

WALLOWA - WHITMAN NATIONAL FOREST

Inventoried Roadless Area Recommendations

**A summary of Wallowa - Whitman National Forest
Inventoried Roadless Areas and
Recommendations of the Boards of County Commissioners**



Version: March 1st, 2006

WALLOWA - WHITMAN NATIONAL FOREST

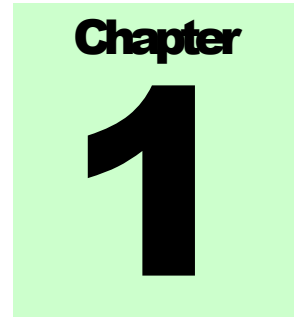
Inventoried Roadless Area County Recommendations

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

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|-----------|
| TABLE OF CONTENTS..... | I |
| PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT..... | 1 |
| WALLOWA - WHITMAN NATIONAL FOREST OVERVIEW... 1 | |
| <i>Wallowa - Whitman National Forest: Management</i> | |
| <i>Areas</i> | 5 |
| MANAGEMENT AREA 9 DISPERSED | |
| RECREATION/NATIVE VEGETATION..... | 6 |
| RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BOARDS OF | |
| COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR THE WALLOWA | |
| - WHITMAN NATIONAL FOREST | 8 |
| GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE | |
| WALLOWA - WHITMAN NATIONAL FOREST | 8 |
| <i>Idaho County</i> | 8 |
| <i>Latah County</i> | 10 |
| <i>Nez Perce County</i> | 10 |
| RECOMMENDATIONS ON SPECIFIC IRA’S IN THE | |
| WALLOWA - WHITMAN NATIONAL FOREST | 11 |
| <i>Big Canyon</i> | 11 |
| Idaho County | 11 |
| <i>Klopton Creek-Corral Creek</i> | 11 |
| Idaho County | 11 |
| SUPPORTING INFORMATION | 12 |
| BOARDS OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS..... | 12 |
| BENEWAH COUNTY..... | 12 |
| BONNER COUNTY | 12 |
| BOUNDARY COUNTY | 12 |
| CLEARWATER COUNTY | 13 |
| IDAHO COUNTY | 13 |
| KOOTENAI COUNTY | 13 |
| LATAH COUNTY | 13 |
| LEWIS COUNTY | 14 |
| NEZ PERCE COUNTY | 14 |
| SHOSHONE COUNTY..... | 14 |
| PREPARERS..... | 15 |
| NORTHWEST MANAGEMENT, INC. | 15 |



Purpose of this Report

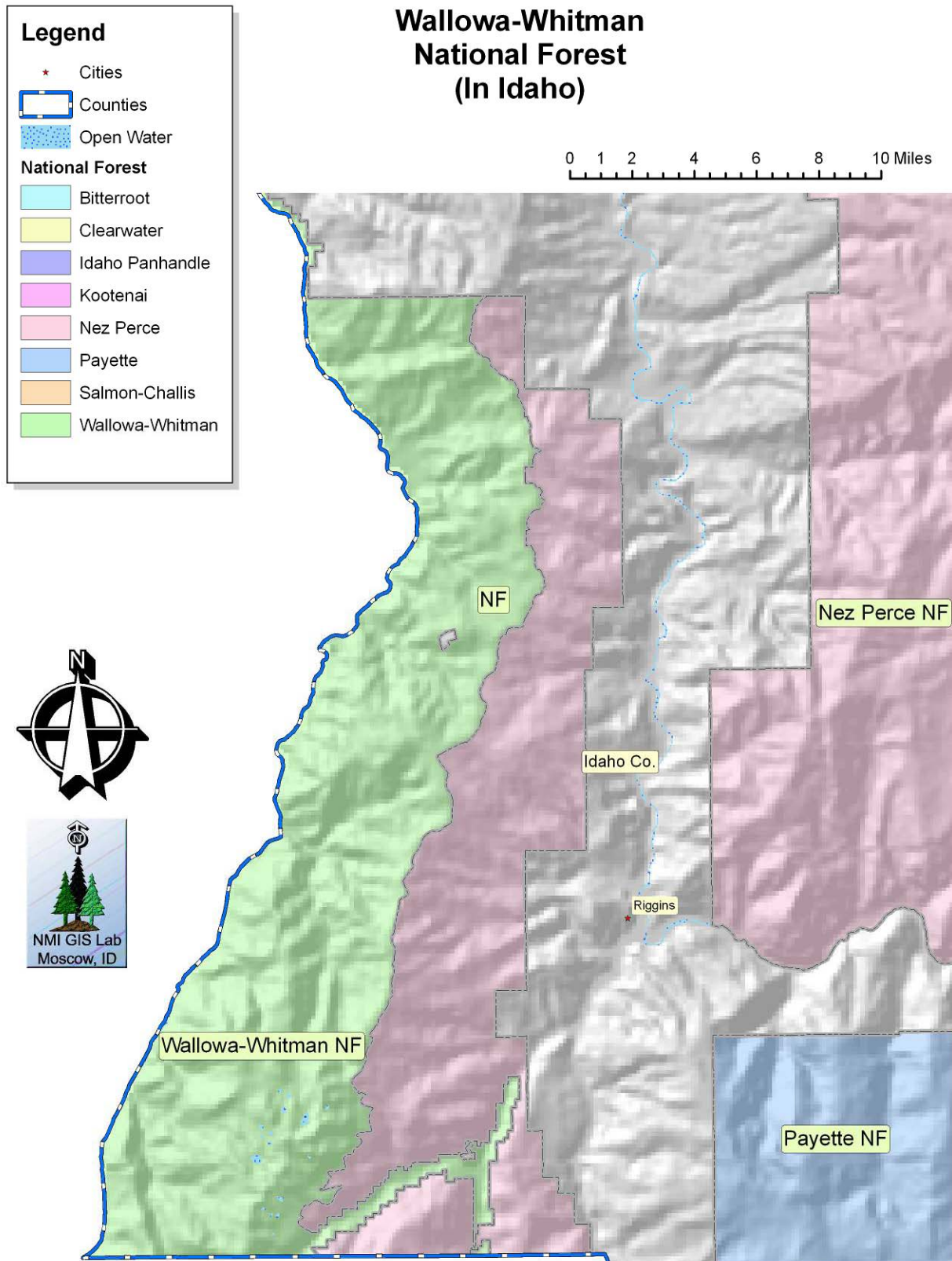
Inventoried Roadless Areas in the Idaho Panhandle National Forest are summarized in this chapter including specific information by IRA, maps of each IRA and additional information needed to allow the reader to understand the IRA recommendations made by North Idaho County Commissioners in Chapter 2.

Wallowa - Whitman National Forest Overview

The Wallowa - Whitman National Forest contains all of two different IRA's in Idaho. Both of these IRA's are also completely contained within Idaho County. The table below lists each of the IRA's, their IRA Category, and their Management Code.

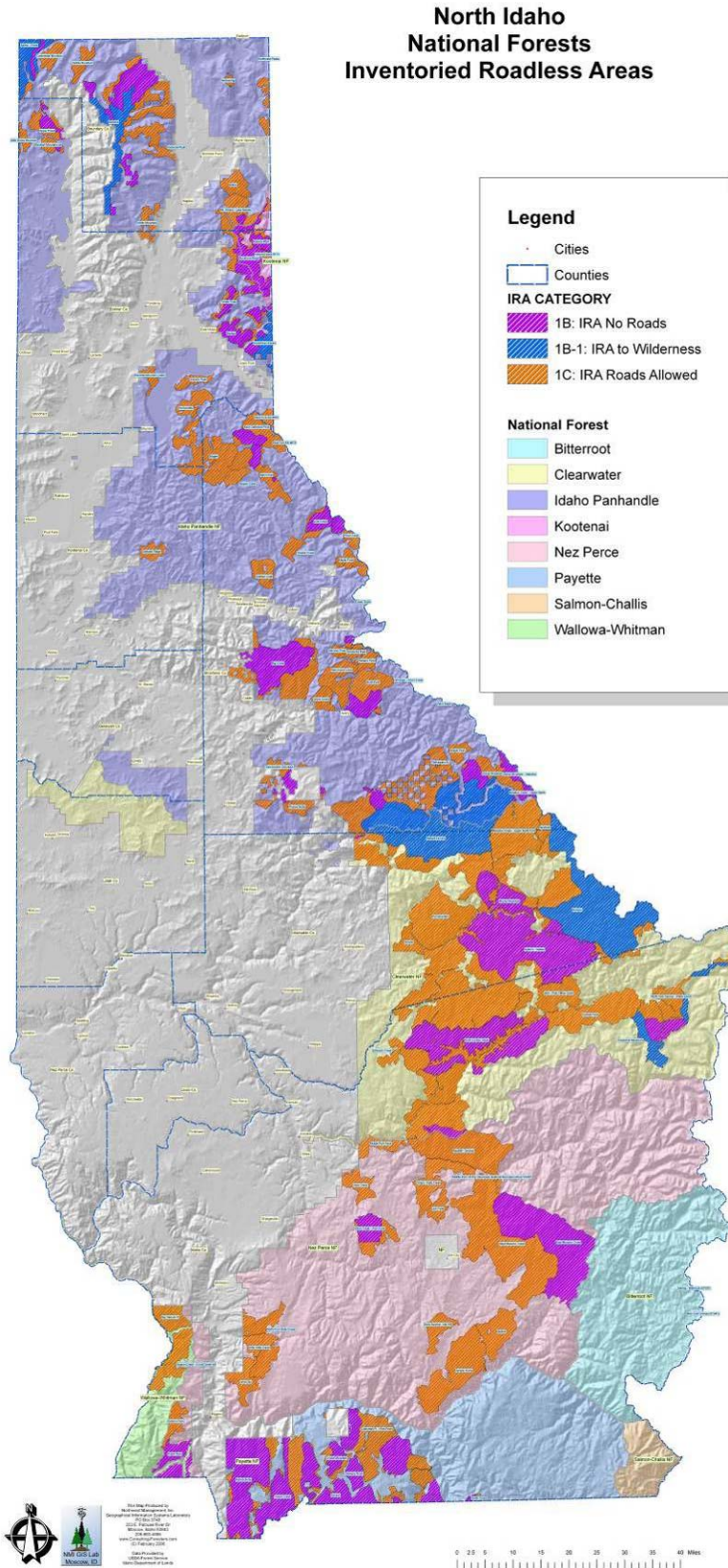
INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

Figure 1.1. Location Map of Wallowa - Whitman National Forest – in Idaho.



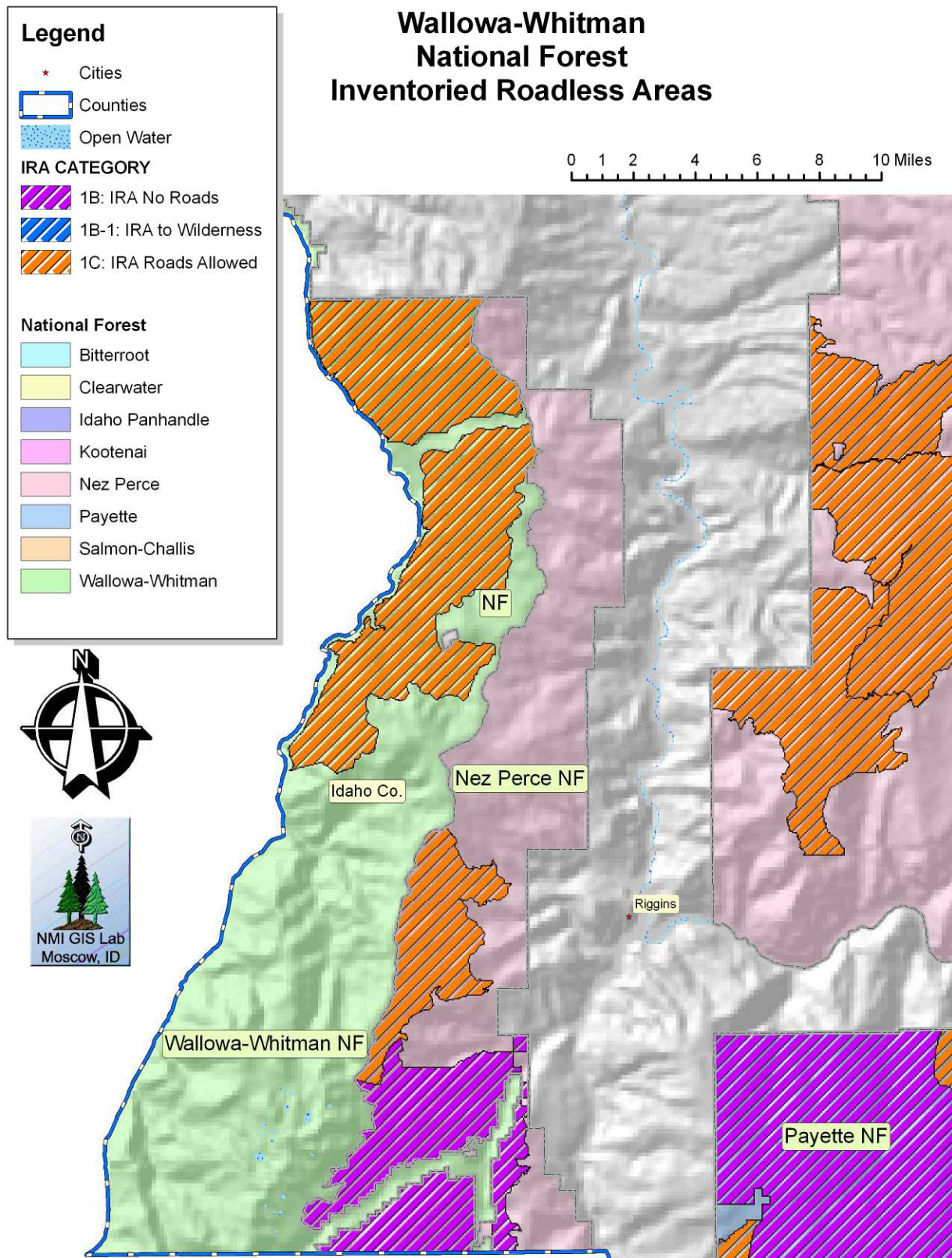
INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

Figure 1.2. Inventoried Roadless Areas in Northern Idaho.



INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

Figure 1.3. Inventoried Roadless Areas on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.



INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

In the original Forest Planning process in the late 1980's all forest lands were assigned a set of management areas. These areas could overlap on the same acre of land. These management areas were assigned general prescriptions or goals to be achieved. The management goals apply to the lands within IRA's. Often multiple management areas exist within an IRA. To help the County Commissioners and the public at large understand the original Forest Plan management prescriptions for each IRA in the Wallowa - Whitman 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 Wallowa - Whitman National Forest Plan document. Many national forests have their Forest Plan document available online.

Table 1.1. Wallowa - Whitman National Forest IRA Summaries.

| Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) | IRA Category | Wallowa - Whitman National Forest Management Areas | Adjacent National Forest Management Areas | County |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--|---|--------|
| Big Canyon ID | 1C | 9 | | Idaho |
| Klopton Creek - Corral Creek ID | 1C | 9 | | Idaho |

Wallowa - Whitman National Forest: Management Areas

The following descriptions of Management Areas occurring within the IRA's on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest have been lifted from the 1990 Wallowa-Whitman 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 area designation for the IRA within this county. A link to the original 1990 Forest Plan document can be viewed in pdf format on the Wallowa- Whitman National Forest website: http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma/blue_mtn_planrevision/documents.shtml.

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

MANAGEMENT AREA 9 DISPERSED RECREATION/NATIVE VEGETATION

Description

In these areas all activities will be managed to provide ample opportunities for dispersed recreation and to enhance native vegetation it is envisioned that these areas will eventually be almost entirely occupied by native plant species Range will be managed to maintain satisfactory range condition which will be achieved and maintained primarily by nonstructural means These areas will provide a mix of primitive, semiprimitive nonmotorized and semiprimitive motorized recreation opportunities. This management area does not contribute to the Forest's allowable sale quantity

Goals

Watershed Construction of any dam, water conduit, reservoir, powerhouse, transmission line, of other project work under the Federal Power Act will not be permitted, except for improvements required or used in connection with the operation and maintenance of projects in existence, or under construction, on the date that the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area was established.

Timber. There will be no regulated timber harvest, however, measures necessary to protect timber on other public or private lands from disease or insects are permitted

Transportation Develop the road system consistent with the transportation needs for the HCNRA as a whole.

Prohibit off-road vehicle travel, except for over-snow vehicles, subject to regulation under the Wallowa-Whitman Forest Travel Management Plan

Range. Continue livestock grazing consistent with native vegetation production objectives.

Enhance native vegetation through the use of appropriate range management techniques. Management will be designed to favor native vegetation over non-native vegetation.

Although no attempt will be made to eradicate non-native species, further introduction will be avoided

Recreation Provide recreation opportunities as described in the semiprimitive motorized and semiprimitive nonmotorized, and primitive categories of the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum

Landscape Management. Apply Forest-wide standards and guidelines

Insects and Diseases Emphasize biological methods when necessary to control insects or noxious weeds, although abiotic methods are not prohibited.

Landownership Retain these lands in Federal ownership and acquire the remaining non- Federal lands as directed by Congress

Minerals This area is withdrawn from mineral entry.

Fire Prescribed fire from planned or unplanned ignitions may be used Fire suppression activities will be conducted to maintain primitive and semiprimitive recreation opportunities

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA SUMMARY

Use fire, as needed, to provide forage diversity.

Minimum acceptable suppression response to wildfires will be "confine" at FIL's **1-23** and 'contain' at FIL **4** and above

Planning Assumptions

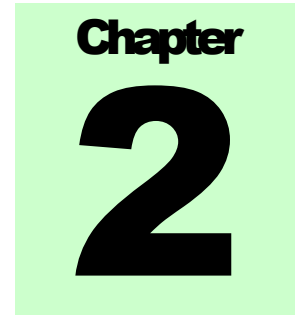
Watershed- Watershed impacts are expected to be minor, associated primarily with recreational activities and grazing. These will be mitigated as described in the Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

Wildlife- Natural tree mortality will provide snag habitat for snag-dependent species at **100** percent of potential. Timber stands which are currently in an old-growth condition will continue to provide oldgrowth habitat through this planning period-

Timber- Commercial timber harvest will not occur.

Transportation- Roading densities will remain essentially unchanged from **1982** levels

Range-Satisfactory range conditions will be achieved as range allotment management plans are completed and implemented.



Recommendations of the Boards of County Commissioners for the Wallowa - Whitman National Forest

General Recommendations Regarding the Wallowa - Whitman National Forest

Idaho County

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

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

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

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

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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

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

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

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

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Latah County

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

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.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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 Wallowa -
Whitman National Forest**

Big Canyon

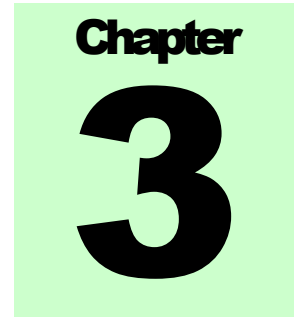
Idaho County

We oppose expansions of the Hells Canyon Wilderness in Idaho County. We support multiple use of this area and strongly encourage reinstating grazing allotments into this area. We support both non-motorized and motorized recreation opportunities.

Klopton Creek-Corral Creek

Idaho County

We oppose expansions of the Hells Canyon Wilderness in Idaho County. We support multiple use of this area and strongly encourage reinstating grazing allotments into this area. We support both non-motorized and motorized recreation opportunities.



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
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

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Preparers

Northwest Management, Inc.

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

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 |
| Toby R. Brown, B.S. | Northwest Management, Inc. | Technical Services Associate |

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

This plan was developed by Northwest Management, Inc., under contract with the Idaho Association of Counties.

Citation of this work:

Schlosser, W.E., T.R. King, and T.R. Brown (compiled by). 2006. Wallowa - Whitman National Forest Inventoried Roadless Area Recommendations. March 1, 2006. Moscow, Idaho 83843. Pp 16.

Last Page of Document



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

(Remainder Intentionally Blank)