

IDAHO PANHANDLE NATIONAL FOREST

Inventoried Roadless Area Recommendations

**A summary of Idaho Panhandle National Forest
Inventoried Roadless Areas and
recommendations of the Boards of County Commissioners**



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IDAHO PANHANDLE NATIONAL FORESTS

Inventoried Roadless Area County Recommendations

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Purpose of this Report

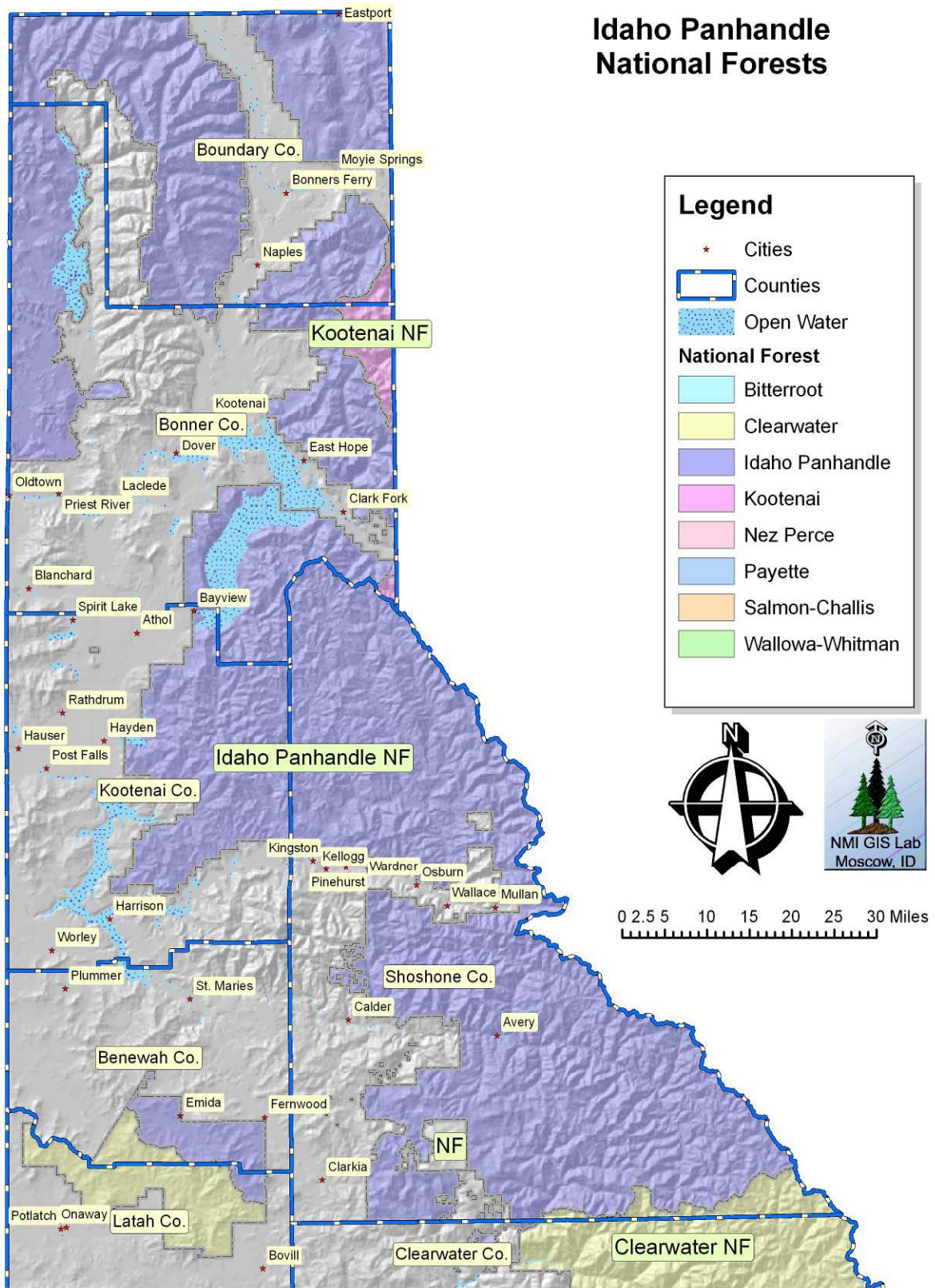
Inventoried Roadless Areas in the Idaho Panhandle National Forest are summarized in this chapter including specific information by IRA, maps of each IRA and additional information needed to allow the reader to understand the IRA recommendations made by North Idaho County Commissioners in Chapter 2.

Idaho Panhandle National Forest Overview

The Idaho Panhandle National Forest contains all or part of forty-seven 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 Idaho Panhandle National Forest represent portions of five counties (Shoshone, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai, and Clearwater). The majority of these IRA's are contained exclusively within the Idaho Panhandle National Forest boundary; though the Mallard-Larkins IRA spans across National Forest boundaries.

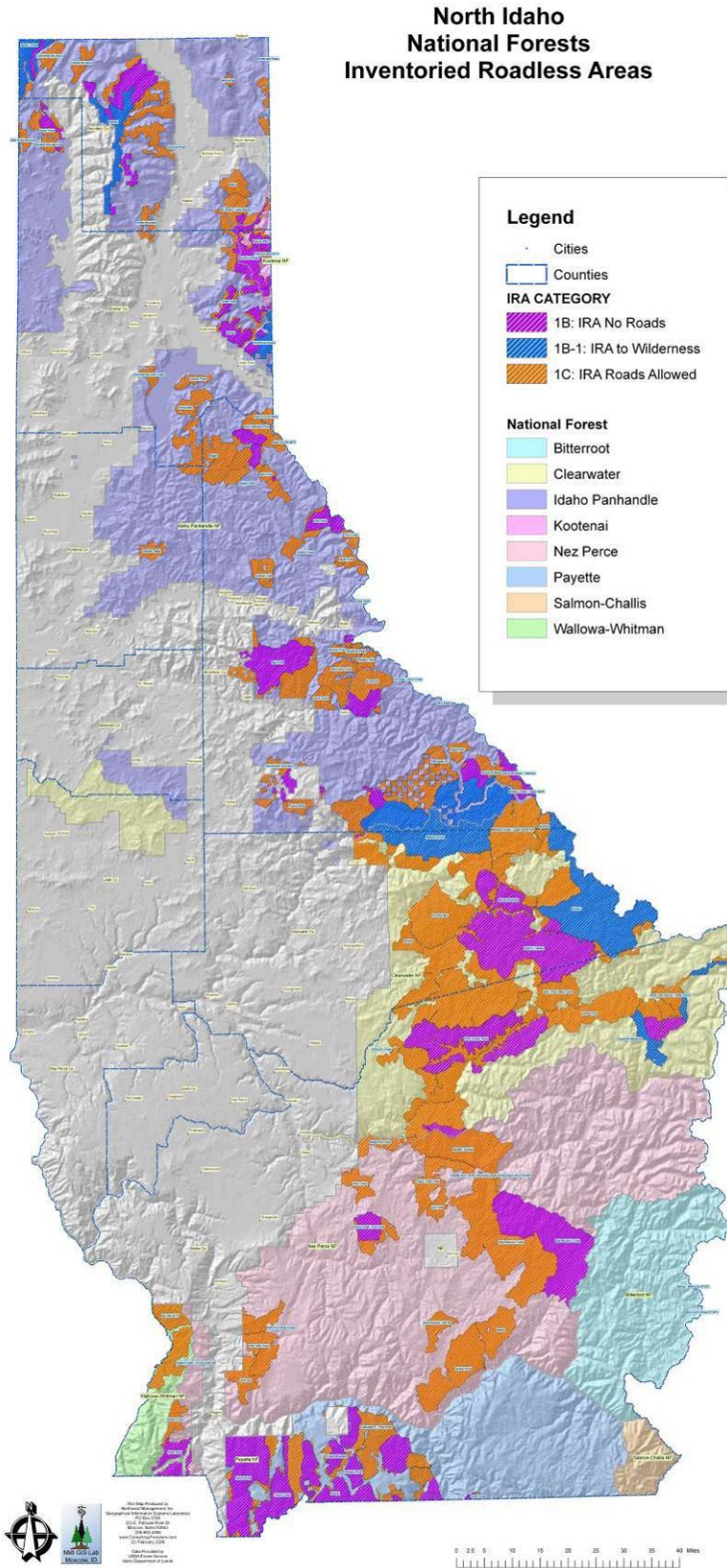
INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

Figure 1.1. Location Map of Idaho Panhandle National Forest.



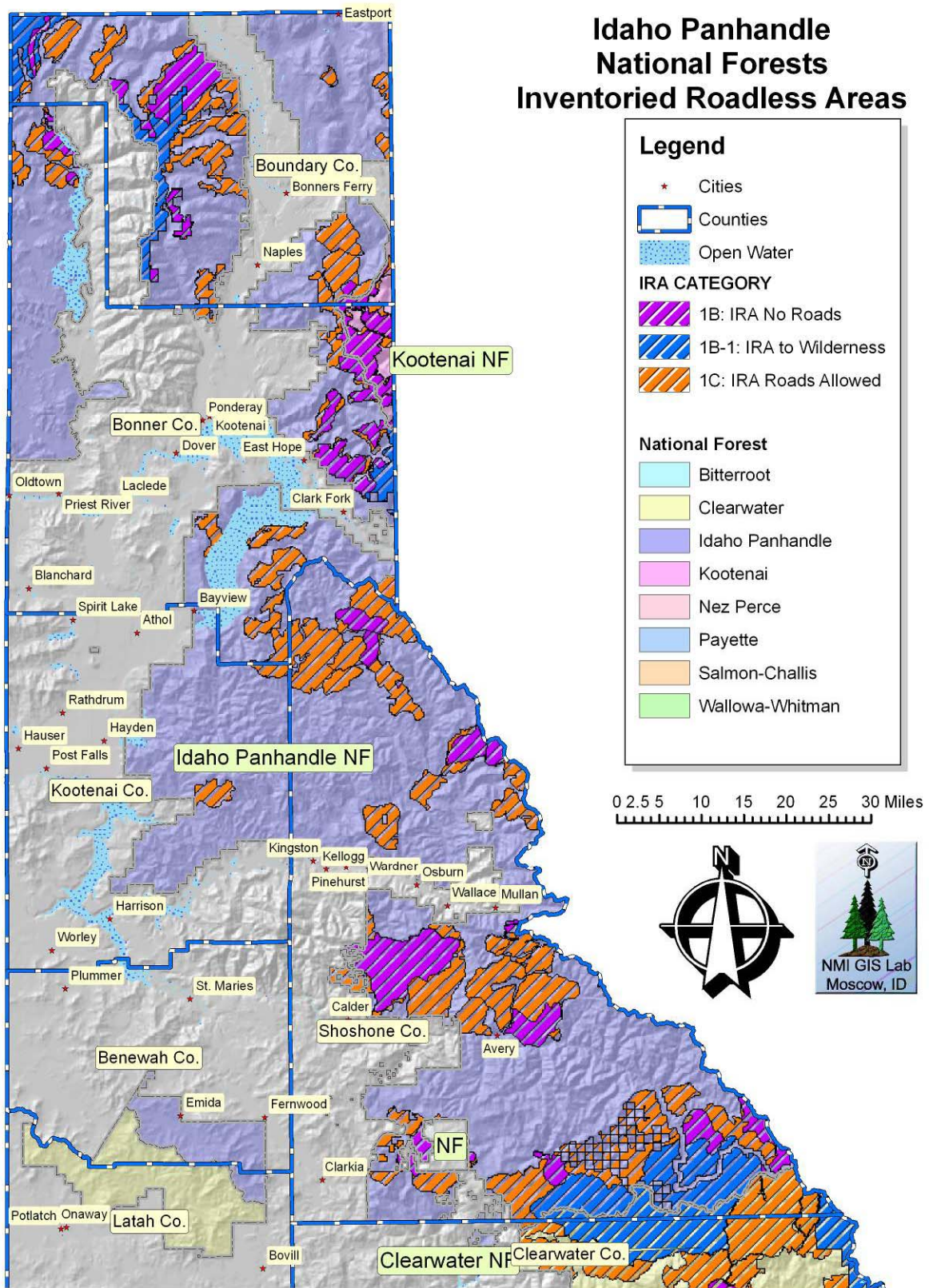
INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

Figure 1.2. Inventoried Roadless Areas in Northern Idaho.



INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

Figure 1.3. Inventoried Roadless Areas on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests.



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 Idaho Panhandle 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 Idaho Panhandle National Forest Plan document. Many national forests have their Forest Plan document available online.

Table 1.1. Idaho Panhandle National Forest IRA Summaries.

Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA)	IRA Category	Idaho Panhandle National Forests Management Areas	Adjacent National Forest Management Areas	Counties in which this IRA is located
BeeTop	1B 1C	10,12,13,14 2, 9		Bonner
Big Creek	1B 1C	10,12,13,14 1,4,5,6,9		Shoshone
Blacktail Mountain PL	1B 1C	10,12,13,14 1,4,9		Bonner
Blacktail Mountain SDPT	1C	1,4,9		Bonner
Buckhorn Ridge	1C	2,9	Kootenai N.F. data unavailable	Bonner, Boundary
Continental Mountain	1C	7,9		Boundary
East Cathedral Peak	1B 1C	10,12,13,14 1,4,9		Shoshone, Bonner
Gilt Edge-Silver Creek	1C	9		Shoshone
Graham Coal	1C	1,4,9		Shoshone
Grandmother Mountain	1B 1C	10,12,13,14 1,4,6,9		Shoshone
Hammond Creek	1C	4,5,6,9		Shoshone
Hellroaring	1C	1,9		Boundary
Katka	1C	2,9,19		Boundary
Kootenai Peak	1C	1,2,3,4,7,9		Boundary

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

Table 1.1. Idaho Panhandle National Forest IRA Summaries.

Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA)	IRA Category	Idaho Panhandle National Forests Management Areas	Adjacent National Forest Management Areas	Counties in which this IRA is located
Little Grass Mountain	1C	1,4,7,9		Bonner (Pend Oreille County, Washington)
Lost Creek	1B 1C	10,12,13,14 4,6		Shoshone
Magee	1C	4,6,9		Bonner, Shoshone, Kootenai
Mallard-Larkins	1B 1B-1 1C	10,12,13,14 11 4,6,9	A3,C1,C6 (CNF) B2 (CNF) C3,C4,E1,E3,M1,US (CNF)	Shoshone, Clearwater
Maple Peak	1C	1,4,9	Kootenai N.F. data unavailable	Shoshone
Meadow Creek-Upper North	1B 1C	10,12,13,14 1		Shoshone
Midget Peak	1C	1,4,5,6,9		Shoshone
Mosquito Fly	1C	1,4,5,6,9		Shoshone
Mt. Willard/Lake Estelle	1B 1C	10,12,13,14 2,9,19		Boundary, Bonner
North Fork	1B 1C	10,12,13,14 4,5,6,9		Shoshone
Packsaddle	1C	1,6,4,9		Bonner
Pinchot Butte	1C	6,9		Shoshone
Roberts	1B 1C		Kootenai N.F. data unavailable	Bonner (Lincoln County, Montana)
Rolland Point	1C	1,4,5,9		Shoshone
Saddle Mountain	1C	7,9		Boundary
Salmo Priest	1B 1B-1 1C	10,12,13,14 11 2,7		Boundary, Bonner (Pend Oreille County, Washington)
Schafer Peak	1C	1,4,9		Bonner
Scotchman Peak	1B 1B-1 1C	10,12,13,14 11 2,3	Kootenai N.F. data unavailable	Bonner (Lincoln and Sanders Counties, Montana)
Selkirks	1B 1B-1 1C	10,12,13,14 11 2,3,7,9		Boundary
Sheep Mountain	1B 1C	10,12,13,14 1,9,20		Shoshone
Skitwash Ridge	1C	1, 4		Kootenai
Spion Kop	1B 1C	10,12,13,14 1,4,6,9		Shoshone
Stevens Peak	1B 1C	10,12,13,14 1,6,9		Shoshone
Storm Creek	1C	1,4,5,6,9		Shoshone
TeePee Creek	1C	1,4,6		Shoshone
Trestle Peak	1B 1C	10,12,13,14 2,9		Bonner
Trouble Creek	1C	1,4		Shoshone
Trout Creek	1B 1C	10,12,13,14 1,9	Kootenai N.F. data unavailable	Shoshone
Upper Priest	1B 1C	10,12,13,14 1,2,3,7,9		Bonner
West Fork Elk	1C		Kootenai N.F. data unavailable	Bonner (Sanders County, Montana)
White Mountain	1C	1,4		Bonner, Boundary

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

Table 1.1. Idaho Panhandle National Forest IRA Summaries.

Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA)	IRA Category	Idaho Panhandle National Forests Management Areas	Adjacent National Forest Management Areas	Counties in which this IRA is located
Willard Estelle	1C		Kootenai N.F. data unavailable	Bonner, Boundary
Wonderful Peak	1C	1,9		Shoshone

Idaho Panhandle National Forest: Management Areas

Idaho Panhandle National Forest Management Area Prescriptions

The following descriptions of Management Areas occurring within the IRA's on the Idaho Panhandle National Forest have been summarized from the 1987 Idaho Panhandle 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 1987 document available in pdf format at <http://www.fs.fed.us/ipnf/eco/manage/forestplan/index.html#fp>.

Management Area 1 Timber Production

Goals:

Manage those lands suitable for timber production for the long-term growth and production of commercially valuable wood products and:

- provide cost effective timber production
- protect soil productivity
- meet or exceed state water quality standards
- provide wildlife habitat
- provide opportunities for dispersed recreation
- meet visual quality objectives

Recreation

Manage primarily for roaded modified and Recreation roaded natural Recreation Opportunity Management Spectrum (ROS) classes. Maintain a diversity of recreation opportunities. The Emerald Creek Garnet area will be managed to provide a unique recreation rockhound experience and in accord with its current management **direction** (see Appendix AA available upon request).

Wildlife and Fish

Road use will be based on needs identified in project level planning. Utilize road use restrictions to enhance wildlife habitat except as needed for timber management activities. Maintain approximately 25,000 acres to support viable populations of old-growth dependent species.

Range

Utilize available forage for livestock consistent with demand, cost efficiency and wildlife needs.

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

Timber

Timber management regimes will be based upon analysis of the site specific objectives, considering among other items, cost efficiency and cost effectiveness. Even-aged regeneration systems will generally be used, with uneven-aged systems applied in special cases, such as meeting retention and partial retention visual quality objective. Intermediate harvests will be used to meet timber management goals. Planting will be used as needed to meet silvicultural objectives as prescribed in the stand Silvicultural Prescription. Reforestation of currently nonstocked lands (and rehabilitation of cull and stagnated stands will be based upon analysis of cost efficiency and resource goals and objectives of the specific site. Precommercial thinning will be used in conjunction with the level of management intensity.

Water and Soil

Refer to Best Management Practices.

Facilities

Utilize the lowest standard road meeting transportation objectives compatible with resource protection requirements and area management goals.

Protection

Silvicultural methods and cultural practices which reduce the development and/or perpetuation of pest problems will be given priority. Prescribed fire will be used as needed to meet silvicultural objectives as prescribed in the stand Silvicultural Prescription. Use initial attack strategies (confine, contain and control) appropriate to achieve the best benefit:cost (least cost + net value change) based commercial timber values.

MANAGEMENT AREA 2 Timber/ Grizzly Bear

Description

Management Area 2 consists off lands designated for timber production within identified grizzly bear habitat. The management area is located in the northern third of Idaho Panhandle National Forests, along the Selkirk Crest and the eastern boundary of the Forest.

Topography, elevation and vegetation are similar to Management Area 1. Landownership is predominately National Forest with some intermingled private lands on the east slopes of the Selkirk Crest. Included within this management area in units too small to display are 5,300 acres of non-forest lands or land not capable of producing industrial products. Visual sensitivity varies from low to high.

Goals

Manage identified grizzly bear habitat to support a recovered grizzly bear population while providing for the long-term growth and production of commercially valuable wood products and;

- provide cost effective timber production
- protect soil product city
- meet or exceed state water quality standards
- reduce the potential for bear/human conflicts
- provide opportunities for dispersed recreation consistent with grizzly bear habitat requirements
- meet visual quality objectives

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

Recreation

Manage primarily for roaded modified and roaded natural ROS classes. Maintain a diversity of recreation opportunities. Restrictions may be necessary to reduce bear/human conflicts. Manage trails to avoid areas of critical grizzly bear habitat. Trail use restrictions may be necessary to reduce bear/human conflicts.

Wildlife and Fish

Road use will be based on needs identified in project level planning. Additional restrictions and seasonal vehicle closures as needed to assure grizzly bear habitat. Maintain approximately 6,000 acres to support viable populations of old-growth dependent species. Manage grizzly bear habitat in accordance with Interagency Grizzly Bear Guidelines and approved recovery plans. Evaluate cumulative effects of management practices within each bear unit. Silvicultural treatments will be used to improve grizzly habitat and aid in achieving the grizzly bear recovery goal. Implement grizzly bear information/education efforts with permittees, user groups contractors, employees and local communities.

Range

Utilize available forage for livestock commensurate with demand, cost efficiency and wildlife needs. No increase in permitted AUM's or livestock numbers and sheep grazing will not be permitted.

Timber

Timber management regimes will be based upon analysis of the site specific objectives, considering among other items, cost efficiency and cost effectiveness. Timber harvest scheduling will be used to maintain grizzly bear security within each bear unit.

Even-aged regeneration systems will generally be used, with uneven-aged systems applied in special cases, such as meeting retention visual quality objective. Intermediate harvests will be used to meet timber management goals.

Planting will be used as needed to meet silvicultural objectives as prescribed in the stand Silvicultural Prescription. Reforestation of currently nonstocked lands (and rehabilitation of cull stagnated stands) will be based upon analysis of cost efficiency, cost effectiveness and resource goals and objectives of the specific site.

Precommercial thinning will be used in conjunction with the level of management intensity.

Water and Soil

Refer to Best Management Practices

Facilities

Utilize the lowest standard road meeting transportation objectives compatible with resource protection requirements and area management goals.

Minerals

Operating plans and permits will emphasize road closures and grizzly bear mitigation needs such as coordination and scheduling activities with other resource users.

Protection

Integrated pest management will be used where needed to meet management area objectives. Silvicultural methods and cultural practices which reduce the development and/or perpetuation of pest problems will be given priority.

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

Prescribed fire will be used as needed to meet silvicultural objectives as prescribed in the stand Silvicultural Prescription. Broadcast burning is the preferred method of site preparation for those areas needed for bear forage.

Use initial attack strategies (confine, contain and control) appropriate to achieve the best benefit:cost (least cost plus net value charge) based on commercial timber values and grizzly bear habitat needs.

Management Area 3-Grizzly Bear/Big Game Winter Range

Description

Management Area 3 consists of lands designated for timber production within identified grizzly bear habitat and big game winter range. It is located in the lower slopes of the Upper Priest River, Moyie River, and the Boulder Creek areas.

Goals

Manage identified grizzly bear habitat to support the Idaho Panhandle National Forest' share of a recovered grizzly bear population (25 animals) while providing sufficient winter forage to support projected big game populations through scheduled timber harvest and:

Provide long-term growth and production of commercially valuable wood products

Provide cost effective timber production

Protect soil productivity

Meet or exceed state water quality standards

Reduce the potential for wildlife/human conflict

Provide opportunities for dispersed recreation consistent with wildlife habitat needs

Meet visual quality objectives (VQO)

Recreation

Manage primarily for roaded modified and roaded natural ROS class. Maintain a diversity of recreation opportunities. Restrictions may be necessary to reduce bear/human conflicts. Manage trails to avoid areas critical to grizzly bear recovery. Trail use restrictions may be necessary to reduce bear/human conflicts.

Wildlife and Fish

Road use will be based on needs identified in project level planning. Additional restrictions and seasonal closures as needed to assure grizzly bear security.

Manage grizzly bear habitat in accordance with Interagency Grizzly Bear Guidelines and approved recovery plans.

Silvicultural treatments will be used to improve grizzly bear habitat and aid in achieving bear recovery goal.

Maintain sufficient acres to support viable populations of old-growth dependent species.

Range

Utilize available forage for livestock consistent with demand, cost efficiency, and wildlife needs. Sheep grazing not permitted.

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

Timber

Timber management regimes will be based upon analysis of the site specific objectives considering among other items, cost efficiency and cost effectiveness. Timber harvest will be used to maintain grizzly bear security within each bear unit and provide big game winter range requirements.

Even-aged regeneration systems will generally be used; uneven-aged systems may be applied in special cases.

Intermediate harvests will be used to meet timber management goals.

Planting will be used as needed to meet silvicultural objectives.

Water and Soil

Will follow state BMP's.

Facilities

Utilize the lowest standard road meeting transportation objectives compatible with resource protection requirements and area management goals.

Minerals

Operating plans and permits will emphasize road closures and grizzly bear mitigation needs.

Protection

Integrated pest management will be used where needed to meet management area objectives. Biological control will be given priority.

Prescribed fire will be used as needed to meet silvicultural objectives as prescribed in the stand Silvicultural Prescription.

Use initial attack strategies (confine, contain, control) appropriate to achieve the best cost benefit ratio based on commercial timber, grizzly bear habitat, and whitetail deer winter range values.

Management Area 4-Timber Production/Big Game Winter Range

Description

Management area 4 consists of lands designated for timber production within big game winter range. The lands are generally below 4,000 feet in elevation and are predominantly southern exposures. Slopes are moderate to steep. Winter ranges for elk, whitetail deer, and/or moose are included in this management area. A portion of the Emerald Creek Garnet area is included within this management area.

Goals

Manage big game winter range to provide sufficient forage to support projected big game habitat needs through scheduled timber harvest and permanent forage areas and:

Provide long-term growth and production of commercially valuable wood products

Provide cost effective timber production

Protect soil productivity

Meet or exceed state water quality standards

Provide opportunities for dispersed recreation consistent with wildlife habitat needs

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

Meet visual quality objectives

Recreation

Manage primarily for roaded modified and roaded natural ROS classes. Motorized use is generally restricted to designated routes. Within critical habitat components motorized recreation use may be restricted to provide needed wildlife security.

Maintain a diversity of recreation opportunities. The Emerald Creek Garnet area will be managed to provide a unique recreation rockhound experience and in accord with its current management direction.

Wildlife and Fish

Road use will be based on needs identified in project level planning. Closures will be made as needed to meet wildlife habitat needs.

Maintain sufficient old-growth acres to support viable populations of species dependent on such stand conditions.

Timber harvest scheduling will be used to provide big game winter range requirements.

Prescribed fire may be used to increase forage in open areas.

Maintain needed thermal cover areas adjacent to forage areas.

Species specific habitat needs will be emphasized within identified winter range for each species.

Range

Available forage in excess of wildlife needs may be made available for livestock use.

Timber

Timber management regimes will be based upon analysis of the site specific objectives consistent with big game winter range needs. Even-aged regeneration systems will generally be used on south and west slopes to stimulate forage production. Uneven aged and intermediate treatments may be used to meet specific management needs. Rotations may be adjusted to provide additional forage.

Planting will be used as needed to meet silvicultural objectives.

Water and Soil

Will follow state BMP's.

Protection

Integrated pest management will be used where needed to meet management area objectives. Silvicultural methods and practices which reduce the development and/or perpetuation of pest problems will be given priority.

Prescribed fire will be used as needed to meet silvicultural objectives as prescribed in the stand Silvicultural Prescription. Use prescribed fire on forage areas to meet existing and projected big game populations.

Use initial attack strategies (confine, contain, control) appropriate to achieve the best cost benefit ratio based on commercial timber, grizzly bear habitat, and whitetail deer winter range values.

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

Facilities

Utilize the lowest standard road meeting transportation objectives compatible with resource protection requirements and area management goals.

Management Area 5-Big Game Winter Range

Description

Management area 5 consists of important big game winter range in the southern portion of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The lands are moderate to steep with southern exposures and below 4,000 feet elevation along the breaks of the St. Joe River drainage. The majority of the land is environmentally unsuited for timber production.

Goals

Manage big game winter range to provide sufficient forage and cover to support projected big game populations through permanent forage areas and:

Meet or exceed state water quality standards

Provide opportunities for dispersed recreation consistent with wildlife habitat needs

Meet visual quality objectives (VQO)

Recreation

Manage toward roaded natural and semi-primitive ROS experience. Motorized use will generally be restricted to designated routes. Within critical habitat components motorized vehicle use may be restricted to provide needed wildlife security.

Wildlife and Fish

Forage areas should be permanent openings, primarily on south and west aspects, maintained by prescribed burning and/or mechanical methods. Maintain thermal cover primarily on benches and ridges.

Local and collector roads will be classed as intermediate with seasonal vehicle closures during big game use periods.

Range

Available forage in excess of wildlife needs may be made available for livestock use.

Timber

Timber harvest will be used to maintain or improve winter range. Forest land is classed as unsuitable for timber production.

Water and Soil

Will follow state BMP's.

Facilities

Collector roads will be limited to that necessary to access adjacent areas. All other roads will be temporary, except as necessary to manage the winter range.

Protection

Integrated pest management will be used where needed to meet management area objectives. Biological control will be given priority.

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

Identify specific areas where prescribed fire will be beneficial and cost effective in achieving the objectives of the management area.

Confine, contain, and control fires within the management area based on big game winter range values.

Management Area 6-Timber Production/Elk Summer Range

Description

Management area 6 consists of lands designated for timber production and within important elk summer range habitats. The area is predominantly timbered and has fewer roads than average. It is characterized by areas frequented by elk during the spring and summer season.

Goals

Manage elk summer range to provide sufficient habitat to support projected big game populations and:

Provide for the long-term growth and production of commercially valuable wood products

Provide adequate elk security areas through management techniques such as long-term area closures between harvest entries

Provide cost effective timber production

Protect soil productivity

Meet or exceed state water quality standards

Provide opportunities for dispersed recreation consistent with elk summer range habitat needs

Meet visual quality objectives (VQO)

Recreation

Manage for roaded natural and semi-primitive ROS experience. The area is open to motorized use. Within critical habitat components motorized recreational use may be restricted to enhance wildlife habitat use.

Wildlife and Fish

Special emphasis will be given to the maintenance, protection and enhancement of key habitat components (including security, moist sites, wet meadows, thermal cover, salt licks, wallows, etc.).

Productive forest land within key habitat components will be classed as unsuitable for timber production.

Seasonal road closures may be necessary to provide security.

Range

Available forage in excess of wildlife needs may be made available for livestock use.

Timber

Timber management regimes will be based upon analysis of the site specific objectives consistent with elk summer range requirements. Even-aged regeneration systems will generally be used on south and west slopes to stimulate forage production. Uneven aged and intermediate treatments may be used to meet specific management needs. Harvest periods may be limited to provide identified elk habitat security.

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

Planting will be used as needed to meet silvicultural objectives.

Precommercial thinning will be used in conjunction with the level of management intensity on prime timber lands and where it enhances elk summer range.

Water and Soil

Will follow state BMP's.

Facilities

Utilize the lowest standard road meeting transportation objectives compatible with resource protection requirements and area management goals.

Protection

Integrated pest management will be used where needed to meet management area objectives. Silvicultural methods and practices which reduce the development and/or perpetuation of pest problems will be given priority.

Prescribed fire will be used as needed to meet silvicultural objectives.

Confine, contain, and control fires within the management area based on elk summer range values.

Management Area 7-Caribou Management

Description

Management area 7 consists of lands designated for caribou management within identified caribou habitat. Elevation of this area is generally above 4,300 feet. It represents all exposures, variable topography and vegetative composition/structure. Grizzly bear habitat is also contained within this management area.

Goals

Manage caribou habitat to provide a proper mix of seasonal habitats needed to support the National Forest's share of recovered Selkirk woodland caribou population and:

Growth and production of commercially valuable wood products, when consistent with management area goal

Where overlap occurs, provide grizzly bear habitat

Protect soil productivity

Meet or exceed state water quality standards

Provide opportunities for dispersed recreation consistent with wildlife habitat needs

Reduce the potential for caribou and/or grizzly bear conflicts with human activities.

Provide cost effective timber production consistent with caribou habitat

Meet visual quality objectives (VQO)

Recreation

Manage for roaded natural and where possible toward semi-primitive motorized and non-motorized recreation.

Restrict motorized use when needed to protect caribou.

Seasonal closures of some or all uses may be needed to protect caribou or grizzly bears.

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

Wildlife and Fish

Provide seasonal habitat requirements in accordance with the Caribou Habitat Management Guidelines and approved recovery plans.

Retain and manage established caribou travel corridors that occur in mature timber.

Manage grizzly bear habitat in accordance with Interagency Grizzly Bear Guidelines and approved recovery plans.

Collector and local roads generally closed to vehicles with physical barriers preferred. Arterial roads and additional seasonal closures may occur as needed to protect caribou.

Range

Utilize available for livestock consistent with demand cost efficiency and wildlife needs.

Timber

Timber management regimes will be based upon analysis of the site specific analysis of caribou habitat needs. Both even-aged and uneven aged regeneration systems will be used dependent on site specific caribou habitat requirements. Existing all-aged old-growth cedar/hemlock stands are to be retained. Harvest scheduling will be used to provide security within grizzly habitat.

Planting will be used as needed to meet silvicultural and caribou habitat management objectives.

Precommercial thinning will be used in conjunction with the level of management intensity and caribou habitat.

Water and Soil

Will follow state BMP's.

Minerals

Operating plans and permits will emphasize road closures and caribou habitat mitigation needs.

Facilities

Road construction through old-growth cedar/hemlock stands should be limited to those instances in which no other reasonable access to stands to be harvested is possible.

Protection

Integrated pest management will be used where needed to meet management area objectives. Biological control will be given priority.

Prescribed fire will be used as needed to meet silvicultural objectives.

Confine, contain, and control fires within the management area to prevent loss of all coniferous species in all size classes.

Management Area 9-Unsuitable Lands

Description

Management area 9 consists of areas of non-forest lands, lands not capable of producing industrial products, lands physically unsuited for timber production, and lands capable of timber production but isolated by the above type lands or nonpublic ownership. Both grizzly bear and caribou habitat overlap with this management area. Maintaining the existing visual situation of these areas in an unchanged condition is a major concern.

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

Goals

Manage National Forest lands to maintain and protect existing improvements and resource productive potential and meet visual quality objectives.

Recreation

This area will be managed for roaded natural or semi-primitive ROS recreation experience. Maintain existing improvements. Trail construction in this area is only to access other areas. Existing trails will generally be open.

Wildlife and Fish

Maintain existing structural improvements.

Range

Maintain existing range improvements.

Timber

Salvage and firewood, and miscellaneous products removal may occur from existing access. No scheduled harvest will occur. Forest lands are classified as unsuitable for timber production.

Water and Soil

Will follow state BMP's.

Minerals

Roads may be constructed for mineral activities where construction is the next logical step in the development of the mineral resource.

Facilities

No local road construction is planned. Construction of arterials and collectors permitted as needed to access adjacent areas.

Protection

Integrated pest management will be used where needed to meet management area objectives. Biological control will be given priority.

Prescribed fire will be used as needed to meet silvicultural objectives.

Confine, contain, and control fires within the management area, except in caribou habitat where fires will be confined, contained, and controlled to prevent loss of all coniferous species in all size classes.

Management Area 10-Recreation

Description

Management area 10 consists of a cross section of National Forest lands that have high value for semi-productive recreation. These areas are in blocks of 2,500 acres or more and are part of the roadless resource of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest, with areas scattered throughout the forest.

Landownership is predominately National Forest except for Grandmother Mountain, which is mixed ownership with BLM, state of Idaho, and private.

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

Some of these areas, such as Stevens Lake, may have existing primitive roads that penetrate the area, to provide access or jump off points for recreational use. Some grizzly bear and caribou habitat are included in this management area.

The following is a list of individual areas within this management area:

Crooked Crown	Parker Canyon
Lost Creek	Long Canyon
Grandmother Mountain	St. Joe Lake
Mt. Pend Orielle	Stevens Lake
Bee Top	Little North Fork Clearwater
Trestle Peak	Selkirk Crest Additions
Lightning Mountain	Goat Mountain
Savage Creek	East Cathedral

Goals

Manage the individual areas to provide a semi-primitive recreation experience and:

Manage those existing roads to provide access for and dispersal of recreation users

Growth and production of commercially valuable wood products, when consistent with management area goal

Manage big game winter range to maintain or enhance forage production

Provide for low public access fisheries

Meet visual quality objectives (VQO)

Recreation

A variety of trail uses will be provided in areas designated semi-primitive, except for the direct access to and from the area around Lake Darling, Gem Lake, and Moose Lake on the Sandpoint District which are closed to motorized vehicles. Also closed to motorized use are Parker Canyon, Long Canyon, and the St. Joe Lake area.

Within grizzly bear and caribou habitat, recreation use may be restricted to provide needed wildlife security during periods of use.

Wildlife and Fish

Allow prescribed burning on existing forage areas and/or revegetate to preferred wildlife forage species.

Manage grizzly bear habitat in accordance with Interagency Grizzly Bear Guidelines and approved recovery plans.

Range

Utilize available for livestock consistent with demand cost efficiency and wildlife needs.

Timber

No regulated timber harvest. The area is classed as unsuitable for timber production.

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

Water and Soil

Will follow state BMP's.

Minerals

Exploration without roads will be encouraged. Roads may be constructed for mineral activities where construction is the next logical step in the development of the mineral resource.

Facilities

No roads will be built within the management area except for those few cases where primitive roads may be constructed to improve the semi-primitive recreation experience.

Maintain administrative facilities such as lookouts and guard stations.

Protection

Integrated pest management will be used where needed to meet management area objectives. Biological control will be given priority.

Prescribed fire will be used as needed to meet silvicultural objectives.

Confine, contain, and control fires within the management area.

Dozers will not be used for fire suppression without the forest supervisor's approval.

Management Area 11 Existing and Proposed Wilderness

Description:

Management Area 11 consists of the existing and proposed wilderness areas on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. This area includes the IPNF's portions of the existing (9,440 acres) and proposed (17,600 acres) Salmo-Priest Wilderness, proposed (23,900 acres) Scotchman Peaks proposed Mallard-Larkins (78,500 acres) area and all of the proposed Selkirk Crest (26,700 acres) area.

Goals:

Manage the classified Salmo-Priest Wilderness to protect wilderness characteristics pending completion of the specific management direction. Manage those lands proposed for wilderness to protect their wilderness characteristics pending a Congressional decision and:

- Provide opportunities for public use, enjoyment and understanding of the wilderness resource
- Provide opportunities for a primitive and semi-primitive recreation experience

Recreation:

Management practices will follow the guidelines for the preservation visual quality objectives.

Until classification: Provide for inventory, and protection of cultural resources.

Within grizzly bear and caribou habitat, recreation use and access may be restricted to provide needed wildlife security during use periods.

Motorized use may be permitted until classification where use has been established and where such use will not significantly reduce wilderness potential, except within bounds of Mallard-Larkins Pioneer Area, the St. Joe Wild River Area and Upper Priest River.

Manage for a semi-primitive and primitive ROS experience in a natural appearing environment.

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

Wilderness:

Upon classification, specific management direction will be written for each area and incorporated into the Forest Plan as an amendment.

Visitor use and distribution will be determined and managed to a level compatible with the wilderness resource to prevent loss of solitude or unacceptable depreciation of the wilderness qualities.

Existing structures will be protected until historic values and long-term needs are evaluated in the specific wilderness management direction.

Emphasis on-site personal contact, provide off-site interpretation.

Wildlife and Fish:

Using prescribed fire with both planned and unplanned ignitions to maintain brushfields which may be beneficial to wilderness values in key wildlife winter range areas if other resource values are adequately protected.

Range:

No new allotments.

Timber:

Timber harvest will not be permitted. Forest lands classed as unsuitable for timber production.

Minerals:

All mineral and energy related activities must comply with reasonable conditions for maintaining the wilderness resource unimpaired for future use and enjoyment of its wilderness character, but consistent with the use of the land for mineral location, development, or other activities. Upon classification the lands are not open to locatable or leasable mineral entry, subject to valid existing rights.

Lands:

Acquire lands as they become available.

Facilities:

Trail construction may be permitted and will be accomplished with minimal disturbance of the natural environment.

No new roads will be built. Roads at the boundaries of these areas will be managed, maintained, and modified as necessary to meet overall transportation objectives in an environmentally sound manner.

Protection:

Insects and disease conditions will be monitored and evaluated within wilderness areas. If conditions pose a significant threat to lands outside wilderness areas, control measures may be taken, with biological control given priority.

Identify specific areas where prescribed fire may be beneficial and cost effective in achieving the objectives of the management area.

Allow fire to play a natural role in the wilderness ecosystems – consistent with any applicable language in the enabling legislation.

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

Use appropriate suppression response to suppress fires, to protect life and prevent property loss, and to prevent fires from spreading to adjacent areas – in conjunction with specific management direction.

Determine if Class II Air Quality designation is appropriate for wilderness management purposes.

Management Area 12 National Wild and Scenic Rivers

Description:

Management Area 12 consists of those portions of the St. Joe and Priest River and adjacent lands classified and proposed for classification as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The St. Joe River is presently classified as a Wild River from St. Joe Lake to Spruce Tree Campground and a Recreation River from Spruce Tree Campground to its junction with the North Fork of the St. Joe. The Upper Priest River above Upper Priest Lake is proposed as a Wild River. The adjacent lands involve a corridor approximately one quarter mile on either side of the above named rivers.

Goals:

Manage the rivers and their immediate environments to preserve their free flowing condition. The St. Joe River is to be managed in accordance the Development and Management Plan (Appendix Z available upon request). The Upper Priest River portion will be managed to preserve its Wild River attributes pending Congressional decision and:

- Maintain and improve big game winter range habitat within the recreation section of the St. Joe River
- Provide opportunities for a full spectrum of river related recreational experiences
- Maintain existing water quality and protect important fish habitat
- Meet visual quality objectives

Recreation:

Refer to the specific management direction contained in the Development and Management Plan for the St. Joe Wild and Scenic River. Manage the Upper Priest River portion to preserve its wild river attributes until Congress decides its status under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Within the corridor of the Upper Priest River and the St. Joe Wild River the VQO is preservation.

Within the corridor of the St. Joe Recreation River the VQO is retention.

Within the Upper Priest Wild River uses will be limited to non-motorized except on established roads.

Wilderness:

Reference proposed wilderness area standards and guidelines for portions within wilderness areas. Approximately 12,100 acres are within proposed wilderness areas.

Wildlife:

Within the Upper Priest Wild River and the Wild River portion of the St. Joe, allow natural successional changes. Vegetative manipulations including prescribed fire will be used to maintain and enhance big game winter ranges within the recreation portion of the St. Joe.

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

Range:

No new grazing allotments.

Timber:

No regulated timber harvest. Unregulated harvest permitted in accordance with the Development and Management Plan for the St. Joe River. Forest lands classed as unsuitable for timber production.

Water and Soil:

Refer to Best Management Practices.

Minerals:

Upon classification, mineral activity will be subject to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Rivers classified as wild are withdrawn from mineral entry, subject to valid existing rights.

Lands:

Acquire lands or scenic easements as they become available.

No additional permanent facilities will be allowed in Wild River corridor except as provided for mining.

Facilities:

No new roads will be allowed in the Wild River portion. Road construction within the recreation section shall conform to direction provided in the Development and Management Plan.

Permanent roads generally open.

Protection:

Integrated pest management will be used where needed to meet management area objectives. Biological control will be given priority.

Identify specific areas where prescribed fire may be beneficial and cost effective in achieving the objectives of the management area.

Confine, contain and control fires in this management area according to the fire protection standard applicable to the contiguous management area.

Increase law enforcement activity during use periods.

Management Area 13 Special features

Description:

Management Area 13 consists of areas and sites with special attributes or features meriting special management. Included in this management are areas and sites previously classified including: botanical, scenic landmarks and historic sites. Area guidelines will be followed for future sites placed on the National historic and landmark programs, as well as for areas classified as special areas.

Goals:

Manage classified natural landmark, special areas and cultural resource sites for educational, scientific, and recreational purposes. Cultural resource sites will be managed in accordance with their classification objectives and goals and:

- Provide opportunities for access and use of areas by handicapped persons

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

Recreation:

Camping and picnic sites will be developed adjacent to access points at Development Level 3-4. Harden sites as needed to prevent site damage.

For Visitor's Information Service (VIS) facilities the preferred Development Level is 2-3. Use level 4-5 only as needed to protect the sites.

Internal development within Natural History Areas will be for site protection only to Development Level 1-2. Facilities on historic sites will be related to site protection and interpretation.

Maintain diverse opportunities appropriate to the classification or theme for that tract.

Provide interpretation for visitor enhancement and site management that does not violate site integrity. Consider on-site, off-site and/or living interpretation.

Evaluate significant natural history sites and areas for inclusion in the National landmark program.

Develop specific management direction for individual areas and incorporate into the plan as appendices.

Manage to maintain the significant specimens or group exhibits of plants, plant groups or plant communities related to area's botanical features.

Manage to preserve the outstanding or unique natural beauty which warranted the classification.

Manage and treat fossils subject to Antiquities Act provisions. Manage to preserve and interpret significant specimens.

Manage cultural resources to ensure properties and records are protected from unauthorized and inappropriate uses. Manage as a nonrenewal resource to retain their integrity.

Manage trails to mitigate conflicting uses. Maintain to appropriate standard. Provide for handicapped at key areas. Classify qualifying trails as National Recreation Trails. Access generally is non-motorized.

Emphasize a moderate level of development and maintenance of key cultural resource sites. Identify and pursue opportunities for interpretation and enhancement.

Within this management area, the visual quality objectives are retention on approximately 5,600 acres and partial retention on 2,300 acres.

Fish and Wildlife:

Allow compatible practices as identified in area specific management direction.

Range:

Range management may occur where compatible with area objectives. Give preference to recreation stock where conflict for livestock forage occurs.

Timber:

No regulated timber harvest, productive timber land classified as unsuitable for timber production.

Minerals:

Withdraw areas as needed.

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

Lands:

Generally no conflicting uses will be permitted.

Acquire available lands having a significant impact on goals of the specific area.

Facilities:

Local roads are preferred to accomplish area goals. Other roads are not generally compatible.

Generally manage as constant service roads.

Protection:

Integrated pest management will be used where needed to meet management area objectives. Biological control will be given priority.

In the Northwest Peaks Scenic area, identify specific areas where prescribed fire may be beneficial and cost effective in achieving the objectives of the management area.

Fires will be controlled at the smallest size possible.

Fire Supervisor's approval is required for use of dozers.

Management Area 14 RNA's

Description:

Management Area 14 consists of areas to be utilized for scientific research and includes the existing and candidate Research Natural Areas (RNA's) and experimental forests.

Goals:

Provide areas for non-manipulative research, observation, and study of undisturbed ecosystems which typify forest, shrubland, grassland, alpine, aquatic, and geologic types.

Provide areas for manipulative research. Specific exceptions to forest standards included in Chapter II are to be identified in the research project plan and approved by the Station Director.

Research:

Specific management direction, including research activities, for individual areas will be incorporated into this plan as amendments.

Recreation:

Experimental Forests: Manage for roaded natural ROS experience subject to research needs.

RNA: Manage for a visual quality objective of preservation.

Experimental Forest: Manage of adopted VQO, subject to research needs.

RNA: Existing trails can be maintained; no new trails are permitted.

Wildlife and Fish:

RNA: No habitat improvement permitted.

Experimental Forests: Practices to be identified in research project plan.

Timber:

No timber management practices except as identified in research project plans. Firewood permits and salvage sale permitted through consultation with Research Director on Experimental Forests. Forestland is classed as unsuitable for timber production.

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

Water and Soil:

Experimental Forests: Exceptions to General Standards and Guidelines may occur for research purposes.

Facilities:

RNA: No new road construction or reconstruction.

Experimental forest: Maintenance and closure as agreed upon with Station Director.

Minerals:

RNA: Common variety minerals will not be sold. No surface occupancy will be used for leasing activities. Areas recommended for withdrawal as needed.

Experimental Forests: Areas withdrawn from entry.

Lands:

Not available for disposal.

RNA: Non-occupancy permits compatible with area objectives will be allowed.

Experimental Forests: Permits compatible with research needs permitted.

Protection:

RNA: Insect & Disease: Generally no control measures will be undertaken unless epidemic populations exist and adjacent lands are threatened. Control generally on adjacent lands only.

Experimental Forests: Control may be used when compatible with research needs.

Experimental Forests Prescribed Fire practices are to be identified in the research project plans.

Confine, contain and control fires to prevent fire loss of trees. Coordinate fire protection with research.

Management Area 19

Description

Management Area 19 consists of a cross section of National Forest lands which have a high value for semi-primitive recreation as well as timber production. Many of the values found in Management Area 10 occur here as well. Timber harvest would be allowed with limited roading of the area. The areas range from dense forest to brush fields to open rocky ridge tops.

Goals

Manage the semi-primitive recreation setting in a near-natural appearing condition and:

- manage wildlife habitat and the timber resource through scheduled low levels of timber harvest with minimum standard interior roads
- protect soil productivity
- provide a semi-primitive environment and elk security areas through road standards and management of long term road closure
- meet or exceed state water quality standards
- meet visual quality objectives

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

Recreation

Manage toward a semi-primitive recreation experience where the recreationist can find a setting that is near-natural in appearance. Vegetative alterations are small in size and number, dispersed and not obvious. Low interaction between user groups, but there may be some evidence of other users. Minimum standard interior roads that are usually revegetated, some being used as trails, will be encountered. Motorized recreation vehicles will be allowed where they do not conflict with wildlife and other resources needs.

Manage for a recreation trail system that utilizes low standard roads and trails to provide a circulation pattern for the semi-primitive recreation experience. Trail heads with minor facilities can be constructed and maintained.

Manage for approximately 15,500 acres of retention VQ0's and 31,900 acres of partial retention VQ0's. Existing areas that do not meet the VQ0's will be brought up to standard when it is cost effective to do so.

The area in the foreground from system trails will be managed for retention VQO. The remainder of the area will be managed for a partial retention VQO.

Road use will be based on needs identified in project level planning. Seasonal closures as needed to provide big game security.

Allow prescribed burning on existing forage areas and/or revegetate to preferred wildlife forage species.

Timber

Timber management regimes will be based upon analysis of site-specific objectives consistent with the recreation and visual quality objectives. Uneven-aged regeneration systems will generally be used, with even-aged systems applied in areas where it is appropriate.

Timber management may be with an extended rotation age, resulting in less than optimum timber outputs.

Water and Soil

Refer to Best Management Practices

Facilities

Utilize the lowest standard interior road, generally 12 feet wide with vertical cut slopes where appropriate. Smaller harvest equipment may have-to be used. Arterial and collector roads at or near the boundaries of these areas will be provided and managed to accomplish overall transportation objectives in an environmentally sound manner.

Road use will be based on needs identified in project level planning. In areas open to motorized recreational vehicle use, roads identified in the Trail Management Plan as being needed for primitive road use will be maintained for 4-wheel drive recreation vehicles.

Maintain administrative facilities such as lookouts and guard stations.

Minerals

Roads may be constructed for mineral activities where construction is required for the development of the mineral resource.

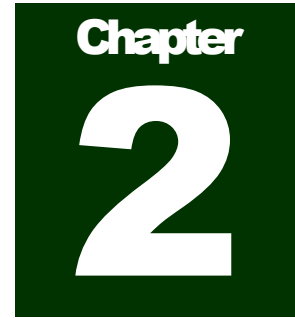
Protection

Integrated pest management will be used where needed to meet management area objectives. Biological control will be given priority.

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

Identify specific areas where the role of fire may be beneficial and cost effective in achieving the objectives of the management area.

Confine, contain and control fires within the management area, not within an approved prescription.



Recommendations of the Boards of County Commissioners for the Idaho Panhandle National Forest

General Recommendations Regarding the Idaho Panhandle 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.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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.

Bonner County's Recommendations

The Bonner County Commissioners, after holding two public hearings and receiving written testimony concerning the proposed designations for current Inventoried Roadless Areas in the National Forest have decided to support the latest version of the new Forest Management Plan and its protection for roadless areas under the MA-5 backcountry designation.

Public comments ranged from asking for all public lands to be open to all recreation and management activities, to asking for all human activities to be restricted. There were very few comments on specific areas within the forest and most comments were general in nature.

After hearing and seeing the public involvement undertaken by the local ranger districts and the compromises they have reached between the local recreation, environmental and industry groups, the Commissioners did not hear any significantly new testimony that would warrant a position varying from that of the Forest Service. It appears that the proposed MA-5 designation, for a majority of the previously Inventoried Roadless Areas, will result in no significant changes in the method that these areas are managed. That would include no increase in permanent road-building activities, the ability to access and use any currently open roads and/or trails for motorized and non-motorized uses, but would also allow management activities to occur to enhance forest health.

The Commission further supports the designation and management of the Scotchman's Peak Wilderness Area. Its steep slopes, remote valleys, grizzly bear habitat and possession of the highest point in Bonner County all support inclusion as wilderness.

Designation as wilderness or MA-5 for the remaining Inventoried Roadless Areas in Bonner County will be the culmination of over 25 years of study under the original RARE2 plan.

In conclusion, the Bonner County Board of Commissioners would like to add their support for the increase in timber sale volumes from Federal Lands in Bonner County. With the impending end of Craig Wyden funding for our school districts and county road and bridge budgets, we realize that the only way to maintain our road system at current levels without raising taxes is to increase timber revenues under the 25% plan. We feel that revenues could be increased while still following all NEPA, Clean Air and Water, Endangered Species and Forest Management Acts.

Boundary County's Recommendations

After taking public comment through letters and significant public involvement through the Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative (KVRI), following are the management recommendations to Governor Kempthorne regarding the Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRA) within Boundary County.

A brief history of our process and what occurred may be helpful. Boundary County, the City of Bonners Ferry, and the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho entered into a Joint Powers Agreement some years ago to establish a community collaborative approach to the issues that face our county. This group, KVRI, was asked by the Commissioners to undertake the task of involving the community, gathering input and forwarding a recommendation to the Commissioners as to the wishes of our citizens for the management of the IRA.

As you will note, this was a non-exclusive process open to the citizens that also allowed for written comments to the Commissioners as you will see in the attached letters. A subcommittee of KVRI was formed to address the request of the Commissioners. The attendance record and the consensus recommendation from the subcommittee are included (*see Chapter 2*).

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

A member of the Idaho Conservation League (ICL) was in attendance at all of the meetings and was present when consensus of the subcommittee was reached at the November 29, 2005 meeting. There were no objections by ICL to the recommendations to be forwarded to the full KVRI Board.

At the regular meeting of KVRI held almost two months later on January 23, 2006, the Idaho Conservation League said they absolutely could not support the recommendations of the subcommittee and therefore, according to the KVRI by-laws regarding consensus, the recommendation could not go forward.

A Boundary County Commissioner was in attendance at all meetings and has been involved in the full process. The majority of the input at those meetings indicates the community wants to be able to manage the IRA that are in place today. As a result of the inability of KVRI to reach consensus and therefore forward a recommendation to Boundary County the Commissioners have considered all documents and input received. We are therefore moving forward to make the following recommendations regarding management of all of the IRA in Boundary County.

1. Any IRA, proposed wilderness or portion thereof, that lie within the Wildland Urban Interface boundary as adopted by Boundary County, shall allow fire mitigation work as outlined in the county's fire plan. The prescription shall allow temporary roads to be constructed to accomplish the treatment and they shall be contour obliterated upon completion of work.
2. Should disease, fire, insect or any event occur that will endanger the existing resource integrity of any IRA or surrounding lands, the Governor or the County Commissioners shall meet with the United States Forest Service Regional Forester to discuss the appropriate action within the IRA. The community shall be allowed to interact with the United States Forest Service in the manner of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act process where the treatment shall be at the community's request and of the community's design.
3. Provide the opportunity for Boundary 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.
4. For the Inventoried Roadless Areas, provide for a process for salvage harvest, forest thinning or other forest health treatment activities to be given priority and expedited, upon written notice or request and need to the Regional Forester of the United States Forest Service by the Governor of Idaho or this County Board of Commissioners.
5. For those lands covered by the County's wildfire mitigation plans and lying within the boundary of Wildland Urban Interface as defined now and as may be adjusted in the future and recently developed through the Health Forest Restoration Act which intersect any inventoried roadless area, we recommend that the management prescriptions be adjusted to support and foster public safety, health and welfare through the complete implementation of the community fire plan.

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

The Boundary County Board of County Commissioners adopted a Wildland-Urban Interface as part of their Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Mitigation Plan. Inventoried Roadless Areas and Boundary County Wildland Urban Interface area designations overlap on approximately 46,730 acres in Boundary County.

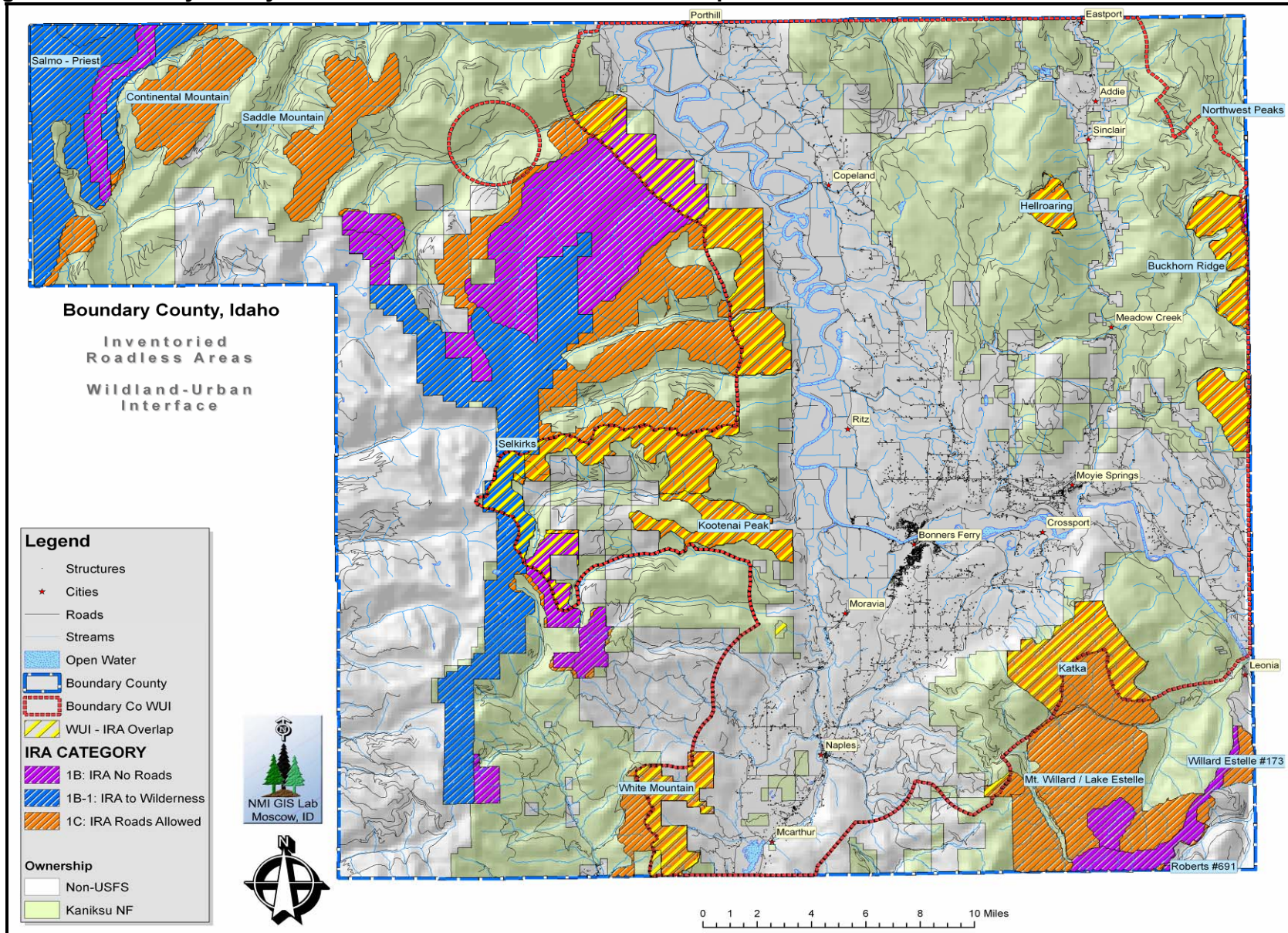
These areas are summarized below indicating the IRA name, National Forest, IRA Category, and the acres affected. Please refer to the attached map of these areas.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Table 4.1. Boundary County's Overlapping Wildland Urban Interface and IRA Acres.

IRA Name	National Forest	State	IRA Category	Acres in the WUI
Buckhorn Ridge	Idaho Panhandle	ID	1C	3,883
Buckhorn Ridge	Idaho Panhandle	MT	1C	1
Buckhorn Ridge	Idaho Panhandle	ID	1C	4
Buckhorn Ridge	Idaho Panhandle	ID	1C	2,648
Buckhorn Ridge	Kootenai	MT	1B	0
Buckhorn Ridge	Kootenai	ID	1B	4
Hellroaring	Idaho Panhandle	ID	1C	1,746
Katka	Idaho Panhandle	ID	1C	6,876
Kootenai Peak	Idaho Panhandle	ID	1C	4,500
Mt. Willard / Lake Estelle	Idaho Panhandle	ID	1C	33
Mt. Willard / Lake Estelle	Idaho Panhandle	ID	1C	275
Selkirks	Idaho Panhandle	ID	1C	1,146
Selkirks	Idaho Panhandle	ID	1B	4,330
Selkirks	Idaho Panhandle	ID	1C	89
Selkirks	Idaho Panhandle	ID	1C	25
Selkirks	Idaho Panhandle	ID	1C	3,991
Selkirks	Idaho Panhandle	ID	1B-1	2,266
Selkirks	Idaho Panhandle	ID	1C	8,942
Selkirks	Idaho Panhandle	ID	1C	106
Selkirks	Idaho Panhandle	ID	1B	1,610
White Mountain	Idaho Panhandle	ID	1C	4,096
Three Ponds ERNA	Idaho Panhandle	ID		160
			Total	46,730

Figure 2.1. Boundary County's Wildland Urban Interface and IRA Overlap.



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.

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Kootenai County's Recommendations

The Kootenai County Commissioners conducted a public hearing on December 20, 2005 for the purpose of receiving testimony concerning the proposed Management Plan for Kootenai County Inventoried Roadless Areas. After review of the proposed Plan and the written and oral testimony received, we have found the Forest Service Plan to be balanced and manageable, and support going forward with the Forest Service Plan as presented.

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
- 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.

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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. 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

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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.

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

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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 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 4.2. 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

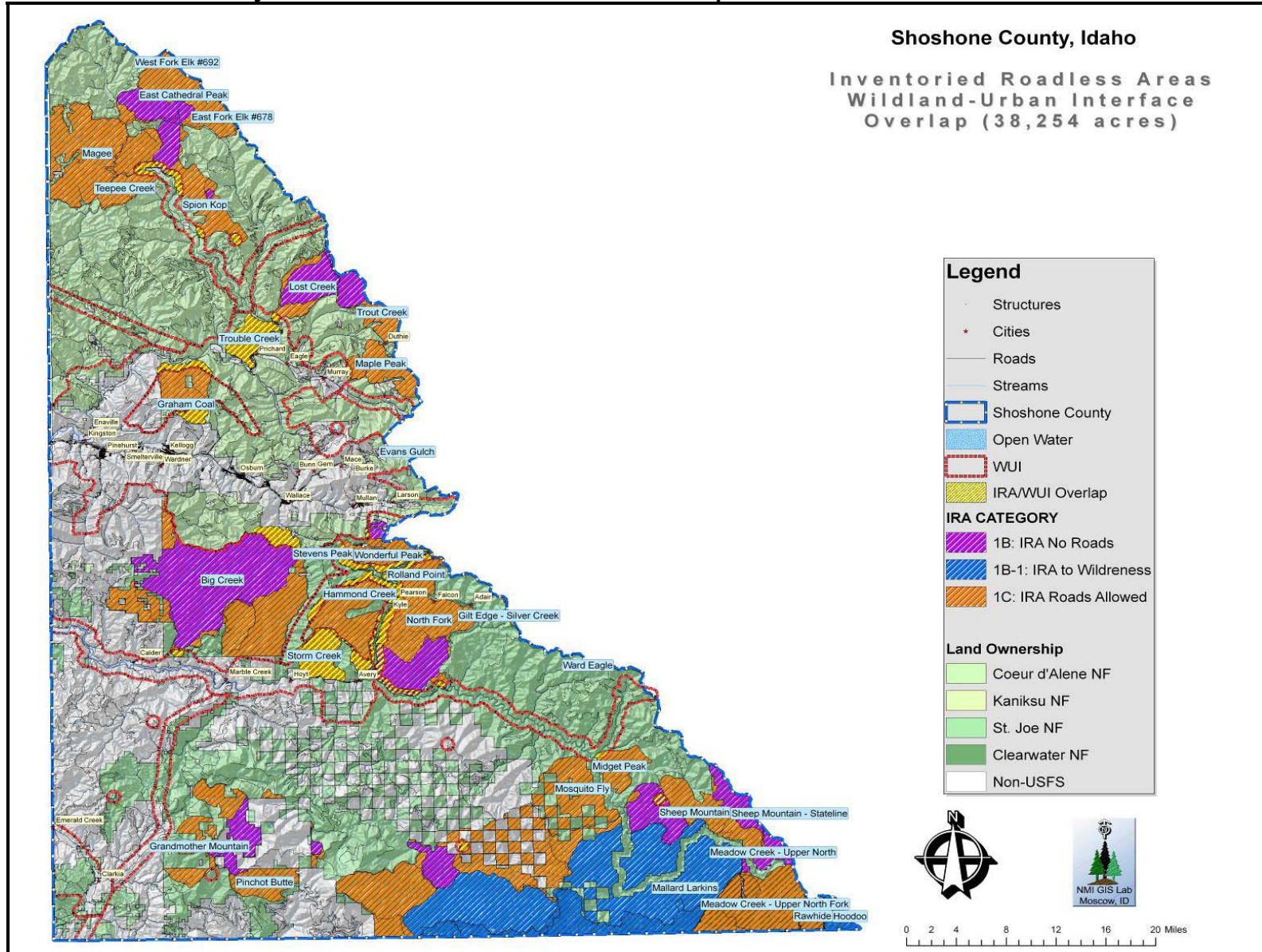
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Table 4.2. Shoshone County's Overlapping Wildland Urban Interface and IRA Acres.

WUI Zone	IRA Name	IRA Category	Acres
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 2.2. Shoshone County's Wildland Urban Interface and IRA overlap.



Recommendations on Specific IRA's in the Idaho Panhandle National Forest

Big Creek

The Big Creek IRA is located completely within Shoshone County and the Idaho Panhandle National Forest.

Benewah County's Recommendations

We recommend these areas to be managed as follows:

1. The forest land be actively managed for timber as a tool to improve forest health.
2. Existing trails and roads remain open to motorized use.
3. Open previously existing trails which have been closed.
4. Allow motorized access to existing mining claims so they can be worked as intended.

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.

Shoshone County's Recommendations

As stated in the "General Recommendations Regarding the Idaho Panhandle National Forest" by the Shoshone County Commissioners, Shoshone County agrees with the specific recommendations outlined by the Benewah County Commissioners for the Big Creek IRA.

Grandmother Mountain

The Grandmother Mountain IRA is located completely within Shoshone County and the Idaho Panhandle National Forest.

Benewah County's Recommendations

We recommend the area be managed as follows:

1. The forest land be actively managed for timber as a tool to improve forest health.
2. Existing trails and roads remain open to motorized use.
3. Open previously existing trails which have been closed.
4. Allow motorized access to mining claims so they can be worked as intended.

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.

Shoshone County's Recommendations

As stated in the "General Recommendations Regarding the Idaho Panhandle National Forest" by the Shoshone County Commissioners, Shoshone County agrees with the specific recommendations outlined by the Benewah County Commissioners for the Grandmother Mountain IRA.

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Hammond Creek

The Hammond Creek IRA is located completely within Shoshone County and the Idaho Panhandle National Forest.

Benewah County's Recommendations

We recommend these areas to be managed as follows:

1. The forest land be actively managed for timber as a tool to improve forest health.
2. Existing trails and roads remain open to motorized use.
3. Open previously existing trails which have been closed.
4. Allow motorized access to existing mining claims so they can be worked as intended.

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.

Shoshone County's Recommendations

As stated in the "General Recommendations Regarding the Idaho Panhandle National Forest" by the Shoshone County Commissioners, Shoshone County agrees with the specific recommendations outlined by the Benewah County Commissioners for the Hammond Creek IRA.

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's Recommendations

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's Recommendations

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's Recommendations

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

Meadow Creek – Upper North

The Meadow Creek – Upper North IRA is located completely within Shoshone County and the Idaho Panhandle National Forest.

Benewah County's Recommendations

We recommend that these areas 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 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.

Shoshone County's Recommendations

As stated in the "General Recommendations Regarding the Idaho Panhandle National Forest" by the Shoshone County Commissioners, Shoshone County agrees with the specific recommendations outlined by the Benewah County Commissioners for the Meadow Creek – Upper North IRA.

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Midget Peak

The Midget Peak IRA is located completely within Shoshone County and the Idaho Panhandle National Forest.

Benewah County's Recommendations

We recommend that these areas 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 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.

Shoshone County's Recommendations

As stated in the "General Recommendations Regarding the Idaho Panhandle National Forest" by the Shoshone County Commissioners, Shoshone County agrees with the specific recommendations outlined by the Benewah County Commissioners for the Midget Peak IRA.

Mosquito Fly

The Mosquito Fly IRA is located completely within Shoshone County and the Idaho Panhandle National Forest.

Benewah County's Recommendations

We recommend that these areas 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 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.

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Shoshone County's Recommendations

As stated in the "General Recommendations Regarding the Idaho Panhandle National Forest" by the Shoshone County Commissioners, Shoshone County agrees with the specific recommendations outlined by the Benewah County Commissioners for the Mosquito Fly IRA.

North Fork

The North Fork IRA is located completely within Shoshone County and the Idaho Panhandle National Forest.

Benewah County's Recommendations

We recommend these areas to be managed as follows:

1. The forest land be actively managed for timber as a tool to improve forest health.
2. Existing trails and roads remain open to motorized use.
3. Open previously existing trails which have been closed.
4. Allow motorized access to existing mining claims so they can be worked as intended.

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.

Shoshone County's Recommendations

As stated in the "General Recommendations Regarding the Idaho Panhandle National Forest" by the Shoshone County Commissioners, Shoshone County agrees with the specific recommendations outlined by the Benewah County Commissioners for the North Fork IRA.

Pinchot Butte

The Pinchot Butte IRA is located completely within Shoshone County and the Idaho Panhandle National Forest.

Benewah County's Recommendations

We recommend the area be managed as follows:

1. The forest land be actively managed for timber as a tool to improve forest health.
2. Existing trails and roads remain open to motorized use.
3. Open previously existing trails which have been closed.
4. Allow motorized access to mining claims so they can be worked as intended.

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.

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Shoshone County's Recommendations

As stated in the "General Recommendations Regarding the Idaho Panhandle National Forest" by the Shoshone County Commissioners, Shoshone County agrees with the specific recommendations outlined by the Benewah County Commissioners for the Pinchot Butte IRA.

Rolland Point

The Rolland Point IRA is located completely within Shoshone County and the Idaho Panhandle National Forest.

Benewah County's Recommendations

We recommend these areas to be managed as follows:

1. The forest land be actively managed for timber as a tool to improve forest health.
2. Existing trails and roads remain open to motorized use.
3. Open previously existing trails which have been closed.
4. Allow motorized access to existing mining claims so they can be worked as intended.

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.

Shoshone County's Recommendations

As stated in the "General Recommendations Regarding the Idaho Panhandle National Forest" by the Shoshone County Commissioners, Shoshone County agrees with the specific recommendations outlined by the Benewah County Commissioners for the Rolland Point IRA.

Sheep Mountain

The Sheep Mountain IRA is located completely within Shoshone County and the Idaho Panhandle National Forest.

Benewah County's Recommendations

We recommend that these areas 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.

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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.

Shoshone County's Recommendations

As stated in the "General Recommendations Regarding the Idaho Panhandle National Forest" by the Shoshone County Commissioners, Shoshone County agrees with the specific recommendations outlined by the Benewah County Commissioners for the Sheep Mountain IRA.

Sheep Mountain – Stateline

The Sheep Mountain – Stateline IRA is located in Shoshone County and the Idaho Panhandle National Forest.

Benewah County's Recommendations

We recommend that these areas 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 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.

Shoshone County's Recommendations

As stated in the "General Recommendations Regarding the Idaho Panhandle National Forest" by the Shoshone County Commissioners, Shoshone County agrees with the specific recommendations outlined by the Benewah County Commissioners for the Sheep Mountain – Stateline IRA.

Stevens Peak

The Stevens Peak IRA is located completely within Shoshone County and the Idaho Panhandle National Forest.

Benewah County's Recommendations

We recommend these areas to be managed as follows:

1. The forest land be actively managed for timber as a tool to improve forest health.
2. Existing trails and roads remain open to motorized use.
3. Open previously existing trails which have been closed.

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4. Allow motorized access to existing mining claims so they can be worked as intended.

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.

Shoshone County's Recommendations

As stated in the "General Recommendations Regarding the Idaho Panhandle National Forest" by the Shoshone County Commissioners, Shoshone County agrees with the specific recommendations outlined by the Benewah County Commissioners for the Stevens Peak IRA.

Storm Creek

The Storm Creek IRA is located completely within Shoshone County and the Idaho Panhandle National Forest.

Benewah County's Recommendations

We recommend these areas to be managed as follows:

1. The forest land be actively managed for timber as a tool to improve forest health.
2. Existing trails and roads remain open to motorized use.
3. Open previously existing trails which have been closed.
4. Allow motorized access to existing mining claims so they can be worked as intended.

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.

Shoshone County's Recommendations

As stated in the "General Recommendations Regarding the Idaho Panhandle National Forest" by the Shoshone County Commissioners, Shoshone County agrees with the specific recommendations outlined by the Benewah County Commissioners for the Storm Creek IRA.

Wonderful Peak

The Wonderful Peak IRA is located in Shoshone County and the Idaho Panhandle National Forest.

Benewah County's Recommendations

We recommend these areas to be managed as follows:

1. The forest land be actively managed for timber as a tool to improve forest health.
2. Existing trails and roads remain open to motorized use.
3. Open previously existing trails which have been closed.
4. Allow motorized access to existing mining claims so they can be worked as intended.

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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.

Shoshone County's Recommendations

As stated in the "General Recommendations Regarding the Idaho Panhandle National Forest" by the Shoshone County Commissioners, Shoshone County agrees with the specific recommendations outlined by the Benewah County Commissioners for the Wonderful Peak IRA.

Other Specific Recommendations for the Idaho Panhandle National Forest

Trails

Clearwater County's Recommendations

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

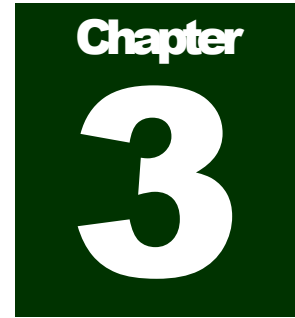
These trails should be re-opened:

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.



Supporting Information

Boards of County Commissioners

Benewah County

Chairman Jack Buell

Terry Doupe

N. L. "Bud" McCall

Benewah County Courthouse
701 College Avenue
St. Maries, Idaho 83861
208-245-3212

Bonner County

Chairman Marcia Phillips

Joseph Young

Karl Dye

Bonner County Courthouse
215 South First Avenue
Sandpoint, Idaho 83864
208-265-1438

Boundary County

Chairman Ron Smith

Walt Kirby

Dan Dinning

Boundary County Courthouse
6452 Kootenai Street
Bonners Ferry, Idaho 83805
208-267-7723

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Clearwater County

Chairman Don Ebert

Stan Leach

J. P. Curfman

Clearwater County Courthouse
150 Michigan Avenue
Orofino, Id 83544
208-476-3615

Idaho County

Alice Mattson

Chairman Randy Doman

Jim Rehder

Idaho County Courthouse
320 West Main Street
Grangeville, Idaho 83530
208-983-2751

Kootenai County

Chairman S. J. "Gus" Johnson

Elmer Currie

Katie Brodie

Kootenai County Courthouse
451 Government Way
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83816
208-446-1600

Latah County

Chairman Jack Nelson

Paul J. Kimmell

Tom S. Stroschein

Latah County Courthouse
522 S. Adams
Moscow, ID 83843
Phone: (208) 882-8580 or (800) 691-2012
FAX: (208) 883-2280

S U P P O R T I N G I N F O R M A T I O N

Lewis County

Chairman Charles Doty

Carroll Keith

LeAnn Trautman

Lewis County Courthouse
510 Oak Street
Nezperce, Idaho 83543
208-937-2661

Nez Perce County

J. R. VanTassel

Chairman Ronald Wittman

Douglas Zenner

Nez Perce Board of County Commissioners
1225 Idaho Street
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Lewiston, Idaho 83501
Phone: (208) 799-3090
(866) 274-3911

Shoshone County

Chairman Jon Cantamessa

Sherry Krulitz

Jim Vergobbi

Shoshone County Courthouse
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Wallace, ID 83873
Phone: (208) 752-3331

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Northwest Management, Inc.

The following personnel participated in the formulation, compilation, editing, and analysis of this report.

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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

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