

corral, and almost two dozen small spring developments. Another 4.5 miles of cherrystem roads and 3.5 miles of ways are scattered throughout the remainder of the unit as are another three dozen spring developments.

Although the area east of the main ridgeline is in the most natural condition, it is not without evidence of human imprint. There is a 3.8 mile cherrystem road in East Lee Canyon and ways lead up both Cain Spring and Coyote Canyons. There is a small cabin and the remains of an old mercury retort. Roughly two dozen small spring developments are found in the mountainous portion of the area.

B. Solitude: Opportunities for solitude vary considerably within the WSA. Although the size of the area is conducive to outstanding solitude opportunities, topographic and vegetative screening over much of the unit is poor. Only on the east side of the main ridgeline between the northern boundary, west of the Dixie Valley fault scarp and north of East Lee Canyon, does one find good to excellent natural screening and a number of spots in which a visitor can seclude himself from other recreationists. West of the main ridgeline, opportunities are fair to good due to the relatively rugged landscape, but vegetative screening is minimal south of East Lee Canyon and along the alluvial fan.

Since 1968, the Fallon Naval Air Station (NAS) has conducted air warfare training in the Military Operating Area and restricted airspace which blankets the entire Job Peak WSA. Aircraft often make low level flights up the canyons of the WSA, and this unit and the Stillwater Range WSA are subject to more low level tactical flights than the other WSAs in the District. The Navy is in the process of increasing air operations over the Job Peak WSA and, in addition, has proposed withdrawing 23, 320 acres in the southeast quarter of the WSA as part of its Master Land Withdrawal for this area. With an increase in air operations, impacts upon solitude in the WSA could be severe. While it is difficult to accurately estimate the actual impact of these operations, it must be assumed that given the frequency of operations currently being considered, solitude opportunities may be diminished even further and there could be an additional adverse impact to the overall wilderness quality of the WSA.

C. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: The primary points of interest to a visitor and best opportunities for hiking and camping are clustered in the northeast portion of the unit. Canyons in this area are scenic and sightseeing is good to excellent. A visitor would find it difficult to avoid the impacts of human activity should he stray from this area however. There is little in the remainder of the WSA that distinguishes it from numerous other Great Basin mountain ranges or which makes it particularly unique. Horseback riding is possible throughout much of the WSA, although the most scenic areas are generally inaccessible for this activity due to the rugged topography.

D. Special Features: The fault scarp on the east side of the WSA along the base of the mountains is a result of the 1954 earthquake. It is easily seen and in places the earth has been displaced six to seven feet. Remains of an old mercury retort about one-half mile west of the mouth of Coyote Canyon may be of interest to visitors to the area. Desert bighorn sheep, once native to the range but eliminated through poaching and diseases transmitted by domestic sheep which grazed the area until the 1940s, were successfully reintroduced into the WSA in 1981.

4. MANAGEABILITY

The western side of the WSA has seven cherrystem roads and five ways crossing the alluvial fan and providing access into the mountainous portion of the area. Alluvial fans of the WSA, particularly on the east side, are easily accessible to cross-country vehicle travel and it would be difficult to control such use in these areas. Two roads penetrate deeply into the southeast portion of the WSA.

No private inholdings exist in the study area. It is uncertain what the impacts upon manageability of the

area would be should Congress approve the withdrawal of 23,320 acres in the southeast quarter of the WSA by the Fallon Naval Air Station.

The northeastern mountainous part of the WSA could be effectively managed to preserve its wilderness character. The primary difficulty to management would involve on-the-ground location of a boundary between wilderness and nonwilderness lands.

5. ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCE VALUES

Approximately 95 percent of the WSA is considered to have moderate favorability for the occurrence of metallic minerals and believed to be one the best "...potential areas for future metallic mineral finds of all the WSAs studied in the Basin and Range province..." (GEM, 1983). Mineral exploration has occurred throughout the Stillwater Range since the mid-1800's. Exploration for geothermal resources within the WSA has been active in the past, and although the results have been disappointing the range front areas of the WSA have been rated as highly favorable for the occurrence of geothermal resources. The interior areas are rated as moderate. No strategic or critical minerals are known to occur within the WSA.

6. SUMMARY OF WSA-SPECIFIC PUBLIC COMMENTS

A total of 39 comments, which specifically mentioned the Job Peak WSA, were received on the draft EIS. Twenty-five commentors supported wilderness designation for all or part of the WSA. Fourteen commentors supported no wilderness for the WSA.

Those favoring wilderness commented on the area's steep box canyons, scenic quality, outstanding solitude and primitive recreation opportunities. Those opposing designation stated that the area is heavily roaded, has no solitude due to U.S. Navy air operations in the area and has high mineral potential. In addition, several commentors reiterated an opposition to wilderness in general.

The National Park Service, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Department of the Navy, the State of Nevada and the Churchill County Commissioners all commented on the draft EIS. The Park Service was concerned about preservation of cultural resources. The Department of the Navy felt that if the area was designated as wilderness, air warfare training activities could be constrained at some future date. The Governor of Nevada's consistency review supported the Proposed Action and concurred with the recommendation not to designate the Job Peak WSA as wilderness. Churchill County voiced a general opposition to any wilderness designations within the county and endorsed the Proposed Action, citing the high mineral potential of the area, lack of wilderness characteristics and impacts to solitude from low flying aircraft from NAS Fallon. The other agencies did not identify any specific jurisdictional conflicts with any of the alternatives.

Three comment letters were received on the final EIS. The EPA made a general statement that water and air quality would receive additional protection in those areas recommended for wilderness designation, however, EPA did not make any comment regarding those areas, including the Job Peak WSA, not recommended for wilderness. The Department of the Navy felt that certain terms in the document required clarification. Two individuals submitted a general protest letter which stated that the EIS violated NEPA and should be totally rewritten.