

are eventually removed or allowed to deteriorate naturally. This is done after creating a written and pictorial record in compliance with Section 106 of the Historic Preservation Act of 1966. There is no maintenance, rehabilitation, or on-site interpretation. Prehistoric sites may be stabilized through use of nonmechanized (hand) methods. Any research studies must be consistent with the concept of Wilderness.

Mineral management effects would occur during exploration, development, and extraction of minerals, when surface-disturbing activities take place. These activities may identify previously unknown cultural properties at some sites, while damaging or destroying historic values at others. The degree of interaction varies by commodity being explored, developed, or mined. The type of mining operation, degree of environmental alteration required, and location of the development are also key factors.

Research on fire effects for cultural resources is incomplete and, on this Forest, completely lacking. However, impacts appear to be determined by the nature (controlled versus wildfire) and intensity of the fire, type of cultural resources within the area affected, and magnitude and location of fire suppression efforts.

Fire will consume wooden structures unless they are protected through fire suppression activities. Fire's effect on nonperishable artifacts and below-ground features is less severe. However, temperatures above 590° Fahrenheit can cause stone artifacts to spall, break, or crack (Pilles 1982). Fire can also contaminate dating properties at the site. Fire may scorch or burn away rock art features. Combustion temperatures may also affect faunal and shellfish remains, soil constituents, and site factors that are important in archaeological research. Fire and subsequent erosion may expose artifacts to undesirable weathering processes and to vandalism (Pilles 1982; Kelly and Mayberry 1979).

Suppression activities associated with fire are also of concern. Construction of firebreaks, heliports, and fire camps may shatter, bury, or displace artifacts, and completely destroy small sites (Eisler et al. 1979; Kelly and Mayberry 1979). In addition, past fire suppression practices have led to heavy fuel loadings and an increased threat of intense fires.

Fire can benefit cultural resources by removing ground cover, thereby exposing the surface and helping to detect sites in heavily-vegetated areas. Controlled burns can reduce wildfire potential and lessen the risk of damaging archaeological sites during suppression activities. Elimination of ground cover makes sites more vulnerable to artifact collectors because of improved visibility.

## 10 Wilderness

There are two designated wilderness areas managed by the Malheur National Forest: Strawberry Mountain and Monument Rock.

Wilderness offers unique opportunities for physical challenge and solitude in natural settings where evidence of human activities is minimal. In addition to special recreation experiences, wilderness provides diverse plant and wildlife habitats as well as summer forage for livestock.

Wilderness often contains important watersheds, collecting and channeling large quantities of water. The Strawberry Mountain Wilderness contains headwaters of major tributaries to the Malheur, John Day, and Silvies Rivers. Monument Rock Wilderness contains headwaters of the Little Malheur River and upper drainages of the South Fork Burnt River.

In April 1942, the Strawberry Mountain wild area was established on the Malheur National Forest. The name was changed to "Strawberry Mountain Wilderness" upon enactment of the 1964 Wilderness Act (P.L. 88-577), when it became part of a new National Wilderness Preservation System at 33,650 gross acres and 33,000 net acres. The 1984

Oregon Wilderness Act added 35,700 acres to the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness for a total of 68,700 net acres, all in Grant County, Oregon

Soon after passage of the Wilderness Act in 1964, it became apparent that there were other National Forest areas that should be considered for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS). As a result, a Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE) program was initiated to identify those roadless and undeveloped areas that were good candidates for addition to the Wilderness System

In October 1973, Monument Rock was first identified, along with 273 other wilderness study areas, as having wilderness potential. Monument Rock Roadless Area was evaluated in the Silvies-Malheur Land Management Plan, Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) in November 1978. It was also evaluated in the Roadless Area Review and Evaluation II (RARE II), initiated by H R. 3454, to evaluate the roadless area situation and to determine which areas should be given further consideration for wilderness in the land management planning process

The 1984 Oregon Wilderness Act established a Monument Rock Wilderness encompassing 19,650 acres in the Malheur and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests. Of those acres, 12,620 acres are located in the Malheur National Forest and 7,030 acres in the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. Most of the Wilderness, about 18,850 acres, lies within Baker County and about 800 acres occurs in Grant County

Following the guidelines established to inventory the recreation opportunity in a Wilderness, Strawberry Mountain and Monument Rock Wildernesses have each been inventoried as providing semiprimitive wilderness settings. This does not preclude the option of managing these Wildernesses as primitive pristine

The management objectives for wilderness-primitive classification recognize that wilderness offers opportunities for solitude and a primitive, unconfined, recreation experience. In other areas, which are classified as wilderness-semiprimitive, the user can expect conditions of relatively concentrated use, where encounters with other groups are as frequent as 12 encounters per day during 80 percent of the summer season and user controls may be highly evident. Overall, these two Wildernesses provide opportunities to pursue outdoor recreation in a variety of wilderness settings

Wilderness is managed to maintain or enhance appropriate diversity and existing character, as stated in a nondegradation policy (FSM 2320.2). Another objective is to ensure that areas experiencing relatively concentrated use are not reduced below their limits of acceptable change simply to accommodate more use

The limits of acceptable change for a wilderness are defined in terms of the maximum biological and social change that can occur without violating the nondegradation policy. These limits, including the monitoring and management objectives, will be identified in Forest Plan standards and guidelines

*a Strawberry Mountain  
Wilderness*

This scenic mountain wilderness contains rocky, barren slopes, subalpine fir, and alpine meadows. At lower elevations, the area is 92 percent forested. North-facing slopes have a vegetation mosaic of mixed-conifer, lodgepole pine, and subalpine fir stands. South-facing areas are generally mixed-conifer or ponderosa pine types. Forested areas on the north side of the mountain range are primarily white fir, Douglas-fir, western larch, and lodgepole pine, with a ground cover of dwarf huckleberry, bearberry, and elk sedge. Some areas contain needlegrass and bottlebrush squirreltail. Phlox, sandwort, and senecio are common forbs.

The drier, nonforested sites have juniper, sagebrush, mountain-mahogany, and ponderosa pine. Ground covers on these sites include pinegrass, elk sedge, and lupine on north

slopes, and elk sedge, pinegrass, Idaho fescue, and bluebunch wheatgrass on southerly aspects.

Mixed-conifer stands are prone to insect and disease pests. Indian paint fungus is present and can probably be found in all size classes of true fir. Much of the Douglas-fir is infected with dwarf-mistletoe, especially when growing on rocky, dry soils. Mistletoe patches of varying size can be found, but it is not a major problem. These pests play a natural role in the ecosystem by thinning stands of old, damaged, or stressed trees.

The terrain is primarily steep, broken slopes that are highly dissected with stream courses on the north, east, and west sides, and relatively flat slopes on the south side. Altitude varies from 4,000 feet to over 9,000 feet.

Soils are generally volcanic in origin with ash layers on north-facing areas. Some soils are derived from shales and graywackes along the south side. There are no commercial mineral deposits known to exist within the Wilderness boundaries. Some chromite ores, a little gold, and possibly some other metals exist, but not in great quantities. Chrome ore was produced in several mines along the north boundary of the 1984 Wilderness addition area during the 1940's and 1950's.

The wildlife resource within the Wilderness consists of an interesting variety of large and small mammals. Large animals found in the Wilderness include deer, elk, bear, cougar, and California bighorn sheep.

There are over 100 species of bird life that use the Wilderness as their home. Ruffed grouse and blue grouse are classed as game birds and most of the others are protected as migratory birds.

There are also several fur-bearing animals found in the Wilderness, though quite small in numbers. Those found in the area include mink, beaver, and marten.

The bulk of recreation use occurs in the lakes basin area. The attraction for many visitors is fishing, picnicking, camping, or a short hike, which do not require a wilderness or pristine setting. This setting is perceived by such users as an added amenity. There are few other fishing lakes on the Forest or in the surrounding area. This factor, combined with the fish-stocking program of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, attracts visitors expecting superior fishing opportunities and water-based recreation. The lakes basin area is at or near its maximum carrying capacity.

Most recreational use occurs during the summer months, with July being the heaviest use month. During October and November, the Wilderness receives use by deer and elk hunters. During winter and spring, the area receives day-use with the methods of travel being skiing and snowshoeing.

The remaining use occurs in areas which are intermediate between readily accessible and difficult. These areas are used primarily by people seeking secluded and challenging wilderness experiences. It is here that the wilderness visitor comes to hunt big game, observe and photograph wildlife, observe and photograph scenery, explore and climb difficult terrain, and generally seek seclusion.

Areas of difficult access are few. The area's shape and location limit its seclusion and extent of scenic vistas. A view of the populated valley is present from most Wilderness terrain. Still, most of the Wilderness provides a relatively complete wilderness experience within two hours distance from road access.

Currently, wilderness users are asked to register when they enter. Registration is voluntary with registration boxes located at all major entry points.

Portions of three commercial livestock-grazing allotments occur within the 1984 Strawberry Mountain Wilderness addition. These cattle and horse allotments are Indian Creek, Sugarloaf, and Fawn Springs. Livestock numbers permitted to graze are normally Indian Creek - 75 head, Sugarloaf - 364 head, and Fawn Springs - 97 head. A portion of Rail Creek Allotment is also located within the 1984 Strawberry Mountain Wilderness addition and the original Wilderness boundary. A total of 150 head of livestock are permitted on Rail Creek. Season of use varies from June to November. Current use for allotment portions inside the Wilderness is considered light; that is, below 35 percent of annual forage production.

Some areas of the Wilderness have suffered adverse effects from grazing by sheep and cattle. Rehabilitation seeding introduced nonnative grass species into the 1984 Wilderness addition prior to 1984.

Fences are visible and are maintained regularly for livestock control. Some portions of the allotment boundaries are unfenced and a few cattle occasionally drift further into the Wilderness. Range allotment management plans show a need for additional fences and water developments, but none are proposed at this time.

Four recreation allotments, Roberts Creek, High Lake, Strawberry Mountain, and Canyon Mountain, have been established to manage recreational livestock use and packer-guide permits. Presently, horseback activity is minor compared to hiking and walking. Most overnight horse use occurs outside the Wilderness. Horse use varies from a single pack animal to large groups with more than 25 horses. Outfitter/guides have historically operated in the Wilderness, but presently there is only one operating under a special-use permit.

The Wilderness Act states (Section 4d(4)(2)) that grazing, if established prior to designation of the area as Wilderness, "shall be permitted to continue subject to such reasonable regulations as are deemed necessary by the Secretary of Agriculture." Any adjustments in the number of livestock allowed in the Wilderness area will be made via the Forest Service's normal grazing, land management planning, and policy-setting process. Due consideration is given to legal mandates, range condition, and the need to prevent range deterioration. Permit increases can be granted, but are limited to levels that do not diminish wilderness values.

Facilities used in livestock operations, such as fences and stock tanks, may be maintained and replaced. New livestock grazing facilities may be constructed if they are needed to protect the rangeland and/or wilderness resource rather than to accommodate increased livestock numbers.

Motorized and mechanical equipment may be allowed in some situations involving livestock grazing operations in the 1984 Wilderness addition.

North slopes of the Strawberry Mountains contain a geologic environment favorable for chromite deposits. These deposits tend to be small and erratic. About 15,000 long tons of chromite ore were mined from this area during times of national shortage and chrome price supports. Nickel and platinum group metals occur as trace elements within the host rock of the chromite deposits. Some copper mineralization has been found within the Wilderness, but deposits are small and of low grade. All known gold production has come from areas outside the Wilderness.

Numerous mining claims have been held in the past in what is now Wilderness, but only 11 claims were still being maintained as of April 1988. Five of these are being held for chrome on the north slope of the Strawberry Mountains. Six are placer claims, presumably held for gold on the south slope in the East Fork Canyon Creek drainage. No gold was found in this drainage during a U.S. Geological Survey study of the area (Thayer et al. 1981).

There are seven lakes in the Wilderness covering an estimated 54 acres. The water quality in the lakes is high but they are relatively shallow. Fish are found in six of the seven small lakes within the Wilderness. There is a small amount of stream fishing available. Lake fishing is the third most important activity for those visiting the Wilderness. The fish population in the lakes consists of rainbow and brook trout. Present management knowledge indicates that these are the most suitable species.

The most popular fishing lake is Strawberry Lake. It is the largest lake (31 acres) and produces the largest fish. It is stocked every 4 years with brook trout to relieve pressure on a naturally-reproducing rainbow trout population. This program continues under the direction of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Regular stocking is contributing to concentrated use around the shoreline. High Lake is also popular since it is close to a road, but the lake (5 acres) and the fish are small. The two Slide Lakes are the most inaccessible lakes in the Wilderness. The scenery and surroundings are among the finest in the entire Wilderness. Slide Lake is 13 acres and Little Slide Lake is 3 acres.

Little Strawberry Lake has an attractive setting and fishing is good. There are many small-sized fish but use is lightest at this lake. Little Strawberry is only 4 acres in size and is a 2-hour hike from a road end.

As in most alpine lakes, the fishing resource is quite attractive even though the success may be greater in more prosaic surroundings. Fishing success depends on the angler and the time of year.

There are two small mud lakes in the headwaters of Big Creek. These two small ponds are very shallow and do not furnish any desirable fishing. The entire area, water and meadow areas combined, is only 2.5 acres for Little Mud Lake and 4.5 acres for Big Mud Lake. The water area is only about one-third of the total meadow and open area.

Most streams in the Wilderness are small headwater streams with a steep gradient. Many do support fish life, including Berry Creek, Middle and East Fork Canyon Creek, Strawberry Creek, Onion Creek, and the forks of Big Creek. Redd Creek, which feeds Strawberry Lake, is a spawning creek for rainbow trout in Strawberry Lake. The falls on Meadow Fork Big Creek block fish passage.

Strawberry Lake is within an hour's walking time for most people from the end of the access road at Strawberry Campground. High Lake is also within an hour from Indian Springs Road. The trails to either lake are easily negotiated by most people. The attractive lakes and their fishing have been used as promotional information by local groups, including the Grant County Chamber of Commerce.

In the southwest part of the Wilderness is Canyon Creek Archery Area, established in 1940 as a mule deer and elk archery area with any sex animal being legal game. The balance of the Wilderness is used for rifle and bow hunting for deer and elk. The Canyon Creek Research Natural Area is also in the southwest part of the 1984 Wilderness addition.

The Wilderness contains 649.72 acres of private land within the proclaimed boundaries. These private lands are in the eastern part of the Wilderness and are little used by Wilderness visitors. They are high in elevation, contain little commercial timber, and are inaccessible by road.

There are about 100 miles of trail within, and immediately adjacent to, the Wilderness. In the heart of the Wilderness, many trails are located within 2 miles or less of another trail.

There are 15 entry points into the Wilderness, but only 3 could be classed as receiving heavy or moderate use: trailheads serving Strawberry Lake, High Lake, and Strawberry

Mountain. These three trails are adequately served by roads. The variety of different accesses is adequate, but road conditions are inadequate. The roads have narrow spots and inadequate turnouts, lack sufficient drainage, and need surfacing. Parking for vehicles with trailers and holding facilities for horses at trailheads are also insufficient.

Trail additions are being considered for the Wilderness. Objectives for these additions would be to disperse impacts from heavily-used areas and provide loop trails which would connect some existing trails with others.

Forested areas are considered to have average fire hazard for the Malheur National Forest, grassy areas have an extreme rating for wildfire spread. In the past, fires were predominantly lightning caused and acreage burned has been small due to topography and fuel types. Consequently, fire has not played a significant role in the Wilderness ecosystem. This is also verified by lack of evidence, such as fire scars on trees and charred stumps or logs, which would substantiate fire history for earlier years.

Because the Wilderness is long and narrow, different standards of fire management are difficult to establish. Fire management in the Wilderness has operated under a policy to suppress all fires, based on the risk, cost, and fuel conditions involved in fire control.

The Clean Air Act, as amended on August 7, 1977, established that air over the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness is to be managed as a mandatory Class 1 airshed, which allows for little deterioration of air quality and maintenance of pristine air quality. The Clean Air Act imposes special restrictions to assure that no major new facility will have an adverse impact on the area's air quality.

Smoke impacts on the Wilderness, as a result of prescribed burning outside its boundaries, could be significant. Conditions will be monitored to protect air quality over the Wilderness.

Table III-19 provides 1985 recreation use for the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness.

Most of the use shown in Table III-19, about 80 percent, is concentrated in the lakes basin area. Recreational demand in the lakes basin is approaching the limits of acceptable change for semiprimitive wilderness recreation, although additional capacity exists elsewhere in the Wilderness. If demand for wilderness recreation increases, the additional use should be dispersed to other areas.

Demand for wilderness recreation is expected to increase by 80 percent between now and the year 2030. Capacity for the Strawberry Wilderness has been established at 36,400 recreation-visitor-days. Existing use averages 13,600 recreation-visitor-days for Strawberry Mountain Wilderness (37 percent of capacity).

**b** *Monument Rock  
Wilderness*

This area's main feature is gentle, south- and west-facing slopes running from Flat, Huckleberry, and Hunter Creeks to the ridgetops that form the Monument Rock Wilderness boundary. Elevations range from 5,200 feet to over 7,800 feet.

The area is located on the east side of headwaters of the North Fork Malheur River and includes several tributaries to this system. The north and south portions of the area include the Little Malheur River drainage and tributaries.

Monument Rock Wilderness is subject to the sounds and sights of nonwilderness due to its small size and topography. Also, a road corridor about 3 miles long to Table Rock Lookout accesses the central and highest point of the Wilderness.

**TABLE III-19: Strawberry Mountain Wilderness Recreation Use (1985 data)**

| Activity            | RVDs          | Percent of Use |
|---------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Camping             | 3,247         | 22             |
| Swimming            | 300           | 2              |
| Sightseeing         | 8             | 0              |
| Fishing             | 2,294         | 15             |
| Boating             | 230           | 2              |
| Hiking              | 5,501         | 37             |
| Hunting             | 2,001         | 14             |
| Horseback Riding    | 742           | 5              |
| Cross-Country Sking | 216           | 1              |
| Other               | 251           | 2              |
| <b>TOTAL</b>        | <b>14,790</b> | <b>100</b>     |

Timber harvest has occurred on all sides of the Wilderness and other timber sales are planned near its boundary. Timber sale activity has created a less than natural view from overlooks within the Wilderness. The Big Cow Burn in 1939 burned over the northwest portion of the Wilderness. In this area evidence of the burn and firelines are visible.

Soils in the area are predominantly of volcanic ash composition. On northerly slopes, soils are two to three feet deep. All soils with volcanic ash content have a moderate to high erosion susceptibility. Because of its cool climate and short growing season, there is little vegetative protection at high elevations. At low elevations, soils have a low bulk density and high water-holding capacity. This limits the water available for erosion and contributes to perennial streams in the area.

The Wilderness is about 60 percent forested, ranging from ponderosa pine in lower elevations to subalpine fir along the peaks. Other tree species include lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir, white fir, aspen, and juniper. Understory vegetation is primarily elk sedge, pinegrass, wheatgrass, huckleberry, and bluegrass. The mountain crest is generally not forested. There are no known threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species in the Wilderness.

Indian paint fungus is present and can probably be found in all size classes of true fir. Much of the Douglas-fir is infected with dwarf mistletoe, especially when growing on dry, rocky sites. Mistletoe infections vary from fairly light to quite severe. Root rots can also be found but at this point are not considered a problem. These agents are a natural part of the ecosystem.

Due to large amounts of white fir and Douglas-fir, many timber stands are highly susceptible to tussock moth and western spruce budworm. Western spruce budworm is present now and has caused serious damage. The western spruce budworm is part of the natural ecosystem and will continue to play a role in this wilderness.

Western pine beetle is active in old-growth ponderosa pine trees of low vigor. Mountain pine beetle can be found in areas where mature lodgepole pine is present.

Fire management within the Wilderness has operated under a policy of suppressing all fires, based on the risk, cost, and fuel conditions involved in fire control.

A fire lookout at Table Rock is located in the center of the Wilderness and is currently staffed from June to November. Old telephone lines which were used for communications between the Lookout and Ranger Station are visible.

No mineral claims are currently filed in the Wilderness, nor has mining occurred in the past. Mineral claims are currently filed near the Wilderness boundary to the northeast, east, and southeast. When the northeast boundary was established, its location was designed to exclude mineral claims from the Wilderness. There were no valid claims within this Wilderness at the time of its enactment (1984). The Oregon Wilderness Act of 1984 (PL 98-328) prohibits new mineral development.

Most wildlife species found in Wildernesses also occur elsewhere in the Forest. A possible exception is American peregrine falcon, which may only occur in the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness.

Rainbow trout occur in the Little Malheur River and angling is considered fair to good. The trout migrate up the river from Beulah Reservoir to spawn. The larger trout move downstream as the flow decreases in summer months. Fish also inhabit small perennial streams arising from the mountain crest. The greatest fishing pressure occurs in the Little Malheur River.

Monument Rock Wilderness includes parts of three livestock grazing allotments: Spring Creek and North Fork on the Malheur National Forest, and Bullrun on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. The use season varies from June to November. Permitted use totaling 1,314 livestock is allowed during a grazing cycle.

Under a rest/rotation system on the Spring Creek Allotment, grazing use occurs every other year in the Wilderness. On the North Fork Allotment, grazing use occurs 2 out of every 3 years. The Bullrun Allotment has some part of the Wilderness in every grazing unit and is also grazed under a rest/rotation system. Grazing use varies from moderate to heavy, i.e., 50 percent to 70 percent use.

The Wilderness Act states (Section 4d(4)(2)) that grazing established prior to designation of an area as wilderness, "shall be permitted to continue subject to such reasonable regulations as are deemed necessary by the Secretary of Agriculture." Adjustments in livestock numbers are made through the Forest Service grazing, land management planning, and policy-setting process. Consideration is given to legal mandates, range condition, and the need to prevent range deterioration. Permit increases can be granted but are limited to levels that do not diminish Wilderness values.

Fences and water developments are visible and are maintained regularly for livestock control and use. Range allotment plans show a need for additional fences and water developments and both are currently planned. New improvements may be constructed or developed only if they are needed to protect rangeland or Wilderness resources, rather than to accommodate increased livestock numbers. Motorized and mechanical equipment may be allowed in some situations involving livestock-grazing operations.

Two major uses occur in the Wilderness: recreational visits and cattle grazing. Current recreation use is light and does not create management difficulties. Cattle grazing creates management difficulties because livestock use mixes with recreation use and distribution is uneven.

There are no recreation allotments in the Wilderness and horseback activity is considered minor compared to hunting and hiking. Overnight horse use occurs mostly outside the Wilderness. Present horse use varies from a single animal to a small group of less than 10 horses. Two outfitter/guides, one on each National Forest, operate in the Wilderness under special-use permits.

Much of the recreation use is well-distributed, with the most use occurring at Table Rock, a major entry point. A 1985 campsite inventory found 13 campsites along the mountain crest, 1 campsite along the Little Malheur River, and 4 in other frequently used areas. Campsite density is about .001 site per acre.

Use of the area for nonconsumptive activities, such as backpacking and hiking, increased after Wilderness designation in 1984. Hunting continues to be the primary recreation use. Consequently, most use has not been trail-oriented with the exception of the Little Malheur River zone. Two trails, comprising 10 miles, are presently maintained in the Wilderness. Old jeep trails used mostly by hunters are visible and also provide foot access for much of the Wilderness

Trailhead facilities are nonexistent for this Wilderness. There is a need to develop trailheads at each end of the Little Malheur River.

Table III-20 summarizes 1985 recreation use for the Monument Rock Wilderness

**TABLE III-20: Monument Rock Wilderness Recreation Use (1985 data)**

| Activity            | Malheur National Forest (RVDs) | Wallowa-Whitman National Forest (RVDs) | Percent of Total |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|--|------------------|
| Camping             | 271                            | 0                                      | 12               |
| Swimming            | 2                              | 0                                      | 0                |
| Sightseeing         | 4                              | 0                                      | 0                |
| Fishing             | 50                             | 0                                      | 2                |
| Hiking              | 434                            | 50                                     | 22               |
| Hunting             | 768                            | 415                                    | 52               |
| Horseback Riding    | 186                            | 20                                     | 9                |
| Cross-country Sking | 39                             | 15                                     | 3                |
| Other               | 6                              | 0                                      | 0                |
| <b>TOTAL</b>        | <b>1,760</b>                   | <b>500</b>                             | <b>100</b>       |

Most recreation use is well-distributed in Monument Rock Wilderness, with road access to Table Rock being a major entry point. Recreation use patterns and amounts may change as this new Wilderness is discovered by recreation users.

Demand for Wilderness recreation has not approached the limits of acceptable change and additional capacity exists. Demand is expected to increase by 80 percent between now and the year 2030. Capacity of the Monument Rock Wilderness has been estimated at 9,591 RVDs. Existing Wilderness recreation use averages 1,800 RVDs (19 percent of capacity).

## 11 Minerals

Minerals, and gold in particular, have had an important influence in growth and development of the area influenced by the Forest (see Table III-21). Important gold- and silver-producing districts for the area were Susanville, Quartzburg, Middle Fork, Greenhorn, and Idol City (see Figure III-16 and Table III-22)

Locatable mineral deposits on public domain lands may be prospected for, and extracted, under the 1872 mining law, as amended and supplemented. Administration of general mining laws is a responsibility of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Joint administration of the mining laws on National Forest System lands is provided by a 1957 Memorandum of Understanding between the BLM and the Forest Service. Regulations covering surface use of National Forests under the mining laws were developed in 1974 to provide for orderly development of locatable mineral resources and for subsequent reclamation of the land.