼ Section 10; proceed along
8	lava's edge to easternmost lava in NW¼SW¼ Section 14; follow a direct line of sight to the northernmost lava in NE¼NE¼ Section 23.

USGS Map #	Craters of the Moon Flow (Continued)
	Follow the lava's edge to the southeasternmost lava in NW¼NW¼ Section 24; continue along a direct line of sight approximately .4 mile to easternmost lava in NW¼SW¼ Section 24; follow a direct line of sight approximately .8 mile to easternmost lava in NW¼SW¼ Section 25; proceed along a direct line of sight approximately 1.25 miles to easternmost lava in NE¼SW¼ Section 35; continue along a direct line of sight approximately .4 mile to easternmost lava in NW¼NW¼ Section 2, T. 3 S., R. 27 E. Follow lava's edge to road in SE¼SW¼ Section 10; continue along road to junction in NE¼SE¼ Section 14; follow road which continues southwesterly to crossing of a fissure in the center of SE¼NE¼ Section 27, T. 3 S., R. 27 E.; proceed along a direct line of sight approximately 1 mile west to the road where a fissure crosses it in SE¼NE¼ Section 28; continue along road to junction in the center of Section 29 (excluding Bear Park access road corridor from junction to its terminus in Section 19). Follow
10	road south to its junction with Mule Butte road in SW¼ NW¼ Section 4, T. 4 S., R. 27 E.; continue along Mule Butte road past Mule Butte, then southeast to easternmost lava in NE¼NE¼ Section 30; proceed along lava's edge to the
15 & 12	northernmost lava in NE¼SE¼ Section 21, T. 5 S., R. 25 E.; follow a direct line of sight approximately .6 mile to road in NE¼SW¼ Section 21; continue along road to eastern
13	border of Section 19; proceed north along section line to SE¼ lava's edge; follow lava's edge to southernmost lava in NE¼ Section 24, T. 5 S., R. 24 E.; proceed along a direct line of sight approximately .7 mile to the easternmost lava in SE¼NW¼ Section 24; continue along lava's edge to southernmost lava in SW¼NW¼ Section 24; follow a direct line of sight approximately 1 mile to the southernmost lava in NW¼NW¼ Section 23; proceed along lava's edge to westernmost lava in SW¼SE¼ Section 20, continue along a direct line of sight approximately 1 mile to a junction near the corner
14	of Sections 17, 18, 19, and 20, T. 5 S., R. 24 E.; follow
17	adjoining road north around its northernmost point in NE¼NE¼ Section 6; continue south along same road to the center
14	of Section 13, T. 5 S., R. 23 E. where the road meets old lava. Continue along the old lava's edge to the new
17	lava in SW¼ Section 11, T. 5 S., R. 23 E., proceed along western edge of new lava to road in SW¼SW¼ Section 31, T. 3 S., R. 24 E.; follow road to junction with eastbound road of southern Laidlaw Park in SE¼NW¼ Section 31;

USGS Map #	Craters of the Moon Flow (Continued)
16	continue along the eastbound road to junction in NW¼NW¼ Section 4, T. 4 S., R. 24 E.; proceed south on road to and around Bottleneck Lake; follow same road north to and around Three Forks Lake; continue northeast on Three Forks Lake road to junction in SW¼NE¼ Section 4; proceed east along road to Lower Thumb Reservoir (excluding .3 mile long road to lava's edge in SW¼ Section 3); continue (excluding South End Lake and ½ mile road to it) along
15 & 20 19	road following eastern perimeter of Thumb to junction north of Lava Butte in NW¼ Section 32, T. 2 S., R. 25 E.; continue northwest on road to lava's edge near the center
20,21&22	of Section 30. Proceed along lava's edge to private land in SE¼NW¼ Section 5, T. 2 S., R. 25 E.; follow private land boundary to lava's edge; continue along lava's edge to private land in SE¼ Section 30, T. 1 S., R. 25 E; proceed along private land boundary to fenceline in SE¼ Section 19; continue along fenceline to its northernmost point in NW¼ Section 19; proceed due west along a direct line of sight approximately 1.2 miles to road in SW¼NW¼ Section 24, T. 1 S., R. 24 E.; follow road northwest to Northside Reservoir access road in SE¼NE¼ Section 15; continue along access road around Northside Reservoir and back to main road; proceed to Hollow Top Landing Strip; follow northern edge of landing strip to its western terminus; continue on a direct line of sight approximately .9 mile to the easternmost lava in NW¼NW¼ Section 28; proceed along lava's edge to road in SE¼SW¼ Section 32;
23	follow road across lava to a point 1/3 mile west of lava's edge; continue on a direct line of sight approximately 1.3 miles to westernmost lava in NE¼SW¼ Section 25, T. 1 S., R. 23 E. Proceed on a direct line of sight approximately ½ mile to westernmost lava in NW¼NE¼ Section 25; follow a direct line of sight approximately ¼ mile to southernmost lava in SW¼SE¼ Section 24; continue on a direct line of sight approximately 1 mile to southernmost lava in SW¼SE¼ Section 23; proceed along a direct line of sight approximately .8 mile to southernmost lava in SW¼SE¼ Section 22; follow along a direct line of sight approximately .4 mile to road where lava crossing begins; continue along road to private land boundary on line between Sections 19 and 20;

USGS MAP #	Craters of the Moon Flow (Continued)
24 23 24 23 & 25 26 23,22,21,27 26, 28	proceed along private and state land boundaries around Section 16 to Pedleford Flat road in Section 23, T. 1 S., R. 22 E.; follow road to private land boundary in Section 15; continue along private land boundaries to the corner post of Sections 2, 3, 10, and 11; proceed east along section line to private land; follow private land boundaries to highway; proceed northeast along Highway 20-26 (excluding 200 foot right-of-way, material sites, and private land in NW¼NE¼ Section 33, T. 1 N., R. 23 E.) to National Monument boundary; continue along Monument boundary completely around western, southern, and eastern perimeters and back to the point of origin.

USGS Map #	Wapi Flow
11	Beginning on Crystal Ice Cave - Bear Trap Cave Road in NE¼SE¼ Section 22, T. 5 S., R. 27 E.; follow road southeast to junction in SW¼SW¼ Section 23, continue on southernmost road southeast to junction in SE¼NE¼ Section 6, T. 6 S., R. 28 E.; proceed on southernmost road south to junction in NE¼SW¼ Section 8 (excluding all of Wapi Park Road); continue east along road to Section 11; follow a line of sight approximately 1.1 miles south to the road in SW¼NW¼ Section 14; proceed along road to private land in Section 13; continue along private land boundary to the center point of NE¼ Section 25, T. 6 S., R. 28 E.; follow a
C	direct line of sight approximately 1/8 mile to the northern-most lava in SW¼NE¼ Section 25; proceed along Kipuka's western edge to state Section 36; circumvent western, north-western, southwestern edges of Section 36 to private land
D	boundaries; continue along private land boundaries around the eastern peninsula of Wapi Flow to the lava's edge in SW¼SE¼ Section 30, T. 7 S., R. 29 E.; follow lava's edge south to private land along Section 31 boundary; proceed west along section line to lava's edge; continue north along lava's edge to private land; proceed west to Section 25 then south to lava's edge to follow lava's edge to private land in NE¼ Section 3,
C	T. 8 S., R. 28 E., continue south along private boundary to lava's edge; proceed along lava's edge to state Section 16;
F	Circumvent Section 16 to lava's edge in NW¼ Section 21, follow lava's edge to east-west half section line in Section 19; continue west along half section line to lava in center of Section 24, T. 8 S., R. 27 E.; proceed on a direct line of
E	sight approximately 1.3 miles to the southernmost lava in NW¼ Section 23; follow lava's edge to road junction in NE¼SE¼
B	Section 4; continue north along road (excluding Wapi woodroad corridor to its terminus in NW¼NE¼ Section 3) to point where road leaves lava's edge in NW¼NW¼ Section 34, T. 7 S., R. 27 E., follow lava's edge to westernmost lava in NE¼SW¼ Section 27; proceed on a direct line of sight approximately .6 mile to easternmost edge of Kipuka in NW¼SE¼ Section 28; follow Kipuka's edge southwesterly to southernmost edge of Kipuka in SE¼SW¼ Section 28; continue on a direct line of sight approxi-mately .3 mile to southernmost lava in SE¼NE¼ Section 29; follow lava's edge to road in northern end of SE¼NE¼ Section 29; proceed along road to corral in NW¼NW¼ Section 21; continue around corral to state Section 16; circumvent boundary around to lava's edge approximately .2 mile south of corner for Sections 8, 9, 16, and 17; continue southwest along lava's edge to road in NW¼SW¼ Section 17; proceed along road to junction in NW¼SE¼ Section 18; follow road northwest to junction in NE¼SE¼ Section 12, T. 7 S., R. 26 E.;

USGS Map #	Wapi Flow (Continued)
11	continue along road north to junction near Schodde Well in NW¼NW¼, Section 6, T. 7 S., R. 27 E., proceed to southernmost lava in NW¼NE¼ Section 6; follow lava's edge (excluding entire road corridor in Sections 5 and 6) to westernmost lava in SW¼SW¼ Section 32, T. 6 S., R 27 E,; continue on a direct line of sight approximately .4 mile to easternmost point along road in NW¼SE¼ Section 31; proceed along road to junction in NE¼SW¼ Section 24, T. 6 S., R. 26 E.; follow road northwest to junction in NW¼ Section 24; continue northeast following road east of Split Butte to junction with road in SW¼ Section 6, T. 6 S., R. 27 E., proceed east along road, then north to junction in NW¼NW¼ Section 33, T. 5 S., R. 27 E.; follow road northeast to junction in NW¼SE¼ Section 28; continue northeast on same road (excluding crossroad from junction to its terminus in SW¼SW¼ Section 27) to junction with Bear Trap Cave - Crystal Ice Cave Road; follow Crystal Ice Cave road to point of origin in NE¼SE¼ Section 22.

APPENDIX 3

WILDERNESS INTENSIVE INVENTORY

UNIT NO. 33-1

NAME OF AREA Great Rift

(Grassland Kipuka ISA)

Explain by a concise narrative the following essential wilderness characteristics (for guidance see text in the Wilderness Inventory Handbook):

1. SIZE

Narrative:

The unit contains two separate parcels located in the Snake River Plain between Arco and the Snake River. The 160-acre Grassland Kipuka Natural Area and its contiguous roadless land occupy the majority of the Craters flow. The southernmost parcel is the Wapi flow. Both of these large lava fields are approximately 2000 years old and erupted from a series of large fissures in the earth's crust. They are known collectively as the Great Rift.

The Craters of the Moon flow is bounded on the northwest by U.S. Highway 93-20-26 and by Craters of the Moon National Monument and Wilderness. Other boundaries of the Craters of the Moon and Wapi flows are roads across public land and private and State lands.

The unit contains a total of 435,700 acres of public land and 15,100 acres of State land. Each flow contains lands in both the Idaho Falls and Shoshone BLM Districts. 348,000 acres are associated with the Craters of the Moon flow and 87,700 acres are associated with the Wapi flow.

(con't.)

Summary: 1. Does the area have at least 5,000 acres of contiguous land and is it of sufficient size to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition?

(YES) NO

2. Does the island have sufficient size to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition?

YES NO

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

(SIZE con't.)

The final acreage which is recommended as a Wilderness Study Area includes 359,300 acres of public lands and 15,100 acres of State land.

Craters of the Moon	Public Land	State Land
Idaho Falls	136,700	2,940
Shoshone	139,200	8,960
Wapi Flow		
Idaho Falls	22,900	640
Shoshone	60,500	2,560
TOTAL	359,300	15,100

The area represents most of the Craters of the Moon and Wapi lava flows and some desert lands along the lava margins. The desert lands are remote, unroaded and free from range improvements and other signs of man's influence. The desert lands also provide variety to this lava landscape and enhance wilderness values throughout the Great Rift area. The physical boundaries for the recommended WSA are as follows:

Craters of the Moon Flow - The northeastern boundary generally follows the lava's edge. Some desert lands have been deleted due to trails, agricultural developments and other impacts on naturalness. Pratt Butte and Mule Butte have been excluded because of the adverse impact of several ways, trails, and associated stock developments. Small pockets of nearby desert lands were added because of their primitive character.

On the south, Larkspur Park and several other desert pockets to the west have been included in the WSA, otherwise the boundary closely follows the lava margin after deleting vast areas of heavily impacted desert land. The southwestern boundary limits the WSA to the lava and a few pockets of desert. The western boundary is formed by the southern and eastern perimeters of Laidlaw Park, generally following the lava flow edge while excluding reservoirs and roads. The western "finger" near Craters of the Moon National Monument includes Snowdrift and Bowl Craters and several sections of desert land. The boundary south of Carey Kipuka excludes large portions of Little Park and Laidlaw Park because of the presence of ways, trails, and impacts on naturalness. The northern boundary lies along the 200-foot right-of-way on U.S. Highway 93-20-26.

Wapi Flow - Much of the eastern boundary follows the lava's edge which often coincides with private land and agricultural developments. The southern boundary excludes seedings, vehicle tracks, and other impacts on naturalness. However, it does include several pockets of untrammeled desert land. The southern boundary also excludes railroad tracks and powerline corridors which adversely affect opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

The south half of the western boundary remains close to the lava's edge, with some desert lands included. The Wood Road, up to the first lava crossing, is excluded from the study boundary. The north half of the western boundary follows a road, which includes remote areas of unaltered desert land.

The northern boundary closely follows a road located a short distance from the lava's edge. Wapi Park road is excluded from the study boundary.

2. NATURALNESS

Narrative:

Most of the unit meets the naturalness criteria and includes the maj rity of the Craters of the Moon lava flow and the entire Wapi flow. Some desert lands along the lava margins are included. They are remote, unroaded and free from range improvements and other signs of man's influence.

Generally, the ruggedness of the lava has impeded vehicular travel and prevented development within most of the lava flow boundaries. Internal impacts to naturalness are virtually non-existent.

Much of the marginal desert land within the unit and fringe portions of the lava flows have been impacted by substantial vehicle access routes that lead to the lava's edge. Range developments are evident and have been excluded from some desert areas. These areas show evidence of man's work to the extent they do not meet the naturalness criteria.

Summary: Does the area or island generally appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable?

YES NO

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

3. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITY FOR SOLITUDE OR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION ANALYSIS

A. SOLITUDE

Narrative:

Solitude within the area can be considered truly outstanding. Its large size, remoteness, and lack of defined trails or access routes combines to allow a visitor to become completely removed from man's activities. The absence of man-made features both in and for the most part around the area enhances its primitive character.

The lava's edge is a well-defined physical boundary which, once crossed, provides a visitor with a sense of being alone and removed from civilization. The low probability of meeting other visitors also enhances opportunities for solitude.

Summary: Does the area have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

(YES) NO

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

B. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION

Narrative:

Primitive recreation opportunities within the area are considered outstanding and generally focus on the area's volcanic features and associated biotic community. Activities could include hiking, camping, photography, cross-country skiing, showshoeing, hunting and spelunking. Discovery and exploration of the area's many fissures, cinder cones, lava cascades, craters, kipukas and lava tubes add to the primitive recreation opportunity. In addition, the unit offers a challenge and risk with all recreation activities, which to many recreationists, enhances the primitive experience. The factors of challenge and risk are emphasized by the area's rugged terrain, lack of reliable water sources, extreme temperatures and lack of natural shelter.

Summary: Does the area have outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?

(YES) NO

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

4. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES

Narrative:

The many volcanic features and the wide variety of natural ecological communities, especially the 65 major kipukas, offer values of scientific and educational importance. The vast volcanic landscape provides a dramatic and scenic feature within the Snake River Plain. Previous studies have indicated that the lava flows, parks, kipukas and buttes were inhabited by early man. Paleontological remains have also been uncovered in caves, which indicates the historical importance of the Great Rift area.

Summary: Does the area contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value?

YES NO

SIGNATURE: John H. Gott DATE: 6-20-79

5. POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION

Narrative:

Signs of historic and present vehicle use are evident within the recommended WSA boundary. They are located and identified as follows:

2 mile north-south trail from Highway 93-20-26 across the lavas into Pedleford Flat; 1/2 mile jeep trail leading to the rim of Bowl Crater; 5 mile faint jeep trail leading from Lake Bottleneck to edge of old lava; 1 1/4 mile faint jeep trail within Larkspur Park; faint vehicle scars on the east side of Saddle Butte; 3/4 mile jeep trail leading into Wapi Park (Section 18, T. 4 S., R. 27 E.); and an "old wood road" at the first lava ridge in Section 3, T. 8 S.. R. 27 E. to trails end within the Wapi flow. Several juniper stumps are present within the Wapi flow which represent timber removal during the depression era. Natural processes will eventually decay these signs of man's influence.

The signs of vehicle use would return to a substantially unnoticeable condition through natural processes and could eventually provide an excellent foot trail for visitors.

Summary: If the area or island were to become a wilderness area, could the imprint of man's work be reduced by either natural processes or by hand labor to a level judged to be substantially unnoticeable?

(YES) NO

SIGNATURE: John F. Ritz DATE: 6-20-79