



distances, and less than outstanding attractiveness discourage this use. Small populations and low wildlife diversity provide limited hunting and wildlife observation opportunities. Horseback riding opportunities are fair to good, but less outstanding because of limited water, short riding distances, and less than outstanding scenery.

**D. Special Features:** The WSA does not contain any special features.

#### **4. MANAGEABILITY**

The WSA could be managed as wilderness, but it would be hard to protect the area's resources. There are no private inholdings or valid rights. The Red Spring development and access road could cause site-specific management concerns, but would not preclude spring maintenance. The extreme pressure from nonconforming woodcutting would make long-term management extremely difficult. The effort necessary to effectively contain this pressure would require extensive fencing, signing, vehicle barriers, and constant patrols and could impair the wilderness values. Wood harvesting has been a long-term historical use. Access to the area is good and cross-country vehicle travel within the WSA is easy.

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

The WSA has high oil and gas potential. This potential is based on favorable oil maturation levels, excellent source rocks, nearby oil production and shows, and a favorable structural setting. The entire WSA would be leased, if available for leasing, because of past leasing, nearby seismic exploration, and industry interest.

Much of the WSA has moderate potential for precious metals, barium, and uranium. The WSA has low to no potential for other locatable minerals. As of April 1990, there were no mining claims in the WSA.

The WSA is unfavorable for geothermal resources. All leasable minerals, except oil and gas, are unlikely to occur.

#### **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 Red Spring WSA. Five supported the BLM's no wilderness proposal. Three preferred wilderness designation for the entire WSA.

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 the BLM's recommendation.

The BLM received one comment on the Elko Final Wilderness EIS; the EPA addressed wilderness recommendations for other WSAs.