

**PROPOSED
NATIONAL SYSTEM OF WILD RIVERS**

**CLEARWATER RIVER
IDAHO**

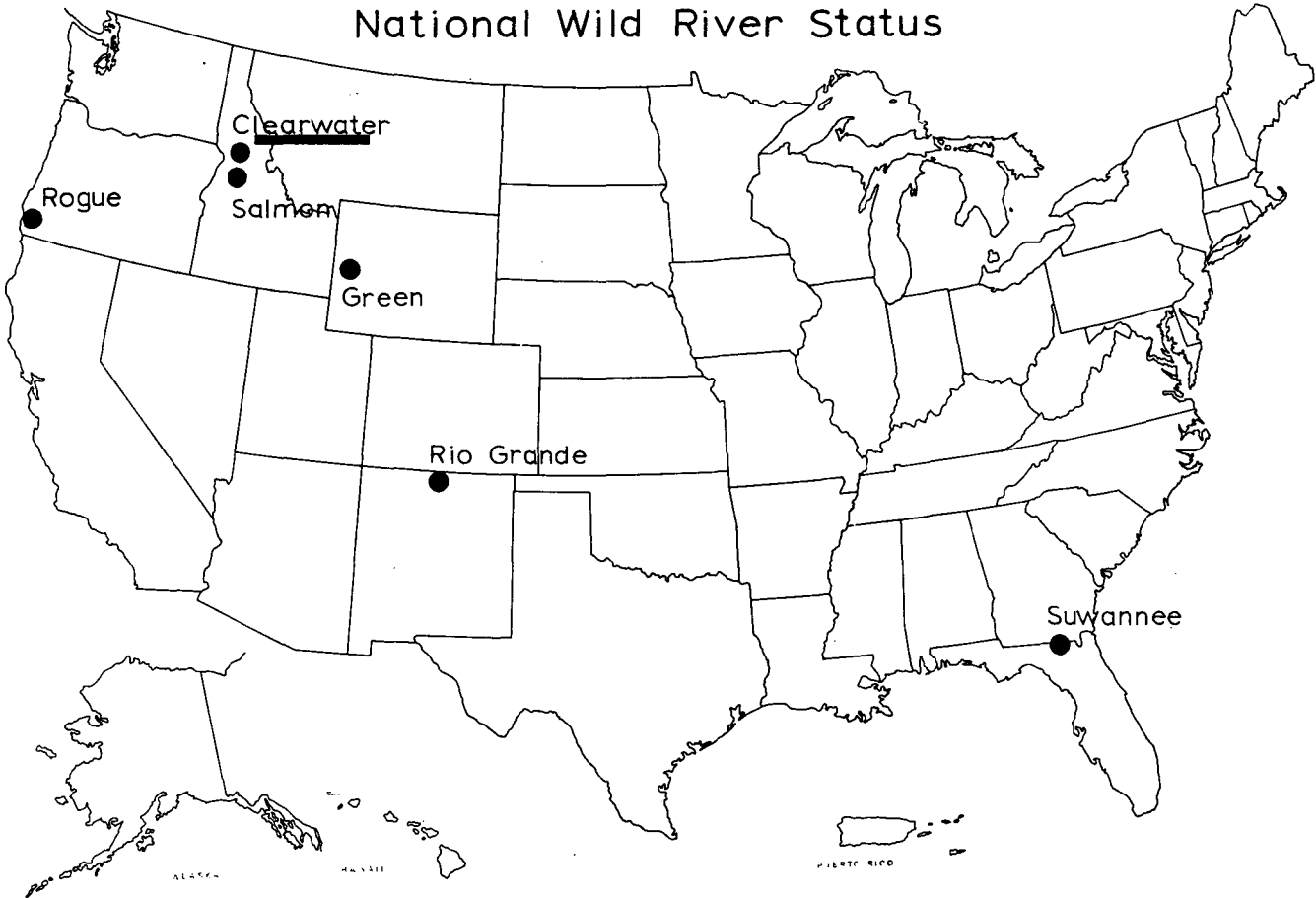
(Middle Fork, Lochsa, and Selway Tributaries)

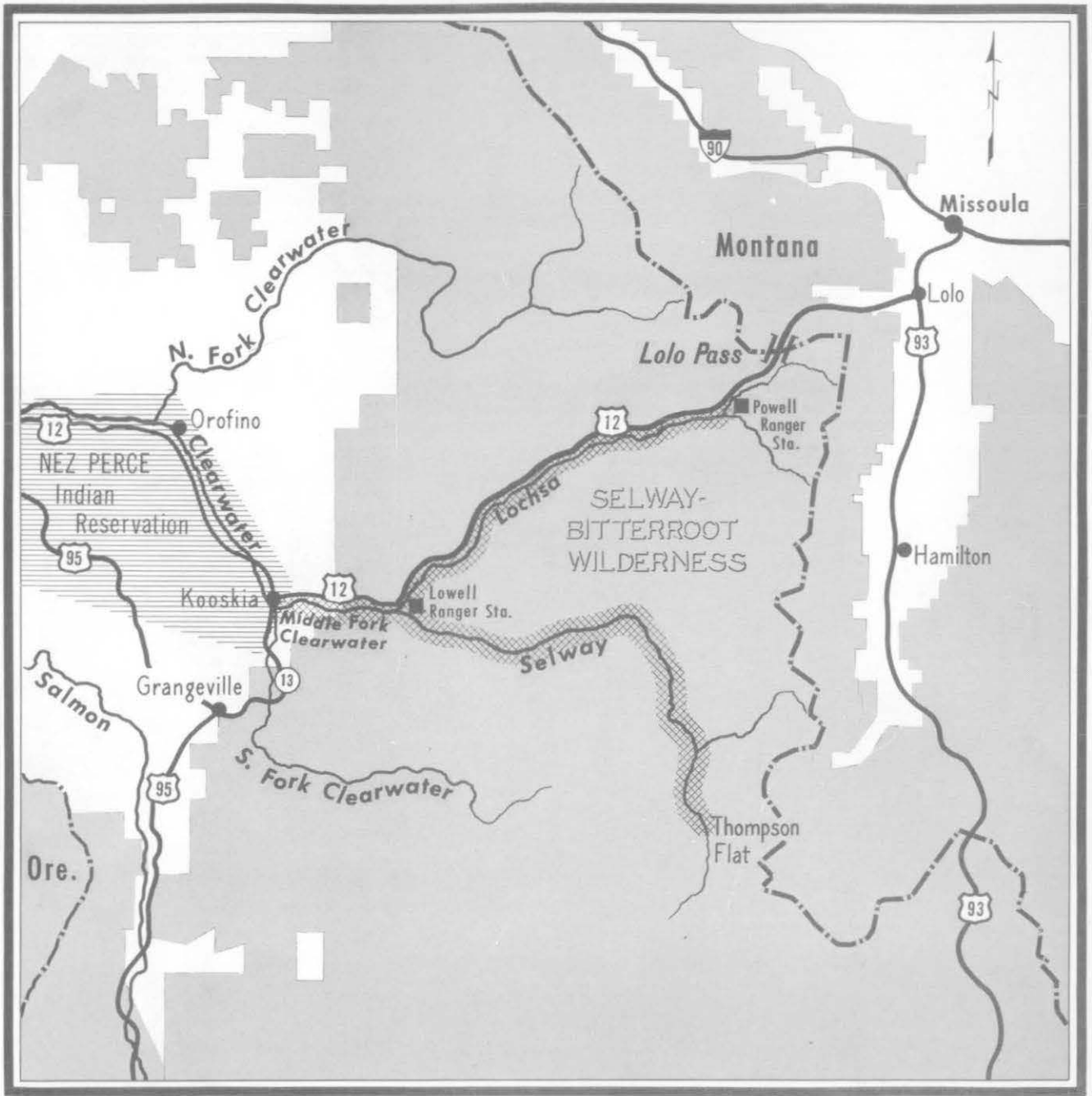
APRIL 1965

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Location of Six Rivers Proposed for Immediate National Wild River Status





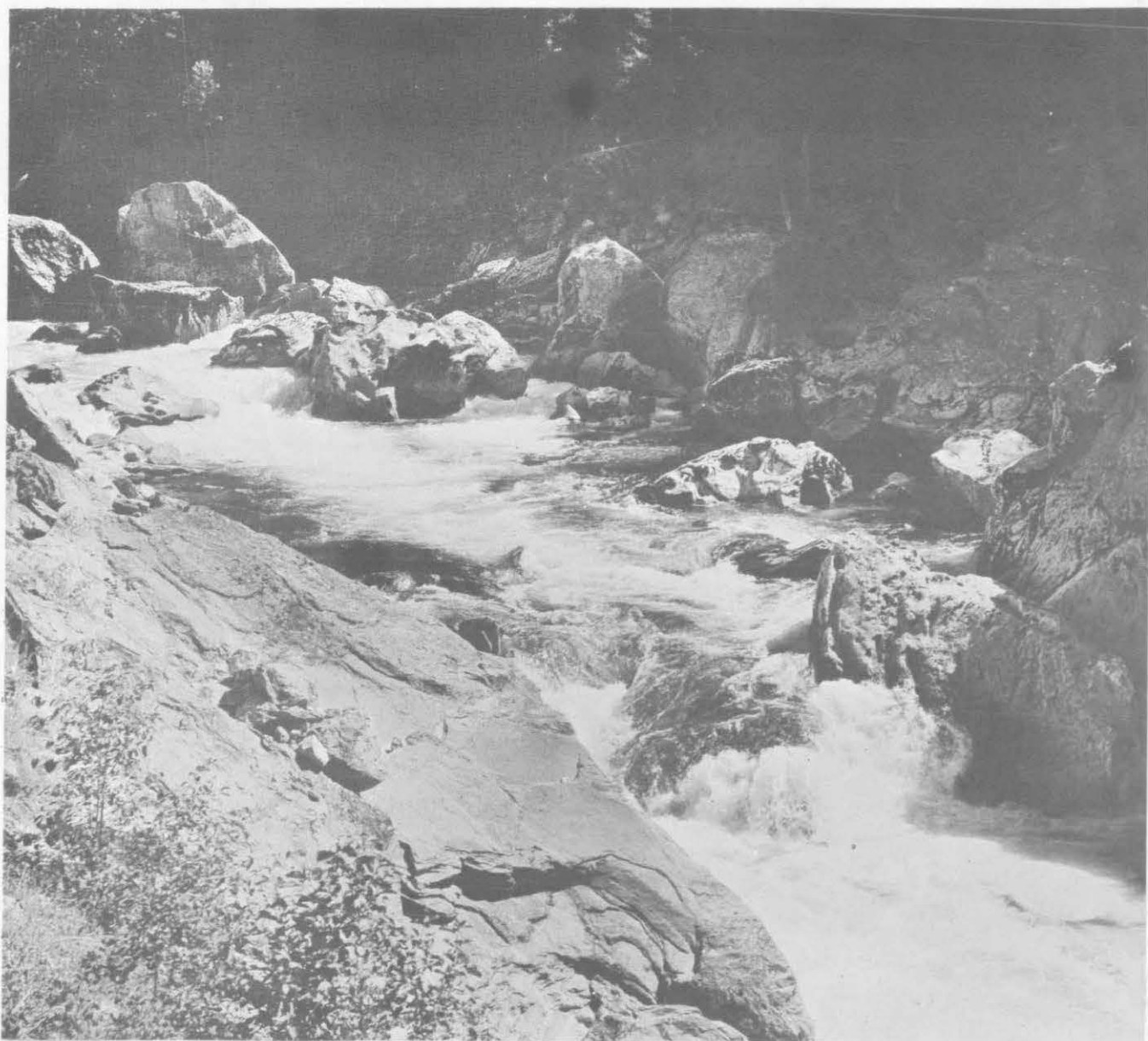
National Forests [Solid Grey Box]
Wild River Segment [Cross-hatched Box]

CLEARWATER RIVER IDAHO

(MIDDLE FORK and LOCHSA and SELWAY TRIBUTARIES)

CLEARWATER RIVER, IDAHO

The Clearwater is one of six rivers or segments of rivers that have been proposed by the Administration for National Wild River Status. This recommendation is based on high quality public outdoor recreation opportunities evaluated during the recent Wild Rivers Study, a joint effort of the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture.

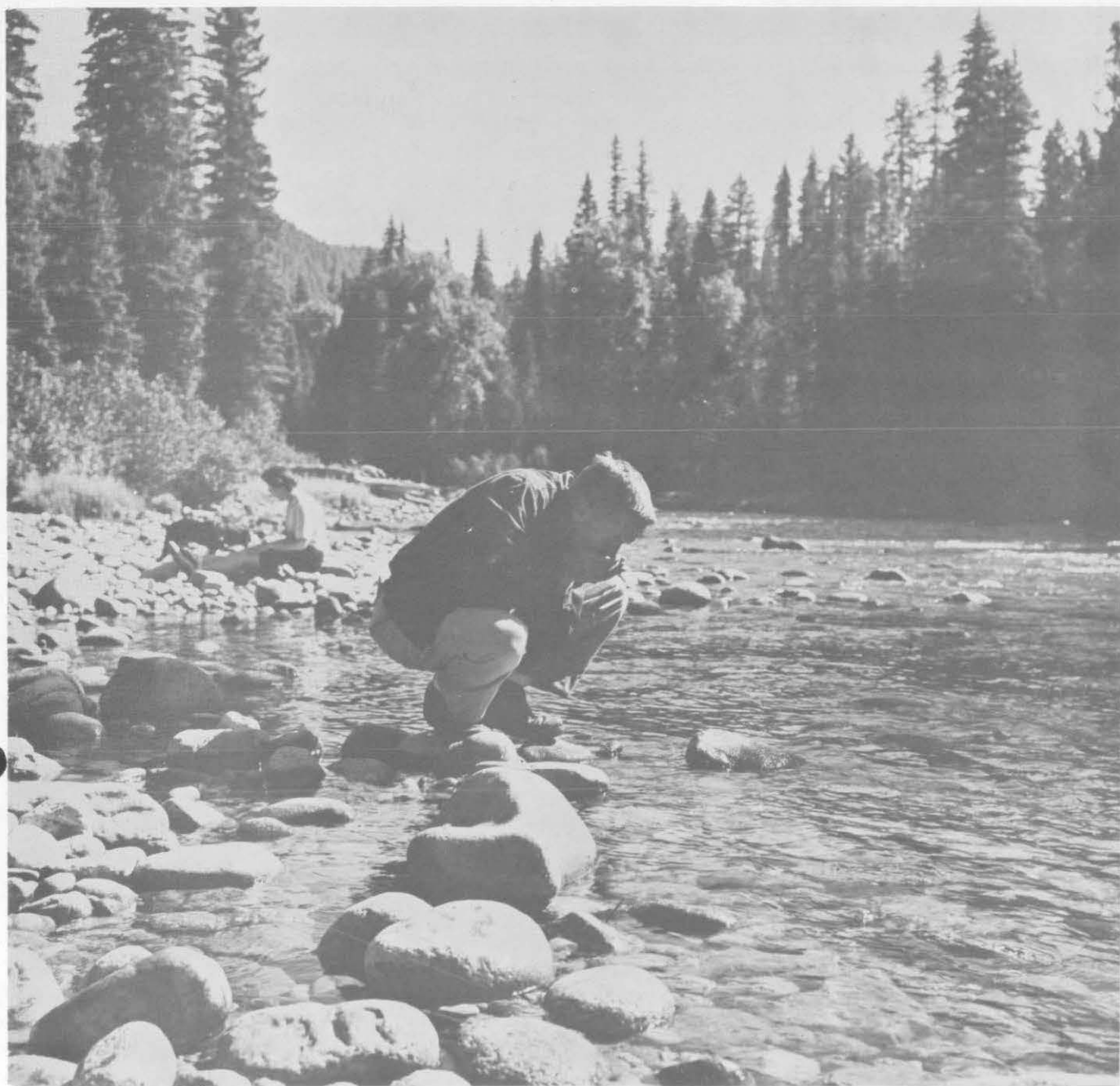


Proposal

Three segments of the Clearwater are proposed for wild river status: the Middle Fork from the town of Kooskia upstream 22 miles to the town of Lowell; the Lochsa River from its junction with the Selway at Lowell upstream 69 miles to the Powell Ranger Station; and the Selway River from Lowell upstream 90 miles to Thompson Flat.

In accordance with the provisions of the Wild Rivers Bill:

1. Wild river purposes would require public control of only a narrow strip of land on each side of the river.
2. Lands would be acquired in fee only where the acquisition of scenic easements or other interest in land would not provide adequately for wild river needs.
3. Regular commercial uses of the river area, such as timber harvesting, livestock grazing, and mineral activity, could be continued where harmonious with the wild river purposes.
4. The State would continue to have jurisdiction over fish and wildlife.
5. No change would be made in State water law.
6. Administration of the proposed area would be the responsibility of the Secretary of Agriculture.
7. No dams could be built without the approval of the Congress.
8. The Land and Water Conservation Fund would be the principal source of funds for acquiring lands or interests in lands for wild river purposes.



Description

The Clearwater River in north-central Idaho flows through the major drainage area lying north of the Salmon and south of the Coeur D'Alene River Systems. The Middle Fork is one of its three principal forks. All of these rise on the rugged west slopes of the Bitterroot Mountains. The proposed wild river area is entirely within Idaho County.

Each of the three segments proposed for wild river status ~~are~~ fast flowing, with alternating stretches of riffles and pools. Most sections can be traveled by canoe or rubber boat.

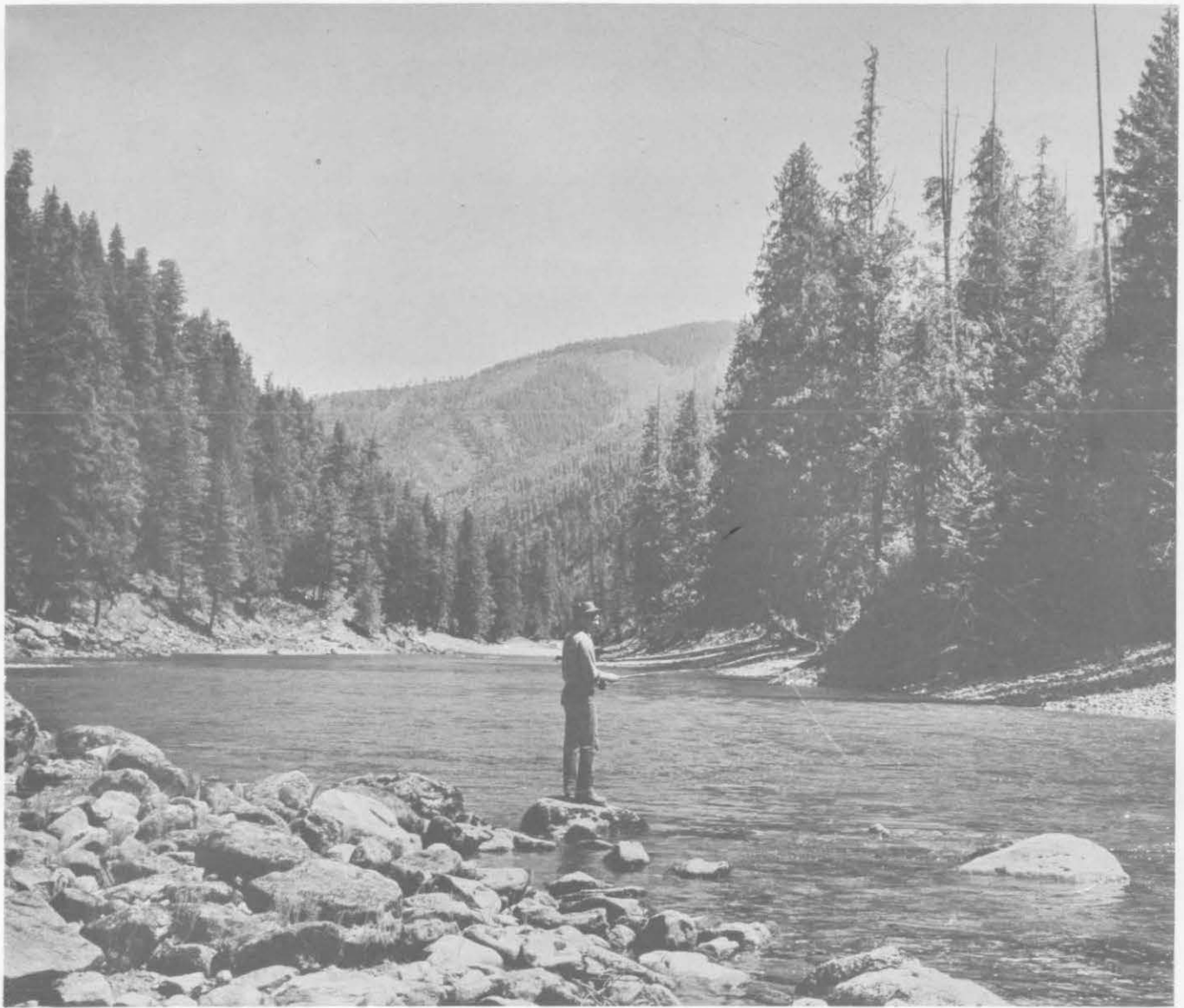
The river's stable flow derives from mountain snowpacks. Its canyons are steep-walled, with numerous cliffs and rock outcrops. Except for small isolated benches above the high water line, the river beds normally occupy the entire canyon bottoms.



The proposed wild river area is located entirely within the exterior boundaries of the picturesque Clearwater, Bitterroot and Nezperce National Forests, except for the lands bordering 13 miles of the Middle Fork upstream from Kooskia.



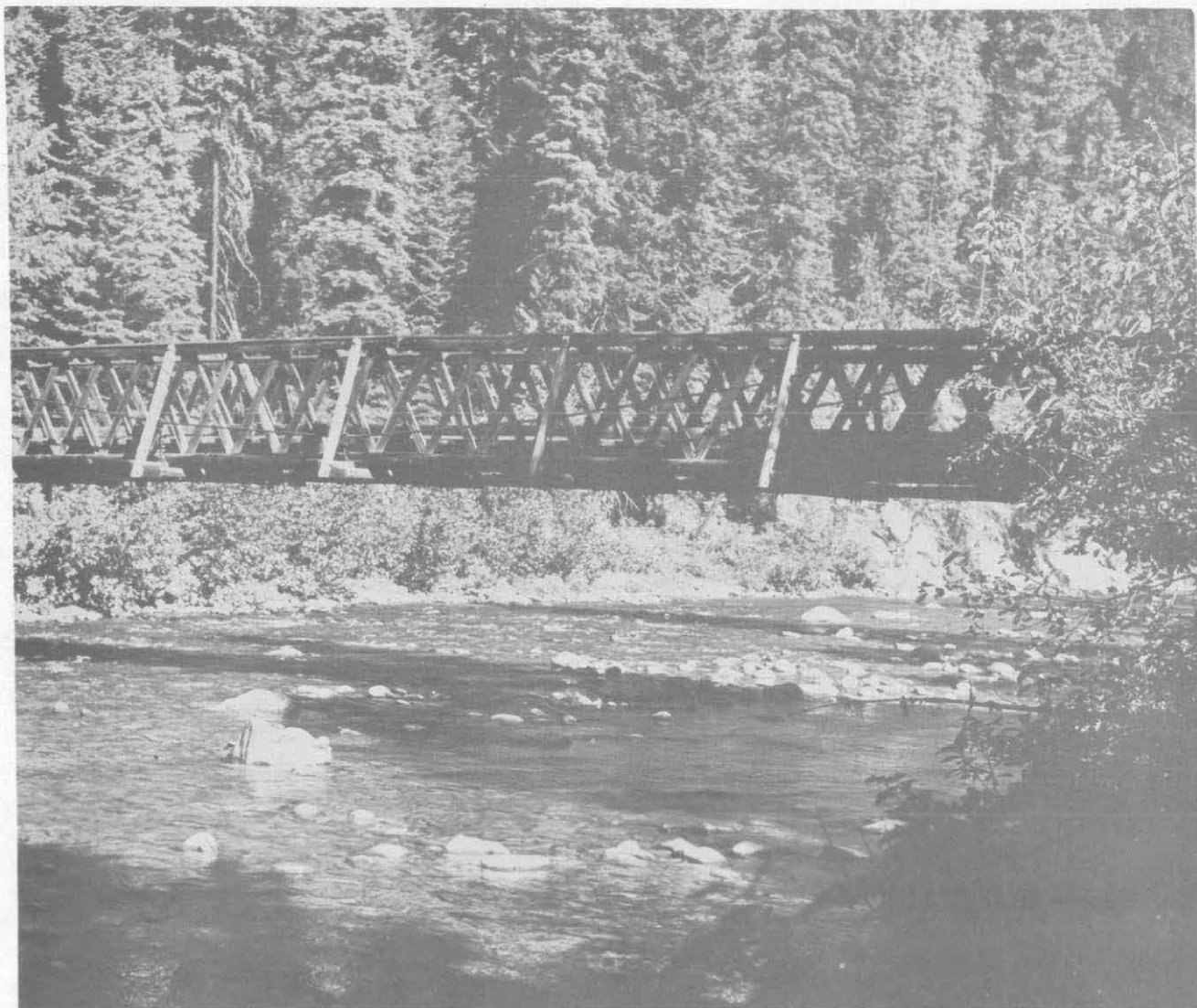
Within the general area, forestry, manufacturing, agriculture, and mining are the major industries. Recreation, both state-wide and locally is of increasing importance.



The varied recreational attractions in the general area include hunting, fishing, camping, picnicking, hiking, horseback riding, wilderness travel, boating, and general sight-seeing. Hunting opportunities are outstanding, particularly for elk. Steelhead and resident trout occur in abundance. Chinook salmon have been reintroduced and are expected to provide additional sport fishing. Among the many excellent scenic attractions within the area is Selway Falls, a place of rare beauty.

Historically the area has an important association with the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The expedition camped near Powell Ranger Station enroute to the Pacific. The main part of the Lewis and Clark trail parallels the Lochsa River. This trail was also a main Indian travel route before the advent of the white settlers.





There are no existing impoundments or other water resource developments in the proposed area. One large dam, Penny Cliffs, has been proposed on the Middle Fork about 1.5 miles upstream from Kooskia. This dam would result in a reservoir that would inundate all of the Middle Fork above the dam, as well as some 20 miles of the Lochsa and 27 miles of the Selway, including Selway Falls.