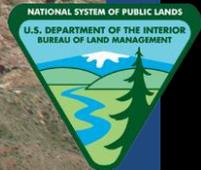


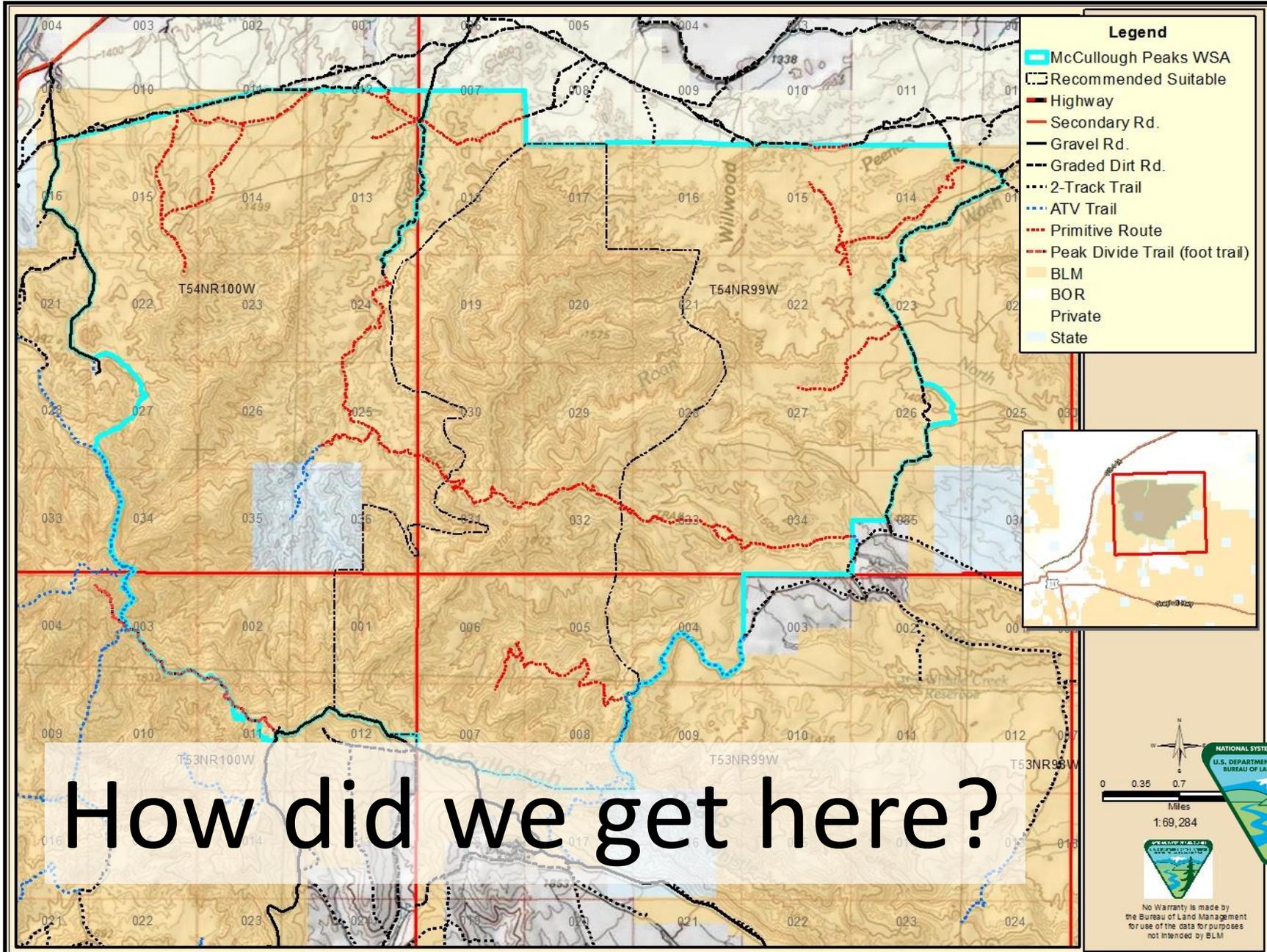
# McCullough Peaks WSA



**BLM**  
Cody Field Office, Wind River/Bighorn Basin District, Wyoming



# McCullough Peaks WSA (25,210 acres)



# McCullough Peaks WSA

1. LAW
  - A. Wilderness Act of 1964
  - B. FLPMA 1976
    - i. Section 201
    - ii. Section 603
2. What does WSA mean?
  1. Inventory
  2. Study
  3. Reporting
3. WSA Management
  1. Cody RMP - 1990
  2. BLM H-8550 (IMP) - 1995
  3. IM 2000-096 - 2000
  4. McCullough Peaks Travel Management Plan-2004
  5. BLM M-6330 (Replaces H-8550) - 2012
  6. Bighorn Basin RMP Revision – 2015
  7. Management Uses
  8. Management Comparisons



# What Does “Wilderness Study Area” Mean?

- **Wilderness Review Process**

- **Inventory**

- (FLPMA section 201)
  - Two stages: initial inventory, and intensive inventory
  - Use the criteria established by Congress in the Wilderness Act of 1964.

- **Study**

- (FLPMA section 603)
  - Determination made through the BLM’s land use planning system
  - DEIS and FEIS (1984 and 1990 respectively)

- **Reporting**

- Wyoming Wilderness Study Report Statewide Overview – 1991
  - BLM’s recommendations forwarded through the Secretary of the Interior and the President to Congress.
  - DEIS, FEIS, mineral surveys, and other supporting data are submitted with these recommendations.



# Wilderness Review Process

## INVENTORY

- **Inventory – 1978 – 1980**
  - **Initial Inventory - 1978**
    - Used criteria from the Wilderness Act of 1964
    - Announced inventory in the Federal Register on November 16, 1978.
    - Initial inventory unit was 11,000 acres.
    - Results announced in the Federal Register on February 7, 1979.
  - **Intensive inventory – Summer and Fall of 1979;**
    - Field investigation resulted in a major boundary change which add 14,210 additional acres to intensive inventory
    - decision issued on April 4, 1980, followed by public comment period ending on August 19, 1980
  - **Federal Register Notice – Decision on Statewide Wilderness Inventory – November 14, 1980**
  - **Published Wyoming Wilderness Study Areas – A Final Inventory Report – May 1981 – Designated 25,210 acres as a Wilderness Study Area**

# Wilderness Review Process

## STUDY

- **Grass Creek / Cody Resource Areas Wilderness Suitability EIS Draft - Issued June 1984**

- **Scoping**

- Public comment periods, open houses, public meetings, and mail solicitations all of which provided information about the wilderness views and concerns of the public. Information and comments were obtained from state and local governments and from other federal agencies.

- **Issues**

- impacts to wilderness values
- water quality
- exploration and development of leasable, locatable, and salable minerals
- recreational off-road use
- livestock grazing
- wildlife habitat and populations
- T&E species
- wild horse management
- cultural and paleontological resources
- impacts to predator control.

# Wilderness Review Process **STUDY**

- **DEIS Alternatives**

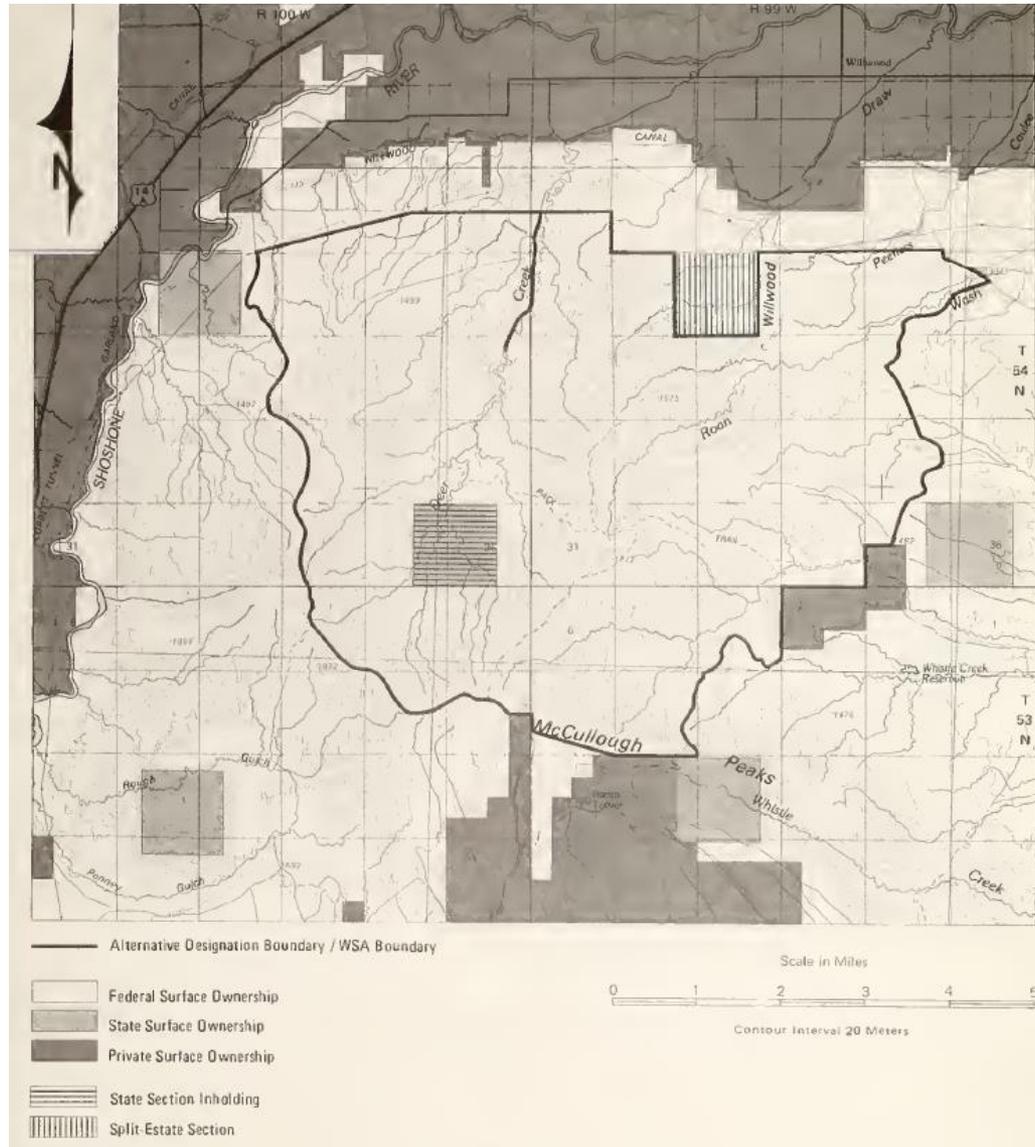
- Proposed action was the no wilderness action;
- All wilderness Alternative – recommended 24,570 acres for wilderness designation
- Conflict Reduction Alternative – recommended 23,580 acres for wilderness designation
- Wilderness Manageability Alternative – recommended 29,590 acres for wilderness designation



# Wilderness Review Process

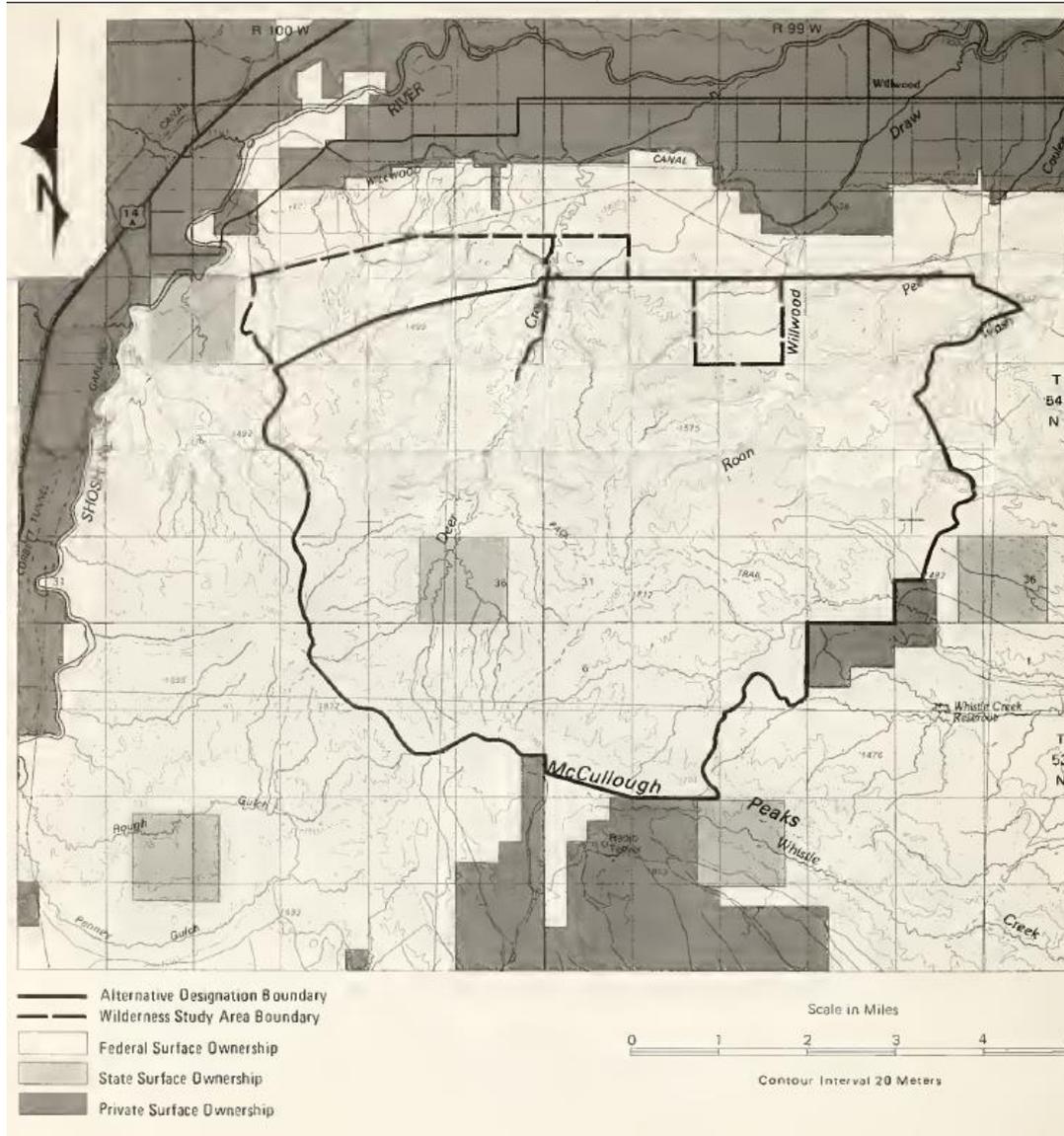
## All Wilderness Alternative

(24,570 acres)

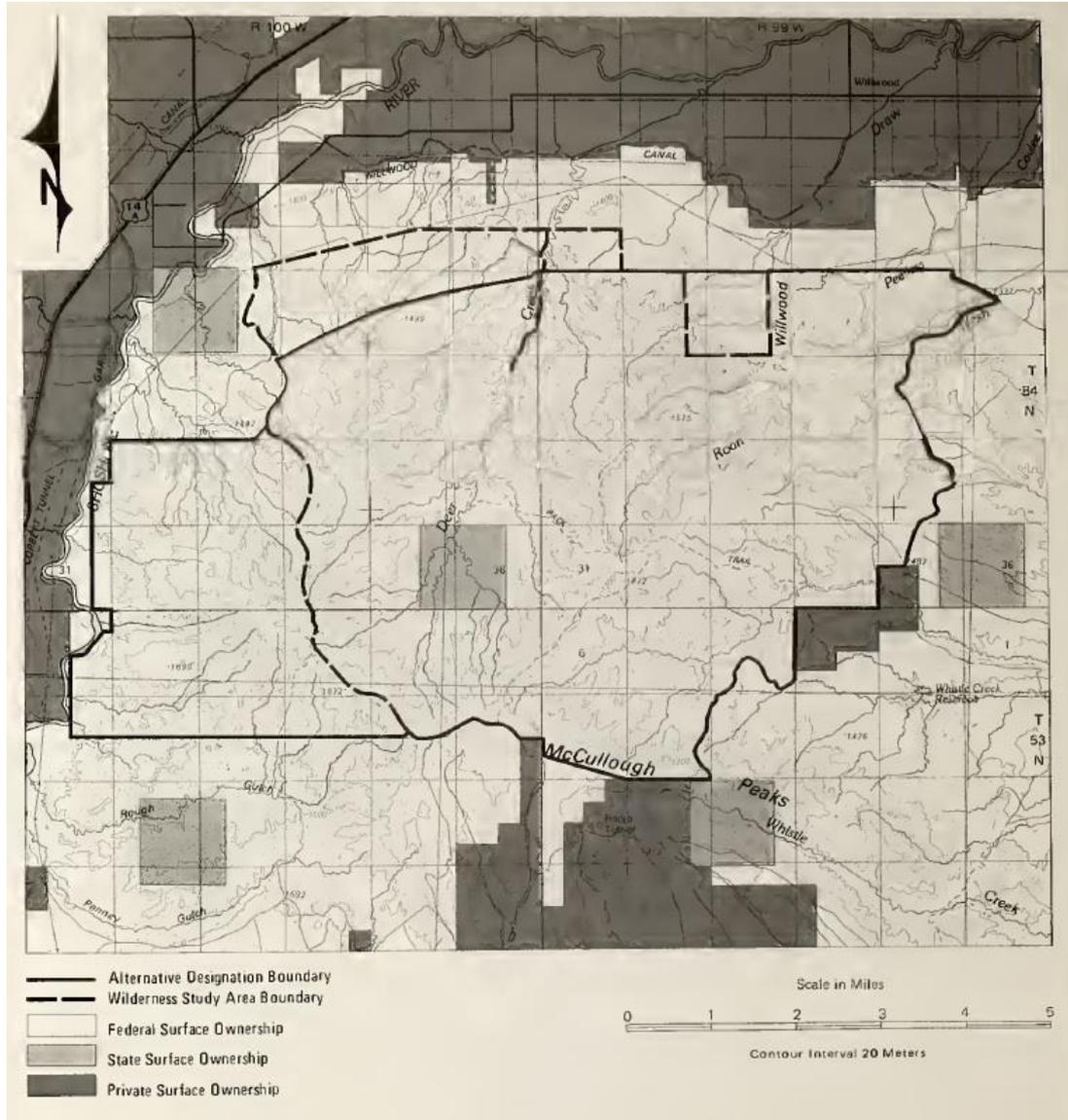


# Wilderness Review Process Conflict Reduction Alternative

(23,580 acres)



# Wilderness Review Process Wilderness Manageability Alternative (29,590 acres)



# Wilderness Review Process **STUDY**

- **Final Grass Creek/Cody Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement - Issued August 1990**
- Changes from the Draft and the Final
  - 640 acres of land with federal mineral estate was added to the McCullough Peaks WSA
  - The proposed action was **changed from the No Wilderness Alternative to a new Conflict Reduction Alternative II (recommend partial wilderness)**



# Wilderness Review Process **STUDY**

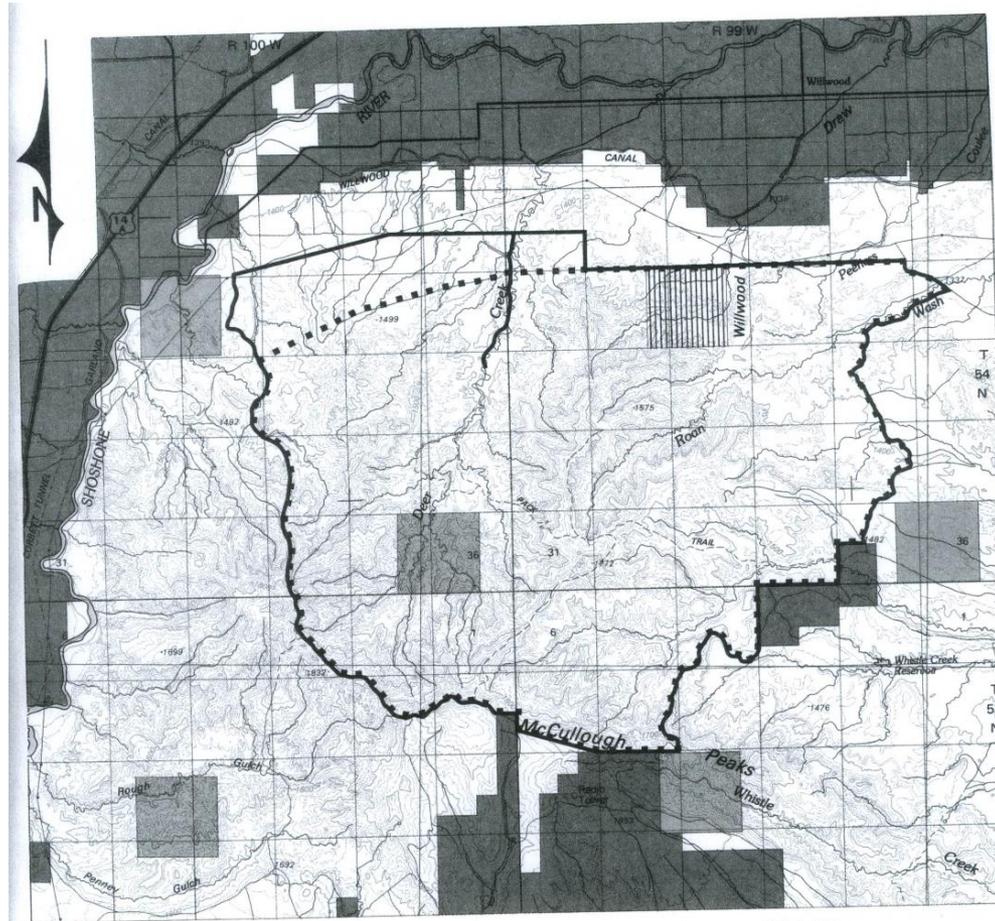
## – FEIS Alternatives

- Conflict Reduction Alternative I
  - 23,580 acres
- Conflict Reduction Alternative II (proposed alternative)
  - 8,020 acres
- All Wilderness Alternative
  - 25,210 acres
- Wilderness Manageability Alternative
  - 29,590 acres
- No Wilderness Alternative
  - 0 acres

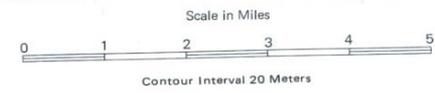
# Wilderness Review Process

## Conflict Reduction Alternative I

(23,580 acres)



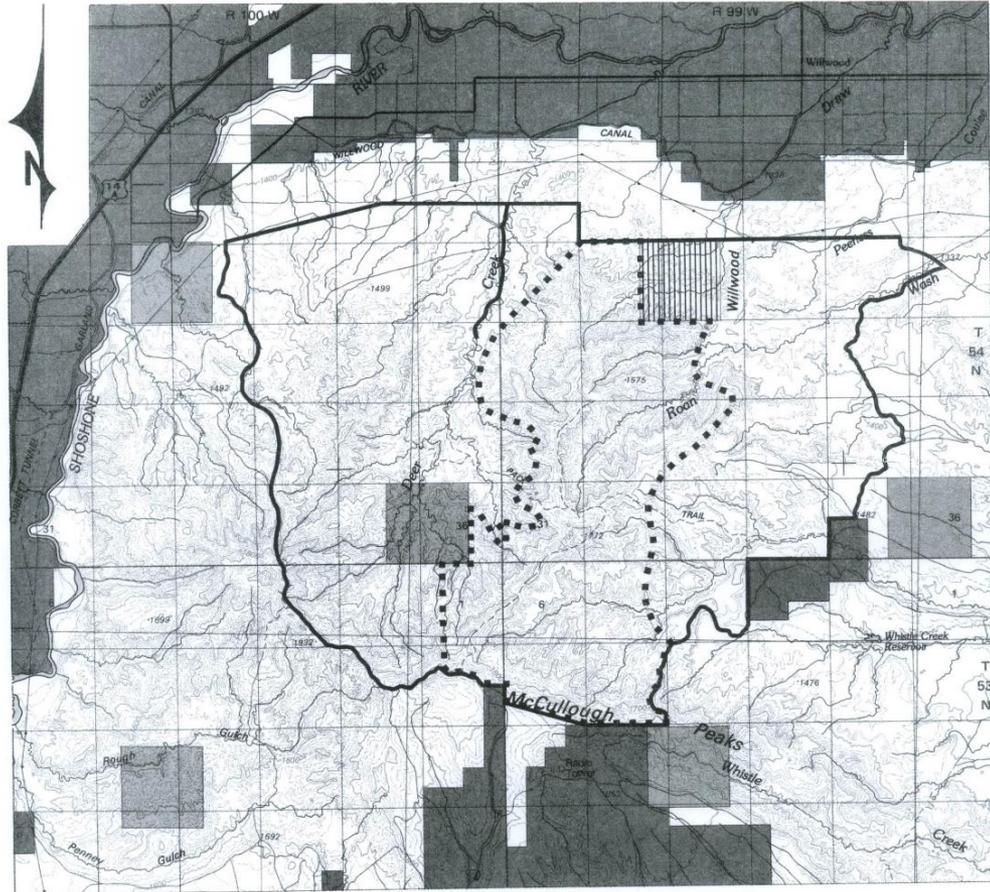
-  WSA Boundary
-  Recommended for Wilderness Designation
-  Public Land Administered by the BLM
-  Land Administered by the State of Wyoming
-  Private Land
-  Split-Estate Section



# Wilderness Review Process

## Conflict Reduction Alternative II

(8,020 acres)



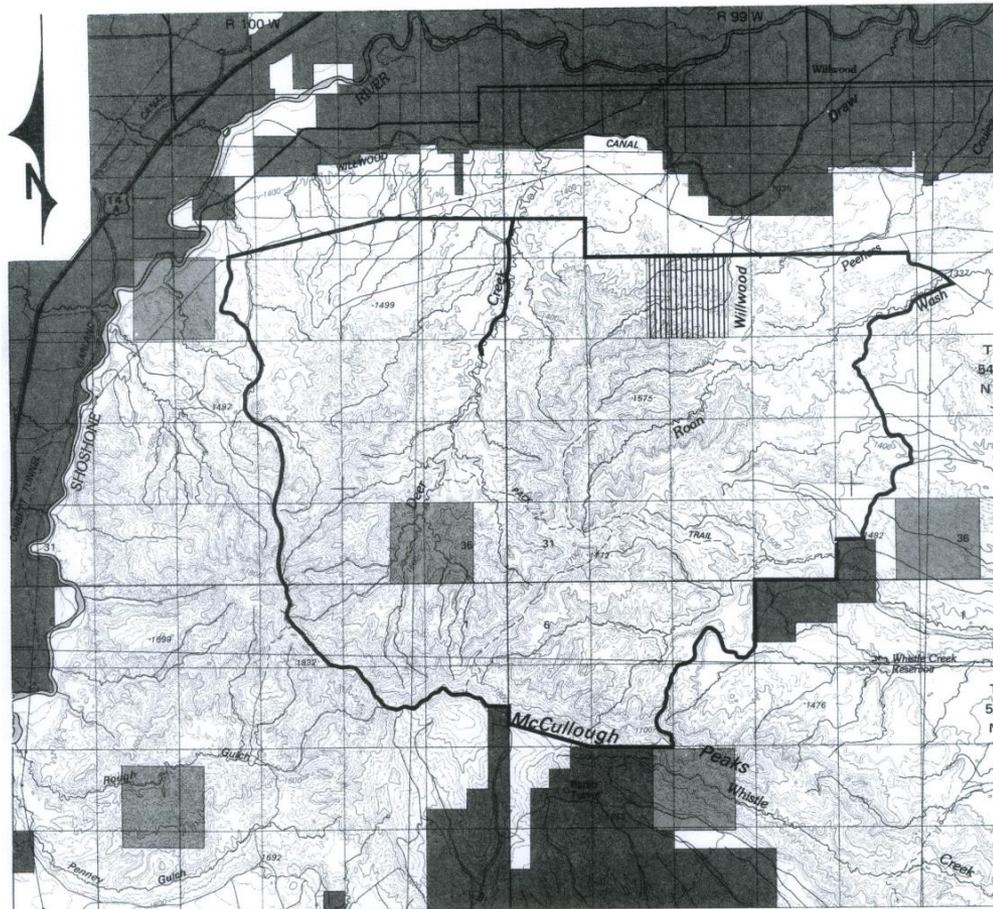
-  WSA Boundary
-  Recommended for Wilderness Designation
-  Public Land Administered by the BLM
-  Land Administered by the State of Wyoming
-  Private Land
-  Split-Estate Section



# Wilderness Review Process

## All Wilderness Alternative

(25,210 acres)

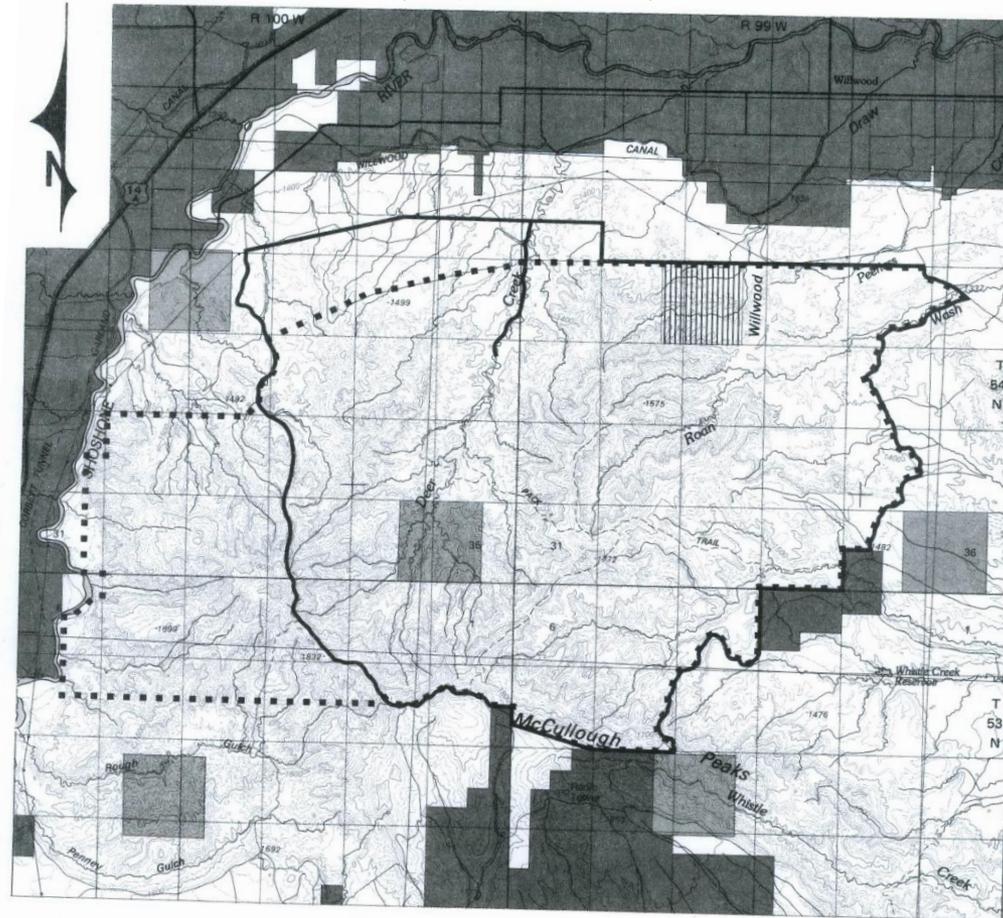


-  WSA Boundary
-  Public Land Administered by the BLM
-  Land Administered by the State of Wyoming
-  Private Land
-  Split-Estate Section



# Wilderness Review Process Wilderness Manageability Alternative

(29,590 acres)



-  WSA Boundary
-  Recommended for Wilderness Designation
-  Public Land Administered by the BLM
-  Land Administered by the State of Wyoming
-  Private Land
-  Split-Estate Section



# Wilderness Review Process REPORTING



- **Reporting**

- Wyoming Wilderness Study Report Statewide Overview 1991

- Recommended 8,020 acres designated as wilderness

Secretary of the Interior



President



Congress

- Wilderness designation **only by an act of Congress.**

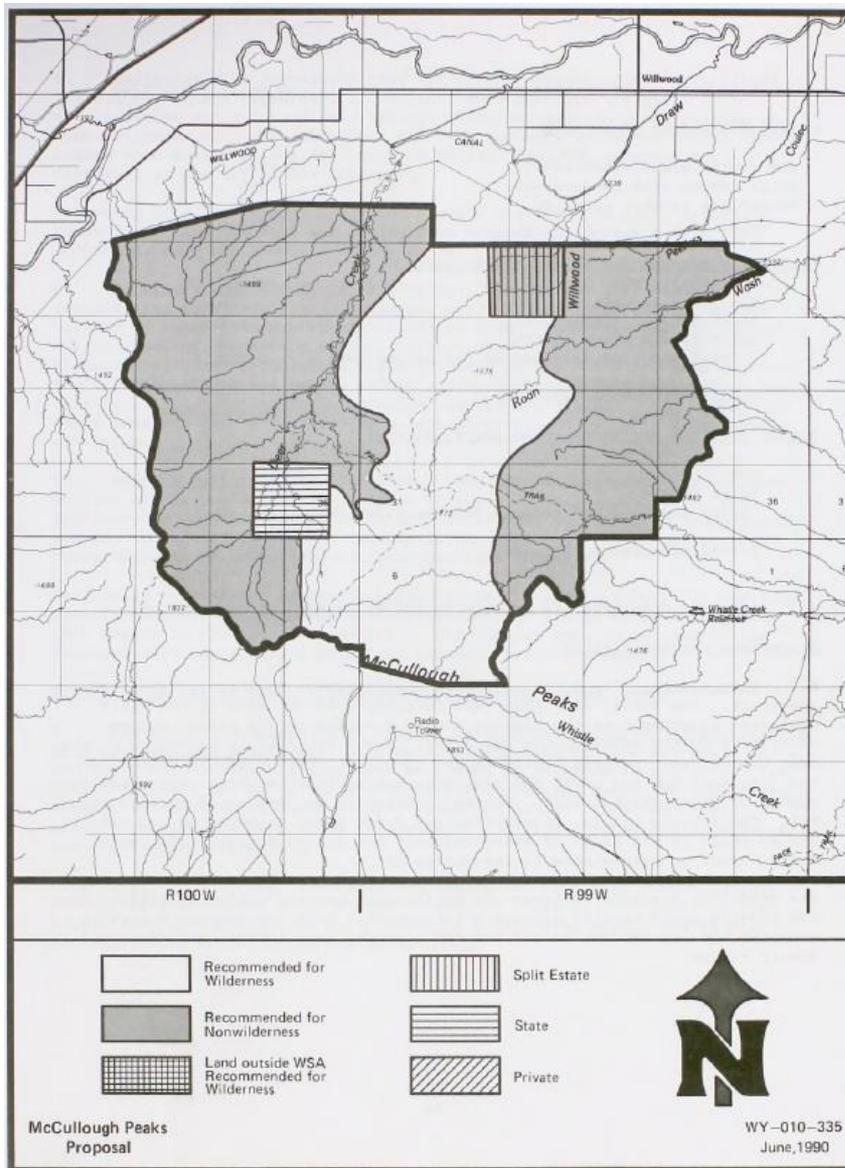
- Managed in accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964.



# Wilderness Review Process

## Wyoming Wilderness Study Report Statewide Overview 1991

### (8,020 acres)



# WSA Management

- **BLM Handbook H-8550 / Manual 6330**
  - **H-8550** – 1995 - Interim Management Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review
  - **M-6330** - 2012 - Management of Wilderness Study Areas – Replaced H-8550
  
- **Instruction Memorandum No. 2000-096**
  - Use of Visual Resource Management Class I Designation in Wilderness Study Areas



# WSA Management

- Cody Approved Resource Management Plan – 1990
  - The RMP refers to the Grass Creek/Cody Wilderness EIS for detailed descriptions.
- McCullough Peaks Travel Management Plan (TMP) - 2004
  - Designated roads within the general McCullough Peaks area, including the Wild Horse Herd Management area and the WSA.
  - The TMP did not designate roads within the WSA, but rather designated primitive routes that are open for motorized use.
- Bighorn Basin RMP Revision - 2015
  - Management actions tiered to BLM Manual 6330.



# WSA Management

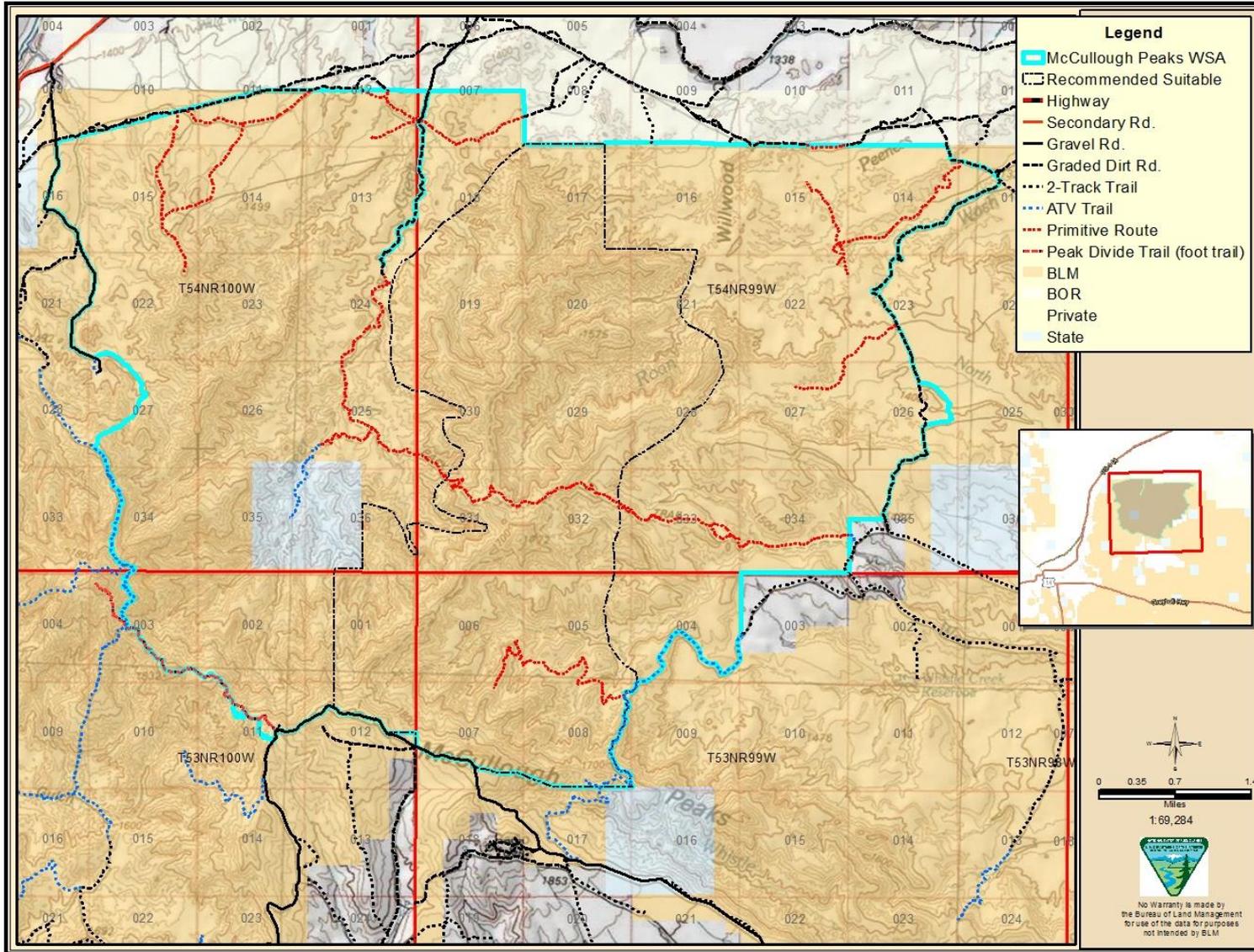
## (2015 Bighorn Basin RMP Revision)

<b>GOAL SD:6</b>	<b>Manage the McCullough Peaks WSA to maintain its suitability as wilderness.</b>
<b>Objective: SD:6.1</b>	<b>The McCullough Peaks WSA will maintain a high degree of naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude, outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.</b>
<b>7101 SD:6</b>	<b>Manage the McCullough Peaks WSA (24,531 acres and Map 3-31) under the guidance of BLM Manual 6330, Management of BLM Wilderness Study Areas (BLM 2012a), to maintain the non-impairment standard.</b>
<b>7102 SD:6</b>	<b>Manage the McCullough Peaks WSA as VRM Class I.</b>
<b>7103 SD:6</b>	<b>Manage the WSA as ROW avoidance area, as detailed in BLM Manual 6330, Management of Wilderness Study Area.</b>
<b>7104 SD:6</b>	<b>The WSA is closed to renewable energy development.</b>
<b>7105 SD:6</b>	<b>Manage all mineral activities in the WSA in accordance with BLM Manual 6330.</b>
<b>7106 SD:6</b>	<b>The WSA is closed to mineral and geothermal leasing.</b>
<b>7107 SD:6</b>	<b>The WSA is closed to mineral materials disposal.</b>
<b>7108 SD:6</b>	<b>If released by Congress from wilderness study, the WSA will no longer be subject to BLM Manual 6330 and will be managed under general BLM management authorities found in FLPMA (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) and associated regulations and policies, in accordance with the adjacent BLM-administered lands, consistent with other resource objectives.</b>
<b>7109 SD:6</b>	<b>Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails within the WSA, in accordance with the McCullough Peaks Travel Management Plan.</b>
<b>7110 SD:6</b>	<b>Acquire inholdings and/or lands or interest in lands within WSA boundaries in cooperation with willing landowners. Manage acquired inholdings to preserve their wilderness characteristics.</b>



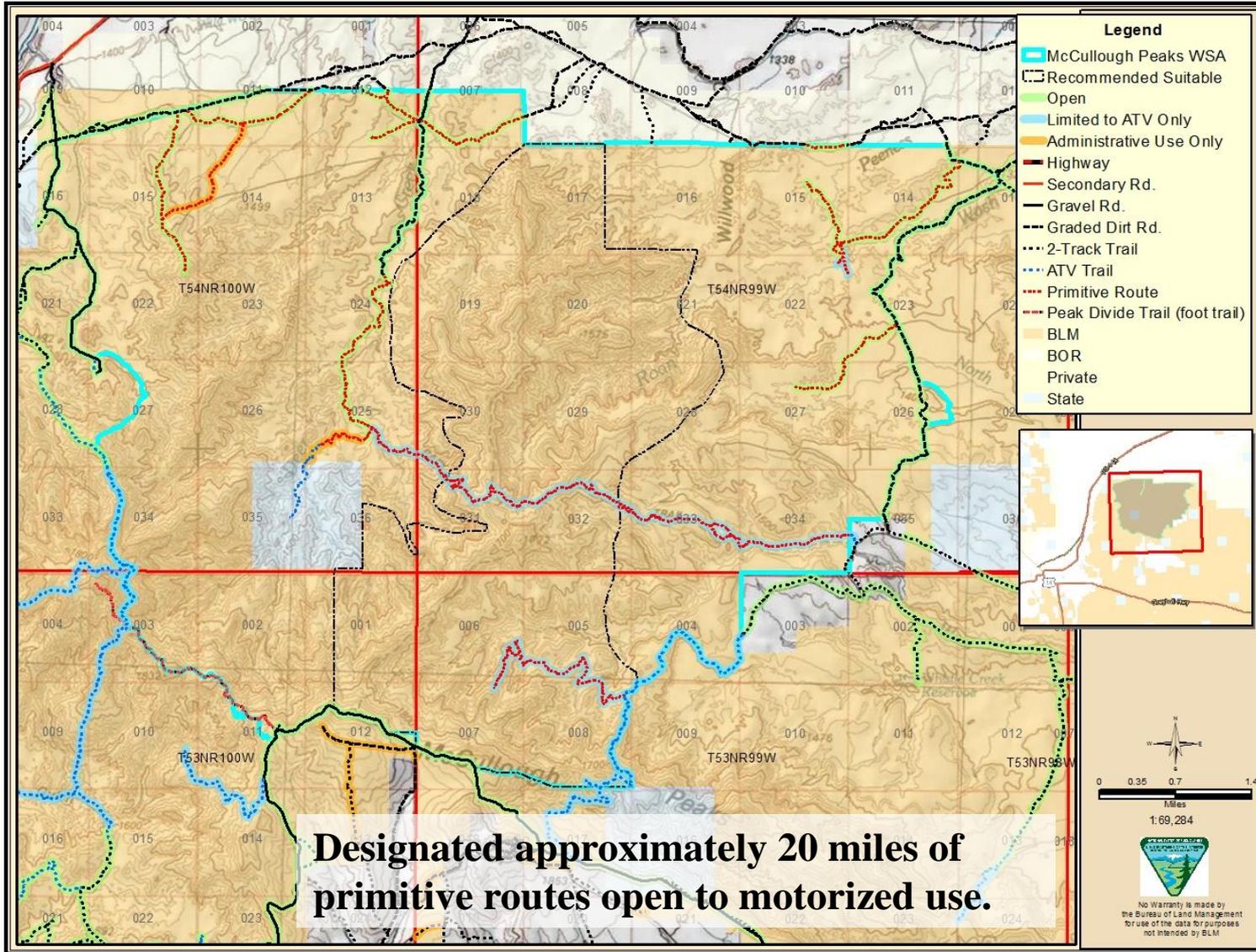
# WSA Uses

## ACCESS



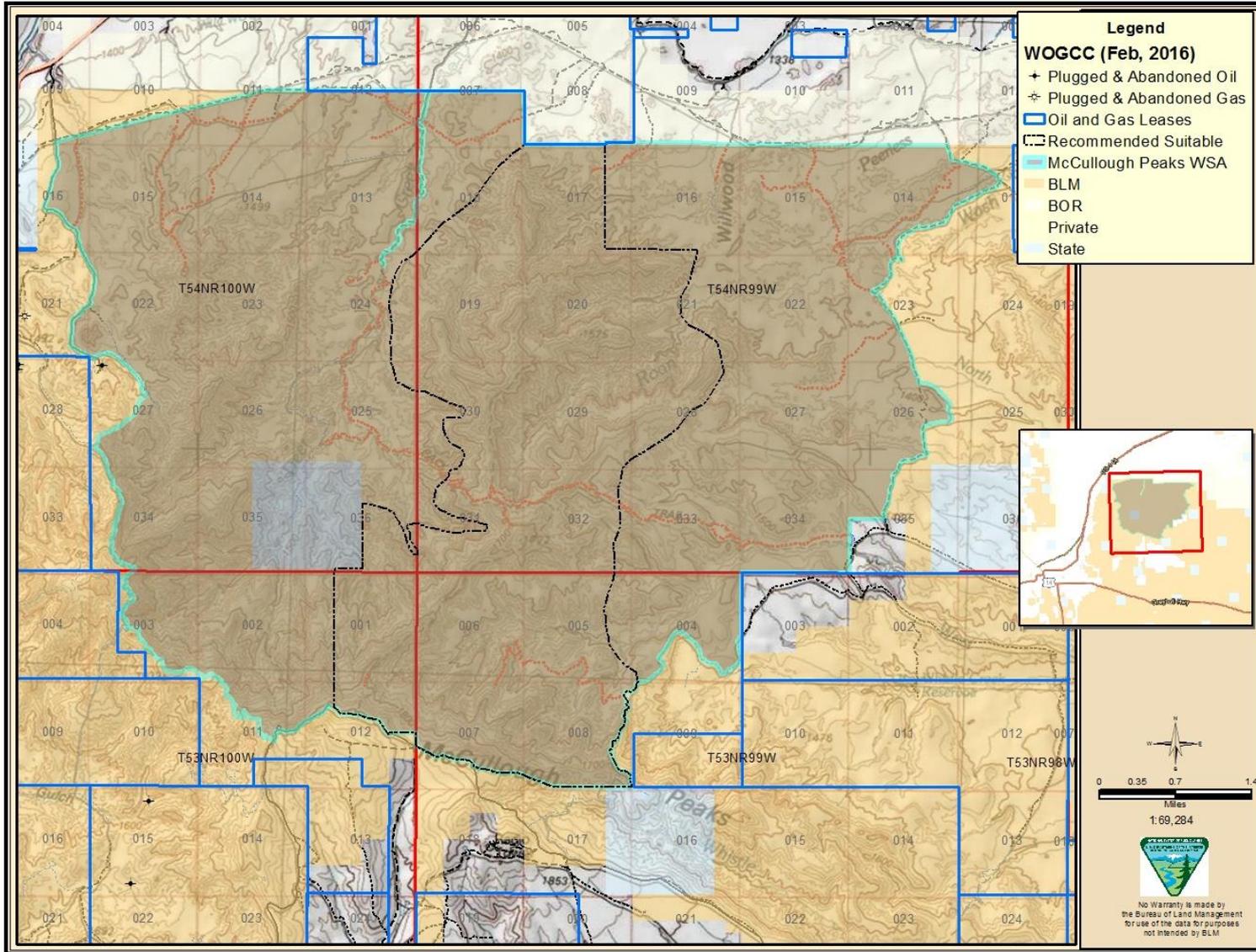
# WSA Uses

## Travel Management



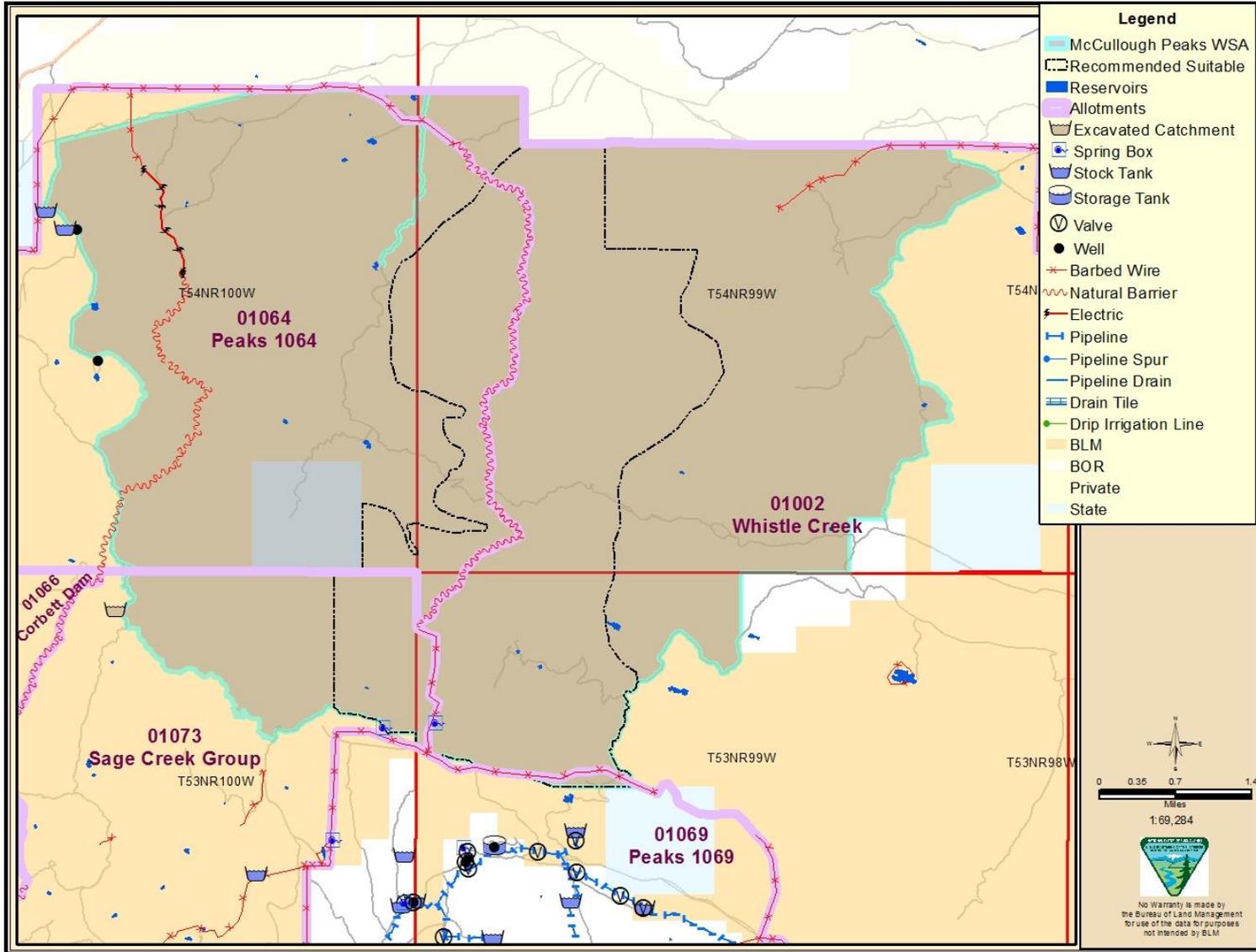
# WSA Uses

## Oil and Gas



# WSA Uses

## Range



# Management Comparison

## What would current management look like if designated or released?

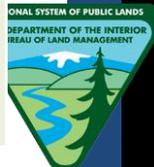
What would management look like if designated as a Wilderness?	What would management look like with no Wilderness designation?
<p>The McCullough Peaks would be managed in accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964</p>	<p>The area will be managed under general BLM management authorities and associated regulations and policies, in accordance with the adjacent BLM-administered lands, consistent with other resource objectives</p>
<p>No roads or motorized or mechanical transport will be allowed within the wilderness area</p> <p>If “recommended wilderness –Conflict Reduction Alternative II” was chosen, approximately 5.1 miles of primitive routes will be unavailable to motorized and mechanized travel</p> <p>If “ All Wilderness – Alternative III” was chosen, approximately 20 miles of primitive routes will be unavailable for motorized and mechanized travel</p>	<p>Designated roads will be available for motorized and mechanized use</p>



# Management Comparison

**What would current management look like if designated or released?**

What would management look like if designated as a Wilderness?	What would management look like with no Wilderness designation?
Allow for mineral data gathering	Allow for mineral data gathering
Ingress and egress for minerals or other valid existing rights	Ingress and egress for valid existing rights
Mineral lands will be withdrawn (subject to valid existing rights)	Closed to renewable energy development (can change management prescription with an RMP amendment)
Closed to mineral and geothermal leasing	Closed to mineral and geothermal leasing (can change management prescription with an RMP amendment)
Closed to mineral materials disposal	Closed to mineral materials disposal (can change management prescription with an RMP amendment)



# Management Comparison

What would current management look like if designated or released?

What would management look like if designated as a Wilderness?	What would management look like with no Wilderness designation?
Grazing will still occur (language from the Act, “the grazing of livestock, where established prior to the effective date of this Act, shall be permitted to continue subject to such reasonable regulations as are deemed necessary [by the administering agency]”)	Present grazing management practices would continue. Improvements and changes in use would be approved by usual range management procedures.
Authorized SRP use as long as it is consistent with Wilderness values	Continue to authorize SRPs with minimized emphasis of consistency of wilderness values
VRM Class I	VRM Class I (can change management prescription with an RMP amendment)

