

Raven's Eye (57-10). All 67,110 acres in the WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation. Wilderness values in the WSA would be maintained. The area would be closed to ORV use. Only valid mining claims established before the date the area is designated by Congress could be developed.

Little Deer (57-11). All 33,531 acres in the WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation. Wilderness values in the WSA would be maintained. The area would be closed to ORV use. Only valid mining claims established before the date the area is designated by Congress could be developed.

Bear Den Butte (57-14). All 9,700 acres in the WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation. Wilderness values in the WSA would be maintained. The area would be closed to ORV use. Only valid mining claims established before the date the area is designated by Congress could be developed.

Shoshone (59-7). All 6,914 acres in the WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation. Wilderness values in the WSA would be maintained. The area would be closed to ORV use. Only valid mining claims established before the date the area is designated by Congress could be developed.

Selection of the Preferred Alternative

The Preferred Alternative for each area was selected through the BLM's multiple use planning process, by applying the criteria and quality standards contained in the in the BLM's wilderness study policy. The Preferred Alternative of the RMP, Alternative C, recommends as suitable for wilderness designation two WSAs with 87,902 acres of public land and four WSAs, with 66,113 acres of public land, as nonsuitable.

Rationale

The rationale for the selection of the Preferred Alternative for each area is summarized in Table F-3. A detailed discussion of the rationale for each area follows.

TABLE F-3

SUMMARY OF THE RATIONALE FOR THE SELECTION OF THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Area	Recommendation	Rationale
Shale Butte	Nonsuitable	Wildfires that frequently burn through the WSA (usually man caused and started outside the WSA) and a confusing southern boundary make the area hard to manage. Quality of wilderness values in the WSA is low.
Sand Butte	Suitable	Wilderness values are of high quality and the WSA is manageable as wilderness. Wilderness designation would cause moderate resource conflicts. Large stands of native grasses in good condition enhance natural values.
Raven's Eye	Suitable	Wilderness values are of high quality and the WSA is manageable as wilderness. Wilderness designation would cause minimal conflict with other resource uses.
Little Deer	Nonsuitable	Wilderness values are of moderate quality. Primitive recreation quality is moderate because the dominant aa lava flows limit the diversity of opportunity.
Bear Den Butte	Nonsuitable	Wilderness values are of moderate quality. Small size and rugged aa lava flows limit primitive recreation opportunities.
Shoshone	Nonsuitable	Wilderness values are of moderate quality. Outside sights and sounds and small size adversely affect solitude and primitive recreation opportunities.

Shale Butte (57-2). The Preferred Alternative for Shale Butte is to recommend it as nonsuitable for wilderness designation. The major reasons for this recommendation are the low quality of the areas wilderness values and problems related to managing the area as wilderness. The wilderness value of naturalness has been adversely affected by frequent wildfires that burn through the WSA. The fires are usually man caused and burn through the WSA from the outside. Their frequency has caused the vegetation within the

WSA to be altered drastically from what would be expected without the influence of man. The wilderness value of solitude is adversely affected by outside sights and sounds from a railroad and adjacent farmland.

Managing the WSA with its present boundary would present significant problems. Most of the southern boundary of the WSA is located along legal subdivisions. This results in a boundary that is hard to recognize and easy for ORVs to stray across. Other manageability problems include controlling wildfire. It is doubtful that the natural fire cycle could be restored in the WSA, but the frequency of fires could be reduced. An increased suppression effort would be so costly that it would be unfeasible to implement.

Sand Butte (57-8). The Preferred Alternative for Sand Butte is to recommend the entire WSA as suitable for wilderness designation. The major reason for this recommendation is the high quality of the wilderness values in the WSA. The unit provides excellent examples of high desert native grasses and the rugged terrain in the WSA helps to maintain the vegetation in good condition. Sand Butte displays volcanic processes that are not displayed by other volcanoes on the Snake River Plain. When combined with the adjacent Raven's Eye WSA the values of solitude and primitive recreation are further enhanced.

One conflict, of moderate proportions, with another resource use would occur with wilderness designation. With designation a well and supporting roads for water hauling would not be constructed. Without water most of the WSA would not be fully utilized for livestock grazing. Even with water the rugged terrain within the WSA would hamper effective use of the area. The wilderness values that would be maintained by adding this area to the NWPS offsets the loss of other resource uses in the area.

Raven's Eye (57-10). The Preferred Alternative for Raven's Eye is to recommend the entire WSA as suitable for wilderness designation. This WSA has top quality wilderness values throughout the unit and this quality is the basis of the recommendation. The large size of the WSA and the extensive rugged lava flows within the WSA provide superb opportunities for solitude, primitive recreation and observation of geologic processes that created the Snake River Plains. The lava flows in the WSA are of varying types and support recreational uses such as hiking, camping and nature study. Portions of the flows are adjacent to Carey Lake and support a unique and interesting ecotone between the desert and aquatic ecosystems. If the adjacent Great Rift WSA is designated wilderness the addition of this WSA would complement the Great Rift by adding features not found in the Great Rift area.

Conflicts with other uses are minimal. A short section of road for water hauling would not be constructed. Recreational ORV use of ways within the WSA would not be allowed. However, occasional vehicle use of ways for the purpose of livestock management would be permitted. The maintenance of wilderness values in the area by adding it to the NWPS offsets the loss of other resource uses.

Little Deer (57-11). The Preferred Alternative for Little Deer is to recommend the WSA as nonsuitable for wilderness designation. The major reason for this recommendation is that the quality of a major wilderness value, primitive recreation, is not high. The lava flows that dominate the majority of the WSA are exclusively aa lava. The rugged, clinkery nature of these flows, while challenging, inhibit most recreation use. The lack of diversity in the terrain lowers the diversity of primitive recreation opportunities the WSA has to offer. The rationale for suitable recommendations in the preferred alternative is that WSAs will have high quality wilderness values. This WSA does not meet that standard.

Bear Den Butte (57-14). The Preferred Alternative for Bear Den Butte is to recommend the WSA as nonsuitable for wilderness designation. The major reason for this recommendation is that the quality of wilderness values in the WSA are only moderate. The small size of the WSA and the lack of diversity in the aa lava flow limit the opportunities for primitive recreation.

Shoshone (59-7). The Preferred Alternative for Shoshone is to recommend the WSA as nonsuitable for wilderness designation. The major reason for this recommendation is that the quality of wilderness values in this WSA are not high. Outside sights and sounds from a frequently used boundary road, a railroad and adjacent farmland adversely affect solitude. The small size of the WSA limits the opportunity for primitive recreation. The WSA is too small for extended hikes. These factors moderate wilderness quality in the WSA. The rationale for suitable recommendations in the preferred alternative is that WSAs will have high quality wilderness values. This WSA does not meet that standard.

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Shale Butte Wilderness Study Area (WSA 57-2)

Evaluation of Wilderness Values

Quality of the Area's Mandatory Wilderness Characteristics

Naturalness. The WSA generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. There are four minor human imprints within the WSA. None of these imprints can be attributed to activities that occur outside the WSA. In addition to the imprints identified in the inventory, naturalness in the WSA has been affected by a high fire frequency. Most of the vegetation in the WSA has been drastically altered and cheatgrass is the dominant species. Fires now occur once every five years, on the average, which greatly contrasts with the rate of once every 32-70 years that is the estimated rate of burning for the area before 1920. The last fire in the WSA occurred in 1981 and burned the entire WSA. A more detailed discussion of the area's fire history can be found in the fire management section of the EIS.

A description of each human imprint identified in the inventory follows:

1. A way located in T. 5 S., R. 22 E., Sections 21 and 28, extends 1.8 miles into the WSA from the northern boundary road. Vegetation is growing in the middle of the way, but is kept low by regular use for access to sheep camps. The brush surrounding the way on either side limits the visibility of the way from a distance. In general, the way is not visible on the ground from more than ten yards away. The way can be seen from thirteen acres within the WSA.
2. A way located in T. 5 S., R. 22 E., Section 15, extends .3 miles into the WSA. The way is used for access to a sheep camp on the summit of Shale Butte. The brush surrounding the way on either side limits the visibility of the way from a distance. Generally, a person standing on the ground would not be able to see the way from more than ten yards away.

The way is visible from 2.2 acres of the WSA. In addition to the way, the sheep camp and bedding ground at the summit affects another two acres of the WSA.

3. A way located in T. 6 S., R. 22 E., Section 3, extends 200 yards into the WSA from the southern boundary. The way stops at the edge of a lava flow and receives enough use to keep vegetation low in the center of the way.

The way can be seen from several of the lava bluffs in the area and is visible from approximately 20 acres of the WSA.

4. A way located in T. 6 S., R. 22 E., Section 9, extends .6 miles into the WSA from a State section along the southern boundary of the WSA. The way does not receive regular use and vegetation is growing in the tracks and the center of the way. Vegetation provides screening for the way and limits its visibility from a distance. In general, the way is not visible from more than ten yards away. The way can be seen from approximately four acres of the WSA.

Some sights and sounds from outside the WSA are also present. A mainline of the Union Pacific Railroad is visible from the southern part of the WSA. It is less than a mile from the WSA along one section of the boundary. Train traffic averages one train/hour. The sight of the train is noticeable from many locations in the southern part of the WSA that are within two miles of the railroad. Sounds from the railroad are noticeable over the entire WSA on quiet nights.

Traffic on roads that serve as boundaries on the east, west, and north sides of the WSA create sights and sounds that are noticeable within the WSA. The east and west boundary roads are infrequently used, but the north boundary road receives daily traffic. Sights from the roads are noticeable for a mile across flat terrain. However, lava features that cause uneven terrain generally limit the visibility of traffic from more than 500 yards away from the road. Sounds from traffic can often be heard from as far away as a mile.

Sights and sounds from agricultural lands that lie north of the railroad are noticeable within the WSA. Other agricultural land, south of the railroad, can be seen from portions of the WSA, but sounds from these lands are not noticeable.

Even in combination, the sights and sounds from outside the WSA are not so imposing that they would seriously impair wilderness designation. However, all of the outside sights and sounds do diminish the benefits of wilderness designation to a minor degree.

Solitude. Visitors to this WSA will find that the rugged surface terrain will offer many places where the sights and sounds of others can be avoided. This experience is diminished in flatter portions of the WSA along the southern boundary where low vegetation makes it easy to see other visitors in the area. The presence of outside sights and sounds also diminishes opportunities for solitude in the southern portion of the WSA. The following features have been considered in evaluating the outstanding opportunities for solitude in this WSA.

Size and Configuration. The WSA contains 15,968 acres of public land. The configuration of the WSA presents no problems for solitude except in the vicinity of Shale Butte. At Shale Butte, the WSA narrows to less than a mile.

Topographic Screening. Elevation above sea level in the WSA ranges from 4,250 feet along the southern boundary to 4,578 feet at the summit of Shale Butte along the northern boundary. Although the WSA is relatively flat, the lava flows within the WSA have numerous pressure ridges, lava blisters, and subsidence craters that provide a great deal of surface relief. This surface relief provides good screening in the majority of the WSA.

Vegetative Screening. The vegetation in the WSA provides only minimal screening between visitors. The fire that burned through the WSA in 1981 eliminated most of the large brush. In time, a broken brush canopy three to four feet high can be expected in portions of the WSA.

Presence of Outside Sights and Sounds. Outside sights and sounds have been discussed under naturalness.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation. The rugged lava flows from Shale Butte are essential to the outstanding recreation opportunities in this WSA. The lava flows have weathered and developed sufficient soil to support a moderate amount of vegetation. Opportunities for studying the mechanisms of vegetative succession typical of the biotic communities of the Snake River Plains are abundant on these lava flows. Numerous subsidence craters, pressure ridges, lava blisters, and other lava flow features provide an interesting locale for exploration and study.

Opportunities for desert hiking and camping are also offered by features in the WSA. Although no trail system has been established, the lava flows can be negotiated on foot without too much trouble. The area is not large enough to offer extensive hikes, but overnight or weekend hiking/camping trips could be easily accommodated. Camping sites can be found throughout the area, however, all sites are dry. The lack of reliable water sources, extreme temperatures in the summer months, and the rugged terrain enhance factors of challenge and risk for hiking and camping.

Quality of the Area's Optional Wilderness Characteristics. A nesting site for a burrowing owl is located within the WSA. The burrowing owl is a sensitive species in Idaho, although several other nesting sites have been identified in the Shoshone District. The presence of this and possibly other burrowing owls in the WSA enhances, to a minor degree, the desirability of

wilderness designation since they are relatively uncommon. However, the existence of this nesting site would not be threatened if the area were not designated wilderness.

The lava flows are of interest geologically and botanically since they are examples of volcanism on the Snake River Plains and of primary plant succession on lava flows. This lava flow is not unique, however, and several other examples are in the local area. All of the features found on this lava flow can also be found in the Craters of the Moon Wilderness.

None of the supplemental wilderness values significantly enhances the benefits of wilderness designation for the WSA.

Multiple Resource Benefits.

Multiple Resource Values (MRVs) That Already Exist. None of the MRVs or uses that currently exist in the WSA require wilderness designation to continue. Other management actions could assure that current MRVs or uses would continue.

Multiple Resource Values That Don't Exist Now. The protective status of wilderness designation would not result in new multiple resource values.

Special Benefits to Off-Site Areas. No significant benefits would accrue to off-site areas as a result of wilderness designation of the WSA.

Diversity in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Ecosystem Diversity. The BLM has classified its WSAs according to criteria of the Bailey-Kuchler Ecosystems of the United States system used by the Forest Service in its RARE II studies. The Bailey-Kuchler Great Basin Province-Sagebrush Steppe Ecosystem (3130-49) is the only ecosystem represented in the Shale Butte WSA. The following table summarizes the potential wilderness acres nationwide and statewide that represents this ecosystem.

TABLE F-4

GREAT BASIN PROVINCE - SAGEBRUSH STEPPE
ECOSYSTEM REPRESENTATION

Geographic Area	NWPS AREAS		Endorsed Areas 1/		Other Study Areas 1/	
	Areas	Acres	Areas	Acres	Areas	Acres
Nationwide	2	34,545	3	357,400	144	4,266,126
Idaho	0	0	0	0	32	732,494

1/ Forest Service data included in these figures are subject to change pending the outcome of ongoing Forest Service studies.

The Great Basin Province - Sagebrush Steppe (3130-49) ecosystem is represented by two areas in the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS) with 34,545 acres. Potential wilderness areas include 3 areas with 357,400 acres that have been administratively endorsed and 144 other potential areas with 4,266,126 acres. Although this ecosystem is lightly represented in the NWPS at present, a large number of potential wilderness areas exist that could expand the representation of this ecosystem if they were designated as wilderness. The Shale Butte WSA is relatively small when compared to the other potential wilderness areas that represent this ecosystem. The designation of this WSA would not significantly increase the number of acres representing this ecosystem in the NWPS. It should be noted that repeated fires have severely altered the Sagebrush ecosystem.

Solitude and Primitive Recreation Opportunities. Two metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) that qualify as major population centers, the Boise and the Salt Lake City-Ogden areas, are within five hours driving time of the WSA. The following table summarizes the opportunities available from each MSA.

TABLE F-5

PROXIMITY TO POPULATION CENTERS

Population Centers Within 200 Miles of Planning Area WSAs	Statutory Wilderness Within 200 Miles of Population Centers					
	BLM			Other Agency		
	State	Number	Acreege	State	Number	Acreege
Boise, Idaho	ID	0	0	ID	6	3,869,197
	NV	0	0	NV	1	64,830
	OR	0	0	OR	4	503,443
Salt Lake City-Ogden, Utah	ID	0	0	ID	1	43,243
	NV	0	0	NV	1	64,830
	UT	0	0	UT	1	30,088
	WY	0	0	WY	2	583,272
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Population Centers Within 200 Miles of Planning Area WSAs	Wilderness Areas Endorsed by the President Within 200 Miles of Population Centers 1/					
	BLM			Other Agency		
	State	Number	Acreege	State	Number	Acreege
Boise, Idaho	ID	0	0	ID	8	689,050
	MT	0	0	MT	7	149,189
	NV	0	0	NV	1	341,500
	OR	0	0	OR	5	127,051
Salt Lake City-Ogden, Utah	CO	0	0	CO	1	205,671
	ID	0	0	ID	1	15,770
	UT	0	0	UT	13	665,248
	WY	0	0	WY	8	690,444
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Population Centers Within 200 Miles of Planning Area WSAs	Other Study Areas Within 200 Miles of Population Centers 1/					
	BLM			Other Agency		
	State	Number	Acreege	State	Number	Acreege
Boise, Idaho	ID	49	1,635,600	ID	5	449,892
	MT	3	34,819	MT	2	179,620
	NV	11	222,440	NV	1	31,070
	OR	66	2,392,952	OR	15	349,288
	WA	1	975	WA	0	0
Salt Lake City-Ogden, UT	CO	10	128,768	CO	0	0
	ID	24	831,222	ID	2	140,050
	NV	7	241,230	NV	4	245,374
	UT	24	1,131,055	UT	5	110,286
	WY	17	316,555	WY	4	191,292

1/ Forest Service data included in these figures are subject to change pending the outcome of ongoing Forest Service studies.

Geographic Distribution. In the region surrounding Idaho, the existing NWPS areas are concentrated in the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range in California, the Cascade Mountain Range in Oregon and Washington, and in the Rocky Mountains of Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, and Colorado. There are very few wilderness areas in Nevada, Utah, southeast Oregon, and southern Idaho.

Manageability

The WSA can be managed as wilderness over the long run. There are no known conflicts with private rights in the area. There are no private or State inholdings in the WSA, so access to inholdings would present no problems. Grazing activities, particularly the need to develop water sources for livestock, could cause some degradation of wilderness values. However, this degradation would not exceed those levels prescribed by law and provided for in the BLM's Wilderness Management Policy.

The most severe wilderness management problems for the WSA would result from a poorly defined southern boundary and abnormally high fire frequencies. The present boundary is located along legal section lines. Vehicles using the public lands south of the WSA boundary frequently travel off established roads and have created numerous vehicle tracks. National Guard tanks occasionally use the area south of the WSA boundary and could stray into the WSA if the boundary is not well marked. Inadvertent vehicle use inside the WSA could cause unacceptable degradation of wilderness values.

Other manageability problems would occur along the ways that extend into the WSA. The primary use of two of these ways is for access to sheep camps inside the WSA. This use would continue under the BLM's Wilderness Management Policy. Otherwise, all ways in the WSA would be closed to vehicle use. The use of two ways for access to sheep camps would not significantly affect wilderness character.

Sand Butte Wilderness Study Area (WSA 57-8)

Evaluation of Wilderness Values

Quality of the Area's Mandatory Wilderness Characteristics

Naturalness. The Sand Butte WSA generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. The wilderness inventory identified four

minor human imprints within the WSA. None of these can be attributed to activities that occur outside the WSA.

A description of each human imprint identified in the inventory follows.

1. A way located in T. 3 S., R. 22 E., Sections 29 and 32, extends 1.8 miles into the WSA from the northern boundary road. Vegetation is high in the center of the way and, in some places, it is growing in the ruts. This indicates that the way is lightly used. Brush surrounding the way on either side limits the visibility of the way from a distance. In general, the way is not visible on the ground from more than ten yards away. The way can be seen from about five acres in the WSA.
2. The wilderness inventory indicated that seedings of crested wheat can be found on the summit of Sand Butte. Subsequent investigations have failed to identify such a seeding. Range conservationists from the District have visited the summit and the crater, and no evidence of an established seeding has turned up in these areas. Since aerial seeding of crested wheat was attempted in the area during the 1950s and 1960s, it was considered possible that some crested wheat may have become established on Sand Butte. This does not appear to have happened.
3. An aerial seeding was made in Section 13, T. 3 S., R. 21 E. Several small pockets of crested wheat were established in an area about 160 acres in size. The established seedings have irregular edges and are not noticeable to the average visitor. The seedings are along the northern boundary road and could be deleted from the WSA by moving the boundary to the south of the seedings. This would cause about 160 acres to be removed from the WSA.
4. Approximately 6.75 miles of fence, constructed with steel posts and barbed wire, are found within the WSA. The fence runs south from the north boundary road on a section line between Sections 29 and 30, and the section line between Sections 31 and 32 in T. 3 S., R. 22 E. From the southeast corner of Section 31, the fence runs west for 4 3/4 miles along the line between T. 3 S. and T. 4 S. until it hits the boundary road on the west side of the WSA. The fence is visible, in many places, above the sagebrush for a distance of 100 yards. The fence can be seen from approximately 490 acres in the WSA.

Since the fence runs through the central portion of the WSA, there is no feasible way to separate this imprint from the remainder of the WSA. The existence of the fence within the WSA does not noticeably affect perceptions of naturalness in the majority of the area.

Some sights and sounds from outside the WSA are also present. The roads that form the north and south boundary receive daily traffic use during the summer months. The eastern boundary is formed by two roads. That portion of the boundary formed by a road in Sections 3, 10, and 15 in T. 4 S., R. 22 E. is lightly used (i.e., less than daily traffic). The remainder of the east

boundary is formed by a road that receives daily traffic use during the summer months. The west boundary road is lightly used.

Traffic on any of these roads is visible from inside the WSA. Vehicle use on a road is noticeable from a mile away across flat terrain. The WSA has fairly uneven terrain that cuts down the visibility of traffic use on boundary roads considerably. Sounds from traffic use can also be heard a short distance inside the WSA. The distance that these sounds will carry varies substantially with different weather conditions.

None of the outside sights and sounds that affect this WSA are so imposing that they seriously impair the benefits of wilderness designation. However, all of the outside sights and sounds do diminish the benefits of wilderness designation to a minor degree.

Sand Butte is a very prominent landmark in the WSA. The base of Sand Butte is surrounded on three sides by the north boundary road. This boundary road and traffic on it, as well as other roads in the vicinity, are visible from the summit of Sand Butte. As with the previous sights and sounds, the view of adjacent roads and occasional traffic diminishes the benefits of wilderness designation to a minor degree. However, the tremendous vista of empty and rugged rangeland and lava flows more than offsets the minor distraction of these sights and sounds from outside the WSA boundaries.

Solitude.

Size and Configuration. The Sand Butte WSA contains 20,792 acres of public land plus 1,280 acres of State land inholdings. The boundary configuration has one area that could present problems. A large parcel of 1,751 acres has been deleted from the southern part of the WSA. This parcel is about one mile wide and two miles long. Activities that are not compatible with wilderness could take place in this area and affect perceptions of wilderness inside the WSA.

Topographic Screening. Elevation above sea level in the WSA ranges from 4,500 feet in the southern part of the unit to 4,974 feet at the summit of Sand Butte. Although the WSA is relatively flat, several parts of the WSA are covered with old lava flows that have a very rough surface. Blowing sand has smoothed some of the lava formations and encouraged vegetation, but the numerous pressure ridges, blisters, subsidence craters, and other lava formations provide good topographic screening throughout the WSA.

Vegetative Screening. Vegetation in the WSA generally provides only minimal screening between visitors. Some old growth sagebrush may reach heights in excess of six feet and provide a screening between

visitors, but such stands are very susceptible to fire. The majority of the WSA has a brush canopy three to four feet high, which does not provide good screening between visitors.

Presence of Outside Sights and Sounds. Outside sights and sounds have been discussed under naturalness.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation. The diversity of primitive recreation opportunities available in the WSA center on rugged lava formations and desert terrain. Primitive camping, hiking, and hunting opportunities are outstanding in the WSA. Rugged terrain, lack of water sources, and an absence of trails add an element of challenge and risk that enhances these opportunities for many.

Other opportunities exist in the WSA for sightseeing (primarily from Sand Butte), photography, spelunking, and nature study. Sand Butte is an attraction and would be a destination for many visitors. The remainder of the WSA lacks any features that would concentrate recreational use.

Little winter use is anticipated, although the WSA offers opportunities for winter camping and ski touring. Extremely high summer temperatures concentrate most use into the spring and fall seasons.

Quality of the Area's Optional Wilderness Characteristics. The primary supplemental wilderness values in this WSA are the geological significance of Sand Butte and large stands of native grasses. With its steep, heavily stratified crater walls, and deep symmetrical crater bowl, Sand Butte stands out among other volcanic cones on the Snake River Plain as an unusual formation. Large collapsed lava tubes on either side of Sand Butte appear to be situated along a rift feature that has also spawned Broken Top Butte to the north. The rugged terrain in the WSA has inhibited grazing except in areas close to roads. For this reason, much of the WSA contains stands of native grasses in relatively good condition.

Some archaeological sites also occur in the WSA, but are primarily surface lithic scatters. These sites do not significantly enhance the benefits of wilderness designation for the WSA.

Diversity in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Ecosystem Diversity. The BLM has classified its WSAs according to criteria of the Bailey-Kuchler Ecosystems of the United States system used by the Forest Service in its RARE II studies. The Bailey-Kuchler Great Basin