

CLEARWATER NATIONAL FOREST

Inventoried Roadless Area Recommendations

A summary of Clearwater National Forest Inventoried Roadless Areas and Recommendations of the Boards of County Commissioners



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CLEARWATER NATIONAL FOREST

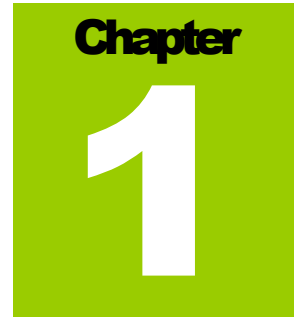
Inventoried Roadless Area County Recommendations

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Purpose of this Report

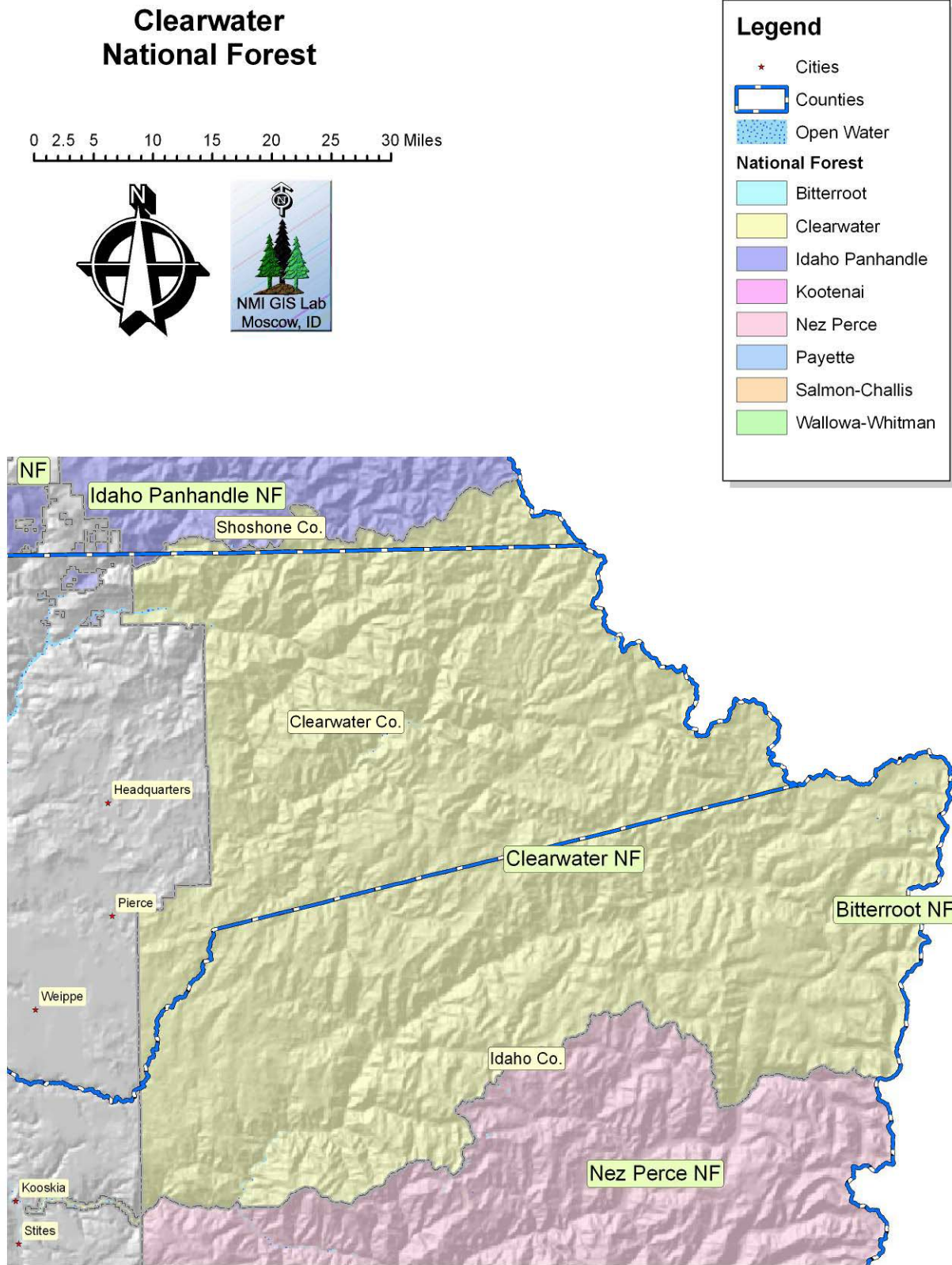
Inventoried Roadless Areas in the Clearwater National Forest are summarized in this chapter including specific information by IRA, maps of each IRA and additional information needed to allow the reader to understand the IRA recommendations made by North Idaho County Commissioners in Chapter 2.

Clearwater National Forest Overview

The Clearwater National Forest contains all or part of fourteen different IRA's in Idaho. The table below lists each of the IRA's and their associated county (or counties). The IRA's in the Clearwater National Forest represent portions of three counties (Idaho, Clearwater, and Shoshone). The majority of these IRA's are contained exclusively within the Clearwater National Forest boundary; though the Rackliff-Gedney, Mallard-Larkins, and Meadow Creek-Upper North Fork roadless areas span across National Forest boundaries.

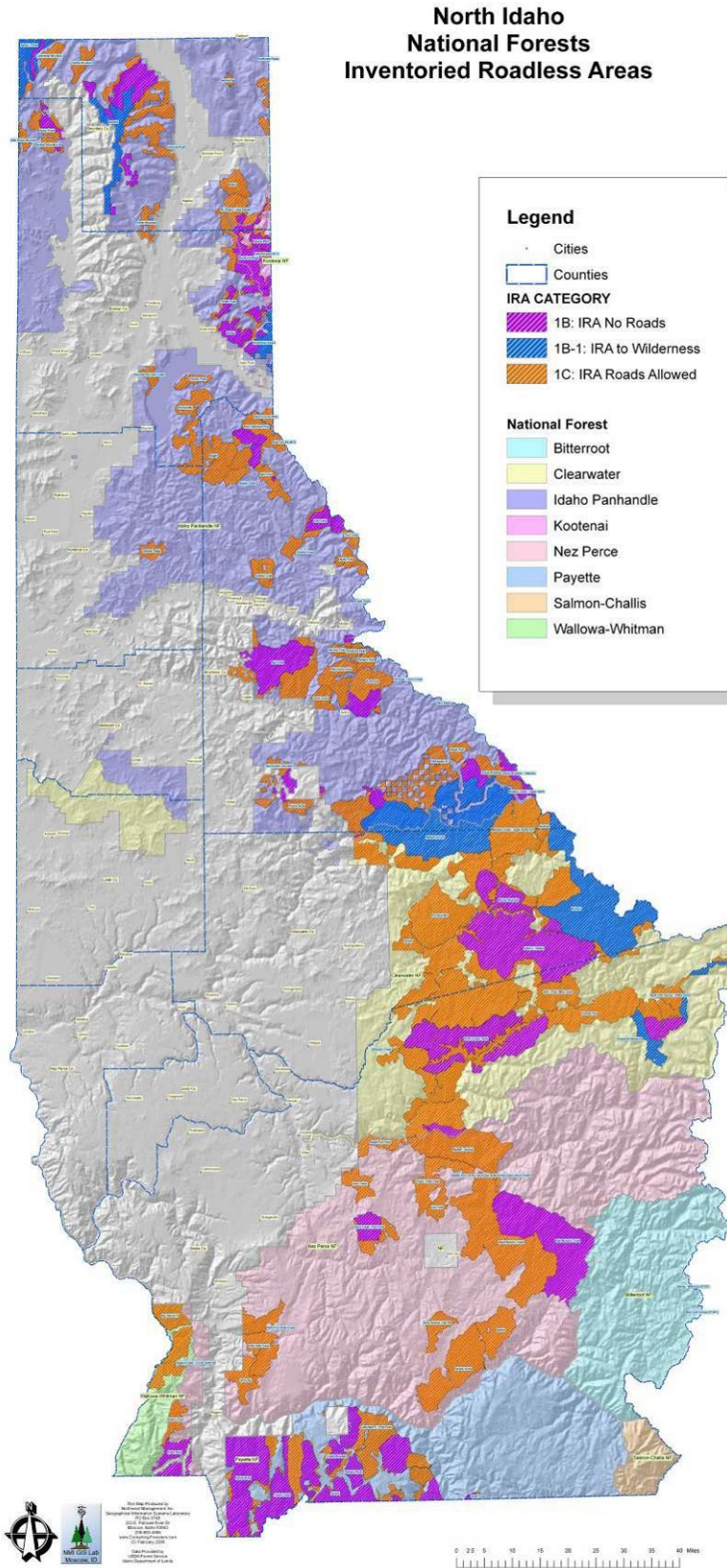
INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

Figure 1.1. Location Map of Clearwater National Forest.



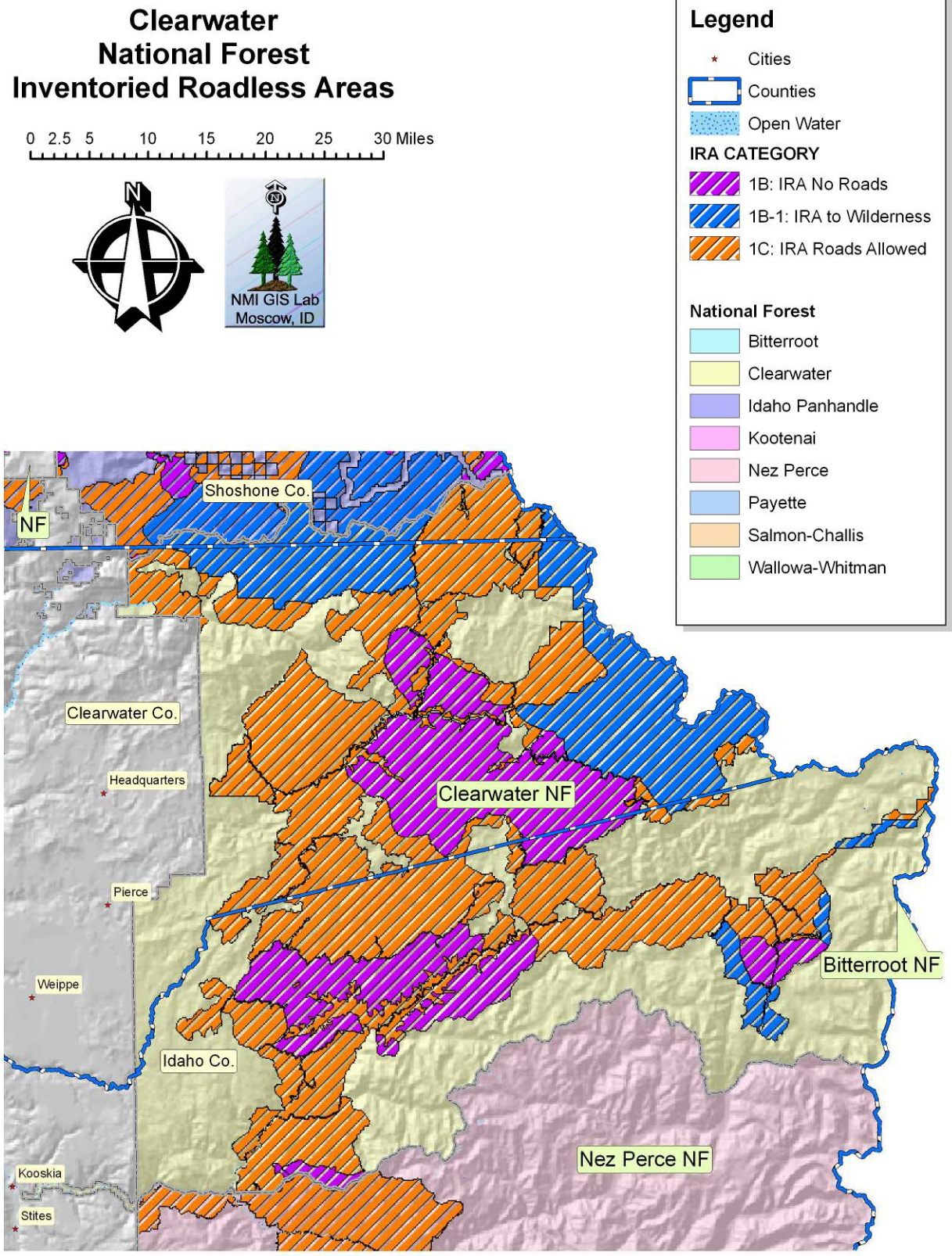
INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

Figure 1.2. Inventoried Roadless Areas in Northern Idaho.



INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

Figure 1.3. Inventoried Roadless Areas on the Clearwater National Forest.



INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

In the original Forest Planning process in the late 1980's all forest lands were assigned a set of management areas. These areas could overlap on the same acre of land. These management areas were assigned general prescriptions or goals to be achieved. The management goals apply to the lands within IRA's. Often multiple management areas exist within an IRA. To help the County Commissioners and the public at large understand the original Forest Plan management prescriptions for each IRA in the Clearwater National Forest, they have been summarized below. Table 1.1 lists: the official name of the roadless area; its category; the management area prescriptions by which that area of the IRA is to be managed; other forest plans by which portions of the IRA may be managed if the IRA crosses National Forest Boundaries; and other counties in which the IRA may reside if it crosses county lines.

The definitions for the IRA Category were derived by reading each individual management prescription and placing its recommendations regarding roads into one of three categories, 1B, 1B-1, 1C.

- 1B: IRA where road construction or reconstruction is not allowed by management prescription
- 1B-1: IRA where road construction or reconstruction is not allowed by management prescription, area is recommended as wilderness in Forest Plan (as of Jan 2001)
- 1C: IRA where road construction or reconstruction is allowed by management prescription

The management area prescriptions are located after the table and were summarized from the original Forest Plan document. To review the prescriptions in their complete original format refer to the original Clearwater National Forest Plan document. Many national forests have their Forest Plan document available online.

Table 1.1. Clearwater National Forest IRA Summaries.

Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA)	IRA Category	Clearwater National Forest Management Areas	Adjacent National Forest Management Areas	Counties in which IRA is Located
Bighorn-Weitas	1B	A3, C1, C6		Idaho, Clearwater
	1C	C3, C4, 8S		
Eldorado Creek	1C	E1		Idaho
Hoodoo	1B	A3, C1, C6		Clearwater, Idaho, Shoshone
	1B-1	B2		
	1C	C4, E1, 8S, US		
Lolo Creek	1C	PVT, US		Idaho
Lochsa Face	1B	A3, C1, C6		Idaho
	1C	A7, C3, C4, E1, 8S, US		
Mallard-Larkins	1B	A3, C1, C6	10, 12, 13, 14 (IPNF)	Clearwater, Shoshone
	1B-1	B2	11 (IPNF)	
	1C	C3, C4, E1, E3, M1, US	4, 6, 9 (IPNF)	
Meadow Creek-Upper North Fork	1C	8S, US	10,12,13,14 (IPNF) 1 (IPNF)	Clearwater, Shoshone
Moose Mountain	1B	A3, C1, C6		Clearwater
	1C	C3, C4, E1, E3, US		
North Fork Spruce-White Sand	1B	A3, C1, C6		Idaho
	1B-1	B2		
	1C	C4, E1, E3, PVT, US		
North Lochsa Slope	1B	A3, C1, C6		Idaho

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

Table 1.1. Clearwater National Forest IRA Summaries.

Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA)	IRA Category	Clearwater National Forest Management Areas	Adjacent National Forest Management Areas	Counties in which IRA is Located
	1C	C3, C4, M1, 8S, US		
Pot Mountain	1C	C4, M1, 8S, US		Clearwater
Rackliff-Gedney	1B	A3, C1, C6	8.2, 9.1, 15, 16, 17 (NPNF)	Idaho
	1C	A7, C4, 8S, US		
Rawhide	1C	E1, 8S, US		Clearwater, Shoshone
Siwash	1C	C4, E1, US		Clearwater
Sneakfoot Meadows	1B	A3, C1, C6		Idaho
	1B-1	B2		
	1C	M1, 8S, US		
Weir – Post Office Creek	1C	A7, C4, E1, US		Idaho

Clearwater National Forest: Management Areas

The following descriptions of Management Areas occurring within the IRA’s on the Clearwater National Forest have been lifted from the 1987 Clearwater National Forest Plan. This is not a complete recreation of the original document; instead it is an overview and summary of the pertinent information relating to the current management for each area designation. References to appendices or other segments of the Forest Plan directly correspond to the original September 1987 document available in pdf format at http://www.fs.fed.us/cnpz/forest/documents/fp_docs/index.shtml .

Management Areas

- A3 - Dispersed Recreation in Unroaded Setting
- A7 - Wild and Scenic River
- B2 - Recommended Wilderness
- C1 - Key Big-Game Summer Range
- C3 - Key Big-Game Winter Range/Unsuitable for Timber Management
- C4 - Key Big-Game Winter Range/Timber Management
- C6 - Key Fishery Habitat
- 8S - Big-Game Summer Range/Timber Management
- E1 - Timber Management
- E3 - Aerial Harvest Systems/Timber Management
- M1 - Research Natural Areas and Special Areas
- US - Unsuitable Land

A3 DISPERSED RECREATION IN UNROADED SETTING

Description

The management area is comprised of five unroaded areas located at various places on the North Fork and Lochsa Districts. They are:

1. Elizabeth Lakes
2. Moose Mountain
3. North Lochsa Slope
4. Lochsa Face
5. Coolwater Ridge

Manage other resources within constraints necessary to retain a semi-primitive setting and to maintain and enhance recreational opportunities.

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

Recreation

- a. Manage recreational use and management activities to the lowest level necessary to maintain a semi-primitive setting.
- b. Manage the Lochsa Face, Coolwater Ridge, and Moose Mountain areas as semi-primitive, nonmotorized recreational settings.
- c. Manage the Elizabeth Lakes and North Lochsa Slope areas as semi-primitive, motorized recreational settings.
- d. Limit recreational facilities to those necessary for public health and safety and resource protection.
- e. Apply a visual quality objective of retention in design of all activities.

Wildlife and Fish

Manage optimum wildlife (primarily elk) habitat within limits necessary to meet visual management standards and to maintain a semi-primitive setting.

Range

Provide range Improvements to the extent they do not conflict with concentrated recreational use such as at campsites and trails.

Timber

- a. Manage timber stands only to accomplish the following goals:
 - 1) Enhance or protect recreational opportunities and visual quality and only during periods of low recreational use.
 - 2) Stop or reduce danger of insect and disease damage to key timber resources immediately adjacent to area.
- b. Reforest nonstock lands as necessary to maintain or enhance recreational values.

Classify timber-producing land as unsuitable for commercial timber management.

Water and Soil

Goal: Rehabilitate watersheds when needed to maintain assigned water quality and fish habitat standards. (See Forestwide standards.)

Minerals

- a. Do not permit extraction of common variety minerals.
- b. Require resource rehabilitation to mitigate effects of mineral activity and re-establish semi-primitive setting to extent practical. Begin action upon completion of activity.

Lands

- a. Retain all National Forest System lands.
- b. Do not permit special uses that conflict with recreational use of the area.
- c. Designate as an avoidance area for potential utility corridors.

Facilities

- a. Reconstruct and maintain trails in Moose Mountain and Lochsa Face areas for easy to moderate difficult stock and hiker use.

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

- b. Prohibit ORV use in Lochsa Face and Moose Mountain areas.
- c. Reconstruct mainline trails in Elizabeth Lakes and North Lochsa Slope areas for trail bike and hiker use.
- d. Reconstruct way and secondary trails in Elizabeth Lakes and North Lochsa Slope areas and all trails in Moose Mountain for moderate difficult to difficult stock travel.

Do not construct new Forest system roads. Temporary roads may only be constructed in times of natural emergencies and when legally required to provide access for mining claims or to intermingled private lands.

Rehabilitate roads built for emergency protection to re-establish vegetation and semi-primitive setting.

Protection

Confine, contain, or control wildfires.

- a. Limit size of individual wildfires:
 - 1) Within the Elizabeth Lakes area to 30 acres or less.
 - 2) Within all other areas to 100 acres or less.
- b. Use prescribed fire from planned and unplanned ignitions as needed to achieve Forest Plan direction.

A7 WILD AND SCENIC RIVER

Description

This management area consists of the "recreational" portion of the Middle Fork of the Clearwater Wild and Scenic River corridor administered by the Clearwater National Forest.

This system contains three rivers: the Lochsa, the Selway, and the Middle Fork of the Clearwater River. Only those rivers or portions of rivers administered by the Clearwater Forest are considered in this management area. This includes the Lochsa River and the north side of the Middle Fork of the Clearwater. (The other sections are administered by the Nez Perce and Bitterroot National Forests).

Recreation

Increase capacity for day use on the Lochsa District at the lower end of the corridor along U.S. Highway 12.

Provide a visitor information site at the western end of the corridor to interpret river values and provide recreational information.

Identify and protect historic, scenic, geologic, botanical, and archeological values.

Pursue and encourage coordination with other Government agencies, State entities, and local governments to develop and maintain recreational opportunities and facilities.

- a. Provide developed and dispersed recreational opportunities in a rural or roaded natural-appearing setting as landownership patterns permit.
- b. Provide signs necessary for informing visitors of recreational opportunities, key river values, and safety.
- c. Develop river access sites for floaters along the Lochsa River.
- d. Permit camping in dispersed areas within site capability.

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

e. Administer commercial and public river floating use under direction of the Lochsa River Whitewater Floating. Management Guide and Middle Fork of the Clearwater and Lower Selway Water Oriented Outfitter Analysis.

f. Manage visual quality objectives along both sides of U.S. Highway 12 and the rovers as follows:

- 1) Foreground - retention
- 2) Middleground - partial retention
- 3) Background - modification

g. Provide information and education to public (unguided) whitewater floaters regarding safety, river navigation and location and availability of public campsites.

h. Require a Forest Service outfitter/guide special use permit and an Idaho State outfitters guide license for all commercial float operations.

i. Limit commercial-overnight-operations to three.

Wildlife and Fish

j. Restore degraded fishery habitat.

k. Maintain and improve elk winter range productivity consistent with visual resource and water quality objectives.

Range

a. Limit commercial grazing on National Forest land to those intermingled, acquired lands west of Syringa within existing grazing allotments.

b. Continue use of existing stock driveways that provide access to allotments outside of management area boundaries.

c. Permit only temporary loading/unloading facilities for non-recreational, permitted stock.

Timber

Classify timber-producing lands as unsuitable.

a. Harvest timber:

1) When enhancement of key resources will occur and adverse impacts to key resources would be of low magnitude and short duration (i.e., one growing season or less).

2) To achieve specific vegetation management objectives including:

- a) Protecting surrounding trees by reducing fire, insect or disease hazards.
- b) Protecting the public by removing hazardous trees.
- c) Maintaining certain tree species, sizes or vegetation patterns to enhance visual quality.
- d) Ensuring long-term maintenance of desired vegetation conditions at and immediately adjacent to areas of concentrated use.
- e) Enhancement of viewing areas that emphasize scenic values within and beyond the corridor.

3) Develop a vegetative management guide for the river corridor.

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

- b. Avoid harvest activities during the high recreational season.

Standard

Water and Soil

Manage water quality (including turbidity) consistent with the recreational use and fishery values.

Minerals

Locate all new long-term mineral processing sites outside the area when they are located within the corridor, design buildings, roads, etc. to meet resource objectives.

- a. Require mitigation of effects of mineral extraction on visual, recreation, and water resources.
- b. Cooperate with the State of Idaho In their enforcement of the prohibition of any form of dredge mining on the Middle Fork Clearwater Wild and Scenic River system (Idaho Code 47-1323). The bed of the Lochsa and Middle Fork of the Clearwater Rivers is open to mineral entry subject to 36 CFR 252 (surface regulations).

Lands

- a. Identify priorities to acquire title/interests where development would be detrimental to the values within the corridor.
- b. Designate as an avoidance area for potential utility corridor.
- c. Coordinate with State of Idaho Outfitter/Guide Board to determine If and when limits would have to be placed on commercial day-trip operations.
- d. Manage commercial and noncommercial floating permittees to maintain key values of the rivers as described in the Wild and Scenic River Act and to insure public safety.
- e. Coordinate with the State of Idaho and Idaho County officials m zoning of private lands within the corridor to encourage development that is compatible with the river corridor management goals.
- f. Encourage private land owners without scenic easements to modify existing structures that are not in harmony with wild and scenic river goals.

Retain all National Forest land presently within the National Forest.

Protect values within Middle Fork Clearwater Wild and Scenic River corridor through acquisition of fee title or partial interests in private land.

Acquisitions will be in conformance with Public Law 90-542, Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Acquire private land tracts lying between the river(s) and highway when and where needed for facilities or river access.

Facilities

Construct foot, stock, or vehicle bridges as needed to meet the goals of this or adjacent management areas from section 33, T 35 N., R.9 E. to Powell. Maintain trails that access adjacent areas to the standards assigned to these management areas.

- a. Permit improvement projects on U.S. Highway 12 that will increase highway safety consistent with management area goals and Public Law 90-542, The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The following management constraints will be applied to meet the intent of the Act:

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

- 1) In accordance with public law 90-542, existing encroachments can be maintained where fills are eroding. However, new encroachments resulting from the widening or realignment of the road prism will not be permitted.
 - 2) Gravel sources will not be authorized below the highwater mark of the river nor in such a location OP manner that the visual quality objective for that segment of the river will not be met. The utilization of rock points, where the removal of such shall improve the highway alignment and still maintain visual quality objectives will receive priority over sources of river gravel.
 - 3) Vegetation management within the right-of-way should allow for the removal of only those trees and vegetation which create maintenance or safety problems. Conversion of the entire right-of-way from brush and trees to grass or low shrubs is not permitted. Use of herbicides may be authorized only after completion of site specific NEPA analysis and documentation.
 - 4) Passing lanes or turnouts will be authorized where they can be constructed without additional encroachment on the river.
 - 5) Roadside barriers will be designed and located so as not to unduly interfere with the crossing of wildlife.
 - 6) Require State Highway Department to dispose of slide and debris from road maintenance in accordance with approved waste disposal sites. Waste and dump areas will be located where they will not encroach on the river. Consideration of the loss of wetlands and ponds should be given in the location of waste areas.
- b. Locate new roads to minimize effects on key resources, emphasizing roads that are screened from view of the river, U.S. Highway 12, and camping areas.
 - c. Locate nonconforming roads and landings only when such facilities cannot be provided economically outside the classified zone. Design and use nonconforming facilities to mitigate the adverse effects on key resources through location, timing, duration of use, and prompt rehabilitation. Do not permit long-term use of potential key recreational development sites for nonconforming activities.
 - d. Control new access roads to serve private lands through scenic easements to insure compatibility with river management goals and objectives.
 - e. Use design suited to the site and complimentary to the environment when bridges are necessary. Avoid designs which would require abutments in the river.
 - f. Coordinate with State Highway Department on design of improvements and maintenance of Highway 12 to enhance recreational and viewing opportunities.
 - g. Control excavation, crushing, and hot mix plants under existing laws by providing water and air pollution controls. Whenever practical to do so, conduct these operations away from the river and roadways and during slack public use periods. Avoid situations where moving this type of operation to another location away from the river or highway might create an even greater long-term environmental impact.
 - h. Restrict the location, use, and design of quarry operations as necessary to protect the river environment and visual quality of the corridor.
 - i. Manage trail systems to enhance and emphasize dispersed and developed recreational values and maintain trails running parallel to the river for easiest hiking use.

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

- j. Construct only foot and pack bridges as needed from Old Man Creek to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness boundary in section 33, T. 35 N., R. 9 E.
- k. Require stream crossing structures that ~11 facilitate fish passage in fish-bearing tributaries.
- l. Exclude motor vehicle use on trails that provide access to wilderness. Permit motor vehicle use on other trails if it can be done safely and without damage to other resources.

Protection

Confine, contain, or control wildfires.

- a. Limit size of individual wildfires:
 - 1) To 40 acres or less when occurring within winter range browse fields.
 - 2) To one-tenth acre or less on timbered land.
- b. Use prescribed fires from planned and unplanned ignitions as needed to achieve Forest Plan direction.

B2 RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS

Description

This management area contains three areas which are recommended for wilderness. Two of them are contiguous to areas on other National Forests also recommended for wilderness. The acreage below represents only those acres on the Clearwater National Forest.

- 1. Mallard-Larkins (149,592 acres) Clearwater Forest = 66,700 acres
Idaho Panhandle = 82,892 acres
- 2. Hoodoo (Great Burn; 202,500 acres) Clearwater Forest = 113,000 acres
Lolo Forest = 89,500 acres
- 3. Selway-Bitterroot Additions

These additions are separate areas all located on the Powell District.

Sneakfoot = 8,700 acres

Elk Summit = 3,300 acres

Storm Creek = 2,500 acres

Goals

Areas not recommended by the Clearwater National Forest for wilderness but designated by Congress as wilderness will be managed under the following direction until a Wilderness Management Guide is prepared,

Manage each recommended wilderness to protect its wilderness character.

Recreation

Provide facilities only for user safety and resource protection.

- a. Meet visual quality objective of preservation.
- b. Manage all uses to maintain wilderness qualities and retain semi-primitive settings.

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

Wilderness

- a. Incorporate specific management direction as Forest Plan amendments upon classification of the areas for wilderness.
- b. Prepare for any roadless area established as wilderness by Congress within three years of the date of that establishment (unless otherwise directed) as required by 36 CFR 219.18, the following management direction:
 - (1) Limit and distribute visitor use of specific portions as guided by periodic estimates of the maximum use that still allow natural processes to operate freely and that do not impair the values for which wilderness areas were created:
 - (2) Evaluate the extent to which wildfire and insect and disease control measures may be desirable to protect either the wilderness or adjacent areas, and provide for such measures when appropriate;
 - (3) Prepare other appropriate direction.
- c. If there is Idaho wilderness legislation during the Plan period, the area(s) that is (are) not classified for wilderness by Congress will remain roadless and be managed as management area A3 until the next major revision of the Forest Plan, unless specified other wise by the Wilderness legislation.

Wildlife and Fish

Cooperate with Idaho Fish and Game and allow for stocking or reintroduction of fish or wildlife species where those species were or are indigenous to the area and were extirpated by human induced events.

Permit rehabilitation of degraded fish habitat resulting from natural catastrophic events if the potential wilderness values can be protected.

Range

- a. Manage existing horse and mule allotments to prevent soil and vegetative damage.
- b. Establish no new allotments.

Timber

Classify timber lands as unsuitable.

Water and Soil

- a. Implement soil and water improvements where necessary to mitigate man-caused damages (i.e., man-caused fires) to meet wilderness values only.
- b. Rehabilitate damage caused by fire suppression activities.

Minerals

- a. Require restoration of surface disturbance to near-natural condition in areas no longer needed for mining purposes within one year of disturbance.
- b. Allow no permits for common-variety minerals.
- c. Defer oil and gas leasing due to restrictions in the 1985 Appropriations Act and subsequent legislation.

Lands

- a. Permit new special uses only when they are compatible with wilderness values.

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

- b. Designate as exclusion areas for potential utility corridors.
- c. Retain existing mineral withdrawals associated with key resources in the Mallard-Larkins Area.

Facilities

- a. Reconstruct and maintain mainline trawls to provide easy to moderately difficult travel with stock.
- b. Reconstruct and maintain secondary trails to provide moderately difficult to difficult travel with stock.
- c. Reconstruct and maintain way trails to provide difficult travel with stock. Do not construct new Forest system roads.

Protection

Confine, contain, or control wildfires.

- a. Use unplanned ignitions for prescribed fire as needed to meet Forest Plan direction.
- b. Limit insect and disease control to those necessary to protect adjacent lands. Use planned ignition prescribed fire within the boundary area of the recommended wilderness areas to achieve Forest Plan direction subject to approval by the Chief of the Forest Service.

C1 KEY BIG GAME SUMMER RANGE

Description

Management Area C1 consists of key big-game summer range located in the Fourth of July Creek drainage and several smaller drainages that flow into Kelly Creek between the Kelly Creek Work Center and the Kelly Forks Work Station. The area consists mostly of brushfields created by early-1900's fires with intermixed stands of timber cover which now support an important segment of the Clearwater's elk herd.

Associated with this management area is 3,280 acres of big-game winter range (C3) which also will be managed in an unroaded condition. Manage to maximize big-game summer habitat potential. Manage without roads to provide minimum disturbance to big-game animals. Provide for short-term livestock grazing where compatible with elk habitat management.

Provide for high quality dispersed recreation in a semi-primitive motorized setting.

Recreation

Manage to meet visual quality objective of retention. Manage for dispersed recreation in a semi-primitive motorized setting oriented to big-game hunting activities.

Wildlife and Fish

- a. Rehabilitate big-game habitat for thermal cover, security, and forage as needed to provide optimum habitat conditions.
- b. Enhance fish habitat capacity through stream Improvements and barrier removals.

Range

Phase out grazing allotments where existing or potential conflicts occur with elk use.

Timber

- a. Classify timberland as unsuitable.

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

b. Exclude scheduled timber harvest. Harvest may occur to accomplish wildlife or recreational objectives, or to control Insect and disease epidemics that threaten adjacent suitable timberlands.

Water and Soil

See Forestwide standards.

Minerals

See Forestwide standards.

Land

Acquire private land in holdings.

- a. Retain National Forest System land in Federal ownership.
- b. Designate as avoidance area for potential utility corridor.

Facilities

Maintain the mainline trail system to standards of easy-to-moderate difficulty for stock travel. Maintain secondary trail system to a standard that provides a variety of difficulty levels for stock and hiker use.

- a. Do not construct new Forest system roads. Temporary roads may only be constructed in times of natural emergencies (catastrophic fire) and when legally required to provide access.
- b. Permit trail bike use on trails to extent that use does not damage trails, result in unsafe conditions for other users, or prevent achievement of fish and wildlife management goals.

Protection

Confine, contain, or control wildfires.

- a. Limit size of individual wildfires at 1,000 acres or less per fire.
- b. Use prescribed fire from planned or unplanned ignitions as needed to achieve Forest Plan direction.

C3 KEY BIG GAME WINTER RANGE/UNSUITABLE for TIMBER MANAGEMENT

Description

Management Area C3 consists entirely of big-game winter range located mostly on steep slopes and occurring:

1. On southerly aspects up to about the 4,500 foot elevation and supporting mostly shrub (browse) stands. They occur as isolated tracts within Management Area C4 or in large tracts associated with Management Areas A3, C1, and C6. They are not shown on the small-scale Forest Plan map, but are displayed on large scale maps in the Forest Supervisor's and Ranger District offices.
2. On all other aspects at varying elevations, supporting a mixture of trees and shrubs. They occur within Management Areas A3, C1, and ~6, and are mapped on the small-scale Forest Plan map.

Goals

Provide winter forage and thermal cover for big game.

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

Recreation

- a. Manage for dispersed recreation in a semi-primitive setting when Management Area C3 occurs as an integral part of A3, C1, or C6 management areas. Approximately 15,900 acres occurs in this setting.
- b. Manage for dispersed recreation in a roaded natural setting on areas that occur within or adjacent to management areas designated for development. Limit motorized vehicle use during winter periods when big-game animals are vulnerable to harassment.
- c. Manage areas seen from Management Areas A4, A5, and A6 to meet or exceed the adopted visual quality objectives shown in Appendix G.

Wildlife and Fish

- a. Maintain a minimum of 25 percent of the area in stands of trees of adequate size for thermal cover distributed through and adjacent to forage areas. Cover areas should be 25 acres or larger.
- b. Improve browse habitat when shrub height exceeds 7 feet, when high brush decadency is present, or when forage production is declining, considering site capabilities and cost-effectiveness.
- c. Remove trees and replace with browse species where needed to meet forage objectives.

Timber

Plant trees where needed to provide thermal cover for animals.

Classify timber-producing land as unsuitable. Harvest trees where needed to provide cover/forage for elk winter use.

Range

Do not provide new domestic livestock grazing where conflicts occur with winter range objectives.

Water and Soil

Limit management through prescribed burning to those areas where soil erosion (especially sheet and fill erosion) is not a problem.

Minerals

See Forestwide standards.

Lands

Acquire any private inholdings.

- a. Retain National Forest System land in Federal ownership.
- b. Designate area as suitable for potential utility corridor if soil, watershed, and wildlife constraints can be met or mitigated and when consistent with adjacent management area direction.

Facilities

- a. Close roads to all motor vehicles when conflicts with big-game winter use could occur.
- b. Do not construct roads for management of the area. Roads needed for mineral development or to access adjacent areas are permitted, except as noted in c. below. Minimize restrictions in animal crossing during winter use.

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

- c. Construct no new Forest System roads in C3 areas associated with Management Areas C1, A3, and C6.
- d. Maintain the mainline trail system to standards of easy-to-moderate difficulty for stock travel.
- e. Maintain secondary system to standards that provide a variety of difficulty levels.

Protection

Confine, contain, or control wildfires. Be consistent with adjacent area management direction.

- a. Treat activity fuel to break up continuous fuel beds, to remove barriers of big-game movement, and to improve forage.
- b. Limit the size of individual wildfires to 100 acres or less.
- c. Use prescribed fires from planned and unplanned ignitions as needed to achieve Forest Plan direction.

C4 KEY BIG GAME WINTER RANGE/TIMBER MANAGEMENT

Description

Management Area C4 contains land within inventoried big-game winter range and suitable timber-producing land. It is found throughout the Forest on generally northerly and easterly aspects of steep slopes, and along most major drainages. The area supports mixtures of browse and trees some suitable for elk winter browse and some unsuitable or unavailable because of decadency or because of browse being crowded out by trees. The area generally occurs in conjunction with Management Area C3 which is located primarily on south-facing slopes.

Goals

Manage big-game winter range to provide sufficient forage and cover for existing and projected big-game populations and achieve timber production outputs.

Recreation

- a. Manage for dispersed recreation in a roaded natural setting.
- b. Manage motorized vehicle use during the winter when big game are vulnerable to harassment, and at any time when conflicts may occur with timber management.
- c. Manage areas seen from Management Areas A4, A5, and A6 to meet the adopted visual quality objectives.

Wildlife and Fish

Maintain a minimum of 25 percent of the area in stands of trees of adequate size for thermal cover distributed through and adjacent to forage areas. Cover areas should be 25 acres or larger.

Range

Do not permit new domestic livestock grazing where conflicts occur with winter range objectives.

Timber

- a. Manage for even-age timber stands, with emphasis on clearcut harvest methods to allow for early establishment of temporary elk winter forage.
- b. Design clearcuts to favor natural regeneration, especially those where road access is limited or excluded because of soil and watershed and constraints.

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

Water and Soil

Maintain fisheries in accordance with Forestwide standards.

Minerals

See Forestwide standards.

Land

Acquire private inholdings.

- a. Retain National Forest System lands in Federal ownership,
- b. Designate area as suitable for potential utility corridors if soil, watershed, and wildlife constraints can be met or mitigated.

Facilities

Maintain the mainline trail system to standards of easy-to-moderate difficulty. Maintain secondary system to standards that provides a variety of difficult levels.

- a. Close roads and trails to motor vehicles and ORV use when potential conflicts with big-game winter use could occur.
- b. Design roads needed for Forest development or mineral development to meet soil and watershed constraints and to minimize restrictions for animal crossings during the winter.

Protection

Confine, contain, or control wildfires.

- a. Treat logging residue to prepare sites for reforestation, to break up continuous fuel beds, to remove barriers to big-game movement, and to improve forage.
- b. Limit size of individual wildfires to 40 acres or less.
- c. Use prescribed fires from planned and unplanned ignitions as needed to achieve Forest Plan direction.

C6 KEY FISHERY HABITAT

Description

This management area consists of the following parcels of currently unroaded land encompassing or adjacent to high value fishery streams:

Hungery Creek-Fish Creek

Cayuse Creek-Toboggan Creek

Colt Creek

The Hungery Creek-Fish Creek area is a highly productive anadromous smelt and resident fish drainage which empties into the Lochsa River. Cayuse Creek is an important west slope cutthroat trout-producing stream. Slopes are mostly steep and primarily shrub covered as a result of the early-1900's wildfires. All areas are considered key big-game summer range supporting areas of palatable shrubs resulting from fires in the early 1900's. Elk and moose are the most important big game.

Associated with this management area is 5,880 acres of big-game winter range (C3) which also will be managed in an unroaded condition.

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

Goals

Protect the soil and water from adverse effects of man's activities.

Recreation

- a. Manage for dispersed recreation in a semi-primitive motorized setting.
- b. Manage the area for a visual quality objective of retention.

Wildlife and Fish

Rehabilitate big-game habitat for cover and forage as needed to provide optimum habitat conditions.

Range

Permit livestock grazing to the extent that vegetation along the banks of the major fishery stream can be maintained to prevent degradation to the fishery habitat.

Timber

Reforest or revegetate nonstocked acres to achieve soil, water, and wildlife objectives.

Classify land as unsuitable for timber production. Harvest trees only to support fish or wildlife habitat objectives.

Water and Soil

Maintain fisheries in accordance with Forestwide standards and Appendix K.

Minerals

See Forestwide standards.

Lands

- a. Designate area as an avoidance area for potential utility corridor.
- b. Retain National Forest System land.

Facilities

Maintain mainline trails to provide easy travel with stock. Maintain secondary and way trails to provide moderately difficult to difficult travel with stock.

- a. Do not construct new Forest system roads. Temporary roads may only be constructed in times of natural emergencies (catastrophic fire) and when legally required to provide access.
- b. Permit trail bike use on trails to extent use does not damage trails, result in unsafe conditions for other users, or prevent achievement of fish and wildlife management goals.

Protection

Confine, contain, or control wildfires.

- a. Limit the size of individual wildfires to 1,000 acres or less.
- b. Use prescribed fire from planned and unplanned ignition as needed to achieve Forest Plan direction.

8S -Game Summer Range/Timber Management

Description

Included in this management area are ten separate parcels consisting of high value fishery streams, productive timber land, and key big-game summer range. They are all mostly unroaded at the

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

present time. Eight of the areas are especially important for elk, while two of the areas, Sneakfoot Meadows and White Sand, are very important moose habitat as well. Many of the areas support important high quality anadromous and resident fisheries.

Much of the Weitas and Pollock-Little Moose areas are shrub covered as a result of large fires in the early 1900's. The other areas support a wide range of timber age classes and species.

Goals

Manage these areas to maintain high quality wildlife and fishery objectives while producing timber from the productive Forest land. These objectives can be met by modifying standard timber practices and scheduling and prohibiting most public motorized uses. Wildlife objectives are primarily oriented at elk habitat management but are not to exclude moose habitat on the Powell District.

Recreation

- a. Provide opportunities primarily for nonmotorized dispersed recreation in a roaded natural setting.
- b. Manage areas seen from Management Areas A4, A5, and A6 to meet the adopted visual quality objectives.

Wildlife and Fish

Manage big-game summer range for a minimum of 75 percent of elk habitat potential. Avoid or provide mitigation for special wildlife areas such as big-game calving areas, wallows, travel routes, and licks when designing roads and timber sales.

- a. Rehabilitate degraded fishery streams as opportunities arise in conjunction with timber sales or appropriated habitat improvement funds on a priority basis.
- b. Maintain or enhance moose habitat as indicated by project or area analysis.

Range

Manage domestic livestock grazing to prevent deterioration of elk habitat, stream bank erosion, and degraded fish habitat.

Timber

Plan and distribute openings to achieve maximum elk use. Provide a sufficient leave area between harvest units that would reduce snow levels to allow for moose travel corridors within moose habitat.

- a. Design harvest activities within each elk analysis area that do not require re-entry within ten years.
- b. Provide security habitat areas adjacent to harvest areas when planning timber sale activities.
- c. Schedule summer timber harvest activities (road construction, cutting, and yarding) to ensure that those activities occur on only one sale area within an elk analysis area at any given time. Hauling may be permitted through adjacent elk analysis areas. Timber harvest activities during winter months will not be restricted if it is determined that those areas are not occupied by big-game animals during the planned activities.
- d. Timber sale contracts will include specific provisions that limit operators from camping, carrying firearms, and transporting game in vehicles on roads closed to public.

Water and Soil

Maintain fisheries in accordance with Forestwide standards.

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

Minerals

See Forestwide standards.

Lands

Designate lands as suitable for potential utility corridors, subject to management direction for the area.

Facilities

Maintain mainline trail system to standards of easy to moderate difficulty. Maintain secondary trail system to standards that provide a variety of difficult levels.

- a. Plan and implement transportation systems to avoid:
 - 1) Crossing of major fishery streams where possible or to provide for mitigation if required to cross.
 - 2) Special big-game habitat components such as calving areas, licks, wallows, and concentration areas or to provide for mitigation if required to cross.
- b. Prohibit public use of motorized vehicles on all new roads constructed in the management area, except permit snowmobiles during the winter period (December 1 through March 1). Permit trail bike use on trails suitable for trail bikes until the area is roaded, at which time the entire area will be closed to g public use of motor vehicles.
- c. Locate and design roads for timber harvest only, maintain adequate mitigation for soil and water quality objectives.

Protection

Confine, contain, or control wildfires

- a. Limit the size of individual wildfires:
 - 1) To one acre or less in immature timber stands especially plantations, thinned areas, etc.
 - 2) To 40 acres or less in mature timber.
 - 3) To 500 acres or less in brush fields.
- b. Treat logging and thinning slash to prepare sites for reforestation, to break up continuous fuel beds, to remove barriers to big-game movement, and to improve forage.
- c. Use prescribed fires from planned and unplanned ignitions as needed to achieve Forest Plan direction.

E1 TIMBER MANAGEMENT

This is the largest block of land within the Forest, contains generally the most - productive timber land in the Forest. The area contains approximately 422,390 acres that have been developed for timber harvest in the past and approximately 81,177 acres of presently undeveloped land. Productivity potential ranges from 20 cubic feet per acre per year to over 170 cubic feet per acre per year. Most of the area IS also suitable big-game summer range with white-tailed deer the predominant species in the Palouse District and elk the predominant species in the rest of the Forest. The area also contains considerable sections of intermingled private land in the Powell, Kelly Creek, and Palouse Districts. In many drainages in the Palouse District, the E1 lands occupy less acreage than the Intermingled private land. A large block of private land is also found intermingled with E1 land in the Orogrande drainage of the Pierce District.

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

Goals

Provide optimum, sustained production of wood products. Timber production IS to be cost effective and provide adequate protection of soil and water quality. Manage viable elk populations within areas of historic elk use based on physiological and ecological needs. Manage a range of water quality and fish habitat potential from high fishable in several of the key anadromous and resident fish streams to a low fishable in the Palouse District and portions of the Pierce District.

Recreation

- a. Manage a roaded natural setting for dispersed recreation.
- b. Manage areas seen from Management Areas A4, A5, and A6 to meet the adopted visual quality objectives.

Wildlife and Fish

- a. Provide forage and hiding cover (edge effect) for white-tailed deer in Idaho Fish and Game big game management units 8 and 8A in the Palouse District except the following areas ~111 be managed for elk: Wepah Creek, Baby Grand Mountain, Abes Knob-Vassar Meadows area, Ruby Creek, and Shattuck Butte.
- b. Manage for a minimum of 25 percent maximum elk potential habitat effectiveness. During Plan implementation and further analysis, determine whether remaining areas of EI have potential for providing elk habitat. When analysis shows elk potential is limited by factors other than National Forest management, determinations may be made not to manage for elk. When habitat conditions warrant, managers are urged to exceed the 25 percent habitat standard.

Range

Manage existing allotments to be compatible with timber regeneration in transitory range.

Timber

- a. Schedule timber harvest using logging and silvicultural methods appropriate for the stand and the terrain.
- b. Maintain stocking control commensurate with the level of management intensity.
- c. Identify and maintain suitable old-growth stands and replacement habitats for snag and old-growth dependent wildlife species in accordance with criteria in Appendix H.

Water and Soil

Utilize best management practices and meet water quality standards as defined in the Forestwide standards.

Minerals

See Forestwide standards.

Lands

Seek opportunities to consolidate land ownership through land exchange.

- a. Dispose of isolated tracks not needed for special administrative or other use.
- b. Designate as suitable for potential utility corridors.

Facilities

- a. Manage for all levels of difficulty of ORV use on trails.

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

- b. Regulate use of roads and Walls (to motorized vehicles) where needed to accomplish wildlife, watershed objectives, or property values. Manage seasonal and year-long road closures to provide security for elk to meet area objectives.

Protection

Confine, contain, or control wildfires.

- a. Limit the size of individual wildfires:

- 1) To one acre or less III Immature timber stands especially plantations, thinned areas, etc.
- 2) To 40 acres or less in mature timber.
- 3) To 500 acres or less in brush fields.

- b. Use prescribed fires from planned ignitions to treat activity and natural fuel loadings.

E3 AERIAL HARVEST/TIMBER MANAGEMENT

Description

This management area consists of scattered tracts of timber producing land located on steep and/or unstable landscapes. It is found intermingled with E1 lands and is also big-game summer range. It is generally not suitable for domestic livestock grazing or dispersed recreation other than hunting. Not all of it is shown on the small-scale Forest Plan map.

Goals

Manage timber while providing maximum protection of soil and watershed values.

Manage the big-game summer range for a minimum of 25 percent potential elk habitat.

Recreation

Provide for opportunities primarily in connection with the existing trail systems.

Wildlife and Fish

Maintain fisheries in accordance with Forest-wide standards.

Timber

- a. Harvest timber using aerial means such as long span skyline or helicopter as the predominant harvest techniques.
- b. Design regeneration cuts to favor natural regeneration but fill in with artificial means to provide desired stocking levels within 5 years of final harvest.
- c. Favor even-age systems to minimize entries and reduce costs.

Water and Soil

Maintain fisheries in accordance with Forestwide standards.

Minerals

See Forestwide standards.

Lands

Dispose of isolated tracts.

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

- a. Retain National Forest System Lands and acquire other lands If needed to protect key watershed.
- b. Designate as suitable for potential utility corridors provided soil and watershed constraints can be met (see Forestwide Standards).

Facilities

- a. Limit local road construction and support facilities to only those needed to facilitate aerial harvest systems.
- b. Restrict public use of motor vehicles as needed, to protect road facilities.

Protection

Confine, contain, or control wildfires.

- a. Limit the size of individual wildfires:
 - 1) To one acre or less in immature timber stands, especially plantations, thinned areas, etc;
 - 2) To 40 acres or less in mature timber stands:
 - 3) To 500 acres or less m brush fields.
- b. Use prescribed fires from planned and unplanned ignitions to treat activity and natural fuel loadings.

M1 Research Natural Areas and Special Areas

Description

Management Area M1 consists of existing and proposed research natural areas (RNA's) and special interest biological, botanical, and geological areas:

Aquarius
Bald Mountain
Bull Run
Chateau Falls
Dutch Creek
Four-Bit
Lochsa (existing)
Sneakfoot Meadows
Steep Lakes
Subalpine Type

Goals

Manage established and proposed RNA's to protect their inherent natural features and maintain them in undisturbed ecosystems. Manage special interest areas to protect their special features.

Recreation

- a. Manage recreation to prevent loss of research values.
- b. Manage to meet visual quality objective of retention.
- c. Permit use of motor vehicles only on Forest trails where use would not adversely affect RNA values.

Wildlife and Fish

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

Exclude fish and wildlife improvements.

Range

Do not permit domestic livestock grazing.

Timber

Do not permit timber harvest or other vegetative manipulation. Classify as unsuitable.

Minerals

Recommend withdrawal from mineral entry.

Lands

- a. Retain all National Forest System Lands.
- b. Do not permit special uses.
- c. Designate as avoidance areas for potential utility corridors.

Facilities

- a. Prohibit new road or trail construction within the boundaries of all RNA's and unique areas with the following exceptions:

Provide possible road access through the proposed Bull Run RNA to access adjacent private land.

Provide possible road access through the proposed Aquarius RNA north of the Clearwater River, if needed.

Conduct maintenance of existing roads and trawls within RNA's with the least possible impact on the particular RNA values.

- b. Restrict off-road vehicle use to approved existing trails.

Protection

- a. Allow unplanned ignitions to burn under prescribed conditions within an RNA (proposed or existing) unless such fires threaten persons, property, or the uniqueness of the area, for example, an area established to monitor vegetation in advanced stages of ecological succession*.
- b. Provide site specific direction in the implementation plan for each area. Most RNA's on the Forest support climax or near climax vegetation or other unique features that would make it desirable to exclude fire to protect these conditions for future research.
- c. Do not take any action against endemic Insects or diseases or wild animals unless such area is within a congressionally designated area that reflects such management.

PVT - PRIVATE

UNSUITABLE LAND - US (92,000 Acres)

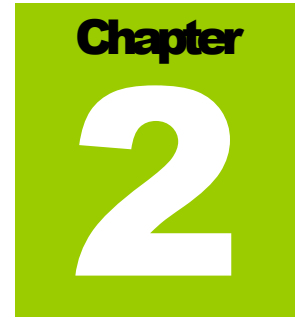
Description

This category of land was identified and mapped during the Forest planning process in accordance with 36 CFR 219.14. It consists of nonforest land, noncapable timber land, and land with regeneration limitations. It is not considered suitable for timber management. It varies in size from less than an acre to several thousand acres. It occurs in conjunction with management areas.

Manage to maintain and protect soil and watershed values and vegetative cover. Manage for resources other than timber such as dispersed recreation, and big-game summer range as

I N V E N T O R I E D R O A D L E S S A R E A S U M M A R Y

appropriate. As appropriate, the Forestwide management direction included in Chapter II and adjacent management area direction applies to these lands.



Recommendations of the Boards of County Commissioners for the Clearwater National Forest

General Recommendations Regarding the Clearwater National Forest

Benewah County's Recommendations

Benewah County Commissioners held a public meeting on December 13, 2005, to hear comments and recommendations for (or against) any changes to the Forest Plan direction for management of inventoried roadless areas (IRA's). Most comments pertained to areas in Shoshone County with Shoshone County Commissioners Jon Cantamessa and Sherry Krulitz present.

Public comments were primarily general to all roadless areas in the St. Joe River and North Fork of the Clearwater River drainages with some specific comments on individual IRA's. Almost all comments received revolved around access issues and having a management plan that was flexible, as both forests and the people that use the forest change over time.

Benewah County is a believer in Multiple-Use planning. This includes managing resources for use such as timber, mining, fish & wildlife, as well as recreation. Active timber management is the only way to ensure good forest health. Waiting for catastrophic events to react to should not be the plan.

Idaho has over (4) million acres of designated wilderness that receives limited use. IRA's are not wilderness and should not be managed as wilderness.

We believe in access to the forest for all people and think roads and trails should be open and maintained, with only seasonal closures for environmental or wildlife reasons.

Many of the IRA's in the St. Joe Drainage were devastated by the 1910 fire and were not actively managed for timber production because timber stands were young or just getting established. As those stands now mature these areas need to be reviewed for access to address forest health issues, including fuels reduction, along with improves wildlife habitat.

The 1987 Idaho Panhandle Forest Plan was developed with many of the existing IRA's having plans for significant development and timber production in future decades. We cannot ignore that forest change over time and we cannot preserve any forest to remain the same forever. With this in mind we have attempted to address individual or groups of IRA's in the following pages, but some general ideas apply to most areas.

We are thankful to have the opportunity in creating a rule to guide the future management of the IRA's that involve local community and government. Any rule developed for Idaho IRA's should be structured to provide flexibility and be proactive in management.

Clearwater County's Recommendations

We would like to thank those involved for making our input possible. The citizens of Clearwater County have a great interest in the way the federal forests here are managed. Our county is 53% federal land.

We support active management when and where it is possible. We believe that forest land would be better preserved if active management were used as a tool to improve forest health. We also believe in access to the forest for all people to enjoy and would therefore request that existing trails and roads be kept open. We would also request that roads and trails which were previously open and are now closed be re-opened. Mining is part of our heritage as well therefore we request that people with mining claims be allowed to mine them.

In the new proposed Clearwater Forest Plan, 663,000 acres of roadless area would be designated in Clearwater County. About one half of this area or 331,000 acres should be managed as proposed in the 1987 plan. The 1987 plan was to develop about 50% of the roadless area. We believe that the Forest Service should construct only roads necessary for timber harvest and resource activities. It should construct roads into area's being managed as roadless for fire suppression or for salvage of timber due to catastrophic losses from fire or insects, wind and disease. Such roads would be closed and obliterated after use.

In our efforts to address the petition requirements we were faced with some issues which we believe warrant clarification. When considering how our recommended management requirements differ from existing applicable land management plan(s) or policies related to inventoried roadless area management (36 CFR part 294.14 a(4)), we first needed to determine what we were supposed to compare. More specifically, the Clearwater NF has a plan called the 1987 plan which should be in effect. Currently, the forest is not managed according to the plan which is in place because of legal challenges and various other obstacles. Second, we have the forest plan revision process which is in progress and is more current in nature although it has not been finished or adopted. Third we have the roadless area designations which are commonly recognized today. Fourth we have interim directive 1920-2004-1 "Land and Resource Management Planning" which gave guidance after the Clinton rule. In simpler terms we are being asked to comment on something which technically does not exist in the current plan. This creates a potential problem in that it may not be readily understood what we will be referring to. For the purpose of clarity we will refer to the geographical areas commonly referred to as roadless and place more emphasis on desired future management than on comparing with current management plan(s). We will attempt to address each roadless area specifically in the pages that follow but general ideas apply to all areas.

- We support active management in the pursuit of forest health.
- We support access for citizens via trails and roads.
- We support mining and believe people should be able to work their claims.
- We believe that the 1987 forest plan is a good plan if it were followed.
- We support keeping roads open to use for eradication of noxious and invasive weeds.
- We support cattle grazing where appropriate.

Also, for the sake of clarity, we will attach a list of trails which should remain open and trails that should be re-opened, however, the list may not include all trails.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter and if we can be of further assistance please let us know.

Idaho County's Recommendations

The Idaho County Commissioners do not support any more wilderness designation in Idaho County unless there is a truly unique feature to be protected. The special feature should not be found in abundance in other wilderness areas in the county or on adjoining forests. We also support some small wilderness designations where it cleans up boundaries and makes management sense and additionally makes it easier for private citizens to obey the law.

We, on the other hand, support changing some wilderness boundaries to make the wilderness smaller to improve management effectiveness. We know of places in the county where roads were included within the wilderness boundaries, with a cursory look at when the road was built, establishment of the road predated establishment of the forest. These roads prove to be contentious and a severe management problem. The Forest Service does not want to maintain them because they are in wilderness, however, they do not want to close or remove them, as they more than likely will qualify as an historical travel corridor. Hence, management becomes one of neglect and ever deteriorating condition of the roads. We know that Congress makes the laws but someone needs to have the courage to display where things are not working and propose changing the wilderness boundary.

It is the understanding of the Idaho County Commissioners that "roadless" is not an official management designation, but only an inventory of areas that meet certain criteria. We, therefore, do not support any management direction to manage an area as roadless. We only support management as wilderness, proposed wilderness or general forest. We support protection of special features, habitats, etc. outside of wilderness, but don't believe another management direction needs to be created to accomplish this task.

It is the understanding of the Idaho County Commissioners that "roadless" is not an official management designation, but only an inventory of areas that meet certain criteria. We, therefore, do not support any management direction to manage an area as roadless. We only support management as wilderness, proposed wilderness, or general forest. We support protection of special features, habitats, etc. outside wilderness, but don't believe another management direction needs to be created to accomplish this task.

In accordance with the above statement, we believe all "roadless" areas should be available for management unless designated as proposed wilderness. As seen by the implementation of the last forest plans, very little management activities have occurred in these areas that has changed even slightly their character. If we continue to obey all the current laws, policies, procedures, and practices while moving towards healthy ecosystems, we believe no special designation of "roadless" is necessary.

It has been our experience that infrastructure in wilderness areas and proposed wilderness areas has deteriorated over the years where "primitive maintenance" policies were implemented. We strongly support the use of mechanized equipment for maintenance of infrastructure outside of wilderness including proposed wilderness areas.

The Idaho County Commissioners recognize there is an ever-increasing demand for motorized recreation and this demand needs to be addressed in a positive way. Motorized recreation groups should not be viewed as "bird flu carriers" and destroyers of the forest but law-abiding taxpayers, whose use of the forests is legitimate. We strongly support efforts to reduce conflicts between motorized and non-motorized recreation groups. We believe that reducing noise levels of motorized recreational vehicles could be a significant tool in this effort.

Idaho County Commissioners are alarmed and dismayed at the loss of grazing on the National Forests over the past several decades. We would like to see grazing reinstated as a valid use of these lands. We are well aware of predator problems on the forestlands and support the use of all

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

means to bring predator numbers to healthy levels to enable livestock grazing to be profitable. We support the use of helicopters in wilderness for animal census counts to get a more accurate picture of predator numbers.

Idaho County Commissioners are very concerned at the uncharacteristically high fuel loadings on Forest Service lands throughout the county. We would like to see all available tools used to reduce this unacceptable risk to our forests. We encourage the use of active management: timber harvest, salvage logging, thinning and pre-commercial thinning, prescribed fire, fire use and grazing to help reduce high fuel loadings.

We would like to see the high fuel loadings in our Wildland-Urban Interface, as defined in the Idaho County Wildfire Mitigation Plan, a focus for fuel reduction efforts. It is hard to remember a fire season over the past several years, during which, some community in Idaho County was not threatened by wildfire.

Finally, we would like to see all roads and trails open for use in the fight against invasive species. There is probably no bigger threat to our ecosystems than these silent invaders. We support all efforts to help arrest the spread of new invasive species and control/containment the ones already here. We do not support the labeling of an area as "roadless" thus making it significantly more costly and time consuming to treat invasive species.

Provide the opportunity for Idaho County to participate as a cooperating agency in any federal rulemaking regarding Inventoried Roadless Areas in the County that takes place in response to a State of Idaho petition, without substantial cost to the County and otherwise subject to County budgets and funding.

For at least the Inventoried Roadless Areas where such activities are not otherwise specifically prohibited by the Forest plan, provide for a process for salvage harvest, forest thinning or other forest health treatment activities to be given priority and expedited, upon written notice of request and need by the Governor of Idaho or this County Board of Commissioners.

Latah County's Recommendations

Thank you on behalf of the citizens of Latah County for the opportunity to comment on the Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRA) in Idaho. Based on the public comments received by the Latah County Board of Commissioners, it is readily apparent that there is significant interest as well as varying opinions on the level of management for IRA's in Idaho. Given that Latah County currently holds no IRAs within its borders, the Board in no way wishes to assert its limited authority beyond our boundaries. Further, we gratefully appreciate our fellow county commissioners from other Idaho counties who have incorporated our citizens' comments into their final recommendations.

Generally, the Board recommends the following:

- 1) We respectfully request to be provided an opportunity to participate as a cooperating agency in any federal rule making regarding Inventoried Roadless Areas in the adjoining counties where public comments from Latah County have been made through this IRA process and in response to any future State of Idaho petition, without substantial cost to the County and otherwise subject to County budgets and future funding limitations.
- 2) For those lands covered by the adjoining county's wildfire mitigation plan, and which may intersect IRA lands, we respectfully request consideration and sensitivity along said boundaries, that management prescriptions be adjusted when necessary to support and foster public safety, health and welfare consistent with county wildland fire mitigation plans whenever possible

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- 3) Forest health conditions and issues should remain an important consideration both within and adjacent to IRA's throughout Idaho. Consistent to respective Forest Plans currently adopted or revised in the future, the Board encourages both federal forest land owners, to recognize forest health issues and proactively seek and provide for a process to address said health issues in a timely and collaborative manner.

Specifically, the Board finds at least initially, there is general support for continuation of the present levels of management in the majority of the IRA's under consideration. We understand these comments and the Board's recommendations have been forwarded to the appropriate counties in which these IRA's are located and have been incorporated into their review and recommendation process.

Again, we appreciate the ability to help facilitate discussion and provide an opportunity for our citizens, businesses and rural communities to comment on these important issues affecting public lands in Idaho. Thank you.

Nez Perce County's Recommendations

The Board of Nez Perce County Commissioners has not held a public hearing to receive testimony concerning the management of roadless areas in National Forests in its boundaries because we have none. There are, however two points that we would like to make in this regard.

Clearwater and Idaho Counties both have extensive National Forest holdings within their boundaries and have held hearings on the matter. We are confident that their reflections and recommendations to you will be accurate and well thought out.

From a factual standpoint it is necessary for us to point out that, while Nez Perce County has no National Forest lands within its boundaries, there are significant economic impacts on us generated by policies within those National Forests. The most obvious management issue deals with timber harvests that supply our wood products industry and ancillary service and supply businesses.

Nez Perce County is also the home of an expanding recreation and tourism economy. We have a large number of off road vehicle sales and service businesses along with numerous boat manufacturers and sales outlets. The Lewiston-Nez Perce County Regional Airport serves a large clientele for our many outfitters and guides in the area. Our current growth driven by retirees is due in a large part to the accessibility of public lands.

Recreation is not only a large issue economically but socially as well. While our community and businesses often agree recreation is a great thing, they often disagree on how it should be enjoyed. Regardless of what management approach will be used, it is our hope that strong consideration be continually given to the impacts on the economy and culture of our County.

Shoshone County's Recommendations

On behalf of the Shoshone County Commissioners, we would like to submit the following recommendations regarding the inventoried roadless areas. While the majority of the comments we received made references to the Idaho Panhandle National Forest, we also received comments and input concerning the Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests.

The Shoshone County Commission held two (2) public hearings in Shoshone County. The first meeting was held in Wallace, Idaho on September 13, 2005 and twenty-two (22) were in attendance at this hearing. The second hearing was held on November 14, 2005 in Kellogg, Idaho. There were thirty-three (33) people in attendance at this meeting. The Shoshone County Commission also participated in meetings held in the four other counties that are in District I. We met in Boundary County on August 15, 2005, Bonner County on December 6, 2005, Benewah County on December 13, 2005, and Kootenai County on December 20, 2005.

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Forest Service personnel were also present at every meeting held in District I. Notice of public meetings were published in the local papers and when possible, a news story preceded the meeting.

Public comment, both oral and written, were accepted until Tuesday, January 17, 2006. Some of the comments received were addressed directly to Governor Kempthorne. The originals addressed to the Governor will be forwarded to him. Participation at those meetings included men and women, young and old. We had teenagers in attendance who were concerned about their hunting areas. We had retirees who use four wheelers to get to their favorite huckleberry patches or fishing areas. There were those who prefer the quiet and untouched areas of Idaho and want to preserve the Idaho Wilderness for future generations. We had those who work in the timber industry and are concerned about future timber harvests. The comments were sincere and many were emotional in their testimony.

The public comments in Shoshone County were varied representing every group of users. Some comments were specific to certain IRA's. Most were general to all roadless areas. We would summarize our findings as follows:

The Shoshone County Commissioners are committed to conserving roadless area values and characteristics which include protecting human health and safety. This includes the need to reduce hazardous fuels and restore essential wildlife habitat. We also recognize and must emphasize the need to provide reasonable access to **both** public and private property.

The boundaries of the IRA's initiated in 1972 and adjusted with RARE II should not be changed at this time. There should be provisions to adjust those boundaries in the future if needed. Roadless area use should be determined area by area by USFS technical experts together with input from actual users.

There are many roads already established in the IRA's. All existing roads should be evaluated. Some should be maintained and open to the public. Some should be allowed to grow back to a natural state.

Roads that currently exist in the roadless areas should be available to the public. Some areas may be multiple use while other areas may have restricted uses. All areas should not be treated the same. Construction of new roads into IRA's should only be considered when forest health is **significantly** compromised.

Idaho has nearly four (4) million acres of designated wilderness. IRA's are not wilderness and should not be considered either wilderness or wilderness in waiting. IRA's should be managed to service the wide range of activities enjoyed by our citizens.

We support a sustainable resource management plan to include ecological productivity, recreation, water, timber, minerals, fish, wildlife, and all facets of forest health preservation for use and enjoyment for future generations. Local communities are important partners in this resource management planning process. Our county was devastated by the great 1910 fire. The conditions in many of our forests warrant a fuels reduction plan immediately. Money spent in fuels reduction is money we won't have to spend on fire suppression.

Multiple use is still the philosophy of Shoshone County. This includes recreation, both motorized and non-motorized, as well as timber harvest, mining, and active management where appropriate. Good forest health requires active management. The forest is a dynamic environment. When disease or insect infestation or wildfire or storm damage occurs, there should be provisions where management occurs.

A one size fits all rule will not allow responsible site specific management.

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Each IRA has different characteristics, different fuel conditions, and different health conditions. There are even varied conditions within each individual IRA. IRA's should continue to be actively managed with consideration for the varied characteristics.

IRA's that intersect the Wildland Urban Interface should be managed to protect the WUI and communities. As local communities have been very involved in the wildfire planning, so should they be consulted in IRA management plans.

There are twenty-six (26) different Inventoried Roadless Areas located in Shoshone County. Nineteen (19) of those twenty-six (26) areas have overlapping lands within our Shoshone County WUI. The WUI overlap represents nearly 40,000 acres of designated IRA's. Both the Graham Coal Area and the Hammond Creek Area are completely surrounded by the WUI. The Trouble Creek IRA #138 is almost entirely within the WUI. Hammond Creek also contains a municipal watershed. The Big Creek Area #143 involves the Placer Project Resource Area which is a municipal watershed for the City of Wallace as well as an area of concern for high risk of wildfire. All areas within our WUI must be managed to implement the community fire plan.

Forest health crisis conditions exist north of Thompson Pass in the Maple Peak IRA #141 and also east of Wolf Lodge in Kootenai County in the Skitwish Ridge IRA #135. Maple Peak has been severely damaged by the Mountain Pine Beetle and Skitwish Ridge is overrun with root disease. Both of these areas represent crisis conditions with regard to forest health. We would ask that any IRA with a forest health crisis be given priority to expedite use of all tools available to manage the forest and return the environment to good health.

Shoshone County has conferred with the Commissioners of Clearwater County specifically regarding the Rawhide area, the Hoodoo area, the Meadow Creek Upper North Fork, and the Mallard Larkins. We concur with the recommendations of Clearwater County for these areas.

In addition, Shoshone County agrees with the recommendations set forth by the Benewah County Commissioners in regards to areas North of the St. Joe River & Avery, Mosquito-Fly; Midget PK; Meadow Creek; Sheep Mountain. St. Line, Mallard-Larkins, and Grandmother Mountain/Pinchot Butte.

We would ask for the opportunity for Shoshone County to participate as a cooperating agency in any federal rulemaking regarding Inventoried Roadless Areas in our County without substantial cost to the County or subject to County budgets and funding.

For the Inventoried Roadless Areas where such activities are not otherwise specifically prohibited by the Forest Plan, we should provide for a process for salvage harvest, forest thinning or other forest health treatment activities to be given priority and expedited, upon written notice of request and need by the Governor of Idaho or the Shoshone County Board of Commissioners.

For those lands covered by the Shoshone County wildfire mitigation plan which intersect any Inventoried Roadless Areas, we ask that management prescriptions should be adjusted to support and foster public safety, health and welfare through the complete implementation of the community fire plan.

We would like to see a rule developed for Idaho IRA's that provides flexibility in management decisions. The rule should be structured to be proactive and progressive, outlining how management will occur in the IRA's, not how management will not occur in the IRA's.

The opportunity we have in the current process involves the local community in creating a rule to guide the future management of the IRA's. The rule created should preserve this local

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involvement in future management decisions. Counties, the USFS, and local citizens should all be involved in this management. It should be a dynamic evolving process.

Additional Information Regarding the Shoshone County Wildland Urban Interface Fire Mitigation Plan

The Shoshone County Board of County Commissioners adopted a 379,250 acre Wildland-Urban Interface as part of their Wildfire Mitigation Plan. The US Forest Service has defined approximately 513,445 acres of Inventoried Roadless Areas management areas in Shoshone County. These two designations overlap on approximately 38,254 acres in Shoshone County.

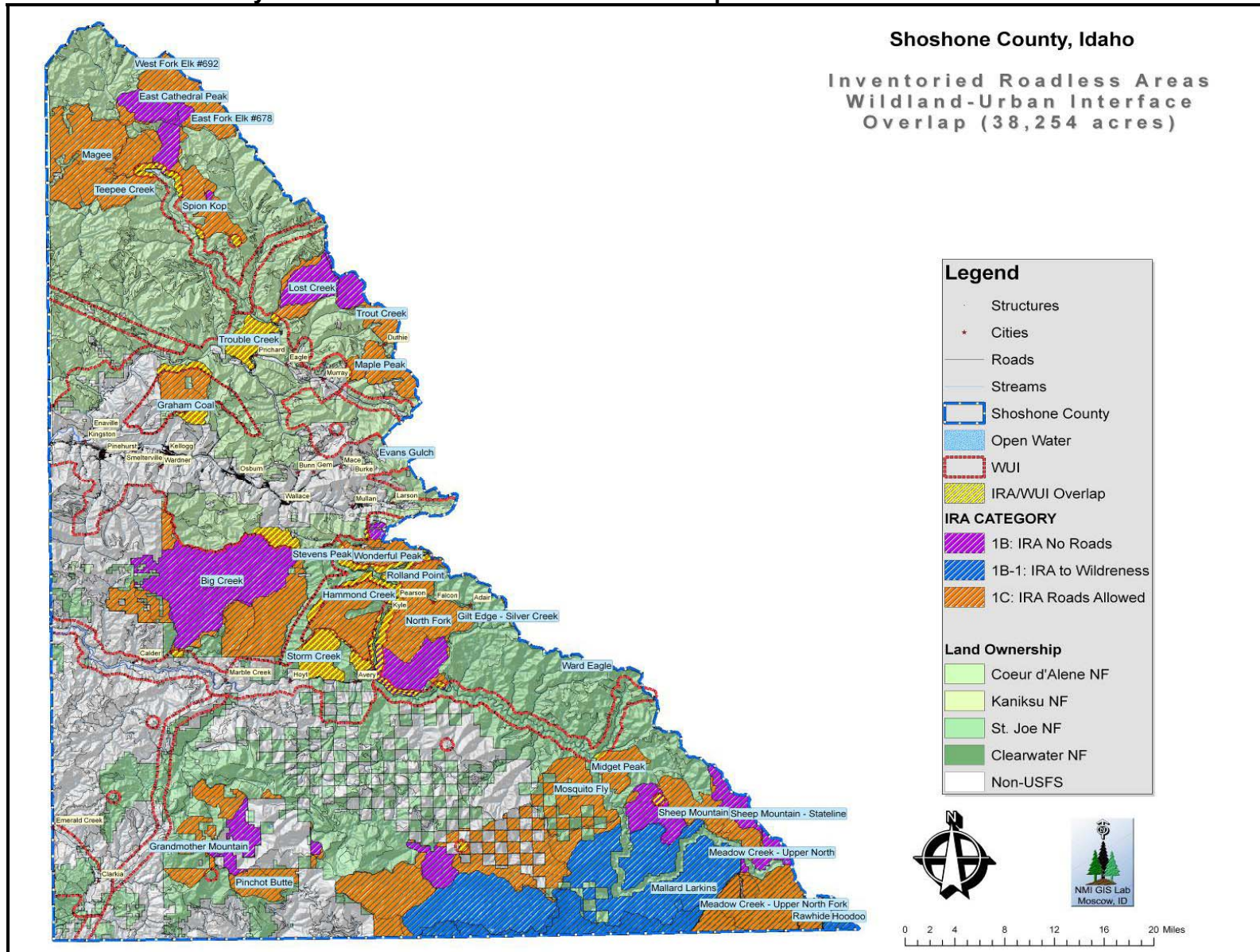
These areas are summarized below indicating the IRA name, WUI category, and the acres affected. Please refer to the attached map of these areas.

Table 2.1. Shoshone County's Overlapping Wildland Urban Interface and IRA Acres.

WUI Zone	IRA Name	IRA Category	Acres
WUI	Big Creek	1B	37
WUI	Big Creek	1C	2,999
WUI	Evans Gulch	1B	13
WUI	Graham Coal	1C	3,099
SRPZ	Grandmother Mountain	1C	43
SRPZ	Hammond Creek	1C	3,288
WUI	Hammond Creek	1C	1,512
WUI	Lost Creek	1C	261
SRPZ	Mallard Larkins	1B	24
SRPZ	Mallard Larkins	1C	337
WUI	Maple Peak	1C	290
SRPZ	Midget Peak	1C	289
SRPZ	Mosquito Fly	1C	1
SRPZ	North Fork	1B	2,216
WUI	North Fork	1B	315
SRPZ	North Fork	1C	2,010
SRPZ	Rolland Point	1C	1,840
SRPZ	Sheep Mountain	1B	500
SRPZ	Sheep Mountain	1C	2
SRPZ	Spion Kop	1B	335
SRPZ	Spion Kop	1C	2,055
WUI	Stevens Peak	1B	170
SRPZ	Stevens Peak	1C	932
WUI	Stevens Peak	1C	24
SRPZ	Storm Creek	1C	321
WUI	Storm Creek	1C	7,652
SRPZ	Teepee Creek	1C	351
WUI	Trouble Creek	1C	5,913
SRPZ	Wonderful Peak	1C	1,426
Total			38,254

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Figure 2.1. Shoshone County's Wildland Urban Interface and IRA overlap.



Recommendations on Specific IRA's in the Clearwater National Forest

Bighorn-Weitas

The Bighorn-Weitas IRA straddles the Clearwater and Idaho County border, but is contained entirely within the Clearwater National Forest.

Clearwater County's Recommendations

294.14 a (1) This area is known as "Bighorn-Weitas"

294.14 a (2) We recommend that this area be managed as follows:

1. The 555 road should remain open
2. Existing trails and roads remain open to motorized use.
3. Open previously existing trails which have been closed.
4. Use fire in conjunction with timber management to preserve natural characteristic of the landscape.
5. Timber production should be allowed in conjunction with fire when it is a benefit in cases of bug kill, disease, wind damage, fire kill, overstocking and other forest health issues.
6. No prescribed burning should be allowed near the plantations that were planted in the 1970s and 1980s. This area would be from Slick Creek upstream to Corral Creek.

294.14 a (3) We feel our recommendation would conserve roadless area values and characteristics, reduce hazardous fuels and restore essential wildlife habitats and provide reasonable access to public and private property.

294.14 a (4) We feel that our management recommendation is similar to current management objectives.

294.14 a (5) This recommendation is complimentary to the Clearwater County comprehensive land use plan.

Idaho County's Recommendations

All roadless areas are open for development and active management within legal and physical limitations. We support the protection of soil, water, fish, wildlife and visual resources. We realize within these areas there are areas unsuitable for timber management for a variety of reasons, and that road construction and timber harvest systems will be limited. Further, while this area of allocation is extremely large, we realize that it will take many plan periods before many areas are considered for access and harvest operations. The progress to bring roadless areas under active management will be slow, and in the interim recommend these areas be allocated to motorized use. This is compatible with the long-term designation for timber management, and project plans for access and harvest can be adjusted to continue motorized recreational use. Since motorized recreation is by far the fastest growing use of our national forests, this designation offers the maximum flexibility for the Forest Service to spread this use across larger areas.

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Hoodoo

The Hoodoo IRA straddles the Clearwater and Idaho County border, but it is contained completely in the Clearwater National Forest.

Clearwater County's Recommendations

294.14 a (1) This area is known as "Hoodoo"

294.14 a (2) We recommend that the area in the "B2" designation in the 1987 plan be managed as follows:

1. Existing trails and roads remain open to motorized use.
2. Open previously existing trails which have been closed.
3. Allowing motorized access to existing mining claims so they can be worked as intended.
4. Use fire to preserve natural characteristic of the landscape.

Areas in the Hoodoo roadless area which are outside of the "B2" designation in the 1987 plan should be managed as follows:

1. Accessible areas should be managed for timber production in conjunction with prescribed burning when it will contribute to forest health.
2. Timber production should be allowed in conjunction with fire when it is a benefit in cases of bug kill, disease, wind damage, fire kill, overstocking and other forest health issues.

294.14 a (3) We feel our recommendation would conserve roadless area values and characteristics, reduce hazardous fuels and restore essential wildlife habitats and provide reasonable access to public and private property.

294.14 a (4) We feel that our management recommendation is similar to current management objectives.

294.14 a (5) This recommendation is complimentary to the Clearwater County comprehensive land use plan.

Shoshone County

As stated in the "General Recommendations Regarding the Clearwater National Forest" by the Shoshone County Commissioners, Shoshone County agrees with the specific recommendations outlined by the Clearwater County Commissioners for the Hoodoo IRA.

Lochsa Face

The Lochsa Face IRA is contained within the borders of Idaho County and is in the Clearwater National Forest.

Clearwater County's Recommendations

294.14 a (1) This area is known as "Lochsa Face"

294.14 a (2) We recommend that the area be managed as follows:

1. Existing trails and roads remain open to motorized use.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

2. Open previously existing trails which have been closed.
3. Allow motorized access to existing mining claims so they can be worked as intended.
4. Accessible areas should be managed for timber production in conjunction with prescribed burning when it will contribute to forest health.
5. Timber management should be allowed in conjunction with fire when it is a benefit in cases of bug kill, disease, wind damage, fire kill, overstocking and other forest health issues.

294.14 a (3) We feel our recommendation would conserve roadless area values and characteristics, reduce hazardous fuels and restore essential wildlife habitats and provide reasonable access to public and private property.

Idaho County

Keep available for Timber management, but recommend no roads. That portion generally from Wilderness Gateway to Flytrap Butte, designated A3 and C3 in the Forest Plan, are recommended for roadless recreation, with protection for the limited motorized access. All other areas are recommended to be open for timber harvest. Maintain existing motorized road access. Keep the north end roadless. No timber harvest in the upper Fish Creek/Upper Hungry Creek areas. The rest should be open for Timber Harvest and Active management.

Mallard-Larkins

The Mallard – Larkins IRA straddles the Shoshone and Clearwater County border. This IRA is also contained within both the Clearwater and Idaho Panhandle National Forests.

Benewah County

We recommend that the original Mallard – Larkins Pioneer area be managed as follows:

1. Recognize the special nature of the original Mallard – Larkins Pioneer area.
2. Recognize non-motorized recreation uses for the Pioneer Area, while maintaining the flexibility to utilize motorized equipment for trail maintenance activities.

We recommend that areas outside the original Pioneer Area be managed as follows:

1. Existing trails and roads remain open to motorized use.
2. Open previously existing trails which have been closed.
3. Allow motorized access to existing mining claims so they can be worked as intended.
4. Accessible areas should be managed for timber production in conjunction with prescribed burning when it will contribute to forest health.
5. Timber management should be allowed in conjunction with fire when it is a benefit in cases of bug kill, disease, wind damage, fire kill, overstocking, and other forest health issues.

We feel our recommendations would conserve roadless area values and characteristics, reduce hazardous fuels, and restore essential wildlife habitats and provide reasonable access to public land private property.

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Clearwater County

294.14 a (1) This area is known as “Mallard Larkins”

294.14 a (2) We recommend that this area be managed as follows:

1. as it is currently with two boundary adjustments.
 - a) The Bear Creek area west of the Old Pioneer Area boundary should be deleted from the proposed wilderness area and open for timber management
 - b) The area south of Skull Creek in the southeast should be deleted from the proposed wilderness area and open for timber management.

294.14 a (3) We feel our recommendation would conserve roadless area values.

Shoshone County

As stated in the “General Recommendations Regarding the Clearwater National Forest” by the Shoshone County Commissioners, Shoshone County agrees with the specific recommendations outlined by both the Clearwater County and Benewah County Commissioners for the Mallard - Larkins IRA.

Meadow Creek-Upper North Fork

The Meadow Creek – Upper North Fork IRA straddles the Shoshone and Clearwater County border; however it is completely contained within the boundaries of the Clearwater National Forest.

Clearwater County

294.14 a (1) This area is known as “Meadow Creek Upper North Fork”

294.14 a (2) We recommend that the area be managed as follows:

1. Existing trails and roads remain open to motorized use.
2. Open previously existing trails which have been closed.
3. Allow motorized access to existing mining claims so they can be worked as intended.
4. Accessible areas should be managed for timber production in conjunction with prescribed burning when it will contribute to forest health.
5. Timber management should be allowed in conjunction with fire when it is a benefit in cases of bug kill, disease, wind damage, fire kill, overstocking and other forest health issues.

294.14 a (3) We feel our recommendation would conserve roadless area values and characteristics, reduce hazardous fuels and restore essential wildlife habitats and provide reasonable access to public and private property.

294.14 a (4) We feel that our management recommendation is similar to current management objectives.

294.14 a (5) This recommendation is complimentary to the Clearwater County comprehensive land use plan.

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Shoshone County

As stated in the “General Recommendations Regarding the Clearwater National Forest” by the Shoshone County Commissioners, Shoshone County agrees with the specific recommendations outlined by the Clearwater County Commissioners for the Meadow Creek – Upper North Fork IRA.

Moose Mountain

The Moose Mountain IRA is located in Clearwater County and the Clearwater National Forest.

Clearwater County

294.14 a (1) This area is known as “Moose Mountain”

294.14 a (2) We recommend that the area be managed as follows:

1. Existing trails and roads remain open to motorized use.
2. Open previously existing trails which have been closed.
3. Allow motorized access to existing mining claims so they can be worked as intended.
4. Accessible areas should be managed for timber production in conjunction with prescribed burning when it will contribute to forest health.
5. Timber management should be allowed in conjunction with fire when it is a benefit in cases of bug kill, disease, wind damage, fire kill, overstocking and other forest health issues.

294.14 a (3) We feel our recommendation would conserve roadless area values and characteristics, reduce hazardous fuels, restore essential wildlife habitats and provide reasonable access to public and private property.

294.14 a (4) We feel that our management recommendation is similar to current management objectives.

294.14 a (5) This recommendation is complimentary to the Clearwater County comprehensive land use plan.

North Lochsa Slope

The North Lochsa Slope IRA is located in Idaho County and the Clearwater National Forest.

Clearwater County

294.14 a (1) This area is known as “North Lochsa Slope”

294.14 a (2) We recommend that the area be managed as follows:

1. Existing trails and roads remain open to motorized use.
2. Open previously existing trails which have been closed.
3. Allow motorized access to existing mining claims so they can be worked as intended.
4. Accessible areas should be managed for timber production in conjunction with prescribed burning when it will contribute to forest health.
5. Timber management should be allowed in conjunction with fire when it is a benefit in cases of bug kill, disease, wind damage, fire kill, overstocking and other forest health issues.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

294.14 a (3) We feel our recommendation would conserve roadless area values and characteristics, reduce hazardous fuels and restore essential wildlife habitats and provide reasonable access to public and private property.

294.14 a (4) We feel that our management recommendation is similar to current management objectives.

Idaho County

Keep available for Timber management, but recommend no roads. That portion generally from Wilderness Gateway to Flytrap Butte, designated A3 and C3 in the Forest Plan, are recommended for roadless recreation, with protection for the limited motorized access. All other areas are recommended to be open for timber harvest. Maintain existing motorized road access. Keep the north end roadless. No timber harvest in the upper Fish Creek/Upper Hungry Creek areas. The rest should be open for Timber Harvest and Active management.

North Fork Spruce-White Sand

The North Fork Spruce – White Sand IRA is located in Idaho County and the Clearwater National Forest.

Clearwater County

294.14 a (1) This area is known as “White Sands”

294.14 a (2) We recommend that the area be managed as follows:

1. Existing trails and roads remain open to motorized use.
2. Open previously existing trails which have been closed.
3. Allow motorized access to existing mining claims so they can be worked as intended.
4. Accessible areas should be managed for timber production in conjunction with prescribed burning when it will contribute to forest health.
5. Timber management should be allowed in conjunction with fire when it is a benefit in cases of bug kill, disease, wind damage, fire kill, overstocking and other forest health issues.

294.14 a (3) We feel our recommendation would conserve roadless area values and characteristics, reduce hazardous fuels and restore essential wildlife habitats and provide reasonable access to public and private property.

294.14 a (4) We feel that our management recommendation is similar to current management objectives.

Idaho County

Maintain the original proposed wilderness recommendation. Manage remainder for roadless recreational uses but maintain existing motorized uses in place. Timber Management as necessary to contain or prevent insect, disease, or mechanical damage.

Pot Mountain

The Pot Mountain IRA is located in Clearwater County and the Clearwater National Forest.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Clearwater County

294.14 a (1) This area is known as “Pot Mountain”

294.14 a (2) We recommend that this area managed as follows:

1. Use timber harvest in conjunction with controlled burning to reduce dangerous fuel concentrations while creating the disturbance that will benefit big game herds. Should be managed for multiple use. Existing trails and roads should remain open to motorized use.

294.14 a (3) We feel our recommendation would conserve roadless area values and characteristics, reduce hazardous fuels and restore essential wildlife habitats

294.14 a (4) We feel that our management recommendation is similar to current management objectives.

294.14 a (5) This recommendation is complimentary to the Clearwater County comprehensive land use plan.

Rackliff – Gedney

The Rackliff – Gedney IRA is located in Idaho County, but it straddles the border between the Clearwater and the Nez Perce National Forests.

Idaho County

Open for Timber Management and General Forest Management. Recommend deteriorating roads in this area be repaired and maintained for future management options for Recreational access, general forest management and ecosystem health, and possible future timber management.

Rawhide

The Rawhide IRA straddles the Shoshone and Clearwater County border, but it is located entirely within the boundaries of the Clearwater National Forest.

Clearwater County

294.14 a (1) This area is known as “Rawhide”

294.14 a (2) We recommend that the area be managed as follows:

1. Existing trails and roads remain open to motorized use.
2. Open previously existing trails which have been closed.
3. Allow motorized access to existing mining claims so they can be worked as intended.
4. Accessible areas should be managed for timber production in conjunction with prescribed burning when it will contribute to forest health.
5. Timber management should be allowed in conjunction with fire when it is a benefit in cases of bug kill, disease, wind damage, fire kill, overstocking and other forest health issues.

294.14 a (3) We feel our recommendation would conserve roadless area values and characteristics, reduce hazardous fuels, restore essential wildlife habitats and provide reasonable access to public and private property.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

294.14 a (4) We feel that our management recommendation is similar to current management objectives.

294.14 a (5) This recommendation is complimentary to the Clearwater County comprehensive land use plan.

Shoshone County

As stated in the “General Recommendations Regarding the Clearwater National Forest” by the Shoshone County Commissioners, Shoshone County agrees with the specific recommendations outlined by the Clearwater County Commissioners for the Rawhide IRA.

Siwash

The Siwash IRA is located in Clearwater County and the Clearwater National Forest.

Clearwater County

294.14 a (1) This area is known as “Siwash”

294.14 a (2) We recommend that the area be managed as follows:

1. Existing trails and roads remain open to motorized use.
2. Open previously existing trails which have been closed.
3. Allow motorized access to existing mining claims so they can be worked as intended.
4. Accessible areas should be managed for timber production in conjunction with prescribed burning when it will contribute to forest health.
5. Timber management should be allowed in conjunction with fire when it is a benefit in cases of bug kill, disease, wind damage, fire kill, overstocking and other forest health issues.

294.14 a (3) We feel our recommendation would conserve roadless area values and characteristics, reduce hazardous fuels and restore essential wildlife habitats and provide reasonable access to public and private property.

294.14 a (4) We feel that our management recommendation is similar to current management objectives.

294.14 a (5) This recommendation is complimentary to the Clearwater County comprehensive land use plan.

Sneakfoot Meadows

The Sneakfoot Meadows IRA is located in Idaho County and the Clearwater National Forest.

Clearwater County

294.14 a (1) This area is known as “Sneak Foot Meadows”

294.14 a (2) We recommend that the area be managed as follows:

1. Existing trails and roads remain open to motorized use.
2. Open previously existing trails which have been closed.
3. Allow motorized access to existing mining claims so they can be worked as intended.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

4. Accessible areas should be managed for timber production in conjunction with prescribed burning when it will contribute to forest health.
5. Timber management should be allowed in conjunction with fire when it is a benefit in cases of bug kill, disease, wind damage, fire kill, overstocking and other forest health issues.

294.14 a (3) We feel our recommendation would conserve roadless area values and characteristics, reduce hazardous fuels and restore essential wildlife habitats and provide reasonable access to public and private property.

294.14 a (4) We feel that our management recommendation is similar to current management objectives.

Idaho County

Manage as General Forest Management Area with emphasis for roadless – recreation. Road to Elk Summit to remain open and maintained in perpetuity.

Weir-Post Office Creek

The Weir – Post Office Creek IRA is located in Idaho County and the Clearwater National Forest.

Clearwater County

294.14 a (1) This area is known as “Weir Post Office”

294.14 a (2) We recommend that the area be managed as follows:

1. Existing trails and roads remain open to motorized use.
2. Open previously existing trails which have been closed.
3. Allow motorized access to existing mining claims so they can be worked as intended.
4. Accessible areas should be managed for timber production in conjunction with prescribed burning when it will contribute to forest health.
5. Timber management should be allowed in conjunction with fire when it is a benefit in cases of bug kill, disease, wind damage, fire kill, overstocking and other forest health issues.

294.14 a (3) We feel our recommendation would conserve roadless area values and characteristics, reduce hazardous fuels and restore essential wildlife habitats and provide reasonable access to public and private property.

Idaho County

Maintain Active management. of area as general forest area. Including maintenance of all existing roads/trails. Keep options open. We don't see precluding any options at this time.

Other Specific Recommendations Concerning the Clearwater National Forest

Trails

Clearwater County

These trail should remain open:

Hoodoo - 567, 513, 565, 478, 570, 429

Bighorn-Weitas - 531, 638, 593, 594, 534, 539, 17, 674, 670, 20, 627, 628, 667, 580, 167, 164, 531, 191, 106, 103, 173, 651, 649, 650, 174, 20, 634

Mallard Larkins - 445, 176, 169, 399,

Siwash - 600, 601

Pot Mountain - 617, 162, 165, 160, 144, 154, 124

These trails should be re-opened:

Hoodoo - 760, 490, 428, 493, 428, 503, 738, 508, 35, 248, 555, 414, 410, 408

Mallard - Larkins - 283, 233, 101, 445,

Meadow Creek - 94, 356, 373, 379, 381,

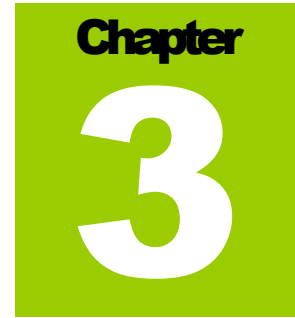
Also, we would like to see all RS2477 assertions opened.

Great Burn Wilderness Proposal

Idaho County

Support original wilderness area plan proposal of 1987. No significant features in the expanded wilderness area proposal that cannot be found elsewhere to justify expanding the wilderness area proposal.

- Maintain motorized recreation areas
- Develop dispersed recreation/camp sights
- Maintain Lolo Trail at least for 4x4 vehicles
- Mechanical access/tool use-ok
- Allow winter snowmobile recreation



Supporting Information

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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

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