

IV. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Virtually an infinite number of alternatives exist that could be developed to deal with allocation of almost 3,000 individual roadless areas to either wilderness, to nonwilderness uses, or to further planning for all uses. Since it is not practical to develop each conceivable option, the task is one of reducing possibilities to a reasonable number for review. Alternatives developed through the RARE II evaluation process address a range of ways in which the inventoried roadless areas can contribute to both wilderness and nonwilderness needs of the Nation. Roadless areas and their inherent values were considered individually in each of the alternatives developed.

The 10 alternative approaches considered in the draft environmental statement include no action, all roadless areas proposed for wilderness, all allocated to nonwilderness, and 7 other options that range between the extreme choices. Options are built upon opportunity costs, a rating of wilderness attributes, and a series of criteria that reflect some components of a quality wilderness system. An additional option has been developed to reflect public response to the 10 alternative approaches displayed in the draft environmental statement. It is identified as the Proposed Action (PA) in the following list of alternatives. All are discussed in more detail, along with rationale used to develop them, on succeeding pages.

ALTERNATIVE A - No action is to be taken at the present time, decisions on roadless areas will continue to be made through the Forest Service land management planning process.

ALTERNATIVE B - All inventoried roadless areas are allocated to nonwilderness uses.

ALTERNATIVE C - Resource outputs are emphasized by allocating roadless areas with high resource values to nonwilderness uses, but consideration is also given to areas with particularly high wilderness attribute ratings.

ALTERNATIVE D - Wilderness attributes are emphasized by allocating roadless areas with high attribute ratings to wilderness, but consideration is also given to areas with high resource values.

ALTERNATIVE E - Low-level planning targets for characteristics of landform, ecosystem, wildlife, and accessibility representation are achieved.

ALTERNATIVE F - Moderate-level planning targets for the same characteristics as alternative E are achieved; further planning is proposed for additional areas with high wilderness attribute ratings.

ALTERNATIVE G - High-level planning targets of the same characteristics as alternative E and F are achieved.

ALTERNATIVE H - Appropriate roadless areas are allocated to either wilderness or to nonwilderness uses, reflecting the Regional Forester's perception of regional and/or local issues.

ALTERNATIVE I - Wilderness attributes are emphasized by allocating roadless areas with high attribute ratings to wilderness while giving secondary consideration to very high resource outputs.

ALTERNATIVE J - All inventoried roadless areas are allocated to wilderness.

PROPOSED ACTION (PA). Roadless areas are allocated to either wilderness, nonwilderness, or further planning reflecting public response on allocation of individual roadless areas, alternative approaches, and decision criteria and based on professional judgement of Department of Agriculture decisionmakers.

Rationale. Various alternative approaches for allocation of the RARE II roadless areas utilized a degree of latitude in selection of components for each. The Forest Service use rationale in generation of alternatives based on criteria that are responsive to various segments of the affected public. As such, they may appear to restrict the range of alternatives or otherwise bias them in favor of wilderness or nonwilderness allocations. But, as pointed out in the draft environmental statement, they by no means represent all options available. They do represent a range of possible approaches that were presented for public review and comment.

Rationale for development of alternatives A, B, and J needs no explanation. The "all" or "nothing" and "no action" alternatives are self explanatory, yet they serve a useful purpose as a reference point for comparison of all other alternatives. Results of all options will be discussed following explanation of the development of the remaining seven alternatives and proposed action.

ALTERNATIVE C is designed to maintain high resources output and allocates to non-wilderness use those roadless areas where present or potential resource output levels are high and not compatible with wilderness management. Outputs normally considered incompatible with wilderness management are timber, mineral and energy production, developed recreation use, motorized forms of recreation, and some types of range management activities. This alternative also gives consideration to areas highly rated for wilderness attributes. Inventoried roadless areas were considered for allocation to nonwilderness use if they met one or more of the following criteria:

1. Total potential timber yield for each roadless area exceeds 4 million board feet annually in Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 10 (western part of the country) or is more than 2 million board feet in the East (Regions 8 and 9).
2. Change in grazing capacity between potential nonwilderness use and wilderness management is greater than 300 animal unit months.
3. Change in total recreation visitor days is greater than 10,000 between nonwilderness use and wilderness management.
4. Producing mines or proven mineral reserves are located in the area.
5. There is high potential for critical minerals.

6. There is high potential for energy-related minerals such as oil, gas, geothermal, coal or uranium (use rating of very important or important as defined by the Department of Energy).

The Forest Service established these six criteria and their output levels to represent high commodity outputs. It is recognized that others may set outputs at different levels.

Before roadless areas are allocated to nonwilderness uses, they are evaluated further, using the composite wilderness attribute rating assigned each area. All roadless areas that have high resource values and a wilderness attribute rating within the top 10 percentile of the total areas in a Region are identified for further planning. The remaining high resource output areas are allocated to nonwilderness use. Roadless areas that do not have high resource values are proposed for wilderness. ALTERNATIVE C can therefore be seen as resource/commodity oriented, but areas that have high wilderness values are recognized.

ALTERNATIVE D is designed to add roadless areas with high attribute ratings to the National Wilderness Preservation System. This alternative also gives consideration to potential resource outputs of each area. Roadless areas that have a composite wilderness attribute rating in the top 40 percentile of all areas within a Region are considered for wilderness. Before any areas with a high composite rating are allocated to wilderness, they are evaluated for significant resource outputs. Those areas that have any of the following resource values are not allocated to wilderness but are placed in the further planning category.

1. Total potential timber yield for a roadless area in Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, or 10 (western Regions) exceeds 8 million board feet annually, or is greater than 4 million in the East (Regions 8 and 9).

2. Change in grazing capacity between potential nonwilderness use and wilderness management is greater than 750 animal unit months.

3. Change in total recreation visitor days is greater than 15,000 between potential nonwilderness use and wilderness management.

4. Producing mines are located in the area.

5. There is a high potential or proven reserves for energy-related minerals such as oil, gas, geothermal, coal, or uranium (defined as very important by the Department of Energy).

Again, commodity output levels established in the criteria represent the Forest Service perception of an appropriate resource value level.

Roadless areas that do not have high wilderness attribute ratings are allocated to nonwilderness uses. ALTERNATIVE D is oriented towards wilderness attributes but does reflect a concern for maintaining commodity production in roadless areas where resource values are high.

ALTERNATIVES E, F, and G are based on four characteristics: landform, ecosystem, presence of wilderness associated wildlife, and accessibility and distribution. It is important to note that these characteristics are applied to the total system

as opposed to individual units of a system. Each characteristic is described individually in terms of possible goals for providing levels of minimal representation in the NWPS and target assignments are made to meet the goal. The Forest Service established the goal in coordination with other Federal agencies responsible for wilderness management and in response to public preference for characteristics to be used when adding areas to the Wilderness System. Targets assigned to meet goals reflect only the Forest Service share of the goal.

Landform. A suggested goal for landform characteristics is to insure representation of the Nation's basic physiographic provinces (landform), as defined by E. H. Hammond (1), in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Two target levels to meet this goal are defined. Level I, the lower level, is designed to provide one representation of each of the 40 different landforms contained in the Nation. Areas should be large enough to be representative of the identified landform. Level II, the higher level, provides three representations of each of the 40 landforms, again with areas large enough to be representative of the landform. Areas identified provide for as much geographic distribution within the physiographic province as feasible.

Levels identified to meet goals are based upon the concept of providing a limited number of large areas that typify a broad landform characteristic rather than many smaller areas attempting to do the same. The very nature of physiography makes it difficult to portray a landform type without substantial acreage in the example. A few thousand acres seldom represent a mountain formation or even general physiographic character of less sloping landforms.

Ecosystem. A suggested goal established for the ecosystem characteristic is to insure that the Nation's basic natural ecosystems, as defined by a combination of Bailey's ecoregions and Kuchler's potential natural vegetation, are represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. It is essential to understand that the vegetative component of ecosystems identified through this process represents potential and may not identify existing vegetation.

Three levels are established to meet the goal of ecosystem representation. Level I, the lowest level, provides two distinct representatives of each of the Nation's 241 natural ecosystems. Level II, the middle level, provides from three to five, and Level III, the highest level, provides six.

Level I establishes two representations to insure that at least one example would remain if an existing area were to be declassified or if a catastrophe were to drastically alter the physical and/or biological composition of an area. Level III is set at six representations to provide more opportunity to enjoy and study ecosystems, obtain a better geographic distribution, and provide a better chance to portray each ecosystem in a variety of successional stages. Level II offers an alternative between Levels I and III. It is expressed as a range rather than an exact number to provide flexibility necessary to reflect feasibility, demand, and need to have more examples of fragile ecosystems to avoid concentrating public use.

Wildlife. A suggested goal for the third characteristic is to know certain wildlife species exist in wilderness and to provide reasonable opportunity to observe these

species that are often associated, in people's minds, with a wilderness-like environment. It is important to note that these species are not biologically dependent upon wilderness but are usually identified as being within this type of environment. Twenty-two of twenty-nine species identified are fairly widely distributed but there are a few, such as Dall sheep and grayling, whose occupied range is geographically restricted. The result is limited candidate areas and limited potential to provide opportunities for habitat representation over a wide geographic area. Reduced targets are established for these "restricted range" species in each of two levels set to meet the goal. Level I provides for presence of each of 22 widely distributed species in at least 25 units of the National Wilderness Preservation System with as wide a geographic distribution as possible. The 7 restricted range species are to be found in at least 10 units at this lower level. Level II, the higher level, provides for each of 22 widely distributed species in at least 50 units of the NWPS, again with as wide a geographic distribution as possible. Restricted range species are to be found in at least 20 units. Where an endangered species, such as the peregrine falcon, is very sensitive to human disturbance, it may be necessary to limit opportunities for observation. Level I was established at 25 to insure there would be enough opportunity available so that any one area would not become such a drawing card as to endanger the presence of wildlife, wilderness, or other resources. Level II was set at 50 to provide an alternative for expanded opportunities while still being feasible for most species.

Accessibility/Distribution. A suggested goal for the accessibility and distribution characteristic is to provide increased opportunity for a wilderness experience within a day's travel time of that portion of the Nation's population with the least current opportunity for wilderness enjoyment.

Calculation of opportunity is based on wilderness acreage available within 250 of each of the Nation's 3,141 counties, divided by the aggregate population of all counties within a 250 mile radius of the wilderness acreage. The development of this ratio recognizes the supply of wilderness acreage within a 250 mile radius of the county and also reflects relative potential population pressures on any existing or potential wilderness from all counties within 250 miles of the area. The 1,570 counties below the median of existing opportunity level were identified. These wilderness deficient counties were grouped into three near equal categories with A representing the lowest, B medium, and C highest current opportunity for access to wilderness areas. (A map showing distribution of counties within each category is found in appendix D of the draft environmental statement.)

Three levels are established to meet the goal. Level I, the lowest level, requires two additional areas within 250 miles of those counties placed in category A and one additional representation within 250 miles of the category B counties, or as near these targets as possible. Level II adds four additional representations within 250 miles of those counties in category A, three additions within 250 miles of category B counties, and two additional representations with 250 miles of those counties in category C, or as near these targets as possible. Level III requires six additional representations within 250 miles of those counties in category A, five for category B counties, and four for counties in category C, or as near these targets as possible.

These four characteristics and goals suggested for each describe one approach for enhancement of the National Wilderness Preservation System. It is recognized there may be other characteristics that could improve the quality of the System. These four have been used to describe Forest Service interpretation of what a diverse wilderness system should contain.

The task of meeting goals defined for each of four characteristics is more than a single agency obligation. The three Department of the Interior Agencies involved in wilderness administration -- National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Fish and Wildlife Service--have been consulted during identification of characteristics and number of targets currently achieved. Characteristics of the existing National Wilderness Preservation System, Administration endorsed proposals pending in Congress, and State wilderness areas in California and New York have been evaluated for their contribution to the goals. An examination of these factors plus coordination with other Agencies has permitted a determination of gaps that exist in attempting to achieve a system containing minimal representation of the four characteristics.

Gaps identified to be filled by National Forest and National Grassland roadless areas are assigned to various Forest Service Regions. Other gaps may have to be filled by other Federal or State Agencies. These targets identify a minimum number of roadless areas that, when totaled, attain the Forest Service fair share of the goal for each alternative. The targeted levels are combined to form ALTERNATIVE E, F, and G in the following manner:

<u>Characteristic</u>	<u>Alt. E</u>	<u>Alt. F</u>	<u>Alt. G</u>
Landform	Level I	Level I	Level II
Ecosystem	Level I	Level II	Level III
Wilderness-Associated Wildlife	Level I	Level I	Level II
Accessibility and Distribution	Level I	Level II	Level III

ALTERNATIVES E and G allocate virtually all roadless areas either to wilderness or to nonwilderness uses. ALTERNATIVE F, in addition to areas for wilderness and nonwilderness, allocates some to further planning. Areas not necessary to meet targets but with wilderness attribute ratings in the Region's top 30 percentile are allocated to further planning in ALTERNATIVE F to fill additional gaps that may be identified later. (Planning targets for each Region to build these three alternatives were displayed in tables of appendices A, B, and C, and the map in appendix D of the draft environmental statement.

It is important to point out that these alternatives are based only on four identified characteristics. There are others that could be used to establish criteria for a quality Wilderness System. Some gaps, in terms of landform and ecosystem, are not present on National Forests or National Grasslands and therefore cannot be assigned or met. Likewise, there are some counties in the Nation that do not have any existing or potential wilderness areas within 250 miles so accessibility and distribution goals cannot be met.

ALTERNATIVE H is designed to respond to regional and local needs. It allocates roadless areas either to wilderness, to nonwilderness uses, or to further planning, based on factors which include:

- Regional commodity and recreation tradeoffs
- Local social and economic effects
- Concerns of special interest groups
- Industry needs for natural resources
- State and local government positions
- Prospective resource management programs

These factors are the Forest Service's interpretation of specific issues involved. (They were discussed further in State or geographic area supplements to the draft environmental statement.)

ALTERNATIVE I is designed to add areas with the highest wilderness attribute ratings to the Wilderness System. This alternative gives secondary consideration to areas with very high resource outputs. Roadless areas with a composite wilderness attribute rating in the top 50 percentile of all areas within a Region are considered for allocation to wilderness. Areas are also evaluated for high resource output potential before they are allocated to wilderness. Roadless areas in the top 50 percentile of attribute ratings that have any one of the following resource values were not allocated to wilderness but will be identified for further planning considering all options. Areas remaining following this resource screening were recommended for wilderness.

1. Proven minerals.
2. Producing mines.
3. Proven energy-related mineral reserves such as oil, gas, geothermal, coal, or uranium.
4. Producing energy-related areas.
5. Potential timber yield in the top 5 percentile of roadless areas within the Region.
6. Potential grazing use in the top 5 percentile of animal unit months for the Region.

Roadless areas that do not have high wilderness attribute ratings as defined above are allocated to nonwilderness uses. Alternative I is oriented toward selecting those areas with high wilderness attribute ratings for wilderness but does reflect a concern for maintaining resource outputs in those areas where resource values are very high.

PROPOSED ACTION (PA) is built upon the analysis of public comment received on alternative approaches displayed in the draft environmental statement and site specific comment on individual roadless areas. Coupled with these factors are decision criteria

established in the previous section of this statement and professional judgment of Department of Agriculture people responsible for management of the National Forest System. Public response to the draft environmental statement alternative approaches is displayed in appendix U. Comment on the preferred allocation of specific roadless areas begins on page U-6. These appendices only summarize comment received during the RARE II process. The complete analysis and display tables may be reviewed in the Washington Office of the Forest Service or at its Regional and Forest Supervisor offices throughout the country.

Public response directed toward alternative approaches was placed in three major categories: (1) those that would allocate areas to wilderness, (2) those that would allocate areas to nonwilderness uses, and (3) those that were either non-directional or multi-directional in character. Approximately 35 reasons for support of approaches were identified as important in adding roadless areas to the National Wilderness Preservation System, almost 20 directed areas to nonwilderness and 14 were considered nondirectional.

The most heavily supported factors for adding areas to the NWPS, other than a desire for maximum or total wilderness, were a need to emphasize scenery, provide high quality areas, and maximize diversity of characteristics within the System. These sets of factors were determined to be best met by using alternative I.

The most often supported factors for allocating roadless areas to nonwilderness uses, again other than a desire for all nonwilderness, were a need to emphasize economics and jobs, timber values, accessibility, and commodity outputs. These sets of factors are best met using an approach that maintains resource outputs by allocating high commodity value areas to nonwilderness. The approach of alternative C best reflects these factors.

An analysis base was provided, using a combination of alternatives C and I as the starting point, for each Regional Forester to develop two analysis displays. The analysis base consisted of listings of roadless areas allocated to wilderness, to nonwilderness, and to further planning. It was provided to the Regions on October 27, 1978. The analysis base included in the wilderness category those areas proposed for wilderness in both Alternatives C and I. It included in the nonwilderness category those areas allocated to nonwilderness in both Alternatives C and I. All other areas were allocated to further planning. The analysis base was only the starting point to evaluate roadless areas and produce two analysis displays for each Forest Service Region.

The next step in development of the Proposed Action was to apply decision criteria specified in Section III of this statement to the analysis base at the Regional level. To insure that the degree of importance, as suggested by public response was reflected to each criterion, the criteria were applied to the analysis base in reverse order of their import. This allowed the more important criteria to modify the displays. The following steps reflect the sequential application to the analysis base. Those who wish to see the movement of roadless areas through this entire process may follow it step by step at appropriate Forest Service Regional Offices.

Step 1. The analysis base was modified to reflect strong site specific public response by allocating to wilderness, nonwilderness, or further planning those areas where 85 percent or more of the total signatures on site specific input favored one

classification or another. Then, the analysis base was modified to reflect moderate site specific public response by allocating to wilderness, nonwilderness, or further planning, those areas where 71 percent or more of the total signatures on site specific input favored one classification or another. Completion of this step resulted in two preliminary allocation lists reflecting two different levels of public response. Each was carried through the remaining steps independently to produce two analysis displays.

Step 2. The Regional Forester reviewed the preliminary allocations made in Step 1 and determined if he had compelling reasons to believe there were inappropriate allocations made in that they differed from his perception of public agreement. Local versus nonlocal response, personal versus form letter, and quantity of response for a specific area were evaluated. If he felt allocations varied significantly from public preference, he adjusted the list accordingly as long as each adjustment and the reason for making it was documented.

Step 3. Insured mid-level (II) target for the accessibility/distribution characteristic and low-level (I) targets for landform, ecosystem, and wilderness associated wildlife characteristics were met by allocation of roadless areas to wilderness. If all targets were not met, appropriate areas from the further planning, or if needed, the nonwilderness category were added to the wilderness category. Consideration was given to how well each area reflected the characteristic, public preference, social and economic implications, opportunity costs, wilderness attribute ratings, potential commodity outputs, and other important elements before the allocation was made.

Step 4. National Grassland roadless areas allocated to wilderness that were not the only area available to meet any characteristic target identified in Step 3 were reallocated to further planning unless previously evaluated through the land management planning process. If the planning process had been completed, areas were instead allocated to nonwilderness.

Step 5. Adjust Both lists were adjusted so areas in the further planning category with Wilderness Attribute Ratings in the top 30 percentile of areas according to the Region's WARS scores were moved to the wilderness category. Then, the lists were adjusted to move areas in the nonwilderness category in the top 5 percentile of areas according to the Region's WARS scores to the further planning category.

Step 6. This step insured adverse impacts of commodity losses were reduced and displacement of dependent communities avoided. The initial phase of this step was to move areas from the wilderness category, if they had proven, producing, or high potential hardrock mineral values, oil, gas, or other energy resources, to the further planning category. The basis for this determination was a rating of 81 to 99 for just one of the mineral values or energy resources, or 70 or higher in two or more except for bulk materials. (These ratings were discussed previously on page 22). Any area with a rating of 100, other than for low value bulk minerals, was placed in the nonwilderness category.

The second part of this step determined those areas in the further planning category that if allocated to wilderness would have a demonstrated, significant adverse impact on employment and community stability and moved them to the nonwilderness category. Any areas remaining in the wilderness category that would have a significant adverse impact on employment and community stability if allocated to wilderness were moved to the nonwilderness category. The precise definition of "significant" was left to the Regional Forester as it varied greatly in different parts of the country. Rationale for individual adjustments in this step were documented within Regions to explain why the impact was determined to be significant and how it was demonstrated.

Step 7. Allocation lists were reviewed at this step to insure the combination of both the wilderness and further planning categories would allow the Forest Service to meet its 1975 RPA mid-level program goal for wilderness in the year 2015. If it could not be reached, areas were moved from nonwilderness to further planning to avoid foreclosing the goal.

The second phase of this step was to review the lists to determine if the Regions could achieve the roadless areas share of the 1975 RPA timber, developed recreation, dispersed recreation, and grazing program goals. Goals assigned for the year 2015 were utilized with exception of the timber goal which used the 1985 programmed saw-timber harvest level. If goals could not be met with allocations, areas were be moved from wilderness to further planning to insure opportunity was not foreclosed.

Step 8. The two allocation lists were reviewed to determine if there were compelling reasons to move roadless areas from either the wilderness or nonwilderness category to further planning. Professional judgement was a primary criterion and included further analysis of industrial displacement or loss, substantial public disagreement, or other factors the public pointed out as being important in decisionmaking. Examples of such factors included consideration of the existing Wilderness System as it affects wilderness supply and demand in a particular state, development/opportunity (such as DORS), Congressionally designated wilderness study areas, consideration of areas adjacent to existing wildernesses, essential boundary adjustments, and potential for nonwilderness snow related recreation opportunities that are in limited supply in the state. The further planning category was likewise reviewed to determine if the same types of considerations should be used to move areas into either the wilderness or nonwilderness category. Adjustments made at this step were clearly identified with rationale and justification for making the adjustment fully documented.

Step 9. The two analysis displays were evaluated, with the ten alternative approaches displayed in the draft statement, against the decision criteria. If Regional evaluation revealed that either display did not better meet the decision criteria than the other alternative approaches, steps in this process were reviewed and repeated where necessary to insure displays were responsive. Documentation of the remedial action taken was a part of the process.

Step 10. The two analysis displays resulting from this process were forwarded to the Washington Office by each Region. At that time, the national issues criterion was applied to the aggregated displays. Criteria identified as national issues--housing starts, balances of trade, returns to the treasury, inflation, and national employment impacts --could not be disaggregated for use at the Regional level so had to be applied nationally.

Analysis displays became the basis for decisionmaking sessions involving Regional Foresters, Chief of the Forest Service and his Washington Office Staff, and Department of Agriculture representatives. This decisionmaking group evaluated both displays and considered local, regional, and national needs and interests to finish allocation of each roadless area to either wilderness, nonwilderness, or further planning. The result was selection of a proposed action that was carried through the remainder of the RARE II process. It was evaluated against other alternatives leading to selection of the proposed action displayed in Section VII of this final environmental statement.

The following portion of the environmental statement discusses allocation of the roadless areas in each alternative. (Allocation of individual roadless areas through implementation of alternatives A through J may be found in the twenty individual supplements to the draft environmental statement.) Allocation of each roadless area created by the proposed action is displayed in state appendices attached to this statement. The number of roadless areas allocated by the proposed action is different than those allocated by A through J because the inventory has been updated and revised subsequent to filing the draft environmental statement.

Alternative A. This alternative describes the no-action situation wherein no roadless areas are allocated either to wilderness or nonwilderness uses. However, the 34 roadless areas in the supplemental list are allocated to nonwilderness uses as decided in approved land management plans. Allocation of the remaining 2,652 areas will be decided as a part of the land management or project planning process. Development of these roadless areas, except as authorized by existing prior rights or law, may not take place until land management or project plans developed through the NEPA process are completed.

Alternative B. This alternative allocates all 2,686 roadless areas to nonwilderness use. Alternative B does not provide for any additions to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Alternative C. This alternative recommends 697 roadless areas consisting of 8,989,438 acres for wilderness. It allocates 1,833 roadless areas containing 42,116,816 acres to nonwilderness use and 156 areas with 10,982,323 acres to further planning.

Alternative D. This alternative recommends 587 areas containing 11,832,637 acres for wilderness. This alternative allocates 1,710 roadless areas with 26,913,847 acres to nonwilderness use. It also allocates 389 areas totaling 23,342,093 acres to further planning.

Alternative E. This alternative recommends 88 roadless areas containing 3,418,584 acres for wilderness. It allocates 2,597 roadless areas with 58,666,768 acres to nonwilderness use. One area containing 3,225 acres is allocated to further planning for all options.

Alternative F. This alternative recommends 183 roadless areas consisting of 5,328,609 acres for wilderness. Alternative F allocates 1,982 areas with 34,421,117 acres to nonwilderness uses and 521 areas that contain 22,338,851 acres are allocated to further planning for all uses.

Alternative G. This alternative recommends 337 areas containing 13,142,835 acres for wilderness. It also allocates 2,347 roadless areas of 48,936,157 acres to nonwilderness use. Alternative G allocates two areas with 9,585 acres to further planning.

Alternative H. In response to perceived local and regional issues, this alternative recommends 290 roadless areas containing 9,911,523 acres for wilderness. Alternative H allocates 2,285 areas of 45,165,598 acres to nonwilderness use and 138 areas containing 7,011,456 acres to further planning.

The total number of areas in this alternative has increased due to boundary adjustment and roadless area subdivision. This dividing of areas has been done to remove parts of areas to enhance wilderness quality, segregate controversial segments, or accommodate specific resource needs or programs.

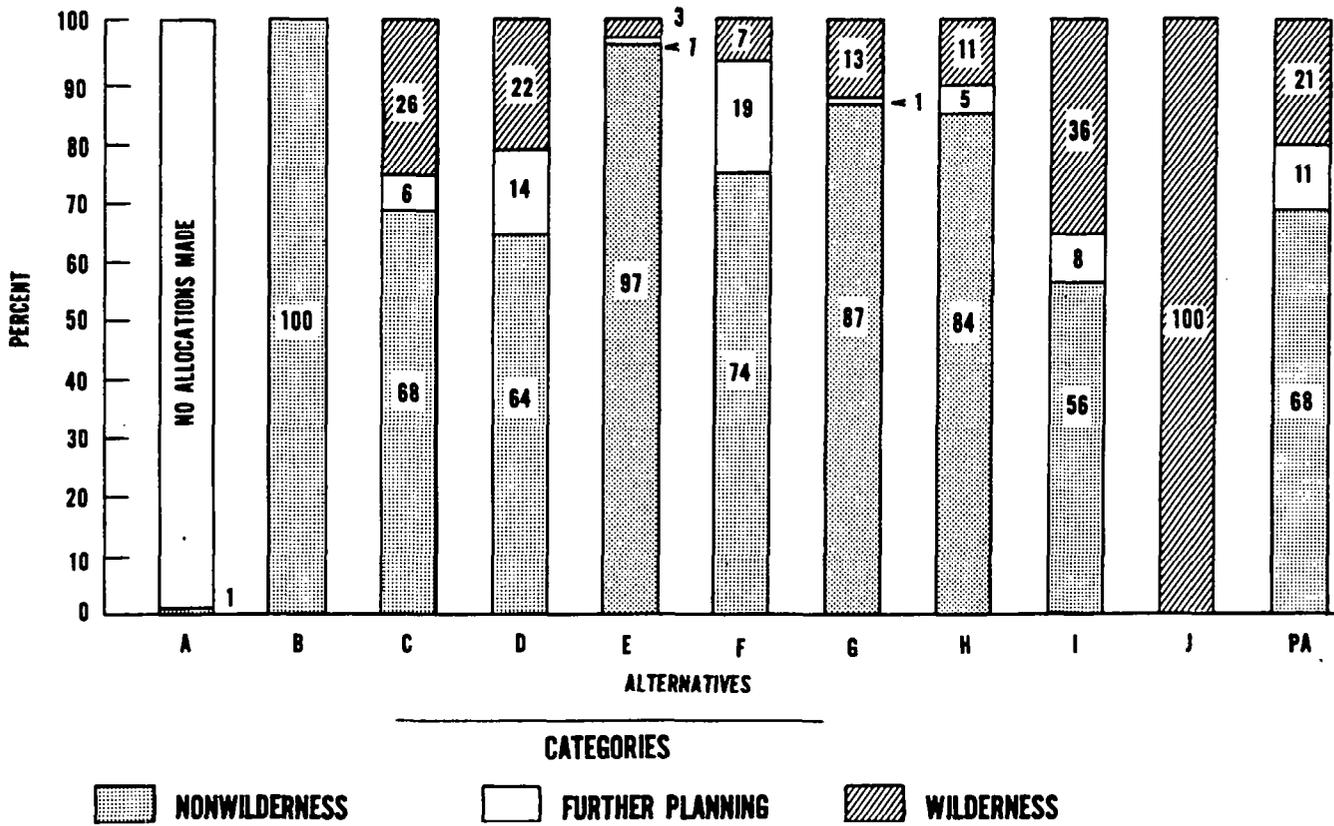
Alternative I. This alternative recommends 959 roadless areas containing 20,638,051 acres for wilderness. It allocates 1,501 areas of 22,706,851 acres to nonwilderness use. Alternative I allocates the remaining 226 areas containing 18,743,675 acres to further planning.

Alternative J. This alternative recommends all 2,686 roadless areas for wilderness. Alternative J does not provide for any of the areas to be made available for nonwilderness uses or for further planning.

Proposed Action (PA). The proposed action recommends 624 roadless areas containing 15,088,838 acres for wilderness. It allocates 1,981 roadless areas containing 36,151,558 acres to nonwilderness use and 314 areas with 10,796,508 acres to further planning. Again, the total number of roadless areas and acreage involved is different than the other alternatives due to inventory update and further subdivision or boundary adjustments for specific roadless areas.

Comparison of Alternatives. The following charts present a graphic comparison of roadless area allocations. The top chart displays number of areas allocated while the bottom chart shows allocation by acreage, both in percent of the total. Although Alternative A takes no action and treats roadless areas as if RARE II did not exist, it does show areas previously allocated to nonwilderness use through the land management planning process.

NUMBER OF RARE II AREAS IN EACH CATEGORY BY PERCENT



ACREAGE OF RARE II AREAS IN EACH CATEGORY BY PERCENT

