

The Secretary noted that the old Fort Peck Game Range was established by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1936. Since that time it has been under the joint administration of the Department's Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Land Management. The new Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Range embraces the same lands formerly designated the Fort Peck Game Range.

Secretary Udall pointed out that the interesting river "breaks" along the upper reaches of the Missouri River have long been significant for their wildlife. The "breaks" are of glacial origin formed when the waters of a receding ice cap cut across the alluvial soils laid down by ancient seas. These ancient formations are rich in fossil material ranging from mollusks and other marine animals to great sea and land reptiles.

The area once abounded in buffalo, elk, mountain sheep, deer, and other big game but under the pressures of over-hunting and the vagaries of nature big game had largely died out in the area by the time the game range was established in 1936.

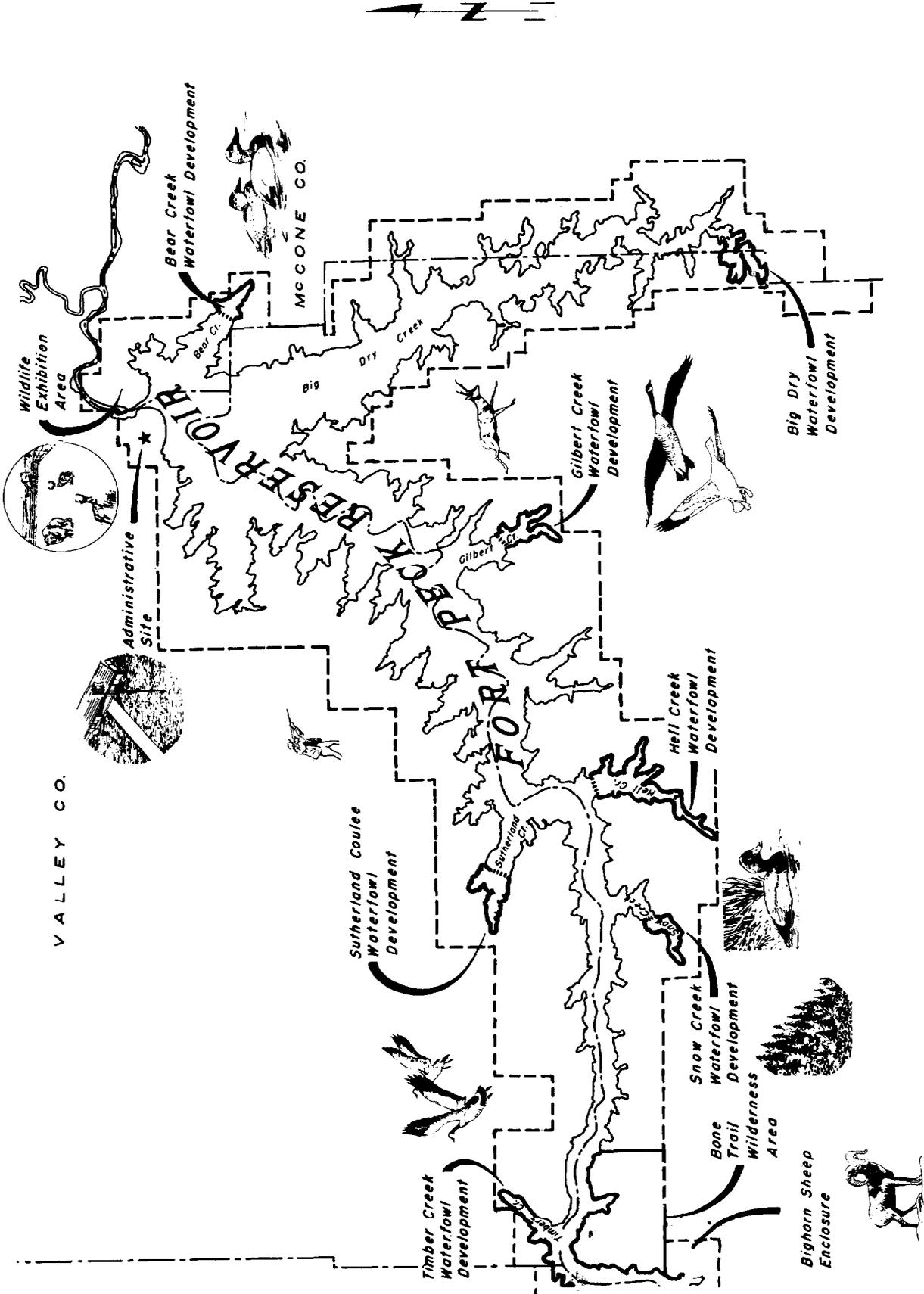
Today there is a growing population of mule deer and white tail deer, elk, and a small group of Rocky Mountain big horn sheep appears to be making a comeback in fenced pastures.

Parts of the area are also important for the grazing of domestic livestock, the Secretary said, and such use of the lands will continue to the extent it is feasible in the future under terms of the Taylor Grazing Act.

Illustrations of the proposed development of the east and west sections of the Range are attached.

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EAST SECTION
CHARLES M. RUSSELL
NATIONAL WILDLIFE RANGE



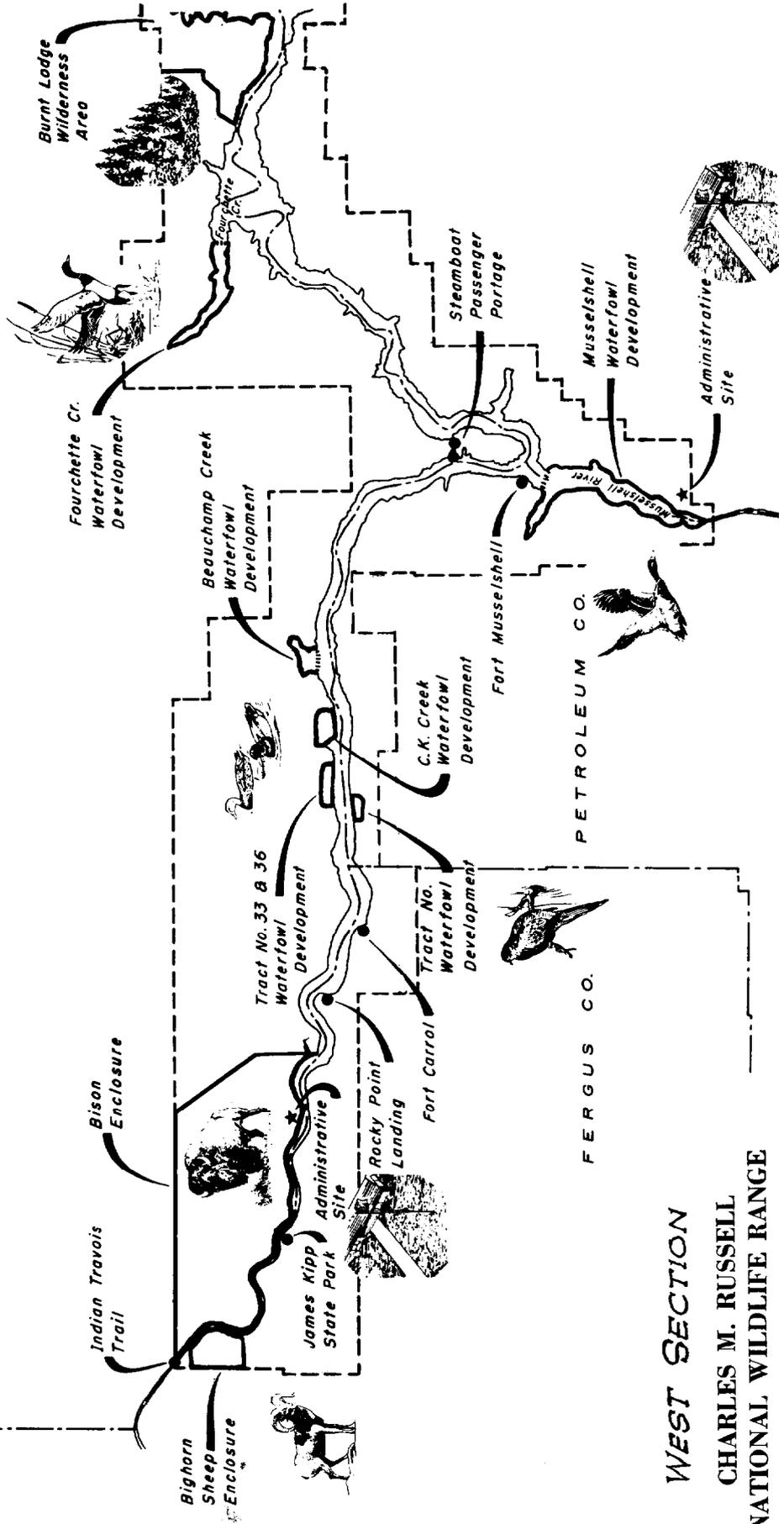
GARFIELD CO.



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WEST SECTION
CHARLES M. RUSSELL
NATIONAL WILDLIFE RANGE