

NEZ PERCE NATIONAL FOREST

Inventoried Roadless Area Recommendations

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



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NEZ PERCE NATIONAL FOREST

Inventoried Roadless Area County Recommendations

Information Compiled By:
William E. Schlosser, Ph.D.
Tera King, B.S.
Toby Brown, B.S.
Adrienne L. Oryhon, B.S.

Northwest Management, Inc.
233 East Palouse River Drive
P.O. Box 9748
Moscow, Idaho 83843
Phone 208-883-4488 • Fax 208-883-1098
www.Consulting-Foresters.com

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Purpose of this Report

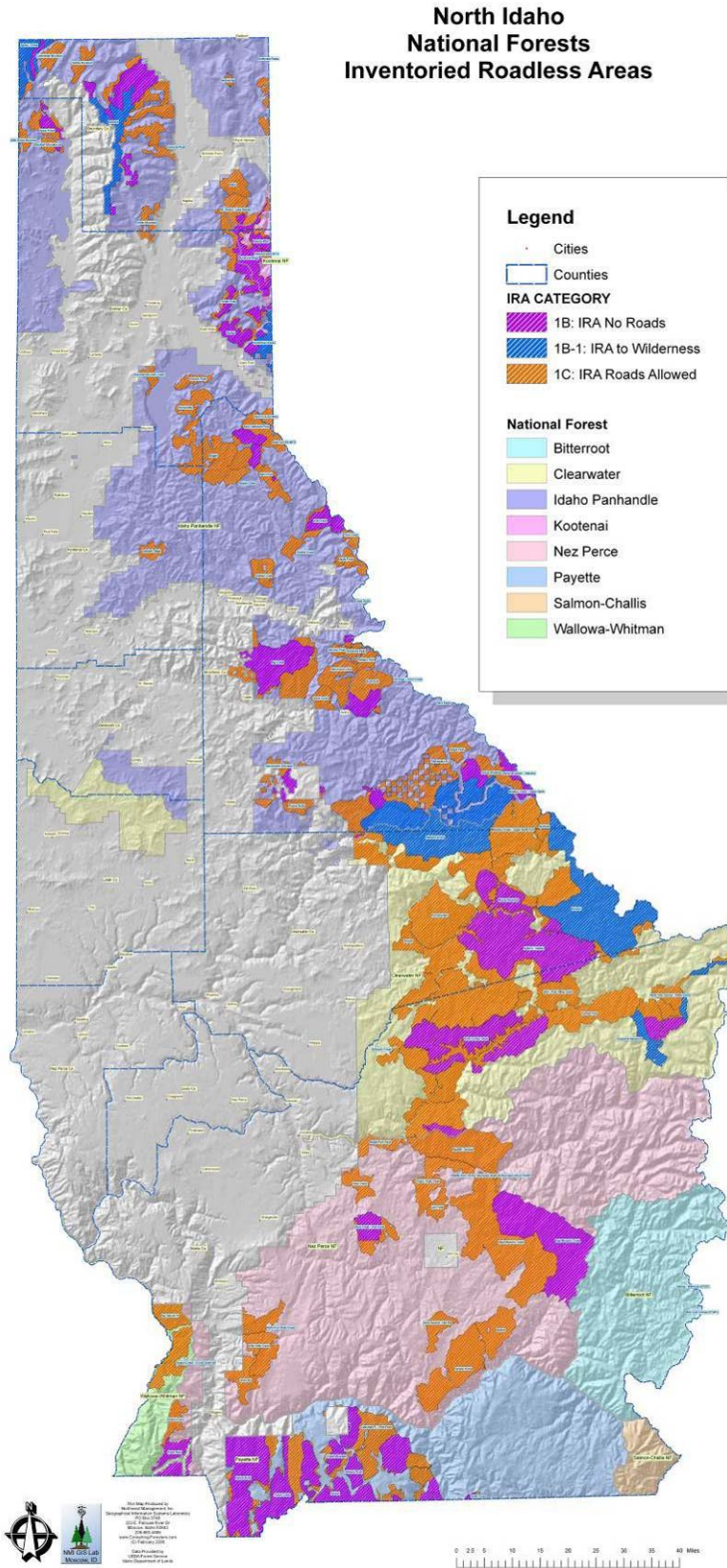
Inventoried Roadless Areas in the Nez Perce National Forest are summarized in this chapter including specific information by IRA, maps of each IRA and additional information needed to allow the reader to understand the IRA recommendations made by North Idaho County Commissioners in Chapter 2.

Nez Perce National Forest Overview

The Nez Perce National Forest contains all or part of seventeen different IRA's in Idaho. The table below lists each of the IRA's and their associated county. The IRA's in the Nez Perce National Forest are entirely contained within Idaho County and the majority of these IRA's are contained exclusively within the Nez Perce National Forest boundary. The Rackliff-Gedney and Rapid River roadless areas are the only two that span across National Forest boundaries.

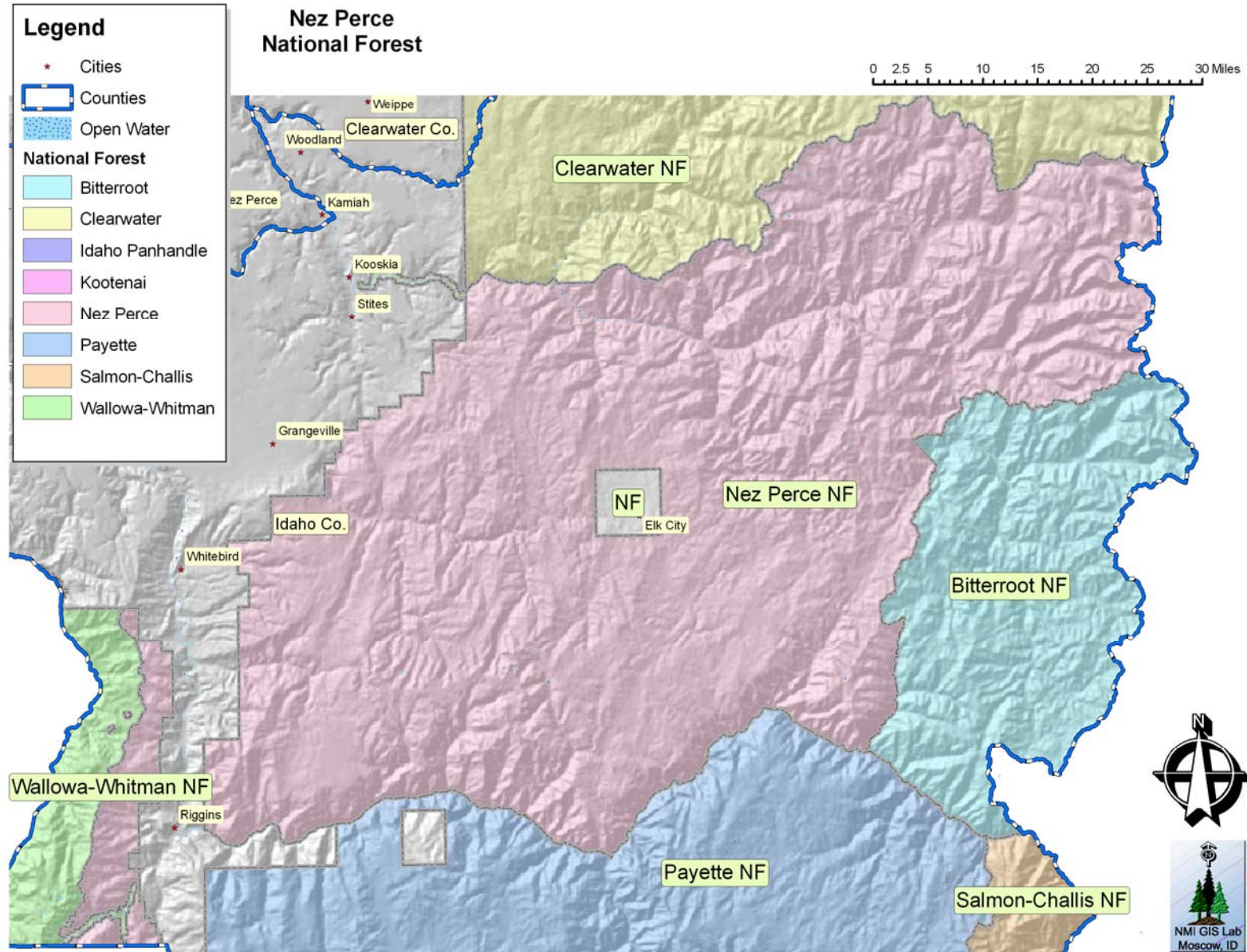
INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

Figure 1.1. Inventoried Roadless Areas in Northern Idaho.



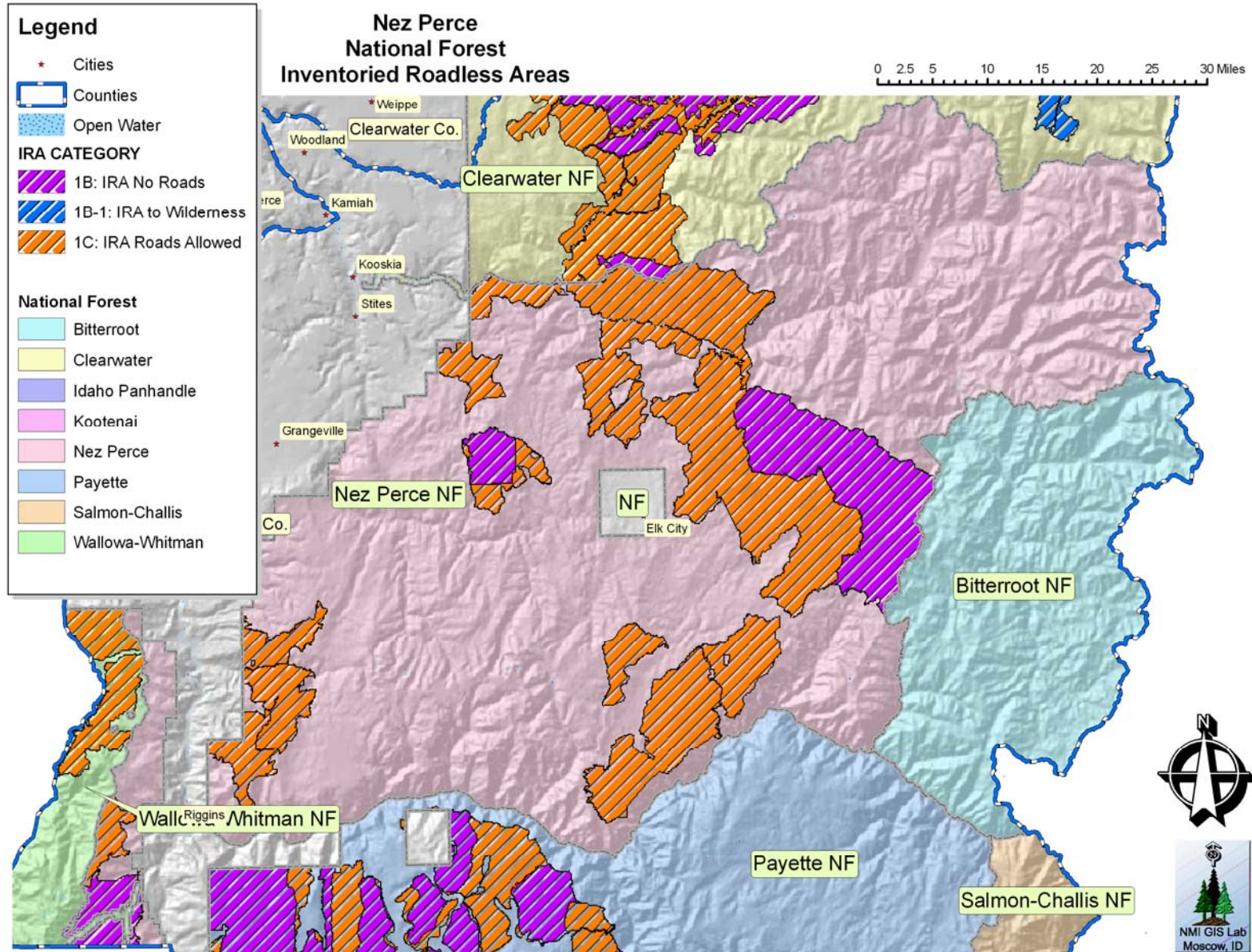
DESIGN CUSTOMIZATION

Figure 1.2. Location Map of Nez Perce National Forest.



INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

Figure 1.3. Inventoried Roadless Areas on the Nez Perce National Forest.



DESIGN CUSTOMIZATION

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 Nez Perce 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 Nez Perce National Forest Plan document. Many national forests have their Forest Plan document available online.

Table 1.1. Nez Perce National Forest IRA Summaries.

Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA)	IRA Category	Nez Perce National Forest Management Areas	Adjacent National Forest Management Areas	County
Clear Creek	1C	10, 12, 15, 16, 20, 21		Idaho
Dixie Summit- Nut Hill	1C	10, 12, 17, 19, 20		Idaho
East Meadow Creek	1B	9.1, 9.3, 10, 11, 12, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20		Idaho
Gospel Hump	1C	9.2, 9.3, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21		Idaho
John Day	1C	10, 12, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20		Idaho
Lick Point	1C	1, 6, 10, 12, 13, 17, 20, 21		Idaho
Little Slate Creek	1C	1, 6, 10, 12, 15, 16, 19, 20		Idaho
Mallard	1C	9.3, 10, 12, 17, 20		Idaho
Middle Fork of the Clearwater National Recreation Area	1C	8.2, 16		Idaho
Middle Fork Face	1C	8.2, 12, 15, 17, 18, 20		Idaho
North Fork Slate Creek	1C	1, 6, 8.2, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 23		Idaho
Ohara-Falls Creek	1C	1, 6, 8.2, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 23		Idaho
Rackliff-Gedney	1B		A3, C1, C6 (CNF)	Idaho
	1C	8.2, 9.1, 15, 16, 17	A7, C4, 8S, US (CNF)	

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

Table 1.1. Nez Perce National Forest IRA Summaries.

Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA)	IRA Category	Nez Perce National Forest Management Areas	Adjacent National Forest Management Areas	County
Rapid River	1B	8.3, 9.4, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 19, 20	2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2, 4.1c (PNF)	Idaho
	1C			
Salmon Face	1C	9.4, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20		Idaho
Silver Creek - Pilot Knob	1B	1, 10, 11, 12, 20, 21		Idaho
	1C	1, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 20, 21		
West Meadow Creek	1C	1, 8.2, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21		Idaho

Nez Perce National Forest Management Areas

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

MANAGEMENT AREA 1

Goals

Provide the minimum management necessary to provide for resource protection. The goal for summer elk habitat in this management area is to manage 3,121 acres to achieve at least 75 percent of habitat potential; 13,991 acres to achieve at least 50 percent of habitat potential; and 1,301 acres to achieve at least 25 percent of habitat potential. Specific methods of how to achieve this will be determined on a site-specific basis during project planning (see Appendix B).

RECREATION

Cultural Resources

1. Survey locations and areas that are receiving impacts, and inventory areas that will be disturbed due to recreational activities or natural erosion on Forest Service projects.
2. Recommend sites, or portions of sites, for mineral withdrawal where necessary to protect improvements. Stipulate "no surface occupancy" in mineral leases.

RANGE

Construct and maintain improvements as needed to manage adjacent areas. Treat noxious weed infestations that threaten adjacent lands.

TIMBER

1. Lands are classified as "unsuitable" for timber production; schedule no timber harvest.
2. Harvesting may occur to meet other multiple use objectives such as research, public safety, or removal of volume lost through catastrophic mortality, or to control insect and disease epidemics that threaten adjacent "suitable" lands. Firewood removal may occur where access exists.

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

WATER

Meet established fishery/water quality objectives for all prescription watersheds as shown in Appendix A.

PROTECTION

1. Control insect and disease epidemics if necessary to protect other resource values or to prevent spread to adjacent, "suitable" lands.
2. Wildfire management strategies include control, contain, and confine. The strategy selected, and specifics on implementation, shall depend upon location, expected fire behavior, and values at risk. Decision criteria shall be specified in the Fire Management Action Plan.
3. Planned and unplanned ignitions, when within prescription, will be allowed to burn to enhance resource values.

FACILITIES

1. Construction and reconstruction is permissible when roads are necessary to meet the multiple use objectives on adjacent lands.
2. Reconstruct and maintain to meet adjacent management area objectives, provide public safety, and reduce environmental damage.

MANAGEMENT AREA 6

Goals

Provide areas for non-manipulative research, observation, and study of undisturbed ecosystems. Maintenance of the natural processes within each area will be the prime consideration. Candidate areas shall be managed to maintain their RNA qualities.

Standards

General management direction for RNAs is described below. For existing RNAs, specific management direction is contained in the appropriate establishment report (see Appendix L). For proposed RNAs, specific direction will be developed, upon establishment, and incorporated into this Forest Plan as amendments.

RECREATION

Discourage or forbid recreational activities which impair research or educational values.

RANGE

Exclude livestock grazing unless it is necessary to preserve the vegetation for which the RNA was, or is, established. Fencing may be used to exclude livestock.

TIMBER

Exclude timber harvest; lands are classified as "unsuitable" for timber management.

WATER

Meet established fishery/water quality objectives for all prescription watersheds as shown in Appendix A.

MINERALS

Recommend for withdrawal upon establishment if not already withdrawn.

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

FACILITIES

1. Construct only when roads contribute to RNA objectives. Maintain existing roads to current standards.
2. Maintain existing trails commensurate with use. Reconstruct where needed to provide public safety and reduce environmental damage.
3. Allow temporary structures such as gaging stations and instrument shelters if needed to meet RNA objectives. The Intermountain Experiment Station Director must approve, with the concurrence of the Forest Supervisor, any improvements or temporary facilities.
4. Manage area as a "category 1 avoidance area."

PROTECTION

1. Wildfire management strategies include control, contain, and confine. The selected strategy, and specifics on implementation, shall depend upon location, expected fire behavior, and values at risk. Decision criteria shall be specified in the Fire Management Action Plan. If fires within the area are desirable, Fire Management Action Plans will be developed to allow planned and unplanned ignitions to burn when within prescription.
2. Do not clear debris resulting from fires. Do not undertake fire hazard reduction or reforestation.
3. Use prescribed burning to perpetuate the vegetation for which the RNA was, or is, established.
4. Undertake no measures for insect and disease control unless epidemic populations exist and adjacent "suitable" lands are severely threatened.

MANAGEMENT AREA 8.2

Goals

Protect and enhance aesthetic, scenic, historic, fish and wildlife, and other values that will contribute to public use and enjoyment of this free-flowing river and its immediate environment. Provide optimum recreational enjoyment consistent with protection of environmental quality. Manage all uses on those portions of the river within the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness to preserve the wilderness resource.

Standards

The general management direction for the Nez Perce portion of the Middle Fork of the Clearwater River System is described below. More specific direction is contained in "Management Standards - Middle Fork of the Clearwater Including the Lochsa and Selway", and "Whitewater Management Standards – Selway River" (see Appendix L).

RECREATION

1. Manage developed campgrounds at least to reduced service levels, except for fee campgrounds which will be managed at full service level. Emphasize health, safety, and resource problems.
2. Recreation Segment: Manage for roaded natural appearing or semi-primitive motorized recreation.
3. Wild Segment: Manage for primitive and semi-primitive non-motorized recreation. Limit use as necessary to protect river values.

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

4. Identify and protect historic, scenic, geologic, and archaeological sites.
5. Recreation Segment: Manage for retention visual quality objective.
6. Wild Segment: Manage for preservation visual quality objective.

WILDLIFE AND FISH

Restore degraded anadromous and resident fish habitat.

LANDS

Prohibit small hydropower developments on "wild" portion of Selway River.

RANGE

Give priority to wildlife needs if conflict occurs between wildlife and livestock or recreation stock use.

TIMBER

1. Lands are classified as "unsuitable" for timber management; do not schedule timber harvest.
2. Recreation Segment: Exclude timber harvest except for (a) public safety and/or recreational purposes in selected areas; (b) control of fire, insects and disease when such cutting is the only practical method of control; (c) approved access facility locations.
3. Wild Segment: Exclude timber harvest.

WATER

Meet established fishery/water quality objectives for all prescription watersheds as shown in Appendix A.

MINERALS

The River corridor is closed to mineral entry and mineral leasing subject to valid existing rights, as of December 31, 1983. Prior to approving any Plan of Operations, valid existing rights must be established through a mineral examination of the claim(s) by a qualified Forest Service mineral examiner. A determination of all valid existing rights will be made by 1988. Mitigation and reclamation measures to protect wild and scenic values will be included in any approved plans. Inspect all claims at least once annually.

FACILITIES

1. Recreation Segment: Maintain existing roads to minimize adding sediment to the river. Construct or reconstruct as needed to enhance recreation values and to provide for public safety.
2. Wild Segment: Exclude construction. This text reflects changes made by amend #6
3. Recreation Segment: Maintain or reconstruct to enhance recreation values, user safety, and reduce environmental damage.
4. Wild Segment: Maintain or reconstruct consistent with wild river objectives; conform to wilderness requirements within wilderness.
5. Manage area as a "category 2 avoidance area."

PROTECTION

1. Recreation Segment: Treat infestations that threaten recreation values or adjacent "suitable" or private lands.

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

2. Wild Segment: Allow endemic infestations to occur. Treat epidemic infestations that severely threaten adjacent lands outside the wilderness.
3. Recreation Segment: Control wildfires in river corridor.
4. Wild Segment: Wildfire management strategies include control, contain, and confine. The strategy selected, and specifics on implementation, shall depend upon location, expected fire behavior, and values at risk. Decision criteria shall be specified in the Fire Management Action Plan.
5. Planned and unplanned ignitions, when within prescription, will be allowed to burn to enhance resource values.

MANAGEMENT AREA 8.3

Goals

Maintain the high water quality of Rapid River as specified in PL 94-199, thereby facilitating the successful operation of the Rapid River Fish Hatchery. Provide recreation opportunities, including hiking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, and viewing of scenery and wildlife.

RECREATION

1. Manage for semi-primitive non-motorized recreation. Monitor visitor use through a voluntary registration program; if use increases to a point where resource damage occurs, limit use through a mandatory permit system.
2. Cooperate with agencies, qualified groups, and individuals to investigate, evaluate, interpret, and protect cultural sites.
3. Meet preservation visual quality objective.

WILDLIFE AND FISH

Coordinate fish and wildlife habitat management that potentially affects hatchery operations with the Idaho Fish and Game Department.

RANGE

Emphasize non-structural distribution control methods. Favor native species of grasses. Emphasize biological methods to control noxious weeds.

TIMBER

Lands are classified as "unsuitable" for timber management; exclude timber harvest, except for hazard tree removal near areas of concentrated use.

WATER

Meet established fishery/water quality objectives for all prescription watersheds as shown in Appendix A.

MINERALS

The River corridor is withdrawn from mineral entry and mineral leasing, subject to valid existing rights, as of December 31, 1983. Prior to approving any Plan of Operations, valid existing rights must be established through a mineral examination of the claim(s) by a qualified Forest Service mineral examiner. A determination of all valid existing rights will be made by 1988. Mitigation and reclamation measures to protect wild and scenic values will be included in any approved plans. Inspect all claims at least once annually.

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

LANDS

1. Promote land acquisitions and/or exchanges.
2. Prohibit special uses that threaten the water quality of Rapid River.
3. Prohibit small hydropower development.

FACILITIES

1. Exclude construction. Maintain existing facilities commensurate with use and user safety.
2. Maintain existing trails to current standards.
3. Manage area as a "category 2 avoidance area."

PROTECTION

1. Allow endemic infestations to occur. Treat epidemics that severely threaten adjacent lands.
2. Wildfire management strategies include control, contain, and confine. The strategy selected, and specifics on implementation, shall depend upon location, expected fire behavior, and values at risk. Decision criteria shall be specified in the Fire Management Action Plan.
3. Planned and unplanned ignitions, when within prescription, will be allowed to burn to enhance resource values.

MANAGEMENT AREA 9.1

Description

Management Area 9.1 is the Nez Perce National Forest portion of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. This 1,340,681-acre Wilderness, established in 1964, is administered by seven ranger districts on four National Forests. The Nez Perce portion, 560,088 acres, is administered by the Moose Creek Ranger District. The Selway Wild River flows through the Wilderness, and provides one of the country's premier whitewater experiences. Large wildfires in the early 1900s created extensive brushfields which provide forage for an elk herd of national significance. The Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness has been designated as Class I by the 1977 Clean Air Act amendments. This management area is displayed on management area maps.

Goals

Manage in accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964. Maintain and enhance the quality of the Selway- Bitterroot Wilderness.

AIR QUALITY

Identify the air quality related values and develop standards for protecting them upon receipt of a notice of Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD), which may impair the wilderness air quality.

RECREATION

1. Limit and distribute use as necessary to protect wilderness values. The "limits of acceptable change" process will be used to determine management actions necessary to preserve natural environments and provide for wilderness experiences.
2. Identify and record all known cultural and historical sites.
3. Meet preservation visual quality objectives.

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

LANDS

1. Prohibit small hydropower developments.
2. Inspect outfitter operations as needed.

WILDLIFE AND FISH

Promote recovery of indigenous species.

Chapter III Management Area Direction

RANGE

Maintain natural vegetative composition. Manage recreational stock grazing in accordance with wilderness values.

TIMBER

Lands are classified as "unsuitable" for timber management; exclude timber harvest.

WATER

Meet established fishery/water quality objectives for all prescription watersheds as shown in Appendix A.

MINERALS

The Wilderness is closed to mineral entry and mineral leasing subject to valid existing rights as of December 31, 1983. Prior to approving any Plan of Operations, valid existing rights must be established through a mineral examination of the claim(s) by a qualified Forest Service mineral examiner. A determination of all valid existing rights will be made by 1988. Mitigation and reclamation measures to protect wilderness values will be included in any approved plans. Inspect all claims at least once annually.

FACILITIES

1. Maintain to ensure public safety, and to reduce environmental damage.
2. Manage area as an "exclusion area."
3. Maintain to ensure public safety, and to reduce environmental damage.

PROTECTION

1. Allow endemic levels of infestations. Treat epidemic levels that severely threaten adjacent lands.
2. Wildfire management strategies include control, contain, and confine. The strategy selected, and specifics on implementation, shall depend upon location, expected fire behavior, and values at risk. Decision criteria shall be specified in the Fire Management Action Plan
3. Planned and unplanned ignitions, when within prescription, will be allowed to burn to perpetuate natural plant and animal diversity.

MANAGEMENT AREA 9.2

Description

Management Area 9.2 consists of the Gospel-Hump Wilderness, which is wholly within the Nez Perce National Forest. An east-west hydrologic divide separates the Wilderness into two distinct parts. The northern portion drains into the South Fork of the Clearwater River, and the southern

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

portion drains into the Salmon River. The Salmon River, part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, is the southern boundary of the Gospel-Hump Wilderness. Because of past mining and grazing activities, the Gospel-Hump Wilderness shows more impact of man than do most wildernesses in central Idaho.

Goals

Manage in accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964 and the Endangered American Wilderness Act of 1978. Maintain and enhance the quality of the Gospel-Hump Wilderness.

RECREATION

1. Limit and distribute use as necessary to protect wilderness values. The limits of acceptable change process will be used to determine management actions necessary to preserve the natural environment and provide for wilderness experiences.
2. Identify and record all known cultural and historical sites.
3. Meet preservation visual quality objective.

LANDS

1. Inspect outfitter operations as needed.
2. Prohibit small hydropower developments.

WILDLIFE AND FISH

Promote recovery of indigenous species.

RANGE

1. Maintain natural vegetative composition. Manage existing range allotments in accordance with wilderness values.
2. Maintain existing improvements. Improvements may be constructed if they are necessary for resource protection and management of range or wilderness. The historical level of livestock grazing will not be exceeded.
3. Maintain non-structural improvements. Improvements may be implemented if they are necessary for resource protection and management of range or wilderness. The historical level of livestock grazing will not be exceeded.

TIMBER

Lands are classified as "unsuitable" for timber management; exclude timber harvest.

WATER

Meet established fishery/water quality objectives for all prescription watersheds as shown in Appendix A.

MINERALS

Withdraw the Gospel-Hump Wilderness from mineral entry and mineral leasing on December 31, 1988, subject to valid, existing rights. Prior to withdrawal, facilitate bona fide mineral exploration activities by approving Plans of Operation in a timely fashion. Work cooperatively with operators in the collection of geologic data which may assist in eventual determinations of mineral values. After withdrawal, approve Plans of Operation only after establishing valid, existing rights through a mineral examination of the claim(s) by a qualified Forest Service mineral examiner. A determination of all valid existing rights will be made by 1991. Mitigation and reclamation measures to protect wilderness values will be included in all approved plans, both before and after withdrawal.

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

FACILITIES

1. Maintain to ensure public safety, and to reduce environmental impacts.
2. Manage area as an "exclusion area."

PROTECTION

1. Allow endemic levels of infestations. Treat epidemic levels that severely threaten adjacent lands.
2. Wildfire management strategies include control, contain, and confine. The strategy selected, and specifics on implementation, shall depend upon location, expected fire behavior, and values at risk. Decision criteria shall be specified in the Fire Management Action Plan
3. Planned and unplanned ignitions, when within prescription, will be allowed to burn to perpetuate natural plant and animal diversity.

MANAGEMENT AREA 9.3

Description

Management Area 9.3 is the 105,736 acres of the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness administered by the Nez Perce National Forest. The Central Idaho Wilderness Act of 1980 created this 2.2 million-acre area. It is the largest Wilderness outside of Alaska; six National Forests in two Forest Service Regions are involved in its administration. The Forest's portion extends north from the Salmon River to the Nez Perce Trail Road. The Salmon River, part of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System, is administered jointly by the Nez Perce and Salmon National Forests. This management area is displayed on management area maps.

Goals

Manage in accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964 and the Central Idaho Wilderness Act of 1980. Maintain the quality of the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness.

RECREATION

1. Limit and distribute use as necessary to protect wilderness values. The limits of acceptable change process will be used to determine management actions necessary to preserve the natural environment and provide for wilderness experiences.
2. Identify and record prehistoric and historic sites and cultural sites.
3. Consider impacts from recreation.
4. Meet preservation visual quality objective.

LANDS

1. Prohibit small hydropower developments.
2. Inspect outfitter operations as needed.

WILDLIFE AND FISH

Promote recovery of indigenous species.

RANGE

1. Maintain natural vegetative composition. Manage existing range allotments in accordance with wilderness values.

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

2. Maintain existing improvements. Improvements may be constructed if they are necessary for resource protection and management of range or wilderness. The historical level of livestock grazing will not be exceeded.
3. Maintain non-structural improvements. Improvements may be implemented if they are necessary for resource protection and management of range or wilderness. The historical level of livestock grazing will not be exceeded.

TIMBER

Lands are classified as "unsuitable" for timber management; exclude timber harvest.

WATER

Meet established fishery/water quality objectives for all prescription watersheds as shown in Appendix A.

MINERALS

The Wilderness has been withdrawn from mineral entry and mineral leasing subject to valid existing rights as of December 31, 1983. Prior to approving any Plan of Operations, valid existing rights must be established through a mineral examination of the claim(s) by a qualified Forest Service mineral examiner. A determination of all valid existing rights will be made by 1988. Mitigation and reclamation measures to protect wilderness values will be included in any approved plans. Inspect all claims at least once annually.

FACILITIES

1. Maintain trails, commensurate with use and user safety, and to reduce environmental impacts.
2. Manage area as an "exclusion area."

PROTECTION

1. Allow endemic levels of infestations. Treat epidemic levels that severely threaten adjacent lands.
2. Wildfire management strategies include control, contain, and confine. The strategy selected, and specifics on implementation, shall depend upon location, expected fire behavior, and values at risk. Decision criteria shall be specified in the Fire Management Action Plan
3. Planned and unplanned ignitions, when within prescription, will be allowed to burn to perpetuate natural plant and animal diversity.

MANAGEMENT AREA 10

Description

Management Area 10 consists of lakes, lakeside lands, perennial streams, seasonally flowing streams supporting riparian vegetation, and adjoining lands that are dominated by riparian vegetation. The width of the components of this management area varies and is determined by the riparian vegetation and the valley bottom width. Riparian vegetation is vegetation requiring a high level of soil moisture. The area is often nearly flat and is subject to various degrees of flooding or saturation. As additional acres of riparian areas are identified and mapped during project planning, the acres in this management area will increase. This area includes the floodplains of streams and the wetlands associated with springs, lakes, and ponds. The natural and beneficial values of riparian areas include groundwater recharge, moderation of flood peaks, maintenance of water quality, visual

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

and recreational enjoyment, fish and wildlife habitat, cultural resources, and timber and forage production.

Goals

Manage riparian areas to maintain and enhance their value for wildlife, fishery and aquatic habitat, and water quality. Manage timber, grazing, and recreation to give preferential consideration to riparian dependent species on that portion of the management area "suitable" for timber management, grazing, or recreation. The goal for summer elk habitat in this management area is to manage 1,615 acres to achieve at least 75 percent of habitat potential; 6,815 acres to achieve at least 50 percent of habitat potential; and 2,875 acres to achieve at least 25 percent of habitat potential. Specific methods of how to achieve this will be determined on a site-specific basis during project planning (see Appendix B).

RECREATION

Limit and distribute use as necessary to protect riparian areas.

RANGE

1. Manage existing grazing to protect or enhance riparian-dependent resources.
2. Develop or improve range management plans for each allotment.
3. Maintain riparian habitat in good or better condition by developing intensive grazing systems and structural improvements, or by reductions in stock.

WILDLIFE AND FISH

1. Maintain sufficient streamside vegetative canopy to ensure acceptable water temperatures for fish and to provide cover.
2. Management activities shall not be permitted to adversely change the composition and productivity of key riparian vegetation. Riparian areas now degraded by management should be rehabilitated before any further nondependent resource use of the immediate area is permitted.
3. Schedule habitat improvements in all drainages presently below stated objectives. Improvements will include in-stream structures, channel changes, and riparian revegetation. Use in-stream improvements and barrier removal to enhance those drainages where habitat capacity is undisturbed.
4. Maintain sufficient streamside vegetative structure, composition, and diversity for travel corridors between old-growth stands.

TIMBER

1. Lands are classified as "suitable" for timber management; schedule timber harvest.
2. Design timber harvest activities to protect or enhance riparian-dependent resources. Emphasize multi-layered stand conditions and a vegetative mosaic.
3. Locate timber harvest landings outside of riparian areas.
4. Require directional felling of trees away from stream courses.
5. Prohibit harvesting equipment that will result in significant ground disturbance.
6. Suspend logs completely when possible when crossing riparian areas.
7. Prohibit management activities that would change stream geomorphology by adversely altering streambanks, channel dimensions, or channel sediment.

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

WATER

Meet established fishery/water quality objectives for all prescription watersheds as shown in Appendix A.

FACILITIES

1. Design mitigation measures to reduce sediment from roads constructed in riparian areas by at least 70 percent.
2. Minimize crossings in riparian areas. Cross streams at as near a right angle as practical. Construction parallel to streams (in riparian areas) should be avoided. Opportunities to remove roads and trails from riparian areas should be considered if they are producing significant impacts on riparian-dependent resources.
3. Motorized recreation vehicles (other than on-snow types) should generally not be allowed off of roads and trails in riparian areas.
4. Maintain trails to reduce environmental damage. Design reconstruction projects to mitigate sediment.
5. Manage area as a "category 1 avoidance area."

MINERALS

1. Recommend "no surface occupancy" in mineral leases.
2. Address reestablishment of fish habitat in all reclamation plans where habitat may be damaged by proposed mineral exploration or development activities.
3. Require specific mitigation and reclamation measures which address stream bed and stream bank stabilization, proper location and construction of settling ponds, and timely reestablishment of riparian vegetation.

PROTECTION

1. Apply integrated pest management to minimize losses and protect riparian area values.
2. Wildfire management strategies are control, contain, and confine. The specifics on implementation shall depend upon location, expected fire behavior, and values at risk. Decision criteria shall be specified in the Fire Management Action Plan.
3. Planned ignitions, when within prescription, will be allowed to burn to enhance resource values.

MANAGEMENT AREA 11

Description

Management Area 11 consists of three geographically distinct areas on the Forest. East Meadow Creek is located along the eastern border of the nonclassified portion of the Forest. Rapid River is located in the extreme southwest corner of the Forest, south and west of the community of Riggins, Idaho. The third is located in the upper or northern end of the Silver Creek drainage. Silver Creek runs roughly north and south and flows into the South Fork of the Clearwater River approximately midway between the communities of Grangeville and Elk City. Landtypes, vegetation, and elevation, along with other physical and biotic conditions vary widely in these three areas. The areas consist primarily of forested lands that are essentially unroaded.

Rapid River is adjacent to an existing wilderness and contains a designated Wild and Scenic River. East Meadow Creek borders the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. The key resource values in all three

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

areas are habitat for wild populations of anadromous and resident fish, wildlife habitat, high water quality, and semiprimitive, dispersed recreation opportunities. The Silver Creek area is also a significant cultural and religious site for the Nez Perce Tribe.

Goals

Manage the areas to provide for high quality fish and wildlife habitat and water quality. Provide opportunities for high quality, semiprimitive, dispersed recreation.

For East Meadow Creek, evaluate opportunities to schedule timber harvest if market conditions or technology changes significantly over the decade. Emphases on fish, wildlife, water, and recreation would be included in any potential changes. Any change in current land classification and scheduling of timber harvest in East Meadow Creek would require an amendment to this Plan with public involvement. Any such change would likely result in all or part of the lands in East Meadow Creek being assigned to a different management area.

RECREATION

Implement mitigation measures to offset the effects of overuse. Manage for goals of semiprimitive motorized or semiprimitive nonmotorized recreation.

WILDLIFE AND FISH

1. Rehabilitate elk and deer winter ranges through prescribed burning programs.
2. Enhance fish habitat capacity through in-stream improvements and barrier removal.

RANGE

Manage existing grazing allotments.

TIMBER

Lands are classified as "unsuitable" for timber management; exclude scheduled timber harvest. Harvest may occur on lands not currently "suitable" for timber management to accomplish multiple use objectives other than timber production. Examples include research, public safety, improvement of administrative sites, wildlife needs, removal of volume lost through catastrophic mortality, or to control insect and disease epidemics that threaten adjacent "suitable" or non-National Forest lands.

WATER

Meet established fishery/water quality objectives for all prescription watersheds as shown in Appendix A.

FACILITIES

1. Exclude construction for surface management purposes. Maintain existing roads.
2. Reconstruct and maintain existing trails to meet increased use, ensure public safety, and reduce environmental damage.
3. Manage area as a "category 1 avoidance area."

MINERALS

Provide access for exploration and development of locatable and leasable mineral resources. However, new road construction will only be approved where a road is necessary for the next stage of development of the mineral resource, and where other means of access would be unreasonable. Roads will be constructed to minimum standards "suitable" for the proposed use, and will be obliterated to the extent feasible after completion of activities. This text reflects changes made by amend #3

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

PROTECTION

Wildfire management strategies include control, contain, and confine. The strategy selected, and specifics on implementation, shall depend upon location, expected fire behavior, and values at risk. Decision criteria shall be specified in the Fire Management Action Plan. Planned and unplanned ignitions, when within prescription, will be allowed to burn to enhance resource values.

MANAGEMENT AREA 12

Goals

Manage for timber production and other multiple uses on a sustained yield basis. Develop equal distribution of age classes to optimize sustained timber production. Manage at levels and intensities consistent with the schedules described in this plan to provide for other multiple uses and resources. Manage for roaded natural recreation. The goal for summer elk habitat in this management area is to manage 109,444 acres to achieve at least 75 percent of habitat potential; 310,544 acres to achieve at least 50 percent of habitat potential; and 114,225 acres to achieve at least 25 percent of habitat potential. Specific methods of how to achieve this will be determined on a site-specific basis during project planning (see Appendix B).

RECREATION

1. Manage for roaded natural recreation.
2. Interim visual quality objectives are modification or maximum modification. Adopted VQOs will recognize sensitive (Sensitivity Level 1 and 2) viewpoints and travel routes. This text reflects changes made by amend #4

RANGE

1. Administer allotments to protect the timber resource. Transitory forage will be available for livestock use after regeneration is established.
2. Design structures for protection of regeneration and to facilitate livestock distribution.
3. Delay range forage improvements until regeneration has been established.

TIMBER

1. Lands are classified as "suitable" for timber management; schedule timber harvest. Use primarily even-aged silvicultural systems. Final determination of the silvicultural system to be used will be based on an on-the-ground, site-specific analysis (see Appendix F).
2. Reforest to desired stocking levels within 5 years following final harvest.
3. Plant or thin natural regeneration to reach desired stocking levels by age 20.

WATER

Meet established fishery/water quality objectives for all prescription watersheds as shown in Appendix A.

FACILITIES

1. Construct and reconstruct primarily to achieve timber management objectives.
2. Maintain trails to provide for user safety commensurate with use.

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

PROTECTION

1. Wildfire management strategies are control, confine, and contain. Specifics on implementation, shall depend upon location, expected fire behavior, and values at risk. Decision criteria shall be specified in the Fire Management Action Plan.
2. Planned ignitions, when within prescription, will be allowed to burn to enhance resource values.

MANAGEMENT AREA 13

Goals

Manage to produce sustained yields of sawtimber and other wood products while meeting the visual quality objectives of retention or partial retention on those areas with high to medium visual sensitivity. Because of the mosaic created by these two management emphases in this area, additional coordination is required to achieve proper timing and spatial arrangement during prescription implementation. The goal for summer elk habitat in this management area is to manage 2,791 acres to achieve at least 75 percent of habitat potential; 6,635 acres to achieve at least 50 percent of habitat potential; and 2,198 acres to achieve at least 25 percent of habitat potential. Specific methods of how to achieve this will be determined on a site-specific basis during project planning (see Appendix B).

Standards

Direction for each respective area shall follow the direction for Management Areas 12 and 17.

MANAGEMENT AREA 14

Goals

Manage to produce sustained yields of sawtimber and other wood products, while meeting the visual quality objectives of retention or partial retention and improving the quality of the winter range habitat for deer and elk on the appropriate areas. Because of the mosaic created by these three management emphases, implementation will require additional coordination in terms of timing and spatial arrangement to assure that the timber, visual, and wildlife goals are achieved. The goal for summer elk habitat in this management area is to manage 133 acres to achieve at least 75 percent of habitat potential; 882 acres to achieve at least 50 percent of habitat potential; and 238 acres to achieve at least 25 percent of habitat potential. Specific methods of how to achieve this will be determined on a site-specific basis during project planning (see Appendix B).

Standards

Direction for each respective area shall follow direction for Management Areas 12, 16, and 17, except for Fire Management as shown below.

PROTECTION

1. Wildfire management strategies include control, contain, and confine. The strategy selected, and specifics on implementation, shall depend upon location, expected fire behavior, and values at risk. Decision criteria shall be specified in the Fire Management Action Plan.
2. Planned ignitions, when within prescription, will be allowed to burn to enhance resource values.

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

MANAGEMENT AREA 15

Goals

Manage to produce sustained yields of sawtimber and other wood products, while improving the quality of the deer and elk winter habitat on the appropriate areas. Because of the mosaic created by these two management emphases, implementation will require additional coordination in terms of timing and spatial arrangement to assure that the timber and wildlife goals are achieved. The goal for summer elk habitat in this management area is to manage 5,011 acres to achieve at least 75 percent of habitat potential; 23,938 acres to achieve at least 50 percent of habitat potential; and 10,427 acres to achieve at least 25 percent of habitat potential. Specific methods of how to achieve this will be determined on a site-specific basis during project planning (see Appendix B).

Standards

Direction for each respective area shall follow direction for Management Areas 12 and 16, except for Fire Management as shown below.

PROTECTION

1. Wildfire management strategies include control, contain, and confine. The strategy selected, and specifics on implementation, shall depend upon location, expected fire behavior, and values at risk. Decision criteria shall be specified in the Fire Management Action Plan.
2. Planned ignitions, when within prescription, will be allowed to burn to enhance resource values.

MANAGEMENT AREA 16 (151,683 acres)

Goals

Improve the quality of the winter range habitat for deer and elk through timber harvesting, prescribed burning, and other management practices. The goal for summer elk habitat in this management area is to manage 2,987 acres to achieve at least 75 percent of habitat potential; 15,115 acres to achieve at least 50 percent of habitat potential; and 5,330 acres to achieve at least 25 percent of habitat potential. Specific methods of how to achieve this will be determined on a site-specific basis during project planning (see Appendix B).

WILDLIFE AND FISH

Restrict all roads except specifically-identified arterials and collectors during winter to reduce disturbance, harassment, and poaching of animals. Roads to be closed shall be identified in the Forest Travel Plan.

RANGE

1. Assure sufficient forage for wildlife when determining livestock needs.
2. Restrict improvements to areas where regeneration has been established. Design structures to protect regeneration areas and to distribute livestock use.

TIMBER

1. Lands in Management Area 16 are classified as both "suitable" and "unsuitable" for timber management. The nonforest grasslands and seral brushfields are "unsuitable" for timber management. The timber stands in productivity classes 3, 4, 5, and 6 are classified as "suitable" for timber management.

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

2. Schedule timber harvest on "suitable" lands. Design timber harvests to achieve desired combination of cover and forage. Salvage will be allowed for those areas not in the "suitable" land base.
3. Determine the silvicultural system to be used based on an on-the-ground, sitespecific analysis (see Appendix F).
4. Design silvicultural prescriptions to provide for a prolonged period (10-20 years) of browse production. Site preparation practices will stimulate browse production for wildlife.

WATER

Meet established fishery/water quality objectives for all prescription watersheds as shown in Appendix A.

MINERALS

Stipulate limiting activity to May 15 through December 1 in mineral leases. Negotiate the same limitation in operating plans for locatable mineral development. Require revegetation of disturbed areas with palatable forage species.

FACILITIES

1. Construction and reconstruction is permissible when roads are necessary to meet the multiple use objectives on adjacent lands.
2. Reconstruct and maintain to meet adjacent management area objectives, provide public safety, and reduce environmental damage.

PROTECTION

1. Wildfire management strategies include control, contain, and confine. The strategy selected, and specifics on implementation, shall depend upon location, expected fire behavior, and values at risk. Decision criteria shall be specified in the Fire Management Action Plan.
2. Planned and unplanned ignitions, when within prescription, will be allowed to burn to enhance resource values.

MANAGEMENT AREA 17

Goals

Manage for timber production within the constraints imposed by the visual quality objectives (VQOs) of retention or partial retention while providing for other multiple uses and resources. VQOs for a specific land area are identified on VQO maps which are part of the planning records. The goal for summer elk habitat in this management area is to manage 25,488 acres to achieve at least 75 percent of habitat potential; 69,807 acres to achieve at least 50 percent of habitat potential; and 8,490 acres to achieve at least 25 percent of habitat potential. Specific methods of how to achieve this will be determined on a site-specific basis during project planning (see Appendix B).

RECREATION

1. Manage for roaded natural recreation.
2. Interim visual quality objectives are retention or partial retention. This text reflects changes made by amend #4

See Amend #9 allowing clearcutting and sanitation/salvage in this MA in the Mallard timber sales. See Amend #10 allowing clearcutting and sanitation/salvage in this MA in the Cove timber sales.

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

TIMBER

1. Lands are classified as "suitable" for timber management; schedule timber harvest.
2. Harvest using shelterwood systems in the retention areas. Harvest using shelterwood or clearcut methods in the partial retention areas.
3. Reforest to desired stocking levels within 5 years except where long-term vistas are to be maintained.

WATER

1. Meet established fishery/water quality objectives for all prescription watersheds as shown in Appendix A.

FACILITIES

1. Locate roads to reduce ground disturbance; maintain vegetation adjacent to road prism for screening.
2. Identify and construct vista areas where appropriate.
3. Manage area as a "category 1 avoidance area."

PROTECTION

1. Wildfire management strategies are control, confine, and contain. Specifics on implementation shall depend upon location, expected fire behavior, and values at risk. Decision criteria shall be specified in the Fire Management Action Plan.
2. Planned ignitions, when within prescription, will be allowed to burn to enhance resource values.

MANAGEMENT AREA 18

Goals

Manage to improve the quality of the winter habitat for deer and elk through timber harvesting or prescribed burning, while meeting visual quality objectives of retention or partial retention on the appropriate acres. The mosaic created by these two management emphases in this area will require coordination in terms of timing and spatial arrangement of activities to assure that these prescriptions are properly implemented. The goal for summer elk habitat in this management area is to manage 572 acres to achieve at least 75

percent of habitat potential; 3,923 acres to achieve at least 50 percent of habitat potential; and 1,573 acres to achieve at least 25 percent of habitat potential. Specific methods of how to achieve this will be determined on a site-specific basis during project planning (see Appendix B).

Standards

Direction for each respective area shall follow the direction for Management Areas 16 and 17, except for Fire Management which is shown below.

PROTECTION

1. Wildfire management strategies include control, contain, and confine. The strategy selected, and specifics on implementation, shall depend upon location, expected fire behavior, and values at risk. Decision criteria shall be specified in the Fire Management Action Plan

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

2. Planned and unplanned ignitions, when within prescription, will be allowed to burn to enhance resource values.

MANAGEMENT AREA 19

Goals

Provide for increasing or maintaining available forage for livestock grazing at levels and intensities described in this Plan. Livestock management will provide for other multiple uses. The goal for summer elk habitat in this management area is to manage 2,696 acres to achieve at least 75 percent of habitat potential; 7,080 acres to achieve at least 50 percent of habitat potential; and 8,854 acres to achieve at least 25 percent of habitat potential. Specific methods of how to achieve this will be determined on a site-specific basis during project planning (see Appendix B).

WILDLIFE AND FISH

Manage livestock grazing to be consistent with elk summer habitat and winter range objectives.

TIMBER

Lands are classified as "unsuitable" for timber management; schedule no timber harvest.

WATER

Meet established fishery/water quality objectives for all prescription watersheds as shown in Appendix A.

RANGE

1. Manage existing allotments. Emphasize intensive grazing systems. Maintain range condition at or above the fair level.
2. Emphasize investments in structural and nonstructural range improvements to maintain range condition.

PROTECTION

1. Wildfire management strategies include control, contain, and confine. The strategy selected, and specifics on implementation, shall depend upon location, expected fire behavior, and values at risk. Decision criteria shall be specified in the Fire Management Action Plan.
2. Planned ignitions, when within prescription, will be allowed to burn to enhance resource values.

FACILITIES

1. Construct and reconstruct to meet management objectives on adjacent lands.
2. Maintain to provide for user safety and reduce environmental damage.

MANAGEMENT AREA 20

Goals

Provide "suitable" habitat (existing and replacement) for old-growth-dependent wildlife species. The goal for summer elk habitat in this management area is to manage 10,562 acres to achieve at least 75 percent of habitat potential; 38,696 acres to achieve at least 50 percent of habitat potential; and 12,569 acres to achieve at least 25 percent of habitat potential. Specific methods of how to achieve this will be determined on a site-specific basis during project planning (see Appendix B).

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

TIMBER

1. Lands are classified as "suitable" for timber management.
2. Schedule no timber harvest in existing old-growth stands until decade 10. Schedule no timber harvest in replacement stands until decade 16.
3. Select, locate, and administer old-growth areas to protect them from firewood cutting.
4. Reforest to desired stocking level within 5 years of final harvest.
5. Exclude precommercial thinning.
6. Salvage of dead and dying timber is permitted in the Scott Fire Salvage Sale before decade 10. this text added by amend #17
7. Exception: Timber harvest is permitted in all or parts of the designated old-growth habitat (MA-20) located within the Berg Timber sale area during the life of the timber sale to improve and maintain the long term sustainability of this ponderosa pine community. this text added by amend #22
8. Allows timber harvest in unit F of Middle Fk Timber Sale. See amend #25 for details

WATER

Meet established fishery/water quality objectives for all prescription watersheds as shown in Appendix A.

MINERALS

In instances where timber is required for mining purposes, negotiate use of alternate sources outside of Management Area 20. In instances where timber must be cleared for mining operations, mitigate loss by identifying and including within Management Area 20 replacement immature stands which will provide future old-growth habitat.

FACILITIES

1. Construct and reconstruct for the purpose of managing adjacent lands.
2. Restrict or close all secondary collector and local roads after management activities cease in adjacent areas.

PROTECTION

1. Wildfire management strategies are control, confine, and contain. Specifics on implementation shall depend upon location, expected fire behavior, and values at risk. Decision criteria shall be specified in the Fire Management Action Plan.
2. Planned ignitions, when within prescription, will be allowed to burn to enhance resource values.

MANGEMENT AREA 21

Goals

Manage the grand fir-Pacific yew plant communities to provide for a continuing presence of Pacific yew "suitable" for moose winter habitat. The goal for summer elk habitat in this management area is to manage 12,785 acres to achieve at least 75 percent of habitat potential; 31,425 acres to achieve at least 50 percent of habitat potential; and 518 acres to achieve at least 25 percent of habitat potential. Specific methods of how to achieve this will be determined on a site-specific basis during project planning (see Appendix B).

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

WILDLIFE AND FISH

1. Close all but specifically-identified roads during the fall and winter.
2. Restrict range improvements to areas where conifer and Pacific yew regeneration has been established.

TIMBER

1. Lands are classified as both "suitable" and "unsuitable" for timber management. The flat grounds, less than 35 percent slope, are "suitable" for timber management. The steep lands, greater than 35 percent slope, are "unsuitable" for timber management.
2. Schedule timber harvest only on the "suitable" lands, less than 35 percent slope, that do not require broadcast slash burning.
3. For those lands that are scheduled for harvest, harvest a maximum of 5 percent of Pacific yew stand per decade on a 210-year rotation.
4. Maintain at least 50 percent of the live Pacific yew components scattered throughout the unit in patches 1/4 to 1/2 acre in size.
5. The preferred harvest type includes patch clearcuts, individual tree selection, group selection, or shelterwood. Patch clearcuts should be no larger than 20 acres in size (5- 10 acres preferred).
6. Determine the silvicultural system to be used based on an on-the-ground, sitespecific analysis.
7. Maintain leave-strips between yew stands sufficient to provide travel corridors for moose.
8. Reforest to desired stocking levels either through planting or through natural regeneration to achieve 30 percent crown closure over 20 years for conifers, and 30 percent crown closure over 20-30 years for Pacific yew.
9. Achieve the appropriate canopy cover objective through stocking control. Canopy cover objectives, 90 years after treatment, are:

Percent Canopy Cover

Overstory Pacific Yew

Taxus brevifolia 42 60

Asarum caudatum h.t.

Taxus brevifolia 34 53

Clintonia uniflora h.t.

Approximately 40-70 overstory trees per acre are required to achieve the desired canopy cover.

WATER

Meet established fishery/water quality objectives for all prescription watersheds as shown in Appendix A.

FACILITIES

1. Construct primarily to achieve timber management objectives.
2. Maintain to provide for user safety.

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

MINERALS

Stipulate limiting activity to May 15 through December 1 in mineral leases. Negotiate the same limitation in operating plans for locatable mineral development. Require revegetation of disturbed areas with forage species.

PROTECTION

1. Wildfire management strategies are control, confine, and contain. Specifics on implementation shall depend upon location, expected fire behavior, and values at risk. Decision criteria shall be specified in the Fire Management Action Plan.
2. Planned ignitions, when within prescription, will be allowed to burn to enhance resource values. Generally, broadcast burning will not be prescribed. Do not slash Pacific yew except to provide room to machine pile. Slash piles should not be placed within patches of yew.

MANAGEMENT AREA 23

Description

Management Area 23 consists of the National Forest portion of the Elk Creek Municipal Watershed which provides water for domestic use to the town of Elk City, Idaho. The entire watershed includes Big Elk, Little Creek, Monroe, and Swale Creeks and totals 16,217 acres. The Nez Perce National Forest portion is 44 percent of the watershed area (7,061 acres), and includes Big Elk and Little Elk Creeks. Elevation ranges from 3,939 feet to 6,420 feet. The Elk Creek watershed includes a portion of the Elk City township and ownership is divided between the Nez Perce National Forest, Bureau of Land Management, State of Idaho, and privately owned land. The area is heavily timbered. The area has been heavily prospected and mined, and active mining claims exist. Timber harvest and grazing occur on all land ownerships.

Goals

Manage to ensure that Idaho water quality standards for community public supply water use are met. In all cases, existing beneficial uses of the water will be protected. To protect and, where needed, improve the quality and quantity of the water resource in a manner consistent with National, State, and Forest goals. The goal for summer elk habitat in this management area is to manage 7,002 acres to achieve at least 50 percent of habitat potential. Specific methods of how to achieve this will be determined on a site-specific basis during project planning (see Appendix B).

RECREATION

1. Post access points into the watershed with signs informing users of the municipal watershed and detailing sanitation requirements.
2. Discourage overnight camping near streams.
3. Provide sanitation facilities at dispersed sites if necessary.
4. Prohibit construction of developed recreation sites.
5. Restrict motorized recreation vehicles to designated routes.

WILDLIFE & FISH

1. Maintain sufficient stream quality to ensure that fisheries habitat objectives are met.
2. Prohibit management activities that adversely change the composition and productivity of key riparian vegetation. Rehabilitate riparian areas now degraded by management before any further nondependent resource use of the immediate area is permitted.

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

3. Schedule habitat improvements consistent with municipal watershed management objectives. These could include instream structures, channel changes, and riparian revegetation. Use instream improvements and barrier removal to enhance those drainages where habitat capacity is below potential.

RANGE

1. Manage existing grazing allotments. Minimize concentrations of livestock in riparian areas through the development of grazing systems and structural improvements.
2. Design grazing systems to promote recovery of degraded riparian areas. This may necessitate temporary exclusion of livestock or new improvements.
3. Maintain existing grazing levels. Reissue vacated permits only if water quality standards can be achieved.

TIMBER

1. Lands are classified as "suitable" for timber management; schedule timber harvest.
2. Design timber harvest activities to protect or enhance the water resource. Emphasize sediment mitigation when harvest activities occur near streams.
3. Locate timber harvest landings outside of riparian areas.
4. Require directional felling of trees away from streams whenever possible.
5. Prohibit harvesting equipment that will result in sediment production that would significantly affect the water supply.
6. Suspend logs completely when possible when crossing riparian areas.
7. Prohibit management activities that would change stream geomorphology by adversely altering streambanks, channel dimensions, or channel sediment.

WATER

1. Meet established fishery/water quality objectives for all prescription watersheds as shown in Appendix A.
2. Manage water yield to optimize quantity and quality.

FACILITIES

1. Design mitigation measures to assure that the existing beneficial uses of the waters of the watershed will be protected.
2. Minimize crossings in riparian areas. Avoid construction parallel to streams. Cross streams at as near a right angle as practical.
3. Consider opportunities to remove existing roads and trails from riparian areas if it is contributing to the degradation of water quality.
4. Open road density will be minimized to protect water quality and to meet other land use management objectives.
5. Contractor or operator camps will meet specific location, sanitation, and water quality protection requirements.

MINERALS

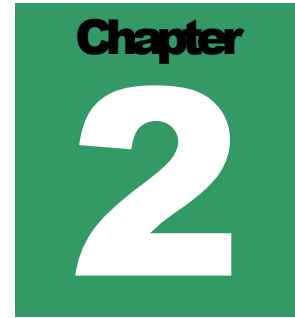
1. Recommend "limited surface use" stipulation for mineral leases.

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

2. Design mineral activities to protect or enhance the water resource.

PROTECTION

1. Apply integrated pest management to minimize losses and to protect water quality and quantity.
2. Use chemical pesticide only if beneficial uses of the water can be protected.
3. Wildfire management strategies are control, contain, and confine. Specifics on implementation, shall depend upon location, expected fire behavior, and values at risk. Decision criteria shall be specified in the Fire Management Action Plan.
4. Planned ignitions, when within prescription, will be allowed to burn to enhance resource values.



Recommendations of the Boards of County Commissioners for the Nez Perce National Forest

General Recommendations Regarding the Nez Perce National Forest

Idaho County's Recommendations

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

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

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

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

It has been our experience that infrastructure in wilderness areas and proposed wilderness areas has deteriorated over the years where "primitive maintenance" policies were implemented. We strongly

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

support the use of mechanized equipment for maintenance of infrastructure outside of wilderness including proposed wilderness areas.

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

Idaho County Commissioners are alarmed and dismayed at the loss of grazing on the National Forests over the past several decades. We would like to see grazing reinstated as a valid use of these lands. We are well aware of predator problems on the forestlands and support the use of all means to bring predator numbers to healthy levels to enable livestock grazing to be profitable. We support the use of helicopters in wilderness for animal census counts to get a more accurate picture of predator numbers.

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

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

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

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

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

Latah County's Recommendations

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

Generally, the Board recommends the following:

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

- 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.

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.

Recommendations on Specific IRA's in the Nez Perce National Forest

Rackliff – Gedney

Idaho County

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

O'Hara-Falls

Idaho County

Surrounded by existing managed areas. It is a relatively small/narrow management area. Maintain timber management options. New roads should/could be constructed off of existing transportation system as it makes sense and consistent with ecological standards and concerns: General Forest Management Area.

Lick Point

Idaho County

This is a small isolated area surround by roads. Support the historic uses consistent with General Forest Management prescriptions. We do not see this area as being a candidate for inclusion in proposed wilderness.

West Meadow

Idaho County

We agree with the decisions of the Frank Church Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

“The Committee heard extensive testimony from the people of Idaho County about the importance of the East and West Meadow Creek, Mallard, and Jersey Jack roadless areas for timber resources. These areas have deep soils and above average moisture and are thus prime timber growing sites. The Committee felt they should be available for development under normal multiple-use procedures.

“Meadow Creek East (East Meadow Creek, Running Creek, and Upper Bargamin Creek drainages). All of the roadless lands within the Forest Service's Meadow Creek East RARE II unit (D1845) were recommended for designation as wilderness by the Administration. However, the Committee has carefully reviewed this roadless area and decided not to designate it as wilderness. Thus, it is the Committee's intent that this 97,700 acre area should be treated as multiple-use land to be managed in accordance with the statutes and regulations generally applicable to all National Forest System land. The Committee shares the concern of the people of Idaho County about the timber supply situation on the Nez Perce National Forest. That is the primary reason why the land in this unit is not being designated as wilderness as recommended by the Administration.”

West Meadow

We understand that West Meadow is a refugia area for rare and endangered species (ie: West Slope Cutthroat Trout) and support management consistent with maintaining the appropriate

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

habitat and species protection. We also support this forest area being available for development and management under normal NEPA parameters. West Meadow should be managed under General Forest Management practices and principals.

Meadow Creek encompasses one of the largest threats to the Wildland-Urban Interface in our County. We would like to see and support active fuels management in this area to reduce the fire threat to private in-holdings and communities within this area consistent with the defined WUI areas developed in the Idaho County Wild-land Fire Mitigation Plan (Elk City, Dixie, Red River).

East Meadow Creek

Idaho County

We support this area as a Roadless buffer area for the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness area. This forest area should be recognized and managed for its non-motorized recreational opportunities consistent with the appropriate management practices.

Clear Creek

Idaho County

This area borders private land and is surrounded by managed land on all sides of this relatively small, narrow, roadless inventory area. We support active management for timber and other resources and expansion of roads where applicable to further multiple uses. Travel systems can be developed that meet existing National Forest rules, laws and procedures. This is close to a population base that uses the area for motorized and non-motorized recreation, particularly during those portions of the year when higher elevation forest lands are not accessible and available for recreation. We would like to see these types of activities enhanced.

Silver Creek – Pilot Knob

Idaho County

This is one area of the Nez Perce Forest with specific recommendations concerning cultural interests of the Nez Perce Tribe. We have great respect for the Tribe, and consider them a key partner in developing management recommendations for our local federal lands. We know there may be additional sites that we are not aware of, and therefore must make it clear that none of our recommendations are designed to conflict with those cultural concerns and uses. The same may be said for the numerous Research Natural Areas within roadless areas.

We recommend this area be open for timber management, with the exception that any locations in the Pilot Knob area that have cultural significance to the Nez Perce Tribe be reserved and that cultural values will take precedence over access and timber-management.

Dixie Summit-Nut Hill

Idaho County

Forest Management practices in this area need to focus on treating hazardous fuels this significant WUI area.

This is an isolated, narrow, roadless area surrounded by General Forest where multiple use is practiced. We think multiple use is appropriate within this area and should reflect those practices currently occurring on the surrounding adjacent lands. Therefore, general Forest Management practices are appropriate for this specific area.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Gospel Hump and Mallard

Idaho County

We would like to see opportunities to manage decadent timber stands in this area, particularly where it does not inappropriately infringe on wilderness area values or specific endangered species habitat including use of specified and temporary timber roads to achieve these management goals.

North Fork Slate Creek

Idaho County

We recommend this area be actively managed under general Forest Management practices, and believe the appropriate management tools should be considered to achieve management objectives (i.e., aerial logging or long lines and limited road building). This area has good soils for sustainable forestry and reforestation and those areas should be actively considered for timber management. Currently there is high motorized and non-motorized recreational use in this area. We recommend maintaining all existing roads and trails and enhancing these recreational opportunities as feasible.

Little Slate Creek

Idaho County

This is a big hunting area with recognized motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities. Fairly gentle country so opportunities for some road construction are good here even though it is a fish refugia area (Little Slate Creek). We support timber management consistent with that occurring in the surrounding areas. The transportation system should continue to be developed and extended where it makes sense for recreation and general forest management practices. The wolf population needs managed.

John Day

Idaho County

We support active management with extension of existing roads where they meet existing rules, laws and procedures for surrounding areas. Provide opportunities for motorized and non-motorized recreation while protecting private land values.

Salmon Face

Idaho County

This is a rather narrow, elongated roadless area located on the hydrological divide between the Salmon River and Snake River, and should be managed consistent with multiple use land management concepts currently applied on the Salmon River. These lands should be available for timber management, while the area immediately adjacent to the Hells Canyon Wilderness area should continue to serve as a Wilderness area buffer. We support protecting motorized recreation in this area while insuring that no motorized incursions into the wilderness are permitted.

Rapid River

Idaho County

We support maintaining the roadless characteristics of this area, and emphasize non-motorized recreation opportunities and values while still protecting those motorized uses that are currently permitted and occur in this area. We also support protecting the fish refugia and cultural sites that exist here.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Other Specific Recommendations for the Nez Perce National Forest

New-West Fork Crooked River

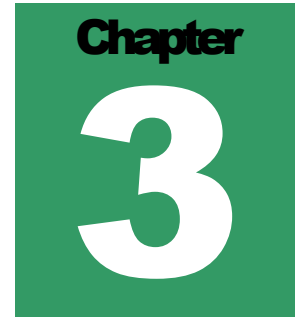
Idaho County

Recommend management for roadless recreational uses but maintain existing motorized access and uses in place. We support appropriate timber management as necessary to treat, prevent or contain insect, disease, or mechanical damage with temporary road placement to accomplish these treatments as appropriate. This area also encompasses a WUI around the community of Orogrande, and management emphasis should focus on treating fuels in this area.

Adjacent to Buffalo Hump

Idaho County

Recommend management for roadless recreational uses but maintain existing motorized right-of-way and uses in place, and we support appropriate Timber Management as necessary to treat, prevent or contain insect, disease, or mechanical damage with temporary road placement to accomplish these treatments as appropriate.



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

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

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
PO Box 896
Lewiston, Idaho 83501
Phone: (208) 799-3090
(866) 274-3911

Shoshone County

Chairman Jon Cantamessa

Sherry Krulitz

Jim Vergobbi

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

Preparers

Northwest Management, Inc.

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

Table 4.1. List of Preparers.

Name	Affiliation	Role
William E. Schlosser, Ph.D.	Northwest Management, Inc.	Project Manager , Regional Planner, Natural Resource Economist
Vincent P. Corrao, B.S.	Northwest Management, Inc.	Resource Management Specialist, Principal in Charge
Vaiden E. Bloch, M.S.	Northwest Management, Inc.	GIS Analyst, Resource Appraiser
Tera R. King, B.S.	Northwest Management, Inc.	Technical Services Associate
Adrienne Oryhon, B.S.	Northwest Management, Inc.	Technical Services Associate
Toby R. Brown, B.S.	Northwest Management, Inc.	Technical Services Associate

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

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Northwest Management, Inc.
233 East Palouse River Drive
PO Box 9748
Moscow ID 83843

208-883-4488 Telephone
208-883-1098 Fax
NWManage@consulting-foresters.com e-Mail
<http://www.Consulting-Foresters.com/> Internet

Ver 20060301

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