

2003 Revised Forest Plan Caribou National Forest Recreation Residence Consistency Review - Scout Mountain Tract, Final April 2005		
Forest Plan Direction	Standards and Guidelines	Current Management
<p>Ecological Processes and Patterns, Fire – p. 3-3 to 3-4</p> <p>DFC-Fuel management strategies are coordinated with adjacent landowners to reduce risk to life and loss of property from wildfire.</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <p>1) Develop and implement at least one wildland fire use plan each year at the subsection scale. Priority should be given to the ecological subsections where this activity is emphasized.</p> <p>2) Within 1 year of signing the ROD, develop and begin implementation of a prioritized strategy for wildland/urban interface projects in the ecological subsections where this activity is emphasized.</p>	<p>When developing vegetation treatment projects, give priority to those reducing fuels in the wildland/urban interface. Strive to move vegetation currently in Fire Condition Class 3 to Condition Classes 1 and 2.</p>	<p>This is accomplished by: The National Fire Plan, the Ten – Year Comprehensive Strategy and Implementation Plan, and the Cohesive Strategy prioritized reducing the risk of wildland fires near interface communities as part of an overall framework for fire management and forest health programs. To reduce the risk to communities the Forest planned to treat 200 acres in the WUI in 2002, 300 in 2003, and an increased emphasis is expected in the years beyond. The importance of safeguarding communities will continue to grow as population increases and more development occurs. (FEIS Caribou National Forest, Revised Forest Plan, 2003)The Westside Ranger District is an integral part of the management of fuel in the WUI. The Scout Mountain Summer Home tract (summer homes) just South of Pocatello, Idaho is part of the WUI on the Westside Ranger District. As such, the summer homes have been included in the ongoing project of work for the District Fire Staff.</p>
<p>Physical Elements, Soils - p. 3-5 to 3-7</p>	<p>Guidelines for All Ecosystems</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Resource developments and utilization should be restricted to lands identifies in the Soil Resource Inventory as being capable of sustaining such impacts. 2. Maintain ground cover, microbiotic crusts, and fine organic matter that would protect the soil from erosion in excess of soil loss tolerance limits and provide nutrient cycling. 3. Detrimental soil disturbance such as compaction, erosion, puddling, displacement and severely burned soils caused by management practices should be limited or mitigated to meet long-term soil productivity goals. <p>Guidelines for Forested Ecosystems</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce soil erosion to less than the soil loss tolerance limits on the lands disturbed by management activities within one growing season after disturbance. 2. Sustain site productivity by 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The residence area reviewed is currently meeting these guidelines. · Current management will ensure that these guidelines are met in the future. <p>Guidelines for Forested Ecosystems # 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · This guideline is currently NOT being met on the residence area reviewed. · This can be accomplished by letting down woody residue accumulate. Where a Forest Plan prescription differs from Forestwide goals, objectives, standards and guidelines, the prescription overrides. See discussion under prescription 4.2.

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	providing the following minimum amounts of woody residue greater or equal to 3 inches in diameter dispersed on site as outlined in Table 3.1 (RFP 3-7)	
<p>Physical Elements, Lands – p. 3-8 to 3-11 Goals:</p> <p>5) Special use authorizations are issued only for uses that serve the public, promote public health and safety, protect the environment, and those uses that are legally mandated.</p>	1. Resource developments and utilization should be restricted to lands identifies in the Soil Resource Inventory as being capable of sustaining such impacts.	Scout Mountain Summer home tract is part of the greater Mink Creek Recreation Complex. The tract is located near the head of the East Fork of Mink Creek. The summer home tract is compatible with other uses and resources in the area.
<p>Biological Elements, Wildlife – p. 3-24 Goals:</p> <p>2) Wildlife biodiversity is maintained or enhanced by managing for vegetation and plant communities within their historical range of variability.</p> <p>Dead and Down Material, p. 3-26</p> <p>1) Following forested vegetation treatments, an average of 11 logs per acre should be left consisting of logs in decomposition classes 1, 2, and/or 3 (where they exist).</p>	No specific standards and guidelines.	Wildlife snags are located generally around, not in, the perimeter on the summer home tract, so that wildlife needs are being met, but they are not a hazard to residents and their visitors. Dead and downed woody guidelines are not met within the summer home tract. However, the guideline states that it should be met on at least 60% of the forested acres in an analysis area. Within this management prescription area this guideline is easily being met.
<p>Forest Use and Occupation, Recreation p. 3-39, 40 Desired Future Condition:</p> <p>People visiting the National Forest enjoy a broad range of recreation opportunities amid natural settings. Recreation experiences and settings meet public expectations of quality and variety, while complimenting other resource objectives.</p> <p>Goals:</p> <p>1) Developed and dispersed recreation facilities, access, and programs are consistent with the desired ROS setting and other resource goals of the area in which they are located.</p>	No specific standards and guidelines.	Mink Creek Recreation Complex offers a broad range of recreational opportunities. Some camping sites and roads are highly developed while others are ruff and rustic in nature. All developments are designed to compliment other resource need in the area. ROS setting for the Scout Mountain Summer home and surrounding area is “Roaded Natural.”

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<p>Forest Use and Occupation, Scenic Resources, p. 3-40</p> <p>Goals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Provide quality settings for a wide range of recreation opportunities. 2) Restore, maintain, or enhance the scenic quality of Forested landscapes to meet adopted objectives for scenery. 3) Objectives for scenery reflect user expectations and ecological goals for forest landscapes. 	<p>No specific standards and guidelines.</p>	<p>Mink Creek has a good range of quality settings to compliment various recreational opportunities. There was a bug epidemic in the trees in and around Scout Mountain Summer home site. The trees infected were removed to prevent spread of insects and care is being taken to maintain the timber stands and other vegetation in the area so that the scenic quality can be maintained. User expectations for scenery and forest landscapes are being met.</p>
<p>Forest Use and Occupations, Heritage Resources, p. 3-41</p> <p>Goals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Identify archaeological and historic properties on the Caribou National Forest. 2) Manage archaeological and historic resources, including inventory, evaluation, nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, and maintenance of the archaeological and historic resources on the Forest for educational, scientific, and public benefit. <p>Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2) Complete a systematic evaluation of historic buildings by 2020. 	<p>No specific standards and guidelines.</p>	<p>Review current summer home data and determine if any rec residences in the tract meet the age guidelines as defined in National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). If no properties meet the age standard, dates will be noted and no further management action will occur. If dates do meet age requirement, then the site will be recorded and evaluated for significance. If a site is determined significant (as outlined in NHPA) a management/treatment plan will be created. If a site is determined not-significant, this will be noted and the property will be managed as such.</p>
<p>Basin and Range Transitional Mountains Subsection (M331Du) p. 4-1 to 4-3.</p> <p>Management Emphasis: Wildland Fire Use... Wildland/Urban Interface fuel reduction projects in the foothills near Pocatello and other high risk areas. Management of the existing recreational residences in the Mink Creek area near Pocatello.</p>	<p>No specific standards and guidelines.</p>	<p>Ten of the eleven lots have a residence on it. The road network among the homes has recently been brushed out. Reducing vegetation along the road network provides a fuel break and allows for safer and quicker travel. Eight of the ten residences recently participated with the District Fire Staff to reduce fuels adjacent to residences and outbuilding. Trees were limbed. Brush was removed and thinned. The biomass was chipped and used as a dust abatement agent on the roads. Each residence was analyzed in 2004 by Richard Wolf. Richard is a retired Fire Chief of Pocatello and current Liaison for the Gateway Interagency Fire Front. Richard discussed with each owner present the specific work needed for the structure(s) and a plan to accomplish the work. Much of the work was accomplished in 2004. Many of the residences currently have a Class A roof, or a plan to update to one. The past efforts and current attitude of summer home owners toward defensible space and fire management provides excellent opportunities for wildfire suppression inside the summer home area.</p>

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<p>Prescription 4.2 (b,d) Special Use Authorization Recreation Sites: p. 4-65 to 4-67</p> <p>This prescription applies to ski areas, resorts, recreational residence tracts, organization camps, and other highly developed uses authorized by a special use authorization. The emphasis is on providing privately operated types of recreation on National Forest land for large concentrated groups of people. Overall, visitors find many signs of people. Visitors see little or no evidence of resource development, except for recreation. Cabins and buildings used by permittees are visible, but they blend into the surroundings. Roads are generally graveled, but may be paved in higher use areas. OHV use is limited to entry and departure routes and for administrative purposes. In some areas, visitors may see extensive development associated with ski areas or resorts; for example, buildings, ski lifts, maintenance equipment, etc. Many pedestrians and cars may be seen in these areas.</p> <p>...The area around the special use facility will generally exhibit a variety of visual conditions, depending on past insect, disease, and fire activity and management's response to these disturbances.</p> <p>Goals:1) Provide recreation opportunities that are best managed by the private sector to meet an identified public need, ensure quality experiences, and complement Forest settings and resource objectives.</p>	<p>No specific standards and guidelines.</p>	<p>Both roads and buildings within the summer home tract blend well with the surrounding resources. Roads are graveled, with native surface spurs to the cabins. The cabins have earth tone roofs & siding. Siding is either wood or wood grained metal siding. Landscaping around the cabins is natural with no heavy development. Traffic is limited to roads only. The tract is fenced and gated to prevent outside entrance.</p> <p>There is evidence of timber removal associated with the insect epidemic. Fire activity has not been present, but there have been fuels reduction activities in and around the summer home tract.</p>
<p>Ecological Processes and Patterns - Disturbances:</p>	<p>Control disturbances, such as insects and disease, consistent with visual objectives.</p>	<p>There was a Douglas fir Pine Beetle epidemic in the mid 1980's in and around Scout Mountain Summer home tract. The infected trees were removed and residual trees treated to arrest the killing of the trees by the insects. Visual objectives were addressed during this project and subsequent management in the area.</p>
<p>Fire/Fuels</p>	<p>Standard: 1) All wildfires that threaten these areas shall be aggressively suppressed. Guideline: 1) Mechanical treatments would be preferred in these areas.</p>	<p>See Ecological Processes and Patterns</p>

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Physical Elements – Soil and Water	<p>Guidelines:</p> <p>2) Avoid new construction on unstable or highly erodible soil.</p>	
Lands:	<p>Standards:</p> <p>1) New recreation residence tracts (summer homes) shall not be established.</p> <p>2) No new residences shall be authorized on vacant lots that are no longer leased.</p> <p>3) Continue existing recreation residence authorizations.</p> <p>Guidelines:</p> <p>1) Utility corridors should avoid these areas.</p>	<p>There are no plans for new summer home tracts, and remaining unoccupied lots within Scout Mountain Summer Home Tract have been removed from availability and development. The existing authorized lots and cabin under special use Permit will continue to be authorized. There are no utility corridors within or near this tract.</p>
Minerals/Geology:	<p>Guideline:</p> <p>1) These areas are generally not available for development of mineral materials (sand/gravel, stone).</p>	<p>There has not been any minerals activity within or in the general area of Scout Mountain Summer Home tract. There are no claims in the area. The Summer home area is generally considered not available for mineral development. There are no gravel or stone quarries on East Fork of Mink Creek</p>
Biological Elements:	<p>Vegetation Guidelines:</p> <p>1) All vegetation treatment options are available, but only as required to meet recreation goals.</p> <p>2) Stipulate removal of unsafe trees in the special use authorization. Native species may be planted to provide cover when naturally-occurring vegetation is inadequate.</p> <p>Wildlife Standards:</p> <p>1) Site specific areas may have snags removed for human safety and other resource management needs. Biological potential for woodpeckers is not a management consideration.</p> <p>Guideline:</p> <p>1) Except for direct protection of federally listed and sensitive species, these areas will not emphasize wildlife habitat.</p> <p>Noxious Weeds and Other Invasive Species: Standard:</p> <p>1) Special use authorization holders shall be required to treat noxious weeds within their authorization area.</p>	<p>The only vegetative treatments in the Scout Mountain Summer Home tract has been removal of dead and dying trees from an insect infestation in the late 1980's. The ground vegetation has not been grazed for years. The grass can get quite high, but it stays green all year and has not been considered a fire hazard. There is some Canadian Thistle within the tract, but its population has not spread. Individual plants are treated either by summer home residents or by the district weed crew as needed. Weeds do tend to become established where there has been removal of ground vegetation such as where slash piles have been burned. These sites need to be monitored for any noxious weed establishment.</p> <p>There is no Threatened, Endangered, or Sensitive habitat within the Scout Mountain Summer Home tract. See wildlife section above.</p>

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Production of Commodity Resources:	<p>Range Guideline: 1) Unless needed to meet recreation goals, or authorized by special use or grazing permit, grazing of recreation stock and other livestock should not be allowed in these areas.</p> <p>Timber Standard: 1) These sites are removed from the suitable timber base and do not contribute to the ASQ.</p>	Scout Mountain Summer home tract, the area around Scout Mountain Campground and Camp Taylor are removed from grazing of livestock. The Recreation Complex in east Fork of Mink Creek is not managed or contribute to the Forest ASQ.