



**C. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:** The Rough Hills WSA, in spite of its small size, offers an outstanding array of quality primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities. These opportunities are discussed under Recommendation and Rationale.

Panoramic views from the WSA combine with the internal scenic qualities to enhance the recreational setting and provide opportunities for exceptional primitive and unconfined recreation.

**D. Special Features:** The Rough Hills WSA contains the head of the Bruneau River Canyon that becomes a wild and scenic river 20 miles downstream. While not a special feature, it is important to protect the river's headwaters.

#### **4. MANAGEABILITY**

The compact regular shape, lack of cherrystem roads, and lack of conflicting uses contribute to the long-term manageability of the WSA. The Rough Hills WSA is a block of public land with two private inholdings. The 160-acre parcel is considered undevelopable, while the 40-acre inholding could potentially be developed. Both parcels are used in conjunction with livestock operations; this use is anticipated to be long-term. Should a change in use occur and access to the 40-acre parcel be developed, the impacts would not affect wilderness values in the WSA as a whole.

#### **5. ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCE VALUES**

Although the WSA is close to three mining districts, there is no mining history other than the unrecorded production of two ounces of placer gold near the northeast corner. The WSA has low potential for metallic minerals, barite, energy resources, and sand and gravel.

As of January 1990, there were two post-FLPMA mining claims. A Plan of Operations under 43 CFR 3802 was filed, but has been inactive since 1992. Other than placer gold, no mineral deposits similar to those in nearby mining districts are known within the WSA. A depression-era placer deposit is limited to a perched gravel deposit of non-commercial value.

#### **6. SUMMARY OF WSA-SPECIFIC PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The BLM received 31 comments on the draft EIS; 16 mentioned wilderness. Eight of these comments were specific to the Rough Hills WSA. Seven supported a wilderness recommendation. One opposed wilderness designation.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Park Service, USGS, Fish and Wildlife Service, and EPA commented on the draft EIS, but had no specific comments on this WSA. The Governor of Nevada's consistency review concurred with BLM's recommendation, but expressed concerns about inholdings and mineral potential.

The BLM received one comment on the Elko Final Wilderness EIS; the EPA endorsed the BLM's wilderness recommendation.