Spring Basin Wilderness Legislative Map

Example of wilderness boundary with legislative acquisition priorities

Some individual wilderness enabling statutes draw wilderness boundaries to include private lands on the edges of federal land areas. Congress does so intentionally to establish priorities for future acquisitions. In the Spring Basin Wilderness example below, negotiations with landowners occurred prior to passage of the enabling legislation, and so the map also indicates proposed lands outside of the wilderness boundary to be transferred from the federal government to the landowner in exchange with the private inholding within the designated wilderness boundary. Some enabling laws do not include these details, expecting that acquisitions will not be negotiated at a later date.

However these lands within the wilderness boundary are acquired, once acquired, they are managed as wilderness. Until these lands are acquired, the agency has no management authority over them; they remain private. The landowner can manage them as they choose, and the public is not entitled to enter the lands without landowner permission. Wilderness Connect displays the congressional boundary of each wilderness, but also depicts the presence of private lands so as not to create the impression the public may enter private lands within wilderness boundaries.

SPRING BASIN WILDERNESS WITH LAND EXCHANGE PROPOSALS

September 3, 2008
This map prepared at the request of Senator Ron Wyden

