

Tunnison Mountain

CA-020-311

TUNNISON MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS STUDY AREA (WSA)

(CA-020-311)

1. THE STUDY AREA — 20,437 acres

The Tunnison Mountain WSA is located in Lassen County, California. The WSA contains 19,884 acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land and 553 acres of private land located in 13 parcels varying in size from 10 to 160 acres. The nearest cities are Susanville, California, located seven miles southwest, and Reno, Nevada 80 miles southeast of the WSA (see Map 1 and Table 1).

The WSA boundary is a mixture of dirt roads, non public land, and on the south, an unnatural logged area. Beginning in the north, the WSA's western boundary follows Horse Lake Road, an unnamed four mile dirt road, and private land. On the south, the boundary extends southeast around private land and follows a low ridge south of, and adjacent to, Willow Creek Canyon. This 1-1/2 mile segment of the southern boundary marks the northern side of an unnatural area deleted from the WSA during the initial inventory study because of the impacts of past logging activities. The southern boundary continues southeast extending around one mile of a cherrystemmed road then follows an unnamed road southeast three miles to private land. On the east, the boundary extends north along Pete's Valley Road, private land, around a 1-1/2 mile cherrystem road, along more private land and then extends northwest along the Pete's Valley-Mapes Spring road to Horse Lake Road.

The WSA is approximately 3-1/2 miles wide by 10 miles long. Elevations vary from 4200' to 6400'. Three topographic features dominate the WSA: Horse Lake Mountain, a 5-1/2 mile long north-south ridge in the northern half of the WSA, Tunnison Mountain, a 4-1/2 mile long northwest-southeast ridge in the southern half of the WSA and Willow Creek Canyon, a 50' to 200' deep canyon that flows 6-1/2 miles west to east through the WSA. Both Horse Lake and Tunnison Mountains are relatively narrow (one to three miles wide) with numerous small peaks along their ridge crests. These mountains consist of an almost continuous chain of small ridgecrest peaks with numerous drainages of various widths and depths radiating from the ridgecrest. Most of the drainages flow into Willow Creek. Many small springs seep from the lower southern and eastern slopes of Horse Lake Mountain. Numerous stringer meadows are located around and below these springs.

Willow Creek is a perennial stream that bisects the southern edge of the WSA. The stream forms a shallow wooded canyon on the western edge of the WSA and gradually cuts deeper into the lava terrain as it flows east. The eastern three miles of Willow Creek form a winding "U" shaped canyon 100 to 200 feet deep in a dry sage/grassland area. Willow Creek's riparian vegetation is in fair to good condition above the confluence with Pete's Creek where a juniper pine woodland exists. Below the confluence, condition is fair to poor. Willow Creek Canyon contains one of the higher quality perennial streams throughout the region and is the most distinctive physical feature in the WSA.

Plant life is primarily bunch grasses, annual grasses, sagebrush, scattered juniper and isolated patches of mountain mahogany at the higher elevations in the majority of the WSA located north of Willow Creek. The riparian vegetation along Willow Creek includes sedges, grasses and occasional willows. Scattered ponderosa pine and juniper also grow within the segment of Willow Creek Canyon above Pete's Creek as well as throughout the area between Willow Creek and the WSA's southern boundary. No threatened or endangered plant species occur within the WSA.

The WSA was studied under Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA). Various alternatives were analyzed in the Draft and Final Eagle Lake-Cedarville Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Four (4) different alternatives were analyzed in the EIS: partial wilderness where 39% of the WSA would be designated wilderness, partial wilderness where 73% of the WSA would be designated wilderness, all wilderness and no wilderness.

2.	<u>RECOMMENDATION AND RATIONALE</u> —	7,889	acres recommended for wilderness
		11,995	BLM acres recommended for non-wilderness

Thirty-nine percent partial wilderness is the recommendation for this WSA. 11,995 acres in this WSA are released for uses other than wilderness.

The all-wilderness alternative is the environmentally preferred alternative because it would result in the least change from the existing natural environment over time. The selected alternative will be implemented in a manner which will use all practical means to avoid or minimize environmental impacts.

The part of the WSA recommended for wilderness designation is recommended primarily because the area contains good wilderness qualities. The areas not recommended for wilderness have manageability problems or have resource conflicts with future utility corridor alignments.

The recommended wilderness area provides good opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation in a natural setting. The area's two main topographic features, Tunnison Mountain and Willow Creek Canyon, afford numerous places where the visitor can experience solitude and enjoy exploration, hiking and sightseeing. Willow Creek Canyon supports a trout fishery where trophy-size German browns can be caught. Petroglyphs can be seen along the canyon walls. The canyon extends from a wooded pine forest into the arid Great Basin. Widely varied scenery and plants accompany this transition within the WSA. Tunnison Mountain is a varied mix of ridges, stringer meadows, mountain mahogany thickets and open slopes. Numerous terrain and vegetation variations afford good opportunities for solitude and exploration. Contrasting views of the lush Willow Creek Valley to the west and the arid Tablelands and desert peaks to the east reward those who hike to the top of Tunnison Mountain's ridgecrest summit.

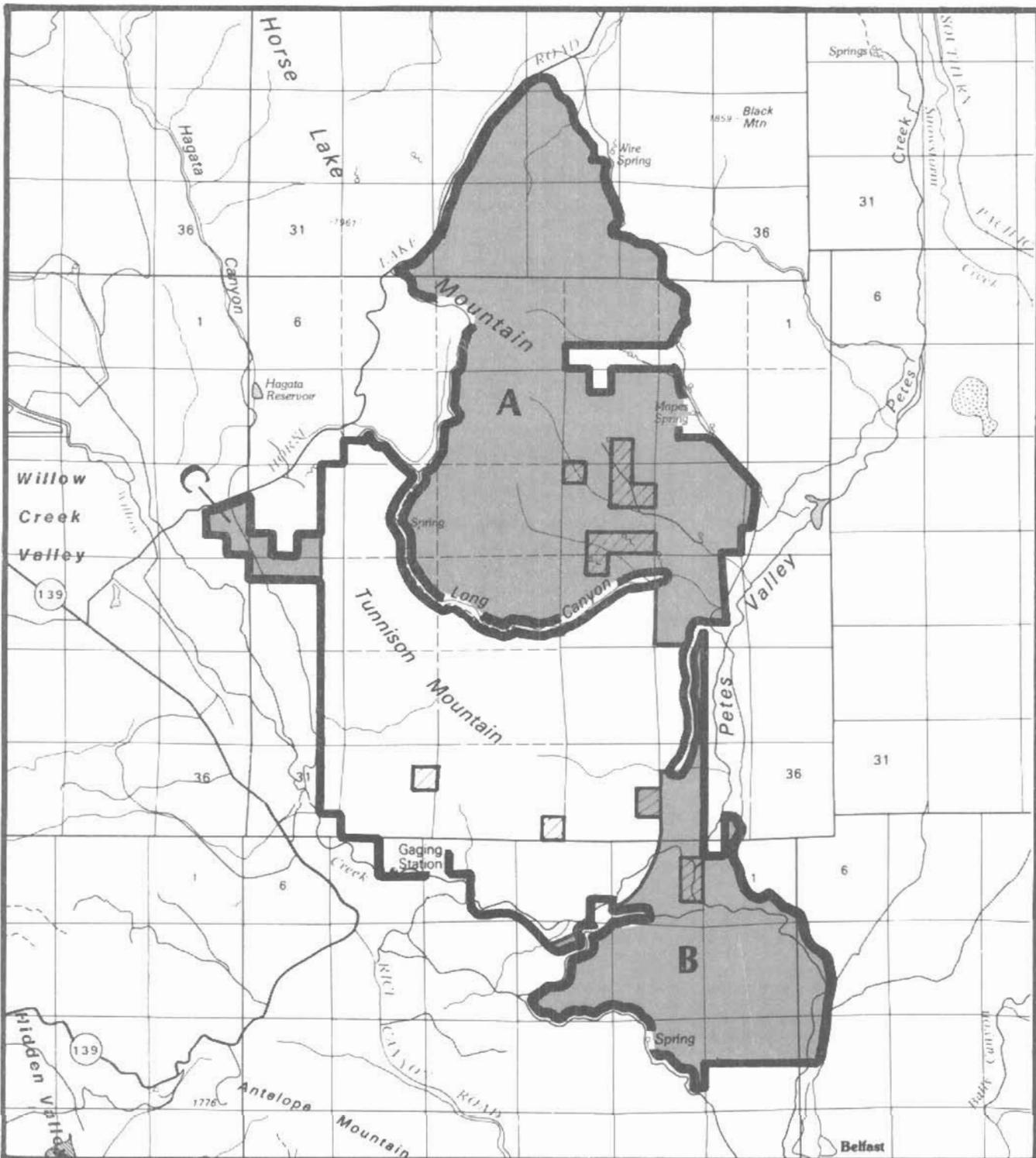
The recommended wilderness area could be easily managed to preserve wilderness values. Because wilderness values are so significant, the suitability recommendation will preclude any further vehicular use of approximately one mile of primitive access routes of travel. Boundaries follow mostly physical features or legal lines where rocky, brush-covered slopes limit vehicle entry. Two 40-acre private inholdings could require access if developed, and would adversely affect naturalness. If these parcels were acquired the entire area would be publicly-owned which would simplify management of the area for wilderness. Present resource uses of the area such as recreation (hunting, fishing, archeological sightseeing and hiking), wildlife and livestock grazing are compatible with management of the area to preserve wilderness values. No significant mineral or energy values have been identified within the recommended wilderness area and there are no mining claims in this area.

In the area not recommended for wilderness, Parcel A was separated from the recommended area because of management conflicts with private inholdings. These parcels are located along the eastern side of South Horse Lake Mountain where private land development and access roads would be clearly evident along much of this part of the WSA. These parcels are owned by a variety of owners, all of which are not livestock permittees. Future use of the parcels is unknown, but ownership is not related to agricultural uses. Hunting cabins or other recreational uses are feasible. Road construction and private land development could significantly affect the appearance of naturalness on approximately 2,020 acres of this open grass and brush-covered area.

Parcel B is not recommended for wilderness designation because of resource conflicts with a future utility corridor, management problems with vehicle entry along the southern side of the area and limited opportunities for solitude in the eastern half of this area's broad, open slopes. This area has been identified as part of a potential trans-Sierra powerline corridor through northern California. No construction is planned at this time, but alignment identification is considered necessary now for development of future power corridors. This potential non-wilderness use of the WSA's southern side was deemed a more important use of the area than wilderness designation of an area of generally nondescript wilderness qualities.

A section of Willow Creek Canyon lies within this area. However, the canyon is inaccessible to vehicles and does not require wilderness designation to protect its archeological, recreational and scenic values. The canyon also comprises only a small portion of Parcel B that is not recommended for wilderness. In parcels A and B there are approximately 3-1/2 miles of routes of travel including primitive ways, washes and other unmaintained routes of access which will remain available for vehicular use.

Parcel C is not recommended for wilderness because it is a narrow isolated neck of public land 1/4- to 1/2-mile-wide that extends 1-1/2 miles into a broad plain of open private land. Opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are extremely limited in this small open parcel.

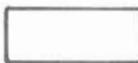
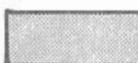


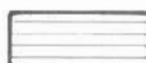
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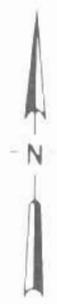
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R12E R13E

R13E R14E

-  RECOMMENDED FOR WILDERNESS
-  RECOMMENDED FOR NONWILDERNESS
-  LAND OUTSIDE WSA RECOMMENDED FOR WILDERNESS

-  SPLIT ESTATE
-  STATE
-  PRIVATE



**Tunnison Mountain
Proposal
MAP-1**



020-311
JUNE, 1988

Table 1 - Land Status and Acreage Summary of the Study Area

<u>Within Wilderness Study Area</u>		<u>Acres</u>
BLM	(surface and subsurface)	19,884
Split Estate	(BLM surface only)	0
Inholdings		
State		0
Private		553
Total		20,437
<u>Within the Recommended Wilderness Boundary</u>		<u>Acres</u>
BLM	(within WSA)	7,889
BLM	(outside WSA)	0
Split Estate	(within WSA)	0
Split Estate	(outside WSA)	0
Total BLM Land Recommended for Wilderness		7,889
Inholdings ¹		
State		0
Private		80
<u>Within the Area Not Recommended for Wilderness</u>		<u>Acres</u>
BLM	(surface and subsurface)	11,995
Split Estate	(BLM surface only)	0
Total BLM Land Not Recommended for Wilderness		11,995

¹Appendix 1 is a detailed description of inholdings and split estate tracts included within the study. For purposes of this report, split estate lands are defined only as those lands with Federal surface and non-Federal subsurface (minerals). Lands that have federal minerals but non-Federal surface should be classified in this report by the owner of the surface estate.

3. CRITERIA CONSIDERED IN DEVELOPING THE WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Wilderness Characteristics

1. Naturalness: The Tunnison Mountain WSA is predominantly natural with human imprints unnoticeable in the area as a whole. Tunnison Mountain, the southern end of Horse Lake Mountain and Willow Creek Canyon are the predominant features within the WSA. These areas appear natural with minimal evidence of man's presence. Sagebrush and grasses dominate most of the WSA. Scattered patches of mountain mahogany are located beneath shaded rims and the higher elevations. South of Willow Creek Canyon, junipers are interspersed with scattered ponderosa and Jeffrey pine.

Scattered junipers located inside the WSA along portions of the southern boundary road and the cherrystemmed road to the crossing were cut for firewood prior to 1976. Scattered juniper stumps and decaying limbs appear unnatural in this area but the overall effect is slight and temporary.

The overall influence of human imprints on the naturalness of the area as perceived by the average visitor is negligible. Human imprints are small in scale - mainly related to livestock grazing such as, 5-1/2 miles of fence, nine stock ponds, two developed springs, and 4-1/2 miles of access ways leading to ridgecrests and Willow Creek. The ways are used for hunting and fishing access. The ways and water developments are substantially unnoticeable, due to the broken terrain and screening by adjacent brush.

Three cherrystemmed roads extend seven miles within the WSA but have little affect on naturalness. Long Canyon Road nearly splits the WSA in half, but because of its location in a narrow canyon bottom and its primitive condition, it does not adversely affect the experience of naturalness in this area. Rocky, brush-covered slopes limit off-road travel from this cherrystemmed road and therefore, no significant impacts to naturalness have occurred from off-road vehicle travel. The cherrystemmed road that extends one mile toward the crossing on Willow Creek passes through level open terrain. Off-road access is possible from this road but to date has not caused any significant impacts to naturalness in the area. A third cherrystemmed road parallels the eastern boundary for 1-3/4 miles. There has not been any significant amount of off-road travel from this road and therefore, no impacts to naturalness have occurred.

2. Solitude: Opportunities for solitude are good throughout the recommended wilderness area. Many small drainages break up the topography and afford good opportunities for isolation of visitors. Willow Creek Canyon and Long Canyon also afford good areas for isolation. Livestock operator travel within the WSA is seasonal and infrequent. A seasonal influx of fishermen during the first week of fishing season in early May temporarily disturbs

opportunities for solitude, but the number of fisherman quickly declines after the first week of the season. Dove season in September and deer season in October bring an influx of hunters that temporarily disturb solitude. This impact is brief and seasonal.

In the eastern portion of Area B's broad open slopes and through Area C (see Map 1) opportunities for solitude are limited by the open terrain and lack of good vegetative screening. Open slopes along the lower eastern side of Area A also limit good opportunities for solitude in this area.

This WSA is periodically overflowed by military aircraft as part of the national defense mission taking place in approved military operating areas and flight corridors. The visual intrusions and associated noise create periodic temporary effects on solitude which are deemed necessary and acceptable as a part of the defense preparedness of the nation.

3. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Willow Creek Canyon is the primary attraction in the WSA for primitive and unconfined recreation. The canyon affords a mixture of scenery, topographic variations, aquatic habitats, varied plant life, archeological resources and wildlife observation opportunities. Day hikes and fishing are well suited to this area. Backpacking is also possible; however, the canyon's relatively short length does not lend itself to extended outings. Tunnison Mountain and Horse Lake Mountain offer opportunities of hiking, horseback riding, wildlife observation and exploration.
4. Special Features: The area does not contain any unique geological, biological or historic features that would be notable as special features.

B. Diversity in the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS)

1. Assessing the diversity of natural systems and features as represented by ecosystems: This WSA contains 19,884 acres of the Intermountain Sagebrush/Sagebrush Steppe ecosystem. Wilderness designation of the Tunnison Mountain WSA would not add a new ecosystem or landform to the NWPS. This WSA is in the sagebrush-steppe desert ecosystem. At the present time, there are two existing wilderness areas (Jarbidge and South Warner) within this ecotype.

Table 2 - Ecosystem Representation

Bailey-Kuchler Classifications Domain/Province/PNV	<u>NWPS Areas</u>		<u>Other BLM Studies</u>	
	areas	acres	areas	acres
<u>NATIONWIDE</u>				
Intermountain Sagebrush/ Sagebrush Steppe	3	76,699	136	4,350,455
<u>CALIFORNIA</u>				
Intermountain Sagebrush/ Sagebrush Steppe	1	31,295	4	132,546

2. Expanding the opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation within a days driving time (five hours) of major population centers: This WSA is within a five-hour drive of six major population centers. Table 3 summarizes the number and acreage of designated wilderness areas and other BLM wilderness study areas within a five-hour drive of the population centers.

Table 3 - Wilderness Opportunities for Residents of Major Population Centers

Population Centers	<u>NWPS areas</u>		<u>Other BLM Studies</u>	
	area	acres	areas	acres
<u>California</u>				
Chico	16	1,286,873	13	430,822
Redding	14	1,236,503	11	344,633
Sacramento	46	5,001,817	87	2,479,541
Yuba City	44	4,951,805	85	2,459,500
<u>Nevada</u>				
Reno	39	4,647,230	175	6,904,809
<u>Oregon</u>				
Medford	31	2,440,081	21	730,038

3. Balancing the geographic distribution of wilderness areas.: The WSA is within a 50 mile radius of six BLM WSA's recommended for wilderness designation. The South Warner Wilderness, administered

by the Modoc National Forest, the Caribou Wilderness administered by Lassen National Forest and the Lassen National Park Wilderness are all within 50 miles of the Tunnison Mountain WSA.

C. Manageability

The entire WSA is manageable as wilderness; however, management of the area not recommended for wilderness would require more effort to preserve wilderness qualities than management of the area recommended for wilderness. Additionally, wilderness values on public lands located in the northeastern half of the WSA may be adversely affected by development of private lands located along the eastern slopes of South Horse Lake Mountain.

The area recommended for wilderness is manageable with no significant resource conflicts or vehicle control problems. Boundaries follow legal lines located away from access roads or follow the edge of rocky, brush-covered slopes where vehicle entry has not occurred. Vehicle access routes used by hunters, fisherman, and livestock operators are located outside the recommended wilderness area. The area is used for livestock grazing, hunting, fishing and is valuable wildlife habitat for wintering deer, antelope and sage grouse. All of these uses are compatible with management of the area for wilderness.

Two undeveloped 40-acre parcels of private land are located within the area recommended for wilderness. If the landowners develop these parcels, access would be required. Both parcels are not owned by livestock operators and future use of the parcels is unknown. If development occurred that required vehicle access, approximately one mile of road construction would be needed to each parcel. This would adversely impact naturalness in the area surrounding each road; however, scattered junipers and brush would provide good screening from the area along Willow Creek where much of the area's visitor-use would be expected to occur. Impacts to solitude would depend on the type and extent of proposed uses on these parcels. If the parcels were acquired, impacts to naturalness or solitude would not occur from private land development.

Management to preserve wilderness qualities would be difficult in Parcel A of the area not recommended for wilderness (see Map 1). In this area there are four blocks of private land that are within or extend into the WSA. None of these parcels are owned by livestock operators. If these parcels were developed for hunting cabin use, up to 4-1/2 miles of access roads would be needed. Both the roads and structures would be apparent in the relatively narrow (two-mile-wide) area east of the South Horse Lake Mountain ridgecrest that comprises the bulk of the WSA north of the recommended wilderness area. Management to preserve wilderness qualities of solitude and naturalness in this relatively small narrow area would be compromised by activities on adjacent private lands centrally located within the area.

In Parcel B (see Map 1) of the area not recommended for wilderness, management to control vehicle entry from the southern boundary road would be difficult. In this area, broad, open terrain is vehicle-accessible along the entire three-mile southern boundary road. Increased management efforts would be necessary to insure compliance with the non-motorized provisions of wilderness.

In Parcel C (see Map 1), control of vehicle entry would also require increased management effort to insure compliance with the non motorized provisions of wilderness. This parcel is a narrow 1/4- to 1/2-mile-wide neck of public land that extends 1-1/2 miles northwest into the level plain of Willow Creek Valley. It is surrounded by private land and is readily accessible to vehicles. While prohibition of vehicle entry could be achieved, the low wilderness qualities of this parcel, and limited opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation do not warrant the management action necessary to preserve a marginal wilderness resource in this area.

Military overflights in this WSA must be considered to maintain the integrity of the existing and future national defense mission as well as the wilderness resource.

D. Energy and Mineral Resource Values

1. Summary of information known at the time of preliminary suitable recommendation: The geology of the Tunnison WSA is described in the Willow Creek Unit Resource Analysis (URA) completed in 1981. BLM data in the Affected Environment section of the Eagle Lake-Cedarville Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) completed May 20, 1987, indicates the WSA had no known occurrences of mineral resources.

The potential for oil and gas was unknown, there were no oil and gas leases within the study area, and there had been no interest expressed in possible future leasing. The entire WSA was classified as prospectively valuable for geothermal resources by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) (R.G. Wayland and Miller, 1968).

The area had no past history of mining, nor was there any evidence of prospecting or mineral development. No unpatented mining claims existed in the WSA as of May 1987.

There had been little demand for salable minerals, with no commercial deposits or occurrences known to exist.

2. Summary of significant new mineral resource data collected since suitability recommendations which should be considered in the final recommendation: During the summer of 1985, the U.S. Bureau of Mines (BOM) and the USGS conducted a mineral survey to assess known mineral resources and the mineral resource potential of the study area. The results of the mineral survey were published in USGS Bulletin 1706-B in 1988. Based on field examination,

literature search, geochemical sampling, and geophysical evaluation, the WSA was determined to have low or no potential for mineral resources.

The study area was determined to have a low potential for geothermal because the closest warm water wells are approximately 10 miles south of the WSA. Scott (1983) assigned the Tunnison Mountain WSA a "low to zero" potential for oil and gas. Both USGS and BOM agree with Scott's findings. There are no oil and gas or geothermal leases within the WSA.

Sand and gravel occurrences were not considered to be economically viable resources due to the small reserve volumes. Other nonmetallic commodities were also believed to have low potential for development due to poor access and insufficient reserve quantity. Geochemical sampling failed to identify any anomalous metallic mineral values and the lack of suitable host rock, veins or visibly altered bedrock suggest that metallic mineral deposits are absent in the WSA (Bulletin 1706-B). According to BLM records dated January 13, 1988, no mining claims are located within the WSA. Due to the low mineral potential of the area, no mineral potential map was prepared for this WSA.

E. Impacts on Resources

Table 4 - Comparative Summary of the Impacts by Alternative

ISSUE-RELATED RESOURCES	PROPOSED ACTION PARTIAL WILDERNESS 39% Wilderness	ALL-WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE	PARTIAL-WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE 73% Wilderness	NO-WILDERNESS ACTION ALTERNATIVE
Wilderness Values	<p>Range improvement structures would improve overall naturalness throughout the entire 20,438-acre WSA. Local disturbance would be less than 1 acre on 2 reservoir sites and 5 miles of fence in the wilderness portion with no surface disturbance. The perception of naturalness would be reduced on 350 acres. Solitude would be only in the wilderness portion by closure of 1 mile of way, eliminating 150 visitor-days of use. Access to private land inholdings could require 2 miles of road in the wilderness portion which would impact naturalness solitude & primitive recreation & impair the perception of naturalness on 500 acres.</p> <p>In the non-wilderness portion access to private parcels that might be developed for</p>	<p>Range improvement structures would improve overall naturalness but locally disturb less than 1 acre each on 2 reservoir sites. 12 miles of fence are proposed with no surface disturbance. The perception of naturalness would be reduced on 570 acres.</p> <p>Solitude and primitive recreation would be assured by closure of 4-1/2 miles of way & 7 miles of cherry-stemmed road thus eliminating 600 visitor-days of OHV use. Access to private inholdings which could be developed for cabins would require 6-1/2 miles of road.</p>	<p>Range improvement structures would improve overall naturalness but locally disturb less than 1 acre each on 2 reservoir sites and 10 miles of fence in the wilderness portion. In the non-wilderness portion naturalness would be reduced due to 2 miles of new fence.</p> <p>Solitude would be only slightly improved by closure of 1 mile of way, eliminating 150 visitor days of Access to private land inholdings in the wilderness portion would require 4 miles of road which would disturb naturalness, solitude, and primitive recreation. In the non-wilderness portion up to 2 miles of access might be needed.</p> <p>In the non-wilderness part of the WSA there would be 3 miles of powerline built in a proposed utility corridor which would impact naturalness, solitude and primitive recreation on up to 3,000 acres.</p>	<p>All the impacts would be the same as the Proposed Action except the 1 mile of way would not be closed.</p>

Table 4 - Comparative Summary of the Impacts by Alternative (Continued)

ISSUE-RELATED RESOURCES	PROPOSED ACTION PARTIAL-WILDERNESS 39% Wilderness	ALL-WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE	PARTIAL-WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE 73% Wilderness	NO-WILDERNESS ACTION ALTERNATIVE
Wilderness Values (Cont'd)	cabins would need about 4-1/2 miles of road reducing the perception of naturalness on up to 2,020 acres. In the non-wilderness portion there would be 3 miles of powerline built in a proposed utility corridor that would impact naturalness, solitude & primitive recreation on up to 3,000 acres.			
Recreational ORV Use	No significant impact as only 1 mile of way would be closed. 150 visitor-days of OHV use in the designated portion would be displaced. Vehicle recreation would increase to 600 visitor-days in non-wilderness, in part, as a result of the closure of the designated portion	Closure of 4-1/2 miles of way & 7 miles of road would reduce vehicle use visitor-days by 600.	No significant impact as only 1 mile of way would be closed. 150 visitor days of ORV use in the designated portion would be displaced. Use would increase to 600 visitor-days per year in the non-wilderness portion.	No impact as no ways or cherrystemmed roads would be closed. Use is expected to remain at 600 visitor-days for the foreseeable future.
Trans Sierra Utility Corridor	No impact as a 3 mile portion of powerline could be built in the proposed utility corridor in the non-wilderness portion	No powerline could be built in the proposed utility corridor. An alternate location would have to be found outside the WSA.	No impact as 3 miles of powerline could be built in the proposed utility corridor in the non-wilderness portion.	No impact as the 3 miles of powerline could be built in the proposed utility corridor.

F. Local Social and Economic Considerations

No significant local, social or economic considerations were identified through the public input process used to develop the environmental impact statements for the wilderness study of the WSA. Therefore, no further discussion of this topic will occur in this document.

G. Summary of WSA - Specific Public Comments

Public involvement has occurred throughout the wilderness review process. Certain comments received during the inventory process and early stages of EIS preparation were used to develop significant study issues and alternatives for wilderness management.

A technical review team (TRT) was also used to help identify issues and formulate the alternative analyzed in the EIS. It was used as a tool to lessen the chances of polarization between interest groups and to provide the Bureau with high quality public input, representative of the positions of key groups interested in or affected by wilderness designation. Input provided by the TRT was used in developing the wilderness recommendations for this WSA.

For the Eagle Lake-Cedarville Wilderness EIS that included the Tunnison Mountain WSA, the Susanville District Advisory Council identified the following interests and resources to be represented on an eight-member TRT: livestock-adjacent landowners; wildlife agencies-sportsmen; wilderness-environmental-dispersed recreation; mineral-energy-utilities, wild horses; motorized recreation; cultural-historical-archeological; and the Bureau of Land Management. The representatives were very knowledgeable and highly respected members of their interest groups. The TRT members toured the WSA, held lengthy discussions spanning many weeks and eventually reached unanimous agreement that a partial-wilderness recommendation was appropriate for the Tunnison Mountain WSA. The team's recommendation of 39% suitable and 61% non-suitable was supported by the Susanville District Advisory Council and by BLM and is the recommended action for this WSA.

Key issues raised through public involvement and analyzed by the TRT and in the EIS were: the quality of the wilderness resource and how much was appropriate to be preserved and managed as wilderness; concern that wilderness would prevent livestock management activities and motorized recreation access for hunting; concern that wilderness would preclude development of potential high-voltage electric transmission lines through the region. Identification of Willow Creek's features that contribute to wilderness experience within the WSA--petroglyphs, high scenic quality, excellent wildlife values, and good recreation opportunities particularly fishing in Willow Creek. All of these issues were addressed in each of the four alternatives analyzed in the EIS: all wilderness, partial wilderness (39% suitable, 61% nonsuitable) partial wilderness (73% suitable, 27% nonsuitable) and no wilderness.

During formal public review of the draft EIS, a total of 342 comments were received that addressed this WSA specifically or as part of general comments on all WSA's in the draft EIS. Of those 342 comments, 12 were oral statements received at the three public hearings held on the draft EIS and 330 were written comments. In general, 36 comments supported all-wilderness, 7 supported no-wilderness and 294 supported partial-wilderness recommended by BLM. Six comments supported more wilderness than was addressed in the draft EIS.

Those favoring wilderness cited the area's natural character, opportunities for primitive recreation (mainly hiking and sightseeing with particular emphasis on Willow Creek Canyon's archeological values and fishing opportunities) and good opportunities for solitude. Inclusion of the area in the National Wilderness Preservation System as a representative of volcanic land forms in the transition zone between wooded mountains and desert shrub ecosystems was also cited.

Those opposed to wilderness cited the elimination of possible mineral development in designated wilderness as a general reason without reference to specific mineral values within the WSA. General concerns were expressed that wilderness would restrict the use of motorized vehicles to livestock facility maintenance, but no specific issues were raised about facilities within Tunnison Mountain WSA.

State and local agency and elected officials responses to the proposed action/partial-wilderness alternative where 39% of the WSA would be designated as wilderness, varied widely. California Department of Fish and Game supported the proposed action as did Nevada County (California) Supervisor Joel Gustavson. The Lassen County Board of Supervisors supported no-wilderness.

Letters were received from one State agency and five Federal agencies that took no positions as to a recommendation on alternatives or acreage to be preserved as wilderness. They were the California Dept. of Water Resources, Bureau of Reclamation, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey and the Environmental Protection Agency.

APPENDIX 1
 ESTIMATED COSTS OF ACQUISITION OF NON-FEDERAL HOLDINGS WITHIN
 AREAS RECOMMENDED FOR DESIGNATION
 TUNNISON MOUNTAIN WSA (CA-020-311)

PARCEL No.	LEGAL DESCRIPTION				TOTAL ACREAGE	NUMBER OF OWNERS	TYPE OF OWNERSHIP BY ESTATE		PRESENTLY PROPOSED FOR ACQUISITION	PREFERRED METHOD OF ACQUISITION	ESTIMATED COST OF ACQUISITION	
	TWNSHP	RNG	SEC	MERIDIAN			SURFACE ESTATE	SUBSURFACE ESTATE			LAND COSTS (\$1000)	PROCESSING COSTS (\$1000)
1	31N.	13E.	32	MDM	40	1	PRIVATE	PRIVATE	YES	PURCHASE	6.0	2.5
2	31N.	13E.	33	MDM	40	1	PRIVATE	PRIVATE	YES	PURCHASE	6.0	2.5

These figures were derived from Bureau Land Records and provide for more detail than GIS estimates and therefore may differ from acreage summaries in Table 1.