Public Law 96-312
96th Congress

An Act

July 23, 1980
[S. 2009]

To designate certain public lands in central Idaho as the River of No Return Wilderness, to designate a segment of the Salmon River as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes.

Central Idaho Wilderness Act of 1980.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "Central Idaho Wilderness Act of 1980".

SEC. 2. (a) The Congress finds that—

(1) certain wildlands in central Idaho lying within the watershed of the Salmon River—the famous "River of No Return"—constitute the largest block of primitive and undeveloped land in the conterminous United States and are of immense national significance;

(2) these wildlands and a segment of the Salmon River should be incorporated within the National Wilderness Preservation System and the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System in order to provide statutory protection for the lands and waters and the wilderness-dependent wildlife and the resident and anadromous fish which thrive within this undisturbed ecosystem; and

(3) such protection can be provided without conflicting with established uses.

(b) The purposes of this Act are to—

(1) provide a comprehensive, statutory framework for the protection, administration, and management of the wildlands of the central Idaho region and a portion of the Salmon River through—

(A) the designation of the River of No Return Wilderness;

(B) the addition of certain lands in the "Magruder Corridor" to the existing Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness; and

(C) the incorporation of one hundred and twenty-five miles of the Salmon River as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System;

(2) end the controversy over which lands within the central Idaho region will be designated wilderness—thereby assuring that certain adjacent lands better suited for multiple uses other than wilderness will be managed by the Forest Service under existing laws and applicable land management plans; and

(3) make a comprehensive land allocation decision for the national forest roadless areas of the central Idaho region.

River of No Return Wilderness, area description and designation. 16 USC 1132 note.

SEC. 3. In furtherance of the purposes of the Wilderness Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 890; 16 U.S.C. 1131), certain lands in the Boise, Challis, Payette, Salmon, Bitterroot, and Nezperce National Forests, Idaho, situated north and south of the Salmon River which comprise approximately two million two hundred and thirty-nine thousand acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "River of No Return Wilderness, Proposed", dated June 1980, are hereby designated as wilderness and, therefore, as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System, and shall be known as the River of No Return

Wilderness. The previous classifications of the Idaho and Salmon River Breaks Primitive Areas are hereby abolished.

Abolishments.

SEC. 4. In furtherance of the purposes of the Wilderness Act, certain lands in the Bitterroot National Forest, Idaho, which comprise approximately one hundred and five thousand six hundred acres as generally depicted on a map entitled "Magruder Corridor Proposed Additions, Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness", dated November 1979, are hereby incorporated in, and shall be deemed to be a part of, the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness as designated by Public Law 88-577, and, therefore a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, incorporated lands.

16 USC 1131.

SEC. 5. (a)(1) Within three years of the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture (hereinafter referred to as "the Secretary") shall develop and submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate and the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives a comprehensive wilderness management plan (hereinafter referred to as "the management plan") for the River of No Return Wilderness which shall consider a broad range of land uses and recreation opportunities.

Comprehensive management plan, submittal to congressional committees.

(2) The management plan shall be prepared in coordination with the relevant national forest plans required by section 6 of the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (Public Law 94-588).

16 USC 1604.

(3) The management plan shall include the cultural resources management plan required by section 8(a)(3) of this Act.

16 USC 1608.

(4) In preparing the management plan, the Secretary shall provide for full public participation as required under section 6 of the National Forest Management Act.

16 USC 1604.

(5) The management plan shall, among other things, address the need for, and alternative means of, access to the wilderness.

(b) In administering the River of No Return Wilderness, the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, consistent with the management plan required by this section, clear obstructions from all of the national forest trails within or adjacent to the wilderness on at least an annual basis.

(c) Subject to valid existing rights, the River of No Return Wilderness designated by this Act shall be administered by the Secretary in accordance with the provisions of the Wilderness Act: *Provided,* That any reference in such provisions to the effective date of the Wilderness Act shall be deemed to be a reference to the effective date of this Act.

Effective date.

16 USC 1131 note.

(d)(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 890; 16 U.S.C. 1131), including section 4(d)(3), closing wilderness areas after December 31, 1983, to the United States mining laws, and the designation of the River of No Return Wilderness by this Act, within that portion of the wilderness depicted on a map entitled "Special Mining Management Zone—Clear Creek", (hereinafter referred to in this section as the "Special Management Zone"), dated June 1980, all prospecting and exploration for, and development or mining of cobalt and associated minerals shall be considered a dominant use of such land and shall be subject to such laws and regulations as are generally applicable to National Forest System lands not designated as wilderness or other special management areas, including such laws and regulations which relate to the right of access to valid mining claims and private property: *Provided,* That:

Special Management Zone, mining.
16 USC 1133.

(A) all mining locations and associated access roads shall be held and used solely for mining or mineral processing operations and uses reasonably incident thereto, except that the Secretary

may permit such access roads to be utilized by the State of Idaho to facilitate the management of the bighorn sheep in the Special Management Zone;

Mineral deposits, patents.

(B) after the date of enactment of this Act, subject to valid existing rights, all patents issued under the mining laws of the United States for claims within the Special Management Zone shall convey title to the mineral deposits within such claims, but each such patent shall reserve to the United States all title in or to the surface of the lands and products thereof, and no use of the surface of the claim or the resources therefrom not reasonably required for carrying on mining and prospecting shall be allowed: *Provided,* That the patentee shall have the right to cut and use as much of the mature timber therefrom as may be needed in the extraction, removal and beneficiation of the mineral deposits, if such needed timber is not otherwise reasonably available, and if such timber is cut under sound principles of forest management as defined by National Forest System rules and regulations: *Provided further,* That the patentee shall have the right to use as much of the surface as reasonably necessary for the mining, removal, extraction, or beneficiation of the mineral deposits located therein; and

(C) consistent with the other provisions of this subsection the Secretary may take all reasonable measures to see that the mining or processing of cobalt and associated minerals within the Special Management Zone does not significantly impair the overall habitat of the bighorn sheep located within, or adjacent to, such Zone.

Report to Congress.

(2) Within three years from the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, after consultation with the Secretaries of the Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, Transportation, and State and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, shall report to Congress on the strategic significance of the materials and minerals found in the Special Management Zone.

Map and legal description, filing with congressional committees.

SEC. 6. As soon as practicable after enactment of this Act, a map and legal description of the River of No Return Wilderness and a map and legal description of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness additions shall be filed with the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate and the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States House of Representatives, and each such map and legal description shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act: *Provided,* That correction of clerical and typographical errors in each such legal description and map may be made. Each such map and legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture.

Permitted land uses, continuation. Aircraft landing.

SEC. 7. (a) Within the River of No Return Wilderness and the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness additions designated by this Act—

(1) the landing of aircraft, where this use has become established prior to the date of enactment of this Act shall be permitted to continue subject to such restrictions as the Secretary deems desirable: *Provided,* That the Secretary shall not permanently close or render unserviceable any aircraft landing strip in regular use on national forest lands on the date of enactment of this Act for reasons other than extreme danger to aircraft, and in any case not without the express written concurrence of the agency of the State of Idaho charged with evaluating the safety of backcountry airstrips;

(2) the grazing of livestock were established prior to the date of enactment of this Act, shall be permitted to continue subject to such reasonable regulations as the Secretary deems necessary, as provided in paragraph 4(d)(4) of the Wilderness Act; 16 USC 1133.

(3) commercial services may be performed to the extent necessary for activities which are proper for realizing the recreational or other wilderness purposes of the areas as provided in paragraph 4(d)(6) of the Wilderness Act; and

(4) the future construction and maintenance of small hydroelectric generators, domestic water facilities, and related facilities shall be permitted in the Threemile and Jersey Creek drainages along the Salmon River upstream from Mackay Bar.

(b) As provided in paragraph 4(d)(7) of the Wilderness Act, nothing in this Act shall constitute an express or implied claim or denial on the part of the Federal Government as to exemption from State water laws.

(c) As provided in paragraph 4(d)(8) of the Wilderness Act, nothing in this Act shall be construed as affecting the jurisdiction or responsibilities of the State of Idaho with respect to wildlife and fish in the national forests in Idaho.

Cultural resource management program. 16 USC 1131 note. 16 USC 1271 note. 16 USC 1604. 16 USC 470aa note. 16 USC 470 note.

SEC. 8. (a)(1) In furtherance of the purposes of the Wilderness Act, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, section 6 of the National Forest Management Act, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act, and the Historic Preservation Act, the Secretary shall cooperate with the Secretary of the Interior and with agencies and institutions of the State of Idaho, in conducting a cultural resource management program within the River of No Return Wilderness and within the Salmon River component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System as designated in section 9 of this Act.

(2) Such program shall have as its purposes the protection of archaeological sites and interpretation of such sites for the public benefit and knowledge insofar as these activities are compatible with the preservation of the values for which the wilderness and wild and scenic river were designated to protect.

(3) To carry out the cultural resource management program required by paragraph (1) of this section, the Secretary shall, as part of the comprehensive management plan required under subsection 5 (a) of this Act, develop a cultural resources management plan for the wilderness and the river. Such plan shall—

(A) encourage scientific research into man's past use of the River of No Return Wilderness and the Salmon River corridor;

(B) provide an outline for the protection of significant cultural resources, including protection from vandalism and looting as well as destruction from natural deterioration;

(C) be based on adequate inventory data, supplemented by test excavation data where appropriate;

(D) include a public interpretation program; and

(E) comply with all Federal and State historic and cultural preservation statutes, regulations, guidelines, and standards.

Inventory, report to congressional committees.

(b)(1) Within two years from the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall cooperate with the Secretary of the Interior and with agencies and institutions of the State of Idaho in conducting an inventory of the ranch, homestead, trapper and other cabins, and structures within the River of No Return Wilderness and within the Salmon River component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System designated by section 9 of this Act and submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States

Senate and the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States House of Representatives a report on—

(A) the location of these structures;

(B) their historic significance, if any;

(C) their present condition;

(D) recommendations as to which of these structures should be:

(i) stabilized;

(ii) restored;

(iii) maintained; or

(iv) removed;

(E) the estimated cost of such stabilization, restoration, maintenance, or removal; and

(F) the suitability of any of these structures for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

(2) Until such time as the study under this subsection is completed and the required report submitted to the Committees, the Secretary shall not knowingly permit the destruction or significant alteration of any historic cabin or other structure on national forest land within the River of No Return Wilderness or the Salmon River component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System designated in section 9 of this Act.

16 USC 1274.

SEC. 9. (a) The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (82 Stat. 906, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1271 et seq.), is further amended as follows: In section 3(a) after paragraph (23) insert the following new paragraph:

River designation.

"(24)(A) SALMON, IDAHO.—The segment of the main river from the mouth of the North Fork of the Salmon River downstream to Long Tom Bar in the following classes:

"(i) the forty-six-mile segment from the mouth of the North Fork of the Salmon River to Corn Creek as a recreational river; and

"(ii) the seventy-nine-mile segment from Corn Creek to Long Tom Bar as a wild river; all as generally depicted on a map entitled "Salmon River" dated November 1979, which is on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Chief, Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture.

Administration.

"(B) This segment shall be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture: *Provided,* That after consultation with State and local governments and the interested public, the Secretary shall take such action as is required by subsection (b) of this section within one year from the date of enactment of this paragraph.

"(C) The use of motorboats (including motorized jetboats) within this segment of the Salmon River shall be permitted to continue at a level not less than the level of use which occurred during calendar year 1978.

Mining, prohibition.

"(D) Subject to existing rights of the State of Idaho, including the right of access, with respect to the beds of navigable streams, tributaries or rivers, dredge and placer mining in any form including any use of machinery for the removal of sand and gravel for mining purposes shall be prohibited within the segment of the Salmon River designated as a component of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System by this paragraph; within the fifty-three-mile segment of the Salmon River from Hammer Creek downstream to the confluence of the Snake River; and within the Middle Fork of the Salmon River; and its tributary streams in their entirety: *Provided,* That nothing in this paragraph shall be deemed to prohibit the removal of sand and gravel, outside the boundaries of the River of No Return Wilderness or the Gospel-Hump Wilderness, above the high water mark of the Salmon River or the Middle Fork and its tributaries for the purposes

of construction or maintenance of public roads: *Provided further,* That this paragraph shall not apply to any written mineral leases approved by the Board of Land Commissioners of the State of Idaho prior to January 1, 1980.

"(E) The provisions of section 7(a) of this Act with respect to the licensing of dams, water conduits, reservoirs, powerhouses, transmission lines or other project works, shall apply to the fifty-three-mile segment of the Salmon River from Hammer Creek downstream to the confluence of the Snake River.

Appropriation authorization.

"(F) For the purposes of the segment of the Salmon River designated as a component of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System by this paragraph, there is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, after October 1, 1980, not more than $6,200,000 for the acquisition of lands and interests in lands.".

16 USC 1281 note.

(b) That segment of the main Salmon River designated as a component of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System by this Act, which lies within the River of No Return Wilderness or the Gospel-Hump Wilderness designated by Public Law 95-237, shall be managed under the provisions of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, as amended, and the regulations promulgated pursuant thereto, notwithstanding section 10(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act or any provisions of the Wilderness Act to the contrary.

16 USC 1132 note.
16 USC 1271 note.
16 USC 1281.
16 USC 1131 note.

Administration.

SEC. 10. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall render, within 30 days from the date of enactment of this Act, a final administrative decision on any and all administrative appeals pending before him or any other official of the Department of Agriculture on the date of enactment of this Act with regard to the following land management plans and corresponding environmental statements (hereinafter referred to in this section as "the plans and environmental statements"):

(1) The Warren Planning Unit Land Management Plan and Final Environmental Statement, Payette National Forest, Idaho, dated May 9, 1979; and

(2) The Landmark Planning Unit Land Management Plan and Final Environmental Statement, Boise National Forest, Idaho, dated May 17, 1979.

Review, petition filing.

(b)(1) Any petition for review of the decision of the Secretary with regard to any of the plans and environmental statements referenced in this section, shall be filed in the United States District Court for the District of Idaho (hereinafter referred to as "the court") within thirty days after the final administrative decision of the Secretary required by this section, or the petition shall be barred. Such court shall have exclusive jurisdiction to determine such proceeding in accordance with standard procedures as supplemented by procedures hereinafter provided and no other district court of the United States shall have jurisdiction over any such challenge in any proceeding instituted prior to, on, or after the date of enactment of this Act.

Court procedures.

(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the court may set rules governing the procedures of any such proceeding which set page limits on briefs and time limits for filing briefs and motions and other actions which are shorter than the limits specified in the Federal Rules of Civil or Appellate Procedure.

(3) Any such proceeding before the court shall be assigned for hearing and completed at the earliest possible date, and shall be expedited in every way. The court shall render its final decision relative to any challenge within one hundred and eighty days from the date such challenge is brought unless the court determines that a

longer period of time is required to satisfy the requirements of the United States Constitution.

Review.

(c) Any review of any decision of the United States District Court for the District of Idaho shall be made by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals of the United States and shall be assigned for hearing and completed at the earliest possible date, and shall be expedited in every possible way.

Approved July 23, 1980.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 96-838, Pt. 1 (Comm. on Interior and Insular Affairs) and No. 96-1126 (Comm. of Conference).
SENATE REPORT No. 96-414 (Comm. on Energy and Natural Resources).
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:
Vol. 125 (1979): Nov. 20, considered and passed Senate.
Vol. 126 (1980): Apr. 16, considered and passed House, amended.
June 26, Senate agreed to conference report.
June 30, July 1, House agreed to conference report.
WEEKLY COMPILATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS:
Vol. 16, No. 30 (1980): July 23, Presidential statement.