

Keep The Idaho Selkirks Wild

In 1987, the Forest Service drew up a plan for a proposed wilderness area in the **Selkirk Mountains** of North Idaho. This plan maintained broad public support over the years. The **proposed Selkirk Wilderness** is home to rare mountain caribou, bears, wolverine, lynx and stunning back country trails.

The 1987 plan has become outdated and will soon be revised by the Forest Service. New preliminary boundaries are beginning to take shape, with some good changes and some bad changes.

The Good Changes

Long Canyon and **Parker Creek** are the last two drainages in the Selkirks without a single road. The virgin forests of these two watersheds have never been logged. Home to old growth forests, clean water and native trout, Long Canyon and Parker Creek are commonsense additions to the proposed Selkirk Wilderness.

The Bad Changes

In redrawing the proposed wilderness area boundaries, the Forest Service has preliminarily removed portions of the **Upper Pack River** drainage from the proposed Selkirk Wilderness, including popular hiking destinations like **Harrison Lake**, **Beehive Lakes**, **Chimney Rock** and **Fault Lake**.

Similarly, **West Fork Lake**, **Lionshead**, **Trout Lake**, **Pyramid Lake** and **Ball Lakes** in the northern part of the Selkirk Crest would also be removed from the proposed wilderness area boundaries.

Why Change The Boundaries?

Again, Long Canyon and Parker Creek are commonsense additions to the proposed Selkirk Wilderness because of the old growth forests, wildlife, clean water and spectacular back country trails found there.

Unfortunately, the areas that would be removed from the proposed wilderness area boundaries is in response to pressure from snowmobilers to open up high-elevation "play areas." With more than 400 miles of snowmobile trails and acres of other play areas already open to snowmobiles, this would deal an unfortunate blow to wildlife such as endangered mountain caribou and to the pristine back country areas of the Selkirk Mountains.

What You Can Do

Write a personalized letter or e-mail to the Forest Service, supporting the additions of Long Canyon and Parker Creek to the proposed Selkirk Wilderness. Also be sure to ask the agency to keep the Upper Pack River (places listed in bold under "The Bad Changes") within proposed wilderness. Comments may be mailed or e-mailed to the Forest Service at the address below no later than **April 5th**.

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