

Introduction to Chapter 1: Setting the stage for sustainability

The goal of the Bridger-Teton National Forest Land Management Plan is to contribute to sustainability (36 CFR 219.1(b); FSM 1921.7). That means management strives to afford future generations the same opportunity to derive ecological, social and economic benefit from the land as that enjoyed by past and present generations. There is no single formula for achieving sustainability; rather, it is an ongoing conversation about the choices to be made regarding what to sustain, how much, and how best to do so.

That conversation must take into account the ecological, social and economic systems affected by management of the Forest. Collaboration with the public is instrumental to understanding those systems and identifying the elements that are important for the Bridger-Teton National Forest.

Chapter 1 sets the stage for meeting the goal of sustainability. The Chapter contents are outlined below.

Contents of Chapter 1:

- Introduction
- Part 1: Context and Vision for the Bridger-Teton N.F.
- Part 2: Desired Conditions for the Bridger-Teton N.F.
- Part 3: Suitable Uses on the Bridger-Teton N.F.*
- Part 4: Objectives for the Bridger-Teton N.F.*
- Part 5: Guidelines for the Bridger-Teton N.F.*
- Part 6: Special Areas on the Bridger-Teton N.F.*
- Part 7: Program Area Emphases for the Bridger-Teton N.F.*
- Part 8: Species Lists for the Bridger-Teton N.F.*

** denotes parts that are currently in progress and have yet to be incorporated into draft Chapter 1.*



Part 1: Context and Vision for the Bridger-Teton N.F.

The Purpose of the National Forest System

The Federal forest reserves were created in the 1890s, primarily for the protection and production of water resources and timber. Resource conservation on the forest reserves, renamed National Forests in 1907, came to include a variety of activities that were not formally mandated until much later, but were nonetheless part of the equation from the early days.

Early in the twentieth century, the agency moved into range management by regulating livestock grazing on the forest reserves and later permitting it on the National Forests. By the early 1920s over twenty game preserves were created within the National Forests. In the 1920s and 1930s the Forest Service began to put into place a wilderness protection system.

Outdoor recreation was also part of the agency's agenda as the public began to use National Forests for family campouts and cookouts. In 1917 the Forest Service recorded about three million visitors nationwide. Today, the Bridger-Teton National Forest alone hosts as many visitors.

Much of the legislation that affects National Forest management today was passed in the 1960s and 1970s. The Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act of 1960 directed the Forest Service to give equal consideration to outdoor recreation, range, timber, water, wildlife, and fish resources, and to manage them on a sustained-yield basis, while the National Environmental Policy Act of 1970 set forth a variety of requirements to ensure that such management is environmentally sound and inclusive of public participation. Following that was the National Forest Management Act of 1976, which directed the Forest Service to prepare land and resource management plans. The agency's rule for implementing that provision (36 CFR 219, known as the 'Planning Rule') was updated in 2005, and is in effect for the current revision of the Bridger-Teton's Land and Resource Management Plan.

A Sense of Place

The Bridger-Teton National Forest consists of 3.4 million acres in the Greater Yellowstone Area and lies within the physiographic province called the "Middle Rocky Mountains." This province is characterized by high-elevation coniferous forests, sage/grass steppes, mountain ranges, and deep valleys.

"Sense of place" is a term used to describe the qualities that draw people to specific landscapes. Some of the features of the land that contribute to the overall character and sense of place in the Bridger-Teton

A place is that part of the general environment that has been claimed by feelings.

—Alan Gussow

National Forest include the vastness of the landscape, a feeling of isolation from large population centers, and the presence of mountains as manifested in elevation, weather patterns, wildlife, and vegetation. Other contributors to the Forest's sense of place include:

- A mostly natural appearing forest landscape mixed with the pastoral settings of ranches, hay fields, and other open spaces. The National Forest is adjacent to and ecologically part of a larger area that includes much public land.
- Small towns in the surrounding area whose structures blend with the landscape.

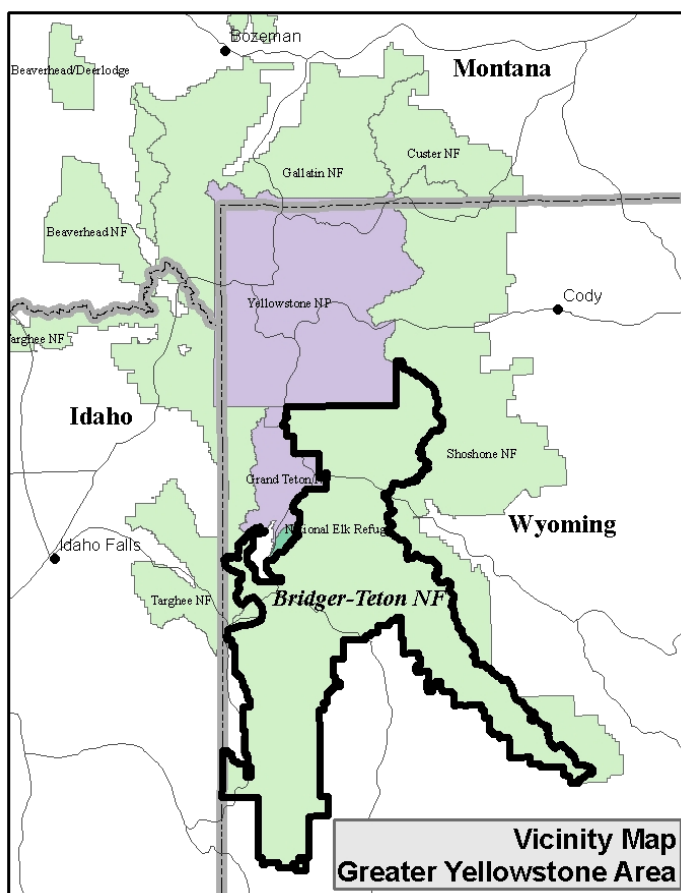
- ▶ An abiding sense of history as seen in ranches and dude ranches, gravel roads that were once immigrant trails, the cattle drives that still halt traffic. People think of this area as a place where the “Old West” lives on.
- ▶ Outdoor recreation opportunities, with an emphasis on traditional activities such as hunting and fishing, but also including winter sports and dispersed recreation of all kinds.

Vision for the Bridger-Teton National Forest

The Bridger-Teton National Forest is characterized by mountains, rivers, wildlife, and wildlands. Conserving these values, in concert with providing sustainable uses, is its legacy. The term “niche” has come into recent usage to describe how each national forest uniquely fits into the larger context of the region as a whole. The vision for the Bridger-Teton National Forest is largely defined by the elements of that niche, particularly the features the Forest is most known for:

- ▶ Outstanding scenery
- ▶ Diverse and healthy wildlife populations
- ▶ Diverse and healthy plant communities
- ▶ Clean water and clean air
- ▶ Healthy, functioning watersheds that drain into the West’s main river basins
- ▶ Large backcountry areas that offer opportunities for multi-day trips
- ▶ Blue-ribbon trout fisheries and big game hunting
- ▶ Winter sports of many kinds, at ski resorts and in the backcountry
- ▶ Dispersed recreation of all kinds
- ▶ A natural backdrop for area communities and settlements

Although it is most known for these features, the Forest also makes important contributions as a ‘working landscape’ to the economic health of local communities. It provides a source of livelihood for ranches, dude ranches, outfitters and guides, and for businesses ranging from homebuilders to mountain bike rentals. Some of these enterprises provide services that depend on Forest features like those listed above, while others utilize commodities produced from the Bridger-Teton National Forest, including timber products, energy resources, and forage for livestock. Many sectors of the economy benefit indirectly from the Forest’s amenities as well, through the visitors and residents that come here to enjoy them.



For over a century the U.S. Forest Service has been guided by the basic principle set forth by its founder, Gifford Pinchot: to manage the land for “the greatest good of the greatest number in the long run.” Defining that greatest good by balancing all the values of the Bridger-Teton serves as the essential purpose of the Forest Plan.

Part 2: Desired Conditions for the Bridger-Teton N.F.

Part 2 is presented as a menu of Desired Conditions representing the elements of ecological, social and economic sustainability that are important on the Bridger-Teton. Each Desired Condition is listed with a definition and description. Some Desired Conditions are given as broader criteria, while others are shown as narrower components or indicators of those criteria. Progress toward these Desired Conditions is evaluated using the measures identified in the Forest Plan Monitoring Program.

It is understood that most if not all Desired Conditions described here are interrelated. In some cases, some Desired Conditions come at the expense of others, while in other cases they may contribute to one another. There are usually multiple Desired Conditions for any particular place on the Forest. As they overlap in a given place, the details of the trade-offs between them are addressed through the application of Suitable Uses, Guidelines and Objectives in that area.

Table of Contents

1. ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY	3
1.1 PLANT COMMUNITY DIVERSITY	3
1.1.1 Forested	3
1.1.2 Shrublands.....	5
1.1.3 Grasslands and Forblands	5
1.1.4 Undesirable plant species	6
1.1.5 Fuel profiles	6
1.2 DISTURBANCE PROCESSES	6
1.2.1 Fire	7
1.2.2 Insects and disease.....	7
1.3 HABITAT FOR THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES	7
1.3.1-x Habitats for individual threatened and endangered species.....	8
1.4 HABITAT FOR SPECIES-OF-CONCERN	8
1.4.1-x Habitats for individual species-of-concern (SOC).....	8
1.5 HABITAT FOR SPECIES-OF-INTEREST	8
1.5.1-x Habitats for individual species-of-interest (SOI)	8
1.6 WATERSHED FUNCTION	9
1.6.1 Hydrologic function.....	9
1.6.2 Stream channel function.....	9
1.6.3 Riparian and wetland function	10
1.6.4 Water quality	10
1.6.5 Soil productivity	11
1.6.6 Air quality	11
2. SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY	12
2.1 RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES	12
2.1.1 Unroaded backcountry (including primitive and semi-primitive non-motorized recreation settings outside of wilderness).	14
2.1.2 Areas for off-road vehicle use, including trails and 4wd roads	14
2.1.3 Areas & trails for snowmobiles. Semi-primitive motorized winter settings..	15
2.1.4 Roadside dispersed recreation corridors	15
2.1.5 Highway corridors in the rural setting.....	16
2.1.6 Developed recreation sites	16
2.1.7 Resorts, recreation residences, and organizational camps.....	16

2.1.8	Highly developed recreation complexes.....	17
2.1.9	Front-country recreation areas near communities.....	17
2.1.10	Areas closed to public use	18
2.2	PUBLIC ACCESS	18
2.2.1	Rights-of-way, easements and legal access to forest lands.....	18
2.2.2	Transportation system within the forest.....	19
2.2.3	Forest products for personal use	19
2.2.4	Access for persons with disabilities.....	19
2.2.5	Guided recreation access.....	19
2.3	TRIBAL RIGHTS AND INTERESTS	20
2.3.1	Traditional goods and services.....	20
2.4	SUPPLIES OF PUBLIC DRINKING WATER FOR COMMUNITIES.....	20
2.4.1	Standards for safe drinking water.....	20
2.5	EDUCATION AND RESEARCH	21
2.5.1	Interpretive and informational facilities and programs.....	21
2.5.2	Opportunities for the public to participate in educational activities	21
2.6	SPECIAL AREAS	22
2.6.1	Wilderness	22
2.6.2	Recommended wilderness	23
2.6.3	Wild & Scenic River candidates	23
2.6.4	Geological/paleontological sites.....	23
2.6.5	Heritage assets	23
2.6.6	Scenic byways and backways.....	24
2.6.7	National scenic and recreation trails.....	24
2.6.8	Research natural areas (RNAs).....	25
2.6.9	Forest genetics special area (Shadow Mtn. lodgepole pine provenance)	25
2.6.10	National natural landmarks	25
2.7	SENSE OF PLACE.....	26
2.7.1	Scenic integrity.....	26
2.7.2	Land-use culture of the 'old west'.....	27
2.8	NATIONAL FOREST LANDS NEAR COMMUNITIES, SUBDIVISIONS, STRUCTURES, AND PRIVATE INHOLDINGS.....	27
2.8.1	Defensible space	27
2.8.2	Wildfire	27
3.	ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY	28
3.1	COMMERCIAL SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES.....	28
3.1.1	Commercial recreation.....	28
3.1.2	Utilities and transportation corridors	28
3.2	RESOURCE COMMODITIES	29
3.2.1	Wood products	29
3.2.2	Non-timber Forest products	29
3.2.3	Permitted Livestock Grazing	29
3.2.4	Water Development	30
3.2.5	Minerals	30
3.2.6	Energy resources	30
3.2.7	Carbon Sequestration	30
3.3	FOREST AMENITIES	30
3.3.1	Visitor amenities.....	31
3.3.2	Resident amenities.....	31

1. ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY

THE OVERALL GOAL OF ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY IS TO SUSTAIN ECOSYSTEMS, WHICH ARE COMPOSED OF BIOLOGICAL AND PHYSICAL COMPONENTS INCLUDING WATERSHEDS, SOILS, AIRSHEDS, PLANTS, AND TERRESTRIAL AND AQUATIC ANIMAL SPECIES. THE STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION OF THESE COMPONENTS MAINTAINS ECOSYSTEM HEALTH, DIVERSITY, PRODUCTIVITY, AND RESILIENCY FOLLOWING DISTURBANCE, WITHIN A RANGE OF VARIATION.

1.1 PLANT COMMUNITY DIVERSITY

DEFINITION: The variety and relative abundance of forest, shrub, grass, and forb communities and their growth forms in different physical settings. Processes that dynamically influence the makeup of plant communities are associated with a variety of disturbances at all scales.

DESIRED CONDITION: A network of viable native plant communities is present across the landscape such that genetic and structural diversity is maintained. Plant species and associations that represent a variety of seral stages are present across the landscape and operate at physical and biological site potential. Landscape patterns are indicative of the dynamic interactions of biotic and abiotic factors. All associated ecological processes are present. Plant communities maintain self renewal now and into the future.



1.1.1 FORESTED

DEFINITION: Plant communities dominated by coniferous and deciduous woody plants including but not limited to aspen, lodgepole pine and whitebark pine. Refer to Bridger-Teton dominance types and classification for specific plant community definitions.

DESIRED CONDITION: Spruce/fir communities - Dominant overstory species is pure subalpine fir, Engelmann spruce, blue spruce or a mix of these species. This type represents mid to late seral species on the landscape. The following structural stage distribution is recommended to ensure resiliency to disturbance: at least 10% seedling/saplings, 30% young to mid-age forest, and 30% mature forest.. A wide range of disturbance process ranging from gradual continuing stand replacement occurring at regular intervals to large stand replacement occurring at irregular intervals exist across the landscape.

Lodgepole pine communities – Dominant overstory species is lodgepole pine. This type represents early seral species on the landscape. The following structural stage distribution is recommended to ensure resiliency to disturbance: at least 10% seedlings/saplings, 30% young to mid-age forest, 30% mature forest. Large fluctuations in structural stage

distributions are common due to major stand replacing natural disturbances occurring at regular intervals.

Douglas-fir communities— Dominant overstory species is Douglas-fir, representing mid or late seral species on the landscape. The following structural stage distribution is recommended to ensure resiliency to disturbance: at least 10% seedling/saplings, 30% young to mid-age forest, 30% mature forest. A wide range of disturbance process ranging from gradual continuing stand replacement occurring at regular intervals to large stand replacement occurring at irregular intervals exist across the landscape.

Whitebark pine communities – Dominant overstory species is whitebark pine representing early seral species on the landscape. This community is a minor component on the landscape. The following structural stage distribution is recommended to ensure resiliency to disturbance: at least



20% seedling/ saplings, 30% young to mid-age forest, 20% mature forest. Disturbance regime is characterized by regular low intensity fires and occasional stand replacing fires. Occurrence of insect and disease infestations is occasional.

Limber pine communities - Dominant overstory species is limber pine, canopies are not closed, trees are distributed in sparse stands or widely spaced clumps. This type represents early and late seral species on the landscape. The following structural stage distribution is recommended to ensure

resiliency to disturbance: at least 10% seedling/saplings, 30% young to mid-age forest, and 30% mature forest. A wide range of disturbance process ranging from gradual continuing stand replacement occurring at regular intervals to large stand replacement occurring at irregular intervals exist across the landscape.

Aspen communities – Dominant overstory species is aspen. Conifer species of all size classes represents less than 25% of the species composition (Bartos 1998). The following structural stage distribution is recommended to ensure

resiliency to disturbance: 20-40% seedling /saplings, 20-40% young to mid age forest, 20-30% mature forest. Associated woody shrubs and herbaceous vegetation represent a diversity of species suited to moisture availability. Major stand replacing natural disturbances occur at regular intervals.



1.1.2 SHRUBLANDS

DEFINITION: Plant communities indicated by an abundance of low woody plants (usually multi-stemmed) including but not limited to sagebrush, willow, or mountain mahogany. Refer to Bridger-Teton dominance types and classification for specific plant community definitions.

DESIRED CONDITION: An arrangement of shrubland cover types providing a mosaic of canopy cover, age, and form associated with each species or shrub community across the landscape. Noxious weeds are not present, ground cover provides stable and sustainable soil, associated vegetation indicating rangeland health is present and percent shrub cover is indicative of ecological health and diversity. (GTR 104)

Sagebrush communities have a multi-aged overstory of sagebrush and healthy diverse herbaceous understory vegetation (Winward 2004). The herbaceous understory is a balance of species represent-



tative of the soil texture and those which do not increase with grazing disturbance (Hironka et al 1983, Tart 2003). Bitterbrush may be a co-dominant (Tart 2003). The following cover class mix for mountain big sagebrush is recommended to provide a variety of values: 10% with 0-5% canopy cover, 50% with 6-25% canopy, and 40% with greater than 25% canopy (GTR 104).

Shrub communities other than sagebrush are comprised of diverse shrub species with an age class distribution that is resilient to disturbance across the landscape. These communities have multiple layers of vegetation with a diverse and productive herbaceous component (Bridger Teton PFC).

1.1.3 GRASSLANDS AND FORBLANDS

DEFINITION: Plant communities dominated by non-woody, vascular plants including but not limited to forbs, grasses, sedges, ferns, horsetails. Refer to Bridger-Teton dominance types and classification for specific plant community definitions.

DESIRED CONDITION: An arrangement of native and naturalized non-native grass and forb cover types representing canopy cover and species diversity that maximizes nutrient cycling and capture/holding of precipitation.

Tall forb communities are dominated by a diverse mix of 16-48" forbs indicative of long periods of soil moisture. Most grasses and sedges are inconspicuous; annuals such as tarweed and drier-site perennials such as mules ear are absent or a minor component.

Alpine communities have vegetation consisting primarily of diverse native species represented by a mix of grasses, sedges, and forbs across the landscape (GTR 104).



1.1.4 UNDESIRABLE PLANT SPECIES

DEFINITION: A plant species is considered an undesirable plant species if its presence could cause harmful effects. These plants are invasive natives or non-natives, or noxious weeds.

DESIRED CONDITION: Undesirable native and non-native plants are a minor component of plant communities; new infestations do not become permanently established. Plant communities are dominated by native plant species; also present are minor amounts of naturalized non-native species.

1.1.5 FUEL PROFILES

DEFINITION: Ecosystem components (fuels, weather, topography) that contribute to fire behavior. Fuels are comprised of down woody material, ladder fuels (vertical vegetation) and vegetative crowns.

DESIRED CONDITION: Fuel profiles perpetuate historic fire regimes for each vegetation community.

1.2 DISTURBANCE PROCESSES

DEFINITION: Disturbances are functions of plant communities that include their response to changes in the environment, to their use and to subjected stresses. “A disturbance is any discrete event in time that disrupts ecosystem, community or population structure and changes resources, substrate availability or the physical environment.” (Agee, James K. 1993. *Fire Ecology of Pacific Northwest Forests*. Washington, D.C. Island Press. 493 p.) Climatic cycles, fire, insects, disease, grazing, other physical disturbances, and succession are a few of the many causes of changes in plant communities (Barrett, H. et al. 1993. *Riparian Area Management: Process for Assessing Proper Functioning Condition*. TR 1737-9, U.S. Department of Interior, BLM, 52 p.)

DESIRED CONDITION: The duration, timing, frequency, scale, and intensity of disturbance processes remain within a range of variability.

1.2.1 FIRE

DEFINITION: Fire includes wildfire, prescribed fire, wildland fire use. Wildfire is an unplanned and unwanted fire where suppression response is initiated. Prescribed fire is a fire ignited by land managers designed to meet specific resource objectives. Wildland fire use is the application of the appropriate response to naturally occurring wildland fire to accomplish vegetation desired conditions as well as other specific resource objectives.



DESIRED CONDITION: Fire is a part of ecosystem processes and plays a role in changing vegetation composition and structure, as well as ecosystem composition and structure across a landscape.

1.2.2 INSECTS AND DISEASE

DEFINITION: Disease is a deviation from normal functioning of physiological processes of a plant organism caused by a persistent agent. Insect activity is any measurable effect to plants and plant communities by insects.



DESIRED CONDITION: Native insect and disease infestations are part of ecosystem processes and play a role in creating diverse plant communities across a landscape. Unintended introduced or non-native insects and disease play a minor or no role in native plant communities.

1.3 HABITAT FOR THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

DEFINITION: Ecological conditions necessary for the conservation of species listed by the USFWS as threatened and endangered under the Endangered Species Act. These conditions contribute to self-sustaining populations of threatened and endangered wildlife, fish and plants.

DESIRED CONDITION: Habitats for these species are of sufficient quality, distribution, and abundance to allow species populations to be well distributed and interactive within the bounds of life history and distribution of species, the capability of the landscape, and the authority of the Forest Service.

1.3.1-X HABITATS FOR INDIVIDUAL THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

DEFINITION: See Part 8 for a list of threatened and endangered species. Each species habitat will have a different definition.

DESIRED CONDITION: Habitats for each species shall be of sufficient quality, distribution, and abundance for populations and individuals to interact and disperse to promote the species' progress toward recovery.



1.4 HABITAT FOR SPECIES-OF-CONCERN

DEFINITION: Ecological conditions necessary to avoid listing (under ESA) and provide for self sustaining populations.

DESIRED CONDITION: Habitats for these species are of sufficient quality, distribution, and abundance to allow species populations to be well distributed and interactive within the bounds of life history and distribution of species, the capability of the landscape, and the authority of the Forest Service.

1.4.1-X HABITATS FOR INDIVIDUAL SPECIES-OF-CONCERN (SOC).

DEFINITION: See Part 8 for a list of Species-of-Concern. Each species' habitat will have a different definition.

DESIRED CONDITION: Habitats for each species shall be of sufficient quality, distribution and abundance for populations and individuals to interact and disperse and eliminate risk of species becoming threatened or endangered.

1.5 HABITAT FOR SPECIES-OF-INTEREST

DEFINITION: Ecological conditions as deemed appropriate that are necessary or desirable to achieve ecological or other multiple use objectives.

DESIRED CONDITION: Habitats for these species are of sufficient quality, distribution, and abundance to allow species populations to be well distributed and interactive within the bounds of life history and distribution of species, the capability of the landscape, and the authority of the Forest Service.

1.5.1-X HABITATS FOR INDIVIDUAL SPECIES-OF-INTEREST (SOI)

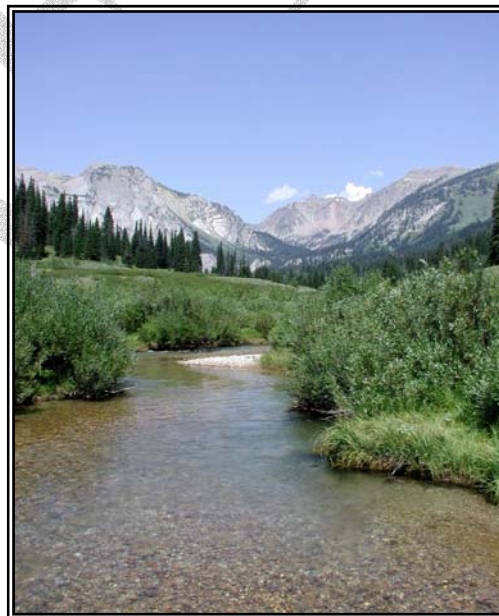
DEFINITION: See Part 8 for a list of Species-of-Interest (SOI). Each species habitat will have a different definition.

DESIRED CONDITION: Habitats for each species shall be of sufficient quality, distribution and abundance for populations and individuals to interact and disperse and eliminate risks to the species habitat.

1.6 WATERSHED FUNCTION

DEFINITION: A watershed is the area of land that drains water to an outlet at some point along a stream channel. Watershed function is the ability of watersheds to route water, sediment, nutrients, and organic material from hill slopes and groundwater aquifers to the channel network. It also includes the ability of stream channels to transport the sediment being delivered to them. The rates at which these processes occur are a function of climate, geology, landforms, soils, and vegetation. Watershed integrity and stability refer to the ability of watersheds, stream channels, riparian areas, groundwater aquifers, and wetlands to absorb and reduce the impacts from normal floods (i.e., those that occur approximately every 2 to 3 years, on average) and similar disturbances without rapid erosional changes in the system.

DESIRED CONDITION: Variable response to disturbance occurs, including large natural events; watershed resources (including stream channels) are resilient and regain their ability to function.



1.6.1 HYDROLOGIC FUNCTION

DEFINITION: The hydrologic functioning of watersheds consists of the ways precipitation becomes stream flow or subsurface flow as influenced by geology, climate, topography, and land cover. Hydrologic function also includes the variability of flow within stream channels, expressed in terms of timing, magnitude, frequency, and duration (Chow et. al 1988; Olden and Poff 2003).

DESIRED CONDITION: Watershed runoff (timing, frequency, magnitude and duration) surface erosion, and nutrient cycling are within ranges that support healthy and diverse terrestrial, riparian, and aquatic habitats. Sufficient water remains in channels and aquifers to maintain riparian vegetation and function, and channel form.

1.6.2 STREAM CHANNEL FUNCTION

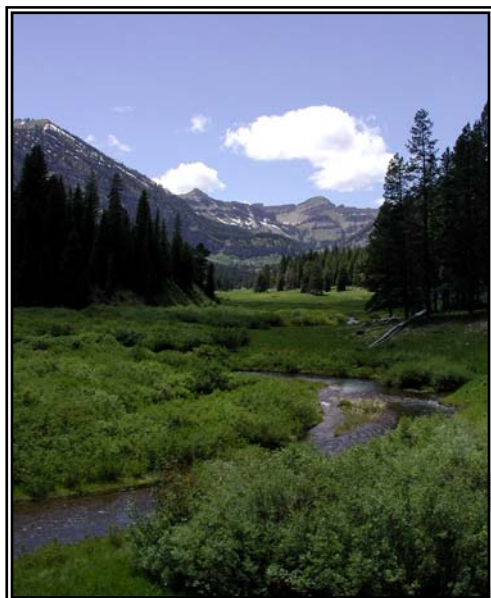
DEFINITION: Stream channel function includes both physical and biological attributes. Physical attributes of streams include landscape setting, cross-section form, longitudinal gradient, particle size distribution, and

response/adjustment to disturbance. Biological attributes of streams include nutrient dynamics, biological productivity, and aquatic habitat characteristics.

DESIRED CONDITION: Alluvial stream channels (i.e., those not formed in bedrock) are considered to be physically functioning properly when they can adjust their form and gradient, over a period of time, to transport the water, wood, and sediment being delivered to them. They are resilient to disturbance. Channel cross-section form is generally maintained, even with lateral migration of the channel, or is improving. Instream levels of fine sediment are within a natural range.

1.6.3 RIPARIAN AND WETLAND FUNCTION

DEFINITION: *Riparian areas:* consist of the vegetation zones bordering streams (including floodplains) and some lakes. Riparian area presence and function is determined by the adjacent water body.



Wetlands: vegetation zones that: 1) are inundated either permanently or periodically, or the soil is saturated to the surface for a portion of the growing season; 2) include soils with characteristics of at least seasonal flooding or high water table; and 3) contain plant species that are adapted to saturated soil conditions (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1987).

DESIRED CONDITION: Water is available to support a diverse mix of desired plant species in varied structural stages. These communities are healthy, self-perpetuating, resistant to rapid change from disturbances such as floods or drought (except for severe events), and are widening or are at their maximum potential areal extent.

Riparian areas (including floodplains) and wetlands store and release enough water to maintain natural conditions of groundwater and stream flow that are essential for wetland integrity. Vegetative cover and root-mass on channel banks, wetland areas, floodplains, and shorelines is sufficient to catch sediment, dissipate stream energy during floods, stabilize stream banks to maintain channel form and reduce excessive bank erosion, and promote floodplain development. These areas promote the development of diverse channel characteristics needed to provide a variety of habitats. Flood waters are able to access the active floodplain during normal high discharges, approximately every two out of three years on average where there are no droughts (i.e., channels are not downcut). Facilities located in floodplains are not inhibiting riparian and floodplain functions.

1.6.4 WATER QUALITY

DEFINITION: Water quality refers to the capability to support designated beneficial uses. Examples of these uses include support of aquatic species, primary and secondary contact recreation, drinking water, agriculture, industrial uses, scenic values, and wildlife.

DESIRED CONDITION: Water quality on the Bridger-Teton National Forest is managed to comply with Wyoming Environmental Quality Act. Surface water on National Forest lands will meet state water quality standards via support of beneficial uses for designated Surface Water Classes (Water Quality Rules and Regulations, Chapter 1, Wyoming Surface Water Quality Standards).

1.6.5 SOIL PRODUCTIVITY

DEFINITION: Soil productivity refers to the ability of soils to support vegetation and is controlled by the breakdown and accumulation of organic material by microorganisms. Soil productivity is measured by physical, biological, and chemical properties.

DESIRED CONDITION: The biological, chemical, and physical properties of soils are at levels that preserve their long-term productive capacity.

1.6.6 AIR QUALITY

DEFINITION: Air quality is measured by the concentration of substances that are harmful to human health, terrestrial and aquatic organisms and ecosystem structure and health. This also includes substances that can reduce visibility (such as fine particulates) as well as particles that contribute to acid deposition. Primary pollutants of concern are SO₂, NO_x, O₃, PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀.

DESIRED CONDITION: Forest air quality complies with national and State Ambient Air Quality Standards and State Air Quality Management Plans and does not trend toward thresholds for noncompliance. Air quality (including visibility) in wilderness areas is protected as prescribed by the Clean Air Act and the Wilderness Act, which give the Forest Service the affirmative responsibility to maintain or enhance air quality related values in these areas (including visibility).

2. SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY IS A CONDITION IN WHICH THE NATIONAL FOREST ENVIRONMENT CONTRIBUTES TO THE WELL-BEING OF CITIZENS AND COMMUNITIES OVER THE LONG TERM.

2.1 RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

DEFINITION: Because of its diverse mountain ranges, regionally significant rivers, and natural landscapes, the BTNF is known for its large wilderness and backcountry, opportunities for dispersed recreation of all kinds, and destinations that draw national and international visitors. Indicators for recreation settings have been identified using the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) with adaptations to meet local conditions. These desired conditions are mapped separately for **snow based** and **non-snow based** recreation because the locations of the various settings identified in the indicators below may differ (a roaded corridor in summer may become a snowmobile trail in winter, for example, as shown in Figure x below).

DESIRED CONDITION: Recreation settings are managed to assure their long-term attractiveness and to protect forest resources while providing motorized and non-motorized users with the opportunity to experience the forest. Indicators for recreation settings for both summer and winter are displayed on the following table.

Figure 2.1. BTNF near Salt River Pass. A primary forest recreation road (Smiths Fork) that is a groomed snowmobile trail in winter, and one of the many non-motorized recreation areas (Poker Hollow) that becomes a backcountry snowmobiling area in winter.

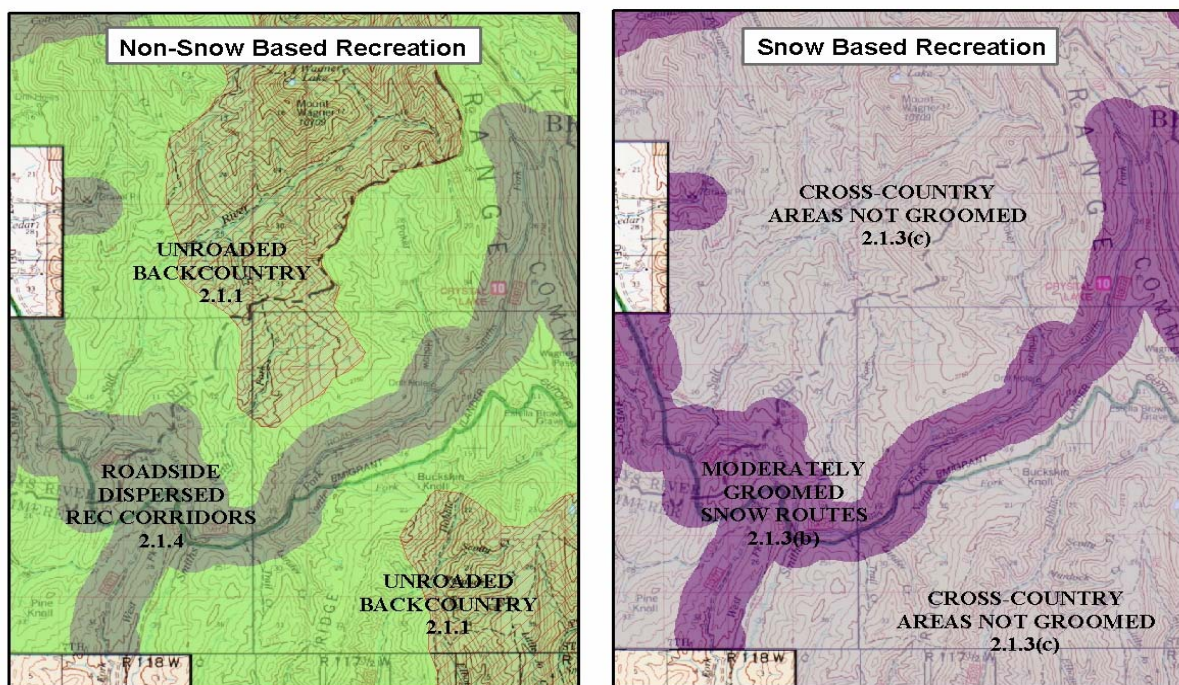
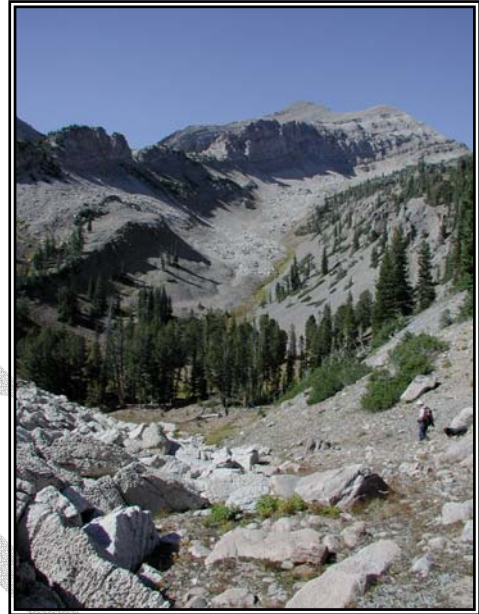


Table 2.1. Recreation DCs and ROS Settings and Descriptions where applicable.

DESIRED CONDITION	ROS SETTINGS AND DESCRIPTIONS
2.1.1 UNROADED BACKCOUNTRY	PRIMITIVE AND SEMI-PRIMITIVE NON-MOTORIZED ROS SETTINGS Remote, unmodified, natural areas with little obvious on-site management other than signing, trail work and field patrols; no motorized travel takes place here. Improvements include trails, signs, and other minor facilities. High to moderate probability of solitude; some evidence of others but these areas generally have an open, uncrowded character.
2.1.2 AREAS FOR OFF-ROAD VEHICLE USE, INCLUDING TRAILS AND 4WD ROADS	SEMI-PRIMITIVE MOTORIZED NON-SNOW BASED ROS SETTINGS Predominately natural areas with facilities such as trails and signs. Little on-site management other than signage to identify designated motor vehicle routes, field patrols and law enforcement. Moderate probability of solitude; use mainly on designated routes. This setting includes trail bike, ATV and 4WD routes on forest system roads and trails and will be mapped to show the distinction between trails used by vehicles less than 50 inches and those that are maintenance level 2 roadways.
2.1.3 AREAS AND TRAILS FOR SNOWMOBILES	SEMI-PRIMITIVE MOTORIZED SNOW BASED ROS SETTINGS This recreation setting includes three major categories that will be mapped to distinguish them: highly groomed snowmobile trails, marked trails that are moderately groomed, and ungroomed trails or off-trail areas. Facilities include trailheads, directional signing, markers, and in some places temporary or permanent facilities such as restrooms and warming huts. Off-trail areas include trails that are not groomed.
2.1.4 ROADSIDE DISPERSED RECREATION CORRIDORS	ROADED NATURAL-APPEARING AND RURAL ROS SETTINGS A natural landscape with road corridors and associated facilities; includes forest system roads along with the area immediately adjacent to them. On-site management includes signs, parking areas and small developed sites such as trailheads, occasional patrols, and interpretive and regulatory information is available. There is moderate evidence of others in the area but use is dispersed and not highly congested in single areas.
2.1.5 HIGHWAY CORRIDORS	HIGHWAY CORRIDORS - RURAL ROS SETTING A natural backdrop with a somewhat modified roadway corridors. On-site management includes signs, parking areas, scenic pull-offs and small developed sites such as trailheads. Travel through the forest is primary use of these areas.
2.1.6 DEVELOPED RECREATION SITES	ROADED NATURAL-APPEARING AND RURAL ROS SETTINGS Developed recreation sites such as campgrounds, day use sites, and administrative cabins rented to the public. On-site management includes facilities common to developed sites, with patrols and maintenance. Interpretive and regulatory information is available. Interaction among users is common.
2.1.7 RESORTS, CAMPS, RECREATION RESIDENCES	ROADED NATURAL-APPEARING AND RURAL ROS SETTINGS Small resorts, summer homes, and dude ranches with associated site modifications and facilities and a natural backdrop. May have intensive on-site management, obvious signs and staffing, guided programs. Frequent interaction with small numbers of people.
2.1.8 HIGHLY DEVELOPED RECREATION SITES	MAJOR RESORTS AND SKI AREAS IN THE URBAN ROS SETTING Site modifications and facilities associated with developed resort complexes. Architectural features prominent, with natural mountain backdrop. Intensive on-site management, obvious signs and staffing. High degree of interaction with many people.
2.1.9 FRONT-COUNTRY RECREATION AREAS NEAR COMMUNITIES	Predominately natural in appearance with minor improvements to accommodate significant recreation use. May have a dense trail network or other facilities; may be semi-primitive in appearance but without size or remoteness typical of such settings. On-site management is apparent, including patrols and law enforcement, information, signs, and volunteer hosts. Moderate evidence of human sights and sounds; concentration of use along trails or other facilities such as fishing docks or picnic sites; mostly day-use of short duration.
2.1.10 AREAS WHERE PUBLIC USE IS PROHIBITED	Sites and areas that are closed to public use for all or part of the year, including patrol cabins, grazing association structures, hydroelectric plants, and seasonally closed big game winter ranges.

2.1.1 UNROADED BACKCOUNTRY (INCLUDING PRIMITIVE AND SEMI-PRIMITIVE NON-MOTORIZED RECREATION SETTINGS OUTSIDE OF WILDERNESS).

DEFINITION: Large and remote areas, predominately unmodified, where no motorized travel occurs. This is separate from classified Wilderness, which is discussed in Indicator 2.6.1. Depending on size and remoteness, these areas include the Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized and Primitive settings as defined in the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum. Locations may differ from summer to winter, as many semi-primitive non-motorized areas in summer become snowmobiling areas in winter.



DESIRED CONDITION:

The forest's backcountry provides opportunities for high-quality non-motorized recreation in a remote and primitive setting.

2.1.2 AREAS FOR OFF-ROAD VEHICLE USE, INCLUDING TRAILS AND 4WD ROADS. SEMI-PRIMITIVE MOTORIZED SETTINGS.

DEFINITION: Predominantly natural-appearing areas with trails and 4WD roads open to motorized use and facilities such as signs, and other structures as needed to protect resources. Travel is by both motorized and non-motorized means in many shared-use areas. Within the summer semi-primitive motorized settings are distinct types of areas: single-track trails, ATV trails, and 4WD roads, some of which are shared routes between full-sized vehicles and ATVs.



DESIRED CONDITION: The Forest's OHV route system provides opportunities for off-road vehicle travel, offering a variety of challenge levels and facilitating effective enforcement of travel restrictions through route system design.

2.1.3 AREAS AND TRAILS FOR SNOWMOBILES. SEMI-PRIMITIVE MOTORIZED WINTER SETTINGS.

DEFINITION: Over-snow vehicle areas, including the groomed trail system and cross-country travel areas. Travel is by both motorized and non-motorized means in many shared-use areas.



DESIRED CONDITION: The forest's snowmobile trails and areas offer high-quality winter sports opportunities.

Table 2.1.3. The primary categories within the semi-primitive motorized winter settings. *From Winter Visitor Use Management: An Interagency Assessment, 1999.*

WINTER OPPORTUNITY CLASS	DESCRIPTIONS OF THE SETTINGS
2.1.3(a) - Highly groomed motorized snow routes	Highly groomed motorized snow routes with destinations and attractions along the way being of high interest. Well developed routes with directional and interpretive signs. Encounters with other parties frequent and expected. Grooming is frequent, at least several times per week.
2.1.3(b) - Moderately groomed and marked snow routes	Facilities are usually limited to the trailhead and some directional signing, the trail system rather than a destination is the primary attraction; grooming takes place no more often than once or twice a week.
2.1.3(c) - Cross-country travel areas and trails not groomed	No facilities other than trailheads (an occasional warming hut may exist). Not crowded, especially off the trails. The ride and scenic views are important.

2.1.4 ROADSIDE DISPERSED RECREATION CORRIDORS, WITHIN THE ROADED, NATURAL-APPEARING AND RURAL SETTINGS

DEFINITION: Roaded corridors with surfaced, maintained roads suitable for most passenger vehicles that provide opportunities for a variety of dispersed recreation activities and give access to developed campgrounds, trailheads and other recreational attractions while providing access for other forest uses. These include the areas immediately surrounding forest system roads.



DESIRED CONDITION: Roaded settings offer enjoyment for recreation visitors, while giving access to dispersed recreation, developed recreation sites, and a variety of activities. (See Desired Condition 2.2.2 for forest roads in general).

2.1.5 HIGHWAY CORRIDORS IN THE RURAL SETTING



DEFINITION: Corridors surrounding rights-of-way for state and federal highways that pass through the forest; these are paved all-season roads and may include utility corridors.

DESIRED CONDITION: Highways and their corridors offer enjoyment for recreation visitors, while serving needs of communities for safe transportation of goods, services and people.

2.1.6 DEVELOPED RECREATION SITES

DEFINITION: Campgrounds, day use sites, developed trailheads, and cabins that are rented to the public, and concentrated recreation complexes with several campgrounds or other facilities in close proximity. Site modifications blend into the natural landscape.

DESIRED CONDITION: Developed recreation sites offer facilities that are clean, well maintained and consistent with public safety, resource protection and enjoyment of recreation visitors, including those with disabilities.



2.1.7 RESORTS, RECREATION RESIDENCES, AND ORGANIZATIONAL CAMPS

DEFINITION: Developed areas under special use permit, including small resorts and dude ranches, organization camps, and recreation residence tracts. Site modifications and structures blend into the natural landscape and scenic backdrop.



DESIRED CONDITION: Resorts, camps, and summer home groups include site modifications that are consistent with the scenic backdrop and forest setting. A variety of resorts offers a high degree of service, public safety and enjoyment for recreation visitors, and resorts within the forest cater to people of various incomes and desires. The level of development in each of these sites is consistent with the geographic setting and traditional architectural themes found in the area.

2.1.8 HIGHLY DEVELOPED RECREATION COMPLEXES

DEFINITION: Highly developed complexes such as ski and summer resorts that contain heavy site modifications and concentrated architectural elements with a scenic natural backdrop.

DESIRED CONDITION: Recreation complexes offer a high degree of service, public safety and enjoyment for visitors and cater to people of various incomes and desires. Development level, architectural theme and sites modifications reflect the character of the surrounding forest areas.



2.1.9 FRONT-COUNTRY RECREATION AREAS NEAR COMMUNITIES

DEFINITION: Near-town parts of the forest serving the recreation needs of local communities. These areas often include a relatively dense trail network with an emphasis on opportunities for short excursions (lunch hour, after work). The physical setting may be semi-primitive except there are more trails and developments and higher use levels and management is more intensive than would be found in a true backcountry area. Cache Creek, near Jackson, is an example.

DESIRED CONDITION: Those parts of the forest near local communities and used heavily by their citizens, primarily for short-duration day use, are attractive for this kind of use and serve the general public and local community needs through cooperative management.



2.1.10 AREAS CLOSED TO PUBLIC USE



DEFINITION: Those parts of the forest in which public use is prohibited for all or part of the year to insure other resource or facility protection. These areas are small in extent and may be restricted to public recreation use either year-long or by season. They include big game winter range closures and facilities operated by other agencies or organizations (Game and Fish patrol cabins, grazing association cabins, hydroelectric plants, etc.).

DESIRED CONDITION: Public use is effectively precluded to the degree necessary to meet the resource/management objectives of these areas.

2.2 PUBLIC ACCESS

DEFINITION: Access includes physical entry points to the Forest, the means by which the public travels within the Forest, and availability of forest products for personal use, and the services and facilities that are usable by all, including those with disabilities. Access/entry points and facilities such as trailheads may differ in location from summer to winter.

DESIRED CONDITION: Public access to the National Forest contributes to the rural character and traditional ways of life of western Wyoming. Access to the Forest boundary is sufficient to allow the public to reach the Forest in traditional and desired locations and considers needs of adjacent landowners. Within the Forest, the transportation system provides ample access to desired locations and supports a diversity of forest uses, and provides access across national forest lands to private inholdings. Opportunities to use public facilities and services have components accessible to all members of the population.

2.2.1 RIGHTS-OF-WAY, EASEMENTS AND LEGAL ACCESS TO FOREST LANDS

DEFINITION: Motorized and non-motorized access across other ownerships to the national forest, provided through cooperation with landowners, counties, and other entities.

DESIRED CONDITION: Access across non-Forest ownerships is sufficient to allow the public to reach and enjoy the Forest, while considering needs of adjacent landowners and the need for undisturbed forest lands for wildlife and other uses.



2.2.2 TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM WITHIN THE FOREST

DEFINITION: National Forest system roads and trails that are used by the public for various purposes.

DESIRED CONDITION: Public use of the forest is facilitated by a system of roads and trails that is sustainable, maintainable, and designed to accommodate a variety of needs, while being efficient in terms of number and location of roads and trails that must be maintained. Modes of transportation are compatible with the recreation settings being managed for, and the condition of the roads and trails is adequate to meet the purposes and objectives of each. Trailhead design and access roads accommodate larger vehicles such as horse and snowmobile trailers where needed. The forest transportation system gives access to desired destinations that have been traditionally used. Use of some Maintenance Level 2 roads is shared by on- and off-road vehicles.

2.2.3 FOREST PRODUCTS FOR PERSONAL USE

DEFINITION: Forest products available for public use for which permits are required (including but not limited to posts and poles; specialty products such as burls and branches; firewood; Christmas trees; decorative stone; and garden plants). Such products are for gatherers' use at home.

DESIRED CONDITION: Opportunities for gathering forest products for personal use are available and accessible to the general public.

2.2.4 ACCESS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

DEFINITION: Universal access standards that apply to national forest facilities. ADA standards apply to highly developed resort areas; more rustic facilities are also capable of being universally accessible through site design and improvements that do not discriminate against people with disabilities or change the character of the site in order to accommodate the disabled.

DESIRED CONDITION: Access is provided at public facilities and recreation sites to allow visitors to enjoy them regardless of their physical abilities. Dispersed recreation areas accommodate persons with disabilities to the degree possible without changing the character of these areas.

2.2.5 GUIDED RECREATION ACCESS



DEFINITION: Use of the forest facilitated by the services and equipment provided by professional outfitters and guides.

DESIRED CONDITION: Providers of guided recreation services help create opportunities for the public to experience the forest and learn outdoor skills, enrich their appreciation of the forest environment, promote a conservation ethic among clients, and demonstrate protection of natural resources. Guided services offer opportunities for all, including those with disabilities.

2.3 TRIBAL RIGHTS AND INTERESTS

DEFINITION: Prior to the establishment of National Forest System Lands, the federal government signed treaties with Indian Nations that inhabited or used what is now the BTNF. These treaties reserved rights for traditional uses such as hunting, fishing, and gathering forest products on unoccupied public lands. The federal government has an official trust responsibility to protect the interests of federally recognized tribes, to foster a better understanding of tribal concerns, enhance relationships, and to develop shared goals in land management.

DESIRED CONDITION: Treaty-ceded areas are protected and managed in a manner that promotes sustainability of the ecosystem and availability for tribal members to exercise their treaty rights. The treaty rights, interests, and concerns of tribes are respected and integrated into the planning process.

2.3.1 TRADITIONAL GOODS AND SERVICES

DEFINITION: Access for treaty-reserved tribal rights to hunt, fish and gather natural resources for subsistence, medicinal and ceremonial purposes, and for access to sacred sites and traditional cultural properties.

DESIRED CONDITION: Tribes' interest and reliance on healthy ecosystems to employ traditional and contemporary ways of relating to their homelands and interest areas are accommodated within the BTNF. Traditional goods and services continue to be available to tribes.

2.4 SUPPLIES OF PUBLIC DRINKING WATER FOR COMMUNITIES

DEFINITION: A public water system, as defined in Public Law 93-523 (Safe Drinking Water Act), or as defined in state safe drinking water regulations.

DESIRED CONDITION: Watersheds that supply public water systems are managed to contribute to safe drinking water for those local communities.



2.4.1 STANDARDS FOR SAFE DRINKING WATER

DEFINITION: Federal and state drinking water standards, designed to maintain a level of water quality that is suitable for potable water or intended to be suitable after receiving conventional drinking water treatment.

DESIRED CONDITION: Water serving public systems meets Safe Drinking Water Act regulations. Monitoring and water sampling efforts are completed jointly between the state, community or municipality and federal entities.

2.5 EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

DEFINITION: Opportunities, provided by the BTNF or partners such as educational institutions, to learn about the National Forests through interpretive services, educational activities, and programs designed to develop visitors' interest, enjoyment, and understanding of the natural environment; research to assist land management; and user education intended to encourage responsible use.

DESIRED CONDITION: Interpretation and conservation education is based on scientifically supported scholarship and research data, conveying clear messages regarding natural resources and multiple-use. Activities convey management goals and support the Forest Service mission. Educational messages are effective influences on visitor behavior so that people use the forest in ways that increase its capacity to accommodate them and reduce the need for law enforcement.

2.5.1 INTERPRETIVE AND INFORMATIONAL FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

DEFINITION: Natural history interpretation and information about forest ecology and resources, forest management and multiple-use, and other related topics available to the public through visitor centers, forest offices, information provided at overlooks and other sites in the forest, campfire programs, and programs offered at schools and in communities for the general public. Not all of these are provided directly by the BTNF; numerous partners are involved in the preparation of materials and conveyance of the messages and programs.



DESIRED CONDITION: Facilities and programs are sufficient in number and content to convey information to the public.

2.5.2 OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE PUBLIC TO PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH OR EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

DEFINITION: These opportunities include field trips, educational courses, and areas dedicated to outdoor education, research projects that may be observed or assisted by the general public, and sharing of information that results from research within the Forest. Much, though not all, of the research is conducted by entities other than the Forest Service.



DESIRED CONDITION: Field trips, classes, and research projects that involve the interested public are offered through numerous partner organizations as well as BTNF staff; research that takes place on the Forest has direct and indirect benefits to the resources and visiting public.

2.6 SPECIAL AREAS

DEFINITION: Special area designations are generally divided into two types: *Congressional Designations* established through an act of Congress (Wilderness; Wild and Scenic Rivers), and *Administrative Designations* established through Forest Service administration procedures (such as Research Natural Areas; National Forest Scenic Byways; National Natural Landmarks).

DESIRED CONDITION: Special areas are managed to protect the values for which they were established, to provide opportunities for education, and to allow public enjoyment and use of the areas as appropriate to their purposes and as mandated by law or administrative regulations.

2.6.1 WILDERNESS

DEFINITION: National Forest lands designated as wilderness by Congress under the 1964 Wilderness Act and the 1984 Wyoming Wilderness Act.



Three wildernesses lie entirely within the Bridger-Teton National Forest: the Teton, Bridger, and Gros Ventre Wildernesses.

DESIRED CONDITION: Wilderness is managed in accordance with legislative direction such that it is affected primarily by the forces of nature and the imprint of human influence is minimal. Wilderness provides outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation and serves to preserve features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value. Its outstanding qualities are retained and unimpaired by forest uses.

Table 2.6.1. Wilderness opportunity classes. From wilderness action plans and implementation schedules developed for the Teton, Bridger, and Gros Ventre Wildernesses, 1993.

WILDERNESS OPPORTUNITY CLASS	DESCRIPTIONS OF OPPORTUNITY CLASSES
"Pristine" – essentially unmodified lands with little sign of human influence	The most remote and unmodified parts of the wilderness; no system trails. Little on-site management other than occasional monitoring and patrols by wilderness rangers. High probability of solitude, self-reliance is important, essentially no evidence of others.
"Primitive" – may have low-use trails, livestock grazing, a few established campsites	Remote parts of the wilderness that may have occasional system trails, livestock grazing, and low-use campsites. Little on-site management; occasional patrols by wilderness rangers and wilderness condition monitoring. High probability of solitude.
"Semi-primitive" and "Portal" areas, where most recreation use and site modifications are found, mainline trails, camps, etc.	Corridors of recreation use along main system trails, including destination campsites, outfitter assigned sites, and some evidence of people. On-site management consists of trail junction signs where needed, maintained trails, and wilderness patrols and condition monitoring. Some probability of solitude much of the time but at most popular sites and along main trails encounters with others can be expected.

2.6.2 RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS

DEFINITION: Those parts of the forest meeting national criteria for potential wilderness and determined to be capable, available, and needed for additions to the National Wilderness Preservation System. Two Congressionally designated Wilderness Study Areas (Palisades and Shoal Creek) and numerous large backcountry areas on the forest are potential candidates.

DESIRED CONDITION: Areas recommended for future wilderness designation by Congress retain their wilderness character and attributes.

2.6.3 WILD & SCENIC RIVER CANDIDATES



DEFINITION: Rivers found eligible through a systematic inventory for potential designation as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational Rivers under the 1968 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

DESIRED CONDITION: Wild and Scenic Rivers remain free-flowing and their outstanding qualities are retained.

2.6.4 GEOLOGICAL/PALEONTOLOGICAL SITES

DEFINITION: Sites of special geological or paleontological interest managed for public education and enjoyment. Several areas exist on the BTNF: the Gros Ventre Slide, Big Fall Creek, Kendall Warm Springs, and Periodic Spring.

DESIRED CONDITION: Each geologic interest area offers viewing and interpretive opportunities while features are protected.

2.6.5 HERITAGE ASSETS



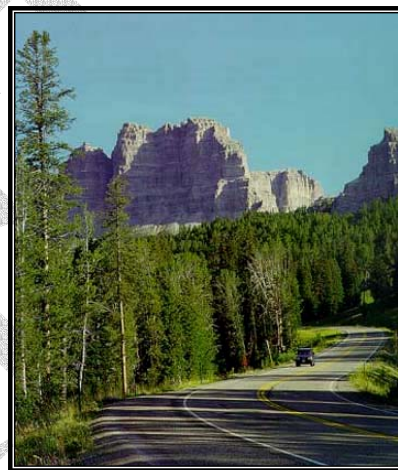
DEFINITION: Heritage Assets include sites, buildings, roadside interpretive sites, objects having scientific, historic or social values, artifact collections, historic documents, photographs and maps, and traditional cultural properties.

Historic properties are those assets that are listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, including but not limited to Rosencrans Historic District, the Lander Cut-off of the Oregon Trail, the Huckleberry Fire Lookout, the Osborn Cabin, tie-hack cabins, and historic guard stations around the forest. Also includes prehistoric sites that have the potential to yield additional data on past human activities.

DESIRED CONDITION: Heritage assets are inventoried, evaluated, and allocated into various management options so they can be integrated into multiple use management of the National Forest by including socio-cultural values in an environmental context. Heritage assets are also opportunities for interpretation and education so that the public may gain a better understanding and perspective of our heritage. Visitors to the National Forest find opportunities to touch, explore, enjoy, and learn about their cultural heritage.

2.6.6 SCENIC BYWAYS AND BACKWAYS

DEFINITION: A *scenic byway* is a highway designated for its scenic, recreational and interpretive value. The Wyoming Centennial Scenic Byway was designated by both the state of Wyoming and the Forest Service; it runs along paved highways between Dubois, Jackson Hole, and Pinedale. A designated *scenic backway* is a non-paved road of special recreational and historic interest. Part of the Big Springs Scenic Backway runs for 68 miles from Cokeville to Kemmerer as it makes a loop through the Kemmerer Ranger District. Potential additions include U.S. 89 in the Snake River Canyon and through Star Valley and the Union Pass road between the Upper Green River and Dubois.



DESIRED CONDITION: High scenic integrity exists within the viewing zone of designated routes; facilities such as interpretive signs and scenic turn-outs provide places for travelers to stop and enjoy the areas. Information about natural history, human history, forest management and other items of interest is available to the public.

2.6.7 NATIONAL SCENIC AND RECREATION TRAILS

DEFINITION: Trails administratively or Congressionally designated for their scenic, historic, or recreational value. About 200 miles of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail is found within the BTNF, the only Congressionally designated trail within the forest. Administratively designated trails include the Wyoming Range National Recreation Trail, the Continental Divide Snowmobile Trail, and the Lander Cutoff National Historic Trail.

DESIRED CONDITION: National trails are maintained to a standard consistent with the management objectives for the forest areas through which they pass, and information about them is available to the public.

2.6.8 RESEARCH NATURAL AREAS (RNAs)



DEFINITION: Areas designated for their research value as representations of specific habitat types in the Middle Rocky Mountains. There are four RNAs within the forest: Osborn Mountain, Gros Ventre, Afton Front, and Swift Creek.

DESIRED CONDITION: RNAs are available for scientific research and observation, particularly when such research can benefit conservation and management of the forest. Human uses are compatible with the purposes for which each RNA was established.

2.6.9 FOREST GENETICS SPECIAL AREA (SHADOW MTN. LODGEPOLE PINE PROVENANCE TEST)

DEFINITION: A regionally significant area for research of plant genetics, to evaluate the performance of bulked seed sources, characterize patterns of genetic variation at the stand level, establish seed transfer guidelines, evaluate above-average stands for operational cone collections, the degree of cone serotiny among the various seed sources of lodgepole pine, and provide gene banks to meet biodiversity objectives, particularly when original seed sources are susceptible to losses due to catastrophic events.



DESIRED CONDITION: Special and/or unique vegetation provenances are protected for genetic research purposes.

2.6.10 NATIONAL NATURAL LANDMARKS

DEFINITION: A nationally significant natural area that has been designated by the Secretary of the Interior. To be nationally significant, the feature or site must be a prime example of a type of biotic community or geologic feature. The only National Natural Landmark within the BTNF is Two Ocean Pass, in the Teton Wilderness. Several potential landmarks have been identified within the Forest.

DESIRED CONDITION: National Natural Landmarks are interpreted to the public and special features are protected for their scientific and educational values.

2.7 SENSE OF PLACE

DEFINITION: Sense of place covers a broad range of values ranging from scenic integrity, which is the wholeness of the landscape's character and appearance as they contribute to pleasing backdrops for various uses, to the culture and self-identity of communities, which includes the forested environment as a whole and the ways in which it has been traditionally used and enjoyed.

DESIRED CONDITION: The forest landscape appears natural to visitors and nearby communities. The ecological integrity and air quality are protected as part of the scenery of the Forest. Opportunities exist for land uses that represent the region's 'old west' character and history. Human-induced alterations to vegetation or construction of facilities are designed to blend with the characteristic landscape to the degree feasible.



2.7.1 SCENIC INTEGRITY

DEFINITION: Scenic integrity is a combination of measures of the degree of intactness or to which a landscape is perceived to be natural-appearing or "complete." The highest scenic integrity ratings are given to those landscapes that have little or no deviation from the landscape character valued by people for its aesthetic quality.

Landscape character provides a frame of reference from which to determine scenic attractiveness and to measure scenic integrity. The landscape character is a combination of physical, biological, and cultural/human influences that give an area its visual and cultural identity and help define a sense of place. This takes into account disturbances to vegetation such as fire, insects and disease, and traditional human influences on the landscape.

DESIRED CONDITION: The forest retains its high scenic integrity, managed for long-term sustainability; short-term disturbances due to forest vegetation management lead to long-term high scenic integrity. Landscape character goals and scenic integrity objectives are integrated with other resource, cultural, and administrative needs. Constructed features and landscape alterations complement and blend with landscape characteristics. Vegetation treatments, including timber harvest, wildland use fire and fuels projects, result in patterns that approximate natural disturbances to the extent possible. Air quality is generally good but is periodically affected by smoke from management activities or wildfire. Wildland fire use or prescribed fire smoke emissions are within a desirable

frequency and seasonal distribution where these tools are employed to reduce wildfire risk and contribute to ecosystem function and process.

2.7.2 LAND-USE CULTURE OF THE 'OLD WEST'

DEFINITION: Land-use culture refers to human activities that have historically occurred on the Forest landscape, which, in addition to having economic value (as described in the economic sustainability section), also have social value as an important contributor to the Bridger-Teton's sense of place as an area in which the 'old west' lives on.

DESIRED CONDITION: Opportunities exist on the Forest for land uses that contribute to the region's 'old west' character, including but not limited to ranching, hunting, timber harvesting, and travel on horseback.

2.8 NATIONAL FOREST LANDS NEAR COMMUNITIES, SUBDIVISIONS, STRUCTURES, AND PRIVATE INHOLDINGS

DEFINITION: Those parts of the BTNF within close proximity of developments that require protection from events such as wildfires and are referred to as "wildland urban interface." These lands include, but are not limited to communities at risk listed in the Federal Register dated August 17, 2001. They may also include lands identified in community wildfire protection plans developed by local and state working groups.

DESIRED CONDITION: Vegetation is managed to reduce fire intensity and spread, and to provide defensible space near areas of concern including structures, communities, subdivisions, ranches, resorts, camps, summer home groups, and private inholdings.

2.8.1 DEFENSIBLE SPACE

DEFINITION: An area either natural or manmade where material capable of causing a fire to spread has been treated, cleared, reduced, or changed to act as a barrier between an advancing wildland fire and resources or lives at risk. (<http://www.fireplan.gov/>)

DESIRED CONDITION: Vegetation is managed to reduce fire intensity and spread and provide defensible space for fire fighters to safely suppress wildfires in these wildland urban interface areas.

2.8.2 WILDFIRE

DEFINITION: An unplanned and unwanted fire where suppression response is initiated.

DESIRED CONDITION: The frequency, size and severity of wildfire is minimized.

3. ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY IS A CONDITION THAT ENABLES PEOPLE TO WORK, PROVIDE INCOME FOR THEIR FAMILIES, AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE WEALTH OF THE COMMUNITY, REGION AND NATION IN A WAY THAT MEETS THE NEEDS OF THE PRESENT GENERATION WITHOUT COMPROMISING THE ABILITY OF FUTURE GENERATIONS TO MEET THEIR NEEDS.

3.1 COMMERCIAL SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

DEFINITION: Forest features and conditions that allow the commercial provision of services including but not limited to outfitting, resorts, and utilities.

DESIRED CONDITION: Opportunities are available for enterprises to offer commercial services that contribute to economic sustainability.

3.1.1 COMMERCIAL RECREATION

DEFINITION: Commercial recreation services including but not limited to guiding, outfitting, pack trips, and alpine skiing offered by private enterprises to paying clients.

DESIRED CONDITION: Commercial outdoor recreation services are available to contribute to economic sustainability.



3.1.2 UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION CORRIDORS



DEFINITION: Public Services including but not limited to the provision of electricity, gas, communication, and transportation across the Forest.

DESIRED CONDITION: Opportunities are available for the placement of utility, communication, and transportation sites and corridors to the extent needed to contribute to economic sustainability.

3.2 RESOURCE COMMODITIES

DEFINITION: Merchantable raw materials including but not limited to timber, forage, oil and gas, water, gravel and minerals.

DESIRED CONDITION: Resource commodities are available to contribute to economic sustainability.

3.2.1 WOOD PRODUCTS

DEFINITION: Commercial wood fiber products including but not limited to saw logs, posts and poles, and commercial firewood (also see DC 3.2.6 for biomass).

DESIRED CONDITION: Merchantable timber is available to contribute to economic sustainability



3.2.2 NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCTS

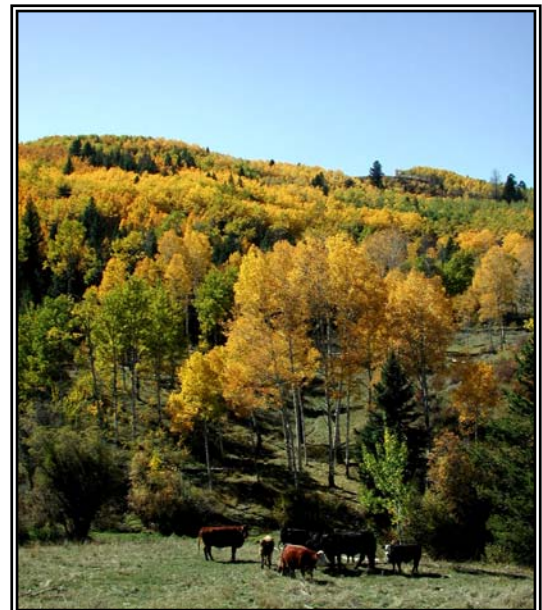
DEFINITION: Commercial non-timber products including but not limited to mushrooms, boughs, and ornamental trees and plants.

DESIRED CONDITION: Non-timber forest products are available to contribute to economic sustainability.

3.2.3 PERMITTED LIVESTOCK GRAZING

DEFINITION: Commercial grazing of livestock under Forest Service permit.

DESIRED CONDITION: Opportunities are available for permitted livestock grazing to contribute to economic sustainability.



3.2.4 WATER DEVELOPMENT

DEFINITION: The use of water to support economic activity including but not limited to agriculture and hydroelectric power generation.

DESIRED CONDITION: Opportunities for water development are available to contribute to economic sustainability.

3.2.5 MINERALS

DEFINITION: Locatable and common variety materials including but not limited to sand, gravel, hard rock, decorative rock and ores.

DESIRED CONDITION: Mineral resources are available to contribute to economic sustainability.

3.2.6 ENERGY RESOURCES

DEFINITION: Resources for the production of energy including but not limited to leaseable resources such as natural gas, oil, coal, wind, biomass, and solar.

DESIRED CONDITION: Energy resources are available to contribute to economic sustainability.

3.2.7 CARBON SEQUESTRATION

DEFINITION: The capacity of vegetated lands to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere through photosynthesis and provide long-term storage of the resulting carbon as woody fiber or soil organic matter, thereby reducing the accumulation of human-generated greenhouse gases that contribute to global climate change.

DESIRED CONDITION: Opportunities exist on the BTNF to supply carbon sequestration as a marketable commodity through carbon trading schemes and related market mechanisms associated with mitigating accumulation of human-generated greenhouse gases that contribute to global climate change.

3.3 FOREST AMENITIES

DEFINITION: Forest features, conditions, and uses including but not limited to scenic views, recreation opportunities, abundant wildlife, Forest access, and open spaces that attract visitors and residents. Visitors and residents bring economic benefits including but not limited to expenditures in local businesses and increases in the tax base. There are also costs associated with visitors and residents by way of infrastructure demands.

DESIRED CONDITION: Amenities that attract visitors and residents are available to contribute to economic sustainability.

3.3.1 VISITOR AMENITIES

DEFINITION: Forest features, conditions, and uses that attract visitors and associated visitor spending.

DESIRED CONDITION: Visitor amenities are available to contribute to economic sustainability.



3.3.2 RESIDENT AMENITIES

DEFINITION: Forest features, conditions, and uses that attract residents, thereby contributing to real estate values, local tax revenues, and a reliable market for regional commerce.

DESIRED CONDITION: Resident amenities are available to contribute to economic sustainability. (Note: On those portions of the National Forest that are adjacent to private lands, the ability of the BTNF to influence resident amenities may depend on the availability of legal access to such areas, and/or other circumstances not within the authority or jurisdiction of the U.S. Forest Service.)

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