

D-17

WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATIONS

FOR

PETRIFIED FOREST

NATIONAL PARK

ARIZONA

NOVEMBER, 1967

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
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RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are based upon careful study of the park, the views presented at the public hearing, and the written responses concerning the preliminary wilderness proposal described in the appended Hearing Officer's Report.

1. That a wilderness of 50,260 acres within Petrified Forest National Park, Arizona, as defined in Exhibit A, be designated by an Act of Congress. The park contains 94,189.33 acres all of which are Federally owned.
2. That, if authorized, this wilderness be administered in accordance with the Act of August 25, 1916, establishing the National Park Service, and the statutory authority under which this unit of the National Park System was created, as supplemented by applicable provisions of the Wilderness Act of September 3, 1964.

EXHIBIT A. RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS

The recommended wilderness is depicted on map NM-PF-3320-C, November 1967, Petrified Forest National Park, and a description of the area so recommended follows:

Gila and Salt River Meridian

Wilderness 1

T. 19 N., R. 23 E.

All of sections 1, 2 and 11,
Part of sections 3, 10, 12, 13, 14 and 15.

T. 20 N., R. 23 E.

All of sections 11-14 inclusive, 23-26 inclusive, 35
and 36,
Part of sections 1, 2, 3, 10, 15, 22, 27 and 34.

T. 19 N., R. 24 E.

Part of sections 2, 5, 6 and 7.

T. 20 N., R. 24 E.

All of sections 7-12 inclusive, 14-23 inclusive, 27
and 29-31 inclusive,
Part of sections 1-6 inclusive, 13, 24, 25, 26, 28,
32, 33, 34, and 35.

T. 20 N., R. 25 E.

All of sections 7 and 8,
Part of sections 4, 5, 6, 9, 16, 17 and 18.

More particularly described as follows:

Beginning at a point 10 chains south and 10 chains east of the
northwest corner of section 3, T. 20 N., R. 23 E.;

Thence easterly, parallel to and 10 chains south of the north
lines of R. 23 E., 24 E., and 25 E., to a point 10

chains south and 10 chains west of the northeast corner of section 4, T. 20 N., R. 25 E.;

Thence southerly, parallel to and 10 chains west of the east lines of sections 4, 9, and 16, T. 20 N., R. 25 E., to the northwest corner of the SE 1/4 SE 1/4 SE 1/4 of said section 16;

Thence westerly, parallel to and 10 chains north of the south lines of sections 16, 17, and 18, T. 20 N., R. 25 E., and section 13, T. 20 N., R. 24 E., to the northwest corner of the SE 1/4 SE 1/4 SE 1/4 of said section 13;

Thence southerly, parallel to and 10 chains west of the east lines of sections 13 and 24, T. 20 N., R. 24 E., to the intersection with the south line of the rim of the Painted Desert, said point being on the west line of the SE 1/4 SE 1/4 NE 1/4 of said section 24;

Thence in a generally southwesterly direction along said south rim of the Painted Desert, through the SE 1/4 NE 1/4 and S 1/2 of said section 24, the W 1/2 of section 25, the SE 1/4 of section 26, and the NE 1/4 and W 1/2 of section 35, T. 20 N., R. 24 E., and continuing to its intersection with an unnamed, intermittent tributary of Lithodendron Wash in the N 1/2 of Lot 3 in section 2, T. 19 N., R. 24 E.

Thence northwesterly along said unnamed tributary of Lithodendron Wash, and extension thereof, through said N 1/2 of Lot 3 in section 2, T. 19 N., R. 24 E., and the SW 1/4 section 35, SE 1/4 and N 1/2 of section 34, the NE 1/4 of section 33, and the SE 1/4 SE 1/4 of section 28, T. 20 N., R. 24 E., to the northwest line of said Lithodendron Wash;

Thence southwesterly along said northwest line of Lithodendron Wash through the S 1/2 SE 1/4 section 28, N 1/2 and NW 1/4 SW 1/4 section 33, and the SE 1/4 section 32, T. 20 N., R. 24 E., and through the N 1/2 of section 5, SE 1/4 section 6, and the N 1/2 and SW 1/4 of section 7, T. 19 N., R. 24 E., and the S 1/2 section 12 and W 1/2 of section 13, T. 19 N., R. 23 E., to a point 10 chains north of the south line of said section 13;

Thence westerly, parallel to and 10 chains north of the south lines of sections 13, 14, and 15, T. 19 N., R. 23 E., to the northeast corner of the SW 1/4 SW 1/4 SW 1/4 of said section 15;

Thence northerly, parallel to and 10 chains east of the west lines of sections 15, 10, and 3, T. 19 N., R. 23 E., and sections 34, 27, 22, 15, 10, and 3, T. 20 N., R. 23 E., to a point 10 chains south of the north line of said section 3, said point being the point of beginning.

Containing 42,020 acres, more or less.

Wilderness 2

T. 16 N., R. 24 E.

All of section 4,
Part of sections 3 and 5-10 inclusive.

T. 17 N., R. 24 E.

Part of sections 2, 3, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 21, 22, 23,
26, 27, 28, 32, and 33.

More particularly described as follows:

Beginning at the northwest corner of the SE 1/4 SE 1/4 SW 1/4 of section 10, T. 16 N., R. 24 E.;

Thence westerly, parallel to and 10 chains north of the south lines of sections 10, 9, 8, and 7, T. 16 N., R. 24 E., to the southwest corner of the NE 1/4 SW 1/4 SE 1/4 said section 7;

Thence northerly to the northwest corner of said NE 1/4 SW 1/4 SE 1/4 of section 7;

Thence westerly to the southwest corner of the NW 1/4 SE 1/4 of said section 7;

Thence northerly to the northwest corner of the SW 1/4 NW 1/4 SE 1/4 of said section 7;

Thence westerly to the west line of said section 7;

Thence northerly to the west quarter-corner of section 6,
T. 16 N., R. 24 E.;

Thence easterly 10 chains;

Thence northerly 10 chains;

Thence easterly to the southeast corner of the NW 1/4 SE 1/4
NE 1/4 of said section 6;

Thence northerly to the northeast corner of the NW 1/4 SE 1/4
NE 1/4 of said section 6;

Thence easterly to the northeast corner of the SE 1/4 NE 1/4
of said section 6;

Thence northerly along the west line of section 5 to the south
line of the N 1/2 of Lot 4 of said section 5, T. 16 N.,
R. 24 E.;

Thence easterly along the south line of said N 1/2 of Lot
4 to the east line thereof;

Thence northerly to the northeast corner of said Lot 4 of
section 5;

Thence easterly to the northeast corner of said section 5;

Thence northerly, parallel to the east line of section 32,
T. 17 N., R. 24 E., to a point on the south line of the
N 1/2 S 1/2 NE 1/4 of said section 32;

Thence easterly along said south line of the N 1/2 S 1/2 NE
1/4 of section 32 to the east line thereof;

Thence northerly to the northwest corner of the SW 1/4 NW
1/4 of section 33, T. 17 N., R. 24 E.;

Thence easterly to the northeast corner of the NW 1/4 SW 1/4
NW 1/4 of said section 33;

Thence northerly to the northwest corner of the SE 1/4 NW
1/4 NW 1/4 of said section 33;

Thence easterly to the northeast corner of the SE 1/4 NW 1/4

NW 1/4 of said section 33;

Thence northerly to the northwest corner of the NE 1/4 NW 1/4
of said section 33;

Thence easterly to the northeast corner of the NW 1/4 NE 1/4
NW 1/4 of said section 33;

Thence northerly to the northwest corner of the NE 1/4 SE 1/4
SW 1/4 of section 28, T. 17 N., R. 24 E.;

Thence easterly to the northeast corner of the SE 1/4 SW 1/4
of said section 28;

Thence northerly to the northwest corner of the SW 1/4 NW 1/4
SE 1/4 of said section 28;

Thence easterly to the northeast corner of the SW 1/4 NW 1/4
SE 1/4 of said section 28;

Thence northerly to the northwest corner of the SE 1/4 SW 1/4
NE 1/4 of said section 28;

Thence easterly to the northeast corner of the SE 1/4 SW 1/4
NE 1/4 of said section 28;

Thence northerly to the northwest corner of the SW 1/4 NE 1/4
NE 1/4 of said section 28;

Thence easterly to the northeast corner of the SW 1/4 NE 1/4
NE 1/4 of said section 28;

Thence northerly to the northwest corner of the SE 1/4 SE 1/4
SE 1/4 of section 21, T. 17 N., R. 24 E.;

Thence easterly to the northeast corner of the SE 1/4 SE 1/4
SE 1/4 of said section 21;

Thence northerly to the northwest corner of the SW 1/4 NW 1/4
SW 1/4 of section 22, T. 17 N., R. 24 E.;

Thence easterly to the northeast corner of the SW 1/4 NW 1/4
SW 1/4 of said section 22;

Thence northerly to the northwest corner of the SE 1/4 SW 1/4
NW 1/4 of said section 22;

Thence easterly to the northeast corner of the SW 1/4 SE 1/4
NW 1/4 of said section 22;

Thence northerly to the northwest corner of the SE 1/4 SE 1/4
SW 1/4 of section 15, T. 17 N., R. 24 E.;

Thence westerly to the southwest corner of the NE 1/4 SW 1/4
SW 1/4 of said section 15;

Thence northerly to the northeast corner of the SW 1/4 SW 1/4
NW 1/4 of said section 15;

Thence westerly to the northwest corner of the SW 1/4 SW 1/4
NW 1/4 of said section 15;

Thence northerly to the northeast corner of the SE 1/4 SE 1/4
SE 1/4 of section 9, T. 17 N., R. 24 E.;

Thence westerly to the northwest corner of the SE 1/4 SE 1/4
SE 1/4 of said section 9;

Thence northerly to the northwest corner of the SE 1/4 SE 1/4
NE 1/4 of said section 9;

Thence easterly to the northeast corner of the SE 1/4 SE 1/4
NE 1/4 of said section 9;

Thence northerly to the northeast corner of the SE 1/4 NE 1/4
NE 1/4 of said section 9;

Thence easterly to the southeast corner of the NW 1/4 NW 1/4
~~NW 1/4 of section 10, T. 17 N., R. 24 E.;~~

Thence northerly to the northeast corner of the NW 1/4 NW 1/4
NW 1/4 of said section 10;

Thence easterly to the southwest corner of the SE 1/4 SW 1/4
of section 3, T. 17 N., R. 24 E.;

Thence northerly to the northwest corner of the SE 1/4 SW 1/4
of said section 3;

Thence easterly to the northeast corner of the NW 1/4 SE 1/4
SW 1/4 of said section 3;

Thence northerly to the northwest corner of the NE 1/4 NE 1/4
SW 1/4 of said section 3;

Thence easterly to the center of section 3;

Thence northerly to the northwest corner of the SW 1/4 NE 1/4
of said section 3;

Thence easterly to the northeast corner of the NW 1/4 SE 1/4
NE 1/4 of said section 3;

Thence southerly to the southeast corner of the NW 1/4 SE 1/4
NE 1/4 of said section 3;

Thence easterly to the northeast corner of the SE 1/4 SE 1/4
NE 1/4 of said section 3;

Thence southerly to the northwest corner of the SW 1/4 SW 1/4
of section 2, T. 17 N., R. 24 E.;

Thence easterly to the northeast corner of the NW 1/4 SW 1/4
SW 1/4 of said section 2;

Thence southerly to the southeast corner of the SW 1/4 SW 1/4
SW 1/4 of said section 2;

Thence easterly to the northeast corner of the NW 1/4 NW 1/4
of section 11, T. 17 N., R. 24 E.;

Thence southerly to the southeast corner of the NW 1/4 NW 1/4
of said section 11;

Thence easterly to the northeast corner of the NW 1/4 SE 1/4
NW 1/4 of said section 11;

Thence southerly, parallel to and 10 chains west of the north-
south center lines of sections 11, 14, 23, and 26,
T. 17 N., R. 24 E., to the southeast corner of the
NW 1/4 SE 1/4 SW 1/4 of said section 26;

Thence westerly, parallel to and 10 chains north of the south
lines of sections 26, 27, and 28, T. 17 N., R. 24 E.,
to the northwest corner of the SE 1/4 SE 1/4 SE 1/4 of
said section 28;

Thence southerly, parallel to and 10 chains west of the east lines of sections 28 and 33, T. 17 N., R. 24 E., as extended, to a point in section 3, T. 16 N., R. 24 E., said point being 10 chains south and 10 chains west of the southeast corner of said section 33;

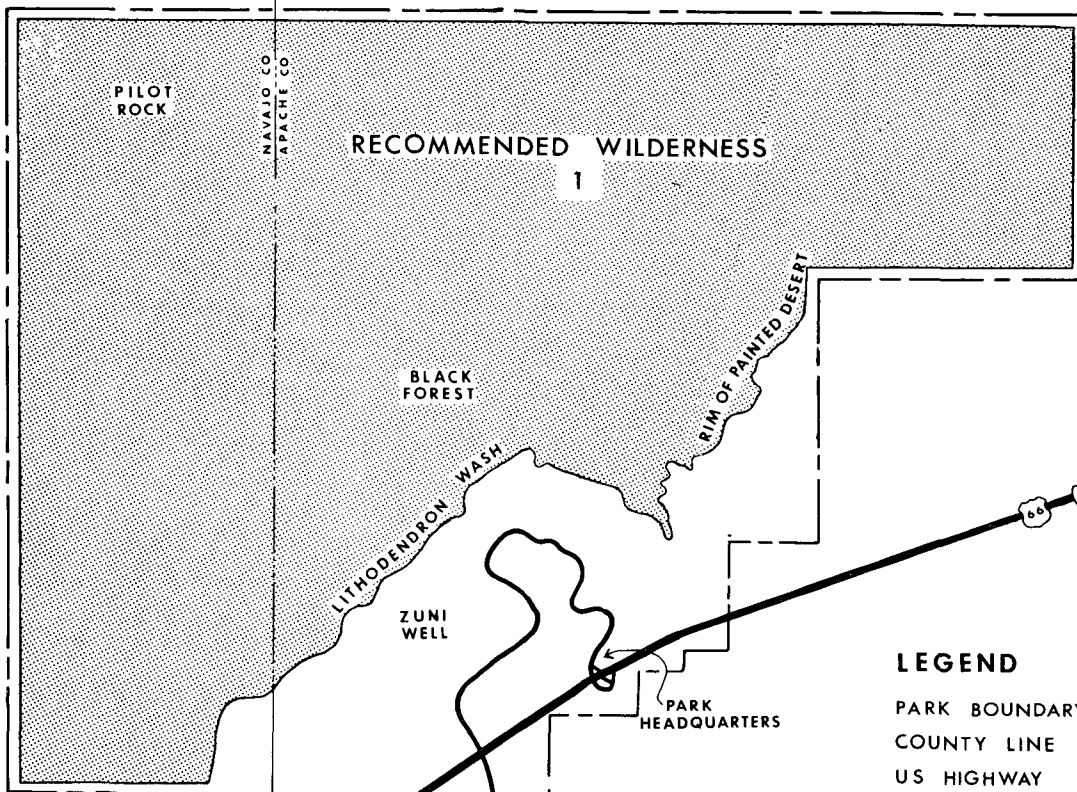
Thence easterly to a point 10 chains south and 10 chains west of the north quarter-corner of said section 3;

Thence southerly, parallel to and 10 chains west of the north-south center lines of sections 3 and 10, T. 16 N., R. 24 E., to the point of beginning.

Containing 7,240 acres, more or less.

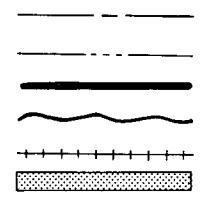
Wilderness 1 and 2 contain an estimated total area of 50,260 acres.

NAVAJO RESERVATION



LEGEND

- PARK BOUNDARY
- COUNTY LINE
- US HIGHWAY
- MAIN PARK ROADS
- RAILROAD
- RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS



ACREAGES

TOTAL PARK	94,189
RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS 1	43,020
RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS 2	7,240
TOTAL RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS	50,260

RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS
PETRIFIED FOREST
NATIONAL PARK
ARIZONA

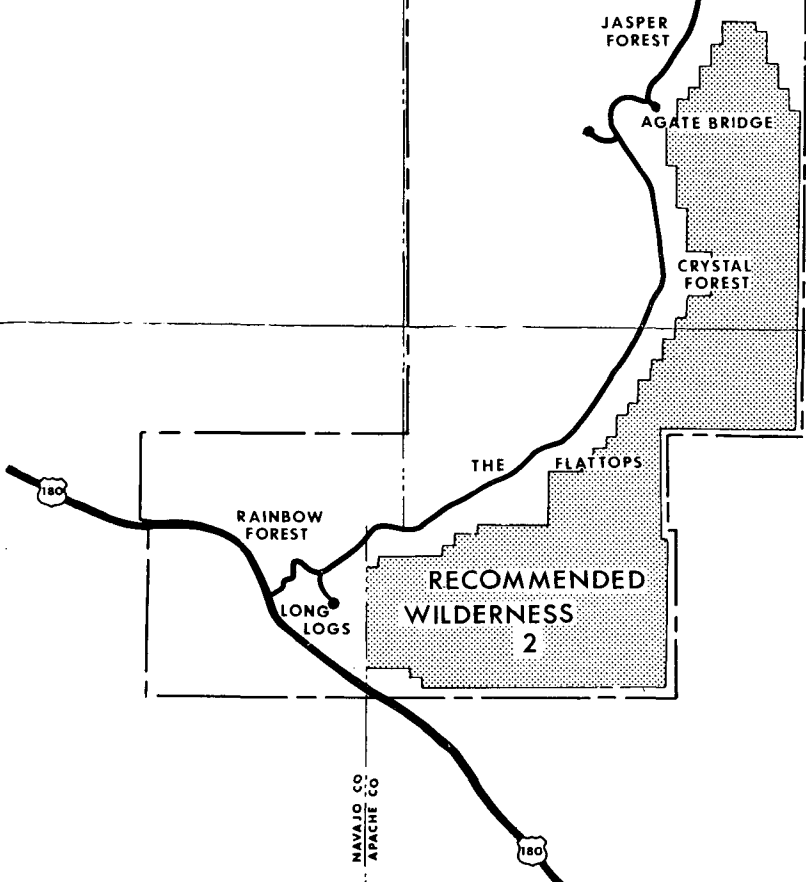
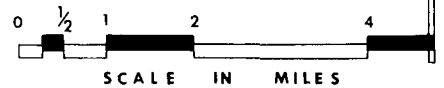


EXHIBIT A



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

A NATIONAL WILDERNESS PRESERVATION SYSTEM

Public Law 88-577, of September 3, 1964, establishing a National Wilderness Preservation System, provides, in part, as follows:

1. Policy "It is...the policy of the Congress to secure for the American people of present and future generations 'the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness.'"
2. Areas for Study "Within ten years after the effective date of this Act the Secretary of the Interior shall review every roadless area of five thousand contiguous acres or more in the national parks, monuments and other units of the national park system..., under his jurisdiction on the effective date of this Act and shall report to the President his recommendations as to the suitability or unsuitability of each such area...for preservation as wilderness."
3. System "...there is hereby established a National Wilderness Preservation System to be composed of federally owned areas designated by Congress as 'wilderness areas',..."
4. Definition "A wilderness,...is...an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean...an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which
 - (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable;
 - (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation;
 - (3) has at least 5,000 acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and
 - (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value."

5. Management "The inclusion of an area in the National Wilderness Preservation System notwithstanding, the area shall continue to be managed by the Department and agency having jurisdiction thereover immediately before its inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System unless otherwise provided by Act of Congress."

6. Use "Nothing in this Act shall modify the statutory authority under which units of the national park system are created. Further, the designation of any area of any park, monument, or other unit of the national park system as a wilderness area pursuant to this Act shall in no manner lower the standards evolved for the use and preservation of such park, monument, or other unit of the national park system in accordance with the Act of August 25, 1916, the statutory authority under which the area was created, or any other Act of Congress which might pertain to or affect such area, including but not limited to, the Act of June 8, 1906, (34 Stat. 255; 16 U.S.C. 432 et seq.); section 3(2) of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 796 (2)); and the Act of August 21, 1935, (49 Stat. 666; 16 U.S.C. 461 et seq.)."

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE MASTER PLAN PROCEDURE

It has long been the practice of the National Park Service to prepare and maintain a Master Plan to guide the use, development, interpretation and preservation of each particular park. Graphics and narrative specify the objectives of management. These Master Plans in the true sense of the word are zoning plans. They not only define the areas for developments, they also define the areas in which no developments are to be permitted.

Parks do not exist in a vacuum. It is important in planning for a park that our planning teams take into account the total environment in which the park exists. Of particular significance are the plans for and the availability of other park and recreation facilities within the region at the Federal, State, and local levels, as well as those of the private sector for the accommodation of visitors, access to the national parks, the roads within them, wildlife habitat, etc. Accordingly, the Master Plan Team first analyzes the entire region in which the park is located and the many factors that influence its management.

Moreover, where National Parks and National Forests adjoin, such as Mount Rainier, Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks, the National Park Service and the Forest Service formalized, in 1963, a joint effort to analyze the resource and visitor needs and develop cooperative plans for the accommodation of these requirements which will best insure the achievement of both of our missions. This program formalizes and broadens the informal efforts made for many years by many of our park superintendents and forest supervisors to coordinate management programs, including visitor facilities and services. Such cooperative programs are authorized by Section 2 of the Act of August 25, 1916, establishing the National Park Service.

The administrative policies that guide the Service in Master Planning are;

Master Plan. A Master Plan will be prepared for each area. It shall cover specifically all Resource Management, Resource Use and Physical Development programs. An approved Master Plan is required before any development program may be executed in an area.

Master Plan Team. All Master Plan teams should be composed of members having different professional backgrounds, such as ecology, landscape architecture, architecture, natural history, park planning, resource management, engineering, archeology, and history. Where available funds and program needs permit, the study teams for the National Parks should include outstanding conservationists, scientists, and others who possess special knowledge of individual parks. Also, the teams should consult with authorized concessioners and, where practicable, consult with persons outside the Service during the Master Plan study.

Architectural Theme. Only those physical facilities needed for management and appropriate public use and enjoyment shall be provided in a natural area and then only at sites designated on the approved Master Plan for the area. An architectural theme shall be prepared for each park or monument or, where desirable, for each major development site within each park or monument. Particular attention shall be devoted to the harmonizing of such developments with their natural environment, consistent with utility and economical construction and maintenance costs. In all cases, maximum creativity in design and materials--preferably those native to the region or locality--shall be used to insure that the man-made facility is subservient to and not competitive with or dominant of the natural features of the area.

Land Classification. Master Planning requires a sound classification for the lands in a park or monument. This is necessary not only to serve as a basis for recommending lands for "wilderness" classification in accordance with the Wilderness Act, but also for use in making other Master Plan judgements.

The land classification system to be used is similar to that proposed by the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission and prescribed for application to Federal lands by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation. Under this system, lands may be segregated into any one of six classes;

Class I--high density recreation areas; Class II--general outdoor recreation areas; Class III--natural environment areas; Class IV--outstanding natural areas; Class V--primitive areas, including but not limited to, those

recommended for designation under the Wilderness Act; and Class VI--historic and cultural areas. Consistent with the Congressionally stated purpose of National Parks, a park contains lands falling into three or more of these classes.

Class I and Class II identify the lands reserved for visitor accommodations (both existing and proposed), for administrative facilities, formal campgrounds, two-way roads, etc., of varying intensities. Class I and Class II lands occupy relatively little space in any of the National Parks.

Class III identifies the "natural environment areas." As the name of the category implies, these are "natural environment" lands. These lands are important to the proper preservation, interpretation and management of the irreplaceable resources of the National Park System. These irreplaceable resources are identified in the Class IV, V, and VI categories of lands. It is the existence of unique features (Class IV), or primitive lands, including wilderness (Class V), or historical or cultural lands (Class VI) in combination with a suitable environment (Class III) and with sufficient lands (Class I and II) "for the accommodation of visitors" that distinguish natural and historical areas of the National Park System from other public lands providing outdoor recreation.

In the Natural Areas (National Parks and National Monuments of scientific significance), Class III lands often provide the "transition" or "setting" or "environment" or "buffer" between intensively developed areas (Class I and Class II) and (a) the primitive or wilderness (Class V) areas; and (b) the unique natural features (Class IV) or areas of historic or cultural significance (Class VI) when these two categories exist outside the Class V lands.

In the Historical Areas the "environmental" lands (Class III) serve a similar role in providing the "setting" or "atmosphere" essential to preserving and presenting the national significance of historic properties included in the National Park System.

Class III and Class V lands both represent significant natural values. Generally, these values are different in

type, quality or degree. Accordingly, lands having natural values that do not meet Service criteria for primitive or wilderness designation may be classified as Class III even when they do not involve the environment of either Class IV, Class V or Class VI lands. In Natural Areas, "natural environment" lands are sometimes referred to additionally as "wilderness threshold" when they abut or surround wilderness.

The "wilderness threshold" lands afford the newcomer an opportunity to explore the mood and the temper of the wild country before venturing into the wilderness beyond. Here, in the wilderness threshold, is an unequalled opportunity for interpretation of the meaning of wilderness.

Class III lands also serve important research needs of the Service, as well as for many independent researchers and institutions of higher learning.

The only facilities planned in these "natural environment" lands are the minimum required for public enjoyment, health, safety, preservation and protection of the features, such as one-way motor nature trails, small visitor overlooks, informal picnic sites, short nature walks and wilderness-type uses. Such limited facilities must be in complete harmony with the natural environment.

Class IV lands are those on which are located unique natural features, such as Old Faithful Geyser. Class IV lands may be surrounded by either Class III lands or Class V lands. ~~Because Class IV lands are unique, lands adjacent to them should not be designated for use within the context of Class I and Class II designations. Where existing developments of the Class I and Class II types impinge on the integrity of such unique lands, programs should be initiated to remove such intrusions.~~

Class V are the primitive lands that have remained pristine and undisturbed as a part of our natural inheritance. They include in some instances, moreover, lands which, through National Park Service management, have been restored by the healing process of nature to a primeval state. There are no mining, grazing, water impoundment, or other intrusions of man to mar their character and detract from the solitude

of nature's quiet processes. Pure and undefiled, they represent the highest order of "preservation from injury or spoliation" of their natural condition. The only facilities allowed in these lands are of the type mentioned in the Wilderness Use and Management Policy Section of the Compilation of the Administrative Policies for the National Parks and National Monuments (Natural Area Category) of the National Park System. (This Section states that, "Only those structures, management practices and uses necessary for management and preservation of the wilderness qualities of an area will be permitted.")

Class VI are the lands, including historic structures, etc., of historical or cultural significance, such as the agricultural community of Cades Cove in Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Public Hearings. One of the finest new public land planning procedures introduced by the Wilderness Act is the opportunity for the public to express its views on the preliminary wilderness proposals prior to these proposals being firmly established for recommendations to the Congress. These hearings are held in the State in which the wilderness is proposed.

Notice of such public hearings is published in the "Federal Register" and newspapers having general circulation in the area of the park at least 60 days prior to the hearings. During this 60-day period, the Master Plan documents are available for public review at the park, in the appropriate Regional Office, and in the Washington Office. Moreover, public information packets explaining National Park Wilderness proposals are available at the same time for distribution to all those requesting them.

The Wilderness Act requires that the public hearing be held on the wilderness proposals only. However, it is the practice of the National Park Service to make available the general development plan for the park or monument at the time the preliminary wilderness proposal is released. The Service welcomes public comments and views on these plans. Moreover, once the Congress has defined the wilderness areas within the National Parks and Monuments, it shall be the practice of the National Park Service to give public notice of 60 days on any proposal

to change the classification of any Class I, Class II or Class III lands within the park or monument. In this way, the Service shall afford the public a continuing opportunity to participate in the planning and management of their National Parks and Monuments.

SUMMARY OF THE PRELIMINARY WILDERNESS PROPOSAL

The National Park

1. Location Petrified Forest National Park is located in Navajo and Apache Counties in northeastern Arizona. The park is reached from the east and west by Interstate 40 (U.S. Highway 66) and from the west, southwest, and south by way of U.S. Highway 180.

2. Surroundings The park is bordered on the north by the Navajo Indian Reservation, and on the east, south, and west by State and private lands. The surrounding terrain is similar to that in the park. Painted Desert badlands extend for many miles to the north into the reservation, while the country to the east, west and south is primarily desert grassland.

Surrounding land uses include grazing, ranching, potash exploration, hunting, as well as real estate subdivisions adjacent to the central corridor of the park.

3. Resources Petrified Forest National Park includes the finest display of petrified wood known in the world, as well as, a colorful portion of the scenic Painted Desert. Singular in its vivid and varied colors, the petrified wood in this area has long attracted people from many countries. Within the park are six "forests", with great logs of agate and jasper lying on the ground and countless broken sections, fragments, and smaller chips forming a varicolored ground cover.

The area is a part of the Painted Desert of northern Arizona, a region of banded rocks of many hues, carved by wind and rain into a landscape of fantastic color and form. Here and there are beds of shale containing perfectly preserved fossil leaves of plants of a remote age. Occasionally, the bones of giant amphibians and reptiles are washed from their burial places in soft rock.

Many Indian ruins and petroglyphs tell of the people who lived here long before America was found by white men. About 300 archeological sites have been surveyed and identified in

the park. Two significant sites have been excavated, stabilized, and developed for interpretation, and two more have been partially excavated.

Most of the plants that have become established in this semi-arid situation are small and inconspicuous. Many have delicately beautiful flowers. The showier blossoms of yuccas, mariposa-lily, and cacti are on display only in spring; but aster, painted-cup or paintbrush, rabbitbrush, and sunflowers bloom throughout much of the summer.

Common mammals include the jackrabbit, cottontail, white-tail antelope squirrel, skunk, coyote, bobcat, porcupine, and pronghorn. Among noticeable resident songbirds are the horned lark, house finch, rock wren, phoebe, and several species of sparrow. There are more than a dozen species of snakes and lizards, including the prairie rattlesnake.

4. Visitor Use Facilities Annual visitation to the park was nearly 850,000 in 1966. Facilities for the visitor's use include an orientation building, a visitor center, picnic areas, trails, and wayside exhibits and other interpretive devices. There are no overnight facilities or campgrounds in the park; refreshments, lunches, souvenirs, and gasoline may be purchased at the north and south entrances of the park. Proposed developments include a loop trail for visitor access to the formations in the Painted Desert, an attended interpretive station on Chinde Point overlooking the Painted Desert, and an interpretive trail to the Flattops in the southern portion of the park.

Description of Preliminary Wilderness Proposal

The preliminary wilderness proposal presented at the public hearing consisted of about 43,020 acres of the northern Painted Desert section of the park. This remote and rugged region is characterized by colorful mesas, buttes, knobs, and domes in low relief. Elevations range between 5,400 feet in the south to 6,235 feet near the north park boundary.

Principal features within the proposed wilderness include a concentration of petrified wood known as the Black Forest, a portion of Chinde Mesa, Pilot Rock, and the Onyx Bridge. Of additional interest are several scattered locations of fossils, Indian ruins, and petroglyphs. The principal

scenic value of the Painted Desert region is a combination of large expanses of colorful hills, valleys, and mesas containing eroded sandstone formations.

The southeastern boundary of the proposed wilderness was defined to take into consideration existing and proposed park developments and facilities.

The proposed wilderness boundary is offset one-eighth of a mile from the park boundary to provide a management zone to allow for existing and future management needs.

CONCLUSIONS

As required by the Wilderness Act, a public hearing was held on the preliminary wilderness proposal at Holbrook, Arizona, on May 23, 1967. Notice of the public hearing appeared in the Federal Register on March 23, 1967, and in local Arizona newspapers on March 23 and 24, 1967. About 25 persons attended the hearing and 7 oral statements were presented. A total of 81 letters was received.

Of the agencies, private organizations, and individuals testifying or submitting written views, 3 of the 15 private organizations, 11 of the 69 individuals, and one public agency, the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, supported the preliminary wilderness proposal with no suggestions for changes. Other public agencies acknowledged receipt of copies of the wilderness proposal. Twelve of the 15 private organizations and 57 of the 69 individuals commenting favored a larger wilderness. One person opposed the establishment of a wilderness; no one suggested any reduction in the proposed wilderness area. The alternative proposals presented are described in the "Hearing Officer's Report" (see Appendix) and are indicated on Exhibit D.

The preliminary park wilderness proposal has been reappraised and the oral and written statements received as a result of the public hearing have been evaluated.

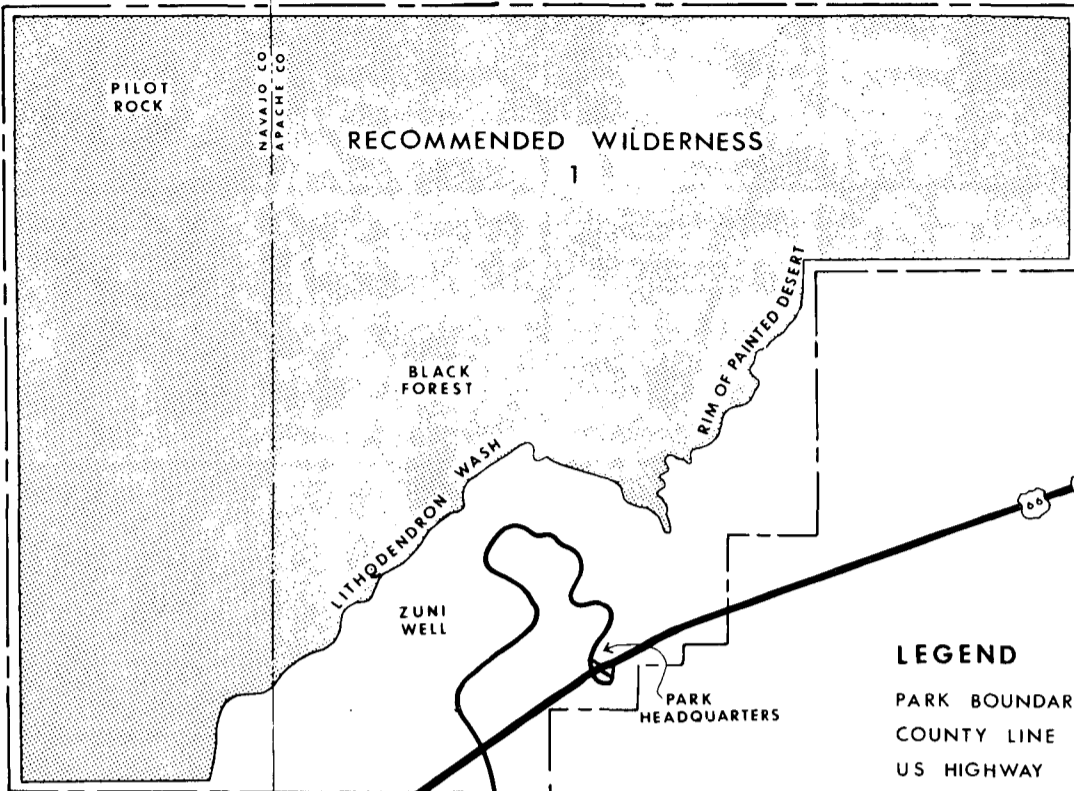
Recommended Additions:

~~One area of approximately 7,240 acres and identified as Wilderness-2 on Exhibit B is recommended for addition.~~

The Petrified Forest Roadless Area was not proposed as wilderness in the preliminary park wilderness proposal for two principal reasons:

- 1) Its suitability for wilderness designation was questioned because of the surroundings of this elongated land form.
- 2) Continued depletion of petrified wood through vandalism in the southern portion of the park might require protection devices and techniques inconsistent with wilderness management.

NAVAJO RESERVATION



LEGEND

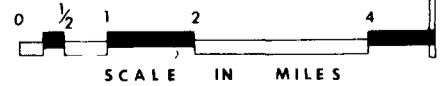
- PARK BOUNDARY
- COUNTY LINE
- US HIGHWAY
- MAIN PARK ROADS
- RAILROAD
- RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS
- RECOMMENDED ADDITIONS

ACREAGES

TOTAL PARK	94,189
RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS 1	43,020
RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS 2	7,240
TOTAL RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS	50,260

RECOMMENDED REVISIONS TO
PRELIMINARY WILDERNESS PROPOSAL
PETRIFIED FOREST
NATIONAL PARK
ARIZONA

EXHIBIT B



GPO: 1967 O - 332-001

Further evaluation of the management needs associated with protection of the petrified wood indicates that these needs can be accommodated along with wilderness designation of a portion of the area. Protection and surveillance of the petrified wood areas can be accomplished, in part, by utilization of a management zone inside the east and south park boundary. Accordingly, the recommended Wilderness 2 boundary is set back one-eighth of a mile from the park boundary. Sufficient removal from the park road and major interpretive sites is provided by the west boundary of recommended Wilderness 2. The Flattop area is not included in the recommended wilderness to provide for the Master Plan proposal of a paved interpretive trail for guided trips to the Indian ruins.

The north boundary of this roadless area (Exhibit C) is defined by a road used for access to private lands outside of the park. The recommended wilderness does not include this road.

Recommended Deletions:

No deletions from the preliminary wilderness proposal are recommended.

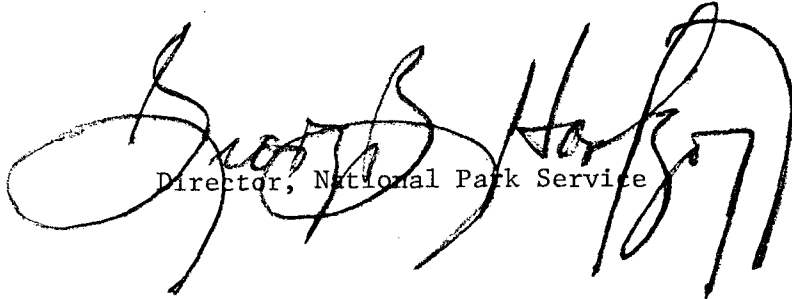
Painted Desert Roadless Area Reconsidered:

No changes are recommended in the preliminary wilderness proposal in the Painted Desert Roadless Area.

Most organizations and individuals recommended that all 49,840 acres of the Painted Desert Roadless Area be designated as wilderness rather than the 43,020 acres presented in the preliminary park wilderness proposal (Wilderness 1, Exhibit B). The two areas affected by these suggestions are the one-eighth mile management zone between the proposed wilderness boundary and the park boundary, and the region between Lithodendron Wash and the Painted Desert Rim south of the Wash. These alternate proposals are shown on Exhibit D as areas X and Y.

The one-eighth mile management zone is considered the minimum necessary to accommodate existing and future management needs. Much of the park road, with its overlooks, is located near the edge of the rim. The north bank of Lithodendron Wash, a tributary of the Wash, and the rim of the

Painted Desert, provide a natural boundary having sufficient removal from the park road and visitor use facilities,



George H. Horton
Director, National Park Service

APPENDIX:

VIEWS OF BUREAU OF OUTDOOR RECREATION ON THE WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATIONS	27
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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF OUTDOOR RECREATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

JAN 9 1968

Memorandum

To: Director, National Park Service

From: ⁸⁰⁰⁰Director, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation

Subject: Proposed Wilderness Area, Petrified Forest National Park

In accordance with your memorandum of December 26, we have reviewed your proposal to establish wilderness areas in Petrified Forest National Park.

The Bureau of Outdoor Recreation is pleased to endorse this proposal. Protection of these areas, lying in close proximity to a major east-west highway (Interstate Highway 40), will help fulfill the growing needs for back-country recreation, both for the expanding resident population of Arizona and the rapidly increasing mobile vacationing public.

Within a 75 mile radius of Petrified Forest National Park are a total of 7,297,417 acres of existing recreation lands. This includes a large supply of natural environment areas (6,922,225 acres) and unique natural areas (139,104 acres), but a scarcity of primitive areas (38,153 acres). Over 30,000 of these primitive acres are Indian lands, and therefore not subject to review under the Wilderness Act.

There are large areas available for more intensive recreation on several nearby National Forests, including Coconino, Sitgreaves and Tonto.

We feel the unique qualities of the proposed wilderness areas, including the Painted Desert and examples of the Petrified Forest section of the Park, would add depth and variety to the National Wilderness System.

Harvey Rice
Director



The \$7 Annual Golden Eagle Passport
admits carload of people year-long to
all designated Federal recreation areas

HEARING OFFICER'S REPORT

INTRODUCTION

A public hearing on the proposal to establish a wilderness area within Petrified Forest National Park was held on May 23, 1967, in the Valley National Bank building, Holbrook, Arizona.

The hearing was opened at 9:00 A.M. by the Hearing Officer, Mr. John C. Preston, 6961 Oakmont Drive, Santa Rosa, California. Approximately twenty-five persons attended, five of whom presented a total of seven oral statements. Reporter service for the hearing was provided by Mark M. Grumley, Grumley and Scott, 9 Luhrs Arcade, Phoenix, Arizona.

After all the statements were presented, the hearing was adjourned at 11:00 A.M. on the same day.

THE PRELIMINARY WILDERNESS PROPOSAL

1. Introduction

Petrified Forest National Park is located in northeastern Arizona in Apache and Navajo Counties. Interstate '40 (U.S. Highway 66) is the east-west approach to the park. Visitors from the southwest, south, and west enter by way of U.S. Highway 180. The nearest large towns are Holbrook and Winslow, Arizona; and Gallup, New Mexico.

Petrified Forest National Park was established as Petrified Forest National Monument by Presidential proclamations in 1906, 1911, 1930, 1931, and 1932. In 1958, Congress authorized park status for the monument. Petrified Forest National Park contains 94,189 acres of federal lands.

The primary resources of the park are twofold. The portion of the park south of Interstate 40 contains what is probably the greatest and most colorful concentration of petrified wood in the world. There are several "forests," with great logs of agate and jasper lying on the ground and countless broken sections, fragments, and smaller chips forming a varicolored ground cover. Beds of shale containing perfectly preserved fossil leaves of plants are also found in several sections of the park.

The northern portion of the park contains the highly scenic Painted Desert section. This is a region of banded rocks of many hues, carved by water and other natural forces into a landscape of fantastic form and color. ~~The badlands comprising the Painted Desert section of the park span an east-west distance of approximately 12 miles and a north-south distance that varies from about 3 miles to 9 miles.~~

The entire northern boundary of the Painted Desert section of the park adjoins the Navajo Indian Reservation. The vast and colorful Painted Desert stretches for many miles into this reservation. The surrounding country on the east, west and south is mostly grassland. Surrounding land uses include grazing, ranching, potash exploration, hunting, and--adjacent to the central corridor of the park--a real estate subdivision.

Within an airline distance of a 200-mile radius from the park are located 25 National Park Service areas, 13 national forests, and 23 Indian reservations. National Forest units of the National Wilderness Preservation System located in Arizona include the Chiricahua, Galiuro, Mazatzal, Sierra Ancha, and Superstition wilderness areas. The Mount Baldy, Pine Mountain, and Sycamore Canyon Primitive Areas have also been studied by the Forest Service for wilderness suitability. During 1966 there were 849,800 visitors to Petrified Forest National Park.

2. Wilderness Proposal

Of the approximate 49,840 acres comprising the Painted Desert Roadless Area, the National Park Service proposes that approximately 43,020 acres constitute the Painted Desert Wilderness.

This 43,020 acre proposed wilderness is located in the remote and rugged Painted Desert section of the park. Elevations range between 5,400 feet near Zuni Well in the south to 6,235 feet on Pilot Rock near the north park boundary. The proposed wilderness is the largest and most compact land area in the park.

The topography is characterized by colorful mesas, buttes, knobs, and domes in low relief. Underlying sediments of shales and sandstones comprising the Chinde Formation are exposed and dominant throughout the proposed wilderness.

The primary vegetation type is short-grass grassland, it is composed of four major species. Also present are shrubs such as saltbush, Mormon tea, snakeweed, rabbit brush, big sage, and yucca. One-seed juniper trees are found on the Chinde Mesa. Cottonwood, tamarisk, and greasewood are located in the washes (dry stream beds) of the park.

Principal species of mammals include: rabbits, coyote, bats, bobcat, mountain lion, kit fox, skunks, badger, as well as several rodents. Horned lark, hawks, the great horned owl, golden eagle, along with several smaller species of birds inhabit the area. There are also several well known species of snakes and lizards.

There are no permanently flowing streams and no standing

bodies of water in the park. The Lithodendron-Carrizo, a tributary of an intermittent stream to the south (Puerco River), drains the Painted Desert section of the park. The mean annual precipitation is nine inches.

Significant features are the Black Forest (a concentration of petrified wood), a portion of Chinde Mesa, Pilot Rock, Lithodendron Wash, and the Onyx Bridge. Of additional interest are several scattered locations of fossils, Indian ruins, and petroglyphs. The principal scenic value is a combination of large expanses of colorful hills, valleys and mesas, along with eroded sandstone formations.

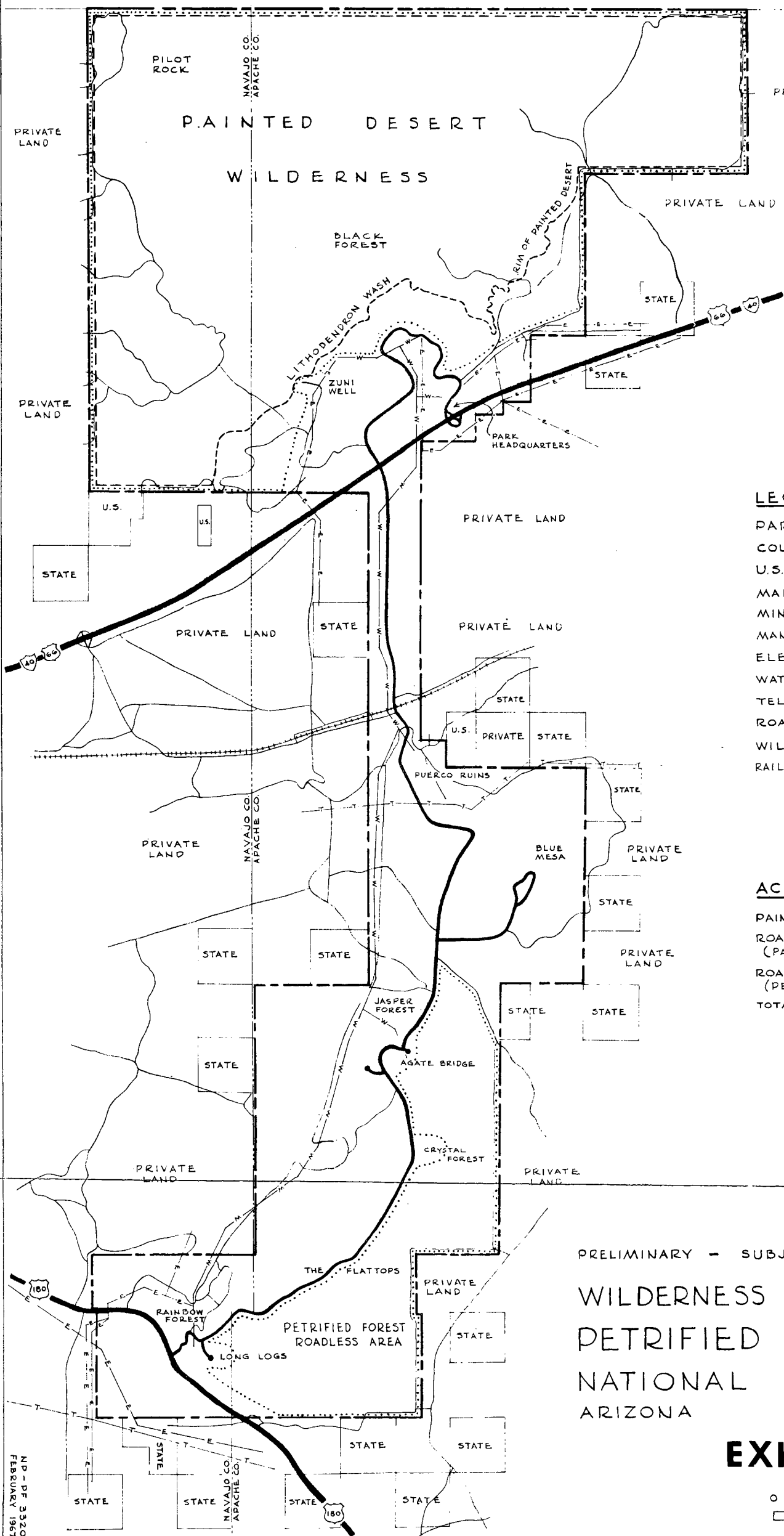
Only one minor management program now exists; this is the re-introduction of native grasses in the northwest and northeast sections of the proposed wilderness. Both of these programs are small in scale and are hand broadcast seeding projects. Since the cessation of grazing in 1963, a marked recovery of vegetative cover has been noted.

The four-wheel drive management roads that enter portions of the area are necessary for administrative access so as to maintain the many miles of fenceline along the park boundary. (The entire park is fenced to prevent grazing intrusions.) For this reason, the proposed wilderness boundary has been located one-eighth of a mile from the fenced park boundary along the west, north, and eastern segments of the proposed wilderness. No trails or structures exist. With the exception of a foot trail planned for hiker access to the Black Forest area, no additional facilities are anticipated.

The land uses outside of the park and to the west, north, and east of the proposed wilderness are at present confined to the grazing of livestock by ranchers and by the Navajo Tribe. No improved public or private roads approach this boundary of the proposed wilderness. The eastern portion of the Painted Desert Rim and the north bank of Lithodendron Wash, and a tributary, provide natural boundaries for the southern portion of the proposed wilderness. Sufficient removal from the influence of Interstate 40 and other developments is provided by the utilization of these boundaries.

The great expanses of the Painted Desert section of the park provide a setting where one can indeed experience remoteness

NAVAJO RESERVATION



LEGEND

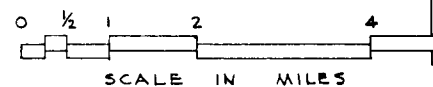
- PARK BOUNDARY
- COUNTY LINE
- U.S. HIGHWAY
- MAIN PARK ROADS
- MINOR ROADS & MANAGEMENT ROADS
- ELECTRIC POWER LINES
- WATER LINES
- TELEPHONE LINES
- ROADLESS AREA BOUNDARY
- WILDERNESS BOUNDARY
- RAILROAD

ACREAGES

PAINTED DESERT WILDERNESS	43,020
ROADLESS AREA STUDIED (PAINTED DESERT)	49,840
ROADLESS AREA STUDIED (PETRIFIED FOREST)	10,560
TOTAL PARK	94,189

PRELIMINARY - SUBJECT TO CHANGE
 WILDERNESS PROPOSAL
 PETRIFIED FOREST
 NATIONAL PARK
 ARIZONA

EXHIBIT C



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
 WASHINGTON, D.C.

ND - PF 3320
 FEBRUARY 1967

within an area that is free from the imprint of man. The quality and physical attributes of the natural resources of the area are consistent with criteria stated in the Wilderness Act.

3. Report on Petrified Roadless Area

The Petrified Forest Roadless Area contains approximately 10,560 acres. It is located in the southeast portion of the park. Elevations between 5,500 and 5,600 feet are constant throughout most of the area.

The area is bounded on the west by the primary north-south park road and on the east and south by the park boundary. U.S. Highway 180 is located near the southwestern extreme of the area. The area is a long and narrow land form with each end containing the largest land area. At its narrowest point the mid-section is about 3/4 of a mile wide.

As stated previously, the primary resource in the south part of the park is the concentration of petrified wood. Notable areas include the Blue Mesa, Agate Bridge, Crystal Forest, Long Logs, Rainbow Forest, and Jasper Forest. Facilities, wayside exhibits, and nature trails are provided for interpretation and visitor enjoyment at several locations along the park roads adjacent to the roadless area.

Some 304 archeological sites have thus far been surveyed and identified in the park. Of these, two have been partially excavated and two more have been excavated, stabilized, and developed for interpretive purposes. Of interest is Puerco Indian Ruin--an ancient pueblo or village. Remains of the site indicate a rectangular village of perhaps 150 rooms completely enclosing a courtyard. A few of the rooms have been excavated. Plans call for additional work at this site.

Significant archeological sites within the roadless area are located at Twin Butte near Crystal Forest and the Pit House Ruins near the Flattops. Numerous minor sites are, of course, also scattered throughout the area.

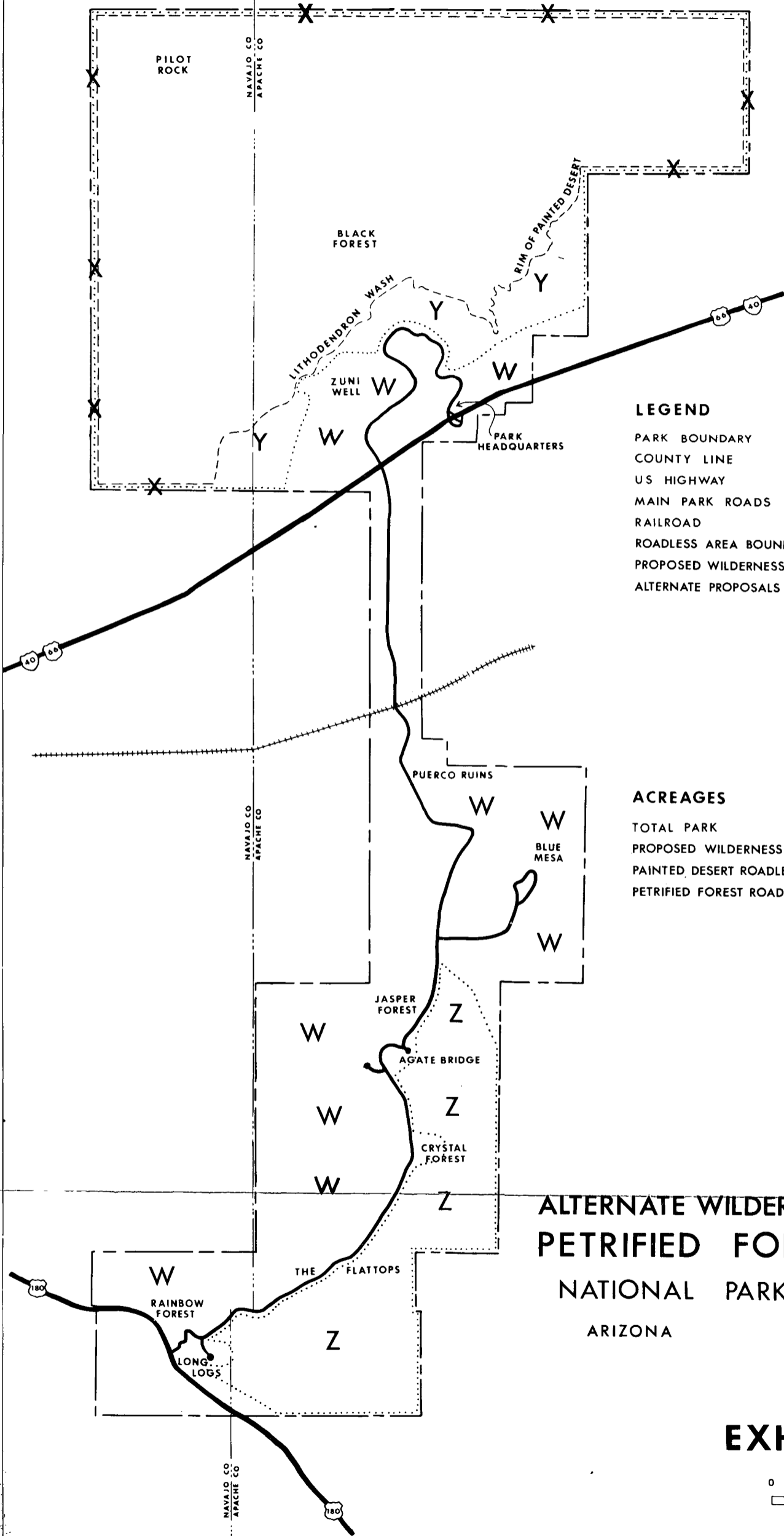
A continuing and effective resource protection program must be exercised to prevent removal of petrified wood. Management roads in the southern part of the park are used as part

of this resource protection program. A good share of the perimeter of the Petrified Forest Roadless Area contains management roads that parallel the park boundaries. These roads are also used for other necessary management purposes.

As shown on Exhibit C, the south portions of the park are subjected to many more present influences than lands in the northern part of the park. Numerous roads, overhead power and phone lines, and more varied uses of lands external to the park all exist. The likelihood of increasing visitor uses as well as effects from lands adjacent to the park is also greater in this vicinity.

Each of the above factors has a distinct effect and contributes to the non-suitability of the Petrified Forest Roadless Area for wilderness designation. The Petrified Forest Roadless Area is, however, an integral part of the total park resource spectrum. Its several unique geological, archeological, and paleontological values contribute significantly to both visitor enjoyment as well as educational and scientific activities.

NAVAJO RESERVATION



LEGEND

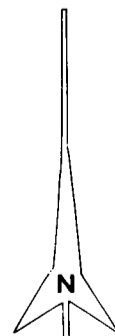
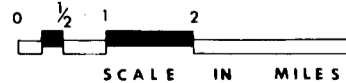
- PARK BOUNDARY
- COUNTY LINE
- US HIGHWAY
- MAIN PARK ROADS
- RAILROAD
- ROADLESS AREA BOUNDARY
- PROPOSED WILDERNESS BOUNDARY
- ALTERNATE PROPOSALS

ACREAGES

TOTAL PARK	94,189
PROPOSED WILDERNESS	43,020
PAINTED DESERT ROADLESS AREA STUDIED	49,840
PETRIFIED FOREST ROADLESS AREA STUDIED	10,560

**ALTERNATE WILDERNESS PROPOSALS
PETRIFIED FOREST
NATIONAL PARK
ARIZONA**

EXHIBIT D



ANALYSIS OF THE RECORD OF PUBLIC HEARING AND WRITTEN
RESPONSES

Alternate Proposals

Alternate proposals advanced or supported by individuals and private organizations fall into the three following categories:

1. Addition of the management zone along the park boundary to the Preliminary Park Wilderness Proposal.

This alternate proposal was advanced by the Arizona Conservation Council. It recommends that the 2,240 acres in the one-eighth mile management zone between the park boundary and the proposed wilderness boundary be included, for a total recommended wilderness of about 45,260 acres.

Area X on Exhibit D illustrates these suggested additions to the preliminary park wilderness proposal.

2. Include Entire Painted Desert and Petrified Forest Roadless Areas Studied.

Ten private organizations presented this proposal which recommends that all of the Painted Desert and Petrified Forest Roadless Areas studied be designated as wilderness. The 10 organizations supporting this alternate proposal were: Colorado Open Space Coordinating Council, Desert Protective Council, Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs, Maricopa Audubon Society, Sierra Club, Southern Arizona Hiking Club, The Wilderness Society, and the Grand Canyon, Rio Grande, and Rocky Mountain Chapters of the Sierra Club.

Areas X, Y, and Z on Exhibit D generally illustrate these suggested additions to the preliminary wilderness proposal within the park.

3. Include most of park not presently developed.

The National Parks Association advocates placing approximately 90% of the park in wilderness. The proposal calls for confining all development to the two existing entrance areas, and placing all electric, telephone, and water lines

underground. The association indicates that these actions will permit designation of three substantial wilderness areas within the park generally including everything north of Interstate 40 and the north loop of the main road, and most of the park south of the Santa Fe Railroad. This southern portion would be divided into two separate wilderness units by the main park road.

Main areas of the park not included in this proposal are the Rainbow Forest facilities and region south of U. S. Highway 180, Crystal Forest, Jasper Forest Overlook, Agate Bridge, Blue Mesa, Newspaper Rock, all of the park corridor between Interstate 40 and the Santa Fe Railroad, and Park Headquarters and the area within the main park road loop north of Interstate 40.

The map submitted with this proposal is included in the official record. Areas W, X, Y and Z on Exhibit D generally illustrate the suggested additions to the preliminary wilderness proposal within the park.

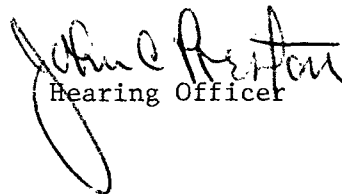
Summary of Responses Received

<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Public Agencies</u>	<u>Private Organizations</u>	<u>Indi-viduals</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. National Park Service Proposal	1	3	11	15
2. NPS proposal plus 1/8 mile management zone		1	1	2
3. Entire Painted Desert Roadless Area			2	2
4. Entire Painted Desert and Petrified Forest Roadless Area		10	51	61
5. No wilderness			1	1
6. Most of park not presently developed		1	3	4

<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Public Agencies</u>	<u>Private Organizations</u>	<u>Indi-viduals</u>	<u>Total</u>
7. Acknowledgements received with no specific comments	3			3
<hr/>				
TOTALS	4	15	69	88

DISPOSITION OF HEARING RECORD AND WRITTEN RESPONSES

The official record, including letters received by the Hearing Officer, the park, the Southwest Regional Office, and the Washington Office of the National Park Service, has been assembled and is available for review in the Washington Office.


Hearing Officer

VIEWS OF OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES ON THE PRELIMINARY
WILDERNESS PROPOSAL

The following letters are from the agencies listed below:

Murray Comarow, Executive Director, Federal
Power Commission

F. C. Turner, Director of Public Roads, Bureau
of Public Roads, Department of Transportation

Jonathon Lindley, Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Policy Coordination, Economic Development Ad-
ministration, Department of Commerce

Frank E. Sylvester, Regional Director, Bureau
of Outdoor Recreation, Department of the
Interior

FEDERAL POWER COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426

APR 3 1967

Mr. A. C. Stratton
Acting Director
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240


Reference: D18-CAM

Dear Mr. Stratton:

This is in reply to your letter of March 23, 1967, with which you furnished information regarding the wilderness proposal for the Petrified Forest National Park, Arizona.

Since the proposed wilderness area would be in a National Park, its establishment would not affect any responsibilities of the Federal Power Commission. Therefore, the Commission will not be represented at the public hearing covering this proposal.

Sincerely yours,


Murray Comarow
Executive Director

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20591

APR 5 1967

IN REPLY REFER TO:
32-66

Mr. A. C. Stratton, Acting Director
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Stratton:

Thank you for your letter of March 23 and enclosed packets outlining the wilderness proposal for Petrified Forest National Park, Arizona.

We have examined the proposal and there is no conflict with existing Forest highway or Federal-aid routes in the area.

A copy of your March 23 letter is being forwarded to the Regional Federal Highway Administrator in San Francisco, California, for his information should he wish to attend or have a representative attend the public hearing to be held on May 23, 1967.

Sincerely yours,



F. C. Turner
Director of Public Roads



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20230

MAR 28 1967

Mr. A. Clark Stratton
Acting Director
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

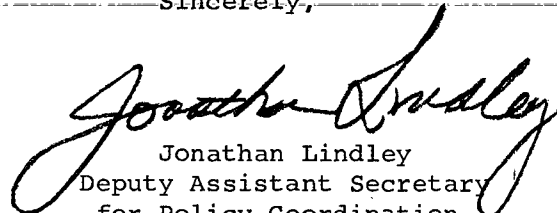
Dear Mr. Stratton:

This is in response to your letter of March 23, 1967, to Acting Secretary Trowbridge, informing him of your intention to hold a public hearing on your proposal for the establishment of a wilderness area for the Petrified Forest National Park and requesting our views as to the appropriateness of your proposal.

Our review of this proposal indicates that we have no objection to the plan you have outlined for this area.

We appreciate your courtesy in submitting this proposal for our consideration.

Sincerely,


Jonathan Lindley
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Policy Coordination



IN REPLY REFER TO:

D72

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF OUTDOOR RECREATION
PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGIONAL OFFICE
BOX 36062
450 GOLDEN GATE AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102

May 25, 1967

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Petrified Forest National Park,
Holbrook, Arizona 86025
Attn: Hearing Officer

From: Regional Director

Subject: Public hearing on the proposed Painted Desert Wilder-
ness Area in the Petrified Forest National Park

Attached is the statement of the Regional Director, Pacific
Southwest Region, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation for inclusion in
the subject hearing record.

by George W. Hubler, Act.

Frank E. Sylvester

Enclosure



The \$7 Annual Golden Eagle Passport
admits carload of people year-long to
all designated Federal recreation areas

STATEMENT OF FRANK E. SYLVESTER, REGIONAL DIRECTOR, PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION, BUREAU OF OUTDOOR RECREATION, AT THE PUBLIC HEARING HELD IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM, VALLEY NATIONAL BANK, HOLBROOK, ARIZONA, TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSAL FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A PAINTED DESERT WILDERNESS AREA WITHIN THE PETRIFIED FOREST NATIONAL PARK, ARIZONA; MAY 23, 1967.

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate this opportunity to present the following information which the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation feels is pertinent to consideration of establishing the Painted Desert area in the Petrified Forest National Park as a unit of the National Wilderness Preservation System. This material is supplied in accordance with Public Law 88-29 under which this Bureau was assigned responsibilities for the coordination of Federal outdoor recreation programs and for the promotion of regional planning.

We feel that, in establishing new and permanent wilderness areas, consideration should be given not only to the resource values of the proposed wilderness units themselves but also to other existing and proposed outdoor recreation areas and facilities in the immediate vicinity.

As a part of its nationwide outdoor recreation planning effort, the Bureau has compiled data on the land classifications and facilities for ~~essentially all existing and proposed recreation areas, including~~ wilderness areas. The attached tabulations, compiled from that data bank, include acreages, land classifications, and facilities at all existing recreation areas within a 75-mile radius of the center of the Petrified Forest National Park. We consider this to be a reasonable area of immediate modifying impact on the proposed area.

In summation, the tabulation indicates that there is a total of 7,297,417 acres of existing recreation areas administered by Federal, State, and local agencies. Of this total, 280 acres (less than one-tenth of one percent) are classified as (I) high density recreation areas; 80,490 acres (1.1 percent) as (II) general outdoor recreation areas; 6,992,225 acres (95.8 percent) as (III) natural environment areas; 139,104 acres (1.9 percent) as (IV) unique natural areas; 38,153 acres (.5 percent) as (V) primitive areas; and 47,165 acres (.6 percent) as (VI) historic and cultural sites.

Of the total acreage in Class V, 7,400 acres are under Forest Service administration and are presently being considered for inclusion, as the Mount Baldy Wilderness, as an element in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The remaining Class V lands, 30,753 acres, are Indian lands and, while of primitive character, are not available for designation as wilderness nor are they subject to the same degree of protection or retention in their present condition as are similarly classified lands under the administration of the National Park Service, Forest Service, or Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.

Total wilderness in Arizona as of February 14, 1966, amounted to 420,707 acres; in New Mexico 679,398 acres. National Forest primitive areas totaled 250,936 acres in Arizona and 335,424 acres in New Mexico.

Equally as important and directly associated with the total acreage of existing wilderness and primitive areas is the anticipated demand of a rapidly expanding, substantially urban, population for

wilderness-related outdoor recreation opportunity. As a means of indicating the magnitude of the anticipated demand spiral, since figures are not available for Arizona, projected participation rates for wilderness recreation activity for the western States^{1/} as derived from Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission figures, forecast a 343 percent increase in activity days participation in 1976 over 1960 and a 1.017 percent increase in activity days participation in 2000 over 1960.

It is anticipated that a significant portion of the visitation to the proposed wilderness will be from out of State, since Interstate Highway 40, the principal east-west route in the southwest, crosses Petrified Forest National Park. The major portion of the visitation total, however, will undoubtedly derive from within the State, mainly from the Phoenix and Tucson metropolitan areas. The population of the State as a whole is projected to increase 60 percent from 1966 to 1980, reaching 2,660,000.

Although there are existing wilderness and primitive areas in Arizona and in neighboring New Mexico, the highly unique qualities of the Painted Desert area, if established, would lend desirable and compatible variety to the wilderness system.

Based upon anticipated growth of population, with the attendant increasing demand for wilderness-type outdoor recreation activity and considering the high quality of wilderness attributes which the proposed area possesses, we feel that wilderness designation is desirable.

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^{1/} Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, Wyoming, Washington.