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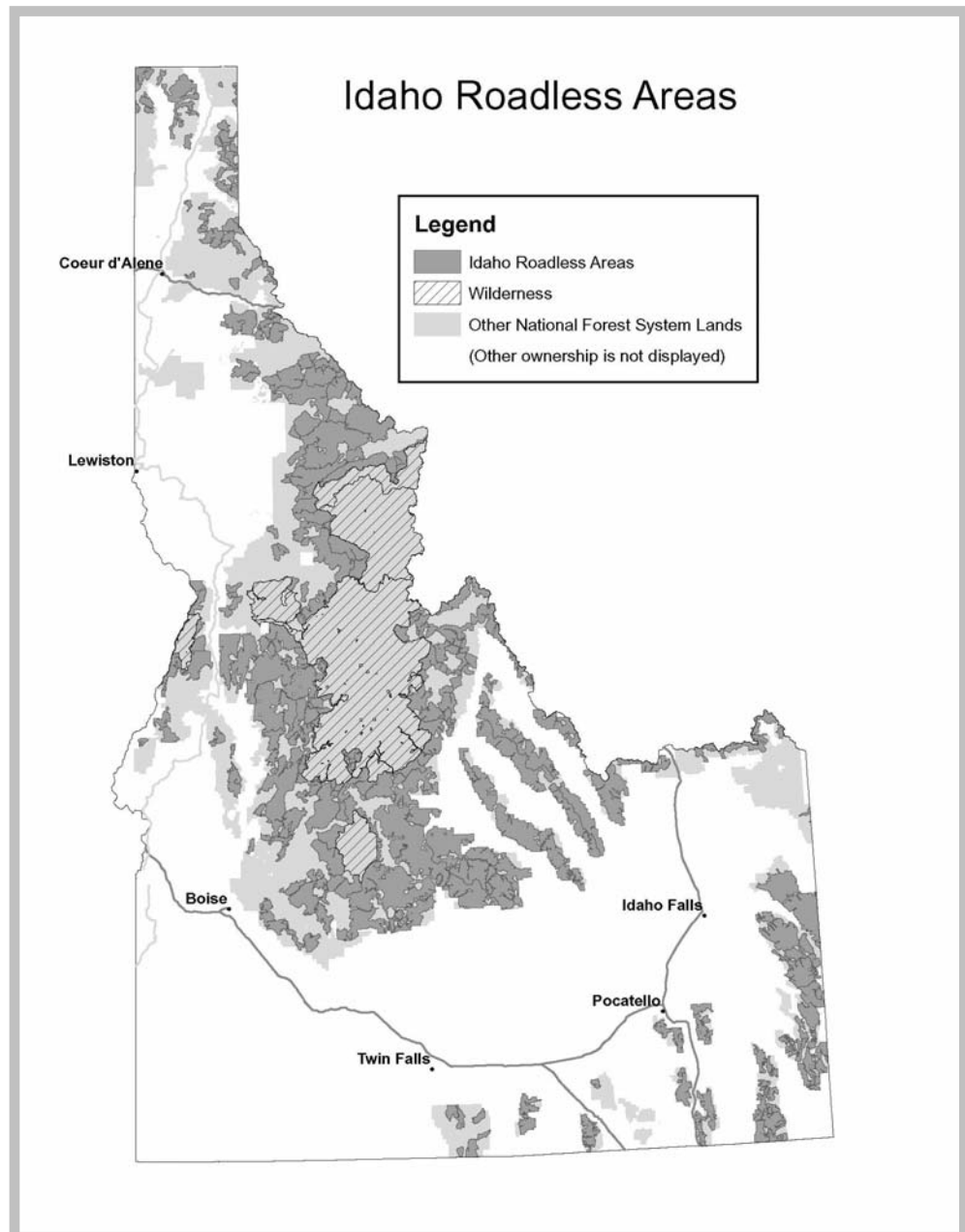
Roadless Area Conservation

National Forest System Lands in Idaho

Final Environmental Impact Statement

Appendix C—Idaho Roadless Areas

Volume 3: Clearwater, Idaho Panhandle, Kootenai, Nez Perce, and Wallowa Whitman National Forests



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APPENDIX C. IDAHO ROADLESS AREAS

The following appendix describes the roadless area attributes and characteristics for each roadless area found in Idaho. This roadless area specific information is intended to inform the public and decision maker about the variability in roadless character across the continuum of roadless areas. For reference, Appendix D summarizes the roadless characteristics in a tabular form. Maps of each of the roadless areas with the Existing Plan, Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule, and Modified Idaho Roadless Rule themes may be found in the EIS map packet.

The appendix is based on existing plan documents describing the roadless areas – generally found in appendix C of the existing plan environmental impact statements. Some of the plan appendix C's date back to 1987, others are more current because they have recently revised their plans.

Most acres have been rounded to the nearest hundred.

CHANGES BETWEEN DRAFT AND FINAL EIS

In response to public comment, the final EIS appendix C includes environmental consequences for application of each theme to each roadless area for the prohibited and permissible activities (timber harvest, road construction and reconstruction, and mineral leasing). A table is included for each roadless area that displays the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

The information regarding wildland urban interface (WUI) was removed from appendix C because it came from a variety of sources including appendix C of existing plans, as well as the map of WUI developed by the State of Idaho. Instead, appendix C of this EIS now displays the estimated acreage in each roadless area in a community protection zone (CPZ) in the Backcountry theme for the Modified Rule. This information is useful for showing the number of acres in the Backcountry theme where temporary roads could be constructed.

The CPZ acres displayed in the EIS and in appendix C show the total acres within 1-½ miles of a community based on population projections in 2030 (see final EIS, section 3.1). However, it should be noted that these are approximations and are not set boundaries. Each project or activity would be required to determine whether or not it fits within the definition of CPZ and whether or not further action is warranted.

Other information has been updated where new information was available. Comments received on the draft EIS providing additional information on roadless areas were considered and incorporated into this appendix C of the final EIS. Comments concerning specific appendix C clarifications or corrections were reviewed with the interdisciplinary team and forest personnel to verify and make updates to appendix C in the final EIS.

Other changes to the final EIS appendix C include the addition of the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule acres to the tables displaying the acres by themes for each roadless area and minor adjustments to roadless area acreage from typing or mapping errors.

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Bighorn-Weitas #306

254,800 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Bighorn-Weitas Roadless Area is the largest roadless area lying entirely within the boundary of the Clearwater National Forest. It is located approximately in the middle of the forest. The west boundary is about 70 air miles east of Lewiston, Idaho, and the east boundary is approximately 50 air miles west of Missoula, Montana. Except for two major intrusions of roads and timber sales, the roadless area is relatively compact extending about 35 miles east-west and averaging about 14 miles wide.

Access is good. Along the north side, access is via the graveled Pierce-Superior Road #250 and the Kelly Creek Road #255. Access along the northeast and south side is from the low-standard, Toboggan Ridge Road #581 and the Lolo Motorway #500. These roads are open generally from July to early October. The Lean-to Ridge/Cook Mountain Road #555 is also a very low-standard, dirt road accessible only during good weather July through September.

Interior access is via upwards of 300 miles of low-standard, fire control and administrative trails. Many of these trails, because of low use and limited funding, receive only light, intermittent maintenance.

The area lies within two major drainages, Weitas Creek and Cayuse Creek, as well as a number of streams draining into the North Fork of the Clearwater River and Kelly Creek. Both major drainages have some sections of narrow but flat stream bottoms with some meandering sections in Cayuse Creek. Many of the smaller streams have steeper gradients, V bottoms, and extremely steep side slopes. The Cook Mountain area, lying between Weitas and Cayuse Creek consists of generally rolling upland landforms with wide ridges. Scenic views, while not necessarily outstanding, are pleasing.

Elevations are midrange varying from 7,100 feet at Rock Garden to an average of 5,500 feet for most other peaks. Stream bottom elevations range from 2,400 feet at the mouth of Weitas, but generally average about 3,200 to 4,000 feet in elevation.

The area is underlain by a coarse-grained quartz monzonite of the Cretaceous Idaho batholith. Included in the area are small isolated blocks of gneiss belonging to the Precambrian Wallace formation and smaller blocks of rhyolite and border zone gneiss. Mountain tops are rounded and deeply weathered with few exceptions such as Lunde Ridge. There are relatively few, large areas of exposed rocky and barren ground. Highly erosive soils are found in this area.

The area is dominantly cedar-hemlock-pine forest with a small interior section of western spruce-fir between Cook Mountain and Raspberry Butte. Vegetation varies from carex and beargrass on high elevation, south slopes to grand fir and western redcedar types at lower elevations. Large forest fires in the early 1900's had a major influence on the present vegetation with much of the area being covered with even-aged stands of lodgepole pine at higher elevations and mixed stands of other conifers at lower elevations. Large areas of brush fields and grass meadows still exist within the conifer stands. Many of the brush fields are below 4,000 feet elevation where they are used by big game as winter forage.

The area, in general, is thought of and used by people for dispersed recreation, primarily hunting and fishing. Elk is the predominant big game species. Fishing, especially for westslope cutthroat trout in the Cayuse drainage under a-catch-and-release regulation, is another major attraction. A verified sighting of the endangered gray wolf has attracted considerable attention in recent years.

The cultural history of the Lolo Trail, Lewis and Clark route and Lolo Motorway forming the southern boundary is a key attraction for history buffs.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: With a few exceptions, the natural integrity and appearance of the Bighorn-Weitas areas have not been altered. The Lean-to-Ridge Road separates the Hemlock Creek drainage from the rest of the area. The Cook Mountain reforestation area creates a major intrusion into the area. The Horseshoe Lake fire in 1961 and subsequent timber salvage activity in 8,000 acres of Gravey Creek is the only other major intrusion.

Three, short, low-standard fire lookout roads penetrate the area from the Lolo Motorway. Of the five former lookout towers only three remain and only one of these is used on an intermittent basis. A second one, Weitas Butte, is rented to the public during the summer months.

Although there are hundreds of miles of trails in the area, most are such low standard that they are hardly noticeable. The impact of livestock grazing, past and present, is likewise virtually unnoticeable.

Opportunities for Experience: The size and rectangular shape of the area, tends to promote solitude. The two major drainages and six tributary systems and generally wide and rounded ridges isolate users effectively. Noise and detraction from logging activity is found only along the west boundary and then only for a short distance. There are numerous trails in creek bottoms and on ridges which tends to disperse people. Additional dispersion is gained because access to these trails is good from the many miles of road surrounding the area.

The great diversity of topography and extensive areas of dense vegetation of trees and shrubs further isolates visitors from each other. There are no lakes or single major attractions which tend to concentrate people. Once the visitor is a short distance from a heavily-used trail or an adjacent or intruding road, there is a definite feeling of being in a natural area.

Because of the moderate elevations in comparison to higher surrounding areas, outside viewing opportunities are very limited thereby minimizing visual disturbances from adjacent activities. The Cayuse airstrip (officially a backcountry emergency field) near the boundary accommodates fly-in fishermen and hunters during the summer and early fall resulting in noise and visual distraction up to a mile away.

Hiking, backpacking, primitive camping, photography, horseback riding, hunting, and stream fishing are the key dispersed recreation. Trails, even though many are low standard, provide the major means of access since cross-country travel is very difficult due to dense vegetation and rugged terrain. Several outfitters pack big-game hunters into the area each fall to hunt elk, deer, and bears.

Special Features: The Lolo Trail which is a registered National Historic Landmark and National Historic Trail is one of the most significant features. This trail was a major travel route between the Columbia Basin and the Montana country prehistorically and was heavily used. Lewis and Clark traveled over sections of the trail in journeys of 1805-06. They did, however, deviate from the traditional ridge trail with nearly ten miles of their route dipping into the vicinity of Gravey Creek and Moon Creek. Another famous traveler over the trail was Chief Joseph, a Nez Perce Indian Chief, who helped lead the non-treaty Nez Perce during the Nez Perce war of 1877. The trail was used to such an extent over the years that it was finally made into a road in the early 1930's. It remains as a very low-standard route used today by hunters, Forest Service employees, and others. Portions of a 400 acre Research Natural Area may be found in this roadless area.

The Cayuse Creek drainage is part of a catch-and-release fishery area of the Kelly Creek drainage. This regulation, established in 1970 to protect and enhance the westslope cutthroat trout, has resulted in a local and regional reputation for a quality fishery. Twelve-to-sixteen-inch trout are not uncommon in the major streams.

Manageability: Except for the narrow Hemlock Creek area, the large size and rectangular shape contribute significantly to the wilderness qualities. The area is large enough to be virtually unaffected by exterior sights and sounds. The Pierce-Superior Road, Kelly Creek Road, Toboggan Ridge Road and Lolo

Motorway would be logical wilderness boundaries. The Gravey Creek timber management area could easily be excluded with some minor adjustments along several major ridges.

The Cook Mountain Road and reforestation area could either be excluded which would pose boundary-location problems or included and the road closed. Because it is a low-standard, dirt road, it and the Cook Mountain area would revert back to a natural condition within five to ten years.

Moving the boundary to Weitas Creek from its mouth to the Weitas Work Center would eliminate several short creeks draining into Weitas Creek and the larger Hemlock Creek drainage and make a more logical wilderness boundary. Other possible adjustments to exclude moderate timber values would put the boundary along Weitas Creek from the Work Center upstream to Windy Creek, up Windy Creek to Young Creek, up Young Creek to Monroe Butte, along Windy Ridge to Lookout Peak, down trail #638 across Monroe Creek, up trail #593 to Raspberry Butte then east to Gravey Creek. The 760 acres of private land could also be excluded easily without detracting from the wilderness values.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The Cayuse Creek drainage is part of a catch-and-release fishery area of the Kelly Creek drainage. This regulation, established in 1970 to protect and enhance the westslope cutthroat trout, has resulted in a local and regional reputation for a quality fishery. Twelve-to-sixteen-inch trout are not uncommon in the major streams. Bull trout, Chinook summer salmon, steelhead, inland redband trout, westslope cutthroat, and pacific lamprey habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Elk, mule deer, and black bears are the most common large game animals found. Moose, mountain lions and other small game and nongame birds and animals common to the rest of the Forest are also found here. Approximately 8 percent of the area or 18,700 acres is within key big game winter range. The remainder is key summer range. Lynx, a threatened species, and wolverine, fisher, Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat, Region 1 sensitive species occur in this roadless area.

Botanical: Light hookeria (*Hookeria lucens*) and Constance's bittercress (*Cardamine constancei*), two sensitive plant species occur in this roadless area.

Recreation: Although there are numerous potential developed sites, the actual construction of such sites is dependent upon needs, funding, and road access. Current need is low and funding levels are almost nonexistent.

Timber: Approximately 92 percent or 239,000 acres is considered suitable for timber production. An estimated 2,546 million board feet of sawtimber is found. Timber stands are not uniformly distributed. Mainly because of the large wildfires during the early 1900's, entire drainages, such as Fourth of July Creek, have few, if any trees. Because of the widespread destruction of timber during these fires, adequate seed sources are few-and-far-between. Loss of topsoil on many of these areas may also inhibit regeneration from taking place.

Range: The area has eight designated grazing allotments: three cattle and five horse and mule. The cattle allotments are on transitory range averaging 190 head for approximately 500 animal unit months (AUMs). Although there is considerably more potential, most of it would be transitory.

Minerals and Energy: Potential for minerals, oil and gas is low. A small amount of prospecting and exploration can be expected in the extreme western section. This roadless area contains 254,800 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: Each fall several commercial outfitters take hunters to hunt big game, primarily elk.

Heritage: In addition to the previously mentioned Lolo Trail and Lewis and Clark routes, the area has a rich heritage of other cultural resource. Nine prehistoric sites have been located. As mentioned earlier, in extensive portion of the Lolo Trail forms the southern boundary.

Trappers and the Forest Service personnel became users of the area by the late 1890's. During the 20th century many peaks, meadows and creek bottoms have served as lookouts, ranger stations or crew camps. A total of 57 historic sites are recorded. Included among these sites are 13 Forest Service lookout sites, 18 cabins or cabin remains, four Forest Service Ranger Stations locations, four hunter camps, one Economic Recovery Act camp, two BRC Camps, four Lewis and Clark Expedition camp sites, one Euro-American grave site, and evidence of a sheep driveway.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Bighorn-Weitas Roadless Area.

Table Bighorn-Weitas-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Bighorn-Weitas-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Bighorn-Weitas-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Bighorn-Weitas Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0
Primitive	0	5,200	0	0
Similar to Backcountry	254,800	0	0	0
Backcountry	0	241,800	246,400	246,400
GFRG **	0	7,400	0	0
SAHTS **	0	0	8,000	8,000
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	400*	400*	400*
Total Acres	254,800	254,800	254,800	254,800

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the Bighorn-Weitas Roadless Area is Research Natural Area (RNA). For further information on this designation, see the Clearwater National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP).

**GFRG = General Forest Rangeland, and Grassland; SAHTS = Special Areas Of Historic and Tribal Significance

Table Bighorn-Weitas-2. Potential activities

Bighorn-Weitas Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	134,200	246,400	0
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	254,800	254,400	254,400	254,400
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	254,800	254,400	254,400	246,400
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	254,400	254,400	0
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	254,300	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	254,800	254,400	246,400	246,400

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or

associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final environmental impact statement (EIS) analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 100 acres would be managed under prescription A3 (dispersed recreation in an unroaded setting), 47,100 acres under prescription C1 (key big game summer range), 5,100 acres under prescription C3 (key big game winter range/unsuitable for timber), 14,700 acres under prescription C4 (key big game winter range/timber management), 67,900 acres under prescription C6 (key fishery habitat), 102,800 acres under C8S (big game summer range/timber management), 7,400 acres under prescription E1 (timber management), and 9,300 acres under prescription US (unsuitable land).

Limited timber harvest is permitted under prescription A3, and no new roads can be constructed, so little to no activity is expected on the 100 acres under this prescription. Timber harvest is allowed on the 120,100 acres under prescriptions C1, C3 and C6, but only if the activities improve big game summer range, big game winter range, or fish and wildlife habitat, respectively. No new road construction is permitted for the timber harvest, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for habitat improvement, so it is expected that roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced in the long-run.

The 9,300 acres under prescription US have been identified as unsuitable for commercial timber production. However, timber harvest and associated road building are still permitted as a tool to improve wildlife habitat, restore ecosystem structure and function or reduce the risk of wildfire. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes.

For the 124,900 acres under prescriptions C8S, C4 and E1, roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Any timber activities and road building that occur under these prescriptions could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

No new roads are permitted to access new mineral leases under prescription A3, so no new mineral lease activity is expected in the 100 acres under this prescription. There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or associated road building in the other forest plan prescriptions for the Bighorn-Weitas Roadless Area. No phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals. The area does contain 254,800 acres of medium geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule around 246,400 acres would fall under the Backcountry theme and 8,000 under Special Areas of Historic and Tribal Significance (SAHTS).

For the acres under the Backcountry theme timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildfire risk to communities would be permitted. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes.

For the acres under the SAHTS theme no road construction would be expected because it would be prohibited except in cases of reserved and outstanding rights. Timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildfire risk to communities would be permitted, but little to no timber cutting would be anticipated for the 8,000 acres under the SAHTS theme because roads could not be constructed.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry or SAHTS theme since either surface occupancy is prohibited or roads are only allowed for restoration purposes. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 8,000 acres under the SAHTS theme and 246,400 acres under the Backcountry theme, none of which are in the community protection zone (CPZ), nor are there any community water supply systems.

Timber cutting is prohibited in the SAHTS theme except to maintain or restore threatened, endangered, proposed or sensitive (TEPS) habitat, restore ecosystem composition and function or to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire to a community or a municipal water supply system. Activities to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire are not expected to occur in this roadless area because the area is not within 1 ½ miles of a community, nor does it contain a municipal water supply system. No new roads can be constructed and any timber cutting activities that occur must maintain or improve at least one or more roadless characteristics. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

There are no communities or municipal water supply systems within or adjacent to the Backcountry portion of this roadless area, therefore no roads could be constructed to facilitate fuel reduction projects or any kind. Timber cutting could be done throughout all 246,400 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. No roads would be constructed to support these activities because there are no communities or municipal water supply systems near the Backcountry theme. As under the SAHTS theme, activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry or SAHTS themes since these themes either prohibit surface occupancy or roads to access new mineral leases of any kind.

Eldorado Creek #312

6,800 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Eldorado Creek Roadless Area is centered in the headwaters of the Eldorado Creek drainage approximately 50 miles from Orofino, Idaho. The area is accessible by numerous, mostly graveled Forest roads. The interior is accessed by about eight miles of low-standard trails. The area is about five miles long and one-half to two miles wide.

Rolling uplands are mainly within Eldorado Creek, but also encompasses the heads of six other lesser streams. The area is totally underlain by a coarse-grained quartz monzonite of the Idaho batholith. The Miocene Columbia River basalt occurs as a cap over the quartz monzonite producing a stable landscape.

Eldorado is in a cedar-hemlock-pine ecosystem. This ecosystem has a dense stand of trees consisting mainly of western redcedar, western white pine, grand fir, Douglas-fir, Englemann spruce, and lesser amounts of subalpine fir, lodgepole pine, larch, ponderosa pine, and mountain hemlock. With relatively dense stands of large timber and rolling land, the visitor can see only short distances. There are virtually no viewing points.

Surrounding areas are intensively managed for timber except for a roadless strip of land in Fish Creek (North Lochsa Slope Roadless Area) adjacent to the Lolo Motorway which forms the east boundary.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Even though the area is small, the natural appearance has not been altered. The integrity may be somewhat compromised because of the small size. The trail system within the area is not apparent unless one is on a trail.

Opportunities for Experience: Solitude is virtually nonexistent because of adjacent timber harvesting activities and other motorized traffic. Because of this lack of solitude and other characteristic values associated with wilderness, experiences are also very limited.

Special Features: The Lolo Trail/Lewis and Clark Trail traverses the area along the east side parallel to the Lolo Motorway.

Manageability: The small size and irregular narrow shape of the Eldorado Creek Roadless Area effectively negates any wilderness attributes. The only identifiable boundary is the Lolo Motorway. There is virtually no logical way the rest of the boundaries could be adjusted to end up with a manageable wilderness.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: No fisheries are located within this area, although Chinook summer salmon, inland redband trout, and westslope cutthroat habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: The area contains habitat for elk, mule deer, white-tail deer, moose, and black bears. It provides the summer range for elk which winter in the adjacent Pete King drainage. There is no winter range. Wolverine, northern flicker, Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad, Region 1 sensitive species occur in this roadless area.

Botanical: Mingan moonwort (*Botrychium minganense*) and naked mniium (*Rhizomnium nudum*), two sensitive plant species occur in this roadless area.

Recreation: Big game hunters and huckleberry pickers are the most prominent users.

Timber: All 6,800 acres of the Eldorado Roadless Area are highly suitable for timber production. The area contains a standing sawtimber volume of about 130 million board feet of timber.

Range: There are no allotments within this area.

Minerals and Energy: Placer gold and thorium occur. Mining claims for both minerals exist on Eldorado Creek. Most of this area is rated high for placer gold and thorium. This roadless area contains 6,800 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Heritage: The inventoried cultural resource lists two lookout sites, two cabins or cabin remains, one mining site, and two prehistoric hunting areas. Three Nez Perce Indian trails existed in this area as well.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Eldorado Creek Roadless Area. Table Eldorado Creek-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Eldorado Creek-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Eldorado Creek-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Eldorado Creek Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0	0
Similar to Backcountry	6,800	0	0	0
Backcountry	0	0	5,500	5,500
GFRG	0	6,800	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	1,300	1,300
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0	0
Total Acres	6,800	6,800	6,800	6,800

Table Eldorado Creek-2. Potential activities

Eldorado Creek Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	6,800	5,500	0
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	6,800	6,800	6,800	6,800
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	6,800	6,800	6,800	5,500
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	6,800	6,800	0
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	6,800	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	6,800	6,800	5,500	5,500

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 6,800 acres would be managed under prescription E1 (timber management). Roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Any timber activities and road building that occur under this prescription could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term. There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescription for the Eldorado Creek Roadless Area. No phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals. The area does contain 6,800 acres of medium geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule around 5,500 acres would fall under the Backcountry theme and 1,300 under the SAHTS.

For the acres under the Backcountry theme timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities would be permitted. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes.

For the acres under the SAHTS theme no road construction would be expected because it would be prohibited except in cases of reserved and outstanding rights. Timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildfire risk to communities would be permitted, but little to no timber cutting would be anticipated for the 900 acres under the SAHTS theme because roads could not be constructed.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry or SAHTS theme since either surface occupancy is prohibited or roads are only allowed for restoration purposes. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 1,300 acres under the SAHTS theme and 5,500 acres under the Backcountry theme. Timber cutting is prohibited in the SAHTS theme except to maintain or restore TEPS habitat, restore ecosystem composition and function or to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire to a community or a municipal water supply system. Activities to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire are not expected to occur in this roadless area because the area is not within 1 ½ miles of a community, nor does it contain a municipal water supply system. No new roads can be constructed and any timber cutting activities that occur must maintain or improve at least one or more roadless characteristics. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

There are no communities or municipal water supply systems within or adjacent to the Backcountry portion of this roadless area, therefore no roads could be constructed to facilitate fuel reduction projects of any kind. Timber cutting could be done throughout all 5,500 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. No roads would be constructed to support these activities because there are no communities or municipal water supply systems near the Backcountry theme. As under the SAHTS theme, activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry or SAHTS themes since these themes either prohibit surface occupancy or roads to access new mineral leases of any kind.

Hoodoo #301

153,900 Acres Clearwater (Idaho)

98,100 Acres Lolo (Montana)

Total 252,000 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Hoodoo Roadless Area is located on the Idaho-Montana border, about 30 air miles west of Missoula, Montana. The Idaho portion is in parts of Clearwater, Idaho, and Shoshone Counties in the Clearwater National Forest. In Montana, the area is in the Lolo National Forest within portions of Missoula and Mineral Counties.

The area may be accessed by vehicle from numerous forest roads paralleling the boundaries or from dead-end roads. The northeast corner-boundary is within four miles of a major Federal highway, Interstate 90. The graveled Pierce-Superior Road #250 forms a boundary along the northwest side which also joins with the main divide trail at Hoodoo Pass. The Toboggan Ridge Road #581, a dirt road, is also a thruway and is the southwest boundary providing numerous access points to the area. The Granite Creek, White Mountain, Schlez Mountain, Quartz Creek, Clearwater Crossing, Lake Creek, and Goose Creek roads and Kelly Creek Work Center all provide trail heads for interior trail access.

From an aerial perspective, the Hoodoo area is viewed as a long, high mountainous hydrologic divide running north-south about 40 miles. From the divide on both sides emanate large and small fast-moving streams draining into the Clearwater River system in Idaho and into the Clark Fork River system in Montana.

Topography is varied with elevations as low as 3,200 feet at the mouth of Moose Creek to 7,930 feet at the top of Rhodes Peak. Except for the saddles (where two drainages start), much of the divide is above 6,500 feet with the prominent peaks especially in the southern half, ranging from 7,300 to 7,400 feet.

Although little detailed geologic mapping has been done, extrapolation from other studies and field reconnaissance indicate that most of the area is underlain by the Wallace formation, a unit in the Precambrian Belt supergroup. The major lithologies associated with the Wallace formation include limestones, dolomites, and carbonaceous argillites. The extreme southeastern portion contains granite rocks of the Cretaceous Age, Idaho Batholith, and volcanic rhyolites.

While this "high divide country" portion of the area is not considered true alpine, it exhibits relatively few trees, grassy mountain meadows, considerable barren land with numerous rocky outcrops, cliffs, and jagged peaks. Mountain heather and other alpine-type species are found intermingled where the thin soils have enough moisture to support plant growth.

Annual precipitation ranges from 30 inches near the eastern border to near 100 inches along the Idaho-Montana divide. Snow depths of 10 to 14 feet are not uncommon in the higher country lasting well into the summer and providing water to the Clearwater and Clark Fork River systems.

The name "Great Burn" has been attached to the area by several groups and stems from the large and devastating wildfires which denuded much of the area during the early 1900's, primarily on the Idaho-side. Except for upper Moose, Pollack, and Swamp Creeks, much of the area north of Kelly Creek is still primarily covered with shrubs with scattered individual and small groups of trees. The area south of Kelly Creek has regenerated largely to lodgepole pine. Most of the drainages in Montana capable of supporting vegetation are tree covered.

Three ecosystems are found within the area, 1) cedar-hemlock-pine, 2) western spruce-fir, and 3) alpine meadows and barren. The cedar-hemlock-pine group represents the lower elevations. Where trees are found, it is represented primarily by western redcedar, grand fir, Douglas-fir, and larch with very small amounts of western white pine on the Idaho-side. Ponderosa pine is found at the lower and drier elevations. The spruce-fir system is represented on the Montana-side by Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir,

mountain hemlock, and the seral lodgepole pine on the burned over areas. Very small amounts of whitebark pine are found above 6,500 feet.

The outstanding scenery, the variety and abundance of wildlife species (elk, black bears, mountain goats and moose), and the high quality westslope cutthroat trout fishery in Idaho are major attractions. Although slim, there is a chance of seeing an endangered wildlife species, the gray wolf. The 33 mountain lakes, most of which are located near the Idaho-Montana divide, and the variety of vegetative types interspersed with the numerous streams and barren, subalpine rocky peaks contribute to the visitor's enjoyment. As the area becomes known, more people visit it every year.

The area includes roughly 111,300 acres of Recommended Wilderness and therefore holds a high level of roadless characteristics.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: With exceptions, the area retains a high degree of natural integrity and appearance. Human activities have resulted in relatively minor and isolated impacts from several minor hardrock mining sites, pack trails, stock driveways, and fire control trails during the early 1900's. Most of these impacts have rehabilitated naturally as the activities ceased.

Concentrated use around some of the larger, more popular lakes, such as Fish Lake and Heart Lake, and overuse on several of the main trails are the only real detractions from the natural integrity and appearance of the area.

About 115 acres of actual mining sites exist. At Greenwood Cabins are 40 acres of fixed sites of mostly patented mining claims. About 3 miles of a very primitive, closed mining road as well as the hardrock mining site is noticeable near Kid Lake. Evidence of other early mining is very minor.

Opportunities for Experience: The vastness of the area, covering approximately 252,000 total acres (153,000 acres in Idaho) along with its rectangular shape extending approximately 40 miles north-south provides excellent opportunity for solitude. The 40-plus streams dissect the area, effectively isolating visitors from each other. The trees and shrubs plus the varied mountainous terrain further screen visitors from each other.

External influences of sight and sound are minimal. The only regular motorized use adjacent to the area is over the Pierce-Superior Road (FS #250). Sounds from logging activity and other occasional motorized, public use near the periphery can be heard up to a mile inside the roadless area in only a few places.

Hunters, fishermen, horseback riders, and hikers congregating at the larger lakes such as Fish, Heart, Pearl, Goat, Williams, and Siamese Lakes would tend to reduce opportunities for solitude at certain times. However, groups using the area have not generally been very large. An exception to this is at Fish Lake on opening day of fishing season when up to 100 people have been known to congregate.

Solitude may be somewhat affected from certain viewpoints along the divide or on steep slopes above developments. Timber harvest units and associated roads on both the Idaho and Montana sides may be viewed in several areas although usually these detractions are in the far distant or background viewing area. The size and diversity of the area, the variety of vegetative types and land forms, the abundance of wildlife, streams and lakes all contribute to virtually unlimited primitive setting for recreation. Primary activities are hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, lake fishing, big-game hunting, primitive camping, outdoor photography and sightseeing.

Some excellent opportunities exist for fishing in the major streams of Kelly, Fish, and Cache Creeks. Some limited mountain climbing opportunities are available along the divide.

Special Features: The Hoodoo contains several features which set it apart from other roadless lands. Foremost is the name, the "Great Burn", which denotes the catastrophic fire in 1910. The sheer force of the fire is evidenced by the long span of time to restore tree cover.

Many pointed rocky formations are located along the higher ridges, especially in the vicinity from William's Peak to Shale Mountain. The rocky formations are thin and irregular. Local people often refer to these formations as "dinosaur rocks" because they resemble the back of some prehistoric animals. Rocky pinnacles are also in abundance along these ridges. The area is used extensively by commercial outfitters primarily for elk hunting. Six outfitters currently operate in the Idaho portion.

A study done several years ago indicated that prior to the arrival of the white man, Indians used various natural animal crossings on the divide to wait for animals to migrate or be driven. To date, over 40 of these sites have been recorded within the area.

Kelly Creek (including all its tributaries) has been a catch-and-release-stream since 1970. The purpose of this Department of Idaho Fish and Game regulation was to enhance the westslope cutthroat trout fishery since the completion of Dworshak Dam in 1970 blocked migration of steelhead trout. This fishery has improved to the point that the stream is nationally known. Fishermen from all over the country come to catch and release 12 to 15 inch or larger trout.

Steep Lakes encompasses one of the only two lakes in the Clearwater National Forest that support a viable, although limited, population of California golden trout. This brightly colored trout normally found above 7,000 feet in the mountain lakes in California was stocked here in 1962. A limited fishing season has been allowed for many years providing a unique attraction for fishermen each summer.

Based on numerous reports over the years, along with two verified sightings (with photographs) in recent years, the Kelly Creek drainage is regarded as important habitat for the endangered gray wolf. The management of an adequate prey base, mainly elk, and restrictions on motorized road use are two major components of protecting and enhancing this species.

Manageability: At its narrowest point, the Hoodoo is nine air miles across; otherwise, the area averages between 15 and 20 air miles wide and over 40 air miles long. Except for some background viewing of several timber harvest and road activities, the potential wilderness values and attributes of the area are virtually unaffected by external influences. The Hoodoo area is a compact roadless area. Most of the boundaries are fairly well defined on major terrain or other recognized features. In a few locations however, terrain features are less prominent, and boundaries are difficult to locate on the ground. It is fairly remote and free of external influences. In Montana small portions of mostly undeveloped private land exist within the boundaries in the northeast corner.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Most of the larger streams and lakes support fishable cutthroat and rainbow trout populations. Chinook salmon, inland redband trout, and westslope cutthroat habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Although population numbers are not known, elk, mule deer, and black bears are considered to be the most abundant. It is estimated that 20 to 50 mountain goats inhabit the high country along the divide. Mountain lions and moose, along with many species of furbearers and small game are also found here. Summer range is a key feature. With most elevations above 4,000 feet, only 4,150 acres of key big-game winter range exist within the area, with about 1,400 acres on the Idaho side. More than ten unconfirmed sightings of the threatened grizzly bear have been made over the past thirty years. Additional studies are planned to determine whether, in fact, all or part of this area could qualify as essential habitat. Lynx, a threatened species, and several Region 1 sensitive species, including harlequin duck, wolverine, Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad have habitat that overlaps this roadless area.

Botanical: Mingan moonwort (*Botrychium minganense*), clustered ladyslipper (*Cypripedium fasciculatum*), and Idaho strawberry (*Waldsteinia idahoensis*), three sensitive plant species occur in this roadless area.

Recreation: Over 200 miles of trails are within the area. The main creek and ridge trails are maintained. Because of inadequate funding, many of the other side trails are not maintained on a regular basis and are difficult to use at times.

Timber: The Idaho portion of the Hoodoo Roadless Area has about 89,000 acres of land suitable for timber production. Potential yields vary greatly because of the wide range of elevations and climatic and soil conditions. Standing volumes of sawtimber total 1.0 million board feet of timber. Large stands of young unmerchantable and merchantable lodgepole pine currently are of relatively low market value because of remoteness and substandard travel routes.

Range: No cattle or sheep allotment have been used since the 1960's. One active horse and mule allotment is on the Idaho side for 24 AUMs.

Minerals and Energy: Overall, potential for minerals ranges from low to medium. A total of 13,387 acres of high potential has been identified in the Montana section. A total of 296 mining claims are located within the area. A great majority of them are concentrated in Irish Basin. Other mining claims are clustered in the northern portion in Montana. Most of the production associated with these claims has come from placer gold and fluorite; although iron, molybdenum, and barite have also been found.

Potential for oil and gas is low. All past lease applications for oil and gas have expired. There still remains a great deal of speculative interest for oil and gas. This roadless area contains 153,900 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: Commercial outfitters and guides using pack and riding stock are the single largest land users. Six outfitters are currently licensed to operate in Idaho.

Heritage: The current known cultural resources located within the Hoodoo roadless area includes five Forest Service lookout sites: 14 cabins or cabin remains; five Forest Service Ranger Station locations: 24 Native American sites including camp areas, a vision quest site, lithic workshops, and game traps; two mining sites; one Lewis and Clark expedition campsite; and two Euro-American grave locations. In addition, at least four Indian trails existed including the Lolo Trail along the southern boundary: the current state-line trail; and a possible trail through Hanson Meadows. Another trail, the historic "Tin Can Trail," was an important early access route to the Moose City gold mining area from Superior, Montana.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Hoodoo Roadless Area.

Table Hoodoo-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Hoodoo-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Hoodoo-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Hoodoo Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Wild Land Recreation	0	111,300	151,900	151,900
Primitive	0	100	0	0
Similar to Backcountry	153,900	0	0	0
Backcountry	0	26,400	0	0
GFRG	0	16,100	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	2,000	2,000
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0	0
Total Acres	153,900	153,900	153,900	153,900

Table Hoodoo-2. Potential activities

Hoodoo Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	38,900	0	0
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	153,900	153,900	2,000	2,000
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	153,900	153,900	2,000	0
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	153,900	2,000	0
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	42,600	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	153,900	153,900	0	0

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 111,300 acres would be managed under prescription B2 (recommended wilderness), 100 acres under prescription C3 (key big game winter range/unsuitable for timber), 700 acres under prescription C4 (key big game winter range/timber management), 3,600 acres under prescription C6 (key fishery habitat), 16,800 acres under C8S (big game summer range/timber management), 16,100 acres under prescription E1 (timber management), and 5,300 acres under prescription US (unsuitable land).

The 111,300 acres under prescription B2 are unsuitable for commercial timber production and prohibit new road construction. While forest health treatments are not explicitly prohibited, little to no activity is expected because roads cannot be constructed. Therefore these areas are expected to maintain their roadless and wilderness characteristics. Timber harvest is allowed on the 3,700 acres under prescriptions C3 and C6, but only if the activities improve big game winter range or fish and wildlife habitat, respectively. No new road construction is permitted for the timber harvest, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for habitat improvement, so it is expected that roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced in the long-run.

The 5,300 acres under prescription US have been identified as unsuitable for commercial timber production. However, timber harvest and associated road building are still permitted as a tool to improve wildlife habitat, restore ecosystem structure and function or reduce the risk of wildfire. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes.

For the 33,600 acres under prescriptions C8S, C4 and E1, roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Any timber activities and road building that occur under this prescription could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

No new roads are permitted to access mineral leases under prescription B2, so no new mineral lease activity is expected. There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or associated road building in the other six forest plan prescriptions for the Hoodoo Roadless Area. No phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals. The area does contain 153,900 acres of medium geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the proposed Idaho Rule around 151,900 acres would be managed under the Wild Land Recreation theme and 2,000 acres under the SAHTS.

No road construction, timber harvest or new leasable mineral activities are permitted under the Wild Land Recreation theme. Under this prescription there would be little evidence of human-caused disturbance and natural conditions and processes will be predominant. These acres would therefore maintain both their roadless and wilderness characteristics.

For the 2,000 acres under the SAHTS theme no road construction would be expected because it would be prohibited except in cases of reserved and outstanding rights. Timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildfire risk to communities would be permitted, but little to no timber cutting would be anticipated under the SAHTS theme because roads could not be constructed. No new leasable mineral activity would occur under the SAHTS theme since surface occupancy for new leases is prohibited.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule around 151,900 acres would be managed under the Wild Land Recreation theme and 2,000 acres under the SAHTS.

No road construction, timber harvest or new leasable mineral activities are permitted under the Wild Land Recreation theme. Under this prescription there would be little evidence of human-caused disturbance and natural conditions and processes would be predominant. These acres would therefore maintain both their roadless characteristics and wilderness attributes.

Timber cutting is prohibited in the SAHTS theme except to maintain or restore TEPS habitat, restore ecosystem composition and function or to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire to a community or a municipal water supply system. Activities to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire are not expected to occur in this roadless area because the area is not within 1 ½ miles of a community, nor does it contain a municipal water supply system. No new roads can be constructed and any timber cutting activities that occur must maintain or improve at least one or more roadless characteristics. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the SAHTS theme since surface occupancy and road building to access new mineral leases are prohibited.

Lochsa Face #311

76,000 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Lochsa Face Roadless Area is located on the south side of the Lochsa River drainage approximately 77 miles east of Orofino, Idaho, and 60 miles west of Missoula, Montana, via U.S. Highway 12. It is located entirely within the Clearwater National Forest in Idaho County, Idaho. The area's northern boundary is the Lochsa River. U.S. Highway 12 is located immediately north of the Lochsa River and parallels the area's northern boundary for most of its length. The Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness forms the southern and western boundaries. The eastern boundary parallels the Tom Beal Park Road.

Access is limited along the northern boundary to foot/horse trails connected to U.S. Highway 12 by three pack bridges and one bridge suitable for motorized travel. Access to the eastern portion is provided by the Tom Beal Peak Road, a low-standard, dirt road. Access from the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness is provided by foot/horse trails. A total of 12 Forest Service system trails cross the interior and enter the Wilderness.

The western two-thirds of the Lochsa Face are characterized by steep, stream breakland dissected by relatively steep side-drainages. There are also a limited number of alluvial terraces along the Lochsa River. Above 5,000 feet in this section, rolling upland mountain landforms dominate. In the Stanley Creek drainage, there are also some scoured clique basin, glaciated landforms.

In the eastern one-third of the roadless area, from the Warm Springs Creek drainage to the area's eastern boundary, more alluvial terraces along the river can be found. The breaklands along the river become less pronounced and are not as steep as in the western portion. The gradient of the side-drainages also become gentler, and the rolling mountain upland landforms become more dominant. The Robin, Jay, and Cliff Creek drainages, located near the area's eastern boundary, consist of glacial-scoured and glacial-trough bottom landforms.

The area is mostly underlain by a coarse-grained quartz monzonite of the Cretaceous Idaho Batholiths. Smaller localized blocks of border zone gneiss, granite, and rhyolite occur. Weathered rock and soil from the quartz monzonite bedrock is highly erosive and unstable especially on the steep slopes.

Although the topography is rugged throughout the area, no unique or sharply defined features exist that would classify the area as being visually outstanding except that area adjacent to the Lochsa River. Here steep cliffs, rocky outcrops, and steep gradient streams, in conjunction with the River, create some very scenic views. Elevations range from near 2,000 feet on the Lochsa River to 7,500 feet at Tom Beal Peak.

Except for a narrow band of western spruce-fir ecosystem along the main ridge and a lower section from Cliff-Cooperation Creek to the Tom Beal Road, most of the area is within the cedar-hemlock-pine ecosystem. Existing vegetation patterns are mainly a result of large fires that burned in the early 1900's. The steep breaklands west of Warm Springs are characterized by large brush fields with scattered stringers of various sized trees. The higher elevation, mountain-upland and scoured glaciated landforms have scattered stands of lodgepole pine, Englemann spruce, subalpine fir, and whitebark pine. Scattered meadows along stream courses also occur at the higher elevations.

The gentler stream-breaklands and mountain-upland landtypes located in and east of the Warm Springs Creek drainage contain stands of mature sawtimber of larch, white pine, Douglas-fir, grand fir, ponderosa pine, and western redcedar. Because of the fire history, these stands of mature sawtimber are scattered in a mosaic of fully stocked stands of sapling/pole-sized trees of the same species.

Remnants of large, mature western redcedar stands are located on the alluvial flats south of the Lochsa River. These are also more prevalent along the river from Warm Springs Creek east to the area's eastern boundary.

Daubenmire habitat types represented include western redcedar/lady fern, western redcedar/pachistima, grand fir/pachistima, subalpine fir/pachistima, subalpine fir/menzeisia, subalpine fir/beargrass, and subalpine fir/grouse whortleberry.

Because of its proximity to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, many people think of the area as “defacto wilderness.” The area is, however, not used as wilderness, but merely as access to the Selway-Bitterroot. Big game hunters probably use the area the most by using the river corridor as their base. Some use is made also by day hikers in the vicinity of the bridges crossing the Lochsa River. Most use is passive, i.e., scenic viewing of the River and the immediate foreground by motorists on the highway.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Because of its inaccessibility, the area has been lightly impacted by past human activity. Overall it appears undisturbed and natural. The majority of trails were constructed in the early 1900's by the Forest Service to provide access for wildfire control. In addition to the three previously mentioned pack bridges, there is another such bridge in the Warm Springs Creek drainage. Two fire lookouts are located at Bear Mountain and Jay Point. The Bear Mountain Lookout is still manned during the summer months. The Jay Point Lookout has been condemned and will likely be replaced. A number of outfitter camps are located throughout the area but do not contain any permanent improvements so evidence is minor.

Opportunities for Experience: The major side-drainages and higher elevation, mountain-upland landforms in the western portion provides visitors with relatively high solitude. Existing trails in this area follow main ridges. The side-drainages are screened from activities and noise coming from the U.S. Highway 12/Lochsa River corridor. The view looking out of these areas is towards the undeveloped North Lochsa Face Roadless Area located immediately north of U.S. Highway 12. The more exposed ridges and faces on the steeper breaklands in the western part of the area have lower solitude due to the lack of vegetation and views of U.S. Highway 12.

Located east of the Warm Springs Creek drainage, solitude is relatively high because of dense vegetation, gentler sloped stream bottoms, and larger proportion of mountain-upland and scoured glacial landforms. Noise from heavy truck traffic on U.S. 12 is noticeable along the steep breaklands south of the Lochsa River in the western portion of the roadless area. Because of the narrow canyon, this noise can be heard up to 1 to 2 miles from the highway on exposed faces and ridges. This distance is significantly reduced in the side drainages. Those areas of stream breaklands located east of Warm Springs are not affected as greatly by highway noise as these steeper areas because of gentler topography and the denser timber cover.

Those areas previously discussed that have high solitude also provide a high degree of challenge for visitors wishing to be isolated from development and human activity. The majority of the side drainages, with the exception of Warm Springs Creek, currently receive extremely light use because of their isolation and difficult access. The mountain-upland landforms receive more use than these areas and provide better visitor dispersion because of more favorable vegetation, topography, and access.

The area by itself does not give an impression of vastness, but in association with the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, it does. The visitor does not usually separate the two areas as it appears as one very large roadless area.

Special Features: Jerry Johnson Hot Springs is located in the Warm Springs Creek drainage about 1 1/2-miles from U.S. Highway 12. A pack bridge and wilderness provide access to the site. The hot springs receives the heaviest concentration of recreation of any individual dispersed recreational site on the Clearwater National Forest. This use is year-around.

The Middle Fork-Lochsa Recreation River corridor extends the full length of the roadless area ending at Powell Ranger Station. Nearly 7,800 acres of the corridor are within the area. The boundary line is

indefinite. The direction for management is provided by a recreation river management plan. About 200 acres of the Dutch Creek Research Natural Area are located within the roadless area.

Manageability: The current boundaries would lend themselves to a logical and manageable wilderness. The boundary could be readjusted to exclude the timber stands in Cliff-Cooperation Creek east of Warm Spring Creek.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The area contains 13 major creeks that drain into the southern face of the Lochsa River. The streams provide high quality water and rearing and spawning habitat for a large portion of the cutthroat and rainbow trout populations in the Lochsa River drainage. In addition, five of the creeks have been identified as containing steelhead and Chinook summer salmon rearing and spawning habitat. Chinook, inland redband trout, pacific lamprey and westslope cutthroat habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Habitat exists for the following big game species: elk, moose, mule deer, white-tailed deer, mountain goats, mountain lions, and black bears. Elk are the most hunted big game animals. The area currently provides high quality, elk summer range. Elk winter range is concentrated at the lower elevations along the Lochsa River and its tributaries located west of Warm Springs Creek. There are about 8,300 acres of key big game winter range. A large moose population is located east of the Warm Springs Creek drainage in the Elk Summit area. This area has been identified as being of particular importance in the production and maintenance of this population. Lynx, a threatened species, and several Region 1 sensitive species including harlequin duck, wolverine, fisher, Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad occur in this roadless area.

Botanical: Mingan moonwort (*Botrychium minganense*), clustered ladyslipper (*Cypripedium fasciculatum*), Idaho strawberry (*Waldsteinia idahoensis*), and evergreen kittentail (*Synthyris platycarpa*) four sensitive plant species occur in this roadless area.

Recreation: The main dispersed recreation includes big-game hunting, camping, hiking, horseback riding, and fishing. Only two small unnamed lakes are located in the area. Trails are the only permanent recreational facilities.

Most potential developed recreational sites are located along the Lochsa River. Current availability exceeds the demand. Current and anticipated funding for developing sites is low. In most cases additional access would need to be provided across the river to construct additional sites.

Timber: The Lochsa Face has approximately 62,000 acres of land suitable for timber production. Standing volume is approximately 871 million board feet of sawtimber located throughout the area. The heaviest concentration is east of Mocus Creek. The Cliff-Cooperation area has the largest stands of reasonably accessible timber.

Range: One grazing allotment for stock used by an outfitter is currently in use. It is located in the Indian and Gold Meadows Area and annually provides five animal-unit-months of grazing. The allotment does not contain any structural improvements such as fences. The greatest use is by domestic livestock for private recreation; most of this comes in the fall during hunting season.

Minerals and Energy: Potential for valuable minerals is low. Known occurrences of placer gold exist along the Lochsa River; however, there are no known mining claims or operations. Although several small hot springs occur within the area, they are not extensive enough to provide geothermal power generation. This roadless area contains 75,900 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: Two outfitters provide big-game hunting services during the spring and fall, and guide school and pack trips during the summer. Seven camp locations have been assigned to them through outfitter and guide special use permits. The campsites do not contain permanent improvements. Both outfitters also provide the same services in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness.

Heritage: Current known cultural resource sites include seven Forest Service lookout locations, one hunting camp, six prehistoric sites, one cabin or cabin remains, and several Nez Perce Indian trails.

Disturbances: Although large fires occurred during the early 1900's, the current fire occurrence is low. Lightning strikes are the predominant forms of ignition.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Lochsa Face Roadless Area.

Table Lochsa Face-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Lochsa Face-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Lochsa Face-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Lochsa Face Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule	
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0	
Primitive	0	27,400	27,400	27,400	
Similar to Backcountry	76,000	0	0	0	
Backcountry	0	40,500	40,400	CPZ	1,100
				NonCPZ	39,300
GFRG	0	0	0	0	
SAHTS	0	0	100	100	
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	8,100*	8,100*	8,100*	
Total Acres	76,000	76,000	76,000	76,000	

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the Lochsa Face Roadless Area is 7,800 acres as (Wild and Scenic River), 100 acres as (RNA), and 200 acres as both WSR and RNA. For further information on this designation, see the Clearwater National Forest LRMP.

Table Lochsa Face-2. Potential activities

Lochsa Face Potential Activities	Alternative 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	40,500	40,400	1,100*
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	76,000	67,900	67,900	67,900
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	76,000	67,900	67,900	40,400
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	67,900	67,900	1,100*
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	43,400	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	76,000	67,900	40,400	40,400

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 39,300 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ to facilitate hazardous fuels removal, but only if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system.

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 24,500 acres would be managed under prescription A3 (dispersed recreation in an unroaded setting), 2,900 acres under prescription C3 (key big game winter range/unsuitable for timber), 900 acres under prescription C4 (key big game winter range/timber management), 35,100 acres under C8S (big game summer range/timber management), and 4,500 acres under prescription US (unsuitable land).

Limited timber harvest is permitted under prescription A3, but no new roads can be constructed, so little to no activity is expected on the 24,500 acres under this prescription. Timber harvest is allowed on the 2,900 acres under prescriptions C3, but only if the activities improve big game winter range. No new road construction is permitted for the timber harvest, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for habitat improvement, so it is expected that roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced in the long-run.

The 4,500 acres under prescription US have been identified as unsuitable for commercial timber production. However, timber harvest and associated road building are still permitted as a tool to improve wildlife habitat, restore ecosystem structure and function or reduce the risk of wildfire. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes.

For the 35,100 acres under prescription C8S, and the 900 acres under prescription C4, roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Any timber activities and road building that occur under this prescription could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

No new roads are permitted to access new mineral leases under prescription A3, so no new mineral lease activity is expected in the 24,500 acres under this prescription. There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or associated road building under the other forest plan prescriptions for the Lochsa Face Roadless Area. No phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals. The area does contain 74,900 acres of medium geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule around 40,400 acres would fall under the Backcountry theme and 27,400 under the Primitive theme and 100 acres under SAHTS.

For the acres under the Backcountry theme timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildfire risk to communities would be permitted. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes.

For the 27,400 acres under the Primitive theme no road construction would be expected because it would be prohibited except in cases of reserved and outstanding rights. Timber cutting for ecosystem restoration

and/or reduction of wildfire risk to communities would be permitted, but little to no timber cutting would be anticipated because roads could not be constructed.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry or Primitive theme since either surface occupancy is prohibited or roads are only allowed for restoration purposes. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

For the 100 acres under the SAHTS theme no road construction would be expected because it would be prohibited except in cases of reserved and outstanding rights. Timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildfire risk to communities would be permitted, but little to no timber cutting would be anticipated under the SAHTS theme because roads could not be constructed. No new leasable mineral activity would occur under the SAHTS theme since surface occupancy for new leases is prohibited.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 27,400 acres under the Primitive theme, 100 acres under the SAHTS theme, and 40,400 acres under the Backcountry theme, 1,100 of which are in the community protection zone (CPZ).

Within the Backcountry acres that are within the CPZ, timber cutting for hazardous fuel removal would be allowed, and temporary roads could be constructed to facilitate timber harvest if that is the desired tool for hazardous fuel removal. Temporary road construction would likely change roadless characteristics in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber cutting activities would be designed for fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would likely be maintained or enhanced over the long term.

For the 39,300 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ, timber cutting and temporary road construction to facilitate timber harvest could be allowed to reduce hazardous fuels if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system. Since there are additional conditions tied to this exception, it is likely that temporary road construction for this purpose would be infrequent.

Timber cutting could be done throughout all 40,500 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. Under the Backcountry theme, roads could only be constructed in conjunction with a fuel reduction project already authorized in the CPZ or authorized under the significant risk determination outside the CPZ. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

Timber cutting is prohibited in the 27,400 acres of the Primitive and SAHTS themes except to maintain or restore TEPS habitat, restore ecosystem composition and function or to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire to a community or a municipal water supply system. Activities to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire are not expected to occur in the Primitive theme portions of this roadless area because the area is not within 1 ½ miles of a community, nor does it contain a municipal water supply system. No new roads can be constructed and any timber cutting activities that occur must maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. As under the Backcountry theme, activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry, Primitive or SAHTS themes since these themes either prohibit surface occupancy or roads to access new mineral leases of any kind.

Lolo Creek #805

100 Acres Clearwater National Forest (Idaho)
600 Acres Bitterroot National Forest (Montana)
16,800 Acres Lolo National Forest (Montana)
17,500 Total Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

This roadless area lies 15 miles southwest of Missoula, 17 miles northwest of Stevensville, and 6 miles west of Lolo, Montana. U.S. Highway 12 parallels the northern border at a distance of about two miles. From it, logging roads along Mill Creek, Cedar Creek and Dick Creek approach the northern and western boundaries. A road up Mormon Creek provides vehicle access to the eastern edge. Four system trails totaling 12 miles extend into and across the area.

Because of the small acreages in the Clearwater (100 acres) and Bitterroot (600 acres) National Forests, most of the discussion that follows is concerned with the Lolo National Forest.

The Lolo Creek Roadless Area is situated immediately north of Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. The most prominent feature is the lower valley of the South Fork of Lolo Creek which rises on the east to the summit of Lolo Peak, a difference of about 4,500 vertical feet. Most of the streams flow to the north into Lolo Creek, and the slopes are heavily timbered. Lolo Peak and Rocky Point peaks are not timbered because of rocky, shallow soils. Most of the area is in the subalpine fir habitat series with a variety of understories. There are also small amounts of the Douglas-fir habitat types. These occur between 4,500 and 7,000 feet elevation. Most of this area is classified as commercial timberland.

The area lies within the border zone between the Precambrian Belt Supergroup and the granitics of the Idaho Batholith. Granite, mica schists, and gneisses are exposed over most of the area. To the north, altered Belt Group rocks are found.

The Lolo Creek Roadless Area provides habitat for a variety of game and nongame wildlife species commonly found in western Montana including pileated woodpecker, pine marten, mountain goat, hoary marmot, and other fur bearers. Visitors can often view deer and elk herds on summer range.

Currently, popular activities include hiking and trail biking, horseback riding, fishing, big-game hunting; and in winter, cross-country skiing and winter mountaineering sports activities.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Ecological processes and the natural landscape in parts of the area have been disrupted to a certain extent by past and present domestic grazing. Basically, vegetative communities in the unit are similar to those found in surrounding areas outside the roadless boundary. Air and water quality in the area are considered good.

While most of the animal species, native to the area, are found in the Lolo Creek Roadless Area, none are particularly dependent on wilderness for survival. Animals on summer range can be susceptible to human activity, and the area contains summer range. The area also contains a significant fishery.

The Lolo Creek Roadless Area is significant because of its proximity to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. Possible conflicts include a proposed ski area, potential for electronic site development, and possible mineral development. The Ward Lode Mine is located to the west with several of the claims staked in the Roadless Area. An irrigation dam is located on Carlton Lake, and the Carlton Ridge Primitive Road provides access to the dam.

There is not an outstanding opportunity for solitude due to moderate to heavy visitation, frequent air traffic, and noise from highways. A small ski run has been cut out by users along a portion of Lolo Peak Trail No. 1312. Several clearcuts and logging roads and the towns of Missoula, Lolo, and Florence, Montana can be seen from within the area. Portions of Highways 93 South and U.S. 12, the Ward Lode

Mine, lookouts, a 500 KV twin powerline, and ranch buildings also impact the appearance of the area. Fort Fizzle National Historic Site is located about three to four miles to the north near Lolo Creek.

Opportunities for Experience: Other than small scale mountain climbing opportunities, the area is limited in potential wilderness recreation because of the existing and potential conflicts.

Special Features: Most of the area is classified as commercial timberland and has 4,400 acres rated high to very high potential for minerals. Significant features include the site for a potential ski area in the Lolo Peak/Carlton Ridge Area. (See Management Area 6 description in the Lolo Forest Plan.) On the southern boundary, Lolo Peak provides a prominent viewpoint to the north. It receives moderate to heavy visitation year round. This area is popular with cross-country skiers and is used for mountaineering.

The roadless area provides 35 percent Semi-Primitive Motorized and 65 percent Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized Recreational settings. Main activities are four-wheeling on Carlton Ridge, trail biking, hiking, horseback riding, snowmobiling, and environmental educational activities. Fishing and big-game hunting are also popular.

Manageability: The relatively small size and narrow shape of the area severely limits its potential wilderness attributes. There are 1,500 acres of private land on the north end which would either have to be excluded or exchanged. As currently drawn, the southern boundary follows the existing line of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. Most of the western side follows drainage divides and would be easily marked and identified on the ground. However, the entire northern border is arbitrarily drawn to follow property lines which are not well marked or easily identified.

The natural appearing landscape has been altered by the four-wheel drive trail along Carlton Ridge, several miners' cabins, and the foundation of an old lookout tower.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Fisheries exist in the South Fork of Lola, Mill, and Johnny Creeks.

Wildlife: The area provides habitat for a wide variety of game and non-game wildlife species. There are 1,311 acres of elk summer habitat and 530 riparian acres. Grizzly bears occupied the area in the historic past, but no bears have been sighted in many years. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Recreation: Primitive recreation is very good due to the steepness of terrain, rocky cliffs, and proximity to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. Good terrain exists for "expert" skiers.

A portion of the roadless area was evaluated in a ski area feasibility study made by the Forest Service during the mid and late 1960's. Results of the study suggested the area had some potential for a ski area. Interest is expressed periodically by local citizens.

Timber: About 6,200 acres are considered suitable for timber management in the Lolo Forest Plan. The suitable lands presently support a standing timber inventory of 45.6 million board feet with a long-term sustained yield of 1.06 million board feet annually.

Range: Portions of the East Fork/South Fork range allotment fall within this roadless area. The allotment is active and is permitted for 215 cow/calf pairs for approximately 300 AUMs. Only about one-third of the Lola Creek Roadless Area is considered to be suitable for grazing. The remaining two-thirds of the area is too steep and rocky. A small portion of the Anderson-Miller allotment is included, but the suitable range acreage is not significant.

Minerals and Energy: Oil and gas leases at one time cover approximately 75 percent of the land, but the leases have expired. Ten mining claims associated with the Ward Lode Mine are located along the southwestern corner. These are in a zone of copper-lead-zinc-silver veins. Some gold values have also been found. The forest inventory lists 4,400 acres of high to very high potential for minerals. This roadless area contains 100 acres of medium geothermal potential in Idaho.

Landownership and Special Uses: All but the northeast corner of the 920 acre Carlton Ridge Research Natural Area is located within the roadless area. The principle feature of the area is an extensive grove of alpine larch on well-developed soils. In addition, alpine larch and western larch are found at the same elevation which is uncommon. Studies indicate that hybridization between the two species has occurred on this site; this is one of the few areas known where this occurs.

Heritage: The Lolo Creek does not contain significant cultural resources. A few old miners' cabins remain. There are old lookout remains on Lantern Ridge. No prehistoric sites have been identified.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Lolo Creek Roadless Area.

Table Lolo Creek-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Lolo Creek-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Lolo Creek-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Lolo Creek Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0	0
Similar to Backcountry	100	0	0	0
Backcountry	0	100	100	100
GFRG	0	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0	0
Total Acres	100	100	100	100

Table Lolo Creek-2. Potential activities

Lolo Creek Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	100	100	0
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	100	100	100	100
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	100	100	100	100
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	100	100	0
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	100	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	100	100	100	100

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 100 acres under prescription US (unsuitable land). Areas under prescription US have been identified as unsuitable for commercial timber production. However, timber harvest and associated road building are still permitted as a tool to improve wildlife habitat, restore ecosystem structure and function or reduce the risk of wildfire. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes.

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or associated road building under prescription US. No phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals. The area does contain 100 acres of medium geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 100 acres would be available for limited timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildfire risk to communities. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 100 acres under the Backcountry theme, none of which are in the CPZ.

Since there are no communities or municipal water supply systems within or adjacent to the Backcountry portion of this roadless area, no roads could be constructed to facilitate fuel reduction projects. In addition, since there are no communities or municipal water supply systems nearby, no timber harvest or associated road building would occur for the purpose of reducing the significant risk of wildland fire effects. Timber cutting could be done throughout all 100 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. No roads would be constructed to support these activities because there are no communities or municipal water supply systems near the Backcountry theme. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since road construction is not permitted to access new mineral leases.

Moose Mountain #305

22,000 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Moose Mountain Roadless Area is in the northeast portion of the Clearwater National Forest within Clearwater County. It lies between Kelly Creek and the North Fork of the Clearwater River and is readily accessed from either the Pierce-Superior Road #250 or the Kelly Creek-Deception Road #255. The roadless area is a very compact shaped triangle.

As the name implies, it is comprised of mountains. Moose Mountains (a series of peaks and ridges about 4 miles long) extends north-south across the west side of the area, and Moose Creek Buttes extends south-east from Moose Mountains. Elevations drop rapidly from the peaks of up to 6,700 feet to the North Fork and Kelly Creek averaging 2,800 feet within a horizontal distance of one to two miles. The area is underlain by the metasediments of the Wallace and Revett formations. The dominant lithologies of the Belt Supergroup rocks are quartzites, argillites, dolomites, and limestones. These metamorphosed rocks have been sheared and faulted making them very susceptible to weathering.

Although the entire area falls within the cedar-hemlock-pine ecosystem, most of the land above 6,000 feet is barren rock or very sparsely covered with low vegetation, mostly shrubs and perennials. Most all of the southerly facing slopes, all the way to Kelly Creek, are covered with shrubs. Trees, many of them lodgepole pine, are found on the northeast side and on north-facing slopes in the Black Canyon area along the North Fork River. Here, also, are found Douglas-fir, grand fir, western redcedar, western white pine, larch and some Englemann spruce.

Wildlife, along with the rugged glaciated mountainous terrain, is the principal features which attract users. Most current users are big-game hunters, although there are some hikers that go into the area for one to two day hikes.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Other than early day mineral prospecting which is largely unnoticed and some recent active mining near the boundary in Moose Creek, Moose Mountain has retained its natural integrity and appearance. Two fire control trails are low standard and access only a small portion.

Opportunities for Experience: The opportunity for solitude is fairly low because of the small size and the fact that it is surrounded on two sides by a road and on one side by extensive timber harvesting. Viewing of these developments, as well as the sounds of vehicles and timber harvesting activities, is possible throughout much of the area.

Special Features: One can view some outstanding mountainous scenery especially along the major ridges.

Manageability: Solitude is limited. Viewing detractions are numerous due to the small size of the area and elevations generally higher than adjacent lands. The area can easily be managed for wilderness with very little modification of existing boundaries. It is already well defined by the Pierce-Superior and Kelly Creek Deception Roads along the south and east boundary. A ridgetop boundary along the northeast side would be easy to locate, and this would also exclude much of the suitable timberland in the area. The existing and past mining activities could also be excluded without any effect on the wilderness.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Bull trout a threatened species, and Inland redband trout and west slope cutthroat trout, Region 1 sensitive species, have habitat that overlaps the roadless area.

Wildlife: Elk, mule deer, black bears, and a small number of Rocky Mountain goats are the principal large wildlife species. The area contains 2,600 acres of key big game winter range, primarily in shrub

fields on the south facing slopes above Kelly Creek and Road #255. Unconfirmed sightings have been made of the endangered gray wolf and of the threatened grizzly bear. Region 1 sensitive species, including the fisher, Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad have habitat in this roadless area.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Elk hunting, scenic viewing and photography are major recreational activities. A one or two-day trip would enable a hiker to cover most of the area. However, hiking is for those who are in good physical condition, because of the rugged terrain and lack of trails.

Timber: Only 29 percent or 6,400 acres is considered suitable for timber production. The suitable land currently supports an estimated 133 million board feet of sawtimber in the mature and immature classes. Much of the larger timber is located on the steep slopes draining into the North Fork of the Clearwater River while the younger timber, especially lodgepole pine, is located along the east side of the area.

Minerals and Energy: Potential for gold is high in the northeast corner, mostly within the Moose Creek drainage. The remaining area has low potential for all known minerals. Upper Moose Creek has several active mining claims. This roadless area contains 22,000 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Heritage: Current cultural resource sites include seven cabins or cabin remains, one historic hunter camp, one prehistoric campsite, and four mining sites, most of which are near the periphery of the area.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Moose Mountain Roadless Area.

Table Moose Mountain-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Moose Mountain-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Moose Mountain-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Moose Mountain Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule	
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0	
Primitive	0	16,800	0	14,000	
Similar to Backcountry	22,000	0	0	0	
Backcountry	0	1,500	22,000	CPZ	700
				Non CPZ	7,300
GFRG	0	3,700	0	0	
SAHTS	0	0	0	0	
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0	0	
Total Acres	22,000	22,000	22,000	22,000	

Table Moose Mountain-2. Potential activities

Moose Mountain Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	5,200	22,000	700 ¹
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	22,000	22,000	22,000	22,000
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	22,000	22,000	22,000	8,200 ²
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	22,000	22,000	700 ¹
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	8,000	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	22,000	22,000	22,000	8,000

¹Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 7,300 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ to facilitate hazardous fuels removal, but only if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system.

²Timber cutting is prohibited in the Primitive theme except to maintain or restore TEPS habitat, restore ecosystem composition and function or to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire to a community or a municipal water supply system. Such activities are expected to occur in the 200 acres of the Primitive theme area that are within 1½ miles of a community and/or contain a municipal water supply system.

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 14,000 acres would be managed under prescription A3 (dispersed recreation in an unroaded setting), 2,600 acres under prescription C3 (key big game winter range/unsuitable for timber), 200 acres under prescription C4 (key big game winter range/timber management), 3,700 acres under prescription E1 (timber management), 200 acres under prescription E3 (aerial harvest/timber management), and 1,300 acres under prescription US (unsuitable land).

Limited timber harvest is permitted under prescription A3, but no new roads can be constructed, so little to no activity is expected on the 14,000 acres under this prescription. Aerial timber harvest is permitted on the 200 acres under prescription E3. While any commercial timber harvest could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long term, the prohibition on road building and the small scale of any timber activity would limit the negative impacts on roadless characteristics over the long term.

Timber harvest is allowed on the 2,600 acres under prescription C3, but only if the activities improve big game winter range. No new road construction is permitted for the timber harvest, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for habitat improvement, so it is expected that roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced in the long-run.

The 1,300 acres under prescription US have been identified as unsuitable for commercial timber production. However, timber harvest and associated road building are still permitted as a tool to improve wildlife habitat, restore ecosystem structure and function or reduce the risk of wildfire. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be

maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes.

For the 3,900 acres under prescriptions C4 and E1, roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Any timber activities and road building that occur under these prescriptions could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

No new roads are permitted to access new mineral leases under prescription A3, so no new mineral lease activity is expected in the 14,000 acres under this prescription. There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or associated road building in the other forest plan prescriptions for the Moose Mountain Roadless Area. No phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals. The area does contain 22,000 acres of medium geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 22,000 acres would be available for limited timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildfire risk to communities. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 14,000 acres under the Primitive theme, and 8,000 acres under the Backcountry theme, 700 of which are in the CPZ.

Within the Backcountry CPZ timber cutting for hazardous fuel removal would be allowed, and temporary roads could be constructed to facilitate timber harvest if that is the desired tool for hazardous fuel removal. Temporary road construction would likely change roadless characteristics in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would likely be maintained or enhanced over the long term. For the 7,300 Backcountry acres outside the CPZ, timber cutting and temporary road construction to facilitate timber harvest could be allowed to reduce hazardous fuels if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system. Since there are additional conditions tied to this exception, it is likely that temporary road construction for this purpose would be infrequent.

Timber cutting could be done on 8,000 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. New roads could only be constructed in conjunction with a fuel reduction project already authorized in the CPZ or authorized under the significant risk determination outside the CPZ. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

Timber cutting is prohibited under Primitive theme except to improve TEPS habitat, ecosystem composition and function, or to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire, but only adjacent to a community or a municipal water supply system. Any wildland fire risk reduction activities are expected to occur in the 200 acres of the Primitive theme area that are within 1 ½ miles of a community and/or

contain a municipal water supply system. No new roads can be constructed for these activities, so limited timber harvest is expected because of lack of road access. In addition these activities must maintain or improve at least one or more roadless characteristics. As under the Backcountry theme, activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Primitive or Backcountry theme since these themes either prohibit surface occupancy or roads to access new mineral leases of any kind.

North Fork Spruce–White Sand #309

35,800 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The North Fork Spruce-White Sand Roadless Area is located in the Bitterroot Mountain range adjacent to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness in Idaho County. The nearest access point is via the Beaver Meadows Road #368 which is approximately 60 miles southwest of Missoula, Montana, and approximately 130 miles east of Orofino, Idaho, via U.S. Highway 12.

In addition to the Beaver Meadows Road, the area is also accessed by the Elk Summit and Colt Creek Roads #360 and #359, parts of which are old dirt Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) roads. A portion of the Elk Summit Road and a six-mile section of a newly constructed dead-end road have been graveled. Interior access is by a well-dispersed trail system of approximately 30 miles.

The roadless area is a band of land approximately 14 miles long varying from 1/4 mile to 5 1/2 miles in width, and bounded on the east side by the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. It encompasses highly diverse land types ranging from colluvial and frost churned uplands to steep rocky stream breaklands and alpine glacial cirque basins. The main drainage is White Sand Creek which has its source in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. Elevations range from 3,500 feet in White Sand Creek to 7,370 feet at Beaver Ridge Lookout on the boundary. Except for the stream bottoms, most lands are above 5,500 feet.

The area is mostly underlain by a coarse-grained quartz monzonite of the Cretaceous Idaho batholith. Other rock types found in the area as localized blocks include a talc-silicate gneiss belonging to the Wallace formation and outliers of granite and granodiorite. Weathered rock and soil in this area is highly erosive, and much of the land is unstable and located on steep slopes.

The roadless area is entirely within the western spruce-fir forest ecosystem except for a small section of cedar-hemlock-pine forest in the lower White Sand Creek. Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir, western larch, and lodgepole pine are the most common tree types, although grand fir and western redcedar habitats occur at elevations generally below 5,000 feet. Most of the area supports a mixed stand of trees and shrubs. *Menzeisia* (false huckleberry) and beargrass are common shrubs.

Because of the configuration of the area, recreation patterns vary greatly. A few hikers and some fishermen fish the five small lakes in the Beaver Ridge area while stream fishermen are attracted to White Sand Creek. The remainder of the area is used primarily by hunters. The areas immediately adjacent to the roads are probably used the most by campers and people just traveling the roads.

The Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness is contiguous to the east boundary, and the Sneakfoot Meadows roadless area is adjacent on the west side of Elk Summit Road. Except for the Beaver Ridge section, this area was once part of the Elk Summit Roadless Area.

A key attraction to visitors especially in conjunction with the access roads is the concentration of moose. The other major attraction is the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. Visitors pass over the trails in this area to reach portions of the Wilderness.

The area includes roughly 9,500 acres of recommended wilderness and therefore holds a high level of roadless characteristics.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The new Elk Summit Road #111 and the Colt Creek Road #359 are the two major intrusions affecting the natural integrity. The constructed trails are less distracting although they are evident and do create unnatural disturbances in some cases. Minor evidence of an old lookout at Savage Ridge may still be seen if one passes the site, otherwise the overall natural integrity and appearance are well intact.

Opportunities for Experience: Disruption of solitude within the area is minimal, generally confined to concentrations of people near the major lakes and streams that are accessible by trails. Logging activities in the Beaver Creek drainage are the major current disturbance to solitude. Vehicles traveling over the Elk Summit and Colt Creek roads and the associated recreation result in some minor noise and visual disturbance. It is minimal because of heavy vegetative screening near the roads and the fact that use is relatively light except for a few weeks during the fall hunting season.

Big game hunting, hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, fishing (lake and stream), scenic viewing, and photography (especially in the vicinity from Beaver Ridge Lookout) are the major dispersed activities available. Except in the vicinity of the lakes east of Beaver Ridge Lookout, cross-country travel by foot is very difficult because of dense vegetation and many steep stream breaklands.

Special Features: The moose population is well known throughout the State of Idaho and is considered to be one of the largest concentrations in the state. They are easily viewed by visitors traveling the access roads or using the trails during the summer months. Special studies have been and are still in progress to determine behavior patterns and habitat needs.

Manageability: Being contiguous to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness negates any effect of size and shape on wilderness attributes with two exceptions: the extension of the new Elk Summit Road #111 has created an isolated unit of land of about 3,500 acres that does not lend itself to wilderness. And the other exception is the narrow stringer of land that extends north of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness and lies between private land and developed land on the Lolo National Forest.

With some adjustments, much of the existing area would be easily managed as wilderness. The east boundary contiguous to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness would, of course, be no longer valid since the area would just become a part of the existing wilderness.

The existing low-standard, Elk Summit Road from Hoodoo Lake north to Colt Creek campground would be a logical boundary. The south side of the Colt Creek Road would also be a logical boundary up to the Colt Creek cabin. The semi-enclosed area created by the new dead-end Elk Summit Road #111 could easily be excluded. A feasible and identifiable boundary from Colt Creek cabin north would be White Sand Creek, to its junction with trail #47. Trail #47, which follows the ridge between White Sand Creek and Beaver Creek, would also make a logical and identifiable boundary.

The boundaries of this roadless area, except for a section along the Beaver Ridge road, are undefinable since they are located either along private land lines or timber sale activity.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The streams are highly valuable, not only for the production of a resident trout fishery, but as a spawning and rearing habitat for anadromous fish and their contribution to the Lochsa-Middle Fork system. Chinook, inland redband trout, and westslope cutthroat habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: In addition to the moose, moderate numbers of elk, black bears, and deer inhabit the area. Because most of the area is timbered in elevations above 5,000 feet, key winter range is limited to 300 acres. Key moose and elk summer range are the main features. Fisher, wolverine, Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat, all Region 1 sensitive species, overlaps this roadless area.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Future need and potential for developed recreational sites could easily be met in conjunction with the existing roads and would not require sites within the area. Existing facilities would supply current and anticipated need for a number of years.

Timber: The North Fork Spruce-White Sand area has 32,100 acres of land suitable for the production of timber. An estimated 330 million board feet of sawtimber has been inventoried.

Minerals and Energy: With one exception, the area is rated low for potential minerals. The exception is in the vicinity of Hoodoo Lake and Elk Summit where a titanium-find has raised the potential for that mineral, as well as gold, to a moderate rating. The titanium prospect has not been activated. This roadless area contains 35,800 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Heritage: Current known sites include two lookout sites, five cabins or cabin remains, one Ranger Station, one hunter camp and one CCC camp. Early day trappers frequented this area, and it is possible that the area was utilized by Native Americans.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the North Fork Spruce–White Sand Roadless Area.

Table North Fork Spruce–White Sand-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table North Fork Spruce–White Sand-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

North Fork Spruce–White Sand-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

North Fork Spruce–White Sand Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Wild Land Recreation	0	9,500	9,500	9,500
Primitive	0	3,100	5,800	5,800
Similar to Backcountry	35,800	0	0	0
Backcountry	0	18,400	20,500	20,500
GFRG	0	4,800	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0	0
Total Acres	35,800	35,800	35,800	35,800

Table North Fork Spruce–White Sand-2. Potential activities

North Fork Spruce–White Sand Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	17,400	20,500	0
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	35,800	26,300	26,300	26,300
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	35,800	26,300	26,300	20,500
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	26,300	26,300	0
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	26,300	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	0	35,800	20,500	20,500

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without road access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 9,500 acres would be managed under prescription B2 (recommended wilderness), 100 acres under prescription C4 (key big game winter range/timber management), 5,800 acres under prescription C6 (key fishery habitat), 8,300 acres under C8S (big game summer range/timber management), 4,800 acres under prescription E1 (timber management), 3,100 acres under prescription E3 (aerial harvest/timber management) and 4,200 acres under prescription US (unsuitable land).

The 9,500 acres under prescription B2 have been identified as unsuitable for commercial timber production and prohibit new road construction. While forest health treatments are not explicitly prohibited, little to no activity is expected because roads cannot be constructed. Therefore these areas are expected to maintain their roadless and wilderness characteristics.

Timber harvest is allowed on the 5,800 acres under prescription C6, but only if the activities improve fish or wildlife habitat. No new road construction is permitted for the timber harvest, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for habitat improvement, so it is expected that roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced in the long-run.

Aerial timber harvest is permitted on the 3,100 acres under prescription E3. While any commercial timber harvest could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long term, the prohibition on road building and the small scale of any timber activity would limit the negative impacts on roadless characteristics over the long term.

The 4,200 acres under prescription US have been identified as unsuitable for commercial timber production. However, timber harvest and associated road building are still permitted as a tool to improve wildlife habitat, restore ecosystem structure and function or reduce the risk of wildfire. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes.

For the 13,200 acres under prescriptions C8S, C4 and E1, roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Any timber activities and road building that occur under this prescription could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

No new roads are permitted to access mineral leases under prescription B2, so no new mineral lease activity is expected. There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or associated road building in the other forest plan prescriptions for the North Fork Spruce-White Sand Management Roadless Area. No phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals. The area does contain 35,800 acres of medium geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the proposed Idaho Rule around 9,500 acres would be managed under the Wild Land Recreation theme, 5,800 acres under the Primitive theme, and 20,500 acres under the Backcountry theme.

No road construction, timber harvest or new leasable mineral activities are permitted under the Wild Land Recreation theme. Under this prescription there would be little evidence of human-caused

disturbance and natural conditions and processes would be predominant. These acres would therefore maintain both their roadless and wilderness characteristics.

For the 5,800 acres under the Primitive theme no road construction would be expected because it would be prohibited except in cases of reserved and outstanding rights. Timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildfire risk to communities would be permitted, but little to no timber cutting would be anticipated because roads could not be constructed.

For the acres under the Backcountry theme timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildfire risk to communities would be permitted. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry or Primitive theme since either surface occupancy is prohibited or roads are only allowed for restoration purposes. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 9,500 acres under the Wild Land Recreation theme, 5,800 acres under the Primitive theme and 20,500 acres under the Backcountry theme, none of which are in the CPZ.

No road construction, timber harvest or new leasable mineral activities are permitted under the Wild Land Recreation theme. Under this prescription there would be little evidence of human-caused disturbance and natural conditions and processes would be predominant. These acres would therefore maintain both their roadless and wilderness characteristics.

Timber cutting is prohibited in the Primitive theme except to maintain or restore TEPS habitat, restore ecosystem composition and function or to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire to a community or a municipal water supply system. Activities to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire are not expected to occur in this roadless area because the area is not within 1½ miles of a community, nor does it contain a municipal water supply system. No new roads can be constructed and any timber cutting activities that occur must maintain or improve at least one or more roadless characteristics. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

There are no communities or municipal water supply systems adjacent to the Backcountry portion of this roadless area, therefore no roads could be constructed to facilitate fuel reduction projects. In addition, since there are no communities or municipal water supply systems nearby, no timber harvest or associated road building would occur for the purpose of reducing the significant risk of wildland fire effects. Timber cutting could be done throughout all 20,500 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. As under the Primitive theme, activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry or Primitive themes since these themes either prohibit surface occupancy or roads to access new mineral leases of any kind.

North Lochsa Slope #307

117,700 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The North Lochsa Slope Roadless Area is located in the Lochsa River drainage approximately 70 air miles east of Lewiston, Idaho. It is located entirely within the boundary of the Clearwater National Forest in Idaho County. Access is provided by U.S. Highway 12, an all-weather highway on the south. The Lolo Motorway and two other low-standard, dirt surfaced roads provide access on the northwest sides of the roadless area. The Indian Graves Road #107, a low-standard, graveled road parallels the area near its eastern boundary and provides a north-south connection with the Lolo Motorway. A sparse network of trails maintained at minimal standards crosses the roadless area. Most trails are suitable for both foot/stock use. Some are suitable for foot traffic only.

Two major types of drainages flow through this area: The large (53,900 acre) Fish Creek drainage and a series of relatively short (one to six mile long) streams draining directly into the Lochsa River. The southwest and northeast portions are characterized by steep, stream breaklands dissected by steep side drainages. The central portion in the Upper Bimerick and Fish Creek drainages have a more broken topography consisting of moderate relief uplands and low relief hills dissected by meandering streams with relatively low gradients and flat bottoms. The southern portions of these drainages are also located on steeper breaklands.

Almost all the area is underlain by a gray, coarse-grained quarts monzonite of the Cretaceous Idaho batholith. Isolated blocks of rhyolite, border zone gneiss and schist, and gneiss of the Wallace formation of the Belt series also occur in the area. Elevations range from near 1,500 feet along the Lochsa River to 6,600 feet at Castle Butte. Large areas of bare rocky outcroppings are visible from U.S. Highway 12 in those portions of the steep breaklands located east of Sherman Creek.

Vegetation ranges from western redcedar and grand fir on north slopes, and large brush fields on south and west slopes, to lodgepole pine, subalpine fir, and bear grass at higher elevations. Other tree species include western white pine, Douglas-fir, Engelmann spruce, larch, ponderosa pine, and mountain hemlock.

Large forest fires in the early 1900's had a major influence on the existing vegetation creating a mosaic of large brush fields with scattered concentrations of various sizes of trees. Trees are beginning to re-establish themselves in brush fields, especially on north slopes.

Although generally surrounded by roads, the adjacent areas to the south and north are also roadless. Areas to the west and east are developed for timber harvest.

Key attractions within the area include the anadromous fishery (steelhead trout and Chinook summer salmon) in the Fish Creek drainage and elk. Big game hunting for elk, deer, and bears is probably the most popular current use. Most of the use from the south side off of U.S. Highway 12 is day use while many of those hunting from the Lolo Motorway or the roads around the Fish Creek drainage prefer to use stock or off-road vehicles to get further away from the roads.

The cultural history of the Lolo Trail and the Lolo Motorway forming the northern boundary, as well as a roadless portion of the Lewis and Clark route, appeals to history buffs.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Even though physical evidences of man's activities are obvious, their impacts are considered relatively minor to the overall natural integrity of the area. Most of the land as viewed from both within and from the boundary and intruding roads offers a diversity of vegetative types and openings that appear natural.

The majority of the trails were constructed in the early 1900's by the Forest Service to provide access for wildfire control. Two currently unoccupied fire lookouts are at Castle Butte and Fish Butte; both were built during this period. Roads from Frenchman Butte to Fish Butte Lookout and from Middle Butte to Bimerick Meadows and Van Camp Lookout Site were constructed in the 1930's by the Forest Service. They were built primarily for wildfire control and reforestation work on areas burned by the large fires of this period. These reforestation efforts were centered in McLendon Butte, Bimerick Meadows, and Boundary Peak. Success was limited. The Van Camp Road which originally provided access from U.S. Highway 12 was closed and restored to a trail-status in the 1970's. Still evident is a road built into Fish Creek from Fish Butte Saddle in the 1960's to access some cedar products burned during a fire in 1959.

Timber harvest activities have been confined to three areas adjacent to existing roads: the extreme northwest part of the Fish Creek drainage, the Pete Forks area along the Boundary Peak Road, and the East Deadman Creek area along the Bimerick Meadows Road. The first area was logged during the 1960's.

Large areas of the brush fields located within big game winter range have been broadcast burned to improve both forage quantity and quality. Evidence of these burns is only minor.

Several fish habitat improvement projects to remove debris utilized chain saws and chain saw winches in the Fish Creek and Sherman Creek drainages in the late 1970's. Cut ends of logs are about the only remaining evidence. One cattle grazing allotment is active although there are no improvements which detract from the naturalness of the area. A hardrock, underground, exploratory mine is operating in the extreme southwest corner of the area. It is located near the mouth of Canyon Creek and is accessible via a short existing road from U.S. Highway 12. A small Forest Service structure called Obia cabin is located at the mouth of Hungery Creek.

Opportunities for Experience: Solitude varies within the North Lochsa Slope Roadless Area. The 60,000 acre Fish Creek drainage provides the best opportunity for solitude. Its broken topography, relatively flat-bottomed streams, and diverse vegetation effectively screen out the sights and sounds of man's activities. Within 1/2-mile of the existing access roads, a person has a feeling of being in a relatively large area that has had very little development. It also provides excellent opportunities for visitor dispersion. Concentrations of people currently occur along existing access roads to the north and western portions of the area primarily during the fall big-game hunting season. Timber harvest areas to the west are not visible. Looking out of the drainage to the east and southeast, the higher ridges of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness are visible.

The southwest portion centered in the McLendon Butte/Bimerick area does not offer high solitude. Large timber clearcuts to the southwest are clearly visible, and some timber harvest noise is noticeable during most of the year.

The steep breaklands on the southern portion of the roadless area do offer views of the undeveloped Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness and other roadless areas to the southwest. However, U.S. Highway 12 is a major visual focal point from these areas, and traffic noise from the highway also detracts from giving one a feeling of solitude.

Trails are the only recreation-related facilities in the interior of the area.

Special Features: The Lolo Trail, which is registered National Historic Landmark and National Historic Trail, is one of the most significant features. This trail was a major travel route between the Columbia Basin and the Montana country prehistorically. Lewis and Clark traveled over sections of the trail in journeys of 1805-06. The area has the unique distinction of possessing the longest remaining undisturbed section of the Lewis and Clark Trail in the country. Some 17 miles of trail in the Hungery Creek drainage remain much as Lewis and Clark found them. Another famous traveler over the Lolo Trail was Chief Joseph a Nez Perce Indian Chief who helped lead the non-treaty Nez Perce during the Nez Perce War of 1811. The trail was used to such an extent over the years that it was finally made into a road in the early

1930's. It remains as a very low-standard route used today by hunters, Forest Service employees, and others.

The area also contains the 1,300 acre Lochsa Research Natural Area established by the Chief of the Forest Service in 1977. The Research Natural Area was established to protect and study the unique Pacific coast vegetation (coastal disjunct species) that occurs within its boundaries. Flowering dogwood and 14 other plant species that are not normally found west of the Cascades Mountains or further east in the Continental U.S. grow in the Research Natural Area.

An approximated 1/4 mile wide corridor within the Middle Fork-Lochsa Recreation River established under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1969 runs the full length of the roadless area north of Highway 12. This 4,500 acre corridor is managed under a Special River Management plan which emphasizes the scenic values of the river environment.

Manageability: Although the area is large (117,700 acres), the narrow and irregular shape of all lands draining directly into the Lochsa River severely detracts from many wilderness attributes, principally solitude (sight and sound). The Fish Creek drainage on the other hand, is an enclosed landscape where most wilderness attributes are unaffected.

Because of the irregular shape and narrow stringers of roadless land along the Lochsa River from Rye Patch Creek to the mouth of Fish Creek, a more logical boundary would exclude that area from wilderness. The same would be true from Skookum Creek northeast. The boundaries of the remaining area, i.e., Fish Creek and the Lochsa Face from Fish Creek to Skookum Creek, would result in a manageable wilderness, although the wilderness qualities on the face are questionable, as noted previously. The Boundary Peak Road #485 could be left as a road or closed. Either way would have little effect on wilderness values.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The Fish Creek drainage and several of the other drainages contain some of the best spawning and rearing habitat in the Lochsa River drainage for steelhead trout and Chinook summer salmon. A limited amount of habitat improvements may be needed to fully utilize anadromous fish spawning and rearing habitat in the future. The streams within the roadless area also contain stable resident cutthroat and rainbow trout populations. Inland redband trout and pacific lamprey habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Big game wildlife species found are elk, mule deer, white-tailed deer, moose, mountain goats, mountain lions, and black bears. The area contains nearly 18,700 acres of big game winter range. The remaining area, especially in the Fish Creek drainage, is key elk summer range. Nongame wildlife species such as fisher, pine marten, wolverine, and lynx also are found. Region 1 sensitive bird species include the northern flicker, pileated woodpecker, red-naped sapsucker, and flammulated owl occurs in this roadless area. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat also overlaps this roadless area.

Botanical: Clustered ladyslipper (*Cypripedium fasciculatum*), Pacific dogwood (*Cornus nuttallii*), evergreen kittentail (*Synthyris platycarpa*), Constance's bittercress (*Cardamine constancei*), broad-fruit mariposa (*Calochortus nitidus*), Daubenmire's dasynotus (*Dasynotus daubenmirei*), and light hookeria (*Hookeria lucens*), all sensitive plant species occur in this roadless area.

Recreation: Stream fishing, hiking, backpacking, and horseback riding in the main Fish Creek and Hungry Creek drainages are becoming more popular each year. A key attraction is natural beauty of Fish Creek; with a parallel trail along side it. Most developed recreation is in conjunction with the existing roads and boundaries. Over 90 percent of developed recreation is concentrated along the U.S. Highway 12.

Timber: A total of 111,800 acres are suitable for timber production. The estimated volume of standing sawtimber is 1,256 board feet of timber. It is located generally in three areas: steep breaklands in the southwestern corner of the area, Deadman Creek drainage, and upper end of Fish and Hungry Creek.

Range: A cattle grazing allotment is located in Bimerick Meadows. It consists of primarily transitory range and provides 50 head of cattle with 2.5 months of grazing (125 animal-unit-months). No physical range improvements are located on the allotment.

Minerals and Energy: Minerals exploration has been limited to the extreme southwest corner of the roadless area in the Rye Patch and Canyon Creek drainages. There are mining claims in this area with one active exploratory operation in Canyon Creek. As such, potential minerals in these areas would be rated as moderate. Minerals include gold, silver, antimony, and mercury. There are no known mining claims in the remainder of the roadless area. The mineral potential in the majority of the area is rated low with a small area in the southwestern corner rated moderate. Potential for oil and gas is rated low. This roadless area contains 117,700 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: Outfitter and guides currently run a spring and fall big-game hunting operation. One has an assigned campsite in the Willow Creek drainage; the other has an assigned campsite in the Holly Creek drainage. A radio relay station on Castle Butte Lookout is under permit to the State of Idaho and Idaho County. A highway maintenance station near Bald Mountain Creek, located adjacent to U.S. Highway 12 is also under permit to the State of Idaho. The Federal Energy Commission recently granted a license to a private corporation to analyze the possibility of developing a low head hydro power plant with associated diversion and powerline facilities.

Heritage: As mentioned previously, the Lolo Trail, Lewis and Clark route, and Lolo Motorway are all significant cultural resources recognized regionally and even nationally. In addition to these features, a total of 45 cultural sites have been inventoried. The majority of these are connected with Forest Service fire control activities of the early 1900's. Nine of the sites are associated with the Lewis and Clark Expedition; four are prehistoric sites. An exceptional site is a World War II Japanese/ American Internment Camp near U.S. Highway 12 in the southern portion of the roadless area. A number of Nez Perce Native American trails also existed.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the North Lochsa Slope Roadless Area. Table North Lochsa Slope-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table North Lochsa Slope-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

North Lochsa Slope-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

North Lochsa Slope Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0
Primitive	0	29,800	27,300	82,500
Similar to Backcountry	117,700	0	0	0
Backcountry	0	75,500	70,300	15,100
GFRG	0	6,600	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	14,300	14,300
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	5,800*	5,800*	5,800*
Total Acres	117,700	117,700	117,700	117,700

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the North Lochsa Slope Roadless Area is 4,500 acres as WSR and 1,300 acres as RNA. For further information on this designation, see the Clearwater National Forest LRMP.

Table North Lochsa Slope-2. Potential activities

North Lochsa Slope Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	44,700	70,300	0
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	117,700	111,900	111,900	111,900
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	117,700	111,900	111,900	15,100
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	111,900	111,900	0
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	92,400	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	117,700	0	70,300	15,100

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 19,500 acres would be managed under prescription A3 (dispersed recreation in an unroaded setting), 10,300 acres under prescription C3 (key big game winter range/unsuitable for timber), 8,500 acres under prescription C4 (key big game winter range/timber management), 37,400 acres under prescription C6 (key fishery habitat), 25,700 acres under C8S (big game summer range/timber management), 6,600 acres under prescription E1 (timber management), and 3,900 acres under prescription US (unsuitable land).

Limited timber harvest is permitted under prescription A3, and no new roads can be constructed, so little to no activity is expected on the 19,500 acres under this prescription. Timber harvest is allowed on the 47,700 acres under prescriptions C3 and C6, but only if the activities improve big game winter range or fish and wildlife habitat, respectively. No new road construction is permitted for the timber harvest, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for habitat improvement, so it is expected that roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced in the long-run.

The 3,900 acres under prescription US have been identified as unsuitable for commercial timber production. However, timber harvest and associated road building are still permitted as a tool to improve wildlife habitat, restore ecosystem structure and function or reduce the risk of wildfire. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes.

For the 40,800 acres under prescriptions C8S, C4 and E1, roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Any timber activities and road building that occur under these prescriptions could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

No new roads are permitted to access new mineral leases under prescription A3, so no new mineral lease activity is expected in the 19,500 acres under this prescription. There are no prohibitions against new

mineral leases or associated road building in the other forest plan prescriptions for the North Lochsa Slope Roadless Area. No phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals. The area does contain 117,700 acres of medium geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule around 70,300 acres would fall under the Backcountry theme, 27,300 acres under the Primitive theme, and 14,300 under SAHTS.

For the acres under the Backcountry theme timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities would be permitted. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes.

For the 14,300 acres under the SAHTS and Primitive themes no road construction would be expected because it would be prohibited except in cases of reserved and outstanding rights. Timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildfire risk to communities would be permitted, but little to no timber cutting would be anticipated because roads could not be constructed.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry, Primitive or SAHTS theme since either surface occupancy is prohibited or roads are only allowed for restoration purposes. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 82,500 acres under the Primitive theme, 14,300 under the SAHTS theme and 15,100 acres under the Backcountry theme, none of which are in the CPZ.

Timber cutting is prohibited in the Primitive and SAHTS themes except to maintain or restore TEPS habitat, restore ecosystem composition and function or to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire to a community or a municipal water supply system. Activities to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire are not expected to occur in this roadless area because the area is not within 1 ½ miles of a community, nor does it contain a municipal water supply system. No new roads can be constructed and any timber cutting activities that occur must maintain or improve at least one or more roadless characteristics. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

There are no communities or municipal water supply systems within or adjacent to the Backcountry portion of this roadless area, therefore no roads could be constructed to facilitate fuel reduction projects. Timber cutting from existing roads or using aerial systems could be done throughout all 15,100 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. As under the Primitive and SAHTS themes, activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry, SAHTS or Primitive themes since these themes either prohibit surface occupancy or roads to access new mineral leases of any kind.

Pot Mountain #304

51,100 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Pot Mountain Roadless Area is located about 36 air miles northeast of Orofino, Idaho along the North Fork of the Clearwater River. Graveled roads bordering the area include Beaver-North Fork Road #247 and the Pierce-Superior Road #250 along the North Fork of the Clearwater River connected by the Mush Saddle Road #711. Interior access is by trail. About 40 miles of Pot Mountain trail #144 along Pot Mountain ridge bisect the area from north to south.

Pot Mountain is a very compact, almost round-shaped roadless area of land laying like a huge inverted bowl on the landscape with the North Fork of the Clearwater River at the bottom edge of the bowl. Numerous first-and second-order streams, starting at the higher ridges and dropping very rapidly into the river, give the "bowl" a fluted effect. The most prominent topographic feature is Pot Mountain ridge angling southwest-northwest across the area. Seven major peaks dot the center of the area ranging from Cave Point at 5,600 feet to Pot Mountain at 7,139. The river elevation along the boundary drops down to 1,830 at the mouth of Quartz Creek. The four mountain lakes found are all less than 10 acres.

The area is underlain by coarse-grained to porphyritic light gray granite of the Cretaceous Bungalow pluton associated with the Idaho Batholith. The major ecosystems are two-thirds cedar-hemlock-pine forest and one-third western spruce-fir mainly along Pot Mountain ridge. Where trees are found, a wide variety of species exists typical of much of the forest. The higher elevations support dense stands of mountain hemlock as well as the subalpine fir and Engelmann spruce. The lower elevations are western redcedar, Douglas-fir, and grand fir habitat types. Most of the timber is young.

Large forest fires in the early 1900's had a major influence on the area burning large stands of timber. As a result, vast brush fields with scattered tree seedlings and saplings are found on the steep mostly southern-facing slopes from Bar Creek to past Cave Creek.

The high mountain scenery, along with relatively easy access from the northeast side, and the system of interior trails make this a locally popular area for hiking, hunting, some lake fishing, primitive camping, and sightseeing in general. The area is also well known locally for spring black bear hunting.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Except for several old lookout sites and minor trail and campsite use, there is very minor disturbance to the natural integrity and appearance of the area.

Opportunities for Experience: The shape of the area along with the size (50,000 acres) and the dissected topography and vegetation contribute to a relatively high degree of solitude. Users are well screened from each other except at campsites and along main trails. Sights and especially motorized sounds within one mile of the boundaries are evident to a moderate degree. The sight of logging and road building activity especially to the north and west as viewed from the higher ridges and trails tends to affect the solitude, although most views are middle and background landscapes.

Hunting (mainly elk, deer, and bear), hiking, backpacking, photography, primitive camping, lake fishing, and horseback riding are the key recreation available. Cross-country travel by foot is extremely difficult because of the steep terrain and dense undergrowth.

Special Features: A potential research natural area for a waterfall and the related aquatic ecosystem exists near the mouth of Chateau Creek. This 60 foot waterfall is easily accessible by trail from the river and provides a popular viewing attraction for many visitors. A number of cultural resource sites are located along the North Fork of the Clearwater River.

Manageability: The relatively large size of the area buffers many external distractions. However, the shape of the area, such as the high mountainous ridges dropping off rapidly on three sides to the

Clearwater River, provides the visitor with numerous views of logging and other motorized activities on adjacent landscapes. Except for some possible minor adjustments along the northeast side to provide a more identifiable boundary, the 51,000-acre size and compact shape are very manageable. The main #250 Road along the North Fork bordering almost three-fourths of the area provides a natural boundary. The small section of private land adjacent to the main #250 Road would provide no management problems whether it was excluded or developed.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Several of the larger lakes support a moderate cutthroat trout population.

Wildlife: The area supports a good population of elk, mule deer, black bears, and a small herd of Rocky Mountain goats as well as other species of wildlife common to the rest of the forest. The Pot Mountain area contains 16,000 acres of key big game winter range. There have been six recorded but unconfirmed sightings of the endangered grizzly bear. Additional studies are planned to determine whether the area or parts of it might be essential habitat. Lynx, wolverine, fisher, harlequin duck, Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Botanical: Deer-fern (*Blechnum spicant*), clustered ladyslipper (*Cypripedium fasciculatum*), evergreen kittentail (*Synthyris platycarpa*), Constance's bittercress (*Cardamine constancei*), light hookeria (*Hookeria lucens*), and spacious monkeyflower (*Mimulus ampliatius*), all sensitive plant species occur in this roadless area.

Recreation: Because of current lack of need for developed recreation as well as limited funding, it is unlikely that potential sites would even be accessed unless it was through timber harvest activities. Chateau Rock, Buckingham Lake, and Jackknife Meadows are the most promising potential sites if access were to be provided.

Timber: The Pot Mountain area has 47,100 acres suitable for timber production. Most of the existing merchantable sawtimber amounting to 638 million board feet is found from Pot Mountain ridge north and west.

Minerals and Energy: The potential for mineral and oil and gas development is low. This roadless area contains 51,100 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Heritage: Current cultural resource sites include six Forest Service lookout sites, four cabins or cabin remains, two Forest Service Ranger Station locations, five hunter or outfitter camps, one Civilian Conservation Core campsite, one WPA campsite, one Economic Recovery Act campsite, three Native American campsites, one vision quest site, one mining site, two old bridge sites, one Euro-American grave site, one Chinese inscribed directional tree location, and one trapping site. In addition, a major Native American trail and early day miner's trail existed along the current Pot Mountain trail location.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Pot Mountain Roadless Area.

Table Pot Mountain-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Pot Mountain-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Pot Mountain-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Pot Mountain Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0
Primitive	0	200	0	0
Similar to Backcountry	51,100	0	0	0
Backcountry	0	50,700	50,900	50,900
GFRG	0	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	200*	200*	200*
Total Acres	51,100	51,100	51,100	51,100

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the Pot Mountain Roadless Area is a RNA. For further information on this designation, see the Clearwater National Forest LRMP.

Table Pot Mountain-2. Potential activities

Pot Mountain Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	50,700	50,900	0
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	51,100	50,900	50,900	50,900
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	51,100	50,900	50,900	50,900
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	50,900	50,900	0
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	50,900	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	51,100	50,900	50,900	50,900

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 200 acres would be managed under prescription C3 (key big game winter range/unsuitable for timber), 11,600 acres under prescription C4 (key big game winter range/timber management), 31,000 acres under C8S (big game summer range/timber management), and 8,100 acres under prescription US (unsuitable land).

Timber harvest is allowed on the 200 acres under prescription C3, but only if the activities improve big game winter range. No new road construction is permitted for the timber harvest, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for habitat improvement, so it is expected that roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced in the long-run.

The 8,100 acres under prescription US have been identified as unsuitable for commercial timber production. However, timber harvest and associated road building are still permitted as a tool to improve wildlife habitat, restore ecosystem structure and function or reduce the risk of wildfire. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities

would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes.

For the 42,600 acres under prescriptions C8S and C4, roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Any timber activities and road building that occur under these prescriptions could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or associated road building under the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Pot Mountain Roadless Area. No phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals. The area does contain 51,100 acres of medium geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 50,900 acres would be available for limited timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildfire risk to communities. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 50,900 acres under the Backcountry theme, none of which are in the CPZ.

Since there are no communities or municipal water supply systems adjacent to the Backcountry portion of this roadless area, no roads could be constructed to facilitate fuel reduction projects. In addition, since there are no communities or municipal water supply systems nearby, no timber harvest or associated road building would occur for the purpose of reducing the significant risk of wildland fire effects. Timber cutting could be done throughout all 50,900 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. No roads would be constructed to support these activities because there are no communities or municipal water supply systems near the Backcountry theme. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since road construction is not permitted to access new mineral leases.

Rawhide #313

6,000 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Rawhide Roadless Area is situated in the Rawhide and Long Creek drainages of the Upper North Fork Clearwater River within Clearwater and Shoshone Counties. The area is bounded by and accessed from the Pierce-Superior Road #250. It is approximately 22 miles from Superior, Montana, and 100 miles from Orofino, Idaho, via the Pierce-Superior road.

The west boundary is the original Rawhide Road which provided the early access over Hoodoo Pass from Montana into Idaho. This road was eventually replaced by the graveled Pierce-Superior Road in the early 1950's. The original road is usable as a trail. There are no other trails in the interior.

Rawhide is a small, compact, one and one-half mile wide roadless area comprised of steep glacial lands near the state line to narrow flat creek bottoms in the Rawhide and Long Creek drainages. Elevations range from 6,000 feet at Hoodoo Pass to 4,200 feet at the mouth of Rawhide Creek. The area is underlain by fairly stable Belt rocks of the Wallace formation. The major lithologies are limestones, quartzites, dolomites, and argillites.

Although much land was burned in the early 1900's, the land suitable for trees has regenerated. Vegetation varies from the higher elevation, mountain meadows and low shrubs typical of an alpine-barren ecosystem to lodgepole pine, subalpine fir and Douglas-fir representing the lower elevation western spruce-fir ecosystem.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: A one-half mile section of logging road extends into the area from the original Rawhide Road, accessing a section of private land which is scheduled for a near future timber harvest. The remainder has no visible evidence of activity or disturbance.

Opportunities for Experience: External influences of sight and sound negate any opportunities for solitude. The Pierce-Superior Road can be viewed from most places, and the sounds of traffic can be heard throughout the area. Cross-country foot travel and hunting are the two major and possibly only real dispersed recreation available.

Special Features: None noted.

Manageability: The small size and narrow shape effectively detracts from most wilderness attributes. However, the Rawhide Road, which is now nothing much more than a trail, separates this area from the 40,700 acre Meadow Creek-Upper North Fork Roadless Area, so in effect the two could actually be considered as one large roadless area. The east boundary which is the Pierce-Superior Road #250 is a logical boundary. Even if the area were larger, the 900 acres of private land in the south end would be in conflict in considering wilderness for the area. Because of the deteriorating Rawhide Road along the west side, it would be logical to include this area in conjunction with the Meadow Creek-Upper North Fork area if wilderness designation was being considered.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Bull trout, Inland redband trout, and western cutthroat trout habitat occurs in this roadless area.

Wildlife: Elk, deer, and black bears are the major big game species present. Because of the elevations there is no big game winter range. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Current major use is by big-game hunters in the fall.

Timber: The Rawhide Area has 3,300 acres of land suitable for timber production with an estimated standing volume of 36 million board feet of sawtimber. The area contains a sizeable amount of lodgepole pine especially at the higher elevations.

Minerals and Energy: Except for a small section of land in lower Rawhide Creek which has a moderate mineral potential for gold and silver, the majority of the area has a low potential for minerals. The potential for oil and gas is also low. There is currently a pending oil and gas lease application. This roadless area contains 6,000 acres of medium geothermal potential.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Rawhide Roadless Area.

Table Rawhide-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Rawhide-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Rawhide-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Rawhide Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0	5,100
Similar to Backcountry	6,000	0	0	0
Backcountry	0	5,100	6,000	900
GFRG	0	900	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0	0
Total Acres	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000

Table Rawhide-2. Potential activities

Rawhide Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	6,000	6,000	0
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	6,000	6,000	6,000	900
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	6,000	6,000	0
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	6,000	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without road access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 3,200 acres would be managed under C8S (big game summer range/timber management), 900 acres under prescription E1 (timber management), and 1,900 acres under prescription US (unsuitable land).

The 1,900 acres under prescription US have been identified as unsuitable for commercial timber production. However, timber harvest and associated road building are still permitted as a tool to improve wildlife habitat, restore ecosystem structure and function or reduce the risk of wildfire. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes.

For the 4,100 acres under prescriptions C8S and E1, roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Any timber activities and road building that occur under these prescriptions could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or associated road building under the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Rawhide Roadless Area. No phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals. The area does contain 6,000 acres of medium geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 6,000 acres would be available for limited timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildfire risk to communities. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 5,100 acres under the Primitive theme and 900 acres under the Backcountry theme, none of which are in the CPZ.

Timber cutting is prohibited in the Primitive theme except to maintain or restore TEPS habitat, restore ecosystem composition and function or to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire to a community or a municipal water supply system. Activities to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire are not expected to occur in this roadless area because the area is not within 1 ½ miles of a community, nor does it contain a municipal water supply system. No new roads can be constructed and any timber cutting activities that occur must maintain or improve at least one or more roadless characteristics. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire

use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

There are no communities or municipal water supply systems adjacent to the Backcountry portion of this roadless area, therefore no roads could be constructed to facilitate fuel reduction projects. In addition, since there are no communities or municipal water supply systems nearby, no timber harvest or associated road building would occur for the purpose of reducing the significant risk of wildland fire effects. Timber cutting could be done throughout all 900 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. No roads would be constructed to support these activities because there are no communities or municipal water supply systems near the Backcountry theme. As under the Primitive theme, activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry or Primitive themes since these themes either prohibit surface occupancy or roads to access new mineral leases of any kind.

Siwash #303**9,000 Acres****OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION**

The Siwash Roadless Area is located approximately 60 road miles northeast of Orofino, Idaho in the drainage of the North Fork of the Clearwater River. It is easily accessible by Roads #249, #640, and #677, although one must cross the North Fork of the Clearwater River to gain access to the east side of the roadless area. A foot trail crosses the southwest portion of the roadless area, extending from the site of the old Bungalow Ranger Station to Clarke Mountain and on through to Elk Mountain just outside the area. A jeep road accesses the Clarke Mountain Lookout near the edge of the area. A trail from Elk Mountain to the river follows the ridge along the northwest boundary.

Siwash is a typical Clearwater National Forest steep, streambank landscape. There are two second- and third-order streams, all others are first-order draining directly into the river or other larger streams to the south and eventually into Orogrande Creek.

The area is underlain by coarse-grained to porphyritic light gray granite of the Cretaceous Bungalow pluton associated with the Idaho batholith. Elevations vary from 2,200 feet along the North Fork of the Clearwater River rising rapidly to 5,285 feet on Clarke Mountain. Because of the relatively low elevations, only one vegetative ecosystem is found, the cedar-hemlock-pine forest. Western redcedar, western white pine, grand fir, Douglas-fir, Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir, and lodgepole pine are the most common tree species.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Other than the Jeep trail to Clarke Mountain and the lookout itself, which is currently inactive, the area has no unnatural or adverse impacts to integrity or appearance.

Opportunities for Experience: Solitude is at a minimum, because of the small size of Siwash, traffic on the main river road, and logging activity on two sides. Views of activity outside the area also detract from opportunities for solitude. Big-game hunting is not considered unique to wilderness nor is the limited hiking opportunities.

Special Features: There are no known special features.

Manageability: The small size of the area surrounded by roads and timber management activities significantly affects the wilderness attributes. Two sides of this triangular-shaped roadless area are well defined by a river and a main ridge. The south side following property lines is undefinable. Moving the boundary north to follow the Clarke Mountain trail #601 would be more logical. It would also reduce the size of the area to about 7,000 acres. A 160-acre block of private land would have to be acquired, or the forest would have to allow access if desired by the owner.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Bull trout, Inland redband trout, and western cutthroat trout habitat occurs in this roadless area.

Wildlife: Elk, mule deer, and black bears are the most common big game species. The area contains 3,300 acres of key elk winter range, most of it in need of rehabilitation through tree removal and browse burning. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Botanical: Constance's bittercress (*Cardamine constancei*) a sensitive plant species occurs in this roadless area.

Recreation: Except for scenic values associated with the North Fork River and the river face, elk hunting is the major use. All other uses are minimal or absent.

Timber: The Siwash area has 7,500 acres of land tentatively suitable for timber production. Current sawtimber volumes average about 31 thousand board feet per acre for a total of 148 million board feet of timber. Except for the ridges along the higher boundaries, road access would be very difficult.

Minerals and Energy: Potential for minerals is low to moderate. Some future prospecting and exploration is likely near some known mineral occurrences in the southern part of the area. This roadless area contains 9,000 acres of medium geothermal potential.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Siwash Roadless Area.

Table Siwash-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Siwash-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Siwash-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Siwash Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0	0
Similar to Backcountry	9,000	0	0	0
Backcountry	0	4,000	9,000	9,000
GFRG	0	5,000	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0	0
Total Acres	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000

Table Siwash-2. Potential activities

Siwash Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	9,000	9,000	0
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	9,000	9,000	0
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	9,000	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 3,300 acres would be managed under C4 (big game winter range/timber management), 5,000 acres under prescription E1 (timber management), and 700 acres under prescription US (unsuitable land).

The 700 acres under prescription US have been identified as unsuitable for commercial timber production. However, timber harvest and associated road building are still permitted as a tool to improve wildlife habitat, restore ecosystem structure and function or reduce the risk of wildfire. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes.

For the 8,300 acres under prescriptions C4 and E1, roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Any timber activities and road building that occur under these prescriptions could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or associated road building under the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Siwash Roadless Area. No phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals. The area does contain 9,000 acres of medium geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 9,000 acres would be available for limited timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildfire risk to communities. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 9,000 acres under the Backcountry theme, none of which are in the CPZ nor overlap municipal water supply systems.

Since there are no communities or municipal water supply systems within or adjacent to the Backcountry portion of this roadless area, no roads could be constructed to facilitate fuel reduction projects. In addition, since there are no communities or municipal water supply systems nearby, no timber harvest or associated road building would occur for the purpose of reducing the significant risk of wildland fire effects. Timber cutting could be done from existing roads or using aerial systems throughout all 9,000 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since road construction is not permitted to access new mineral leases.

Sneakfoot Meadows #314

23,300 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Sneakfoot Meadows Roadless Area is located just west of the Bitterroot Mountain range near the southeast corner of the Clearwater National Forest in Idaho County. It is nearly 25 miles east from Orofino, Idaho, via the Elk Summit Road #360 and U.S. Highway 12. It is also approximately 60 miles southwest of Missoula, Montana, via the same road and highway.

It is bounded and accessed by the low-standard, Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Elk Summit Road #360 on the east and another low-standard, CCC Road #362, (the Tom Beal Road) along the northwest side. The interior is accessed by five separate trails, most of which are low-standard, fire control trails. The west side is bounded by the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, and the north side by private land. A primitive road intrudes about 1 1/2 miles off the Elk Summit Road toward Kooskooskia Meadows. At one time it extended all the way to the meadows but since has been blocked and is now used as a trail.

Except for the private land at the north end, the area is surrounded by other roadless land. To the west is the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, to the east is the North Fork Spruce-White Sand Roadless Area, and to the northwest is the Lochsa Face Roadless Area.

The Sneakfoot Meadows Roadless Area is a complex landscape with a dominance of gentle, rolling terrain with high water tables, wet meadows, and meandering streams. Also it has high elevations generally above 6,000 feet, glacial rocky slopes and peaks with several large cirque basins, enclosed lakes, and fast moving crystal clear streams. Peaks average above 7,000 feet with a top elevation of 7,900 feet.

The area is underlain by a coarse-grained quartz monzonite of the Cretaceous Idaho Batholith. In the northern portion the area is underlain by highly metamorphosed rocks of the Precambrian Wallace formation consisting of calc-silicate gneiss and schist. Glacial till material was deposited over much of the area by Pleistocene Alpine glaciation resulting in poor drainage.

All but one of the major creeks drains into White Sand Creek. Walton Creek, at the north-end, drains directly into the Lochsa River. Five lakes are contained within this area; the two largest are Walton Lakes.

Ninety percent of the area is within the western spruce-fir ecosystem. The major habitat type is subalpine fir with some grand fir and possibly some western redcedar in lower Walton Creek. Major species include subalpine fir, Englemann spruce, and lodgepole pine. Shrub areas are dense with menzeisia, alder and willow; the latter two occurring in wetter areas. Major attractions are: the scenery, such as, meadows (Sneakfoot, Marion, and Kooskooskia); the wildlife, especially moose particularly near the Elk Summit Road; and the streams and lakes. Probably the most significant attraction is the access to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness.

The area includes roughly 9,500 acres of Recommended Wilderness and therefore holds a high level of roadless characteristics.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: With the exception of the primitive Kooskooskia Meadows Road, the area has very low impairments to natural integrity and appearance. Several of the trails, notably the trail from the Tom Beal Road to Walton Lakes, are very evident on the landscape. There is also some evidence of overuse around Walton Lakes, but overall the effects are insignificant. The area resembles the adjacent Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, as the boundaries between the two areas are indistinguishable.

Opportunities for Experience: Noise from traffic on the Tom Beal and Elk Summit Roads is probably the only external disturbance and is limited to less than 1/2 mile because of terrain and vegetation. Visually, there is virtually no disturbance from vehicles or activity along either road, at the Colt Creek Campground, or at any of the undeveloped campsites along the roads. Within the area, potential

disturbance is even less than from without, although brief encounters with hikers or horseback riders on the trails or at the lakes are possible.

The Tom Beal Road is the only area from which some activity outside the area may be viewed, and all of it is distant views. Hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, scenic and wildlife viewing and photography, hunting, and lake and stream fishing are the major primitive recreation. Cross-country travel by foot or horseback is very difficult at best with the result that much of the interior area receives very little use.

Trails #6 and #79 are closed to motorized use. The other trails are generally impassible to trail bikes so in essence, the entire area is closed to motorized use, mainly for the protection of the contiguous Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. For all practical purposes then, the area is currently being managed and used as a "defacto wilderness."

Special Features: Within the Sneakfoot Meadows Roadless Area is the 2,000 acre Sneakfoot Meadows Research Natural Area. The aquatic ecosystems, as well as the surrounding subalpine fir habitat, with a dense stand of old-aged Engelmann spruce are the key features.

The Elk Summit moose herd is probably the largest concentrated moose population in northern Idaho. Because so little is known of the habitat-requirements for this unique animal, studies are being conducted through tagging, radio collaring, and observing animal behavior during different seasons of the year. They are readily observed during the summer months throughout the area, especially near the meadow areas and along the roads.

The area has a history of early day trappers. Muleshoe Creek camp along the Elk Summit Road has been the base for outfitter and guide services for many years.

Manageability: Since the area is contiguous to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, the size and shape are sufficient. Being contiguous to an existing wilderness, surrounded on two sides by well defined but low-standard roads, and having no private land or other conflicting uses makes the area easily manageable as part of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness with very little change. Potential timber harvesting on the private land along the northern boundary would better define that boundary, and yet pose no conflict with use within the area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The area's streams are an important native fishery habitat, as well as providing high quality water to the larger White Sand Creek, a key steelhead trout and Chinook summer salmon spawning and rearing stream. Habitat management may be needed to perpetuate free flowing and unobstructed streams for both resident and anadromous fishery. Chinook salmon, inland redband trout, and westslope cutthroat habitat overlaps this roadless area. The two Walton Lakes support a fishable trout population and are a popular place because they are a short distance from the Tom Beal Road.

Wildlife: Other than the moose mentioned previously, elk, mule deer, and bears are also present. There is no elk winter range, only summer range. Other species common to the forest are also found here. Fisher, wolverine, Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Recreation is related closely to the major attractions; scenic viewing, hiking, camping (especially along the Elk Summit Road) big-game hunting, and stream and lake fishing. While there are potential developed recreational sites, the current and anticipated demands appear to be less than the existing facilities found along the Elk Summit Road and at the end of the road at Hoodoo Lake.

Timber: The Sneakfoot Meadows Roadless Area has 19,800 acres of land suitable for producing timber. There is an estimated 213 million board feet of standing sawtimber, much of it of questionable commercial value under current economic market conditions.

Much of the area has an early 1900 catastrophic fire history with the result that large acreages of slow growing, seral-type, lodgepole pine still occupy the sites. Regeneration is very slow in the high water tables and intermingled thin rocky soils.

Minerals and Energy: With the exception of a small section of moderate potential for gold and titanium around Elk Summit and Hoodoo Lake, overall potential for minerals is low. This roadless area contains 23,300 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Heritage: Cultural resource inventory lists a CCC camp, Rabbit Creek cabin, and the Frank Kube trapper cabin. A number of known Nez Perce Indian trails and early day trapper trails existed in the roadless area.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Sneakfoot Meadows Roadless Area.

Table Sneakfoot Meadows-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Sneakfoot Meadows-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Sneakfoot Meadows-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Sneakfoot Meadows Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Wild Land Recreation	0	9,600	9,600	9,600
Primitive	0	0	6,500	6,500
Similar to Backcountry	23,300	0	0	0
Backcountry	0	11,700	5,200	5,200
GFRG	0	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	2,000*	2,000*	2,000*
Total Acres	23,300	23,300	23,300	23,300

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the Sneakfoot Meadows Roadless Area is RNA. For further information on this designation, see the Clearwater National Forest LRMP.

Table Sneakfoot Meadows-2. Potential activities

Sneakfoot Meadows Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	5,400	5,200	0
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	23,300	11,800	11,700	11,700
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	23,300	11,800	11,700	5,200
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	11,800	11,700	0
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	11,800	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	23,300	11,800	5,200	5,200

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without road access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 9,500 acres would be managed under prescription b2 (recommended wilderness), 6,400 acres under prescription c6 (key fishery habitat), 4,900 acres under c8s (big game summer range/timber management), and 500 acres under prescription us (unsuitable land).

The 9,500 acres under prescription B2 have been identified as unsuitable for commercial timber production and prohibit new road construction. While forest health treatments are not explicitly prohibited, little to no activity is expected because roads cannot be constructed. Therefore these areas are expected to maintain their roadless and wilderness characteristics.

Timber harvest is allowed on the 6,400 acres under prescription C6, but only if the activities improve fish or wildlife habitat. No new road construction is permitted for the timber harvest, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for habitat improvement, so it is expected that roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced in the long-run.

The 500 acres under prescription US have been identified as unsuitable for commercial timber production. However, timber harvest and associated road building are still permitted as a tool to improve wildlife habitat, restore ecosystem structure and function or reduce the risk of wildfire. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes.

For the 4,900 acres under prescription C8S, roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Any timber activities and road building that occur under this prescription could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

No new roads are permitted to access mineral leases under prescription B2, so no new mineral lease activity is expected. There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or associated road building in the other forest plan prescriptions for the Sneakfoot Meadows Roadless Area. No phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals. The area does contain 23,300 acres of medium geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule around 9,600 acres would be managed under the Wild Land Recreation theme, 6,500 acres under the Primitive theme, and 5,200 acres under the Backcountry theme.

No road construction, timber harvest or new leasable mineral activities are permitted under the Wild Land Recreation theme. Under this prescription there would be little evidence of human-caused disturbance and natural conditions and processes would be predominant. These acres would therefore maintain both their roadless and wilderness characteristics.

For the 6,500 acres under the Primitive theme no road construction would be expected because it would be prohibited except in cases of reserved and outstanding rights. Timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities would be permitted, but little to no timber cutting would be anticipated because roads could not be constructed.

For the acres under the Backcountry theme timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities would be permitted. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry or Primitive theme since either surface occupancy is prohibited or roads are only allowed for restoration purposes. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 9,600 acres under the Wild Land Recreation theme, 6,500 acres under the Primitive theme and 5,200 acres under the Backcountry theme, none of which are in the CPZ.

No road construction, timber harvest or new leasable mineral activities are permitted under the Wild Land Recreation theme. Under this prescription there would be little evidence of human-caused disturbance and natural conditions and processes would be predominant. These acres would therefore maintain both their roadless and wilderness characteristics.

Timber cutting is prohibited in the Primitive theme except to maintain or restore TEPS habitat, restore ecosystem composition and function or to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire to a community or a municipal water supply system. Activities to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire are not expected to occur in this roadless area because the area is not within 1½ miles of a community, nor does it contain a municipal water supply system. No new roads can be constructed and any timber cutting activities that occur must maintain or improve at least one or more roadless characteristics. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

There are no communities or municipal water supply systems adjacent to the Backcountry portion of this roadless area, therefore no roads could be constructed to facilitate fuel reduction projects. In addition, since there are no communities or municipal water supply systems nearby, no timber harvest or associated road building would occur for the purpose of reducing the significant risk of wildland fire effects. Timber cutting could be done using existing roads or aerial systems throughout all 5,200 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. As under the Primitive theme, activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry or Primitive themes since these themes either prohibit surface occupancy or roads to access new mineral leases of any kind.

Weir–Post Office Creek #308

22,000 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Weir-Post Office Roadless Area is located in the south central part of the Clearwater National Forest in Idaho County. It can be accessed from the east via U.S. Highway 12 and is approximately 78 air miles from Missoula, Montana. It also can be accessed from the west via the same highway from Orofino, Idaho, about 100 miles away. The area is bounded on the south by U.S. Highway 12, the only paved road near the roadless area. Gravel roads border the rest of the area. The Lolo Motorway, which generally parallels the Lolo Trail, is the northern boundary. Access to the Lolo Motorway is provided by the Saddle Camp Road on the west side of the roadless area and the Squaw/Doe Creeks Road to the east. For all practical purposes, interior access is nonexistent with only two low standards, short trails.

The area consists of steep river breaklands extending from 2,800-3,000 feet along U.S. Highway 12 up to 7,000 feet along the Lolo Motorway. In addition to the two major streams, Weir Creek and Post Office Creek, numerous other smaller first- and second-order streams drain directly into the Lochsa River. A large cirque basin containing two lakes is located at the head of Post Office Creek. Almost all the area is underlain by a gray, coarse-grained quartz monzonite of the Cretaceous Idaho batholith. Isolated blocks of border zone gneiss and schist, gneiss and schists of the Wallace formation and outcrops of quartz diorite and granite occur in the area.

The lower half of the area, generally below 5,000 feet, is made up of the cedar-hemlock-pine ecosystem while the higher elevations are principally western spruce-fir forest. Large forest fires in the early 1900's had a major influence on the present vegetation. Much of the area, especially on south and west aspects, still consists of brush fields. Unburned areas and land that has regenerated are comprised of a wide variety of western redcedar and grand fir habitat types at the lower elevations and subalpine fir types at the higher elevations.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: There is little physical detracting from natural integrity and appearance. Some minor evidence of dozer use on a 1,000 acre fire near Ashpile Creek in 1960 is evident but in general, most of the burn has revegetated.

Opportunities for Experience: With limited access, use is minor except for a few anglers at Indian Post Office Lake; solitude within the area is high. Because of the rugged terrain and tree and shrub canopy over much of the area, viewing opportunities outside the area are very limited. Noise from vehicle use on U.S. 12 and logging activity along the east and west boundaries may be more evident than actual visual detracting. The relatively small size of the roadless area may be the most limiting factor from a solitude standpoint. Cross-country foot travel, big-game hunting, and lake fishing are the primary dispersed recreation available.

Special Features: The Lolo trail, which is a registered National Historic Landmark and National Historic trail, is one of the most significant features. This trail was a major travel route between the Columbia Basin and the Montana country prehistorically. Lewis and Clark traveled over sections of the trail in Journeys of 1805-06. Another famous traveler over the trail was Chief Joseph a Nez Perce Indian Chief who helped the Nez Perce during the Nez Perce War of 1877. The Trail was used to such an extent over the years that it was finally made into a road in the early 1930's. It remains as a very low-standard route used today by hunters, Forest Service employees, and others.

An approximate 1/4 mile wide corridor within an unmarked boundary of the Middle Fork-Lochsa Recreation River established under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1969 runs the full length of the roadless area north of Highway 12. This 500 acre corridor is managed under a Special River

Management Plan which emphasizes the scenic values of the river environment. A National Recreation Trail is also located within the corridor at Colgate Warm Springs salt lick.

Manageability: The relatively small size of the Weir-Post Office Roadless Area would have some effect on wilderness attributes. Disturbance from the noise of traffic on Highway 12 and from logging activity along the east and west boundaries could interfere with the feeling of solitude. Shape is not a factor since the area is almost square. Except for some deviations, the roads surrounding 90 percent of the area serve as logical boundaries of any recommended wilderness. The area is compact, extending about eight miles east to west and four and one-half miles north to south. There is no private land. Boundary modifications to exclude the high to moderate timber values would leave the remainder unsuitable for wilderness.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Chinook summer salmon, inland redband trout, pacific lamprey, westslope cutthroat trout, bull trout, and steelhead habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Elk, deer, bears, and moose are the most common big game animals. Rocky Mountain goats were mentioned by Lewis and Clark in their Journals, and some still exist in the area near the upper end of the drainages. Gray wolf, wolverine, fisher, Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Wildlife, principally elk, are the primary attractions for big-game hunters. Limited fishing occurs at Indian Post Office Lake. Weir Creek Hot Springs near the mouth of Weir Creek is used by bathers on a limited basis. Most other use is associated with the historic Lolo Motorway and Lolo Trail, and sites within the Lochsa Recreation River such as Colgate Hot Springs and Jerry Johnson Campground. An unusual rock formation known as the Devils Chair (located along the Lolo Motorway) is an attraction of local interest.

Timber: The Weir-Post Office area has 19,900 acres of land suitable for timber production. An estimated 298 million board feet of timber is distributed throughout the area but is denser at the lower elevations.

Minerals and Energy: Overall potential for minerals is low, and known mineral resources are limited. Columbium is found in the eastern portion. The several small hot springs located there are not extensive enough to provide geothermal power generation. This roadless area contains 22,100 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Heritage: In addition to the historic trails and associated sites, eight historic sites have been located. They include three Forest Service lookouts, two trapper cabins, an old road crew camp, a Euro-American grave, and a hunter camp. Given the rugged terrain and the lack of exploitable resources, the area has experienced only limited historic use.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Weir-Post Office Creek Roadless Area.

Table Weir-Post Office Creek-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Weir-Post Office Creek-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Weir–Post Office Creek-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Weir–Post Office Creek Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0	0
Similar to Backcountry	22,000	0	0	0
Backcountry	0	6,600	19,600	19,600
GFRG	0	14,900	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	1,900	1,900
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	500*	500*	500*
Total Acres	22,000	22,000	22,000	22,000

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the Weir–Post Office Creek Roadless Area is WSR For further information on this designation, see the Clearwater National Forest LRMP.

Table Weir–Post Office Creek-2. Potential activities

Weir–Post Office Creek Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	21,500	19,600	0
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	22,000	21,500	21,500	21,500
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	22,000	21,500	21,500	19,600
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	21,500	21,500	0
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	21,500	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	22,000	21,500	19,600	19,600

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 1,800 acres would be managed under prescription C4 (big game winter range/timber management), 14,900 acres under prescription E1 (timber management), and 4,800 acres under prescription US (unsuitable land).

The 4,800 acres under prescription US have been identified as unsuitable for commercial timber production. However, timber harvest and associated road building are still permitted as a tool to improve wildlife habitat, restore ecosystem structure and function or reduce the risk of wildfire. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. For the 16,700 acres under prescriptions C4 and E1, roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production

purposes. Any timber activities and road building that occur under this prescription could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or associated road building under the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Weir-Post Office Creek Roadless Area. No phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals. The area does contain 22,000 acres of medium geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the proposed Idaho Rule around 1,900 acres under the SAHTS theme and 19,600 acres under the Backcountry theme.

For the 1,900 acres under the SAHTS theme no road construction would be expected because it would be prohibited except in cases of reserved and outstanding rights. Timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildfire risk to communities would be permitted, but little to no timber cutting would be anticipated because roads could not be constructed.

For the acres under the Backcountry theme timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildfire risk to communities would be permitted. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry or SAHTS theme since either surface occupancy is prohibited or roads are only allowed for restoration purposes. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 1,900 acres under the SAHTS theme and 19,600 acres under the Backcountry theme, none of which are in the CPZ. Timber cutting is prohibited in the SAHTS theme except to maintain or restore TEPS habitat, restore ecosystem composition and function or to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire to a community or a municipal water supply system. Activities to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire are not expected to occur in this roadless area because the area is not within 1 ½ miles of a community, nor does it contain a municipal water supply system. No new roads can be constructed and any timber cutting activities that occur must maintain or improve at least one or more roadless characteristics. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

There are no communities or municipal water supply systems adjacent to the Backcountry portion of this roadless area, therefore no roads could be constructed to facilitate fuel reduction projects. In addition, since there are no communities or municipal water supply systems nearby, no timber harvest or associated road building would occur for the purpose of reducing the significant risk of wildland fire effects. Timber cutting could be done using existing roads or aerial systems throughout all 19,600 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. As under the SAHTS theme, activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry or SAHTS themes since these themes either prohibit surface occupancy or roads to access new mineral leases of any kind.

Beetop #130**12,400 Acres****OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION**

The Beetop Roadless Area is located 12 miles east of Sandpoint, Idaho, and 5 miles north of where the Clark Fork River enters into Lake Pend Oreille. It is within the Cabinet Mountain Range between Hope and Clark Fork, Idaho, in Bonners County on the Sandpoint Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. The area is accessible by several trails originating from well maintained gravel roads or from a paved road.

The area is rectangular in shape, averaging 5 miles long and 3 miles wide. The most prominent mountain peak is Beetop Mountain (elevation 6,060 feet). The lowest elevation is in the southernmost portion, which is 2,400 feet. This area includes one primary ridge which has been shaped by continental and alpine glaciation. The headwaters of numerous small streams are included within the area. Porcupine and Still Lakes are within this area.

The vegetation in this area is primarily high alpine forest type with interspersed rocky and grassy openings near the ridgetops. Forest types range from mixed conifer stands common to northern Idaho in the lower elevations to alpine fir, lodgepole pine, and an occasional whitebark pine and mountain hemlock in the higher elevations. Occasional beargrass meadows are also present.

Roundtop Trail 120 follows the entire length of the roadless area and offers splendid views of the forested slopes and beargrass meadows. Backdrops of Lake Pend Oreille to the southwest and the Scotchman Peak area to the east also add to the scenic quality. The portion of the area facing Lake Pend Oreille has high aesthetic value from the Lake Pend Oreille recreational boating public. Activities other than hiking include fishing at Porcupine Lake, berry picking, and hunting. Wildlife species of most interest to visitors include elk, moose, black bear, grizzly bear, whitetail deer, mule deer, mountain goat, and grouse.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Impacts from human activity in this area have been relatively minor. In the past, some hardrock mining exploration occurred, but evidence of these diggings has been reduced substantially by weathering processes. Trails which are not maintained quickly become overgrown with trees and shrubs. Porcupine Lake, which is adjacent to the north boundary of this roadless area, receives substantial recreational use which has taken away from the natural integrity of this specific site. Since most of the area includes high mountain ridges overlooking the populated valley to the southwest, individuals visiting can generally view human activities. Logging and road development can also be viewed from much of the periphery of this area.

Undeveloped Character: The area itself is natural in appearance; views of activities outside the area appear unnatural.

Opportunities for Experience: The Beetop Roadless Area possesses the opportunity for solitude. The topography is not unique to northern Idaho. It does possess diversity in vegetation because of the substantial differences in elevation. Distant viewing into the Cabinet Mountain Range to the east provides for unique views of high alpine, rugged, mountainous terrain.

The southwest boundary is only 2-1/2 miles from State Highway 200 and the shores of Pend Oreille Lake. The southeast boundary comes within 1/4 mile of Lightning Creek Road, which is a heavily used system road on the Sandpoint District. The southwest boundary adjoins private lands along its entire length, with one 90-acre tract included within the present roadless boundary. The north boundary generally falls adjacent to existing roads built for timber harvest activities. Sounds from recreational activities have the potential of penetrating throughout this roadless area. Also, man's activities can be viewed from most areas within this roadless area.

This area offers moderate challenge to the visitor because of its size and lack of topographic diversity. Streams do not support catchable size fish. Porcupine Lake is a popular fishing area, but the trails and campsites around it show signs of over-use. Although big game species frequent the area, it is not noted for an abundance of wildlife.

Special Features: Most of this roadless area was burned by the early 1900 fires. The result of this burn was a uniform coniferous forest which is approximately 100 years old. An occasional old-growth tree which survived these fires can be seen protruding above the primary forest canopy. There are also some pockets of old growth which apparently escaped the fire and are scattered throughout this roadless area. This area contains many steep, rocky side slopes. It is considered by the locals as quite rugged terrain and is more typical of the Scotchman Peak area than the terrain to the north of this roadless area.

Manageability: Boundaries are not well defined by major terrain or other recognized features. Private lands dictated the location of the entire south boundary. Other boundaries had to contour the slope in a random manner in order to exclude existing roads and harvest areas. Only the interior core is fairly remote and free of most external influences. The adjoining private lands are high value due to their proximity to Pend Oreille Lake, State Highway 200, and the population centers of Clark Fork and East Hope. Much of this private land is already subdivided.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Porcupine Lake and a few of the larger creeks have catchable populations of trout. Bull trout habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Wildlife inhabitants include elk, moose, black bear, grizzly bear, whitetail deer, mule deer, mountain goat, and grouse. Elk winter range and grizzly bear habitat are present within this area. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Water: This roadless area contains 12,400 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

Botanical: Braun's sword-fern (*Polystichum braunii*) a sensitive plant species occurs in this roadless area.

Recreation: Current recreational uses within this area include hiking, camping, and fishing. Roundtop Trail 120 is a popular hiking trail with scenic views of Lake Pend Oreille and the Scotchman Peak area. Dispersed camping sites and a vault toilet are located at Porcupine Lake, a popular canoeing and fishing area. Local residents also enjoy hunting opportunities.

Timber: Approximately 70 percent of the area within this roadless area is considered unsuitable for timber harvest because of poor growing sites and the inability to reforest these areas. Access to many of the suitable acres is considered very difficult due to the steep, rocky terrain and limited existing right-of-way easements across private land. Viewing constraints from Lake Pend Oreille make it difficult to place roads which will meet visual management constraints. There are timber harvest opportunities around the entire perimeter of this roadless area.

Range: Domestic sheep have grazed this area in past years. At this time, there are no, cattle or sheep using the Beetop area. This situation will probably not change.

Minerals and Energy: There has been no detailed inventory of mineral potential within this roadless area. The potential is estimated to be medium to high. The Auxor Mine, a hard rock mine located in the headwaters of Wellington Creek, has operated in the recent past. This area contains 18 unpatented mining claims and is part of the Clark Fork Mining District. The potential for economic development is moderate. Oil and gas potential is low due to lack of information. All of the area is covered by lease applications. This roadless area contains 12,400 acres of low geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: An 80-acre private tract lies within the unit boundary along the southern edge. Boundary adjustment to exclude the private land is possible. It is doubtful that conflict with private land development could be avoided by purchase or trade from the private sector.

Roads and Trails: Trail 120 is a popular hiking trail and provides numerous opportunities to experience scenic views of the surrounding areas. Pend Oreille Lake and the Cabinet Mountain Range make up the most unique scenic viewsheds. Trail 120 is currently being used by backpackers and horseback riders. Four other trails branch off from Trail 120 and access the periphery of the roadless area. Three of these trails have trailheads on private land with no Forest Service right-of-way access. At this time, Trail 120 has no Forest Service right-of-way access where it enters this roadless area in the Spring Creek drainage.

Heritage: This area has had no archeological review.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Beetop Roadless Area.

Table Beetop-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Beetop-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Beetop-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Beetop Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule	
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0	
Primitive	0	10,100	0	0	
Similar to Backcountry	12,400	0	0	0	
Backcountry	0	2,300	12,400	CPZ	7,900
				NonCPZ	4,500
GFRG	0	0	0	0	
SAHTS	0	0	0	0	
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0	0	
Total Acres	12,400	12,400	12,400	12,400	

Table Beetop-2. Potential activities

Beetop Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	2,300	12,400	7,900*
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	12,400	12,400	12,400	12,400
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	12,400	12,400	12,400	12,400
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	12,400	12,400	7,900*
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	12,400	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	12,400	12,400	12,400	12,400

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 4,500 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ to facilitate hazardous fuels removal, but only if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system.

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 1,600 acres are managed under prescription 2 (timber production/grizzly bear habitat), 400 acres under prescription 3 (timber production/grizzly bear habitat/big game winter range), 300 acres under prescription 9 (non-forest) and 10,100 acres under prescription 10 (semi-primitive recreation).

No regulated timber harvest is permitted under prescription 10, and roads can only be constructed if they improve semi-primitive recreation opportunities. As such, little to no timber harvest or associated road building is expected for the 10,100 acres under this prescription. Timber activities in the 300 acres under prescription 9 are limited to salvage and firewood removal that can occur from existing access roads. Roads may be constructed across prescription 9 to reach other destinations. These areas have scattered tree cover, so little to no timber harvest is expected.

Timber harvest and road building to access the timber harvest is allowed under prescriptions 2 and 3 if these activities improve or maintain habitat for the grizzly bear and/or big game winter range. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would have a dual objective of habitat improvement, the impact to roadless characteristics would be limited. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still have a dual objective of habitat improvement.

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Beetop Roadless Area. However, the area has little to no potential for phosphate mining, oil and gas, or geothermal activities, so no new mineral leases are expected in the future.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 12,400 acres would be available for limited timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 12,400 acres under the Backcountry theme, 7,900 of which are in the CPZ.

Within the 7,900 Backcountry acres that are within the CPZ, timber cutting for hazardous fuel removal would be allowed, and temporary roads could be constructed to facilitate timber harvest if the activity cannot be reasonably accomplished without a temporary road. Temporary road construction would likely change roadless characteristics in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber cutting activities would be designed for fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would likely be maintained or enhanced over the long term.

For the 4,500 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ, timber cutting and temporary road construction to facilitate timber harvest could be allowed to reduce hazardous fuels if it is determined that there is a

significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system. Since additional conditions would be required, it is likely that temporary road construction for this purpose would be infrequent.

Timber cutting from existing roads, including those constructed for fuel reduction projects, or using aerial systems could be done throughout all 12,400 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since road construction is not permitted to access new mineral leases.

Big Creek #143

76,300 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Big Creek Roadless Area is located 26 air miles east of St. Maries, and four miles south of Wallace, Idaho. The area is in Shoshone County on the St. Joe Ranger District and Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. Approximately 1,480 acres of small private ownerships, 320 acres of State of Idaho ownership, and 2,160 acres administered by the Bureau of Land Management are included. These lands are concentrated on the western end of the roadless area. Several of the low standard roads constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps or mining interests and a series of maintained trails provide access within the roadless area.

This irregularly-shaped area is characterized by narrow drainages separated by high, steep ridges. Prominent peaks include Bad Tom Mountain, Lemonade Peak, Spooky Butte, Mastodon Mountain, Foolhen Mountain and Elsie Peak. Topography is steep and dissected by numerous small drainages with elevations ranging from 2,400 feet on Big and Slate Creeks to over 6,000 feet on the St. Joe-Coeur d'Alene Divide. With the exception of two small areas which drain northward into the Coeur d'Alene River system, the majority of the roadless area flows in a southerly direction via Big Creek, Slate Creek, and their tributaries into the St. Joe River. Numerous bedrock outcrops are typical, especially in the lower reaches of the major streams.

In 1910, fire consumed nearly the entire roadless area, with much of the area reburning between 1919 and 1929. The present vegetative pattern reflects this past fire history as exhibited by extensive brushfields on the southern aspects and seedling/sapling stands on the more cool northerly aspects. Remnants of plantations of ponderosa pine, eastern and western white pine, and spruce which followed the 1910 fire and escaped subsequent reburns also exist throughout the roadless area. Small patches of old-growth timber remain, with the largest concentration in the southeastern corner. Habitat-types vary with the Douglas-fir and grand fir occupying the drier and western hemlock and cedar the more moist lower sites, grading at higher elevations into the mountain hemlock or alpine fir series.

The two primary uses of the Big Creek Roadless Area revolve around big game hunting and fishing. Both Big Creek and Slate Creek support important recreational fisheries. Big Creek is a significant migratory spawning stream for the St. Joe River and Coeur d'Alene Lake.

Pleasure driving with motorbikes, four-wheel drive vehicles, and off-road vehicles has increased on the several trails and roads within the roadless area. Other common uses of the area include hiking/backpacking, horseback riding, and snowmobiling. The area is accessible from a large number of points from both poor quality roads and paved roads. Low standard roads access Mastodon Mountain, Cemetery Ridge, and Spooky Butte.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Developments in the area include cabins, adits, drifts, tailings, and other signs of mining activity; remnants of several lookouts, including Lemonade Peak, Mastodon Mountain, Bad Tom Mountain, Hill 36, Cemetery Ridge, and Elsie Peak; and a number of roads and trails. Salvage logging occurred through most of the roadless area following the 1910 fire, with several dams, chutes, and fumes in the Slate Creek drainage. The Big Creek Roadless Area was railroad logged following the 1910 fire. Attempts were made to reforest the area, but these plantations were destroyed by subsequent fires in the 1920s.

Undeveloped Character: Timber harvest areas and associated roads outside the roadless area are visible from some of the prominent peaks and ridges within the area. Past mining activities, cabins, and roads are obvious within the immediate vicinity of the developments and, in some instances, from a distance. Evidences of old railroad grades and early logging activities are essentially unnoticeable.

Opportunities for Experience: The Big Creek Roadless Area is approximately 76,300 acres in size. The area is 10.4 miles long north to south and 16 miles across. Topography and vegetation provide screening which separates users from one another in short distances over most of the area. Dense, continuous brushfields tend to concentrate use along the bottoms of major drainages. Noise from vehicles on roads which intrude into the area is obvious to non-motorized users. Sounds from logging activities outside the area can sometimes be heard from within the area. There are no developed recreation facilities within the area except for approximately 120 miles of trails. The area provides the opportunity to participate in such activities as fishing, hunting, hiking, motorcycling, horseback riding, and camping.

Special Features: During the 1910 fires, 18 people perished on the West Fork of Big Creek in Deadman Gulch. Another 10 died on the Middle Fork near Bronson Meadows. Cultural sites related to these events may exist within this roadless area. The Big Creek National Recreational Trail System is located within the area. The system includes approximately 41 miles of trail. Trail 304 and Trail 30, which form a loop from Slate Creek to Mastodon Mountain and back to Slate Creek via Prospect Creek, has been designed and reconstructed as an off-road vehicle trail for motorized use. The off-road vehicle trail is approximately nine miles in length.

Manageability: The eastern boundary of the area is generally defined by Forest Road 225 which follows the Slate Creek drainage to the St. Joe-Coeur d'Alene Divide. Approximately 60 percent of the northern boundary follows the St. Joe-Coeur d'Alene Divide. These portions of the area are generally well defined. Boundaries of the remainder of the roadless area are located to avoid development activities or on property lines and are difficult to identify or locate on the ground in a manner that is readily apparent to the forest user.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Cutthroat trout are found in most streams in the area. Big Creek and Slate Creek are important spawning streams for Lake Coeur d'Alene and the St. Joe River. Cutthroat trout are found in most streams in the area. Big Creek and Slate Creek are important spawning streams for Lake Coeur d'Alene and the St. Joe River. There are no threatened or endangered species occupying the area.

Wildlife: Wildlife inhabitants include elk, black bear, and whitetail and mule deer, as well as a variety of small and non-game species. The area provides important elk summer and winter range as well as security area because of generally poor access. There are no threatened or endangered species occupying the area. Region 1 sensitive species Fisher, Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Water: This roadless area contains 4,800 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

Botanical: Constance's bittercress (*Cardamine constancei*) a sensitive plant species occurs in this roadless area.

Recreation: Current recreation use in the area includes hiking, horseback and motorcycle riding, fishing, hunting, sightseeing, and berry picking from the various trails and roads which access the area. The Big Creek National Recreation Trail System is located in the western half of the unit. Big Creek, East Fork Big Creek, and Slate Creek are important recreational fisheries. The area receives considerable use by hunters during the fall elk and deer hunting seasons and during the spring bear hunting season.

Timber: Approximately 60,000 acres of the area are estimated as tentatively suitable for timber production. Much of the area was burned over by wildfires in 1910, 1919, and 1929. As a result, much of the area is dominated by brushfields.

Range: Cattle or sheep have not used the Big Creek area in recent years.

Minerals and Energy: Mineral potential is categorized as low for hardrock minerals, oil, and gas. However, there has been minerals-related activity at various locations within the area in the past. Bedrock geology of this area contains argillites and quartzites of the Revett, St. Regis, Wallace, and

Striped Peak formations. These are metasediments of the Precambrian Age Belt rocks. Numerous northwest-trending faults and associated cross faults are present. This area lies directly south of and adjoins the Silver Belt, which includes the Crescent, Sunshine, Silver Summit, Coeur, and Galena Mines. These mines have been and are the most prolific silver producers in the world. This roadless area contains 43,600 acres of medium and 32,800 acres of low geothermal potential.

Disturbances: Although large fires have occurred in the area in the past, the number and size of fires occurring annually is low.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Big Creek Roadless Area.

Table Big Creek-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Big Creek-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Big Creek-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Big Creek Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule	
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0	
Primitive	0	43,600	0	0	
Similar to Backcountry	76,300	0	0	0	
Backcountry	0	19,000	76,300	CPZ	3,800
				NonCPZ	72,500
GFRG	0	13,700	0	0	
SAHTS	0	0	0	0	
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0	0	
Total Acres	76,300	76,300	76,300	76,300	

Table Big Creek-2. Potential activities

Big Creek Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	32,700	76,300	3,800*
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	76,300	76,300	76,300	76,300
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	76,300	76,300	76,300	76,300
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	76,300	76,300	3,800*
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	76,300	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	76,300	76,300	76,300	76,300

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 72,500 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ to facilitate hazardous fuels removal, but only if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system.

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without road access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 13,700 acres are managed under prescription 1 (timber production), 1,400 acres under prescription 4 (timber production/big game winter range), 1,000 acres under prescription 5 (big game winter range), 9,300 acres under prescription 6 (timber production/elk summer range), 7,300 acres under prescription 9 (non-forest), and 43,600 acres under prescription 20 (unroaded semi-primitive/limited timber).

Limited timber harvest is permitted under prescription 20, but no new roads can be constructed, so little to no activity is expected on the 43,700 acres under this prescription. Timber activities in the 7,300 acres under prescription 9 are limited to salvage and firewood removal that can occur from existing access roads. Roads may be constructed across prescription 9 to reach other destinations. These areas have scattered tree cover, so little to no timber harvest is expected.

Timber harvest and road building to access the timber harvest is allowed under prescriptions 4, 5 and 6 (11,700 acres) if these activities improve or maintain habitat for big game winter range and/or elk summer range. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would have a dual objective of habitat improvement, the impact to roadless characteristics would be limited. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still have a dual objective of habitat improvement.

For the 13,700 acres under prescription 1, roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Any timber activities and road building that occur under this prescription could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Big Creek Roadless Area. No phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals. The area does contain 43,600 acres of medium geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 76,300 acres would be available for limited timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 76,300 acres under the Backcountry theme, 3,800 of which are in the CPZ.

Within the 3,800 Backcountry acres that are within the CPZ, timber cutting for hazardous fuel removal would be allowed, and temporary roads could be constructed to facilitate timber harvest if the activity cannot be reasonably accomplished without a temporary road. Temporary road construction would

likely change roadless characteristics in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber cutting activities would be designed for fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would likely be maintained or enhanced over the long term.

For the 72,500 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ, timber cutting and temporary road construction to facilitate timber harvest could be allowed to reduce hazardous fuels if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system. Since additional conditions would be required, it is likely that temporary road construction for this purpose would be infrequent.

Timber cutting from existing roads, including those constructed for fuel reduction projects, or using aerial systems could be done throughout all 76,300 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since road construction is not permitted to access new mineral leases.

Blacktail Mountain #122

5,000 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Blacktail Mountain Roadless Area is located in Bonner County, Idaho, on the northwest side of Priest Lake. It is located entirely on the Priest Lake Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. The area is accessed on the east by Forest Road 237, a paved road which forms the boundary of the area. The north is accessed by Forest Road 1341, the south by Forest Road 638. Both are native-surfaced roads.

This oval-shaped area faces, and is visible from, Priest Lake; the eastern boundary lies within 1/4 mile of the lake's shoreline. The area is steep mountainous timberland, with one portion in the northwest characterized by a very steep slope highly dissected with drainages in unstable soils. Elevations range from 2,600 feet near the lakeshore to 5,495 feet at the top of Blacktail Mountain. Drainages within the area include Bottle Creek, Tepee Creek, and tributaries of Beaver Creek and Tango Creek.

Vegetative cover is composed of mixed cedar, hemlock, Douglas-fir, grand fir, larch, and white pine. Habitat types are those most typically found elsewhere on the Priest Lake District--cedar or hemlock/pachistima. In addition, there is a virgin white pine plant community in the Tepee Creek area and a sphagnum bog in the Bottle Lake area.

There are two Research Natural Areas within the boundary. The Tepee Creek Research Natural Area encompasses the virgin white pine community, while the Bottle Lake Research Natural Area includes Bottle Lake and its unique wetland plant community. Other uses include light amounts of hiking, backpacking, hunting, and scenery viewing. Black Mountain Trail 292, which receives light annual maintenance, provides access for these activities. There are no concentrated areas of use. The area is visible from Priest Lake, a heavy recreational use area. In addition, timber harvest activities outside the roadless area may be visible and audible from within the boundary. The northwest third of the area possesses a moderate mineral potential, although there are no active mining operations.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The impact from human activity is minimal and has related primarily to foot travel. There were some mining claims in the past, but there was little activity.

Undeveloped Character: A visitor to the area would feel that he or she is in a natural area away from ordinary human activities and development. Signs of human activity are visible as background only from the higher elevations of the area. Timber harvest areas and Forest roads are the primary activities visible outside the area. Plant communities in the area include old-growth white pine, cedar, and hemlock stands (Tepee Creek Research Natural Area), and a sphagnum bog and lake (Bottle Lake Research Natural Area). Several minor stream tributaries of Beaver Creek and Tango Creek flow in the area. The headwaters of Tepee Creek and Bottle Creek originate in the area.

Opportunities for Experience: The area varies from 2-1/2 to 4 miles wide and 1 to 2-1/2 miles north to south. It offers opportunities for solitude because of the differences in topography (2,800 to 5,400 feet in elevation) and vegetation. Other than the existing foot trail, there are no areas of concentrated public use.

The area offers opportunity for hiking, backpacking, big and small game hunting, and scenery viewing. The varied topography offers physical challenges related to mountainous terrain. Trails in the area receive low use. Blacktail Mountain Trail 292 receives sporadic maintenance. Day hikes comprise the majority of use within this area.

Special Features: The area has two Research Natural Areas that cover 800 acres: Bottle Lake and Tepee Creek. The Tepee Creek Research Natural Area, classified in 1935, was reserved for the old-growth stands of white pine, cedar, and hemlock. The trees have been determined to be over 300 years old. The Bottle Lake Research Natural Area, adjacent to the Tepee Creek Research Natural Area, was classified in

1982. Open waters, muskeg islands, and a wet muskeg bog allow for the study of a unique aquatic environment.

Manageability: The eastern boundaries are easily defined, as they follow forest roads. The northwest, west, and southern boundaries follow minor ridges and topographic features and would be difficult to establish on the ground.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Bull trout habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: The gray wolf and grizzly bear occur in this roadless area. Most of the game and non-game animals common to northern Idaho are found in this area. Unusual species potentially present include bobcat, lynx, fisher, northern bog lemming, and wolverine. The three-toed woodpecker, common loon, Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat also are found here.

Botanical: Deer-fern (*Blechnum spicant*), creeping snowberry (*Gaultheria hispidula*), Northern bog clubmoss (*Lycopodiella inundata*), pod grass (*Scheuchzeria palustris*), water clubrush (*Schoenoplectus subterminalis*), and bog cranberry (*Vaccinium oxycoccos*) all sensitive plant species occur in this roadless area.

Recreation: Current recreation use is primarily hiking along Trail 324.

Timber: The area contains approximately 3,300 acres considered suitable for timber management.

Minerals and Energy: Uranium is the mineral of principal interest, but recent geologic models indicate a potential for porphyry-type deposits. Thirty-three percent of this area has moderate mineral potential; the rest has low potential. The moderate potential is located in the northwest part of the study area. There are no lease applications for oil and gas in the area and the potential is low. This roadless area contains 400 acres of medium and 4,600 of low geothermal potential.

Disturbances: The number of recent fires has been small; however, the area has a past history of periodic large natural fires.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Blacktail Mountain #122 Roadless Area. Table Blacktail Mountain#122-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Blacktail Mountain#122-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Blacktail Mountain #122-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Blacktail Mountain #122 Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule	
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0	
Primitive	0	0	0	0	
Similar to Backcountry	5,000	0	0	0	
Backcountry	0	1,300	4,200	CPZ	500
				NonCPZ	3,700
GFRG	0	2,900	0	0	
SAHTS	0	0	0	0	
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	800*	800*	800*	
Total Acres	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the Blacktail Mountain #122 Roadless Area is RNA. For further information on this designation, see the Idaho Panhandle National Forest LRMP.

Table Blacktail Mountain #122-2. Potential activities

Blacktail Mountain #122 Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	5,500	4,200	500*
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	5,000	4,200	4,200	4,200
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	5,000	4,200	4,200	4,200
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	4,200	4,200	500*
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	4,200	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	5,000	4,200	4,200	4,200

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 3,700 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ to facilitate hazardous fuels removal, but only if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system.

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 2,900 acres are managed under prescription 1 (timber production), 200 acres under prescription 4 (timber production/big game winter range), and 1,100 acres under prescription 9 (non-forest).

Timber activities in the 1,100 acres under prescription 9 are limited to salvage and firewood removal that can occur from existing access roads. Roads may be constructed across prescription 9 to reach other destinations. These areas have scattered tree cover, so little to no timber harvest is expected.

Timber harvest and road building to access the timber harvest is allowed under prescription 4 (200 acres) if these activities improve or maintain habitat for big game winter range. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would have a dual objective of habitat improvement, the impact to roadless characteristics would be limited. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still have a dual objective of habitat improvement.

For the 2,900 acres under prescription 1, roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Any timber activities and road building that occur under this prescription could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Blacktail Mountain #122 Roadless Area. No phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals. The area does contain 400 acres of medium geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 4,200 acres would be available for limited timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities.

If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 4,200 acres under the Backcountry theme, 500 of which are in the CPZ.

Within the 500 Backcountry acres that are within the CPZ, timber cutting for hazardous fuel removal would be allowed, and temporary roads could be constructed to facilitate timber harvest if the activity cannot be reasonably accomplished without a temporary road. Temporary road construction would likely change roadless characteristics in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber cutting activities would be designed for fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would likely be maintained or enhanced over the long term.

For the 3,700 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ, timber cutting and temporary road construction to facilitate timber harvest could be allowed to reduce hazardous fuels if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system. Since additional conditions would be required, it is likely that temporary road construction for this purpose would be infrequent.

Timber cutting from existing roads, including those constructed for fuel reduction projects, or using aerial systems could be done throughout all 4,200 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since road construction is not permitted to access new mineral leases.

Blacktail Mountain #161

4,800 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Blacktail Mountain #161 Roadless Area is located eight miles south of Sandpoint, Idaho, and two miles east of Cocolalla Lake. The area is adjacent to Lake Pend Oreille, within Bonner County, and on the Sandpoint Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. The area is easily accessible from all sides away from the lake and is within reasonable walking distance of maintained County roads.

The area is approximately 3 miles long and 2 miles wide; 2-1/2 miles of the boundary follow along the Pend Oreille Lake shoreline. A small mountainous range is encompassed within this area. The two focal points of this small mountainous range are Butte Mountain and Blacktail Mountain. Steep cliffs face into the western shore of Lake Pend Oreille. A small wetland, Maiden Rock Lake, and Maiden Creek are the only aquatic habitats in this roadless area. Over 50 percent of the boundary of this area is bordered by private lands.

Almost the entire area is timbered, with stands averaging 100 years old. Forest types include mixed conifer stands common to the lower elevations in northern Idaho. Timber productivity is considered good to excellent. Natural openings occur on scattered areas with shallow soils and an occasional old-growth tree can be seen protruding above the primary forest canopy. Red alder, a remnant of ancient times, can be found along the lakeshore.

Forest Service Trail 117, the Bimetric Trail, is the only system trail within this roadless area. Scenic views of Lake Pend Oreille and rural settings to the north and west can be experienced along the trail. This trail is currently being used by backpackers, horseback riders, and motorbike riders. Because of the relatively open timber stands and low brush understory, cross-country travel is relatively easy throughout the area. Boat access, camping, and picnicking sites which are maintained by the Forest Service are located at Maiden Rock and Evans landing. This area is a popular hunting area for local residents.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: There is considerable impact from human activity in this area. Mineral potential for the area is very high; therefore, evidence of past exploration work is scattered throughout the roadless area. The area is easily accessible from all sides away from the lake and is relatively close to a rural population. It is within reasonable walking distance of maintained County roads; therefore, winter access is considered relatively easy. Foot trails, litter, mineral exploration holes, and tree stumps are evidence of the presence of man.

Undeveloped Character: The area is small and the topography such that people visiting the area feel they are not in a natural area away from ordinary human activities and development. Evidence within this roadless area indicates man's presence can be found throughout most of the area. Boats on Pend Oreille Lake can be seen from much of the area. Evidence of timber harvesting is easily seen; also, the rural housing development within the flatter lands along Highway 95 is a common backdrop setting viewed from the northern half of this roadless area.

Opportunities for Experience: The Talache area possesses very limited opportunities for solitude because of its size, shape, and location with respect to developed lands. It is less than two miles east of Highway 95. Over 50 percent of its current boundary is bordered by private lands. Many of these private lands are being subdivided for housing developments. This roadless area's location in relation to a rural setting and adjacent to a high-use recreational lake does not allow the visitor the opportunity to find areas which have solitude. Sounds from logging, boating, and other domestic activities have the potential of penetrating throughout this roadless area.

This area offers only limited challenge to the visitor because of its small size and gentle topography. Main Creek is the largest stream and it has no fishery values. Bimetric Trail 117 is a popular hiking trail which

provides opportunities to experience scenic views of Pend Oreille Lake and rural settings to the north and west. This trail is currently being used by backpackers, horseback riders, and motorbike riders. Because of the relatively open grown timber stands and low brush in the understory, cross-country travel off trails is relatively easy. This area is a popular hunting area for local residents.

Special Features: Almost the entire area was burned by fires in the early 1900s. The result of these burns was a uniform coniferous forest which is approximately 100 years old. An occasional old-growth tree which survived these fires can be seen protruding above the primary forest canopy. The lakeshore beaches within this area are popular recreational sites for the boating public. The Maiden Rock Cliffs are known as a landmark along Pend Oreille Lake. Red alder, a remnant of ancient times, can be found along the lakeshore within this roadless area.

Manageability: The boundaries are not well defined on major terrain or other recognized features. The location of the boundaries on recognizable features would further reduce the size of this roadless area. There are no private landholdings within this roadless area boundary. Because of private landholdings immediately adjacent to much of this area it would be difficult to adjust boundaries for the purpose of improving wilderness characteristics. Adjustment of boundaries to increase size would require inclusion of lands which have been modified by man's activities.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The roadless area has no large streams with fisheries value.

Wildlife: Townsend's big eared bat occurs in this roadless area. Wildlife inhabitants include black bear, whitetail deer, mule deer, a few elk, and grouse. Osprey nest near the lake and a portion of this area may be habitat for the bald eagle. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Water: This roadless area contains 4,800 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

Botanical: Large Canadian St. Johns-wort (*Hypericum majus*) a sensitive plant species occurs in this roadless area.

Recreation: Current recreation use in the area occurs along Bimetric Trail 117 and along the shoreline of Lake Pend Oreille. Bimetric Trail 117 offers scenic views of Lake Pend Oreille and is currently being used for hiking, horseback riding, and motor biking. Boat access, camping, and picnicking sites which are maintained by the Forest Service are located at Maiden Rock and Evans landing. Hunting by local residents is heavy during the fall.

Timber: Almost all of the lands within this roadless area are considered suitable for timber production except for the steep face directly above the lake. Much of the area could be economically roaded to meet timber harvesting needs. Root rot diseases have been found throughout the stands in this roadless area. The visual resource as viewed from the lake would be significantly affected by intensive timber management.

Range: Cattle and sheep have not used the Talache area for many years.

Minerals and Energy: This entire roadless area is rated as having very high mineral potential. Active exploration is ongoing and many prospects are evident. The entire Revett section is exposed down the center of the roadless area. The Revett has good potential for stratabound copper-gold deposits as mined by Asarco at their Troy deposits. There are 87 mining claims in the area. Oil and gas potential is low and all of the area is under lease application. This roadless area contains 4,800 acres of low geothermal potential.

Disturbances: Although large fires have occurred in the area, the number of fires occurring annually is now low.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Blacktail Mountain #161 roadless area.

Table Blacktail Mountain #161-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Blacktail Mountain #161-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Blacktail Mountain #161-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Blacktail Mountain #161 Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule	
				CPZ	NonCPZ
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0		0
Primitive	0	0	0		0
Similar to Backcountry	4,800	0	0		0
Backcountry	0	3,700	4,800	CPZ	4,800
				NonCPZ	0
GFRG	0	1,100	0		0
SAHTS	0	0	0		0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0		0
Total Acres	4,800	4,800	4,800		4,800

Table Blacktail Mountain #161-2. Potential activities

Blacktail Mountain #161 Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	4,800	4,800	4,800
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	4,800	4,800	4,800	4,800
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	4,800	4,800	4,800	4,800
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	4,800	4,800	4,800
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	4,800	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	4,800	4,800	4,800	4,800

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 1,100 acres are managed under prescription 1 (timber production), 400 acres under prescription 4 (timber production/big game winter range), and 3,300 acres under prescription 9 (non-forest).

Timber activities in the 3,300 acres under prescription 9 are limited to salvage and firewood removal that can occur from existing access roads. Roads may be constructed across prescription 9 to reach other destinations. These areas have scattered tree cover, so little to no timber harvest is expected.

Timber harvest and road building to access the timber harvest is allowed under prescription 4 if these activities improve or maintain habitat for big game winter range. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would have a dual objective of habitat improvement, the impact to roadless characteristics would be limited. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still have a dual objective of habitat improvement.

For the 1,100 acres under prescription 1, roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Any timber activities and road building that occur under this prescription could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Blacktail Mountain #161 Roadless Area. However, the area has little to no potential for phosphate mining, oil and gas, or geothermal activities, so no new mineral leases are expected in the future.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 4,800 acres would be available for limited timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 4,800 acres under the Backcountry theme, all of which are in the CPZ.

Within the Backcountry CPZ, timber cutting for hazardous fuel removal would be allowed, and temporary roads could be constructed to facilitate timber harvest if the activity cannot be reasonably accomplished without a temporary road. Temporary road construction would likely change roadless characteristics in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber cutting activities would be designed for fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would likely be maintained or enhanced over the long term.

Timber cutting from existing roads, including those constructed for fuel reduction projects, or using aerial systems could be done to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since road construction is not permitted to access new mineral leases.

Buckhorn Ridge #661

6,700 Acres Idaho Panhandle (Idaho)

22,000 Acres Kootenai (Montana)

28,700 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Buckhorn Ridge Roadless Area is located along the Idaho-Montana border, along the divide between the Moyle and Yaak Rivers, in the northwest corner of the Forest. Part of the area (about 6,700 acres), extends into the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. The southern section is formed by Newton Ridge while the northern section is formed by the Spread Creek Road, which divides the area from the Northwest Peaks Roadless Area to the north. Access is available from several roads ending in trails off of the Yaak Road (No. 508), particularly Pine Creek, Fourth of July Creek, Meadow Creek, Hellroaring Creek, and Spread Creek.

The geography and topography are characterized by a high elevation ridgeline (6,500 feet elevation) with broad, open, grassy side slopes and timbered basins divided by spur ridges. The area includes headwater areas for Pine, Meadow, Hellroaring, Red Top and Spread Creeks of the Kootenai, and Deer Creek of the Idaho Panhandle. The area is surrounded by some developments, especially roads and clearcuts.

The ridgetop hiking experience is another of the area's attractions. The area presently receives recreation use in the form of hunting, cross country skiing, hiking, snowmobiling and nature photography. Approximately 600 recreation visitor day's annually are associated with the area.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: There are many miles of recreation trails within the Kootenai portion of the area which constitutes the only significant manmade feature affecting the natural integrity and appearance. On the Idaho Panhandle side, however, signs of past fire and subsequent grazing and salvage harvest are visible. Numerous mining remains, tailings, adits, and cabins are also present.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunities for solitude vary throughout the area. There are many places along the trails and within the ridgetop meadows where roads and clearcuts are highly visible just outside the area boundary. These developed areas receive very little use however, so the loss of solitude is primarily just the visual impacts themselves. Most of the side draws and upper spruce basins remaining in the area are well-timbered, producing good solitude. Sounds along the Deer Creek road on the Idaho Panhandle side can be heard from the ridgetops. As one of the longer stretches of open grassy ridges on the forests, the Buckhorn Ridge Roadless Area provides many opportunities for primitive recreation. It now receives use from archery and rifle hunters, hikers, skiers, snowmobiles, and photographers. The most unique challenge, Buckhorn Ridge, offers is its relatively great length in terms of hiking or skiing, hunting big game animals including bear, is also considered a challenge by many.

Special Features: Special features include grizzly bears and associated subalpine habitats. There is some historical evidence of old lookout stations on Newton and Red Top Mountains.

Manageability: The Buckhorn Ridge Roadless Area has a long boundary relative to its size, due to a long serpentine configuration. The manageability of its boundary is, therefore, less than ideal, although for the most part, the boundary consists of clearcuts and road edges which are identifiable and recognizable on the ground. There is little that could be done to improve this boundary that would not also appreciably affect the size of the roadless area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The fish resource is supported by the headwaters of Hellroaring, Spread, North Fork Meadow, South Fork Meadow, and Red Top Creeks which are all tributaries to the Yaak River which supports rainbow, cutthroat, and brook trout. Pine Creek, a brook trout stream, has numerous tributaries within

the area boundary. Hidden Lake, a cutthroat fishery, is also in this roadless area. Bull trout habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: The area contains grizzly habitat, mule deer and elk summer range, and some moose habitat. The area around Newton Ridge contains winter range. Region 1 sensitive species including the flammulated owl, Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad have habitat that overlaps this roadless area.

Water: Mean annual precipitation for the area varies between 65 and 80 inches, depending on elevation. Runoff varies between 45-65 inches, varying by elevation, with most of this amount appearing as streamflow in April-June. The water quality is rated high, even during the peak runoff periods. This roadless area contains 3,100 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: About 9,450 recreation visitor days of wilderness recreation per year could be provided. The area around Hidden Lake, in the northern part of the area, receives some snowmobile use. Current use is estimated to be 600 recreation visitor days per year.

Timber: The area contains representatives of the cedar hemlock pine forest and upper subalpine fir forest ecosystems.

Minerals and Energy: Mining claims are present on both the Kootenai and Idaho Panhandle portions of the area although the potential is rated as moderate to low. The oil and gas potential is considered low. This roadless area contains 6,700 acres of low geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no special uses or private lands within this area.

Heritage: Cultural resource potential for prehistoric sites is considered low, based on surveys done in similar areas. Known historic sites include former lookouts, Forest Service work campsites, guard station on Pine Creek, and mining adits.

Disturbances: The area has had moderate fire occurrences. The fuels situation is predominately dense conifer with downed woody materials as ground fuels on the lower slopes and light ground fuels on the upper slopes and barren ridges. Except for some patches of mature lodgepole in the upper reaches of Meadow Creek and Red Top Creek, the insect and disease situation is stable with no significant activity presently occurring.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Buckhorn Ridge Roadless Area.

Table Buckhorn Ridge-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Buckhorn Ridge-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Buckhorn Ridge-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Buckhorn Ridge Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule	
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0	
Primitive	0	0	0	0	
Similar to Backcountry	6,700	0	0	0	
Backcountry	0	6,700	6,700	CPZ	700
				NonCPZ	6,000
GFRG	0	0	0	0	
SAHTS	0	0	0	0	
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0	0	
Total Acres	6,700	6,700	6,700	6,700	

Table Buckhorn Ridge -2. Potential activities

Buckhorn Ridge Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	6,700	6,700	700*
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	6,700	6,700	6,700	6,700
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	6,700	6,700	6,700	6,700
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	6,700	6,700	700*
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	6,700	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	6,700	6,700	6,700	6,700

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 6,000 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ to facilitate hazardous fuels removal, but only if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system.

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 3,100 acres are managed under prescription 2 (timber production/grizzly bear habitat) and 3,600 acres under prescription 9 (non-forest).

Timber activities in the 3,600 acres under prescription 9 are limited to salvage and firewood removal that can occur from existing access roads. In addition, these areas have scattered tree cover, so little to no timber harvest is expected.

Timber harvest and road building to access the timber harvest is allowed under prescription 2 if these activities improve or maintain grizzly bear habitat. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would have a dual objective of habitat improvement, the impact to roadless characteristics would be limited. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber

harvest activities would still have a dual objective of habitat improvement. There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Buckhorn Ridge Roadless Area. However, no phosphate, oil and gas, or geothermal activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 6,700 acres would be available for limited timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 6,700 acres under the Backcountry theme, 700 of which are in the CPZ.

Within the 700 Backcountry acres that are within the CPZ, timber cutting for hazardous fuel removal would be allowed, and temporary roads could be constructed to facilitate timber harvest if the activity cannot be reasonably accomplished without a temporary road. Temporary road construction would likely change roadless characteristics in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber cutting activities would be designed for fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would likely be maintained or enhanced over the long term.

For the 6,000 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ, timber cutting and temporary road construction to facilitate timber harvest could be allowed to reduce hazardous fuels if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system. Since additional conditions would be required, it is likely that temporary road construction for this purpose would be infrequent.

Timber cutting from existing roads, including those constructed for fuel reduction projects, or using aerial systems be done throughout all 6,700 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since road construction is not permitted to access new mineral leases.

Continental Mountain #153

7,500 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Continental Mountain Roadless Area is located approximately 20 miles north of Nordman, Idaho, just south of the Canadian border. It lies within Boundary County and the Priest Lake and Bonners Ferry Ranger Districts of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. The northwest and south boundaries are accessed by Roads 637 and 638, while the eastern boundary parallels Road 2546. Road 2546 and the portion of Road 637 east of Continental Creek are gated to prevent motorized vehicle access due to grizzly bear habitat. Road 538 was closed following the Continental Mountain timber sale.

This somewhat oval-shaped roadless area is largely mountainous timberland dominated by the most prominent feature--Continental Mountain (elevation 6,677 feet). Elevation ranges from the high on Continental Peak to a low of about 4,200 feet at the north end of the area. Drainage is provided by Spread, Continental, Rock Bog, Lime, and Blue Joe Creeks.

The area contains subalpine vegetative components in the vicinity of the summit of Continental Mountain. Old-growth spruce, fir, and pine are common to the higher elevations, with hemlock, cedar, Douglas-fir, and pine at the lower elevations.

Use of the area is not concentrated and consists primarily of hiking, backpacking, bunting, and scenery viewing. The summit of Continental Mountain affords scenic views of the Upper Priest River drainage (a steep, glacier-carved V-Shaped valley) and the Shedroof Divide. Access to the summit is provided by Trail 119 which originates from Forest Road 2546 on the Bonners Ferry Ranger District. This trail also provides access for the other activities mentioned. The roadless area is adjacent to the once active Continental Mine and there are 15 mining claims in the roadless area. About 19 percent of the roadless area has a high mineral potential.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The impact from human activity has been related primarily to foot trails. Mining activity has occurred in the past just outside the boundary.

Opportunities for Experience: The area offers opportunities for solitude because of the differences in topography (4,400 to 6,600 feet in elevation) and vegetation. Use of the area is not concentrated in anyone area. The view from the higher elevations attracts visitors to the area. Continental Mountain is the main topographic feature in the area and is accessible only by trail. A forest road somewhat borders the western side of the area. The closest State highway is approximately 25 miles away. The area offers opportunities for hiking, backpacking, big and small game hunting, and viewing scenery. The varied topography offers physical challenge related to mountainous terrain.

A visitor to the area would feel that they are in a natural area away from ordinary human activity. Signs of human activity inside the area give the appearance of a timber harvest area. Outside the area, remnants of past mining are visible. Forest roads and timber harvest areas can be seen from higher elevations. Continental Mountain is composed, to a great extent, of rock. Continental Creek, Bog Creek, Lime Creek, and Rock Creek are the major streams flowing through the area. Several minor tributaries can also be found throughout the area. The area provides habitat for grizzly bear and caribou, both listed as threatened and endangered species.

The area is of a size that offers backpacking opportunities of 2- to 3-day duration. Day hikes are also available. Trail 119 originates off Forest Road 2546 on the Bonners Ferry District. The trail leads over Continental Mountain and terminates outside the southwest end of the area on a Forest road. From the top of Continental Mountain the visitor can look north into Canada and south down a U-shaped valley formed by glacial activity. Mountaintops complete the view from east to west. Big game hunting is popular in the area. Protected wildlife in this area is the grizzly bear and caribou.

Manageability: The western and eastern boundaries are easily defined by forest roads. The northeast portion follows topographic features, while the southeastern portion follows the boundary of the Continental Mine and would be difficult to establish on the ground.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Bull trout habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Grey wolf, grizzly bear, caribou, lynx, and wolverine occur in this roadless area. The most significant wildlife value is the critical habitat for grizzly and caribou--threatened and endangered species. Host animals found in northern Idaho are also found here.

Botanical: Lance-leaved moonwort (*Botrychium lanceolatum var. lanceolatum*) and Mingan moonwort (*Botrychium minganense*) two sensitive plant species occur in this roadless area.

Recreation: Current recreation use is very light.

Timber: The area has 2,900 acres with a standing volume of 36 million board feet of timber

Range: Neither cattle nor sheep have used the Continental Mountain area in the past. This situation will probably not change.

Minerals and Energy: This area is adjacent to the Continental Mine on the southeast side, resulting in 19 percent of the area having a high mineral potential. The Continental Mine, although now idle, has been a major producer of silver, zinc, and some gold. The property presently has some low grade ore blocked out. There are 15 mining claims in the roadless area. The remaining 81 percent has a low mineral potential. This roadless area contains 1,300 acres of medium and 6,200 of low geothermal potential.

Disturbances: Although large fires have occurred in the area, the number of fires occurring annually is low.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Continental Mountain Roadless Area.

Table Continental Mountain-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Continental Mountain-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Continental Mountain-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Continental Mountain Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0	0
Similar to Backcountry	7,500	0	0	0
Backcountry	0	7,500	7,500	7,500
GFRG	0	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0	0
Total Acres	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500

Table Continental Mountain-2. Potential activities

Continental Mountain Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	7,500	7,500	0
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	7,500	7,500	0
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	7,500	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 3,500 acres are managed under prescription 7 (caribou management) and 4,000 acres under prescription 9 (non-forest).

Timber activities in the 4,000 acres under prescription 9 are limited to salvage and firewood removal that can occur from existing access roads. In addition, these areas have scattered tree cover, so little to no timber harvest is expected.

Timber harvest and road building to access the timber harvest is allowed under prescription 7 if these activities improve or maintain caribou habitat. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would have a dual objective of habitat improvement, the impact to roadless characteristics would be limited. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still have a dual objective of habitat improvement.

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Continental Mountain Roadless Area. The area has little to no potential for phosphate mining or oil and gas activities, so no new mineral leases are expected for these minerals. The area does contain 1,300 acres of medium geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 7,500 acres would be available for limited timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The

Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 7,500 acres under the Backcountry theme, none of which are in the CPZ, nor is there any overlap with municipal water supply systems.

Since there are no communities or municipal water supply systems adjacent to the Backcountry portion of this roadless area, no roads could be constructed to facilitate fuel reduction projects. In addition, since there are no communities or municipal water supply systems nearby, no timber harvest or associated road building would occur for the purpose of reducing the significant risk of wildland fire effects. Timber cutting from existing roads, including those constructed for fuel reduction projects, or using aerial systems could be done throughout all 7,500 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since road construction is not permitted to access new mineral leases.

East Cathedral Peak #131

22,300 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The East Cathedral Peak Roadless Area is located about 38 air miles northeast of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, along the Idaho-Montana border. It is within Shoshone County on the Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. The area is accessible by dirt roads which form most of the boundary of the area.

A variety of vegetation and terrain elements characterize the area. The Coeur d'Alene River is the primary drainage; others include Deer and Alden Creeks. Attractive features include the river bottom and rock outcroppings along its course. Elevation ranges from 3,400 feet on the river to 5,400 feet on Whitetail Peak. This area is underlain by the Libby and Striped Peak formations of the Belt Supergroup. These argillites and quartzites compose the two upper members of the Belt rocks.

Large forest fires in 1910 and 1919 were major factors in vegetation development. Seral tree species, including Douglas-fir, western white pine, and western larch, dominate the landscape. Where fires did not burn, small pockets of old-growth hemlock, Douglas-fir, and grand fir are present. Mountain hemlock, subalpine fir, and lodgepole pine forests are found on north slopes and high elevation ridges. Where fires were more severe, brushfields are found, especially on south facing slopes. Plantations started in the mid-1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps are found in the East Fork of Alden Creek and Sheep Run Creek. Species include Douglas-fir and western white pine. Plantation success is varied due to brush competition and blister rust mortality in the white pine.

The area is considered a high quality hunting area and receives heavy hunting use. All major streams provide important spawning and rearing habitat as well as low access, high quality fishing. The Coeur d'Alene River is managed under special regulations by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to provide quality cutthroat trout fishing. Three main trails provide access to the area.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The impact of human activity in this area has been minor. Civilian Conservation Corps plantations established in the 1930s were accessed by horse and pack trails.

Undeveloped Character: The area is large enough and the topography such that individuals visiting the area feel they are in a natural area away from ordinary human activities and development. Some timber harvest areas and their associated roads are visible outside the roadless area from roads that form much of its boundaries.

Opportunities for Experience: The area has high opportunities for solitude based on the size of the area and variety of topography and vegetation. Approximately 15 drainages are found within this roadless area. With the size and diversity found here, human activity will not be concentrated in anyone area. Access is primarily from the south and west. From the end of the paved Coeur d'Alene River Road (208) it is about 13 miles to the southwest corner of the area. The area is within five miles of a highway on the north via dirt roads. Sounds from vehicles along peripheral roads have potential of penetrating the roadless area.

Opportunities for primitive recreation are varied and include horseback riding, hiking, fishing, hunting, and camping. The area offers a variety of vegetation and terrain, from the Coeur d'Alene River and creek bottoms, to both forested and brush covered mid-Slopes and high points on Whitetail and Beaver Peaks. The Coeur d'Alene River Trail (20) passes through the area; it is a National Recreational Trail. Other major trails go from Deer Creek to Whitetail Peak and from Alden Creek to Jordan Springs near the Montana Divide. Other primitive pack trails which are not maintained exist in the area. No other facilities are available in the area.

Special Features: The East Cathedral Roadless Area shows the results of the large fires which swept portions of northern Idaho in the early 1900s. A mosaic of brushfields, pockets of old growth, large even-aged seral stands, and scattered remnant snags attest to the power and influence of fire in this area.

Manageability: The East Cathedral Roadless Area has roads which are peripheral to the area, forming most of the boundary. Small portions have the boundary along ridgelines which are less prominent and could make on-the-ground location more difficult.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: All major streams provide important spawning and rearing habitat as well as low access, high quality fishing. The Coeur d'Alene River is managed under special regulations by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to provide quality cutthroat trout fishing. Three main trails provide access to the area. Bull trout habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Wildlife inhabitants include elk, whitetail and mule deer, black bear, cougar, moose, bobcat, marten, beaver, coyote, river otter, pileated woodpecker, grouse, various hawks and owls, and numerous other non-game species. Nearly one-quarter of the area is designated critical elk winter range and the remaining acreage is considered regular summer range. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Current recreation use in the area is primarily hiking and horseback riding along the Coeur d'Alene River Trail. The area is also considered a high quality hunting area and receives heavy hunting use. Visitor use amounts to 3,000 recreation visitor days per year.

Timber: Approximately 20,300 acres are suitable for timber management.

Range: The area is not suited for cattle grazing due to the steepness of the terrain.

Minerals and Energy: Mineral potential is rated low because historically the Libby and Striped Peak members have not contained many economic ore deposits. Exploration activity is low even though there are 26 mining claims in the unit. Potential for oil and gas in this area is unknown. This roadless area contains 22,300 acres of low geothermal potential.

Disturbances: Although large fires occurred in the area, the number of fires occurring annually is low.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the East Cathedral Peak Roadless Area. Table East Cathedral Peak-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table East Cathedral Peak-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table East Cathedral Peak-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

East Cathedral Peak Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0
Primitive	0	4,600	0	0
Similar to Backcountry	22,300	0	0	0
Backcountry	0	6,800	19,600	20,000
GFRG	0	8,600	400	0
SAHTS	0	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	2,300*	2,300*	2,300*
Total Acres	22,300	22,300	22,300	22,300

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the East Cathedral Peak Roadless Area is WSR.. For further information on this designation, see the Idaho Panhandle National Forest LRMP.

Table East Cathedral Peak-2. Potential activities

East Cathedral Peak Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	15,400	20,000	0
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	22,300	20,000	20,000	20,000
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	22,300	20,000	20,000	20,000
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	20,000	20,000	0
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	20,000	400	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	22,300	20,000	20,000	20,000

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 8,600 acres are managed under prescription 1 (timber production), 4,600 acres under prescription 4 (timber production/big game winter range), 2,200 acres under prescription 9 (non-forest), and 4,600 under prescription 10 (semi-primitive recreation).

No regulated timber harvest is permitted under prescription 10, and roads can only be constructed if they improve semi-primitive recreation opportunities. As such, little to no timber harvest or associated road building is expected for the 4,600 acres under this prescription. Timber activities in the 2,200 acres under prescription 9 are limited to salvage and firewood removal that can occur from existing access roads. In addition, these areas have scattered tree cover, so little to no timber harvest is expected.

Timber harvest and road building to access the timber harvest is allowed under prescription 4 (4,600 acres) if these activities improve or maintain habitat for big game winter range and/or elk summer range. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber

harvest activities would have a dual objective of habitat improvement, the impact to roadless characteristics would be limited. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still have a dual objective of habitat improvement.

For the 8,600 acres under prescription 1, roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Any timber activities and road building that occur under this prescription could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the East Cathedral Peak Roadless Area. However, no phosphate mining, oil and gas, or geothermal activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 19,600 acres would fall under the Backcountry theme and 400 acres would fall under the GFRG theme. For the acres under the Backcountry theme timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities would be permitted. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

For the 400 acres under the GFRG theme roads would generally be permitted and timber harvest could occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. However, around 200 acres of this area has scattered tree cover, so little to no timber harvest is expected on these acres. Any timber activities and road building that occur on the remaining 200 acres could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term. Leasable mineral activities and road building to access mineral leases are permitted, but no phosphate mining, oil and gas, or geothermal activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 20,000 acres under the Backcountry theme, none of which are in the CPZ, nor is there any overlap with municipal water supply systems.

Since there are no communities or municipal water supply systems adjacent to the Backcountry portion of this roadless area, no roads could be constructed to facilitate fuel reduction projects. In addition, since there are no communities or municipal water supply systems nearby, no timber harvest or associated road building would occur for the purpose of reducing the significant risk of wildland fire effects. Timber cutting from existing roads or using aerial systems could be done throughout all 20,000 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since road construction is not permitted to access new mineral leases.

East Fork Elk #678

100 Acres Idaho Panhandle (Idaho)
6,700 Acres Kootenai (Montana)
6,800 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The East Fork Elk Roadless Area is located on the Idaho-Montana divide, in the southwestern corner of the forest. The area encompasses the Lost Cab Gulch, Butter Creek, and Cascade Creek drainages, all flowing northeasterly. Access to the area is good from the Clark Fork Valley via the East Fork Elk Creek Road. There are no trails in the area. This roadless area is primarily located on the Kootenai National Forest in Montana, except 100 acres are located in Idaho on the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. The following description is for the entire area.

The area is primarily a ridgetop situation with a very rugged steep rocky east face. Butte and Cascade Creeks, Cab Gulch and several small unnamed tributaries originate within this area. Divide Peak (5,200) is the dominant feature in the area. The area is generally surrounded by existing or planned Forest developments such as roads or timber harvesting units. The represented ecosystems are cedar hemlock pine forest and western spruce fir forest. The hunting opportunities are the primary attractions in the area. Current use is primarily hunting in the fall.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The natural integrity and appearance of the area is rated high with no manmade intrusions.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunities for solitude are also rated high in the deep canyons of Cascade and Butte Creeks. Opportunities are moderate in the remainder of the area because the area looks out onto adjacent lands that have been impacted in the past. Challenging hiking experience are provided by the steep canyon walls of Cascade and Butte Creeks.

Special Features: High quality elk hunting in a primitive setting is the area's primary recreation attraction and the resident elk herd is the areas' most special feature.

Manageability: The area has well-defined, easily managed boundaries consisting of existing roads and a ridgeline.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: There are no significant fisheries but the area does contain tributaries to East Fork Elk Creek, a cutthroat trout fishery.

Wildlife: The area contains winter range management opportunities. Summer range for big game is approximately 4,700 acres, with winter range at 300 acres. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Water: Mean annual precipitation for the entire are is about 50 inches, varying between 40 and 80 inches depending on elevation. Runoff for the area averages about 23 inches per year, showing up as streamflow. Except for short periods during occasional midwinter runoff events, the water quality is usually considered excellent.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: The area is estimated to have a potential of providing about 1,600 recreation visitor days of wilderness recreation per year. Some snowmobile use occurs along the upper end of Cascade Creek, associated with the ridge divide. Current use is about 1,000 recreation visitor days a year.

Timber: There are 3,700 acres of tentatively suitable timberland capable of producing at least 20 cubic feet per acre per year. Over 90 percent of the total area has slopes greater than 55 percent. Road construction would be difficult and costly and timber harvest would require a cable or aerial (helicopter) logging system.

Range: There are no livestock grazing allotments in the area and the grazing potential is considered all transitory.

Minerals and Energy: The mineral potential is low, there are no mining claims. Oil and gas potential is low. This roadless area contains 100 acres of low geothermal potential – in Idaho.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no special uses in the area.

Roads and Trails: Use is considered light (1,000 recreation visitor days) due to steepness of terrain and lack of trails.

Heritage: There is one historic site and no known prehistoric sites. Based on surveys done in similar areas, the probability of prehistoric sites occurring is considered low.

Disturbances: The area has had low fire occurrence (no fires in the last 10 years). The fuels situation is considered predominantly dense conifer with thick accumulations of woody ground fuels with sparse ground fuels on the higher ridgetops. There is a limited amount of high risk lodgepole pine but there is no insect and disease activity at present (1983).

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the East Fork Elk Roadless Area.

Table East Fork Elk-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalent by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table East Fork Elk-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table East Fork Elk-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

East Fork Elk Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0	0
Similar to Backcountry	100	0	0	0
Backcountry	0	100	0	0
GFRG	0	0	100	100
SAHTS	0	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0	0
Total Acres	100	100	100	100

Table East Fork Elk-2. Potential activities

East Fork Elk Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	100	100	100
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	100	100	100	100
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	100	100	100	100
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	100	100	100
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	100	100	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	100	100	100	100

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without road access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 100 acres are managed under prescription 9 (non-forest).

Timber activities under prescription 9 are limited to salvage and firewood removal that can occur from existing access roads. In addition, these areas have scattered tree cover, so little to no timber harvest is expected. There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases under prescription 9. However, no phosphate mining, oil and gas, or geothermal activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 100 acres would fall under the GFRG theme. GFRG areas are managed to provide a variety of goods and services as well as a broad range of recreational opportunities, and conservation of natural resources. For the 100 acres under the GFRG theme roads would generally be permitted and timber harvest could occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. However, since this area has scattered tree cover, little to no timber harvest is expected. Leasable mineral activities and road building to access mineral leases are permitted, but no phosphate mining, oil and gas, or geothermal activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule 100 acres would fall under the GFRG theme. Under the GFRG theme roads would generally be permitted and timber harvest could occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes, as long as these activities are consistent with applicable forest plan components. Timber harvest and associated road building could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term; however since the area is non-forest limited to no activities are likely to occur and the roadless character would be retained.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under GFRG theme since roads are not permitted to access new mineral leases. The GFRG exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Gilt Edge – Silver Creek #792
200 Acres Idaho Panhandle (Idaho)
11,200 Lolo (Montana)
11,400 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Gilt Edge-Silver Creek Roadless Area lays six miles west of DeBorgia, Montana, and 20 miles west of St. Regis, Montana. It is an elongated roadless area extending between Interstate 90 and the Idaho border, a distance of six miles. It is about four miles wide. The Stateline Road (Road 391) provides southern and western access points. Forest roads along the West and Middle Forks of Big Creek extend into and form part of the eastern boundary. Access to the north comes from Interstate 90 and the Saltese Beacon Road. Portions of two trails totaling six miles cross the area. About 200 acres are in Idaho on the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. The remaining 11,200 acres are in Montana on the Lolo National Forest. The following discussion is for the entire roadless area.

The lower slopes support a mixed stand of western larch, Douglas-fir, spruce and lodgepole pine. Some areas in the vicinity of the Stateline are sparsely timbered. These are primarily rock and/or talus slopes or high elevation meadows dominated by beargrass, bunchgrass, and forbs. Nearly all of the Gilt Edge-Silver Creek Roadless Area is classified as commercial timberland.

A series of streams tributary to Big Creek head along the Stateline Divide and flow to the northeast. Consequently, several ridgelines extend off of the Divide and parallel the streams. On the western edge, tributaries of Silver Creek drain off to the north. Glacial cirques occur along the Stateline Divide and several contain small lakes.

Rocks of the Precambrian Age Wallace Formation and Ravalli Group are exposed in this roadless area. They are broken and sheared by the complex Silver Creek fault system which is oriented generally east to west. The Wishard Sill, a gabbroic intrusive, cuts through the Wallace and Ravalli strata and is in turn offset by the faults.

Currently, the most popular activity in the area is big game hunting. The edges of the area are used by sightseers, bikers, berry pickers, and stream fishing recreationists.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Ecological processes and the natural landscape in parts of the area have been disrupted to a certain extent by past domestic grazing. Basically, vegetative communities in the roadless area are similar to those found in surrounding areas outside the roadless boundary. Major fires that occurred in the area in the 1920s are considered part of the natural process.

About 20 percent of the area is grand fir/beargrass and 20 percent is subalpine fir/beadlily. These occur in elevations of 3,200 to 5,500 feet. Major species are Douglas-fir larch, lodgepole pine, subalpine fir, and white pine with understories of beargrass, huckleberry, pinegrass, beadlily, goldthread, bunchberry, and bedstraw. Forty-five percent of the area is evenly divided between grand fir/beadlily, western red cedar/beadlily, and subalpine fir/beargrass. The remaining habitat types are subalpine fir/smooth woodrush and subalpine fir/menziesia, Douglas-fir/snowberry, and Douglas-fir/blue huckleberry, Douglas-fir/ninebark, and Douglas-fir/dwarf huckleberry, scree, and mountain grasslands.

The area includes a helispot, mineral development in the form of dozer trenches, mines, and tunnels, spoil piles, and tree plantations from the 1920 burn, and two unimproved roads.

Opportunities for Experience: There is remarkable scenery, severe topography, and abundant vegetative screening which provide medium to high opportunities for solitude even though there are many permanent off-site intrusions and perimeter roads. The area itself is intact with no major impacts. Interstate 90 is adjacent to the northern boundary.

Opportunities for primitive recreation are considered moderate because of the short distance from the perimeter to the core of the area; however, diverse opportunities do exist. Vegetation and steep side slopes reduce access to the area.

Manageability: For the most part, the boundaries of this roadless area follow topographic and man-made features; they would not be difficult to locate or monument on the ground. A road along Gilt Edge Creek (one quarter mile is improved and the balance is considered a trail) extends several miles into the interior of this area requiring that the eastern border be drawn around it. There are no private lands which would have to be excluded. Nonconforming activities include timber sales proposed along Big Sunday, Gilt Edge, and Big Middle Creek.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The roadless area has about 500 riparian acres. There are no known threatened or endangered fisheries species present.

Wildlife: The area provides habitat for a wide variety of game and non-game wildlife species commonly found in Western Montana. There are no known threatened or endangered wildlife species present. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Water: Air and water quality are considered excellent in the area.

Botanical: There are no known threatened or endangered plant species present. Nor is that area recognized as having unique vegetative communities to be used as benchmarks or unusual or scarce ecosystem representatives. Gene pools in the roadless area do not differ appreciable from the surrounding area.

Recreation: On the current Recreation Opportunity System map, the area is shown as 100 percent roadless-natural. Recreational use in the area is seasonal, generally limited to hunting seasons. No developed sites exist within or adjacent to the area.

Timber: The Gilt Edge-Silver Creek Roadless Area contains 9,400 acres of commercial timberland. The suitable lands presently support a standing timber inventory of 79.8 million board feet with a long-term sustained yield in the area of 2.05 thousand board feet annually.

Range: About 8,500 of the 20,700 acres of the Big Creek Range allotment are included in the area. The last permitted use was in 1983 for 29 cows for 75 animal unit months (AUMs). About 270 acres within the area are considered suitable range.

Minerals and Energy: Four oil and gas leases have been issued which encompassed 100 percent of the roadless area; however, all leases have expired. The roadless area also contains 43 mining claims. A northwest to southeast trending aeromagnetic high (areas of dense rock often containing base metals) lie in this region, and a number of prospects and small mining ventures dot the countryside. The minerals being sought include copper, lead, zinc, and silver. The Lolo National Forest had identified 11,200 acres of high to very high mineral potential. This roadless area contains 200 acres of low geothermal potential.

Heritage: The area contains old cabins and log flumes in Storm Creek and Gilt Edge Creek from turn-of-the-century logging activities. No prehistoric sites have been identified within the area. Some evidence of mining and logging activities can be considered historical, representative of Western Montana.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Gilt Edge– Silver Creek Roadless Area.

Table Gilt Edge– Silver Creek-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Gilt Edge– Silver Creek-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Gilt Edge– Silver Creek-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Gilt Edge– Silver Creek Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule	
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0	
Primitive	0	0	0	0	
Similar to Backcountry	200	0	0	0	
Backcountry	0	200	200	CPZ	100
				NonCPZ	100
GFRG	0	0	0	0	
SAHTS	0	0	0	0	
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0	0	
Total Acres	200	200	200	200	

Table Gilt Edge– Silver Creek-2. Potential activities

Gilt Edge– Silver Creek Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	200	200	100*
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	200	200	200	200
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	200	200	200	200
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	200	200	100*
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	200	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	200	200	200	200

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 100 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ to facilitate hazardous fuels removal, but only if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system.

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 200 acres are managed under prescription 9 (non-forest).

Timber activities under prescription 9 are limited to salvage and firewood removal that can occur from existing access roads. In addition, these areas have scattered tree cover, so little to no timber harvest is expected. There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases under prescription 9. However, no phosphate mining, oil and gas, or geothermal activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 200 acres would be available for limited timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in

the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 200 acres under the Backcountry theme, 100 of which are in the CPZ. Since this area is essentially non-forest, limited to no activities are likely to occur.

Within the 100 Backcountry acres that are within the CPZ, timber cutting for hazardous fuel removal would be allowed, and temporary roads could be constructed to facilitate timber harvest if the activity cannot be reasonably accomplished without a temporary road. Temporary road construction would likely change roadless characteristics in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber cutting activities would be designed for fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would likely be maintained or enhanced over the long term.

For the 100 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ, timber cutting and temporary road construction to facilitate timber harvest could be allowed to reduce hazardous fuels if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system. Since additional conditions would be required, it is likely that temporary road construction for this purpose would be infrequent.

Timber cutting from existing roads or using aerial systems could be done throughout all 200 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. Under the Backcountry theme, roads could only be constructed in conjunction with a fuel reduction project already authorized in the CPZ or authorized under the significant risk determination outside the CPZ. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since road construction is not permitted to access new mineral leases.

Graham Coal #139

10,300 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Graham Coal Roadless Area is located about four miles north of Kellogg, Idaho, along the Coeur d'Alene River. It is within Shoshone County on the Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. Access to the area is provided by the Graham Creek and Coal Creek Trails. Both of these trails originate at Forest Highway 9 on the Coeur d'Alene River.

Graham Peak, at 5,730 feet, is the most prominent feature. The southern aspect of this peak is visible from Interstate 90. The lowest elevation is about 2,400 feet at the mouth of Coal Creek. Major drainages include Graham Creek, Coal Creek, and Deceitful Gulch. Aspect is generally north. The Coal Creek drainages offer a pristine riparian area with many scenic waterfalls. Exposed in the study area are metasediments of the Precambrian Belt Supergroups. Although close to the Osburn Fault, few faults have been mapped in this area. The southern portion of this area is part of the Coeur d'Alene Mining District.

Vegetative cover consists primarily of white pine, western hemlock, western red cedar, Douglas-fir, and lodgepole pine. Most trees occurring below 4,000 feet are immature. However, 300 acres of old-growth timber have been identified in Graham Creek.

Annual recreation use in the Graham Coal area is approximately 2,000 visitor days annually. The area is commonly used as a non-roaded big game hunting area. The trail from Graham Ridge to Moon Saddle receives considerable motorcycle and equestrian use. Seventeen valid mining claims exist in the area. Past evidence of mineral exploration is apparent in the area. Little recent activity has taken place.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Other than historical activity (mining, homesteads), the effects of smelter kill, and current off-road vehicle use, the Graham Coal area has substantially retained the qualities formed solely by natural processes without human disruption.

Undeveloped Character: A visitor keeping to the lower elevations can maintain a landscape which appears natural. Travel to the higher elevations, however, can reveal landscapes that are undoubtedly the result of man's activities, such as the City of Kellogg and Interstate 90.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunity for solitude would be most available in the Graham Creek and Coal Creek drainages. Recreation opportunities on the area would involve camping; backpacking; big game hunting, either on a daily basis or an extended trip; and fishing. The opportunity to experience a primitive visit to the area could be hampered by the existing off-road vehicle motorcycle use in the area.

Special Features: The Graham Mountain Lookout was constructed in the 1930, for fire protection. The lookout has since been dismantled and little evidence of its existence remains. During the 1910 fire a camp was established on the ridge between Cedar Creek and Graham Creek. In the early 1900s homesteaders in the area cut timber in the lower elevations. The Jackass Ridge Trail, which constitutes the southern boundary of the area, was constructed in the mid-1880s to facilitate travel to the Murray gold fields from the Kellogg area. About 100 acres are within an eligible Wild and Scenic River corridor.

Manageability: The Graham Coal area is bounded on two sides by ridge lines--on the north side by an indistinguishable, meandering boundary and on the south side by a surveyed subdivision line. Private property is included in the area peripherally. Some State land is included. Boundary manipulation could remedy these inclusions. As the area is bordered on three sides by lands held in private ownership, unauthorized access would be difficult to control.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Graham Creek is listed as an important spawning and rearing stream for fisheries. West slope cutthroat trout occur in this roadless area.

Wildlife: Wildlife species present in the area include elk, whitetail and mule deer, black bear, cougar, bobcat, moose, coyote, wolverine, marten, great-horned owls, pileated woodpeckers, hawks, and beaver. Numerous other non-game species are also present. Most of the area is considered critical elk summer range. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat is found here.

Water: This roadless area contains 10,300 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: The area is commonly used as a non-roaded big game hunting area. The trail from Graham Ridge to Moon Saddle receives considerable motorcycle and equestrian use.

Timber: Vegetative cover consists primarily of white pine, western hemlock, western red cedar, Douglas-fir, and lodgepole pine. Most trees occurring below 4,000 feet are immature. However, in Graham Creek 300 acres of old-growth timber have been identified. Future development of the timber resource would involve the management of 10,000 acres within the area.

Range: The area is unsuitable for cattle grazing due to the steepness of the terrain.

Minerals and Energy: Although there are no known prospects in this area and only 17 mining claims, approximately 50 percent of the Graham Coal Roadless Area is underlain by the Revett Formation. The Revett is presently being explored for stratabound copper and silver. This area is also partially within the Coeur d'Alene Mining District, which is located primarily to the south and east. This District is one of the largest silver producers in the world. The potential for oil and gas is low due to lack of information. This roadless area contains 10,300 acres of low geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: Private property is included in the area peripherally. Some State land is included.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Graham Coal Roadless Area. Table Graham Coal-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Graham Coal-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Graham Coal-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Graham Coal Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule	
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0	
Primitive	0	0	0	0	
Similar to Backcountry	10,300	0	0	0	
Backcountry	0	1,700	10,200	CPZ	3,700
				NonCPZ	6,500
GFRG	0	8,500	0	0	
SAHTS	0	0	0	0	
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	100*	100*	100*	
Total Acres	10,300	10,300	10,300	10,300	

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the Graham Coal Roadless Area is WSR. For further information on this designation, see the Idaho Panhandle National Forest LRMP.

Table Graham Coal-2. Potential activities

Graham Coal Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	10,200	10,200	3,700*
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	10,300	10,200	10,200	10,200
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	10,300	10,200	10,200	10,200
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	10,200	10,200	3,700*
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	10,200	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	10,300	10,200	10,200	10,200

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 6,500 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ to facilitate hazardous fuels removal, but only if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system.

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 8,500 acres are managed under prescription 1 (timber production), 1,100 acres under prescription 4 (timber production/big game winter range), and 600 acres under prescription 9 (non-forest).

Timber activities in the 600 acres under prescription 9 are limited to salvage and firewood removal that can occur from existing access roads. In addition, these areas have scattered tree cover, so little to no timber harvest is expected.

Timber harvest and road building to access the timber harvest is allowed under prescription 4 if these activities improve or maintain habitat for big game winter range. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would have a dual objective of habitat improvement, the impact to roadless characteristics would be limited. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still have a dual objective of habitat improvement.

For the 8,500 acres under prescription 1, roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Any timber activities and road building that occur under this prescription could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Graham Coal Roadless Area. However, no phosphate mining, oil and gas, or geothermal activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 10,200 acres would be available for limited timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber

harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 10,200 acres under the Backcountry theme, 3,700 of which are in the CPZ.

Within the 3,700 Backcountry acres that are within the CPZ, timber cutting for hazardous fuel removal would be allowed, and temporary roads could be constructed to facilitate timber harvest if the activity cannot be reasonably accomplished without a temporary road. Temporary road construction would likely change roadless characteristics in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber cutting activities would be designed for fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would likely be maintained or enhanced over the long term.

For the 6,500 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ, timber cutting and temporary road construction to facilitate timber harvest could be allowed to reduce hazardous fuels if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system. Since additional conditions would be required, it is likely that temporary road construction for this purpose would be infrequent.

Timber cutting from existing roads, including those constructed for fuel reduction projects, or using aerial systems could be done throughout all 10,200 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since road construction is not permitted to access new mineral leases.

Grandmother Mountain #148

24,400 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Grandmother Mountain Roadless Area is located in Shoshone County, Idaho, approximately 30 miles southeast of St. Maries, Idaho. The area lies on the St. Joe Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. Several well maintained roads surround the area, allowing access at several points. The most popular entry points begin from Fishbook-Gold Center Road 301, Marble Creek Road 321, and the Little North Fork Road 760.

The amoeba-shaped roadless area includes a U-shaped ridge as its center, consisting of Grandfather Mountain, Grandmother Mountain, Marks Butte, Crater Peak, Widow Mountain, and Lookout Mountain. Several cirques, cirque lakes, and moraines along the ridge line remain as evidence of past glacial activity, especially in the area of Lookout Mountain. The headwaters of Marble Creek, a major tributary of the St. Joe River, flow northward from the ridgeline. Flowing to the east are the headwaters of the Little North Fork of the Clearwater Rivers. The southwest corner is drained by Placer Creek into the St. Maries River system. Elevations range from 6,800 feet at Widow Mountain to 3,400 feet at Marble Creek. Vegetation patterns reflect the high elevation, glacial activity, and past fire history of the area. Nearly half of the roadless area consists of immature pole or sawtimber stands of mixed composition resulting from wildfires in 1910 and 1923. The remaining forested areas consist of mature or overmature stands largely composed of mountain hemlock, Engelmann spruce, and subalpine fir. Much of the high elevation areas support relatively sparse subalpine vegetation and contain numerous rock or talus slopes. Habitat-types graduate from cedar/clintonia to either a mountain hemlock or subalpine fir series as elevation rises.

The Grandmother Mountain roadless area provides a variety of recreational pursuits. The current major uses of this area include big game hunting, backpacking, hiking, horseback riding, and fishing. The Freezeout area and the lakes contained in the eastern portion of the roadless area are popular recreational destinations. Snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, and off-road vehicle motorized use continue to increase in popularity, especially on roads contiguous to the roadless area.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Developments include remnants of early day logging, a lookout, and more than 30 miles of trails. Except for the remnants of some cabins, flumes, and splash dams, the logging which was done during the early twenties is essentially unnoticeable.

Undeveloped Character: Timber harvest areas and associated roads outside the roadless area are visible from most of the prominent peaks and from some portions of ridgeline trails within the roadless area. In the immediate vicinity of historical logging structure remnants it is obvious that there has been past human activity in the area.

Opportunities for Experience: The Grandmother Mountain area is approximately 24,400 acres in size. The area is 7.5 miles long north to south and 12.3 miles across. Topography and vegetation provide screening which separates visitors from one another in short distances. Opportunities for solitude are enhanced by the light visitor use the area receives. There are points of relatively concentrated use in the vicinity of Freezeout Saddle, on Trail 275 near the southern boundary of the area, and in the Lost Lake area near the eastern boundary. Sounds from logging activities adjacent to the area can, at times, be heard from within the area. The area provides the opportunity to participate in such activities as fishing, hunting, motorcycling, hiking, horseback riding, camping, and viewing scenery.

Special Features: The Grandmother Mountain area contains elements of the proposed Marble Creek National Recreation Trail Systems. There are approximately 20 miles of National Recreation Trail within the area; including the Marble Creek Trail, Delaney Creek Trail, and Lookout Mountain Trail. A 300 acre Research Natural Area is located within the roadless area. Approximately 2,300 acres are within an

eligible Wild and Scenic River corridor. Approximately 6,900 acres are within the only Wilderness Study Area on the forest.

Manageability: The southern boundary of the area is well defined by a road which follows a major ridgeline. The remaining boundary would be difficult to locate on the ground because it generally does not follow any identifiable topographic features.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Many of the streams contain cutthroat, and grayling are found in Crater Lake. There are no threatened or endangered species occupying the area. Bull trout habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Wildlife inhabitants include elk, black bear, whitetail deer and mule deer, as well as a variety of small and non-game species. The area is important summer range for elk and important security area during the hunting seasons. Lynx, wolverine, fisher, Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Current recreation use in the area is primarily hiking, horseback riding, and motorcycle riding on the various trails that dissect the area. A majority of the trails that comprise the Marble Creek National Recreation Trails system lie within the boundaries of the Grandmother Mountain Area. Lakes in the eastern portion of the area are popular for fishing. Some fall big game hunting occurs in the area.

Timber: Approximately 14,300 acres of the area is estimated as tentatively suitable for timber production.

Range: Cattle or sheep have not used the Grandmother Mountain area in recent years.

Minerals and Energy: Mineral potential in the area is categorized as low for hardrock minerals, oil, and gas. This roadless area contains 24,400 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Roads and Trails: A series of maintained trails access the interior.

Disturbances: Although large fires have occurred, the number of fires occurring annually is low.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Grandmother Mountain Roadless Area. Table Grandmother Mountain-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Grandmother Mountain-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Grandmother Mountain-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Grandmother Mountain Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	6,800	6,800
Primitive	0	10,600	0	0
Similar to Backcountry	24,400	0	0	0
Backcountry	0	9,200	17,100	17,100
GFRG	0	4,200	100	100
SAHTS	0	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	400*	400*	400*
Total Acres	24,400	24,400	24,400	24,400

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the Grandmother Mountain Roadless Area is 300 acres as RNA and 100 acres as WSR. For further information on this designation, see the Idaho Panhandle National Forest LRMP.

Table Grandmother Mountain-2. Potential activities

Grandmother Mountain Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	13,900	17,200	100
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	24,400	24,400	17,200	17,200
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	24,400	24,400	17,200	17,200
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	24,400	17,200	100
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	24,400	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	24,400	24,400	17,200	17,200

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 4,500 acres are managed under prescription 1 (timber production), 700 acres under prescription 4 (timber production/big game winter range), 6,600 under prescription 6 (timber production/elk summer range), 2,100 acres under prescription 9 (non-forest), and 10,500 under prescription 10 (semi-primitive recreation).

No regulated timber harvest is permitted under prescription 10, and roads can only be constructed if they improve semi-primitive recreation opportunities. As such, little to no timber harvest or associated road building is expected for the 10,500 acres under this prescription. Timber activities in the 2,100 acres under prescription 9 are limited to salvage and firewood removal that can occur from existing access roads. In addition, these areas have scattered tree cover, so little to no timber harvest is expected.

Timber harvest and road building to access the timber harvest is allowed under prescriptions 4 and 6 if these activities improve or maintain habitat for big game winter range and/or elk summer range. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would have a dual objective of habitat improvement, the impact to roadless characteristics would be limited. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still have a dual objective of habitat improvement.

For the 4,500 acres under prescription 1, roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Any timber activities and road building that occur under this prescription could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Grandmother Mountain Roadless Area. No phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals. The area does contain 24,400 acres of medium geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 100 acres are under the GFRG, 17,100 acres would fall under the Backcountry theme and 6,800 under the Wild Land Recreation theme.

For the acres under the Backcountry theme timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities would be permitted. Temporary road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. Any road construction under this limited circumstance would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term, but the temporary roads would be decommissioned and rehabilitated after the restoration project is completed. The timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration purposes, therefore maintaining or enhancing roadless characteristics in the long-run. No new leasable mineral activity is expected since roads are only allowed for restoration purposes. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

The 100 acres of GFRG are an isolated parcel on the outer edges of the roadless area and are surrounded by other managed lands. For the 100 acres under the GFRG theme roads would generally be permitted and timber harvest could occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Any timber activities and road building that occur on 100 acres could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term. Leasable mineral activities and road building to access mineral leases are permitted, but no phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals. This roadless area contains 24,400 acres of medium geothermal potential.

For the 6,800 acres under the Wild Land Recreation theme, road construction is prohibited except for reserved and outstanding rights and no timber harvest or new leasable mineral activities are allowed. Under this prescription there would be little evidence of human-caused disturbance and natural conditions and processes would be predominant.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 6,800 acres under the Wildland Recreation theme and 17,100 acres under the Backcountry theme, none of which are in the CPZ, and 100 acres under the GFRG theme.

The 6,800 acres managed under the Wild Land Recreation theme would experience the same protections they had as Recommended Wilderness under the Forest Plans. Road construction would be prohibited except for reserved and outstanding rights and no timber cutting or leasable mineral activities would be allowed. These acres would therefore maintain both their roadless characteristics and wilderness attributes.

There are no communities or municipal water supply systems within or adjacent to the Backcountry portion of this roadless area, therefore no roads could be constructed to facilitate fuel reduction projects. In addition, since there are no communities or municipal water supply systems nearby, no timber harvest or associated road building would occur for the purpose of reducing the significant risk of wildland fire effects. Timber cutting from existing roads or using aerial systems could be done throughout all 17,100 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

For the 100 acres under the GFRG theme, roads would generally be permitted and timber harvest could occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes, as long as these activities are consistent with applicable forest plan components. Timber harvest and associated road building could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term. These 100 acres are located as isolated parcel surrounded by other managed lands.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry and GFRG themes since road construction to access to mineral leases is prohibited. The GFRG exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Hammond Creek #145

17,400 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Hammond Creek Roadless Area is located on the west side of the North Fork of the St. Joe River drainage beginning approximately one mile north of Avery, Idaho. The area lies entirely within Shoshone County on the Avery Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. Primary access exists from the North Fork Road 456 on the east and Bonneville Power Administration roads on the northwest. The Cedar Mountain, Kyle Creek, and Hammond Creek trail systems provide access into the interior.

The Hammond Creek Roadless Area roughly resembles an inverted triangle with a long finger of excluded land penetrating from the east. Elevation changes from 2,600 feet in the North Fork drainage to 6,100 feet on Cedar Mountain and Marcus Cook Point along the Slate Creek-North Fork Divide, the dominant geographic feature. Glacial activity typifies the higher elevations, with Cedar Lake occupying a glacial cirque at the head of Kyle Creek. Slopes are generally steep with numerous rock outcrops, especially characterizing the stretch along the North Fork of the St. Joe River. The roadless area contains several major tributaries of the North Fork of the St. Joe and Slate Creek.

The 1910 fire burned the majority of the area, leaving only small, isolated, parcels of old-growth trees at scattered locations through the roadless area.

Recreational use occurring within the roadless area is concentrated on the existing trail system. Hiking, overnight camping, big game hunting, and berry picking are common activities. A special use permit has been issued to an outfitter-guide.

The 1934 fire burned the southern half of the roadless area, generating large areas of non-stocked brushfields or seedling/sapling stands. Extensive stands of pure lodgepole pine or mixed species composition cover the remaining area. Mountain hemlock habitat types cover the high elevation areas, with western hemlock and cedar series occupying primarily the lower altitudes.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The impact of past human activity in this area has been relatively minor even though those activities have been extensive. The existing trail system includes a well defined route which once served as a main transportation corridor between Avery and the County seat in Wallace, Idaho. The remainder of this system was constructed to provide access for fire control. Several fire lookouts had been constructed within this area. The Arid Peak lookout still exists and has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places and is now on the National Forest Service Rental System.

Undeveloped Character: The Hammond Creek Roadless Area is large enough and has topography such that persons visiting the area feel that they are in a natural area away from ordinary human activity and development. Some distant roads, timber activities, fire lookouts, and a Bonneville Power Administration power line which borders the western and northern edge of this area are visible from the higher points.

Opportunities for Experience: The area offers moderate opportunities for solitude. The 17,400 acres included in the Hammond Creek Roadless Area occur in an irregular shape that is approximately eight miles long and five miles wide (at its widest point). The seven principal drainages (of which Hammond Creek is the largest) that make up this area contain deeply dissected topography and vegetative cover which may easily screen people from one another in short distances. Human use of the area is generally concentrated along the ridgetop trail system. Opportunities for primitive recreation experiences are generally limited. The size and shape of this area (1-3 miles from perimeter to core) provide few opportunities to actually be isolated from the evidence of man and his activities. With much of the area having similar topographic and vegetative features there is little diversity of recreation opportunities. Primitive recreation experiences are further limited by motorized use of the trail system. Opportunities

do exist for big game hunting (elk, deer, bear, and mountain lion), horseback riding, hiking, motorcycling, and backpack camping.

Special Features: Most of the Hammond Creek Roadless Area was involved in the 1910 fire. Vegetative conditions which developed as a result of that fire have created habitat which is nearly ideal for big game species. There is a high level of public interest in roadless elk hunting. The Milwaukee, Chicago, St. Paul, and Pacific Railroad has abandoned its line running along the North Fork of the St. Joe River on the eastern edge of the Hammond Creek area. Part of this railroad grade is the main travel way, Road 456. The Route of The Milwaukee is now the route of The Hiawatha Rail Trail, which is now a bike trail.

Manageability: Existing boundaries are reasonably well defined, with the exception of a portion of the western boundary between Storm Mountain and Binney Creek which does not follow topographic features. The long history of motorized trail use within the area would make enforcement of non-motorized wilderness regulations time consuming and costly, given the potential number of access points. Future hard rock mineral development seems unlikely at this time.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Bull trout habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: The important elk summer and winter range are the key wildlife values of this area. Most animals found in northern Idaho are also found here. Unusual species likely present are bobcat, lynx, and wolverine. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: The primary existing recreational use of this area is elk hunting. One outfitter and guide uses this area. Motorized use is extensive and occurs mostly during the hunting season. Roadless hunting experience is also the greatest future use of this area.

Timber: About 14,800 acres are classed as tentatively suitable for timber management. Timber stands are the result of the 1910 fire and consist of pole/small sawtimber-sized mixed species and pure lodgepole types. The lodgepole could become susceptible to serious mountain pine beetle epidemics in 10-20 years. Some of the suitable timberland is currently brushfield.

Range: Sheep grazing has occurred in the past but was discontinued about 1950. Future use is not expected.

Minerals and Energy: Striped Peak is the major rock formation of the area; minor Wallace rocks outcrop near the North Fork of the St. Joe River. These formations belong to the Belt Supergroups of Precambrian Age. This area is rated mostly as having low potential except for about a 640 acre area in the northeast quarter which has a high rating. The area has 185 unpatented mining claims, about half of which are in the northeast quarter of the area. Oil and gas potential is low. This roadless area contains 7,800 of medium and 9,600 acres of low geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: All of the land within the area is in National Forest System ownership, with the only exception being part of the railroad right-of-way and a portion of a patented mining claim near the mouth of Mozier Creek.

Roads and Trails: The existing trail system includes a well defined route which once served as a main transportation corridor between Avery and the County seat in Wallace, Idaho. The remainder of this system was constructed to provide access for fire control.

Heritage: The Arid Peak lookout still exists and has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Disturbances: Annual fire occurrence is moderate; periodic large fires have occurred.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Hammond Creek Roadless Area. Table Hammond Creek-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Hammond Creek-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Hammond Creek-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Hammond Creek Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule	
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0	
Primitive	0	100	0	0	
Similar to Backcountry	17,400	0	0	0	
Backcountry	0	17,000	17,400	CPZ	600
				NonCPZ	16,800
GFRG	0	300	0	0	
SAHTS	0	0	0	0	
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0	0	
Total Acres	17,400	17,400	17,400	17,400	

Table Hammond Creek-1. Potential activities

Hammond Creek Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	17,300	17,400	600*
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	17,400	17,400	17,400	17,400
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	17,400	17,400	17,400	17,400
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	17,400	17,400	600*
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	17,400	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	17,400	17,400	17,400	17,400

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 16,800 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ to facilitate hazardous fuels removal, but only if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system.

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 300 acres are managed under prescription 1 (timber production), 1,500 acres under prescription 4 (timber production/big game winter range), 1,000 acres under prescription 5 (big game winter range), 11,000 acres under prescription 6 (timber production/elk summer range), 3,500 acres under prescription 9 (non-forest), and 100 acres under prescription 20 (unroaded semi-primitive/limited timber).

Limited timber harvest is permitted under prescription 20, but no new roads can be constructed, so little to no activity is expected on the 100 acres under this prescription. Timber activities in the 3,500 acres under prescription 9 are limited to salvage and firewood removal that can occur from existing access roads. Roads may be constructed across prescription 9 to reach other destinations. These areas have scattered tree cover, so little to no timber harvest is expected. Timber harvest and road building to access the timber harvest is allowed under prescriptions 4, 5 and 6 (13,500 acres) if these activities improve or maintain habitat for big game winter range and/or elk summer range. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would have a dual objective of habitat improvement, the impact to roadless characteristics would be limited. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still have a dual objective of habitat improvement. For the 300 acres under prescription 1, roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Any timber activities and road building that occur under this prescription could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Hammond Creek Roadless Area. No phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals. The area does contain 7,800 acres of medium geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 17,400 acres would be available for limited timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 17,400 acres under the Backcountry theme, 600 of which are in the CPZ. Within the 600 Backcountry acres that are within the CPZ, timber cutting for hazardous fuel removal would be allowed, and temporary roads could be constructed to facilitate timber harvest if the activity cannot be reasonably accomplished without a temporary road. Temporary road construction would likely change roadless characteristics in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber cutting activities would be designed for fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would likely be maintained or enhanced over the long term.

For the 16,800 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ, timber cutting and temporary road construction to facilitate timber harvest could be allowed to reduce hazardous fuels if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system. Since additional conditions would be required, it is likely that temporary road construction for this purpose would be infrequent. Timber cutting from existing roads, including those constructed for fuel reduction projects, or using aerial systems could be done throughout all 17,400 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since road construction is not permitted to access new mineral leases.

Hellroaring #128

2,000 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Hellroaring Roadless Area is located 12 miles northeast of Bonners Ferry, Idaho, within Boundary County. The area is within the Bonners Ferry Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. The area is accessed by driving north from Bonners Ferry on U.S. 2 to Forest Road 2503 and then on Forest Road 211 to one of several trailheads along Forest Road 211. Several trails access the interior of the area. The area consists of a moderately high north-south ridge sloping rather sharply into the surrounding Moyie and Kootenai River Valleys. The slopes are rather rocky.

Vegetation ranges from larch, Douglas-fir, and white pine at lower elevations to higher elevation spruce-fir. The trees are about 100 years old. Current recreation use consists of hiking, horseback riding, and hunting. The trails are well used by local residents.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: For the most part, evidence of man's past activities in this area is fairly minimal. Exceptions to this are evidences of considerable mineral exploration near some of the ridgetops where bulldozers were used to excavate long, deep trenches with attendant high spoil banks, or shaft-type exploration with waste piles. Other evidence of man includes pack trails built for fire control access, old lookout sites, and structures for mining activities.

Undeveloped Character: U.S. Highway 95 skirts immediately adjacent to the northern boundary of this roadless area. The old Spokane International Railroad and a main County road parallel within one-quarter mile for some nine miles of the eastern border. The western perimeter is formed by logging roads. There is very little topographic screening from these human activity areas.

Opportunities for Experience: Due to the close proximity to developments and the steepness of the terrain, it is difficult to feel a sense of solitude in this area, particularly along the slopes above the Moyie River where the sights and sounds of human activity are present.

This area provides opportunity to hike, ride horses, hunt, fish, and pick berries. Limited camping exists at Queen Lake. The trails are among the most popular in the county for hiking and horseback riding. The other primitive recreation opportunities are very similar to those on surrounding roaded areas.

Special Features: There are no other outstanding features in this area.

Manageability: Private lands define the eastern boundary, while the western boundary irregularly follows past cutting units and logging roads. These factors would make boundary definition and maintenance relatively difficult. There are 53 existing mining claims in the area which could create conflicts with wilderness management. Oil and gas leases are presently being processed for this area and, if issued, could further complicate wilderness management.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Westslope cutthroat trout habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Wildlife species common to northern Idaho are found in the area; no habitat for threatened and endangered species exists in this roadless area.

Water: This roadless area contains 200 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Current recreation use is primarily hiking and horseback riding on the existing trail system.

Timber: About 2,000 acres are estimated to be tentatively suitable for timber management.

Range: None.

Minerals and Energy: This area contains 53 unpatented mining claims and approximately 10 older prospects, of which 3 had past production. Ten miles northwest of the area a major mining company is conducting an exploration program which is in the same geologic environment as this area. Potential for oil and gas is low due to lack of information. This roadless area contains 2,000 acres of low geothermal potential.

Disturbances: Fire occurrence is low; however, northern Idaho has a history of periodic large fires.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Hellroaring Roadless Area.

Table Hellroaring-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Hellroaring-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Hellroaring-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Hellroaring Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0	0
Similar to Backcountry	2,000	0	0	0
Backcountry	0	1,300	0	0
GFRG	0	700	2,000	2,000
SAHTS	0	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0	0
Total Acres	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000

Table Hellroaring-2. Potential activities

Hellroaring Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	2,000	2,000	2,000
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	2,000	2,000	2,000
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	2,000	2,000	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 700 acres are managed under prescription 1 (timber production) and 1,300 acres under prescription 9 (non-forest).

Timber activities in the 1,300 acres under prescription 9 are limited to salvage and firewood removal that can occur from existing access roads. Roads may be constructed across prescription 9 to reach other destinations. These areas have scattered tree cover, so little to no timber harvest is expected.

For the 700 acres under prescription 1, roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Any timber activities and road building that occur under this prescription could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Hellroaring Roadless Area. However, the area has little to no potential for phosphate mining, oil and gas, or geothermal activities, so no new mineral leases are expected in the future.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Rule): Under the Proposed Rule all 2,000 acres would fall under the GFRG theme. Roads would generally be permitted and timber harvest could occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. However, around 1,300 acres of this area has scattered tree cover, so little to no timber harvest is expected on these acres. Any timber activities and road building that occurs on the remaining 700 acres could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term. Leasable mineral activities and road building to access mineral leases are permitted, but no phosphate mining, oil and gas, or geothermal activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule 2,000 acres would fall under the GFRG theme. Under the GFRG theme roads would generally be permitted and timber harvest could occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes, as long as these activities are consistent with applicable forest plan components. However, around 1,300 acres of this area has scattered tree cover, so little to no timber harvest is expected on these acres. Timber harvest and associated road building could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under GFRG theme since roads are not permitted to access new mineral leases. The GFRG exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Katka Peak #157

10,300 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

Katka Peak Roadless Area is located five miles southeast of Bonners Ferry. It is within Boundary County on the Bonners Ferry Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. Access can be gained from U.S. 95 via the Trail Creek Road, a maintained, unsurfaced road. This roadless area is part of a northeast-southwest ridge and associated side drainages. Slopes to the northwest are very steep; southeast slopes are more moderate. Several southeast-bearing side ridges are also found. Most drainages are only partially within the roadless area.

Lower elevations support cedar, hemlock and white pine, with subalpine fir common at high elevations. The Katka Peak Roadless Area is quite visible from Bonners Ferry. Current recreation use is light; hikers use the trail to Katka Peak and hunters use the area in the fall.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Man's activities in this roadless area have been minor, limited primarily to pack trails constructed for fire control purposes.

Undeveloped Character: Much of this area has adequate topographic and/or vegetative screening to keep human activities from outside the area from impinging on the natural feeling of the area. The upper slopes of Clifty Mountain are so steep, however, that the Kootenai Valley with all its developments seems to be right at hand.

Opportunities for Experience: This area has moderate to high opportunities to find solitude. Approximately half of the boundary is formed by roads or timber harvest areas, and activities near here will generally be heard and seen. In other areas, though, the topography adequately screens out nearby activities. This area offers hunting, hiking, horseback riding, and berry picking. Clifty Mountain offers spectacular vistas, almost all of which include development and land use by man.

Special Features: Clifty Mountain is probably the single most prominent feature.

Manageability: Much of the boundary is mid-slope, defined only by where development has stopped. These boundaries would be hard to manage over time. In these cases, better defined and more manageable boundaries do not exist. Continued intensive management along these boundaries would interfere with the natural appearance and ability to find solitude in the area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Bull trout, sturgeon, burbot, inland redband trout, and westslope cutthroat habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Besides the normal complement of animals found in northern Idaho, this area contains identified grizzly bear habitat. Part of this area may be used by a locally known elk herd. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Botanical: Mingan moonwort (*Botrychium minganense*) a sensitive plant species occurs in this roadless area.

Recreation: Big game hunting and day hikes along the Clifty Mountain vistas are the major uses of this area. Current use is light the lack of major attractions indicates future use at about current levels.

Timber: About 9,100 acres have been classed as tentatively suitable. The presence of mature timber increases the near term value of this area.

Minerals and Energy: Bedrock geology consists of quartzites and argillites of the Prichard formation. Ten percent of the area has a high mineral potential and this is where most of the activity in the area is found.

The remaining 90 percent has a moderate potential. There are 21 mining claims in the area. There has been a small amount of past production from veins associated with the sills to the north of the subject area, and mineral occurrences in the area appear to also be associated with these sills. The potential for oil and gas is rated low due to lack of information. This roadless area contains 10,300 acres of low geothermal potential.

Disturbances: Annual fire occurrence is low however; northern Idaho ecosystems are subject to periodic large fires.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Katka Peak Roadless Area.

Table Katka Peak-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Katka Peak-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Katka Peak-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Katka Peak Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0	0
Similar to Backcountry	10,300	0	0	0
Backcountry	0	10,300	7,800	9,000
GFRG	0	0	2,500	1,300
SAHTS	0	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0	0
Total Acres	10,300	10,300	10,300	10,300

Table Katka Peak-2. Potential activities

Katka Peak Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	10,300	10,300	1,300
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	10,300	10,300	10,300	10,300
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	10,300	10,300	10,300	10,300
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	10,300	10,300	1,300
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	10,300	2,500	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	10,300	10,300	10,300	10,300

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 3,500 acres are managed under prescription 2 (timber production/grizzly bear habitat), 100 acres under prescription 9 (non-forest), and 6,700 acres under prescription 19 (semi-primitive recreation/timber production.)

Timber activities in the 100 acres under prescription 9 are limited to salvage and firewood removal that can occur from existing access roads. Roads may be constructed across prescription 9 to reach other destinations. These areas have scattered tree cover, so little to no timber harvest is expected.

Timber harvest and road building to access the timber harvest is allowed under prescription 2 if these activities improve or maintain habitat for the grizzly bear. If temporary roads are used under prescription 2, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would have a dual objective of habitat improvement, the impact to roadless characteristics would be limited. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still have a dual objective of habitat improvement.

Limited timber harvest is permitted under prescription 19, and road construction is allowed as long as certain road design criteria are met. Any timber activities and road building that occur under this prescription could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Katka Peak Roadless Area. However, no phosphate mining, oil and gas, or geothermal activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 7,800 acres would fall under the Backcountry theme and 2,500 acres would fall under the GFRG theme. For the acres under the Backcountry theme timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities would be permitted. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

For the 2,500 acres under the GFRG theme roads would generally be permitted and timber harvest could occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Any timber activities and road building that occur could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term. Leasable mineral activities and road building to access mineral leases are permitted, but no phosphate mining, oil and gas, or geothermal activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 1,300 acres under the GFRG theme and 9,000 acres under the Backcountry theme. None of the Backcountry acres are in the CPZ and there is no overlap with municipal watersheds.

There are no communities or municipal water supply systems within or adjacent to the Backcountry portion of this roadless area, therefore no roads could be constructed to facilitate fuel reduction projects. In addition, since there are no communities or municipal water supply systems nearby, no timber harvest or associated road building would occur for the purpose of reducing the significant risk of wildland fire effects. Timber cutting from existing roads or using aerial systems could be done throughout all 9,000 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. Activities away from roads would

likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

For the 1,300 acres under the GFRG theme roads would generally be permitted and timber harvest could occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes, as long as these activities are consistent with applicable forest plan components. Timber harvest and associated road building could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry or GFRG theme since roads are not permitted to access new mineral leases. The GFRG exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Kootenai Peak #126

5,000 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Kootenai Peak Roadless Area is located five miles west of Bonners Ferry in Boundary County on the Bonners Ferry Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. The area is accessible from the Myrtle Creek/Snow Creek Road, which is maintained for automobile traffic. The Kootenai Peak Roadless Area encompasses both sides of a long ridge extending from Cooks Pass to the Kootenai River Valley. There are no lakes or outstanding topographic features in this area.

This ridge is generally covered by heavy timber on the Snow Creek side; the timber is young on the Myrtle Creek side, much of the timber is very old and ranges from cedar-hemlock at lower elevations to spruce-fir at higher elevations.

A portion of the area facing east into the Kootenai River Valley is visible from the city of Bonners Ferry and at numerous points along U.S. Highway 95, as well as from secondary roads in the valley. The Myrtle Creek drainage, the domestic water source for the city of Bonners Ferry, is a State-designated game preserve.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Within this area the impacts of human activity are limited to an old cabin and a foot trail along the ridgetop. The trail may have established off-road vehicle use.

Undeveloped Character: This ridge is heavily timbered, but all locations along this ridge are within view of and in close proximity to roads and timber harvest activities.

Opportunities for Experience: At its widest point this roadless is two miles wide. There is little topographic screening, so timber stands are the only barriers to the impacts of roads and other activities nearby. This area provides opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, hunting, and berry picking. Hunting and fishing opportunities are not available in Myrtle Creek because of the Game Preserve Status.

Special Features: The Myrtle Creek watershed has been designated a State Game Preserve, primarily to protect the water supply of the community of Bonners Ferry.

Manageability: Boundaries of this roadless area are not well defined. They cross slopes, follow private land boundaries, or parallel roads.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Bull trout, burbot, inland redband trout, and westslope cutthroat habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: The area contains habitat for the wide variety of animals found in northern Idaho; grizzly bear and mountain caribou habitat is also present. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Water: This roadless area contains 3,800 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Current recreation use is very light due in part to the Myrtle Creek Game Preserve Status. This closure is intended to discourage recreation use to protect municipal water quality. The Snow Creek watershed does receive light hunting and berry picking.

Timber: About 5,600 acres of tentatively suitable timberland are present.

Range: None.

Minerals and Energy: This area contains a uranium anomalous belt, as mapped by Bendix Corporation for the Department of Energy. The contact areas have the potential for vein-type sulfide deposits. No mining claims are known to be in the area. The potential for oil and gas is low. This roadless area contains 5,000 acres of low geothermal potential.

Disturbances: The number of fires occurring annually is low; however, northern Idaho has a history of periodic large fires.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Kootenai Peak Roadless Area.

Table Kootenai Peak-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Kootenai Peak-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Kootenai Peak-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Kootenai Peak Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0	0
Similar to Backcountry	5,000	0	0	0
Backcountry	0	4,500	0	0
GFRG	0	500	5,000	5,000
SAHTS	0	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0	0
Total Acres	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000

Table Kootenai-2. Potential activities

Kootenai Peak Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	5,000	5,000	5,000
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	5,000	5,000	5,000
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	5,000	5,000	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 500 acres are managed under prescription 1 (timber production), 2,500 acres under prescription 2 (timber production/grizzly bear habitat), 200 acres under prescription 3 (timber production/grizzly bear habitat/big game winter range), 800 acres under prescription 7 (caribou management), and 1,000 acres under prescription 9 (non-forest).

Timber activities in the 1,000 acres under prescription 9 are limited to salvage and firewood removal that can occur from existing access roads. Roads may be constructed across prescription 9 to reach other destinations. These areas have scattered tree cover, so little to no timber harvest is expected.

Timber harvest and road building to access the timber harvest is allowed under prescriptions 2, 3 and 7 if these activities improve or maintain habitat for the grizzly bear, big game winter range, or caribou. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would have a dual objective of habitat improvement, the impact to roadless characteristics would be limited. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still have a dual objective of habitat improvement.

For the 500 acres under prescription 1, roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Any timber activities and road building that occur under this prescription could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Kootenai Peak Roadless Area. However, the area has little to no potential for phosphate mining, oil and gas, or geothermal activities, so no new mineral leases are expected in the future.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule all 5,000 acres would fall under the GFRG theme. Roads would generally be permitted and timber harvest could occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. However, around 1,000 acres of this area has scattered tree cover, so little to no timber harvest is expected on these acres. Any timber activities and road building that occurs on the remaining 4,000 acres could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term. Leasable mineral activities and road building to access mineral leases are permitted, but no phosphate mining, oil and gas, or geothermal activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule 5,000 acres would fall under the GFRG theme. Under the GFRG theme roads would generally be permitted and timber harvest could occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes, as long as these activities are consistent with applicable forest plan components. Timber harvest and associated road building could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term. Most of this roadless area overlaps the City of Bonners Ferry municipal watershed.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under GFRG theme since roads are not permitted to access new mineral leases. The GFRG exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Little Grass Mountain #121
3,900 Acres Idaho Panhandle (Idaho)
4,000 Acres Idaho Panhandle (Washington)
7,900 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Little Grass Mountain Roadless Area is located seven miles northwest of Nordman on the Priest Lake Ranger District, Idaho Panhandle National Forest. The area is somewhat oval-shaped, with a two mile long intrusion of a road at the southern end. One-half of the area is in Pend Oreille County, Washington; the remainder lies within Bonner County, Idaho. The area is accessed by the Nordman-Metaline Falls Road 302. This road forms the western boundary of the roadless area and is a well maintained gravel road suitable for automobile travel.

Although the area itself is natural appearing, signs of human activities such as timber harvest activities and roads are visible from within the area. Users of the area would be likely to hear the sound of these activities due to the small size of the area. Elevations range from 3,200 feet at the south end of the area to a high of 5,696 feet on Little Grass Mountain, the most prominent feature in the steep, mountainous timberland. The roadless area drains into the North Fork of Granite Creek and is comprised of Zero Creek, the West Fork of Packer Creek, associated tributaries to these streams, and other minor unnamed drainages.

Much of the area was burned in 1920 and includes considerable amounts of immature timber. Habitat types are generally those common to the Priest Lake Ranger District, primarily cedar or hemlock-boxwood and subalpine fir-beargrass or menziesia. In addition, Douglas-fir, larch, grand fir, and white pine are found throughout the canopy.

There is no concentrated use within the roadless area. Trail 266 is the primary trail that bisects this roadless area. Roosevelt Trail 266 begins from road 302 on the west side of the area. Eighteen percent of the study area has a high mineral potential; there are thirteen unpatented mining claims within the roadless area. There are two active exploration projects in similar geologic material two miles to the west of the area.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The impact from human activity has been related to foot trails and a fire lookout. There has been some mineral exploration in recent years but little evidence is apparent.

Undeveloped Character: A visitor to the area would feel that he or she is in a natural area away from human activities and development. Signs of human activities such as timber harvest areas and Forest roads are visible as background outside the area. Inside the area the remains of Little Grass Lookout (footings and miscellaneous articles) can be found. There may be some evidence of recent mineral explorations in the area. Two timber harvest areas are located on the southern and southeastern portions of the area.

Zero Creek and its minor tributaries flow through the area. Zero Creek is critical fisheries habitat. Due to fish blocks (waterfalls, etc.) in the upper reaches of the creek, no fish populations exist. The lower 1/4 mile has potential spawning and rearing habitat for cutthroat trout and Dolly Varden.

Opportunities for Experience: The area is relatively small but does offer opportunities for solitude due to differences in topography (3,200 to 5,600 feet in elevation) and vegetation. Visitors are likely to hear the sound of outside activities. Use of the area is not concentrated in any one area. Little Grass Mountain is the main topographic feature and it can only be reached by foot trail. The area offers opportunities for hiking, backpacking, big and small game hunting, and viewing scenery.

The varied topography offers physical challenges related to hiking in mountainous terrain. Trail 266 receives moderate use and is maintained annually. Overnight use (camping, etc.) occurs in the area. There

is also a campground just outside the western boundary. The bordering forest road makes other camping sites outside the area readily accessible. Big game hunting is popular in this area.

Manageability: The boundary on half of the area is a well defined road. The remaining boundary lies adjacent to timber sale areas, mid-slope contours, and along minor ridges or streams. Boundary adjustments along major terrain features are not practical. Management of the area, with its present boundary, would be difficult since large sections are indistinguishable.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Bull trout habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Grizzly bear and lynx occur in this roadless area, as well as most big-game species.

Botanical: Bristle-stalked sedge (*Carex leptalea*) and bog willow (*Salix pedicellaris*) two sensitive plant species occur in this roadless area.

Recreation: Activities include light to moderate hiking, backpacking, big game hunting, and viewing scenery.

Timber: The area has 3,900 acres with medium to high timber production potential capable of 0.825 million board feet of annual harvest.

Range: Cattle and sheep have not used the Little Grass Mountain Roadless Area in the past.

Minerals and Energy: Mineral potential is low to medium. There are 13 unpatented mining claims in the area. Two active exploration projects are located approximately two miles west of the area. Minerals under investigation include silver, lead, zinc, molybdenum, and tungsten. One project has an active drill program underway. Eighteen percent of the study area has a high mineral potential. Oil and gas potential is low. This roadless area contains 3,900 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Disturbances: Although large fires occurred in the area, the number of fires occurring annually is low. Fire management objectives under roadless management would be to maintain ecosystem diversity. This could include prescribed burning with unplanned (lightning) ignition.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Little Grass Mountain Roadless Area.

Table Little Grass Mountain-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Little Grass Mountain-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Little Grass Mountain-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Little Grass Mountain Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0	0
Similar to Backcountry	3,900	0	0	0
Backcountry	0	2,800	3,900	3,900
GFRG	0	1,100	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0	0
Total Acres	3,900	3,900	3,900	3,900

Table Little Grass Mountain-2. Potential activities

Little Grass Mountain Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	3,900	3,900	0
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	3,900	3,900	3,900	3,900
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	3,900	3,900	3,900	3,900
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	3,900	3,900	0
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	3,900	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	3,900	3,900	3,900	3,900

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 1,100 acres are managed under prescription 1 (timber production), 800 acres under prescription 4 (timber production/big game winter range), 1,600 acres under prescription 7 (caribou management), and 400 acres under prescription 9 (non-forest).

Timber activities in the 400 acres under prescription 9 are limited to salvage and firewood removal that can occur from existing access roads. Roads may be constructed across prescription 9 to reach other destinations. These areas have scattered tree cover, so little to no timber harvest is expected.

Timber harvest and road building to access the timber harvest is allowed under prescriptions 4 and 7 if these activities improve or maintain habitat for big game winter range or caribou, respectively. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would have a dual objective of habitat improvement, the impact to roadless characteristics would be limited. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still have a dual objective of habitat improvement.

For the 1,100 acres under prescription 1, roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Any timber activities and road building that occur under this prescription could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Little Grass Mountain Roadless Area. No phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals. The area does contain 3,900 acres of medium geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 3,900 acres would be available for limited timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber

harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 3,900 acres under the Backcountry theme, none of which are in the CPZ.

Since there are no communities or municipal water supply systems within or adjacent to the Backcountry portion of this roadless area, no roads could be constructed to facilitate fuel reduction projects. In addition, since there are no communities or municipal water supply systems nearby, no timber harvest or associated road building would occur for the purpose of reducing the significant risk of wildland fire effects. Timber cutting from existing roads or using aerial systems could be done throughout all 3,900 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since road construction is not permitted to access new mineral leases.

Lost Creek #137

11,600 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Lost Creek Roadless Area is located near the Idaho-Montana Divide approximately 17 miles north of Wallace, Idaho. The entire area is located in Shoshone County on the Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest.

Elevations range from 5,860 feet at Bloom Peak to about 2,400 feet near the Coeur d'Alene River. Major drainages include Lost Creek and the East Fork of Lost Creek. The general aspect is southwest. Quartzites and argillites of the Precambrian Belt rocks are exposed in this study area. Two persistent faults are the only structures mapped in the area and they are parallel, striking north-northwest.

Vegetative cover is predominately Douglas-fir, western larch, western white pine, and grand fir. Most of Lost Creek was burned in 1910. The vegetation is mostly pole-size trees or brushfields. Burning to improve big game winter range has occurred on about 3,000 acres since 1970. Elk hunting is the predominant public use of the area. Other uses include deer and bear hunting, fishing, camping, and hiking. The area receives some 4,500 recreation visitor day's use annually. Three trails into the area provide access. The area is quite heavily staked with unpatented mining claims. Two tunnels, which were dug about the turn of the century, are known to exist, but no commercial production has occurred.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Mining activities have caused some modification of the Lost Creek area. For the most part, however, the area has retained qualities formed by nature without human disruption.

Undeveloped Character: The Lost Creek Roadless Area enables the visitor to feel he is within a natural area away from ordinary human activities and development. Views from the higher elevations may reveal distant roads and timber harvest units.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunities for solitude are available for visitors in the Lost Creek area. Three trails into the area allow visitors to disperse, facilitating more opportunity for solitude. As the Lost Creek area has no developments other than trails for access, opportunities for primitive recreation are limited only by the size of the area. Types of primitive recreation that could be and are pursued would include, but are not limited to, backpacking, hunting, and fishing.

Special Features: Lost Creek Trail (No. 502) is very popular for elk hunting. The trail travels through several open brushy areas which provide impressive scenic views. Vegetation along the trail is both varied and interesting. In moist areas, mountain ash, Rocky Mountain maple, willows, trillium, violets, and honeysuckle can be found. In season, hikers can treat themselves to strawberries, thimbleberries, and huckleberries. About 1,900 acres are within an eligible Wild and Scenic River corridor.

Manageability: The Lost Creek Roadless Area is bordered on three sides by roads. The southern boundary consists of a road and Trail 598. The Lost Creek area does not pose any substantial limitations in regard to management for wilderness, should it be so designated.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Both Lost Creek and the East Fork of Lost Creek support catchable size populations of trout.

Wildlife: Wildlife species include elk, deer, black bear, grouse, lynx and numerous non-game species. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game has identified this area as one of 13 areas where retention of the roadless character is desirable. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Roadless elk hunting is the predominant recreation.

Timber: Approximately 8,600 acres are suitable for timber development.

Range: The area is unsuited for cattle grazing due to the steepness of the terrain.

Minerals and Energy: Hardrock mineral potential for the area is moderate. Mineral potential for oil and gas in this area is unknown. The western and eastern borders of this area contain exposures of the Revett formation, which currently is an exploration target for stratabound copper and silver mineralization. The 23 percent rated as having moderate potential are the acres in the Revett rocks. The low potential of the remaining 77 percent is due to lack of geologic criteria, but the area contains 194 mining claims. This roadless area contains 11,600 acres of low geothermal potential.

Disturbances: Although large fires occurred in the area, the number of fires occurring annually is low.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Lost Creek Roadless Area. Table Lost Creek-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Lost Creek-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Lost Creek-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Lost Creek Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule	
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0	
Primitive	0	8,000	0	0	
Similar to Backcountry	11,600	0	0	0	
Backcountry	0	3,300	11,500	CPZ	1,200
				NonCPZ	10,300
GFRG	0	200	0	0	
SAHTS	0	0	0	0	
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	100*	100*	100*	
Total Acres	11,600	11,600	11,600	11,600	

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the Lost Creek Roadless Area is eligible or suitable WSR for the North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River. For further information on this designation, see the Idaho Panhandle National Forest LRMP.

Table Lost Creek-2. Potential activities

Lost Creek Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	3,600	11,500	1,200*
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	11,600	11,600	11,500	11,500
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	11,600	11,600	11,500	11,500
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	11,600	11,500	1,200*
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	0	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	11,600	11,600	11,500	11,500

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 10,300 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ to facilitate hazardous fuels removal, but only if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system.

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without road access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 200 acres are managed under prescription 1 (timber production), 100 acres under prescription 4 (timber production/big game winter range), 3,300 acres under prescription 6 (timber production/elk summer range) and 8,000 under prescription 10 (semi-primitive recreation).

No regulated timber harvest is permitted under prescription 10, and roads can only be constructed if they improve semi-primitive recreation opportunities. As such, little to no timber harvest or associated road building is expected for the 8,000 acres under this prescription.

Timber harvest and road building to access the timber harvest is allowed under prescriptions 4 and 6 (3,400 acres) if these activities improve or maintain habitat for big game winter range and/or elk summer range. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would have a dual objective of habitat improvement, the impact to roadless characteristics would be limited. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still have a dual objective of habitat improvement.

For the 200 acres under prescription 1, roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Any timber activities and road building that occur under this prescription could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Lost Creek Roadless Area. However, no phosphate mining, oil and gas, or geothermal activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 9,700 acres would be available for limited timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities.

If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 11,500 acres under the Backcountry theme, 1,200 of which are in the CPZ.

Within the 1,200 Backcountry acres that are within the CPZ, timber cutting for hazardous fuel removal would be allowed, and temporary roads could be constructed to facilitate timber harvest if the activity cannot be reasonably accomplished without a temporary road. Temporary road construction would likely change roadless characteristics in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber cutting activities would be designed for fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would likely be maintained or enhanced over the long term.

For the 10,300 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ, timber cutting and temporary road construction to facilitate timber harvest could be allowed to reduce hazardous fuels if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system. Since additional conditions would be required, it is likely that temporary road construction for this purpose would be infrequent.

Timber cutting from existing roads, including those constructed for fuel reduction projects, or using aerial systems be done throughout all 11,500 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since road construction is not permitted to access new mineral leases.

Magee #132**34,800 Acres****OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION**

The Magee Roadless Area is located 32 air miles northeast of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. It is within Shoshone County and on the Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. It is paralleled by Trail 22, a National Recreational Trail. In addition, Trails 3, 56, 323, 404, 413, 416, and 418 complete access of the area.

The area consists of mountainous terrain with elevations ranging from 2,900 feet at the mouth of Independence Creek to 5,200 feet at Faset Peak. The study area is underlain by quartzites and argillities of the Precambrian Belt Supergroup. The lower members of the Belt--Prichard, Burke, Revett, and St. Regis--are present in limited amounts. The area is very highly faulted, with a general north-south trend apparent.

Large wildfires burned over most of the area in 1910 and 1926. Currently, second-growth coniferous vegetation dominates the north and east aspects, with grass and brush occupying most south and west slopes. Independence Creek--flows through the entire area and is characterized by a broad, flat valley bottom with many open grass parks along its lower reaches.

Semi-primitive motorized and nonmotorized recreation use, primarily in the form of dispersed camping, trail hiking, trail biking, hunting, and fishing in a natural setting along the open valley bottom and ridges, attracted an estimated 2,500 visitor days use in 1983. Access for recreation use is provided by road to top, bottom, and middle trailheads where camping and other activities disperse throughout the area over 36 miles of system trail.

The area supports big game populations of elk, mule deer, whitetail deer, black bear, and an occasional moose and cougar. The area does not provide habitat for any threatened or endangered species.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The impact from human activity in the area is moderate, consisting of 36 miles of system trail used by motorcycles, horse, and foot traffic.

Undeveloped Character: Topography of the area permits visitors engaged in activities at lower elevations of the drainage to feel they are in a natural setting away from human activities and development. Views of roads and logging activities can occasionally be seen from higher elevations of the area.

Opportunities for Experience: The area offers moderate opportunities for solitude because of occasional sights and sounds of off- and on-site activities over roads bordering and trails within the area. The area is currently open to motorcycle use.

With the exception of access trails along Independence Creek and its tributaries, there are no facilities within the area for shelter or other conveniences. The area offers moderate opportunities to get away from man-influenced environments to experience such activities as camping, scenic viewing, hiking, big game hunting, and fishing.

Special Features: Approximately 3,900 acres are within an eligible Wild and Scenic River corridor.

Manageability: The area encompasses portions of two larger watersheds. Boundaries are mostly well defined, being major roads or ridgetops; however, several system and non-system road intrusions into the area result in use of minor land features to designate the boundary in these areas, making it difficult to identify on the ground.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The Idaho Department of Fish and Game has established special fishing regulations for the upper Coeur d'Alene River to promote quality fishing. Independence Creek and its tributaries support a catchable resident cutthroat fishery. Bull trout habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Wildlife inhabitants include elk, mule deer, whitetail deer, black bear, and an occasional moose and cougar. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Current recreation use in the area includes backpacking, hiking, trail hiking, hunting, and fishing. No developed recreation facilities are planned.

Timber: The area has potential for timber resource development. Timber values present consist of 60 to 70 year age classes.

Range: The area is not suited for cattle grazing due to the steepness of the terrain.

Minerals and Energy: Hardrock mineral potential is low. Approximately 5 percent of this area has a very high mineral potential rating. This area is in the southwestern portions of the study area and is part of the Lakeview Mining District. Within this mining district are numerous old properties, several of which are still producing. The district supports one operating mill which used flotation and vat leaching. The principal metal produced is silver. Fifty-five percent of the area has a medium mineral potential and the remaining 40 percent is low. Potential for the occurrence of oil and gas in the area is low due to lack of information. This roadless area contains 34,800 acres of low geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are approximately 50 acres of private ownership within the area.

Heritage: Remnants of an old wagon road, rest stations associated with the wagon road, an old splash dam constructed at the turn of the century, and some hardrock mining exploration are contained in the area, but evidence of these few sites is historical and not readily evident.

Disturbances: The area has a low fire occurrence.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Magee Roadless Area.

Table Magee-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Magee-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Magee-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Magee Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule	
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0	
Primitive	0	0	0	0	
Similar to Backcountry	34,800	0	0	0	
Backcountry	0	34,600	34,200	CPZ	1,800
				NonCPZ	33,000
GFRG	0	200	600	0	
SAHTS	0	0	0	0	
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0*	0*	0*	
Total Acres	34,800	34,800	34,800	34,800	

Table Magee-2. Potential activities

Magee Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4: Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	34,800	34,800	1,800*
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	34,800	34,800	34,800	34,800
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	34,800	34,800	34,800	34,800
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	34,800	34,800	1,800*
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	34,800	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	34,800	34,800	34,800	34,800

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in 33,000 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ to facilitate hazardous fuels removal, but only if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system.

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 200 acres are managed under prescription 1 (timber production), 3,600 acres under prescription 4 (timber production/big game winter range), 5,700 acres under prescription 6 (timber production/elk summer range), and 25,300 acres under prescription 20 (semi-primitive recreation/timber production).

Timber harvest and road building to access the timber harvest is allowed under prescriptions 4 and 6 (9,300 acres) if these activities improve or maintain habitat for big game winter range and/or elk summer range. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would have a dual objective of habitat improvement, the impact to roadless characteristics would be limited. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still have a dual objective of habitat improvement.

For the 200 acres under prescription 1, roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Limited timber harvest is also permitted under prescription 20, and road construction is allowed as long as certain road design criteria are met. Any timber activities and road building that occur under these prescriptions would likely alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Magee Roadless Area. However, no phosphate mining, oil and gas, or geothermal activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 34,200 acres would fall under the Backcountry theme and 600 acres would fall under the GFRG theme. For the acres under the Backcountry theme timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities would be permitted. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

For the 600 acres under the GFRG theme roads would generally be permitted and timber harvest could occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. The GFRG is located along high use system roads. Any timber activities and road building that occur could alter roadless characteristics on the edge of the roadless area over the short and long-term. Leasable mineral activities and road building to access mineral leases are permitted, but no phosphate mining, oil and gas, or geothermal activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 34,800 acres under the Backcountry theme, 1,800 of which are in the CPZ.

Within the 1,800 Backcountry acres that are within the CPZ, timber cutting for hazardous fuel removal would be allowed, and temporary roads could be constructed to facilitate timber harvest if the activity cannot be reasonably accomplished without a temporary road. Temporary road construction would likely change roadless characteristics in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber cutting activities would be designed for fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would likely be maintained or enhanced over the long term.

For the 33,000 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ, timber cutting and temporary road construction to facilitate timber harvest could be allowed to reduce hazardous fuels if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system. Since additional conditions would be required, it is likely that temporary road construction for this purpose would be infrequent.

Timber cutting from existing roads, including those constructed for fuel reduction projects, or using aerial systems could be done throughout all 34,800 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since road construction is not permitted to access new mineral leases.

Mallard-Larkins #300
129,400 Acres Idaho Panhandle
126,300 Acres Clearwater
255,700 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Mallard-Larkins Roadless Area extends west from the Bitterroot Mountain Range generally along the divide between the St. Joe River and the Clearwater River drainages. It is situated approximately 36 miles southeast of Avery, Idaho; 60 miles northeast of Orofino, Idaho; and 20 miles southwest of Superior, Montana. Mallard-Larkins is in Clearwater and Shoshone Counties on the Clearwater and Idaho Panhandle National Forest.

The area is generally accessible by moderate to low standard gravel and dirt roads. Access along the north side is provided from several dead-end roads extending south to and into the interior from the main St. Joe River Road and Road 320 from Red Ives Work Center east. Access to the east side is possible from the Pierce-Superior Road 250, the Fly Hill Road 720, and the Pot Mountain Ridge Road 715. Access to the south side is from numerous logging roads in the Cold Springs, Quartz, and Skull Creek drainages, and the North Fork Clearwater River Road 249. The southwest corner is accessed by the Dog Ridge Road 700.

Interior access, with some exceptions, is provided over a network of approximately 280 miles of low standard, fire control and administrative trails. Several trails into the more popular areas, such as the original Mallard-Larkins Pioneer Area and along the upper St. Joe River, have been improved to some extent in recent years. The roadless area is large and complex, composed of generally steep, rocky ridges, and deep canyons. The taller major peaks include Mallard Peak (6,870 feet), Larkins Peak (6,661 feet), Crag Peak (6,879 feet), Heart Peak (6,870 feet), Black Mountain (7,077 feet), East Sister (7,043 feet), The Nub (6,924 feet), Cold Springs Peak (6,731 feet), and Five Lakes Butte (6,713 feet).

Flowing through the area are parts of three river systems and numerous large and small, fast moving but mostly crystal-clear streams. The three river systems include most of the headwaters of the St. Joe River, a large section of the Little North Fork of the Clearwater River, and the main North Fork of the Clearwater River. The North Fork passes through a small section above Dworshak Reservoir and borders several stretches of the area along the east and south sides. A major divide separates the Little North Fork and St. Joe Rivers from the land draining into the main North Fork of the Clearwater. Major streams draining into the Little North Fork include Sawtooth Creek, Canyon Creek, and Foehl Creek. Major streams draining into the main North Fork of the Clearwater include Isabella Creek, Collins Creek, Skull Creek, and Quartz Creek. There are 38 mountain lakes large enough to be named. Heart Lake, containing 35 acres, is the largest one.

Geologically, most of the area is underlain by metamorphosed rocks of the Precambrian Belt supergroup consisting of rocks from the Wallace Formation, Ravalli Group, and Prichard Formation. These units contain interbedded layers of quartzite, schists, and gneiss. The extreme southeastern portion contains some rocks of the Idaho batholith consisting mainly of granite. Much of the granite is rapidly decomposing (in geologic terms), resulting in very unstable landscapes with sensitive soil mantles. Exposed in the northwest one-third of the area are anthracites, gneisses, and schists which are older than the Belt supergroups.

Although there are numerous rock outcroppings, talus slopes, and barren areas, a large proportion is heavily vegetated, ranging from mountain grasslands and meadows to dense mixtures of large varieties of trees and shrubs. Two vegetative ecosystems are present: a cedar-hemlock-pine forest at elevations generally below 6,000 feet and a western spruce-fir forest above 6,000 feet.

Approximately 80 percent of the land was burned over in 1910 and much of it again in 1919, 1920, and 1924. Where conditions are favorable, vast stands of lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir, grand fir, Engelmann

spruce, larch, western red cedar, western white pine, and mountain hemlock exist, some escaping the fires but most regenerating afterwards. Where the soils are thin and conditions severe, such as on the higher ridges and steep south facing slopes, shrubs still dominate the sites. The lands above 6,000 feet are subalpine in character, supporting mountain hemlock, subalpine fir, and lodgepole pine.

There are three major attractions: (1) the original Mallard-Larkins Pioneer Area, which is a highly scenic area along the major divide between the Little North Fork and the main North Fork River systems. It contains a large concentration of high peaks and mountain lakes and is relatively accessible by a good trail system; (2) the Five Lakes Butte area along the upper northeast side of the roadless area bounded by the Fly Hill-Gospel Hill road. Its main attraction is the open mountain grasslands, barren ground, and a cluster of lakes within easy walking distance of each other; and (3) Elizabeth Lakes area in the southeast corner above the main North Fork of the Clearwater River. It also is composed of several mountain peaks and a cluster of eight small lakes, all within two miles of each other.

In addition to the above, fishing opportunities in the Little North Fork and Upper St. Joe Rivers are a major attraction. The St. Joe River is managed as a wild river under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Wildlife, especially elk, deer, and mountain goats, attract numerous hunters each year. Historic uses included mining, logging, and Forest Service administrative activities.

The area includes roughly 139,700 acres of Recommended Wilderness and therefore holds a high level of roadless characteristics.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Visitors to the Mallard-Larkins area will probably not be aware of any improvements or alterations by man. Areas ranging from 5,000 to 20,000 acres exist which are undisturbed except by trails. However, the entire acreage does include a number of trails, roads, recreational facilities, special uses, historical sites, and mineral developments.

While there are large areas of undisturbed country, approximately 20 miles of road intrude into the area from six different locations. Except for a timber sale road in the Hidden-Fix Creek area, these roads are relatively primitive, accessing lookouts (some of which have since been removed) and mining claims. Timber harvesting activities past and present are found in many drainages adjacent to the area along the south and north boundaries.

Several developed recreational facilities and Forest Service lookouts can be found. A campground (adjacent to the roadless area) is maintained at Spruce Tree which has five campsites, a well, two outhouses, an information sign, and trailhead parking. Sawtooth Saddle has trailhead parking and an outhouse. Five lookouts which are still in usable condition sit on top of Snow Peak, Mallard Peak, Surveyor's Ridge, Black Mountain, and Hallow Mountain. The Mallard Peak Lookout has been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. Surveyor's Ridge is now on the National Forest Service Reservation system for the public. The other lookouts are used by the Forest Service and the State of Idaho Fish and Game for various activities. In addition, abandoned lookout sites or evidence in the form of debris or concrete footings remain at many of these sites.

Two base camps and several historical cabins can also be found. St. Joe Lodge and Resort is operated seasonally by an outfitter-guide under a special use permit. The lodge is on the St. Joe River, five miles above the end of the road. Facilities include a cookhouse, bunkhouse, barn, outhouses, corrals, fences, and tent pads. Use occurs from July to November. Another outfitter-guide operation has a camp at Elk Prairie near Granite Peak. The only permanent improvements are a water tank and outhouse. The camp is in operation during the hunting season. Cabins and cabin-remains have been identified during archaeological examinations at Yankee Bar Creek, Neversweat Creek, California Creek, Broken Leg Creek, and Canyon Creek.

In the past, mining and mineral exploration have had some impact on the area's natural integrity. The most significant development is the garnet mine at Scat Creek Flat on the St. Joe River. Rusted mining

equipment, a dredge pond, and old cabins can be seen. Hydraulic mining scars are found in the Mallard-Larkins area at California Creek, Yankee Bar Creek, and the North Fork of Bean Creek. A small, old sawmill with some associated logging was located near Bean Creek. Mill operations were incidental to the mining activities early in the century. Almost all the evidence of the mill's existence is gone.

A claim in Marquette Creek was worked a number of years ago, with very little evidence remaining now. The open pit hardrock mining on Indian Henry Ridge is still evident although it covers only a small area. In the past, grazing has taken place at many locations. Very little evidence of their use is noticeable. At present, a small number of stock are grazed by outfitters under special use permits. Screening, both by vegetation and topographic features, is very high. Overuse by visitors at some of the more popular lakes is evident.

Opportunities for Experience: Except for light traffic on the intruding roads and moderate to heavy traffic over the major adjacent roads, the area has a high degree of solitude. The varied terrain and the vastness of it enable the visitor to experience complete solitude in many areas. Concentrations of people around the lakes and along the major trails may tend to disrupt the solitude at certain times.

Viewing of activities outside the area, such as logging and roads, is possible from numerous high ridges along the northern and southern boundaries. Large scale logging activity is especially evident in the middle-ground-viewing area from the Black Mountain-Nub area and the Flat Mountain area. Most views, however, are background views and not overly distracting except at isolated points.

Noise may penetrate short distances in the vicinity of the two major roads bordering parts of the area: the Pierce-Superior Road (FS Road 250) and the Cedars-Red Ives Road (FS Roads 715 and 720). Noise from road building and logging activity could be evident in some areas. Opportunities for solitude also vary by season. The access roads are blocked by snow from November to May, so use is extremely low. Hunting season brings many individuals to the area for a quality roadless hunt.

The Black Mountain Lookout is currently manned and serviced via helicopter, which detracts from the solitude in a small portion of the area. The lookout is approximately eight miles from the nearest road over a very steep trail.

Hiking, primitive camping, outdoor photography, lake and stream fishing, horseback riding, and to a very limited extent, mountain climbing opportunities are available. Except for the Five Lakes Butte area, cross-country travel is a definite challenge involving a certain degree of risk over the rugged terrain, steep narrow canyons, and densely vegetated slopes. There are no facilities to enhance comfort or convenience.

During high water runoff in May or June, there may be limited opportunities for rafting and kayaking on the Little North Fork, although access to the river is by trail and cross-country up to several miles. Also, once on the river, the user is committed for 12-15 miles until reaching the upper end of the Dworshak pool.

Special Features: The Mallard-Larkins Roadless Area supports one of the largest Rocky Mountain goat populations in northern Idaho. Mallard, Heart, Snow, and Isabella Peaks and Black Mountain offer unique viewing and photographing opportunities of these animals during the spring and summer months. The creatures will shy away at first but their curious nature brings them to inspect one's camp at close quarters once activities have ceased. The Snow Peak herd is used extensively for transplanting game by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. A limited number of goat-hunting permits are issued each year in several areas.

The historic past of this area is interesting. While little physical evidence remains, history buffs can retrace the steps of Indians, trappers, and early Forest Service employees over Pot Mountain Trail 169, along the North Fork of the Clearwater River, along the present Indian Henry Ridge Trail, and along the divide between the St. Joe and Clearwater River drainages. The overgrown scars of the early mining era are a tribute to the many hours of hand labor put in by the early settlers.

The Heritage Cedar Grove, which is a large stand of very large and old western cedar located near the junction of Elmer Creek and Jug Creek, is another attraction for visitors. Access is by trail two miles up Isabella Creek.

Existing special management areas have had a major influence on the protection and enhancement of this area. The Mallard-Larkins Pioneer Area, which encompasses the Mallard-Larkins and Black Mountain-Nub Peak group of lakes and peaks, was designated by the Regional Forester in 1969 as a special administrative unit. The special area was set aside for its outstanding scenic, roadless, and primitive recreational qualities.

A 27 mile stretch of the St. Joe River is part of the National Wild and Scenic River system. The approximately 11,200 acres of river corridor is designated as a wild river. Management of this area is directed by the St. Joe Wild and Scenic River Management Plan. A 300 acre Research Natural Areas exists in the Five Lakes Butte area and the Aquarius area on the North Fork of the Clearwater River.

Manageability: The roadless area boundary of Mallard-Larkins varies from major Forest roads to cross-county, undefinable lines. In general, it is bounded on the north and east sides by dirt roads, the west side by Forest boundaries, parts of the south and southeast side by relatively high use graveled roads and the rest by timber cutting boundaries and logging roads. The manageability of this boundary could be improved by some minor changes. For example, continuing the boundary from Badger Mountain following Road 201 to Granite Mountain then easterly along Copper Ridge would represent a more definable and manageable boundary.

There is 14,460 acres of land belonging to the State of Idaho which lays in a checkerboard pattern running in a band diagonally northwest-southeast from the north boundary into the head of Collins Creek. The Forest Service has entered into a cooperative agreement with the State of Idaho to manage this area as the Snowpeak Wildlife Management Area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Many of the 38 lakes contain fish, mostly cutthroat and rainbow trout. The rivers and larger streams support excellent trout fisheries. The Upper St. Joe River has been designated as a three-limit fishery, with a minimum length of 13 inches. This has tended to increase the size of the fish and provide a higher quality fishery. The lack of easy access has tended to perpetuate this type of quality fishery. Bull trout habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Elk and deer, primarily mule deer, are the most abundant big game animals. Other large animals include mountain goats (discussed previously), moose, black bears, wolves, and mountain lions. Region 1 sensitive species including fisher, wolverine, harlequin duck, Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area. Approximately 41,300 acres of key big game (primarily elk) winter range have been identified.

Botanical: Clustered ladyslipper (*Cypripedium fasciculatum*), evergreen kittentail (*Synthyris platycarpa*), deer-fern (*Blechnum spicant*), Constance's bittercress (*Cardamine constancei*), Sierra wood-fern (*Thelypteris nevadensis*), light hookeria (*Hookeria lucens*), and chickweed monkeyflower (*Mimulus alsinoides*), all sensitive plant species occur in this roadless area.

Recreation: Current recreation uses include primarily hiking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, and OHV riding on the roads. There is an extensive trail systems providing long loops for motorized day trips.

Timber: Approximately 69 percent or 179,000 acres of the Mallard-Larkins Roadless Area is capable of producing timber. The potential yield of the area varies from low to high, considering the wide variety of ecological factors that affect an area this large. The standing volume of sawtimber is estimated at 2,499,000 million board feet.

Range: With only about 3,600 acres of suitable livestock range, grazing is not a significant use. Most use is by outfitters and guides for horse and mule grazing during the summer and early fall.

Minerals and Energy: The mineral potential of the area ranges from low to moderate, with approximately 95 percent at the low end. The upper St. Joe River Valley was promising enough to attract many turn-of-the-century miners but no major developments resulted. Limited activity on the Clearwater side has likewise resulted in no current development. There are several copper occurrences near Granite Peak, and there is a potential aluminum deposit near Goat Mountain. Potential for oil and gas is low except for an estimated 69,000 acres of moderate potential in the St. Joe drainage. This roadless area contains 255,700 acres of high geothermal potential. The larger lakes within the original Mallard-Larkins Pioneer Area and the St. Joe Wild and Scenic River Corridor are withdrawn from mineral entry.

Landownership and Special Uses: The area currently supports four separate outfitter and guide businesses. Most of the use is for big game hunters in the fall. The State of Idaho owns intermingled land within the boundaries of this roadless area. Most of it occurs in a checkerboard pattern in the Canyon and Buck Creek drainages on the Idaho Panhandle Forests, with a minor amount of acres in the head of Collins Creek in the Clearwater Forest (Snowpeak WMA).

Heritage: Current known cultural resource sites includes Forest Service lookout site locations, cabins or cabin remains, hollowed-out cedar tree used for shelter, Pole Mountain Ranger Station location, historic hunting/outfitter camps, prehistoric usage areas, one mining site, and trapping site.

Disturbances: There were a number of large fires in the early 1900s. The area now has some of the highest fire occurrence on the District.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Mallard-Larkins Roadless Area.

Table Mallard-Larkins-1a-c displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Mallard-Larkins-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Mallard-Larkins-1a. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative (Idaho Panhandle)

Mallard-Larkins Management Theme Idaho Panhandle	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Wild Land Recreation	0	76,100	49,500	72,100
Primitive	0	4,000	0	0
Similar to Backcountry	129,400	0	0	0
Backcountry	0	36,600	46,200	45,800
GFRG	0	1,200	100	0
SAHTS	0	0	22,100	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	11,500*	11,500*	11,500*
Total Acres	129,400	129,400	129,400	129,400

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the Idaho Panhandle portion of the Mallard-Larkins Roadless Area is 300 acres as RNA and 11,200 acres as WSR. For further information on this designation, see the Idaho Panhandle National Forest LRMP.

Table Mallard-Larkins-1b. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative (Clearwater)

Mallard-Larkins Management Theme Clearwater	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Wild Land Recreation	0	65,500	59,100	59,100
Primitive	0	18,700	0	31,600
Similar to Backcountry	126,300	0	0	0
Backcountry	0	20,600	67,200	35,600
GFRG	0	21,500	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0	0
Total Acres	126,300	126,300	126,300	126,300

Table Mallard-Larkins -1c. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative (Total)

Mallard-Larkins Management Theme Total	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Wild Land Recreation	0	141,600	108,600	131,200
Primitive	0	22,700	0	31,600
Similar to Backcountry	255,700	0	0	0
Backcountry	0	57,200	113,400	81,400
GFRG	0	22,700	100	0
SAHTS	0	0	22,100	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	11,500	11,500	11,500
Total Acres	255,700	255,700	255,700	255,700

Table Mallard-Larkins-2. Potential activities (Idaho Panhandle and Clearwater combined)

Mallard-Larkins Potential Activities Total	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	72,500	113,500	0
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	255,700	102,700	135,600	81,400
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	255,700	102,700	135,600	81,400
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	102,700	135,600	0
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	92,500	100	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	255,700	102,700	113,600	81,400

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): For the areas in the Idaho Panhandle National Forest, under the existing forest plan around 1,100 acres would be managed under prescription 1 (timber production), 2,000 acres

under prescription 4 (timber production/big game winter range), 27,600 acres under prescription 6 (timber production/elk summer range), 7,600 acres under prescription 9 (non-forest), 3,800 acres under prescription 10 (semi-primitive recreation), 73,900 acres under prescription 11 (proposed wilderness), 8,100 acres under prescription 12 (Wild and Scenic River), and 200 acres under prescription 20 (unroaded semi-primitive/limited timber).

For the areas in the Clearwater National Forest, under the existing forest plan around 10,200 acres would be managed under prescription A3 (dispersed recreation in an unroaded setting), 65,800 acres under prescription B2 (recommended wilderness), 600 acres under prescription C3 (key big game winter range/unsuitable for timber), 11,500 acres under prescription C4 (key big game winter range/timber management), 500 acres under prescription C8S (big game summer range/timber management), 21,500 acres under prescription E1 (timber management), 7,900 acres under prescription E3 (aerial harvest/timber management), and 8,300 acres under prescription US (unsuitable land).

Timber harvest and associated road building are prohibited on the 141,500 acres under Idaho Panhandle prescriptions 11 and 12 and Clearwater prescription B2. Mineral and energy related activities can only occur if they do not impair the future use and enjoyment of the area's wilderness or wild and scenic river character. Under this prescription the 141,500 acres are expected to maintain their wilderness, wild and scenic river and roadless area characteristics.

Limited timber harvest is permitted under Clearwater prescriptions A3, E3 and C3 (18,700 acres) and Idaho Panhandle prescriptions 9, 10 and 20 (11,600 acres), but no new roads can be constructed for timber harvest purposes. Therefore, little to no timber harvest and associated road building are expected on these 30,300 acres.

Timber harvest and road building to access the timber harvest is allowed on the 29,600 under Idaho Panhandle prescriptions 4 and 6 if these activities improve or maintain big game winter range or elk summer range habitat. Similarly, Clearwater prescription US prohibits commercial timber production, but timber harvest and associated road building are still permitted as a tool to improve wildlife habitat, restore ecosystem structure and function or reduce the risk of wildfire. If temporary roads are used for timber activities under these three prescriptions, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would have a dual objective of habitat improvement or reduction of wildland fire risk, the impact to roadless characteristics would be limited. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still have a dual objective of habitat improvement and/or fire risk reduction.

Roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes on the 34,600 acres under Clearwater prescriptions C4, C8S and E1 and Idaho Panhandle prescription 1. Any timber activities and road building that occur under these prescriptions could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

In addition to the mineral prohibitions in the areas recommended for Wilderness or Wild and Scenic River designation, road construction for new mineral leases is not permitted in the 10,200 acres under Clearwater prescription A3. For the remaining 92,500 acres in the Mallard-Larkin Roadless Area, there are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or associated road building. No phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals. The area does contain 255,700 acres of high geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occurs would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 100 acres would fall under the GFRG, 113,400 acres under the Backcountry theme, 22,100 under the SAHTS and 108,600 under the Wild Land Recreation theme.

The 100 acres of GFRG is located adjacent to existing open roads that are heavily used. Timber harvest could occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Timber activities and road

building to meet these objectives could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term but the activities would occur on the outer edge of the roadless area, limiting the overall effects.

For the acres under the Backcountry theme timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities would be permitted. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes.

For the acres under the SAHTS theme no road construction would be expected because it would be prohibited except in cases of reserved and outstanding rights. Timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities would be permitted, but little to no timber cutting would be anticipated for the 22,100 acres under the SAHTS theme because roads could not be constructed.

The 108,600 acres managed under the Wild Land Recreation theme would experience the same protections they had as Recommended Wilderness under the Forest Plans. These acres would therefore maintain both their roadless and wilderness characteristics.

Leasable mineral activities and road building to access mineral leases are permitted under the GFRG theme. While there is little to no potential for oil and gas development or phosphate mining in the Mallard Larkins Area, the area does contain 255,700 acres of high geothermal potential. If any geothermal activities occurred under the GFRG theme, then they would alter roadless characteristics in both the short and long-term. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry or SAHTS theme since either surface occupancy is prohibited or roads are only allowed for restoration purposes. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 131,200 acres under the Wild Land Recreation theme, 31,600 acres under the Primitive theme, and 81,400 acres under the Backcountry theme. None of the Backcountry acres are in the CPZ and there is no overlap with municipal watersheds.

The 131,200 acres managed under the Wild Land Recreation theme would experience the same protections they had as Recommended Wilderness under the Forest Plans. Road construction would be prohibited except for reserved and outstanding rights and no timber cutting or leasable mineral activities would be allowed. These acres would therefore maintain both their roadless characteristics and wilderness attributes.

Timber cutting is prohibited under the Primitive theme except when done to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, or to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire, but only adjacent to a community or a municipal water supply system. No new roads can be constructed for these activities, so limited timber harvest is expected because of lack of roaded access. In addition these activities must maintain or improve at least one or more roadless characteristics. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would likely maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

There are no communities or municipal water supply systems within or adjacent to the Backcountry portion of this roadless area, therefore no roads could be constructed to facilitate fuel reduction projects. In addition, since there are no communities or municipal water supply systems nearby, no timber harvest or associated road building would occur for the purpose of reducing the significant risk of wildland fire effects. Timber cutting from existing roads or using aerial systems be done throughout all 81,400 acres of

Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. As under the Primitive theme, activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry or Primitive theme since either surface occupancy or road building to access new mineral leases is prohibited.

Maple Peak #141

8,700 Acres Idaho Panhandle
6,500 Acres Lolo (Montana)
900 Acres Kootenai (Montana)
16,100 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Maple Peak Roadless Area is located about 10 miles north of Mullan, Idaho, in Shoshone County, Idaho, and Sanders County, Montana. This roadless area is shared by three National Forests: the Idaho Panhandle, Kootenai, and Lolo National Forests. Access to the Idaho side is gained by exiting 1-90 at Kingston, Idaho; traveling the paved Coeur d'Alene River Road to Prichard; then following Forest Highway 9 to the periphery of the area where access to the area is gained by trails. Access to the Montana side is gained by exiting State Highway 200 at the Thompson Pass road (maintained gravel road) which leads to trailhead access to the area.

Topographically, the area consists of an east-west ridge which crosses the drainages. Slopes are moderate, except near the State divide. Smaller drainages are wholly included. The boundary irregularly traverses ridges, streams, and cross slopes. Two small lakes are found within this area; neither is considered a significant fishery.

About 90 percent of the vegetation is a result of the 1910 fire which left large areas of brushfields and timber stands which are now pole-size lodgepole, Douglas-fir, larch, and white pine. Subalpine vegetation is found at the highest elevations.

Hunting big game during September and October is the current predominant use. The area also receives light use by berry pickers, hikers, and stream fishing enthusiasts. Most wildlife species found in northern Idaho also find habitat in this area. Unusual species include bobcat and lynx.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Impacts from human activity in the Maple Peak Roadless Area have resulted primarily from mining. This activity will probably continue into the future, further modifying the natural integrity.

Undeveloped Character: A person visiting this area would find it difficult to view any substantially large areas of natural appearing landscape.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunity for solitude in the Maple Peak Roadless Area will be greatly influenced by the level of mining activity in the area on patented and unpatented claims. Private inholdings in the form of patented mining claims cover most of the lower elevations in Butte Gulch. The only opportunities for recreation associated with water are in Bear Gulch. An existing mining road accesses all of Bear Gulch, precluding any primitive recreation experience.

Opportunities for primitive recreation in the Maple Peak Roadless Area would primarily consist of hunting and hiking along the Idaho-Montana Divide, use of two alpine lakes, rock climbing, and cross-country travel. These opportunities are more prevalent in the Montana portion due to the absence of mining there.

Special Features: In 1904 the Idaho-Montana boundary was resurveyed. Rock cairns and chiseled rock mile markers can be found along the divide. In the 1930s the Maple Peak Lookout was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps. This was removed in the mid-1950s. Some sources have suggested that much of the area is potentially suitable habitat for grizzly bear.

Manageability: Boundaries will be hard to manage, as they follow timber sale boundaries and roads.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Water from this area feeds into Big Beaver Creek, a well known fishery.

Wildlife: Most species found in northern Idaho are also found here. There is no habitat for threatened and endangered species. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Water: This roadless area contains 7,400 acres of ground water (municipal water supply).

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Current recreation use is light--mostly hunting. Light off-road vehicle use is present.

Timber: About 8,000 acres are tentatively suitable for timber management. Some of these suitable sites are now brushfields which may be costly to reforest.

Range: None.

Minerals and Energy: Hardrock mineral potential is high. There are several patented mining claims and 792 unpatented mining claims. Minerals have been and are currently being extracted. Most of the area is under oil and gas lease application. This roadless area contains 8,700 acres of low geothermal potential.

Disturbances: The number of fires occurring annually is small; the 1910 fire is an example of the potential for a periodic large fire.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Maple Peak Roadless Area.

Table Maple Peak-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Maple Peak-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Maple Peak-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Maple Peak Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0	0
Similar to Backcountry	8,700	0	0	0
Backcountry	0	4,500	8,700	8,700
GFRG	0	4,200	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0	0
Total Acres	8,700	8,700	8,700	8,700

Table Maple Peak-2. Potential activities

Maple Peak Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	8,700	8,700	0
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	8,700	8,700	8,700	8,700
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	8,700	8,700	8,700	8,700
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	8,700	8,700	0
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	8,700	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	8,700	8,700	8,700	8,700

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 4,200 acres are managed under prescription 1 (timber production), 1,600 acres under prescription 4 (timber production/big game winter range), and 2,900 acres under prescription 9 (non-forest).

Timber activities in the 2,900 acres under prescription 9 are limited to salvage and firewood removal that can occur from existing access roads. Roads may be constructed across prescription 9 to reach other destinations. These areas have scattered tree cover, so little to no timber harvest is expected.

Timber harvest and road building to access the timber harvest is allowed under prescription 4 if these activities improve or maintain habitat for big game winter range. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would have a dual objective of habitat improvement, the impact to roadless characteristics would be limited. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still have a dual objective of habitat improvement.

For the 4,200 acres under prescription 1, roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Any timber activities and road building that occur under this prescription could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Maple Peak Roadless Area. However, no phosphate mining, oil and gas, or geothermal activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 8,700 acres would be available for limited timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities

would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 8,700 acres under the Backcountry theme. None of the Backcountry acres are in the CPZ, but 7,400 acres of the roadless area are within a municipal watershed. However the municipal water supply is fed by ground water; therefore is at limited risk from wildland fires.

There are no communities or surface water municipal water supply systems within or adjacent to the Backcountry portion of this roadless area, therefore no roads could be constructed to facilitate fuel reduction projects. In addition, since there are no communities or surface water municipal water supply systems nearby, no timber harvest or associated road building would occur for the purpose of reducing the significant risk of wildland fire effects.

Timber cutting from existing roads or using aerial systems could be done throughout all 8,700 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry since road construction is not permitted to access new mineral leases.

Meadow Creek–Upper North Fork #302

6,000 Acres Idaho Panhandle (Idaho)

43,200 Acres Clearwater (Idaho)

7,200 Acres Lolo (Montana)

56,400 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Meadow Creek-Upper North Fork Roadless Area is situated on the Idaho-Montana border, approximately 40 air miles west of Missoula, Montana. The Idaho portion is located in parts of Clearwater and Shoshone Counties within the Clearwater and Idaho Panhandle National Forest. The Montana portion is in Mineral County within the Lolo National Forest.

Accessibility is provided from several directions. From the east, it is 16 miles from Superior, Montana, via Cedar Creek Road 320 or 24 miles via Pierce-Superior Road 250. From the northwest, it is 35 miles from Avery, Idaho, via St. Joe River Road 320. From the south, it is 100 miles from Orofino, Idaho, via Fly Hill Road 715 and Pot Mountain Ridge Road 720.

Interior access is provided over 54 miles of relatively low standard fire control and administrative trails. Cross-country travel is very difficult over most of the area because of rugged terrain and dense low vegetation. Access along the state line divide is easier over barren and sparse vegetation areas.

Topography changes from narrow, flat valley bottoms to very narrow, flat and U-shaped valleys at higher elevations. Sharp, rugged relief above 7,000 feet occurs along the Bitterroot Divide, which separates Idaho from Montana.

Several cirque basins containing four small lakes are also found near the divide. Two other small lakes are found at lower elevations. Topography becomes less steep in the North Fork of the Clearwater River drainage, dropping down to 3,800 feet in elevation where the river exits the area. Geologically, the area is composed of Belt Series bedrock which is made up of schists and gneiss. These rocks are generally more stable and less erosive than those within the batholith.

Two major river systems, the St. Joe and the North Fork of the Clearwater, start within the area. The streams in the Montana side drain into the Clark Fork River. Six lakes are found and all but one is within relatively short distance of the Bitterroot Divide.

The area contains three major vegetative ecosystems: (a) cedar-hemlock-pine forest encompassing the lower elevations in the North Fork of the Clearwater River and Meadow and Chamberlain Creeks, (b) western spruce-fir forest at the higher elevations up to 6,000 feet; and (c) alpine meadows and barren land in a band along the Bitterroot Divide above 6,000 feet.

Vegetation varies from carex and beargrass on high elevation south slopes to grand fir and western red cedar types at lower elevations. Large forest fires in the late 1800s and early 1900s had a major influence on the present vegetation, with much of the area being covered with even-aged stands of lodgepole pine averaging six to ten inches in diameter. Most of the area is reforested, with exception of south slopes having thin soils. Other species present include subalpine fir, western larch, mountain hemlock, grand fir, and some white bark pine.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Human activities have had a moderate impact, primarily in the St. Joe drainage, Upper Cedar Creek, and the head of the North Fork of the Clearwater River. Evidence remains of turn-of-the-century gold and silver placer and dredge mining activities. Rock tailing piles along streams, diversion ditches, cabins and remains of cabins, and access roads are the principal detractors, even though much of it has softened over the years through natural vegetation and erosion. Present day mining activities are more localized. Remnants of a lookout tower are located on Illinois Peak. The majority of the rest of the

area is relatively free of human impacts; even the trails appear natural and some minor grazing up to 1970 may still be evident in the meadows around Chamberlain Basin.

Opportunities for Experience: The Meadow Creek-Upper North Fork Roadless Area provides a high opportunity for solitude because of its rectangular shape and large size encompassing over 49,000 acres. The area runs 14 miles north-south and 7 miles east-west. Screening because of broken and varied topography and dense vegetation is a big factor in reducing visual contact with others as well as minimizing noise levels and possibilities of observing discordant features outside the area. Encounters with visitors are most likely at the several larger accessible fishing lakes, the National Recreation Trail along the Bitterroot Divide, and within the St. Joe Wild River Corridor.

The boundary is nine miles from a major highway on the east side and is adjacent to the Pierce-Superior road on the south side. Sounds from logging activity near the periphery of the area have the potential of penetrating upwards to a mile into the roadless area. Sounds from mining activity inside the area also have the potential to be heard for a mile or so. Some very distant roads and timber harvest areas are visible in Montana and Idaho from the highest points along the Idaho-Montana Divide.

The opportunity for solitude also varies by season. Except for lower elevations in the North Fork, most land is inaccessible due to snow from November until July. Moderate to high use is experienced during elk hunting season in October. Because of the high degree of solitude, dispersed recreation occurring in primitive and semi-primitive settings are excellent. The only improvements are the access trails which provide opportunities for hiking and horseback riding.

Special Features: The evidence of early day mining activities is a highlight in portions of the area. Approximately 27 miles (8,230 acres) of the headwaters of the St. Joe River have been classified a Wild River under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers act of 1968. Management of this corridor is directed by the St. Joe Wild and Scenic River Management Plan. Stateline Trail 738, which extends north from Hoodoo Pass along the Bitterroot Divide, has been designated as a National Recreational Trail. Because of the publicity these types of trails receive, visitors are increasing.

Manageability: Because of the relatively uniform rectangular shape of the area, external adverse effects are minimal. The isolated nature, as well as the relatively low standard roads and short season, also contribute to very low use, resulting in even less effect on the wilderness attributes. Existing roadless area boundaries follow low standard roads along the southern, western and northwestern sides and well defined ridges and creeks along most of the east side. Most of the boundary along the northeast boundary in Montana is poorly defined, following timber sale and other management activities.

Along the southern edge, a checkerboard pattern of private land occurs. Other ownerships are the result of patented mining claims in Caledonia and Niagara Creeks. The Rawhide Roadless Area, an area of 6,000 acres, is for all practical purposes contiguous to this area. The boundary between these two areas was established on the basis of the abandoned Rawhide Road, which provided the first road access to the Clearwater Forest over Hoodoo Pass. This road was replaced with the Pierce-Superior Road 250 in the early 1950s. Although evidence of the road remains in places, it is unusable except for a short stretch near the pass.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Most of the streams and lakes have a catchable size fish population, predominantly cutthroat and rainbow trout, with some mountain whitefish and brook trout. Bull trout habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Wildlife species include elk, lynx, moose, black bear, white-tail and mule deer, grouse, and numerous species of non-game birds and animals indigenous to conifer-covered mountains in north-central Idaho. Because of the elevations and heavy snowpack over much of the area during the winter, only a small percentage of the area is suitable for big game winter range.

Although sightings of the threatened grizzly bear have been reported a number of times over the years, no confirmed evidence have been presented. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Big game hunting, stream and lake fishing, hiking, backpacking, photography, scenic viewing, camping, prospecting, and horseback riding, all in primitive or undeveloped settings, are the primary attractions. Except in places along the Bitterroot Divide, cross-country travel is difficult because of dense vegetation.

Timber: About 36,000 acres, or 67 percent of the total net acreage, is considered suitable for the production of timber. The standing volume of sawtimber has been estimated at 579,900 million board feet. Much of the timber is immature, although there are pockets of larger old growth, especially in the North Fork Clearwater drainage.

Range: Livestock grazing potential is moderate, but limited primarily to small, open, mountain grasslands and meadows along some of the major creeks. Cattle were last grazed commercially in the early 1970s. Some commercial horse and mule grazing is permitted in conjunction with the one outfitter and guide operating in the area.

Minerals and Energy: Mining (placer and hardrock) has been an important use in the past and still continues to attract a lot of prospecting. The mineral potential, especially for silver and gold, is moderate in a large area encompassing Niagara, Vanderbilt, Chamberlain, and Meadow Creeks in the North Fork drainage and extending north into the upper St. Joe River basin and the Cedar Creek drainage in Montana. The remainder of the area has low potential. Oil and gas potential is considered low. This roadless area contains 6,000 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: With the exception of about 400 acres of patented mining claims in Niagara and Caledonia Creeks, approximately 4,300 acres of land in the lower North Fork is owned by Burlington Northern Company. Some logging has taken place within two of the sections within recent years and plans are to access and harvest timber in other sections. There is currently very little mining activity within the mining claims.

Heritage: Known cultural resources include Forest Service lookout sites, cabins or cabin remains, Forest Service Ranger Station site, historic hunter or outfitter camps, prehistoric camp and fishing site, mining sites, and Euro-American grave site. American Indian trails existed. As noted previously, considerable early day mining has resulted in numerous sites and evidence of these activities. Historic evidence also indicates early Americans Indians used selected sites for killing game that crossed or were driven from one side to the other.

Disturbances: Fire history includes the large burns of 1889 and 1910. Advanced fire suppression has contributed to low numbers and acres of annual fires in recent years. Correspondingly, the volume of fire fuels is increasing especially in areas where insect and disease-killed timber is found.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Meadow Creek–Upper North Fork Roadless Area. Table Meadow Creek–Upper North Fork-1a-c displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Meadow Creek–Upper North Fork-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Meadow Creek–Upper North Fork-1a. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative (Idaho Panhandle)

Meadow Creek–Upper North Fork Management Theme Idaho Panhandle	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0
Primitive	0	4,100	0	0
Similar to Backcountry	6,000	0	0	0
Backcountry	0	0	4,500	4,500
GFRG	0	400	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	1,500*	1,500*	1,500*
Total Acres	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the Meadow Creek–Upper North Fork Roadless Area is WSR. For further information on this designation, see the Idaho Panhandle National Forest LRMP.

Table Meadow Creek–Upper North Fork -1b. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative (Clearwater)

Meadow Creek–Upper North Fork Management Theme Clearwater	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0	42,800
Similar to Backcountry	43,200	0	0	0
Backcountry	0	42,800	43,200	400
GFRG	0	400	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0	0
Total Acres	43,200	43,200	43,200	43,200

Table Meadow Creek–Upper North Fork -1c. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative (Total)

Meadow Creek–Upper North Fork Management Theme Total	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0
Primitive	0	4,100	0	42,800
Similar to Backcountry	49,200	0	0	0
Backcountry	0	42,800	47,700	4,900
GFRG	0	800	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	1,500	1,500	1,500
Total Acres	49,200	49,200	49,200	49,200

Table Meadow Creek–Upper North Fork -2. Potential activities (Idaho Panhandle and Clearwater combined)

Meadow Creek–Upper North Fork Potential Activities Total	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	43,300	47,700	0
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	49,200	47,100	47,700	47,700
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	49,200	47,100	47,700	4,900
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	47,100	47,700	0
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	47,100	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	49,200	47,100	47,700	4,900

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): For the areas in the Idaho Panhandle National Forest, under the existing forest plan around 100 acres would be managed under prescription 1 (timber production), 3,600 acres under prescription 10 (semi-primitive recreation), and 600 acres under prescription 12 (Wild and Scenic River). For the areas in the Clearwater National Forest, under the existing forest plan around 37,400 acres would be managed under prescription C8S (big game summer range/timber management), 400 acres under prescription E1 (timber management), and 5,400 acres under prescription US (unsuitable land).

No regulated timber harvest is permitted under Idaho Panhandle prescriptions 10 and no new roads can be constructed for timber harvest purposes. Therefore, little to no timber harvest and associated road building are expected on these 3,600 acres.

Clearwater prescription US prohibits commercial timber production, but timber harvest and associated road building are still permitted as a tool to improve wildlife habitat, restore ecosystem structure and function or reduce the risk of wildfire. If temporary roads are used for timber activities under these three prescriptions, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would have a dual objective of habitat improvement or reduction of wildland fire risk, the impact to roadless characteristics would be limited. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still have a dual objective of habitat improvement and/or fire risk reduction.

Roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes on the 38,100 acres under Clearwater prescriptions C8S and E1 and Idaho Panhandle prescription 1. Any timber activities and road building that occur under these prescriptions could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

Timber harvest and associated road building are prohibited on the 600 acres under Idaho Panhandle prescription 12. Mineral and energy related activities can only occur if they do not impair the future use and enjoyment of the area's wild and scenic river character. Under this prescription the 600 acres are expected to maintain their wild and scenic river and roadless area characteristics.

Apart from the 600 acres under prescription 12, are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or associated road building in the Meadow Creek-Upper North Fork Roadless Area. No phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals. The area does contain 6,000 acres of high geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occurs would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 47,700 acres would be available for limited timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 42,800 acres under the Primitive theme and 4,900 acres under the Backcountry theme, none of which are in the CPZ.

Timber cutting is prohibited in the Primitive theme except to maintain or restore TEPS habitat, restore ecosystem composition and function or to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire to a community or a municipal water supply system. Activities to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire are not expected to occur in this roadless area because the area is not within 1 ½ miles of a community, nor does it contain a municipal water supply system. No new roads can be constructed and any timber cutting activities that occur must maintain or improve at least one or more roadless characteristics. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

There are no communities or municipal water supply systems adjacent to the Backcountry portion of this roadless area, therefore no roads could be constructed to facilitate fuel reduction projects. In addition, since there are no communities or municipal water supply systems nearby, no timber harvest or associated road building would occur for the purpose of reducing the significant risk of wildland fire effects. Timber cutting from existing roads or using aerial systems could be done throughout all 4,900 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. As under the Primitive theme, activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry or Primitive themes since these themes either prohibit surface occupancy or roads to access new mineral leases of any kind.

Midget Peak #151

7,200 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

Situated on the Avery Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest, the Midget Peak Roadless Area lies in Shoshone County approximately 22 air miles southeast of Avery, Idaho. A paved road, the St. Joe River Road, forms the eastern boundary and provides primary road access to the area. Several trails, including the Simmons Creek and Simmons Ridge systems, traverse the interior. A short quarter-mile road to the trailhead for the Simmons Creek Trail extends into the roadless area from the west.

Steep, rugged terrain with numerous rock outcrops, especially in the drainage bottoms, characterizes the topography of this triangular-shaped roadless area. Elevations range from 3,500 along the St. Joe River to over 6,000 feet along Simmons Ridge. Portions of several watersheds feed westward into the St. Joe River, with the most important being Simmons Creek.

The vegetation reflects past fire history. Fires in 1910, 1924, and 1931 burned most of the area leaving only scattered patches of older timber, with the largest component present in the Gold Creek drainage. In the burned portion, lodgepole pine predominates, with significant amounts of larch, Douglas-fir, grand fir, and subalpine fir intermixed in the canopy. Remnants of off-site ponderosa pine planted in 1939 occur at several locations along the St. Joe River corridor and Simmons Creek. Large acreages on the more exposed sites in the Simmons, Midget, and Slide Creek drainages still remain in a brushfield condition. Habitats through the area range from cedar series in the lower elevations to mountain hemlock or subalpine fir on the ridgelines.

Recreational use is concentrated along the eastern boundary of the area, which includes 800 acres of the St. Joe Wild and Scenic River corridor. The Fly Flat Campground borders the Midget Peak Roadless Area along this stretch. Major use of the roadless area and trail system occurs seasonally during hunting season, with only sporadic use recorded by hikers, backpackers, packstock, and motorbike enthusiasts.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Impact from human activity in this area is low to moderate. Existing improvements include remains of a cabin and a lookout site (Pegleg Mountain) that have various debris associated with them. Eleven miles of Forest Service System Trails exist within the Midget Peak area. Several miles of temporary logging roads enter the area on the northeast side. These roads are revegetated but the roadcut is still evident. Approximately 350 acres of ponderosa pine, which is not natural to the area, were planted at several locations in the Midget Peak Roadless Area. The impact of this is extremely low since most visitors to the area would not recognize the tree as a non-native.

Undeveloped Character: The Midget Peak area is natural appearing due to a high level of visual screening by vegetation and topography. Logging activities outside the area can be seen occasionally.

Opportunities for Experience: The opportunity for solitude is moderate due to the small size of the area. Vegetation and topography provide screening from others, however, visitors from the St. Joe Wild and Scenic River Corridor may be encountered frequently and hunting season in October each year brings many people to the area. Hiking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, and berry gathering are probably the main primitive recreation opportunities available in this area. No lakes, scenic views, or popular destination points exist that would strongly attract the camper or backpacker.

Special Features: Approximately 800 acres are within the St. Joe Wild and Scenic River corridor.

Manageability: The Midget Creek Roadless Area is bounded on the west side by the St. Joe River Road and on the north by Gold Ridge Road. The boundary on the east has been drawn to exclude the existing activities and does not follow any identifiable topographic feature. This would be difficult to locate on the ground. There are approximately three miles of logging roads that intrude into the area. These roads access an existing cutting area below Pegleg Mountain.

There is also a small system of interconnected roads that access the forest inside the north boundary. Boundary adjustment would be needed to exclude these roads. Other existing developments are all along the boundaries and include the developed campground at Fly Flat (outside the roadless area) and the cabin at Midget Creek used by the Idaho Fish and Game Department through a Special Use Permit. Since these uses are on the boundary they could be compatible with the roadless character of the area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The St. Joe watershed through this area is managed under special regulations to promote quality fisheries, with Simmons Creek existing as an important spawning habitat. Bull trout habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Most animals found in northern Idaho are also found in this area; no habitat for threatened and endangered species exists. Elk, deer, moose, black bear, wolverine, fisher, and a variety of small mammals and birds inhabit the area. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game has identified portions of the roadless area as quality elk habitat which the agency would prefer to remain roadless. Burning to promote habitat has occurred at several locations along the river corridor. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Horseback riding and fall elk hunting are the predominant recreation uses of this area. Current use is light due to the lack of attractions. Part of the area is managed under the St. Joe River Wild and Scenic River Management Plan. Recreation associated with the river corridor can be managed to protect the roadless character of the area.

Timber: The area suitable for timber management is 4,800 acres. The remaining area is unsuitable due to poor, rocky soils and other high elevation site factors. The timber is predominantly 6- to 10-inch lodgepole pine which occurs in contiguous even-aged stands. The trees were established after the wildfires in the area. Timber production potential is medium to high on the suitable acres. Potential for economical timber harvest is medium in today's market.

Minerals and Energy: Mineral potential for this area is low and no mining claims are known to exist. Oil and gas potential is low. Creeks in the area have potential for placer gold. This roadless area contains 7,200 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Disturbances: Although large fires have occurred in the area in the past, the number of fires occurring annually is low. Mountain pine beetle infestation in lodgepole pine stands is possible within the next 10 to 15 years.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Midget Peak Roadless Area.

Table Midget Peak-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Midget Peak-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Midget Peak-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Midget Peak Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0	0
Similar to Backcountry	7,200	0	0	0
Backcountry	0	4,300	6,400	6,400
GFRG	0	2,100	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	800*	800*	800*
Total Acres	7,200	7,200	7,200	7,200

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the Midget Peak Roadless Area is WSR. For further information on this designation, see the Idaho Panhandle National Forest LRMP.

Table Midget Peak-2. Potential activities

Midget Peak Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	6,400	6,400	0
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	7,200	6,400	6,400	6,400
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	7,200	6,400	6,400	6,400
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	6,400	6,400	0
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	6,400	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	7,200	6,400	6,400	6,400

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 2,100 acres are managed under prescription 1 (timber production), 200 acres under prescription 4 (timber production/big game winter range), 600 acres under prescription 5 (big game winter range), 2,900 acres under prescription 6 (timber production/elk summer range), and 600 acres under prescription 9 (non-forest).

Timber activities in the 600 acres under prescription 9 are limited to salvage and firewood removal that can occur from existing access roads. Roads may be constructed across prescription 9 to reach other destinations. These areas have scattered tree cover, so little to no timber harvest is expected.

Timber harvest and road building to access the timber harvest is allowed under prescriptions 4, 5 and 6 if these activities improve or maintain habitat for big game winter range and/or elk summer range. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would have a dual objective of habitat improvement, the impact to roadless characteristics would be limited. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still have a dual objective of habitat improvement.

For the 2,100 acres under prescription 1, roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Any timber activities and road building that occur under this prescription could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Midget Peak Roadless Area. No phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals. The area does contain 7,200 acres of medium geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 6,400 acres would be available for limited timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 6,400 acres under the Backcountry theme, none of which are in the CPZ.

Since there are no communities or municipal water supply systems adjacent to the Backcountry portion of this roadless area, no roads could be constructed to facilitate fuel reduction projects. In addition, since there are no communities or municipal water supply systems nearby, no timber harvest or associated road building would occur for the purpose of reducing the significant risk of wildland fire effects. Timber cutting from existing roads or using aerial systems could be done throughout all 6,400 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since road construction is not permitted to access new mineral leases.

Mosquito Fly #150

19,400 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Mosquito-Fly Roadless Area lies in Shoshone County approximately 20 air miles southeast of Avery, Idaho; on the Avery Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. Access to the roadless area is provided by the St. Joe River Road, a paved road which forms the eastern boundary, and the Beaver, Avery Timber Creek, and Junction Ridge Roads which form the remaining perimeter. A historical resource, the Old Montana Trail, follows the northwestern perimeter but lies abandoned along most of its route.

Steep, rugged terrain with sharp ridges dissected by several drainages marks the topography, with elevations rising sharply from 3,300 feet along the St. Joe River to over 6,500 feet along the ridgelines. Rock outcrops and shallow soils typify a large proportion of this roadless area. Three major tributaries--Mosquito, Fly, and Beaver Creeks--flow northeastward into the St. Joe River. Several major peaks, including Conrad Peak, Junction Peak, and Peggy Peak, are located within the area. Two small pond-like lakes--Twin Lakes--are situated along the western boundary at a major trailhead near Peggy Peak.

The 1910 fire burned a majority of the area, with a portion reburning in 1924. Scattered stands of old-growth timber are intermixed with partially stocked or non-stocked brushfields or immature stands of dominantly lodgepole pine, larch, or Douglas-fir. The lower drainages for Fly and Mosquito Creeks have remnant large cedar trees. In 1940, portions of Beaver Creek were planted with ponderosa pine and cedar. Remnants of these plantations still exist. Habitats range greatly, with grand fir or Douglas-fir types on the more exposed slopes and cedar dominating the moister sites. Mountain hemlock and subalpine fir series dominate the higher elevations.

The eastern portion of the Mosquito-Fly Roadless Area, about 1,500 acres, is included within the St. Joe Wild and Scenic River Corridor under a recreational designation. Three improved campgrounds--Fly Flat, Conrad Crossing, and Beaver Creek--and several unimproved campsites border the roadless area in this section. Other unimproved campsites exist at other locations along the perimeter, with Twin Lakes being one of the more popular. A primitive road intrudes into the roadless area to access the eastern Twin Lake and nearby trailhead. The trail system is utilized by hikers, backpackers, horses, and motorbikes occasionally through the summer, with heavier use occurring during big game hunting season.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The impact from human activity in this area is extremely low. The only improvements are two lookout sites and one cabin that were used in the early part of the century. Little evidence remains of these features. Two heli-spots used for fire suppression have patches of timber cleared for safety. Thirty miles of National Forest System Trail provide the access within the Mosquito Fly area. These trails are primitive in character and do not adversely influence the area's natural integrity. Two minor developments exist along the area's perimeter. The residence is located on the Beaver Creek Road and is now part of the National Forest Service Reservation System. An unimproved camping area and trailhead lies on the west side of the area at Twin Lakes. The only adverse impact of the camp area is 1/4 mile of primitive access road. There is a cabin at Beaver Creek that has been renovated to be on the national Forest Service cabin rental program.

Undeveloped Character: Visitors to the area feel they are in a natural area. The topography is steep and dissected by many drainages, so screening by landforms is very high. The screening by vegetation is also high. Few outside activities would be visible from within the Mosquito Fly area.

Opportunities for Experience: The opportunity to experience solitude is high in the Mosquito Fly Roadless Area. Good visual screening by topography and vegetation is a factor in this, as well as the small amount of off-site intrusions. The further a visitor gets from the perimeter the greater the chance of

solitude. Hunting season in October brings many people to the area, lowering the opportunity for solitude. Forest visitors can choose to hike or ride horseback on a wide selection of trails. Hunting, backpacking, motorcycling, nature study, scenery viewing, and fishing opportunities are also found in the area.

Manageability: The Mosquito Fly Roadless Area is bounded on the southwest by the Avery Timber Creek Road. The northwest boundary partially follows a major ridge with a primitive road but skirts around existing roads and easements making this a difficult boundary to locate on the ground. The eastern boundary is the St. Joe River, with a road next to it. The southeast boundary follows the road along Beaver Creek. There are no patented mining claims within the area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Mosquito, Fly, and Beaver Creeks contain important fisheries habitat. To promote a quality fisheries resource, the Idaho Fish and Game Department has adopted special regulations on the upper St. Joe River and its tributaries, including this area. Bull trout habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Big game, including elk, deer, moose, cougar, and black bear and a variety of other mammals and birds, make their homes in the area; however, it is the elk herd which draws public attention. Fisher, harlequin duck, Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Fall elk hunting, hiking, and horseback riding are the predominant recreation uses with some motorcycling.

Timber: The Mosquito Fly Roadless Area contains sites ranging from low to high in timber production potential, with the majority being rated medium. Roughly 35 percent of the area is considered unsuitable for commercial timber production due to high elevations and poorly developed soil. Mosquito Fly could sustain an annual average harvest of less than 1 million board feet.

Minerals and Energy: There are no mining claims located in this area and mineral potential is low. The oil and gas potential is low due to lack of information. This area contains about eight sections of private land. Creeks in the area have potential for placer gold. This roadless area contains 19,400 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Disturbances: Fire history includes the catastrophic burn of 1910. Advanced fire suppression has significantly reduced the number and acreage of annual fires over the years. Correspondingly, the amount of potential fire fuel is increasing annually. The lodgepole pine stands may be susceptible to a mountain pine beetle epidemic.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Mosquito Fly Roadless Area.

Table Mosquito Fly-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Mosquito Fly-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Mosquito Fly-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Mosquito Fly Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0	0
Similar to Backcountry	19,400	0	0	0
Backcountry	0	12,400	17,900	17,900
GFRG	0	5,500	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	1,500*	1,500*	1,500*
Total Acres	19,400	19,400	19,400	19,400

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the Mosquito Fly Roadless Area is WSR. For further information on this designation, see the Idaho Panhandle National Forest LRMP.

Table Mosquito Fly-2. Potential activities

Mosquito Fly Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	17,400	17,900	0
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	19,400	17,900	17,900	17,900
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	19,400	17,900	17,900	17,900
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	17,900	17,900	0
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	17,900	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	19,400	17,900	17,900	17,900

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 5,000 acres are managed under prescription 1 (timber production), 300 acres under prescription 4 (timber production/big game winter range), 400 acres under prescription 5 (big game winter range), 8,500 acres under prescription 6 (timber production/elk summer range), 3,200 acres under prescription 9 (non-forest), and 500 acres under prescription 12 (Wild and Scenic River).

No timber harvest or new road construction is permitted in the 500 acres under prescription 12. Timber activities in the 3,200 acres under prescription 9 are limited to salvage and firewood removal that can occur from existing access roads. Roads may be constructed across prescription 9 to reach other destinations. These areas have scattered tree cover, so little to no timber harvest is expected.

Timber harvest and road building to access the timber harvest is allowed under prescriptions 4, 5 and 6 (9,200 acres) if these activities improve or maintain habitat for big game winter range and/or elk summer range. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would have a dual objective of habitat improvement, the impact to roadless

characteristics would be limited. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still have a dual objective of habitat improvement.

For the 5,000 acres under prescription 1, roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Any timber activities and road building that occur under this prescription could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

No new roads or mineral leases are permitted in the 500 acres under prescription 12. For the remaining 17,400 acres in the Mosquito Fly Roadless Area, there are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases. No phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals. The area does contain 19,400 acres of medium geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 17,900 acres would be available for limited timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 17,900 acres under the Backcountry theme, none of which are in the CPZ, nor does the area overlap municipal water supply systems.

Since there are no communities or municipal water supply systems adjacent to the Backcountry portion of this roadless area, no roads could be constructed to facilitate fuel reduction projects. In addition, since there are no communities or municipal water supply systems nearby, no timber harvest or associated road building would occur for the purpose of reducing the significant risk of wildland fire effects. Timber cutting from existing roads or using aerial systems could be done throughout all 17,900 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since road construction is not permitted to access new mineral leases.

Mt. Willard-Lake Estelle

35,000 Acres Idaho Panhandle (Idaho)

23,400 Acres Kootenai (Idaho)

9,600 Acres Kootenai (Montana)

68,000 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Mt. Willard-Lake Estelle Roadless Area is located 13 miles northeast of Sandpoint, Idaho and nine miles southeast of Bonners Ferry, Idaho. The area is along the divide that separates the Kootenai and Idaho Panhandle National Forest. The majority of this roadless area lies in the Bonners Ferry and Sandpoint Ranger Districts of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. The area runs north-south extending from North Creek in Boundary County to Benning Mountain in Bonner County. Of the 68,000 acres, approximately 58,400 acres are in Idaho. Access is provided by gravel roads in several drainages, particularly Raymond Creek, North Callahan Creek, Keeler Creek, Grouse Creek, and Boulder Creek, and high elevation access near Lunch Peak.

The Mt. Willard-Lake Estelle Roadless Area is long and narrow. It follows a ridge which is a watershed divide between the Pend Oreille and Kootenai River watersheds. Average width is four miles and length is approximately 14 miles. The highest peak is Mt. Pend Oreille, with an elevation of 6,755 feet. The lowest elevation within this roadless area is approximately 3,500 feet. The land was shaped by both continental and alpine glaciation. Six mountain lakes are included within this area. The disintegrating granitic rock and soil types found in this area make this area particularly prone to erosion and stream channel damage. Development along the boundaries has created irregular boundaries.

Most of this area is high alpine forest type with interspersed rocky and grassy openings near the ridgetops. Diversity of vegetative types is most pronounced near the high elevation ridgetops. Forest types include mixed conifer stands common to northern Idaho in the lower elevations and alpine fir, lodgepole pine, and an occasional whitebark pine in the highest elevations.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Impacts from human activity in this area have been relatively minor. In the past, some hardrock mining exploration occurred, but evidence of these diggings has been reduced substantially by weathering processes. The Dougherty Mine is a well known mine located east of Mt. Pend Oreille and north of Lake Darling. Trails that are not maintained quickly become overgrown with trees and shrubs. The trails to existing lakes are maintained and receive use by backpackers and fishermen. This heavy use has caused some vegetative resource damage around the mountain lakes.

Opportunities for Experience: Since the area is narrow and encompasses a high ridge, people visiting can frequently view human activities and development near the periphery of this roadless area. Roads, timber harvest areas, and activities along Lake Pend Oreille are some of the activities viewed from this area.

The area possesses high opportunity for solitude because of its large size and diversity of topography. Some areas, such as the ridgetop trail, do offer views of man's activities. It possesses diversity in vegetation because of substantial difference in elevations. With the diversity in elevations, people are not normally concentrated in one area. The divide which is near the Montana-Idaho border attracts people because of its relatively high mountain peaks and vistas. The mountain lakes concentrate people because of the water attraction and fishery values. The periphery of this area can be accessed by numerous roads. The sounds from logging activity and roads near the periphery of the area have the potential of penetrating upwards into the roadless area.

Special Features: The local population considers the roadless area as good bear country. The area contains grizzly bear habitat. There are patches of old-growth timber stands which have escaped the early 1900 forest fires. The 1,400 acre Hunt Girl Creek Research Natural Area is located in the northwest

quarter of this area. The hiking experience on a trail along a long, unbroken alpine ridge, with views of the Pend Oreille Lake region, is the area's special feature.

Manageability: This roadless area is a long, narrow roadless area. Boundaries are not well defined on major terrain or other features. Boundaries generally contour along steep hillsides to avoid roads and logging activities which are on the lower slopes. This roadless area has considerable variation in width along its long axis. The area becomes narrow at the headwaters of major drainages. Most of these drainages have road development or private lands up close to the main divide. Private lands are also incorporated within this roadless area boundary.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: A rare remnant population of pure strain native rainbow trout exists in the upper drainages of the Kootenai National Forest portion. Bull trout, sturgeon, burbot, inland redband trout, and westslope cutthroat habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Species include elk, moose, black bear, whitetail deer, mule deer and grouse. This roadless area has a significant amount of habitat for the threatened grizzly bear. Wolverine, fisher, Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Water: Water quality in the area is naturally susceptible to erosion. The disintegrating granitic rock and soil types found in this area make this area particularly prone to erosion and stream channel damage. The area contains five lakes with 50 acres of lake habitat. This roadless area contains 9,800 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

Botanical: Lance-leaved moonwort (*Botrychium lanceolatum* var. *lanceolatum*) and Mingan moonwort (*Botrychium manganense*) two sensitive plant species occur in this roadless area.

Recreation: This area offers an opportunity for recreational activities around high mountain lakes. Topography within this roadless area is not unique to northern Idaho. Since this area is quite narrow it offers moderate challenges to the more experienced backpacker. Much of the terrain below the main divide has poor trail access. Hunting, fishing, camping, scenic viewing, hiking, and horseback riding are some of the recreational activities occurring within this roadless area.

Timber: The roadless area has about 27,000 acres of suitable timber with a standing volume of 537 million board feet. Suitable lands are along the lower elevations and in most cases, could be efficiently managed for timber. Portions of these suitable lands support old-growth, higher risk timber stands. Access to these stands can be gained by the extension of existing timber harvest roads in the immediate lower elevations.

Range: Sheep grazed this area prior to the 1960s; however, there are no sheep or cattle allotments at this time.

Minerals and Energy: All of the area has a medium mineral potential. There are several known mineral occurrences in the area, all of which are associated with the sills. Glacial deposits are fairly extensive in the area, making exploration difficult. There are presently 12 unpatented mining claims. The potential for oil and gas is low due to lack of information. This roadless area contains 35,000 acres of low geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are private lands incorporated within the roadless area boundary.

Heritage: The Idaho Panhandle National Forest has not been surveyed for cultural resources but surveys in similar areas on the Kootenai National Forest indicate low probabilities of discovery of cultural sites.

Disturbances: Although large fires occurred in the area in the early 1900s, the number of fires occurring annually is low.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Mt. Willard-Lake Estelle Roadless Area.

Table Mt. Willard-Lake Estelle-1a-c displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Mt. Willard-Lake Estelle-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Mt. Willard-Lake Estelle-1a. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative (Idaho Panhandle)

Mt. Willard-Lake Estelle Management Theme Idaho Panhandle	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule	
				CPZ	NonCPZ
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0	0
Primitive	0	8,100	0	0	0
Similar to Backcountry	35,000	0	0	0	0
Backcountry	0	25,500	33,600	1,600	32,000
GFRG	0	0	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	1,400*	1,400*	1,400*	1,400*
Total Acres	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the Mt. Willard-Lake Estelle Roadless Area is RNA. For further information on this designation, see the Idaho Panhandle National LRMP.

Table Mt. Willard-Lake Estelle-1b. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative (Kootenai)

Mt. Willard-Lake Estelle Management Theme Kootenai	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule	
				CPZ	NonCPZ
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0	0
Primitive	0	19,600	0	0	0
Similar to Backcountry	23,400	0	0	0	0
Backcountry	0	2,800	23,200	23,200	23,200
GFRG	0	800	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	200*	200*	200*	200*
Total Acres	23,400	23,400	23,400	23,400	23,400

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the Mt. Willard-Lake Estelle Roadless Area is RNA. For further information on this designation, see the Idaho Panhandle National Forest LRMP.

Table Mt. Willard-Lake Estelle-1c. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative (Total)

Mt. Willard-Lake Estelle Management Theme Total	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule	
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0	
Primitive	0	27,700	0	0	
Similar to Backcountry	58,400	0	0	0	
Backcountry	0	28,300	56,800	CPZ	1,600
				NonCPZ	55,200
GFRG	0	800	0	0	
SAHTS	0	0	0	0	
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	1,600	1,600	1,600	
Total Acres	58,400	58,400	58,400	58,400	

Table Mt. Willard-Lake Estelle-2. Potential activities (Idaho Panhandle and Kootenai combined)

Mt. Willard-Lake Estelle Potential Activities Total	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	28,100	56,800	1,600*
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	58,400	35,000	56,800	56,800
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	58,400	35,000	56,800	56,800
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	35,000	56,800	1,600*
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	55,000	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	58,400	55,000	56,800	56,800

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 55,200 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ to facilitate hazardous fuels removal, but only if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system.

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): For the portions of the roadless area in the Idaho Panhandle, around 11,400 acres are managed under prescription 2 (timber production/grizzly bear habitat), 3,500 acres under prescription 9 (non-forest), 7,900 acres under prescription 10 (Semi-primitive recreation), 200 acres under prescription 14 (Research Natural Area), and 10,600 acres under prescription 19 (Semi-primitive recreation/timber production.) In the Kootenai portions of the roadless area, around 19,600 acres are under prescription 2 (Roadless Recreation), 800 acres under prescription 12 (Big game summer range/Timber), 1,000 under prescription 13 (Old-growth), 700 under prescription 14 (Grizzly habitat), and 1,100 under prescription 19 (Steep lands).

No timber harvest or new road construction is permitted in the 20,800 acres under Idaho Panhandle prescription 14 and Kootenai prescriptions 2 and 13. No regulated timber harvest is permitted under prescription 10, and roads can only be constructed if they improve semi-primitive recreation

opportunities. As such, little to no timber harvest or associated road building is expected for the 7,900 acres under this prescription. Timber activities in the 3,500 acres under prescription 9 are limited to salvage and firewood removal that can occur from existing access roads. Roads may be constructed across prescription 9 to reach other destinations. These areas have scattered tree cover, so little to no timber harvest is expected.

Timber harvest and road building to access the timber harvest is allowed on the 11,400 acres under Idaho Panhandle prescription 2 if these activities improve or maintain grizzly bear habitat. Similarly, the 1,100 acres under Kootenai prescription do not allow commercial timber production, but timber harvest and associated road building are still permitted as a tool to improve wildlife habitat, restore ecosystem structure and function or reduce the risk of wildfire. If temporary roads are used for timber activities under these two prescriptions, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would have a dual objective of habitat improvement or reduction of wildland fire risk, the impact to roadless characteristics would be limited. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still have a dual objective of habitat improvement and/or fire risk reduction.

Timber harvest and associated road building is permitted under Idaho Panhandle prescription 19 and Kootenai prescriptions 12 and 14 as long as certain road design criteria are met to maintain semi-primitive recreation (prescription 19) and habitat for grizzly bear and big game summer range (prescriptions 12 and 14). Any timber activities and road building that occur under this prescription could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

There are no new mineral leases or associated road building permitted in the 1,800 acres under Idaho Panhandle prescription 14 and Kootenai prescription 19. The remaining 55,000 acres have no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in their existing forest plans. However, no phosphate mining, oil and gas, or geothermal activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 56,800 acres would be available for limited timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 56,800 acres under the Backcountry theme, 1,600 of which are in the CPZ.

Within the 1,600 Backcountry acres that are within the CPZ, timber cutting for hazardous fuel removal would be allowed, and temporary roads could be constructed to facilitate timber harvest if the activity cannot be reasonably accomplished without a temporary road. Temporary road construction would likely change roadless characteristics in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber cutting activities would be designed for fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would likely be maintained or enhanced over the long term.

For the 55,200 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ, timber cutting and temporary road construction to facilitate timber harvest could be allowed to reduce hazardous fuels if it is determined that there is a

significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system. Since additional conditions would be required, it is likely that temporary road construction for this purpose would be infrequent.

Timber cutting from existing roads, including those constructed for fuel reduction projects, or using aerial systems could be done throughout all 56,800 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since road construction is not permitted to access new mineral leases.

North Fork #147

31,400 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The North Fork Roadless Area is located immediately northeast of Avery, Idaho, and 20 miles southeast of Wallace, Idaho. It lies entirely within Shoshone County on the Avery Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. Primary access includes the St. Joe River Road 218 and the North Fork Road 456. A poorly maintained secondary road constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps extends approximately three miles into the center of the roadless area at Shefoot Mountain. A network of trails, including the Nelson Ridge National Recreation Trail system, provides interior access. The northern boundary has become the Route of the Hiawatha rail trail with over 20,000 visitors each season.

The rectangular-shaped roadless area is an area of rugged, mountainous timberland. Elevations sharply rise from 2,800 feet on the North Fork and main St. Joe Rivers to 6,300 feet at Shefoot Mountain, the highest peak within the roadless area. Several major tributaries of the St. Joe, the North Fork, and Loop Creek drain the area, with the largest being Skookum Creek. Steep, incised draws typified by break land topography and numerous bedrock outcrops cover roughly half of the North Fork Roadless Area. Glacial topography is evidenced in the Shefoot Mountain area.

The 1910 fire and subsequent reburns created a patch-work of vegetative cover. A few islands of old growth which escaped the 1910 fire remain scattered throughout the roadless area, with the largest contained in the Skookum Creek drainage. A large portion of the southern one-third of the roadless area reburned in 1934 leaving large areas of non-stocked brushfields. Extensive stands of lodgepole pine occupy much of the remaining area as well as mixed stands of larch, Douglas-fir, and grand fir. Habitat types are Douglas-fir/ninebark, western hemlock/clintonia, and cedar/clintonia at the lower elevations, graduating to mountain hemlock/menziesia or beargrass at the higher elevations.

The area is well known for its prime elk habitat, having both key winter and summer ranges. It has been identified by the Department of Fish and Game as one of the five quality elk habitat areas on the Idaho Panhandle National Forest which they desire to have remain roadless for quality hunting experiences. A variety of other wildlife common to Northern Idaho also inhabit the roadless area. Other species of interest include goshawk, marten, bobcat, lynx, and pileated woodpecker.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The impact of past human activity in this area has been relatively minor even though those activities have been extensive. A system of existing roads nearly encircles the area. One road intrudes into the area for a distance of approximately three miles, providing access to Turkey Point and Shefoot Mountain. An extensive trail system, which includes 19 miles of the Nelson Ridge National Recreation Trail, provides access to most of the area. Much of this trail system has a long history of motorized use. One trail, between Shefoot Mountain and Big Dick Point, is actually a two-wheel track 4x4 road. Several fire lookouts had been constructed within this area (Shefoot, Nelson, and Turner Peaks) but foundations are all that remain.

Undeveloped Character: The North Fork Roadless Area is large enough and the topography and vegetation are such that persons visiting the area feel that they are in a natural area away from ordinary human activity and development. Distant roads, timber harvest activities, and fire lookouts may be seen from the higher points within this area. The rugged cliffs and alpine meadows just north of Shefoot Mountain reinforce a feeling of naturalness.

Opportunities for Experience: The area offers high opportunities for solitude. The 32,400 acres included occur in a slightly irregular shape that is approximately 8-1/2 miles long and 17 miles wide {at its widest point}. The eight principal drainages (of which Skookum Creek is the largest) that make up this area contain deeply dissected topography and vegetative cover which easily screen people from one another

at short distances. Opportunities for primitive recreation experiences are moderately high. The size of this area, its relative diversity, and the absence of facilities contribute to the primitive character of the area. In spite of the good access afforded by roads on the periphery and the trail system within the area, there are ample opportunities for big game hunting {elk, deer, bear, and mountain lion}, motorcycling, horseback riding, hiking, backpack camping, and scenic viewing.

Special Features: Approximately 900 acres on the southern boundary of the area are within the St. Joe Wild and Scenic River corridor. Two small campgrounds, Packsaddle and Turner Flat, are adjacent to the area on the river corridor.

Manageability: The North Fork Roadless Area is bounded on the west by the North Fork St. Joe Road No. 456, on the north by the Loop Creek Road No. 326, and on the south by the St. Joe River Road No. 218. These roads all follow prominent geographic features and are easy to locate on the ground. The east boundary follows various logging roads and trails in a meandering fashion, so it is somewhat difficult to locate on the ground. The road to Shefoot Mountain is primitive.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The area's streams may provide spawning habitat for the St. Joe River, a portion of which is managed by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game as quality trout water, including bull trout.

Wildlife: No threatened and endangered species habitat exists in this area. The high quality elk summer and winter range is the key wildlife value of this area. Extensive use of prescribed fire has improved big game winter range. Most animals found in northern Idaho are also found here. Harlequin duck, wolverine, wolves, fisher, flammulated owl, Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Botanical: Mingan moonwort (*Botrychium manganense*) and clustered lady slipper (*Cypripedium fasciculatum*) two sensitive plant species occur in this roadless area.

Recreation: This area is heavily used in the fall by elk hunters and has the potential to provide for a significant portion of the demand for this type of recreation. Current use is limited by the number of developed sites along the periphery of the area. Motorcycling is very popular on the trail system.

Timber: About 25,000 acres of the area are classed as tentatively suitable; however, some of this land now supports brushfields. The existing stands are lodgepole or mixed species.

Range: Sheep grazing occurred prior to 1950; future use is not anticipated.

Minerals and Energy: The principal bedrock is the metamorphic equivalent of the Wallace formation; the overlying Striped Peak formation is found only in the southwest quarter of the area. The northeast third of the area has moderate mineral potential; the remainder of the area has low potential. This roadless area contains 14,400 acres of medium and 17,000 of low geothermal potential.

Disturbances: Annual fire occurrence is low; periodic large fires have occurred.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the North Fork Roadless Area.

Table North Fork-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table North Fork-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table North Fork-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

North Fork Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule	
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0	
Primitive	0	11,700	0	0	
Similar to Backcountry	31,400	0	0	0	
Backcountry	0	18,500	30,500	CPZ	500
				NonCPZ	30,000
GFRG	0	300	0	0	
SAHTS	0	0	0	0	
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	900*	900*	900*	
Total Acres	31,400	31,400	31,400	31,400	

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the North Fork Roadless Area is WSR. For further information on this designation, see the Idaho Panhandle National Forest LRMP..

Table North Fork-2. Potential activities

North Fork Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	18,800	30,500	500*
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	31,400	30,500	30,500	30,500
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	31,400	30,500	30,500	30,500
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	30,500	30,500	500*
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	30,400	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	31,400	30,500	30,500	30,500

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 30,000 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ to facilitate hazardous fuels removal, but only if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system.

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 300 acres are managed under prescription 1 (timber production), 1,200 acres under prescription 4 (timber production/big game winter range), 300 acres under prescription 5 (big game winter range), 13,200 acres under prescription 6 (timber production/elk summer range), 3,800 acres under prescription 9 (non-forest), 100 under prescription 12 (Wild and Scenic Rivers) and 11,600 acres under prescription 20 (unroaded semi-primitive/limited timber).

No timber harvest or new road construction is permitted in the 100 acres under prescription 12. Limited timber harvest is permitted under prescription 20, but no new roads can be constructed, so little to no activity is expected on the 11,600 acres under this prescription. Timber activities in the 3,800 acres under prescription 9 are limited to salvage and firewood removal that can occur from existing access roads.

Roads may be constructed across prescription 9 to reach other destinations. These areas have scattered tree cover, so little to no timber harvest is expected.

Timber harvest and road building to access the timber harvest is allowed under prescriptions 4, 5 and 6 if these activities improve or maintain habitat for big game winter range and/or elk summer range. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would have a dual objective of habitat improvement, the impact to roadless characteristics would be limited. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still have a dual objective of habitat improvement. For the 300 acres under prescription 1, roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Any timber activities and road building that occur under this prescription could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

No new roads or mineral leases are permitted in the 100 acres under prescription 12. There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases under any of the other forest plan prescriptions for the North Fork Roadless Area. No phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals. The area does contain 14,400 acres of medium geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 30,500 acres would be available for limited timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 30,500 acres under the Backcountry theme, 500 of which are in the CPZ. Within the 500 Backcountry acres that are within the CPZ, timber cutting for hazardous fuel removal would be allowed, and temporary roads could be constructed to facilitate timber harvest if the activity cannot be reasonably accomplished without a temporary road. Temporary road construction would likely change roadless characteristics in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber cutting activities would be designed for fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would likely be maintained or enhanced over the long term.

For the 30,000 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ, timber cutting and temporary road construction to facilitate timber harvest could be allowed to reduce hazardous fuels if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system. Since additional conditions would be required, it is likely that temporary road construction for this purpose would be infrequent. Timber cutting from existing roads, including those constructed for fuel reduction projects, or using aerial systems could be done throughout all 30,500 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since road construction is not permitted to access new mineral leases.

Packsaddle #155

19,300 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Packsaddle Roadless Area is located approximately 14 miles southeast of Sandpoint, Idaho, and seven miles southwest of Clark Fork, Idaho. It lies from two to four miles east of the southern end of Lake Pend Oreille. This area is within Bonner County and is on the Sandpoint Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest.

This area is approximately 11 miles long and averages no more than two miles wide. The boundaries are irregular, with fingers of roaded and logged areas extending into this IRA. This area includes Packsaddle Mountain (6,402 feet), a prominent peak within the area. Alpine glaciation occurred on Packsaddle Mountain, but the remaining roadless area's landform was shaped by continental glaciation. Topography changes from 2,600 feet to 6,400 feet. Major drainages include Branch North Gold Creek, Falls Creek, and Granite Creek. Numerous other smaller drainages originate within this area and eventually drain into Lake Pend Oreille. No mountain lakes are found within this roadless area.

Forest types include mixed conifer stands which are common in the lower elevations of northern Idaho. Only the highest elevations support alpine fir, lodgepole pine, and Englemann spruce. Dry southwest exposures on the lower elevations are winter range for deer and elk. Most of the timber stands average 70-90 years old. Boulder fields interspersed with subalpine fir forest, beargrass meadows, and huckleberry and menziesia openings form the landscape in the upper reaches of Packsaddle Mountain.

Roadless recreation use in a natural setting is the main value people associate with this area. Packsaddle, as well as many high ridges within the area, offer scenic views of Lake Pend Oreille. A number of trails can be found within this area. The diversity of terrain and vegetation also enhances the scenic quality of this area. Other recreational uses within this area include hunting, fishing, motorcycle riding, and berry picking.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: There has been considerable impact from human activity in this area. Evidence relating to mineral exploration can be found scattered throughout much of this area. Horse trails were constructed into the area in the early 1930s to provide access primarily for fire control. Approximately 160 acres of private land are located within the roadless area in the headwaters of Canyon Creek.

Undeveloped Character: The irregular boundary with a number of developed area inclusions and the relatively gentle topography tend to make individuals visiting the area feel they are not in a natural area away from ordinary human activities and development. Lake Pend Oreille is visible from portions of this roadless area. Logging roads and timber harvesting areas are visible from most of the ridges within this roadless area.

Opportunities for Experience: The Packsaddle Roadless Area possesses moderate opportunities for solitude. The topography is not unique to northern Idaho. The southwest boundary is near the small town of Lakeview and adjoins private lands. Sounds from logging and recreational activities have the potential of penetrating throughout most of this roadless area. This area offers a moderate level of challenge to the visitor because of its size variable topography. It is known in northern Idaho as a popular elk hunting area. The trails within this area are used by hikers, motorcycle riders, and horseback riders. Visitors can experience views of Lake Pend Oreille Lake from many of the ridgetops.

Special Features: It is a relatively long travel distance by dirt road to reach the borders of this roadless area, contributing to this area receiving less use than other roadless areas on the Sandpoint District.

Manageability: Boundaries are not well defined on major terrain or other recognized features. Access to this area requires long travel on a dirt road.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The larger streams do support fish populations, including bull trout. Granite Creek and Gold Creek are considered important fish spawning areas for Lake Pend Oreille.

Wildlife: Wildlife inhabitants include elk, moose, black bear, whitetail deer, mule deer, and grouse. The area also includes portions of elk winter range habitat. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Water: This roadless area contains 19,300 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Current recreation use in the area is primarily hiking and motorcycle use along a number of trails within this area. Trails leading to Packsaddle Mountain allow viewing of Lake Pend Oreille and the surrounding hillsides. Other recreation uses within this area include berry picking, fishing in the larger creeks, hunting, and primitive camping.

Timber: Approximately 11,500 acres of the timberlands within this area have high to medium timber production potential. About 50 percent of the timbered lands below 4,500 feet have evidence of root rot disease.

Range: Cattle and sheep have not used the Packsaddle Roadless Area in recent years.

Minerals and Energy: Four percent and three percent of the area are rated very high and high mineral potential, respectively. The remaining 93 percent has a moderate rating. There are 130 mining claims within this roadless area. Exploration is common within this area. The geologic environment is the same as the Lakeview Mining District, which is immediately south of Packsaddle Mountain. The Lakeview Mining District is presently active, with a small open pit and underground silver mine and a float and cyanide leach mill. The Gold Creek quartzite is being presently evaluated for the production of high grade silica for manufacturing plate glass. The Lakeview Limestone was once a producer of cement grade limestone. Oil and gas potential is low. This roadless area contains 19,300 acres of low geothermal potential.

Disturbances: Although large fires have occurred in the area, the number of fires occurring annually is low.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Packsaddle Roadless Area. Table Packsaddle-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Packsaddle-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Packsaddle-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Packsaddle Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule	
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0	
Primitive	0	0	0	0	
Similar to Backcountry	19,300	0	0	0	
Backcountry	0	9,400	19,300	CPZ	1,700
				NonCPZ	17,600
GFRG	0	9,900	0	0	
SAHTS	0	0	0	0	
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0	0	
Total Acres	19,300	19,300	19,300	19,300	

Table Packsaddle-2. Potential activities

Packsaddle Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	19,300	19,300	1,700*
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	19,300	19,300	19,300	19,300
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	19,300	19,300	19,300	19,300
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	19,300	19,300	1,700*
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	19,300	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	19,300	19,300	19,300	19,300

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 17,600 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ to facilitate hazardous fuels removal, but only if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system.

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 9,900 acres are managed under prescription 1 (timber production), 2,000 acres under prescription 4 (timber production/big game winter range), 800 acres under prescription 6 (timber production/elk summer range), and 6,600 acres under prescription 9 (non-forest).

Timber activities in the 6,600 acres under prescription 9 are limited to salvage and firewood removal that can occur from existing access roads. Roads may be constructed across prescription 9 to reach other destinations. These areas have scattered tree cover, so little to no timber harvest is expected.

Timber harvest and road building to access the timber harvest is allowed under prescriptions 4 and 6 if these activities improve or maintain habitat for big game winter range and/or elk summer range. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest

activities would have a dual objective of habitat improvement, the impact to roadless characteristics would be limited. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still have a dual objective of habitat improvement.

For the 9,900 acres under prescription 1, roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Any timber activities and road building that occur under this prescription could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Packsaddle Roadless Area. However, no phosphate mining, oil and gas, or geothermal activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 19,300 acres would be available for limited timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 19,300 acres under the Backcountry theme, 1,700 of which are in the CPZ.

Within the 1,700 Backcountry acres that are within the CPZ, timber cutting for hazardous fuel removal would be allowed, and temporary roads could be constructed to facilitate timber harvest if the activity cannot be reasonably accomplished without a temporary road. Temporary road construction would likely change roadless characteristics in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber cutting activities would be designed for fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would likely be maintained or enhanced over the long term.

For the 17,600 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ, timber cutting and temporary road construction to facilitate timber harvest could be allowed to reduce hazardous fuels if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system. Since additional conditions would be required, it is likely that temporary road construction for this purpose would be infrequent.

Timber cutting from existing roads, including those constructed for fuel reduction projects, or using aerial systems could be done throughout all 19,300 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPs habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since road construction is not permitted to access new mineral leases.

Pinchot Butte #149

8,500 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Pinchot Butte Roadless Area is located approximately 36 miles southeast of St. Maries, Idaho. The area is in Shoshone County, Idaho, on the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. The area lies along the south side of the divide between the North Fork of the Clearwater River and the St. Joe River. Pinchot Butte is the highest point in the area with an elevation of 5,995 feet. The lowest point in the area is approximately 3,400 feet in Floodwood Creek on the southern boundary. The entire area drains into the Little North Fork of the Clearwater River. Topography is characterized by narrow ridges which drop off into steep, narrow draws. Several areas of rock outcrops appear along the slopes of Pinchot Butte and the tops of ridges. This roadless area has very complex geology and structure. The area is highly folded and faulted with numerous intrusions of granitic igneous rock. Contact metamorphism from the igneous rocks has altered the surrounding sediments to schists, quartzites, and garnetiferous amphibolites.

Vegetation in the area is composed of overmature, scattered hemlock and alpine fir interspersed with brushfields. Northerly and easterly facing slopes include denser patches of timber. Vegetation in the area has been influenced by fires which burned over the area in 1910 and again in 1923, Pinchot Marsh, a high elevation wetland, is a unique area characterized by wetlands vegetation.

The area receives little recreational use because of its relative remoteness from population centers and lack of access routes into the interior of the roadless area. Some fall big game hunting does occur and sightseers, hikers, and berry pickers utilize fringe areas from roads which form the north and west boundaries.

Wildlife species found in the area are those common to the region and include elk, whitetail deer, black bear, mule deer, grouse, and numerous species of non-game animals and birds. Streams in the area are marginal recreational fisheries, although some spawning may occur.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Developments in the area are few; however, a road was at one time constructed from Crater Peak along the northern boundary south to the vicinity of Pinchot Butte. A road was also constructed from the south toward Pinchot Butte. It was planned to connect these to provide fire control access. The road was never completed and has since been closed to traffic.

Undeveloped Character: Timber harvest areas and associated roads outside the roadless area are visible from the high ridge that forms the northern boundary of the area. These timber activities are also visible from Pinchot Butte. The road which bisects the area is a sign of past human activity; however, it only has an effect from immediately upon or adjacent to its location. This road has not been used in over 20 years and nature is reclaiming it.

Opportunities for Experience: The area is approximately four miles long north to south and five miles across. Topography and vegetation provide screening which separates visitors from one another in short distances over most of the area. Some ridges are open. Opportunities for solitude are enhanced by the very light visitor use the area receives. Sounds from logging activity south and east of the area are, at times, obvious from within the area. There are no developed recreation facilities within the area. The area provided the opportunity to participate in such activities as fishing, hunting, hiking, horseback riding, and camping.

Special Features: The area contains a large wet area known as Pinchot Marsh. The marsh is an outstanding high elevation wet meadow/sedge marsh/sphagnum bog area. The marsh has a number of interesting plant species, possibly including carex species that are rare in Idaho.

Manageability: The northern and western boundaries of the area are well defined by roads which generally follow major ridge lines. The remaining boundary is difficult to locate on the ground because it

generally does not follow any identifiable topographic features. These lines are generally located to avoid development activities.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Cutthroat trout may be found in the West Fork of Floodwood Creek. Fishing is limited because of a lack of any significant streams. Bull trout habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Wildlife inhabitants include elk, black bear, whitetail deer, and mule deer, as well as a variety of small and non-game species. The area provides important summer range for elk and is important security area during the hunting seasons. There are no threatened or endangered species occupying the area.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Current recreation use in the area is low, limited primarily to some fall big game hunting. Sightseers and berry pickers utilize the roads adjacent to the area.

Timber: Approximately 5,900 acres of the area are estimated as tentatively suitable for timber production.

Range: Cattle or sheep have not used the Pinchot Butte area in recent years.

Minerals and Energy: Mineral potential in the area is categorized as low for hardrock minerals and oil and gas. This roadless area contains 8,500 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Disturbances: Although large fires have occurred in the area, the number and size of fires occurring annually is low.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Pinchot Butte Roadless Area.

Table Pinchot Butte-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Pinchot Butte-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Pinchot Butte-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Pinchot Butte Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0	0
Similar to Backcountry	8,500	0	0	0
Backcountry	0	8,500	8,500	8,500
GFRG	0	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0	0
Total Acres	8,500	8,500	8,500	8,500

Table Pinchot Butte-2. Potential activities

Pinchot Butte Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	8,500	8,500	0
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	8,500	8,500	8,500	8,500
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	8,500	8,500	8,500	8,500
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	8,500	8,500	0
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	8,500	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	8,500	8,500	8,500	8,500

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 7,000 acres under prescription 6 (timber production/elk summer range) and 1,500 acres under prescription 9 (non-forest).

Timber activities in the 1,500 acres under prescription 9 are limited to salvage and firewood removal that can occur from existing access roads. Roads may be constructed across prescription 9 to reach other destinations. These areas have scattered tree cover, so little to no timber harvest is expected.

Timber harvest and road building to access the timber harvest is allowed under prescriptions 6 if these activities improve or maintain habitat for elk summer range. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would have a dual objective of habitat improvement, the impact to roadless characteristics would be limited. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still have a dual objective of habitat improvement.

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Pinchot Butte Roadless Area. No phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals. The area does contain 8,500 acres of medium geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 8,500 acres would be available for limited timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The

Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 8,500 acres under the Backcountry theme, none of which are in the CPZ.

Since there are no communities or municipal water supply systems adjacent to the Backcountry portion of this roadless area, no roads could be constructed to facilitate fuel reduction projects. In addition, since there are no communities or municipal water supply systems nearby, no timber harvest or associated road building would occur for the purpose of reducing the significant risk of wildland fire effects. Timber cutting from existing roads or using aerial systems be done throughout all 8,500 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since road construction is not permitted to access new mineral leases.

Roland Point #146

6,500 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Roland Point Roadless Area is located on the south side of the Idaho Montana border about six air miles southeast of Mullan, Idaho, and 10 air miles north of Avery, Idaho. The area lies within Shoshone County on the Avery Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. The roughly triangle-shaped roadless area rises in elevation from 3,400 feet on the North Fork of the St. Joe River to over 6,500 feet on the Bitterroot Divide. Terrain is precipitous, with generally steep, rocky slopes. Streams flow southward into the St. Joe River system.

About 265 acres of patented mining claims are contained within the roadless area. Bonneville Power Administration tower access roads, and the Bullion Creek, Loop Creek, and Cliff Creek Roads provide motorized access to the western, eastern, and southern boundaries. Low standard mining roads, the State Line Trail, and Lucky Swede Trail offer interior access.

Existing vegetation resulted from the 1910 and successive fires which consumed the entire roadless area. Extensive non-stocked brushfields remain on the more exposed southern aspects, with immature sapling or small sawtimber stands of mixed composition on the cooler north aspects. Additionally, portions of the area were planted with off-site ponderosa pine or western white pine. Little old-growth timber remains anywhere within the roadless area. The Bitterroot Divide is characterized by open subalpine vegetation. Habitat varies from cedar/clintonia at the lower elevations to mountain hemlock or subalpine fir types on the higher slopes.

The roadless area receives recreational use, with primary activity throughout the roadless area centering on big game hunting and the adjacent Route of the Hiawatha bicycle rail trail. Pleasure driving with motorbikes, bicycles, and 4-wheel-drive vehicles also occurs on existing roads and maintained trails. Hiking, backpacking, horseback riding and other activities remain limited.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The impact of past human activity in this area is moderate. Mining activity first began in the early 1900s. Nearly 265 acres are patented and under private ownership. Several companies have leased a number of patents and carried out mining operations in the past. There are numerous unpatented claims scattered throughout the planning area. There is a road accessing the Lucky Swede Mine. An existing trail accesses Triangle Peak and the State Line. Existing roads completely encircle the area.

Undeveloped Character: The Roland Point Roadless Area does not lend itself to the solitude normally attributed to natural or wilderness areas because of the topography. The Bonneville Power Administration powerline and surrounding roads and activity become dominant features of the landscape. The Milwaukee Road Railroad, which is now the Route of the Hiawatha – a rail trail, is visible.

Opportunities for Experience: The area offers little opportunity for solitude because of its size and surrounding developments. There is little in terms of topographic or vegetative screening. The distance from its core to the perimeter is two miles from east to west and less than one and one-half miles from north to south. Frazier Creek is the only well defined creek which would screen any of the surrounding intrusions. Human use is concentrated along the surrounding road system. Opportunities for primitive recreation experiences are greatly limited. With much of the area having similar topographic and vegetative features, there is little diversity of recreation opportunities. Primitive recreation experiences are further limited by motorized use of the trail and road intruding into the area. Opportunities do exist for big game and hunting (elk, deer, bear, and mountain lion), while horseback riding, hiking, and backpacking experiences are limited. Riding bicycles on the roads is becoming a primary experience due to the adjacent Hiawatha rail trail with over 20,000 visitors per year.

Special Features: A high percentage of the Roland Point Roadless Area was influenced by the 1910 fire. Eight firefighters perished inside the Bullion Mine just outside the boundary of the roadless area where they had taken refuge from the fire. They were eventually buried in the Wallace Cemetery. Vegetative conditions which developed as a result of that fire have created the sort of habitat which is ideal for big game species. There is a high level of public interest in roadless elk hunting.

Manageability: Existing boundaries are well defined. The southern, western, and eastern boundaries do not follow topographic features but, rather, are located so that roads and powerline corridors would not be incorporated within the boundaries. Approximately four percent of the area is in private ownership under patented mining claims. The road accessing the Lucky Swede Mine is being used as part of Lucky Swede Trail 60.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The lower two-mile reach of Lucky Swede Creek is considered an important fisheries stream.

Wildlife: The area serves as big game summer and winter range for elk, whitetail deer, mule deer, and black bear. Other game and non-game species common to northern Idaho and western Montana also populate the roadless area. It is the elk herd existing in this general area which catches public attention. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Elk hunting and driving on old mining roads are the predominant recreation uses of this area. Current use is light.

Timber: The area contains 5,300 acres of suitable timberland supporting 44 million board feet of timber. The low volume reflects the fact that much of the suitable acreage is presently poorly stocked brushfield.

Range: Neither cattle nor sheep have used the area since the 1930s.

Minerals and Energy: This roadless area is underlain primarily by argillites and quartzites of the Wallace Formation, a unit of the Precambrian Belt Supergroup. This roadless area contains 6,500 acres of low geothermal potential. One percent of the roadless area is rated as having very high mineral potential and the remaining percent as high. The area has 202 unpatented mining claims and 265 acres of patented mining claims. There are many prospects in the area and exploration is ongoing, with a current diamond drilling project underway. There are no gas and oil lease applications on file in the area.

Disturbances: Although large fires have occurred, the number of fires occurring annually is low.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Roland Point Roadless Area.

Table Roland Point-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Roland Point-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Roland Point-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Roland Point Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0	0
Similar to Backcountry	6,500	0	0	0
Backcountry	0	1,300	6,500	6,500
GFRG	0	5,200	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0	0
Total Acres	6,500	6,500	6,500	6,500

Table Roland Point-2. Potential activities

Roland Point Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	6,500	6,500	0
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	6,500	6,500	6,500	6,500
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	6,500	6,500	6,500	6,500
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	6,500	6,500	0
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	6,500	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	6,500	6,500	6,500	6,500

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 5,200 acres are managed under prescription 1 (timber production), 100 acres under prescription 4 (timber production/big game winter range), 100 under prescription 5 (big game winter range), and 1,100 acres under prescription 9 (non-forest).

Timber activities in the 1,100 acres under prescription 9 are limited to salvage and firewood removal that can occur from existing access roads. Roads may be constructed across prescription 9 to reach other destinations. These areas have scattered tree cover, so little to no timber harvest is expected.

Timber harvest and road building to access the timber harvest is allowed under prescription 4 and 5 if these activities improve or maintain habitat for big game winter range. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would have a dual objective of habitat improvement, the impact to roadless characteristics would be limited. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still have a dual objective of habitat improvement.

For the 5,200 acres under prescription 1, roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Any timber activities and road building that occur under this prescription could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Roland Point Roadless Area. However, no phosphate mining, oil and gas, or geothermal activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 6,500 acres would be available for limited timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 6,500 acres under the Backcountry theme, none of which are in the CPZ.

Since there are no communities or municipal water supply systems adjacent to the Backcountry portion of this roadless area, no roads could be constructed to facilitate fuel reduction projects. In addition, since there are no communities or municipal water supply systems nearby, no timber harvest or associated road building would occur for the purpose of reducing the significant risk of wildland fire effects. Timber cutting from existing roads or using aerial systems could be done throughout all 6,500 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since road construction is not permitted to access new mineral leases.

Saddle Mountain #154

7,800 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Saddle Mountain Roadless Area is located in the northwest corner of the Bonners Ferry Ranger District on the Idaho Panhandle National Forest in Boundary County. The area is accessed by forest roads originating in the Smith Creek and Boundary Creek drainages. The interior may be accessed by traveling one of several trails which traverse this area.

The area is narrow and somewhat rectangular in shape, occupying the ridge between Grass and Cow Creeks. Prominent features are Saddle Mountain (6,983 feet) and Silver Mountain (6,555 feet). Three small lakes are found in this area. Slopes from the ridge to stream bottoms are moderate to steep.

Approximately 3,000 acres were burned in 1967. The area is densely forested with cedar, spruce, hemlock, larch, white pine, and subalpine fir. Some old-growth timber is present. Recreation use of the area is light. Hunting is the major use.

One grazing allotment uses part of the transitory range created by the Trapper Peak fire. The area is habitat for grizzly bear and mountain caribou, an endangered species. The gray wolf may also be present. Most wildlife species found in northern Idaho are found in this area.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The southern end and eastern third of this area were impacted by the Trapper Peak fire. Evidence of dozer fireline construction and salvage logging operations are plainly evident today. Roads and recently logged areas form the periphery of almost this entire roadless area. Evidence of human activity within the northern half of the area is limited to an old steel lookout tower.

Undeveloped Character: At its widest point this area is 2 1/2 miles wide; consequently, roads and clearcuts are visible from many locations in the area.

Opportunities for Experience: This is a long, narrow roadless area. Much of it is timbered, making one feel immersed in the forest. However, a sense of solitude may be difficult to achieve since there is not much topographic screening available and not much distance between user and activity. The area offers a long, high elevation ridge suitable for hiking, hunting, and berry picking. There are three small mountain lakes at the headwaters of the major streams draining the area that provide camping area.

Special Features: All of the area is in grizzly bear and mountain caribou habitat.

Manageability: Boundaries for this area are not well defined except where they fall on roads because, for the most part, the boundaries are mid-slope.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Bull trout, burbot, inland redband trout, and westslope cutthroat habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: The area is situated in habitat for the only endangered resident caribou in the lower 48 states and for the threatened grizzly bear. Use by grizzlies has recently been recorded, while caribou may have historically used the area. The area contains habitat to support a recovered population for both animals. Most animals found in northern Idaho are also found here. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Botanical: *Krusheia (Streptopus streptopoides)* a sensitive plant species occurs in this roadless area.

Recreation: The area use is now light; potential exists for hunting, day hikes, and overnight trips.

Timber: About 5,500 acres of this area are classed as tentatively suitable for timber management.

Range: One small allotment uses the transitory range created by the Trapper Peak fire.

Minerals and Energy: The entire area has a low mineral potential. There are no mining claims in the area. The Bonneville Power Administration has identified a potential east-west powerline corridor that may cross southern portions of this area. This roadless area contains 7,800 acres of low geothermal potential.

Disturbances: Annual fire occurrence is low; periodic large fires have occurred in the past.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Saddle Mountain Roadless Area.

Table Saddle Mountain-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Saddle Mountain-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Saddle Mountain-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Saddle Mountain Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0	0
Similar to Backcountry	7,800	0	0	0
Backcountry	0	7,800	7,800	7,800
GFRG	0	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0	0
Total Acres	7,800	7,800	7,800	7,800

Table Saddle Mountain-2. Potential activities

Saddle Mountain Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	7,800	7,800	0
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	7,800	7,800	7,800	7,800
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	7,800	7,800	7,800	7,800
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	7,800	7,800	0
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	7,800	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	7,800	7,800	7,800	7,800

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 4,300 acres are managed under prescription 7 (caribou management) and 3,500 acres under prescription 9 (non-forest).

Timber activities in the 3,500 acres under prescription 9 are limited to salvage and firewood removal that can occur from existing access roads. Roads may be constructed across prescription 9 to reach other destinations. These areas have scattered tree cover, so little to no timber harvest is expected.

Timber harvest and road building to access the timber harvest is allowed under prescription 7 if these activities improve or maintain caribou habitat. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would have a dual objective of habitat improvement, the impact to roadless characteristics would be limited. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still have a dual objective of habitat improvement.

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Saddle Mountain Roadless Area. However, the area has little to no potential for phosphate mining, oil and gas, or geothermal activities, so no new mineral leases are expected for these minerals.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 7,800 acres would be available for limited timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 7,800 acres under the Backcountry theme, none of which are in the CPZ.

Since there are no communities or municipal water supply systems adjacent to the Backcountry portion of this roadless area, no roads could be constructed to facilitate fuel reduction projects. In addition, since there are no communities or municipal water supply systems nearby, no timber harvest or associated road building would occur for the purpose of reducing the significant risk of wildland fire effects. Timber cutting from existing roads or using aerial systems could be done throughout all 7,800 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since road construction is not permitted to access new mineral leases.

Salmo-Priest #981

20,000 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Salmo-Priest Roadless Area is located entirely within Boundary County, Idaho, in the immediate far northwest corner of the County and State. The area is approximately 45 miles north of Priest River, Idaho. Primary access is gained by traveling State Highway 57 north from Priest River until the pavement end, at Nordman. Travel continues on Forest Road 1013 which leads, to a number of trailheads. The interior is accessed via a number of maintained trails.

The Salmo-Priest Roadless Area consists of significant portions of the west slope of the Upper Priest River drainage. Terrain, for the most part, is very steep and faces east-southeast. Continental glaciation has shaped most of this area. The Upper Priest River and the upper portions of several tributaries are within the area. A small portion of the Salmo River is also included.

The area contains a wide variety of vegetation, ranging from near alpine on Snowy Top to lush old-growth cedar/hemlock along the river. Portions near Kaniksu Mountain were burned in 1967. A large mid-elevation meadow, Hughes Meadow, is also part of this variety. Avalanche activity maintains significant brushfields as well.

The river is considered significant spawning and rearing habitat for large cutthroat and Dolly Varden trout. From the Upper Priest Lake the river is closed to fishing to protect this habitat. Current recreation use is light to moderate and consists of summer hiking along the ridge trail or the river trail and light overnight use. The area includes roughly 12,500 acres of Recommended Wilderness and therefore holds a high level of roadless characteristics.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The impact of human activity in this area has been light and consists of trails, a lookout on Little Snowy Top, and off-site views into the surrounding area which has been roaded and logged. Most of the viewing is background and should not disturb most visitors. Noises from outside the area may be heard occasionally.

Undeveloped Character: The Salmo-Priest Roadless Area has had little internal disturbance and is large enough that outside disturbances do not detract from a natural appearance.

Opportunities for Experience: The area offers a moderate to high degree of solitude. Primitive recreation opportunities are available due to the large size of this area. In addition to size, the heavy vegetation and the river valley screen the noises and sights of civilization. Opportunities exist for extended trips over rugged terrain with moderate challenge.

Special Features: This area contains a number of unique features. This is the only area within the continental U.S. where caribou are current residents. Grizzly bear also currently use this area. Hughes Meadow has long been noted as grizzly bear spring range. About 4,900 acres of the Upper Priest River are within an eligible Wild and Scenic River corridor. Upper Priest Falls are found within this area. An 800 acre Research Natural Area representing alpine types is located on Snowy Top.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Important trout rearing habitat is also present. Bull trout habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Gray wolf, grizzly bear, lynx, caribou, harlequin duck, wolverine, and fisher occur in this roadless area. In addition to many other species bobcat is likely to be present. Considerable old-growth habitat is available.

Botanical: Green bug moss (*Buxbaumia viridis*), swamp willow-weed (*Epilobium palustre*), Krusheea (*Streptopus streptopoides*), and Braun's sword-fern (*Polystichum braunii*), four sensitive plant species occur in this roadless area

Recreation: The primary current recreation use is hiking and backpacking in the summer. Capacity for more use exists but increasing use may be limited in order to limit disturbance to caribou and grizzly bear.

Timber: The area contains a significant existing volume of mature sawtimber. Site productivity is moderate to high on moist-well drained, productive soils. The suitable timberland covers 14,400 acres.

Minerals and Energy: The mineral potential is low; oil and gas lease applications do not exist. This roadless area contains 19,200 of medium and 800 of low acres of high geothermal potential.

Disturbances: Annual fire occurrence is low; periods between catastrophic fires are long.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Salmo-Priest Roadless Area. Table Salmo-Priest-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Salmo-Priest-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Salmo-Priest-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Salmo-Priest Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Wild Land Recreation	0	13,500	14,300	14,300
Primitive	0	0	0	0
Similar to Backcountry	20,000	0	0	0
Backcountry	0	800	0	0
GFRG	0	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	5,700*	5,700*	5,700*
Total Acres	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the Salmo-Priest Roadless Area is 4,900 acres as WSR and 900 acres as RNA. See the Idaho Panhandle National Forest LRMP.

Table Salmo-Priest-2. Potential activities

Salmo-Priest Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	800	0	0
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	20,000	800	0	0
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	20,000	800	0	0
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	800	0	0
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	800	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	20,000	800	0	0

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 700 acres are managed under prescription 2 (timber production/grizzly bear habitat), 100 acres under prescription 7 (caribou management), 13,500 acres under prescription 11 (proposed Wilderness).

Timber harvest and associated road building are prohibited on the 13,500 acres under prescription 11. Mineral and energy related activities can only occur if they do not impair the future use and enjoyment of the area's wilderness or wild and scenic river character. Under this prescription the 13,500 acres are expected to maintain their wilderness, wild and scenic river and roadless area characteristics.

Timber harvest and road building to access the timber harvest is allowed under prescriptions 2 and 7 if these activities improve or maintain grizzly bear or caribou habitat. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would have a dual objective of habitat improvement, the impact to roadless characteristics would be limited. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still have a dual objective of habitat improvement.

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the 800 acres under prescriptions 2 and 7. No phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals. The area does contain 43,600 acres of medium geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur in the areas under prescriptions 2 and 7 would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the proposed Idaho Rule 14,300 acres would be managed under the Wild Land Recreation theme. Road construction under this theme is prohibited except for reserved and outstanding rights and no timber harvest or new leasable mineral activities are allowed. Under this prescription there would be little evidence of human-caused disturbance and natural conditions and processes would be predominant. These acres would therefore maintain both their roadless and wilderness attributes.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule 14,300 acres would be managed under the Wild Land Recreation theme. Road construction under this theme is prohibited except for reserved and outstanding rights and no timber harvest or new leasable mineral activities are allowed. Under this prescription there would be little evidence of human-caused disturbance and natural conditions and processes would be predominant. These acres would therefore maintain both their roadless characteristics and wilderness attributes.

Schafer Peak #160

5,900 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Schafer Peak Roadless Area is located 10 miles southeast of Sandpoint, Idaho, along the southern edge of Lake Pend Oreille. It is within Bonner County on the Sandpoint Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The area is accessible on the north and east boundaries by boat and by the Johnson Creek Road along the southern ridge boundary. This long and narrow-shaped roadless area has about 10 miles of lakeshore.

From the waterfront, slopes rise sharply above the lake. Schafer Peak and Green Monarch Mountain are the dominant geographic features. Topography changes from 2,100 feet at the lake surface to 5,000 feet at the top of Schafer Peak. The roadless boundary follows just south of the main ridge overlooking Pend Oreille Lake. A dense timber canopy common to the lower elevations of northern Idaho covers almost all of the area. A few alpine fir and lodgepole pine can be found near the top of the highest mountains.

The area is known locally as the Green Monarchs and is considered a highly visually-sensitive area for the boating and fishing public using the lake. This area is also viewed from Highway 200 near Hope, Idaho. Activities primarily revolve around the use of Schafer Peak Trail 69 which follows along the top of the main ridge. This trail is a popular hiking, motorcycle riding, and horseback riding trail which offers outstanding views of Lake Pend Oreille. Most of the beach frontage is rocky and unsuitable for development of boat docking and camping facilities. Approximately two miles of this shoreline in the Kilroy Bay area is privately owned. Other private lands within the interior of this area are located near Kilroy Lakes.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The impact from human activity in most of this area has been very minor. Slopes from the top of the ridge down to the lake are generally very steep and support dense vegetation. Foot travel across these steep slopes without established trails is very difficult; therefore, evidence of man is quite limited. The Kilroy Bay area and the Kilroy Lakes area are on more gentle terrain and these areas possess evidence of man's activities. Some hardrock mining exploration occurred within this roadless areas evidence of these mining sites is found mostly on private lands. Some trails were constructed into and through the area in the 1930s to provide access primarily for fire control.

Undeveloped Character: This area is narrow so that individuals visiting the area feel that they are not in a natural area away from the ordinary human activities and development. Pend Oreille Lake and the associated recreational activities are an integral part of this lakeshore roadless area. The communities of Hope and East Hope, Highway 200, and housing developments around the lake are also within view.

Opportunities for Experience: The Schafer Peak Roadless Area provides moderate opportunities for solitude because of its long, narrow shape and because of its integral part of a high-use recreational lake. Visitors to the area tend to be concentrated on the few miles of trails. Topography is not highly dissected; therefore, people do not tend to be screened from one another in short distances. The heavily vegetated steep side slopes over most of the area tend to congregate users along the flatter ridgetop near Kilroy Lakes and Kilroy Bay. This area offers very little variety of topography to challenge a visitor. Kilroy Creek is the only drainage of any significant size. Kilroy Lakes do not support fish but do offer unique boggy areas which support unusual plant species. A few scattered camping and picnicking areas which have access only by boat are located along the lakeshore. Schafer Peak Trail 68 is used by hikers, motorcycle riders, and horseback riders. This roadless area is known locally as a security area for elk during hunting season. The cliffs between Kilroy Bay and Indian Point are habitat for mountain goats which are often observed by recreational boaters. Osprey and bald eagles can also be seen along this lakeshore.

Special Features: The early 1900 fires burned over a vast majority of this area which now supports a dense stand of mixed conifer species approximately 100 years old. An occasional old-growth tree which escaped these major fires can be seen protruding above the otherwise uniform stand canopy. Some steep rock cliff formations can be observed adjacent to the lake. Many recreational boaters follow along the lakeshore to observe wildlife within the roadless area.

Manageability: This area is long and narrow, with its widest point being only 2-1/2 miles wide. The boundaries other than the lakeshore are not on well defined major terrain or other recognized features. The southern boundary could be placed along the main ridgetop, but this would make this roadless area even narrower.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The roadless area has no large streams with fisheries values.

Wildlife: Wildlife includes elk, moose, black bear, whitetail deer, mule deer, mountain goats, and grouse. Osprey nest are near the lake. Occasionally, a bald eagle can be seen along the lakeshore in the roadless area where they migrate to the area during November and feed on spawned out kokanee salmon and waterfowl. The area is a key security area for elk which are heavily hunted in the Lakeview area. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Water: This roadless area contains 5,900 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Current recreation use in the area is primarily hiking, motorcycle riding, and horseback riding along the Schafer Peak trail on the ridge, viewing from Lake Pend Oreille, or biking near the Kilroy Lakes. A few scattered camping and picnicking areas which have access only by boat are located along the lakeshore.

Timber: About 3,900 acres of the area are estimated as tentatively suitable for timber production; however, the steep slopes facing directly into Lake Pend Oreille, the rugged nature of this terrain, and the visual constraints associated with viewing from the lake would make harvest costly and of concern to lake residents and recreationists.

Range: Cattle and sheep have not used the Schafer Peak area in recent years.

Minerals and Energy: All of this area has a moderate hardrock mineral potential. There are presently 66 unpatented mining claims located in this roadless area and several vein-type copper occurrences. These copper occurrences are in the Revett Formation and may be an indication of Troy-type stratabound deposits. Oil and gas potential is low. This roadless area contains 5,900 acres of low geothermal potential.

Disturbances: Large fires have occurred in the area, but the number of fires occurring annually is low.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Schafer Peak Roadless Area.

Table Schafer Peak-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Schafer Peak-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Schafer Peak-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Schafer Peak Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule	
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0	
Primitive	0	0	0	0	
Similar to Backcountry	5,900	0	0	0	
Backcountry	0	5,100	5,500	CPZ	2,300
				NonCPZ	3,200
GFRG	0	800	400	400	
SAHTS	0	0	0	0	
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0	0	
Total Acres	5,900	5,900	5,900	5,900	

Table Schafer Peak-2. Potential activities

Schafer Peak Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	5,900	5,900	2,300*
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	5,900	5,900	5,900	5,900
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	5,900	5,900	5,900	5,900
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	5,900	5,900	2,300*
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	5,900	400	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	5,900	5,900	5,900	5,900

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 3,200 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ to facilitate hazardous fuels removal, but only if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system.

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 800 acres are managed under prescription 1 (timber production), 100 acres under prescription 4 (timber production/big game winter range), and 5,000 acres under prescription 9 (non-forest).

Timber activities in the 5,000 acres under prescription 9 are limited to salvage and firewood removal that can occur from existing access roads. Roads may be constructed across prescription 9 to reach other destinations. These areas have scattered tree cover, so little to no timber harvest is expected.

Timber harvest and road building to access the timber harvest is allowed under prescription 4 if these activities improve or maintain habitat for big game winter range. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would have a dual objective of habitat improvement, the impact to roadless characteristics would be limited. If the project

used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still have a dual objective of habitat improvement.

For the 800 acres under prescription 1, roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Any timber activities and road building that occur under this prescription could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Schafer Peak Roadless Area. However, no phosphate mining, oil and gas or geothermal activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 5,500 acres would fall under the Backcountry theme and 400 acres would fall under the GFRG theme. For the acres under the Backcountry theme timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities would be permitted. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

GFRG areas are managed to provide a variety of goods and services as well as a broad range of recreational opportunities, and conservation of natural resources. For the 400 acres under the GFRG theme roads would generally be permitted and timber harvest could occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Any timber activities and road building that could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term. Leasable mineral activities and road building to access mineral leases are permitted, but no phosphate mining, oil and gas, or geothermal activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 5,500 acres under the Backcountry theme, 2,300 of which are in the CPZ. Within the 2,300 Backcountry acres that are within the CPZ, timber cutting for hazardous fuel removal would be allowed, and temporary roads could be constructed to facilitate timber harvest if the activity cannot be reasonably accomplished without a temporary road. Temporary road construction would likely change roadless characteristics in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber cutting activities would be designed for fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would likely be maintained or enhanced over the long term.

For the 3,200 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ, timber cutting and temporary road construction to facilitate timber harvest could be allowed to reduce hazardous fuels if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system. Since additional conditions would be required, it is likely that temporary road construction for this purpose would be infrequent.

Timber cutting from existing roads, including those constructed for fuel reduction projects, or using aerial systems could be done throughout all 5,500 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule 400 acres would fall under the GFRG theme. Under the GFRG theme roads would generally be permitted and timber harvest could occur for both restoration and

commodity production purposes, as long as these activities are consistent with applicable forest plan components. Timber harvest and associated road building could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term. The location of the GFRG theme is on the outer edges of the roadless area

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry and GFRG themes since road construction is not permitted to access new mineral leases. The GFRG exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area. Oil and gas potential is low. This roadless area contains 5,900 acres of low geothermal potential.

Scotchman Peaks #662

19,800 Acres Idaho Panhandle (Idaho)
600 Acres Kootenai (Idaho)
12,300 Acres Idaho Panhandle (Montana)
53,800 Acres Kootenai (Montana)
86,500 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Scotchman Peaks Roadless area is located in the southwest corner of the Kootenai National Forest in western Lincoln and Sanders Counties, Montana, and northeast Bonner County, Idaho, situated on the Idaho-Montana border between the Kootenai and Clark Fork Rivers. The majority of the roadless area is in Montana; however 20,400 acres are in Idaho, on both the Idaho Panhandle National Forest and a portion on the Kootenai National Forest. Access to the area is provided by State Highways 200 and 56 leading to several trails, particularly the Ross Creek Trail in the mid-portion and onto Pellick Ridge in the southeast corner. Trails are also present in Star and Napoleon Gulches, leading to Star Peak on Pellick Ridge and in Spar and Cub Creeks on the northern tip. On the Idaho side, a few trails provide access into the area. The area is surrounded by forest developments such as roads and clearcuts, particularly in the northern portion and by private lands along State Highways 56 and 200.

Discussions of geography, topography, and vegetation invariably include descriptions of the area's rugged alpine scenery left by glaciers. Perhaps some of the most classic examples of glacial cirques found in the region dominate the upper reaches of Ross Creek. Other displays of the deep glaciation are particularly striking in the Savage Creek area. Major streams draining the Scotchman area are Ross, Spar and Blue Creeks. Spar Creek forms a deep canyon from Little Spar Lake to Spar Lake, Little Spar Lake is the only named water body in the area although several alpine potholes or ponds are scattered throughout the rocks along the main divide.

Lightning Creek drains much of the west side, in the Idaho Panhandle National Forest, including the north face of Scotchman Peak. Steep, timbered breaks characterize this stretch of Lightning Creek, where the elevation changes a dramatic 4,500 feet in less than two miles on the slopes of Scotchman Peak. Just over the headwalls of the deep cirques in Ross Creek, hillsides of alpine vegetation slope into the West Fork Blue Creek while the backsides of distinctive Sawtooth and Billiard Table Mountains drain through side hill parks, and waterfalls to the East Fork of Blue Creek. The U-shaped valley of South Fork Ross Creek curves through green meadows and rock slides to meet the main Ross Creek. The scoured headlands of Ross Creek are soon lost in stands of large cedar, hemlock and white pine, as the creek tumbles through what is often a tangle of moss-covered boulders and devil's club on its way to the scenic Ross Creek Cedar grove below. Pellick Ridge, with its summit of Star Peak, tips rocky south slopes nearly 4,000 feet into the Clark Fork and lower Bull River valleys. In contrast, an almost continuous canopy of trees covers the cooler north aspects of Pellick Ridge in Napoleon and lower Star Gulches. Upper Star Gulch, like neighboring Hamilton Gulch, shows much of its bedrock at the surface.

Use of the area consists of hiking, cross country skiing, and roadless hunting, and is characterized as light to moderate in intensity. Some snowmobile use has been occurring in the Drift Peak area, on the northern portion of the roadless area boundary.

The area includes roughly 9,800 acres of Proposed Wilderness and therefore holds a high level of roadless characteristics.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Within the present roadless area boundary, the natural integrity and appearance is very high. Other than a few remnants of old, log trapper huts, the only manmade structure in the area is the Star Peak Lookout. Evidence of past mining activities has been reduced significantly by weathering and vegetation. There are relatively few miles of constructed trail in the area, considering the large size,

and no constructed recreation sites. Little Spar Lake is the only area having enough concentrated recreation use to visibly show the signs of wear.

Opportunities for Experience: Through much of the area, opportunities for solitude are numerous. The north central sections of Ross and Blue Creeks in particular have deep valleys covered with large old growth cedar, hemlock and white pine, sharply defined cirque basins, and heavily vegetated riparian zones. These screening factors coupled with a distinct lack of concentrated recreation use provide opportunities for a very primitive recreation experience. In existing western wilderness the shorelines of alpine lakes with fish and mainline access trails concentrate users, making a primitive experience difficult. Recreation use is well dispersed in the Scotchman Peaks Roadless Area, as there are no mainline access trails and only one lake with fish. The Pellick Ridge trail is over 10 miles long, but does not have a destination of concentrated use. Much of the travel in the area is cross country both summer and winter, with quality backcountry hunting for elk, deer, and goats in the fall. The rugged country and lack of recreation access provides a challenge for the visitor. Bow hunting for elk and deer and ski mountaineering are also challenges people now experience in the area.

Special Features: There are several special features in the Scotchmen Peaks Roadless Area. One important one is its wide range of wildlife species; from the bighorn sheep in the Pellick ridge area to goats, grizzly bears and significant elk herds in the Ross Creek-Blue Creek areas. Ross Creek contains some of the largest western red cedar, western white pine, western hemlock and mountain hemlock remaining, portions of which are in a 1,300 acre Research Natural Area. The strongly glaciated topography of the upper basins is another special feature.

Manageability: The Star Peak lookout is the only manmade structure that constitutes a nonconforming use but its present does not detract from the wilderness quality of the area. A considerable portion of the Scotchman Peaks area on the Kootenai National Forest side has boundaries defined by landforms, making much of the area ideal in terms of boundary management. Two sections of private land lie within the roadless area boundary along the southern edge. The private lands are within one mile of Scotchman Peak, the highest peak in the roadless area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Little Spar Lake, a brook trout lake, is in this area as are numerous tributaries that flow into Bull Lake, Bull River, or Noxon Reservoir. Some of the more important streams are Ross Creek, a cutthroat-brook trout creek, and Blue Creek, a poor to fair cutthroat trout stream. Stream bottoms are generally quite brushy which results in very little fishing pressure. Bull trout habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Habitat in the area supports elk, mule and whitetail deer, bighorn sheep, goats and grizzly and black bear. Most of the area is important grizzly habitat. Wildlife management in the form of burning is considered most desirable in the big game winter range along the south face of Pellick Ridge. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Water: Average annual precipitation is very high, varying from 33 to 105 inches depending on the elevation and proximity to the watershed divide. Average annual runoff for the area varies from 12 to 60 inches, varying again with elevation and with aspect. The only deviation in the pristine water quality to be found in this area would be sediment levels during high runoff events. This roadless area contains 19,800 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

Botanical: Northern beechfern (*Phegopteris connectilis*) a sensitive plant species occurs in this roadless area.

Recreation: The area has the potential to provide a wilderness recreation experience. Snowmobile use is occurring around the Drift Peak area. Current recreation use is estimated to be 6,000 recreation visitor days per year. Scenic attractions include Sawtooth and Billiard Table Mountains and Scotchmen Peaks. Views from Pellick Ridge include Lake Pend Oreille to the west, the Bitterroot Mountains to the south,

the Cabinet Mountain Wilderness to the east, and excellent views of the Bull River and Clark Fork Valleys.

Timber: Approximately 90 percent of the tentatively suitable timberland is located on slopes greater than 55 percent.

Range: There are no grazing allotments in the area and grazing potential is all transitory.

Minerals and Energy: Minerals investigations by the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Bureau of Mines indicate that the potential for the discovery of economic copper/silver deposits within the Star Gulch of Pellick Ridge and Ross Point is very high, similar to the Troy Mine (Genesis) on Mt. Vernon immediately to the north. In the remainder of the roadless area, the mineral potential is considered medium. The oil and gas potential is low. This roadless area contains 19,800 acres of low geothermal potential.

Heritage: Cultural resources in the area include several historic sites including a lookout, the remains of a tent camp at Ross Point, mining adits and pits, and other mining remains. There are no known prehistoric sites in the area but the probability of sites occurring is considered low.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Scotchman Peaks Roadless Area.

Table Scotchman Peaks-1a-c displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Scotchman Peaks-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Scotchman Peaks-1a. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative (Idaho Panhandle)

Scotchman Peaks Management Theme Idaho Panhandle	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule	
Wild Land Recreation	0	9,400	10,900	10,900	
Primitive	0	6,800	0	0	
Similar to Backcountry	19,800	0	0	0	
Backcountry	0	2,300	7,300	CPZ	2,200
				NonCPZ	5,400
GFRG	0	0	300	0	
SAHTS	0	0	0	0	
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	1,300*	1,300*	1,300*	
Total Acres	19,800	19,800	19,800	19,800	

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the Idaho Panhandle portion of the Scotchman Peaks Roadless Area is RNA. For further information on this designation, see the Idaho Panhandle National Forest LRMP.

Table Scotchman Peaks-1b. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative (Kootenai)

Scotchman Peaks Management Theme Kootenai	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Wild Land Recreation	0	400	0	0
Primitive	0	200	0	0
Similar to Backcountry	600	0	0	0
Backcountry	0	0	200	600
GFRG	0	0	400	0
SAHTS	0	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0	0
Total Acres	600	600	600	600

Table Scotchman Peaks-1c. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative (Total)

Scotchman Peaks Management Theme Total	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule	
Wild Land Recreation	0	9,800	10,900	10,900	
Primitive	0	7,000	0	0	
Similar to Backcountry	20,400	0	0	0	
Backcountry	0	2,300	7,500	CPZ	2,200
				NonCPZ	6,000
GFRG	0	0	700	0	
SAHTS	0	0	0	0	
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	1,300	1,300	1,300	
Total Acres	20,400	20,400	20,400	20,400	

Table Scotchman Peaks-2. Potential activities (Idaho Panhandle and Kootenai combined)

Scotchman Peaks Potential Activities Total	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	2,300	8,200	2,200*
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	20,400	9,100	8,200	8,200
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	20,400	9,100	8,200	8,200
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	9,100	8,200	2,200*
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	9,300	700	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	20,400	9,300	8,200	8,200

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 6,000 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ to facilitate hazardous fuels removal, but only if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system.

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or

associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): For the portions of the roadless area in the Idaho Panhandle, around 2,100 acres are managed under prescription 2 (timber production/grizzly bear habitat), 200 under prescription 3 (timber production/grizzly bear habitat/big game winter range), 6,800 acres under prescription 10 (semi-primitive recreation), and 9,400 under prescription 11 (Recommended Wilderness). In the Kootenai portions of the roadless area, around 200 acres are under prescription 2 (Roadless Recreation), and 400 under prescription 8 (Recommended Wilderness).

No timber harvest or new road construction is permitted in the 200 acres under Kootenai prescription 2 and 8. No regulated timber harvest is permitted under prescription 10, and roads can only be constructed if they improve semi-primitive recreation opportunities. As such, little to no timber harvest or associated road building is expected for the 6,800 acres under this prescription.

Timber harvest and road building to access the timber harvest is allowed under Idaho Panhandle prescriptions 2 and 3 if these activities improve or maintain habitat for the grizzly bear or big game winter range. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would have a dual objective of habitat improvement, the impact to roadless characteristics would be limited. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still have a dual objective of habitat improvement.

Timber harvest and associated road building are prohibited on the 9,800 acres under Idaho Panhandle prescription 11 and Kootenai prescription 8. Mineral and energy related activities are either prohibited (Kootenai prescription) or can only occur if they do not impair the future use and enjoyment of the area's wilderness character (Idaho Panhandle Prescription). Under this prescription the 9,800 acres are expected to maintain their wilderness and roadless area characteristics.

Outside of the Recommended Wilderness acres there are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in their existing forest plans. However, no phosphate mining, oil and gas, or geothermal activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 700 acres would fall under the GFRG, 7,500 acres under the Backcountry theme, and 10,900 under the Wild Land Recreation theme.

GFRG areas are managed to provide a variety of goods and services as well as a broad range of recreational opportunities, and conservation of natural resources. For the 800 acres under the GFRG theme roads would generally be permitted and timber harvest could occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Timber activities and road building to meet these objectives could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term. Leasable mineral activities and road building to access mineral leases are permitted, but no phosphate mining, oil and gas, or geothermal activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals.

For the acres under the Backcountry theme timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities would be permitted. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes.

Road construction is prohibited except for reserved and outstanding rights for the 10,900 acres under the Wild Land Recreation theme, and no timber harvest or new leasable mineral activities are allowed. Under this prescription there would be little evidence of human-caused disturbance and natural conditions and processes would be predominant.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry or Wild Land Recreation theme since either surface occupancy is prohibited or roads are only allowed for restoration purposes. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 8,200 acres under the Backcountry theme, 2,200 acres of which are in the CPZ, and 10,900 under the Wild Land Recreation theme.

Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule 10,900 acres would be managed under the Wild Land Recreation theme. Road construction under this theme is prohibited except for reserved and outstanding rights and no timber harvest or new leasable mineral activities are allowed. Under this prescription there would be little evidence of human-caused disturbance and natural conditions and processes would be predominant. These acres would therefore maintain both their roadless characteristics and wilderness attributes.

Within the 2,200 Backcountry acres that are within the CPZ, timber cutting for hazardous fuel removal would be allowed, and temporary roads could be constructed to facilitate timber harvest if the activity cannot be reasonably accomplished without a temporary road. Temporary road construction would likely change roadless characteristics in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber cutting activities would be designed for fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would likely be maintained or enhanced over the long term.

For the 6,000 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ, timber cutting and temporary road construction to facilitate timber harvest could be allowed to reduce hazardous fuels if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system. Since additional conditions would be required, it is likely that temporary road construction for this purpose would be infrequent.

Timber cutting from existing roads or using aerial systems could be done throughout all 8,200 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. Under the Backcountry theme, roads could only be constructed in conjunction with a fuel reduction project already authorized in the CPZ or authorized under the significant risk determination outside the CPZ. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry or Wildland Recreation themes since road construction is not permitted to access new mineral leases.

Selkirk #125

98,000 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Selkirk Roadless Area is located in the north-central portion of the Idaho Panhandle. The area begins roughly 4 miles south of the Canadian border and continues in a southerly direction for approximately 30 miles.

The primary drainages in the area are Smith Creek, Long Canyon Creek, Trout Creek, Ball Creek, Myrtle Creek, and Snow Creek, all of which empty into the Kootenai River. The southernmost portion of the area drains into Pack River, which empties into Lake Pend Oreille. Terrain is very rugged, with steep slopes, many exceeding 70 percent. The highest mountains in northern Idaho are found in this roadless area. There are numerous peaks in the 7,000-foot elevation range, the highest being Parker Peak at 7,670 feet. Lowest point is around 2,000 feet along the east side close to Kootenai River. The area is heavily forested with various species on bottomlands and mid-slopes in Long Canyon, Smith Creek, Trout Creek, and Ball Creek and has barren, rocky ridges at higher elevations. There is an abundance of subalpine vegetation over the entire area.

Unique features include the numerous alpine lakes, snowy peaks, geologic formations, and glacial effects. There is also a lookout tower on Roman Nose Mountain. Primary usage includes hiking, backpacking, fishing, and rock climbing. Use is moderate to heavy along the Selkirk Divide and moderate in Long Canyon.

The roadless area is underlain primarily by intrusive igneous rocks, including those of the Selkirk Crest complex. These intrude metamorphosed sediment of the Belt Supergroup and older gneiss. The igneous units of the Selkirk Crest complex appear to be bounded by large faults on the east and west sides.

The area is accessible from a number of trails, some of which originate on blacktop roads and others from poorer 4-wheel-drive roads. Myrtle Creek drainage is a state-designated game preserve and is also the source of water for the city of Bonners Ferry.

The area includes roughly 25,400 acres of Recommended Wilderness and therefore holds a high level of roadless characteristics.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The impact from human activity has been minor and scattered. Impacts include pack trails for fire control access, remnants of old lookout towers, a few trapper/pro prospector cabins, and some old mine tunnels and mine waste dumps in the lower end of Long Canyon Creek. Recent human activity is most evident where campers have camped near the shores of the high mountain lakes. These sites are sensitive because of short growing seasons, vegetation type, and wet conditions; they heal slowly once trampled or otherwise disturbed.

Undeveloped Character: Two situations exist in this roadless area. The large block of land that encompasses Long Canyon, Parker Creek, Fisher Creek, and Farnham Creek is such that persons in the area would feel they are in a natural area. Once inside this area there are very few locations where human activity outside the area can be seen or heard. These are generally confined to views from some of the highest peaks or from trails as they approach the Kootenai Valley and traverse rather open hillsides.

The remainder of the area resembles octopus tentacles, with stringers of land running out unroaded ridges on down the Selkirk Crest. These stringers are as narrow as one-half mile and none are over two miles wide; they are on high ridges where it is quite easy to look down on roads, timber harvest area, and farmland.

Opportunities for Experience: The ability to find solitude in this area is likewise affected by its configuration. In this large block of land it would be quite easy to find complete solitude. Since a high

proportion of this is densely timbered, the solitude is accentuated. There are also large granite domes from which expansive vistas are possible in complete solitude. Solitude is to be found in the stringers, but it can be interrupted very easily and frequently due to the proximity to management activities and motorized recreation.

The area offers a variety of terrain types and physical and biotic features to challenge visitors. It offers hiking, hunting, mountain lake fishing, rugged cross-country travel through dense timber on steep slopes, open ridgetop walking, technical climbing opportunities on Chimney Rock, and rugged mountaineering skiing.

Special Features: The Sundance fire roared across the southern end of the Selkirk Crest in 1967. The large, open snowfield created by this burn has become one of the most popular snowmobile play areas in northern Idaho. The Selkirk Crest, with its rugged granite domes and peaks, is a popular hiking area, particularly in the vicinity of the numerous small lakes in the cirque basins. A 1,200 acre Research Natural Area is located within the roadless area. About 4,900 acres are within an eligible Wild and Scenic River corridor.

Manageability: In this large block of land several easily identified and manageable boundaries could be drawn. Ridgetop boundaries could protect the integrity of that area to include a 1-, 2-, 3-, or 4-drainage wilderness or combination thereof. A manageable boundary around any of the stringers would be hard to locate. All would be mid-slope boundaries or straight-line boundaries along section lines. Snowmobile and trail bike use is well established in several parts of the area. Some heli-skiing has occurred also. Heavy use of the mountain lakes is also well established.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Cutthroat and, to a lesser extent, brook trout are both present in the many lakes and streams of this roadless area. Bull trout, sturgeon, burbot, inland redband trout, and westslope cutthroat habitat overlap this roadless area.

Wildlife: The Selkirk Roadless Area was once well known for their mountain goat population, but during the late 1950s the goats all but disappeared. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game has recently transplanted several goats on nearby State land. Grizzly bear are known to occur, as well as wolverine, fisher, northern bog lemming, harlequin duck, northern goshawk, boreal chickadee Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Water: Water quality is high. This roadless area contains 12,900 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

Botanical: Spoon-leaved sundew (*Drosera intermedia*), Krushea (*Streptopus streptopoides*), Northern beechfern (*Phegopteris connectilis*), and Northern starflower (*Trientalis arctica*) are three sensitive plant species occur in this roadless area.

Recreation: This is a large area which receives a large variety of recreation use; most of the use in the summer is concentrated around the cirque lakes and the trails to these lakes. On some summer weekends this use is heavy. During the winter the use focuses on snowmobiling in the southern portion of the area.

Timber: About 46,500 acres are tentatively suitable for timber production. The timber resource ranges from large old-growth white pine, cedar, and spruce in Long Canyon to small lodgepole pine on Parker Ridge. Higher elevations contain subalpine fir and a few subalpine larches.

Range: There is presently no grazing, due to low potential.

Minerals and Energy: There are no identified mineral deposits. Although there have been 37 placer claims and 152 lode claims located since 1903, sample assays from the claimed areas revealed no significant mineral values. This roadless area contains 98,000 acres of low geothermal potential.

Disturbances: The annual number of fires is low; however, northern Idaho has a history of periodic large fires, including the Sundance fire which burned over the southern portion of this area in 1967.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Selkirk Roadless Area.

Table Selkirk-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Selkirk-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Selkirk-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Selkirk Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule	
Wild Land Recreation	0	25,400	31,300	42,000	
Primitive	0	30,100	10,700	0	
Similar to Backcountry	98,000	0	0	0	
Backcountry	0	36,400	41,300	CPZ	300
				NonCPZ	41,000
GFRG	0	0	8,600	8,600	
SAHTS	0	0	0	0	
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	6,100*	6,100*	6,100*	
Total Acres	98,000	98,000	98,000	98,000	

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the Selkirk Roadless Area is 4,900 acres as WSR and 1,200 acres as RNA. For further information on this designation, see the Idaho Panhandle National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan LRMP.

Table Selkirk-2. Potential activities

Selkirk Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	36,400	49,900	8,900*
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	98,000	66,500	60,600	49,900
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	98,000	66,500	60,600	49,900
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	66,500	60,600	8,900*
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	66,500	8,600	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	98,000	66,500	49,900	49,900

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 41,000 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ to facilitate hazardous fuels removal, but only if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system.

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without road access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 3,200 acres are managed under prescription 2 (timber production/grizzly bear habitat), 500 acres under prescription 3 (timber production/grizzly bear habitat/big game winter range), 14,200 acres under prescription 7 (caribou management), 18,500 under prescription 9 (non-forest) and 30,100 acres under prescription 10 (semi-primitive recreation), and 25,400 acres under prescription 11 (Proposed Wilderness).

No regulated timber harvest is permitted under prescription 10, and roads can only be constructed if they improve semi-primitive recreation opportunities. As such, little to no timber harvest or associated road building is expected for the 30,100 acres under this prescription. Timber activities in the 18,500 acres under prescription 9 are limited to salvage and firewood removal that can occur from existing access roads. Roads may be constructed across prescription 9 to reach other destinations. These areas have scattered tree cover, so little to no timber harvest is expected.

Timber harvest and road building to access the timber harvest is allowed under prescriptions 2, 3 and 7 if these activities improve or maintain grizzly bear, big game winter range or caribou habitat. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would have a dual objective of habitat improvement, the impact to roadless characteristics would be limited. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still have a dual objective of habitat improvement.

Timber harvest and associated road building are prohibited on the 25,400 acres under prescription 11. Mineral and energy related activities can only occur if they do not impair the future use and enjoyment of the area's wilderness or wild and scenic river character. Under this prescription the 25,400 acres are expected to maintain their wilderness, wild and scenic river and roadless area characteristics.

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases under the other 5 prescriptions for the Selkirk Roadless Area. However, no phosphate mining, oil and gas, or geothermal activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 8,600 acres would fall under the GFRG, 41,300 acres under the Backcountry theme, 10,700 under the Primitive theme and 31,300 under the Wild Land Recreation theme.

For the 8,700 acres under the GFRG theme roads would generally be permitted and timber harvest could occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Timber activities and road building to meet these objectives could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term. Leasable mineral activities and road building to access mineral leases are permitted. However, no phosphate mining, oil and gas, or geothermal activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals.

For the acres under the Backcountry theme timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities would be permitted. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes.

For the acres under the Primitive theme no road construction would be expected because it would be prohibited except in cases of reserved and outstanding rights. Timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities would be permitted for both the Backcountry and Primitive theme areas, but little to no timber cutting would be anticipated for the 10,700 acres under the Primitive theme because roads could not be constructed.

Road construction is prohibited on the 31,300 acres under the Wild Land Recreation theme except for reserved and outstanding rights and no timber harvest or new leasable mineral activities are allowed. Under this prescription there would be little evidence of human-caused disturbance and natural conditions and processes would be predominant. These acres would therefore maintain both their roadless and wilderness characteristics.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry, Primitive or Wild Land Recreation theme since either surface occupancy is prohibited or roads are only allowed for restoration purposes. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 42,000 acres under Wild Land Recreation, 41,300 acres under the Backcountry theme, 300 of which are in the CPZ, and 8,600 acres under the GFRG theme.

The 42,000 acres managed under the Wild Land Recreation theme would experience the same protections they had as Recommended Wilderness under the Forest Plans. Road construction would be prohibited except for reserved and outstanding rights and no timber cutting or leasable mineral activities would be allowed. These acres would therefore maintain both their roadless characteristics and wilderness attributes.

Within the 300 Backcountry acres that are within the CPZ, timber cutting for hazardous fuel removal would be allowed, and temporary roads could be constructed to facilitate timber harvest if the activity cannot be reasonably accomplished without a temporary road. Temporary road construction would likely change roadless characteristics in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber cutting activities would be designed for fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would likely be maintained or enhanced over the long term.

For the 41,000 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ, timber cutting and temporary road construction to facilitate timber harvest could be allowed to reduce hazardous fuels if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system. Since additional conditions would be required, it is likely that temporary road construction for this purpose would be infrequent.

Timber cutting from existing roads, including those constructed for fuel reduction projects, or using aerial systems could be done throughout all 41,300 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

For the 8,600 acres under the GFRG theme roads would generally be permitted and timber harvest could occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes, as long as these activities are consistent with applicable forest plan components. Timber harvest and associated road building could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry or GFRG theme since roads are not permitted to access new mineral leases. The GFRG exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Sheep Mountain – State Line #799
27,700 Acres Idaho Panhandle (Idaho)
40,500 Acres Lolo (Montana)
68,200 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Sheep Mountain-State Line Roadless Area lies along the Montana-Idaho State Line south and east of the Dry Creek Road. It is located 12 miles southwest of St. Regis, Montana; five miles west of Superior, Montana; and 30 miles east of Avery, Idaho. The access to the area is by either the Dry Creek Road or the Cedar Creek Road system. There are 10 trails in the area totaling about 40 miles. Included within the roadless area are four miles of improved road and three short, unimproved roads. The Stateline area is accessed by the Stateline National Recreation Trail.

The geography of the area is characterized by high alpine terrain with vegetation of the grassy-bald or subalpine habitat groups. Elevations range from approximately 3,500 feet near Dry Creek to 7,543 feet at the top of Eagle Cliff. Prominent peaks or landmarks include Binocular Peak (elevation 7,266 feet), Sheep Mountain (elevation 6,723 feet), Mount Baldy (elevation 7,543 feet), Black Tail Mountain (elevation 6,167 feet), and Eagle Cliff. Some of these landmarks are seen from the Clark Fork Valley, which contains Interstate 90.

Geology of the area is characterized by northwest to southeast trending faults extending the length of the area and, bringing the various formations into contact with one another. These formations include limestone, calcareous argillites, and quartzites of the Precambrian Age Wallace Formation which crop out in the western two-thirds of the area. Missoula Group rocks cover the balance of the area.

Vegetation varies from the lower elevation habitat types (Douglas-fir climax) to the subalpine types intermixed with high elevation grassy balds. Between the extremes, the forested types are present containing lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir, and western larch. The understory vegetation is typified by the ninebark type in the northwest corner to the clintonia group on the north and east aspects of higher elevations. The upper ridges and peaks contain scree mixed with subalpine vegetation. Also included is menziesia and dry beargrass. The area has been burned over several times creating a mosaic of successional stages.

Several key attractions are located within or immediately adjacent to the area. Missoula Lake, an attractive recreational area, lies at the northeastern edge adjacent to the Stateline. Diamond Lake lies just outside to the west and provides access into the roadless area. Cliff Lake, a cirque lake, is a popular spot which lies southwest of Diamond Lake near the southwest edge of the Lolo National Forest portion of the area. The upper elevations near the Stateline are very scenic, with several cirque basins which contain Lost Lake and Bonanza Lake.

One corner of this area lies on the St. Joe Wild and Scenic River which receives moderate to heavy roaded recreation use. Redives Ranger Station is also located on the corner of this area and the possibility of encountering recreationists in the vicinity is very high.

The current use of the area includes scattered mineral exploration, hiking, fishing, hunting, and viewing. There is one outfitter and guide permit for this roadless area. Area hunters pack in for extended stays. Missoula, Cliff, and Bonanza Lakes have varying amounts of fishing use. The Stateline National Recreation Trail is used for hiking and viewing.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: There is a campground near Missoula Lake and old cabins previously used by miners or trappers which are in severe states of disrepair. There is also the remnant of an old lookout on Sheep Mountain consisting of some rearranged rocks and some number nine wire and the Cordilleran mine with an access road. There are several mine spoil areas along Oregon Gulch, one of the historic mining

districts of Montana. Mineral exploration excavations are spotted throughout the area, with a heavier concentration in the vicinity of Oregon Gulch and Mink Peak. Sheep grazing was a significant use until 1964 when it was discontinued. The edges of the area have several inclusions of timber harvest, mostly in Lost Creek. Also included near the lower edge is a fence on private inholdings and a game enclosure. There are three dwellings on the private land jutting up Thompson Creek. The remains of a Forest Service fire lookout are located at Simmons Ridge. The lookout burned in 1984. An outhouse and storage shed associated with the lookout remain.

The area appears quite natural especially the upper reaches which contain only limited mineral exploration activities. The exceptions are on the portions of the land adjacent to presently accessed areas in Dry Creek and along Oregon Gulch. The upper elevations provide a natural and rugged appearance expected in a wilderness. The lower segment along Dry Creek is typical of much of Western Montana forests.

Undeveloped Character: The appearance of the area varies significantly depending on the viewer orientation. The extremes of the elevations with the peaks, cirque basins, and lakes provide scenic landmarks for viewing within the area and from outside.

Opportunities for Experience: Due to this roadless area's proximity to Interstate 90 and the towns of St. Regis and Superior, opportunities for solitude and serenity are limited. However, from within the area there are places where a visitor can experience the feeling of being alone due to topographic or vegetative screening. It is not particularly easy to reach or traverse the entire area in a relatively short time. Much of the roadless area is relatively remote and challenging to cross, providing for a rigorous adventure to test an individual's woodland, survival skills. The recreational opportunity best fits a description of semi-primitive. This area contains one of the few remaining stretches of gentle, sloping riparian land which is still timbered and free of man-induced disturbance.

Special Features: Opportunities exist to observe and study big game animals in their natural habitat, but there are no known endangered species of animal, or plant, in the area. The roadless area contains significant amounts of area common to snow slides and represents a community with a great deal of diversity in compositions and structures. These areas have been designated alder glades, and the site, are commonly wet and at higher elevation.

Manageability: The size of the area is relatively small. Several fingers or appendages of land along the boundary encompass different parts of the area. The major and most significant part is that portion adjacent to the state line which joins a small area on the St. Joe National Forest of northern Idaho. This area of the state line has good capability of providing some wilderness opportunities. Much of the area has an undefineable boundary.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Bull trout habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area. The area has a resident population of small mammals, and the many bird species inhabit the area yearlong or during the migration periods. Unconfirmed grizzly bear sightings along the Montana-Idaho line are reported sporadically throughout a larger area, of which this roadless area is a small part. Lynx, wolverine, and fisher also occur in this roadless area.

Wildlife use is fairly high throughout portions of the area. The high elevations provide summer range for elk and mule deer. While the lower elevations of Dry Creek provide critical winter habitat for the three big game species found in the area. Mountain goats are visitors to the area from a herd located in Trout Creek to the east. There may be a portion of that population which uses this area more frequently. Perhaps a moose or two would wander in and use portions of the area from time to time, but evidence is scarce as to much use of the roadless area by this species. Wolves inhabit this area as well.

Water: The Sheep Mountain-Stateline Roadless Area is important for water storage in the form of snow accumulation in the high country for later release into the Clark Fork River. There are few local uses of water from the drainages encompassed within the area. This roadless area receives abundant moisture, especially near the Divide, and, therefore, is important as a watershed. The several lakes located within this area are important for water-related recreation and serve to collect and disperse water to both tributaries of Dry Creek and Cedar Creek. This area collects water for Thompson Creek and contributes to Oregon Creek and on to Cedar Creek.

Botanical: Triangular-lobed moonwort (*Botrychium ascendens*), Mingan moonwort (*Botrychium minganense*), and mountain moonwort (*Botrychium montanum*), three sensitive plant species occur in this roadless area.

Recreation: Recreation in the area includes hunting, fishing, viewing, camping, and hiking. Big game hunting constitutes the major visitor use. Often, parties have their own packstock. There is also an outfitter who provides day hunts or overnight trips into the center of the area. The edges of the roadless area are hunted by day-use hunters. It is a popular area for elk hunting and for mule deer, especially in lower Dry Creek in the later part of the season.

Fishing is popular in the readily accessible lakes such as Cliff Lake and Missoula Lake, Diamond Lake, located at the very edge of the roadless area, can be reached by a road which provides quick access to Cliff Lake. Missoula Lake, although in the roadless area, is only 1/4 mile from the Upper Cedar Creek road. It is a popular spot in the summer, and the area is well used during the fall for camping during the two hunting seasons: Idaho in early fall and Montana later.

Hiking is popular along the state line into Bonanza Lakes and along the divide. The major divide along the Idaho-Montana border contains the Stateline National Recreation Trail. Trails to several lakes join the National Trail along the Divide, allowing relatively easy access for parts of the area.

Timber: The Sheep Mountain-State Line Area contains 27,300 acres (in Idaho) are classified as commercial timberland. The suitable lands presently support a standing timber inventory of 211.5 million board feet of timber.

Range: Livestock use is limited to the amount associated with outfitting and local horse use for pack trips into and through the area. The State Line area used to contribute a significant amount of forage to the sheep operations of the past.

Minerals and Energy: There are 51 unpatented mining claims in the roadless area. This area and the surrounding land to the south and east has produced placer gold and the potential still exists. About 40 lode and placer claims along Sherlock Creek are presently in litigation. New placer locations are prohibited but those existing before November, 1978, are subject to valid existing rights. This roadless area contains 27,200 acres of medium and 500 of low geothermal potential.

Oregon Gulch once had a large mining community with several thousand people working the mines. Later, in the 1930s, a dredging company reworked the diggings and employed 30-50 workers for several years. The reasons for the abandonment of this operation are unclear. Other mines include one on Wilson Gulch in Dry Creek and one on Lost Creek at the edge of the roadless area. There are numerous diggings throughout portions of the area, with heaviest concentrations in Oregon Gulch up to Mink Peak.

A site along Oregon Gulch at Big Flat is a potential historic site resulting from the past mining activities. There are several old buildings still standing from an old mining camp used during the last dredging operation. Although this area is not quite within the Sheep Mountain-State Line Roadless Area, it is located within a finger of land surrounded by the boundary. There are other scattered remnants of mining activity in the roadless area.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no special uses in the area other than the outfitter/guide permit previously discussed.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Sheep Mountain–State Line Roadless Area.

Table Sheep Mountain–State Line-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Sheep Mountain–State Line-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Sheep Mountain–State Line-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Sheep Mountain–State Line Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0
Primitive	0	14,500	0	0
Similar to Backcountry	27,700	0	0	0
Backcountry	0	3,200	26,900	26,900
GFRG	0	9,200	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	800*	800*	800*
Total Acres	27,700	27,700	27,700	27,700

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the Sheep Mountain–State Line Roadless Area is WSR. For further information on this designation, see the Idaho Panhandle National Forest LRMP.

Table Sheep Mountain–State Line-2. Potential activities

Sheep Mountain–State Line Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	12,400	26,900	0
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	27,700	26,900	26,900	26,900
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	27,700	26,900	26,900	26,900
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	26,900	26,900	0
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	26,900	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	27,700	26,900	26,900	26,900

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 9,200 acres are managed under prescription 1 (timber production), 3,200 acres under prescription 9 (non-forest), 4,500 under prescription 10 (Semi-primitive recreation), and 8,600 under prescription 20 (Unroaded semi-primitive/Limited timber).

Limited timber harvest is permitted under prescription 20, but no new roads can be constructed, so little to no activity is expected on the 8,600 acres under this prescription. No regulated timber harvest is permitted under prescription 10, and roads can only be constructed if they improve semi-primitive recreation opportunities. As such, little to no timber harvest or associated road building is expected for the 4,500 acres under this prescription either. Timber activities in the 3,200 acres under prescription 9 are limited to salvage and firewood removal that can occur from existing access roads. Roads may be constructed across prescription 9 to reach other destinations. These areas have scattered tree cover, so little to no timber harvest is expected.

For the 9,200 acres under prescription 1, roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Any timber activities and road building that occur under this prescription could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Sheep Mountain-State Line Roadless Area. No phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals. The area does contain 27,200 acres of medium geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 26,900 acres would be available for limited timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 26,900 acres under the Backcountry theme, none of which are in the CPZ.

Since there are no communities or municipal water supply systems adjacent to the Backcountry portion of this roadless area, no roads could be constructed to facilitate fuel reduction projects. In addition, since there are no communities or municipal water supply systems nearby, no timber harvest or associated road building would occur for the purpose of reducing the significant risk of wildland fire effects. Timber cutting from existing roads or using aerial systems could be done throughout all 26,900 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since road construction is not permitted to access new mineral leases.

Skitwish Ridge #135

4,000 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Skitwish Ridge Roadless Area is located 12 air miles east of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. It is within Kootenai County and on the Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. The area consists of mountainous terrain with elevations ranging from 2,400 feet at the mouth of Marie Creek to 4,800 feet on Skitwish Ridge. A non-system Forest Service trail enters the area at the mouth of Marie Creek, follows the creek upstream past Skitwish Creek, and up Skitwish Ridge, where it exits the area. A second non-system trail used and maintained by a grazing permittee enters the area from Rutherford Gulch and drops into Marie Creek in Section 23. This area's bedrock exposures consist mostly of Prichard and Burke formations, with minor outcrops of the Revett. These argillites and quartzites are metasediments of the Precambrian Belt rocks. The area has numerous northwest-trending faults which are the loci for mineralizations in the Coeur d'Alene Mining District.

Large wildfires burned over most of the area in approximately 1880. Currently, second-growth coniferous vegetation dominates the area. The area supports big game populations of elk, mule deer, whitetail deer, black bear, and an occasional moose and cougar. Marie Creek supports a resident cutthroat fishery and has been identified as the major spawning stream for cutthroat trout from the northern part of Lake Coeur d'Alene. The area does not provide habitat for threatened or endangered species.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Impact from human activity within the area is moderate, consisting of two trails, unpatented mining claims with some recent surface disturbing work, and an active grazing allotment. Evidence of the old burn is apparent only to the trained eye.

Undeveloped Character: The impact of cattle grazing along Marie Creek and adjacent open hillsides would be readily seen by the untrained eye. The two trails and recent mineral development work would also be apparent. Other more inaccessible portions of the roadless area appear natural.

Opportunities for Experience: The area offers moderate opportunities for solitude because of its relative small size and some off-site intrusions. The area offers moderate opportunities for a primitive recreation experience. It has good topographic screening and vegetation is dense. It has little diversity which would offer a variety of primitive recreation experience or challenge.

Special Features: The area provides important spawning habitat for trout from Lake Coeur d'Alene.

Manageability: The area is small and boundaries are not well defined on ridgetops or other major topographic features because of man's activities surrounding the area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Marie Creek supports a resident cutthroat fishery and has been identified as the major spawning stream for cutthroat trout from the northern part of Lake Coeur d'Alene.

Wildlife: Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area. The area supports big game populations of elk, mule deer, whitetail deer, black bear, and an occasional moose and cougar.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Current use consists of biking, hunting, and fishing.

Timber: Timber values consist of mature, second-growth conifers.

Range: The area contains an active grazing allotment.

Minerals and Energy: Hardrock mineral potential is moderate, with several old prospects near the area. The Revett outcrops may have some potential for stratabound gold and silver. Oil and gas potential is low due to lack of information; however, lease applications are currently on file for the west half of the area. This roadless area contains 4,000 acres of low geothermal potential.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Skitwish Ridge Roadless Area. Table Skitwish Ridge-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Skitwish Ridge-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Skitwish Ridge-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Skitwish Ridge Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule	
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0	
Primitive	0	0	0	0	
Similar to Backcountry	4,000	0	0	0	
Backcountry	0	1,000	4,000	CPZ	500
				NonCPZ	3,500
GFRG	0	3,000	0	0	
SAHTS	0	0	0	0	
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0	0	
Total Acres	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	

Table Skitwish Ridge-2. Potential activities

Skitwish Ridge Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	4,000	4,000	500*
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	4,000	4,000	500*
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	4,000	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 3,500 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ to facilitate hazardous fuels removal, but only if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system.

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 3,000 acres are managed under prescription 1 (timber production), 900 acres under prescription 4 (timber production/big game winter range), and 100 acres under prescription 9 (non-forest). Timber activities in the 100 acres under prescription 9 are limited to salvage and firewood removal that can occur from existing access roads. Roads may be constructed across prescription 9 to reach other destinations. These areas have scattered tree cover, so little to no timber harvest is expected. Timber harvest and road building to access the timber harvest is allowed under prescription 4 if these activities improve or maintain habitat for big game winter range. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would have a dual objective of habitat improvement, the impact to roadless characteristics would be limited. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still have a dual objective of habitat improvement. For the 3,000 acres under prescription 1, roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Any timber activities and road building that occur under this prescription could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term. There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Skitwish Ridge Roadless Area. However, no phosphate mining, oil and gas or geothermal activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 4,000 acres would be available for limited timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 4,000 acres under the Backcountry theme, 500 of which are in the CPZ. Within the 500 Backcountry acres that are within the CPZ, timber cutting for hazardous fuel removal would be allowed, and temporary roads could be constructed to facilitate timber harvest if the activity cannot be reasonably accomplished without a temporary road. Temporary road construction would likely change roadless characteristics in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber cutting activities would be designed for fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would likely be maintained or enhanced over the long term.

For the 3,500 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ, timber cutting and temporary road construction to facilitate timber harvest could be allowed to reduce hazardous fuels if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system. Since additional conditions would be required, it is likely that temporary road construction for this purpose would be infrequent. Timber cutting from existing roads or using aerial systems could be done throughout all 4,000 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since road construction is not permitted to access new mineral leases.

Spion Kop #136

22,400 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Spion Kop Roadless Area is located about 22 miles north of Kellogg, Idaho, encompassing the Shoshone Range from Little Guard to Spion Kop. It is within Shoshone County on the Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. The area is accessible by road from every side.

The highest elevation in the area is 6,210 feet at Bennett Peak and the lowest is 2,700 feet near the mouth of Little Canyon Creek. Other major peaks include Guard, Pond, Sentinel, and Amethyst. Major drainages include the Coeur d'Alene River, Cinnamon Creek, Calamity Creek, and Cataract Creek. The area is underlain by metasediments of the Belt Supergroup. The Wallace and Striped Peak Formations are the prevalent units, with only minor amounts of the Libby Formation. Two major northwest-trending faults have been mapped in the area.

About 85 percent of the area burned in 1935. As a result, the vegetation on the area includes about 15 percent mature western white pine and grand fir, 40 percent brushfields, and several thousand acres of western white pine plantations created by the Civilian Conservation Corps between 1936 and 1940. There are some old-growth mountain hemlock stands on the east side of the Shoshone Range in the south end of the roadless area. The remaining area consists of natural, pole-size stands.

The roadless area is heavily used for hunting elk, deer, and bear. Other forms of recreation include hiking, backpacking, and primitive camping along the Coeur d'Alene River National Recreation Trail, which runs through the Spion Kop from Jordan Creek to the main river road. Another trail that is heavily used by hunters and backpackers is the Shoshone Ridge Trail from Pond Peak to Little Guard Peak. Rafting, canoeing, and Roadless Area fishing are also popular sports on the Coeur d'Alene River. The area receives an estimated 4,500 recreation visitor days use annually.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The Spion Kop Roadless Area has, with minor exceptions, retained qualities formed by nature without human disruption. Intrusions into the roadless area include roads to Steamboat Rocks, Spion Kop, Spion Kop Rock, and Pond Peak. There is an active lookout tower at Little Guard Peak.

Undeveloped Character: The landscape within the roadless area is natural appearing; however, views from higher elevations such as from Shoshone Range are subject to ordinary human activities and development.

Opportunities for Experience: Feelings of solitude for individuals are induced under a wide array of stimuli and vary greatly among persons of different backgrounds. Given the size of the area and its location, opportunities for solitude for a significant number of visitors are hampered by the ruggedness of terrain which tends to concentrate use on a few trails. Recreation opportunities would continue to include hiking; backpacking; primitive camping; big game hunting, either on day trips or extended trips; and, occasionally, rock climbing. The trails are the only man-made recreational developments in the area.

Special Features: Portions of the Spion Kop area are within the Coeur d'Alene River Scenic Corridor. Little Guard Lookout is one of the earliest on the Wallace District, originally constructed in 1919, with subsequent constructions taking place in the late 1920s and again in the early 1930s. This is the only continually manned lookout on the District. A historic Forest Service administrative trail was established along the Shoshone Range during the late 1920s and 1930s to service a lookout network consisting of Little Guard Lookout, Downey Peak Patrol Point, Pond Peak Lookout, and Spion Kop Rock Lookout Point. Remnants of this network are still present, with the section of Shoshone Range Trail between Pond Peak and Little Guard still being used for recreation. Approximately 300 acres are in a Research Natural Area, and 2,500 acres are in an eligible Wild and Scenic River corridor.

Manageability: The entire roadless area is composed of National Forest System land. The northern boundary of this roadless area follows Jordan Creek and the southern boundary follows Tepee Creek, but the remaining boundary follows less noticeable landforms and even cuts across drainages.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The Coeur d'Alene River is rated as a low access, high quality sport fishing stream for westslope cutthroat and rainbow trout for its entire length within this roadless area. The State has special regulations to preserve and promote this quality fishing. Cinnamon, Jordan, West Elk, and Cataract Creeks are rated as important spawning and rearing streams for westslope cutthroat and rainbow trout.

Wildlife: Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area. Wildlife found in the area includes elk, whitetail deer, mule deer, black bear, moose, cougar, coyote, bobcat, pine marten, pileated woodpecker, and other small animals.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Hiking along the Shoshone Range Trail provides a panoramic view of the surrounding landscape and affords a view of the rugged Cabinet Mountains in Montana. The Coeur d'Alene River Trail provides excellent views of Steamboat and Cathedral Rocks--massive metasedimentary rock outcrops that rise 300 feet above the river bottom. These are probably the most scenic rock formations found on the Coeur d'Alene National Forest.

Timber: Future development of the timber resource would involve the management of 21,000 acres within the area.

Range: The area is not suitable for cattle grazing due to the steepness of the terrain.

Minerals and Energy: The Spion Kop Roadless Area is currently under application for an oil and gas lease. Mineral potential for oil and gas in this area is unknown. There are presently no mining claims in this area nor are there any old prospects. However, the Wallace Formation has numerous prospects 5 miles to the southeast in the Coeur d'Alene Mining District. Potential at this time has been rated low. This roadless area contains 22,400 acres of low geothermal potential.

Heritage: A possible prehistoric stone monument exists.

Disturbances: Although large fires have occurred in the area, the number of fires occurring annually is low.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Spion Kop Roadless Area.

Table Spion Kop-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Spion Kop-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Spion Kop-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Spion Kop Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule	
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0	
Primitive	0	2,700	0	0	
Similar to Backcountry	22,400	0	0	0	
Backcountry	0	13,900	19,600	CPZ	3,300
				Non CPZ	16,300
GFRG	0	3,000	0	0	
SAHTS	0	0	0	0	
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	2,800*	2,800*	2,800*	
Total Acres	22,400	22,400	22,400	22,400	

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the Spion Kop Roadless Area is 2,500 acres as WSR and 300 acres as RNA. For further information on this designation, see the Idaho Panhandle National Forest LRMP.

Table Spion Kop-2. Potential activities

Spion Kop Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	16,900	19,600	3,300*
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	22,400	19,600	19,600	19,600
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	22,400	19,600	19,600	19,600
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	19,600	19,600	3,300*
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	19,600	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	22,400	19,600	19,600	19,600

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 16,300 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ to facilitate hazardous fuels removal, but only if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system.

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 3,000 acres are managed under prescription 1 (timber production), 6,200 acres under prescription 4 (timber production/big game winter range), 4,900 under prescription 6 (timber production/elk summer range), 2,700 acres under prescription 9 (non-forest), 2,700 acres under prescription 10 (semi-primitive recreation) and 100 acres under prescription 14 (Research Natural Area).

No timber harvest or new road construction is permitted in the 100 acres under prescription 14. No regulated timber harvest is permitted under prescription 10, and roads can only be constructed if they improve semi-primitive recreation opportunities. As such, little to no timber harvest or associated road building is expected for the 2,700 acres under this prescription. Timber activities in the 2,700 acres under prescription 9 are limited to salvage and firewood removal that can occur from existing access roads.

Roads may be constructed across prescription 9 to reach other destinations. These areas have scattered tree cover, so little to no timber harvest is expected.

Timber harvest and road building to access the timber harvest is allowed under prescriptions 4 and 6 if these activities improve or maintain habitat for big game winter range and/or elk summer range. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would have a dual objective of habitat improvement, the impact to roadless characteristics would be limited. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still have a dual objective of habitat improvement. For the 3,000 acres under prescription 1, roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Any timber activities and road building that occur under this prescription could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

There are no new mineral leases or associated road building permitted in the 100 acres under prescription 14. There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases under the 5 other forest plan prescriptions for the Spion Kop Roadless Area. However, no phosphate mining, oil and gas, or geothermal activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 19,600 acres would be available for limited timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 19,600 acres under the Backcountry theme, 3,300 of which are in the CPZ. Within the 3,300 Backcountry acres that are within the CPZ, timber cutting for hazardous fuel removal would be allowed, and temporary roads could be constructed to facilitate timber harvest if the activity cannot be reasonably accomplished without a temporary road. Temporary road construction would likely change roadless characteristics in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber cutting activities would be designed for fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would likely be maintained or enhanced over the long term.

For the 16,300 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ, timber cutting and temporary road construction to facilitate timber harvest could be allowed to reduce hazardous fuels if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system. Since additional conditions would be required, it is likely that temporary road construction for this purpose would be infrequent.

Timber cutting from existing roads or using aerial systems could be done throughout all 19,600 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since road construction is not permitted to access new mineral leases.

Stevens Peak #142

4,700 Acres Idaho Panhandle (Idaho)

600 Acres Lolo (Montana)

5,300 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Stevens Peak Roadless Area is situated on both sides of the Idaho-Montana state line about four miles south of Hullan, Idaho, and nine air miles north of Avery, Idaho. The Idaho portion lies within Shoshone County on the Avery and Coeur d'Alene River Ranger Districts of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest; the Montana portion lies in Mineral County on the Superior Ranger District of the Lolo National Forest. The most popular access is on trails which originate at the Lookout Pass overpass on Interstate 90. Other access is provided by low standard mining roads entering at several locations into the roadless area.

Stevens Peak, with an elevation of 6,838 feet, dominates the topography of this irregularly-shaped roadless area. Several features of alpine glaciation, including cirques, alpine lakes, and moraines, typify the area lying north of Stevens Peak. Steep slopes dissected by tributaries of the North Fork of the St. Joe characterize the southern half. The lowest elevation of the roadless area is 3,600 feet along the North Fork of the St. Joe River.

A majority of the area burned in 1910 and reburned in 1928. One area of old-growth mountain hemlock remains in the upper reaches of Rougin and Park Creek drainages, with isolated residual trees scattered elsewhere. The lower elevations on both the St. Joe and Lolo portions were planted following the 1928 fire with off-site ponderosa pine or eastern white pine. Several areas, however, remain in a non-stocked brushfield condition. The higher elevations support relatively sparse vegetation, generally subalpine, with some rock and talus slopes present. The more productive slopes generally are covered by pole-sized stands of mixed species composition. Habitat-types range from cedar/clintonia at the lower elevations to mountain hemlock/menziesia or mountain hemlock/beargrass at the higher elevations.

The Stevens Peak Roadless Area exists as a popular recreational area, receiving about 6,500 recreation visitor days use per year. The greatest attractions are the alpine lakes--Upper and Lower Stevens and Lone Lake on the Idaho side and the St. Regis Lakes on the Montana portion--which provide fishing, swimming, and floating opportunities. The St. Regis Basin is an especially popular destination for both cross-country skiers in the winter and backpackers and hikers in the summer. Other forms of outdoor recreation include horseback riding, mountain climbing (limited), and pleasure driving with motorbikes, all terrain vehicles or four-wheel drive vehicles on several of the mining access roads. The area also receives moderate hunting pressure in the fall.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: With the exception of a few old mining roads, the area has qualities predominantly influenced by nature rather than by man.

Undeveloped Character: The size of the area results in a relatively limited opportunity to view large areas of natural appearing landscape; however, the landscape within the area is virtually all natural appearing. Views from some of the higher elevations reveal logging activities such as clearcuts and roads outside the Stevens Peak roadless area.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunities for solitude for a significant number of visitors are hampered by the rugged terrain and high elevations which tend to concentrate use around the lakes during July and August. Opportunities for a primitive recreation experience in the Stevens Peak Roadless Area are fairly good. Most of the lakes in the area have suitable sites for primitive camping; however, some of these sites are showing signs of over-use. There is a good system of trails in the area, but many of them are in need of reconstruction.

Special Features: During the 1910 fires, one person is known to have perished within this roadless area. Cultural sites related to this event may still exist. The area provides opportunities to view glaciated peaks, cirques, and cirque lakes, affording the viewer a high degree of visual quality which is unavailable in the more or less uniform landscape in the surrounding areas. Though none have been located, there is a strong possibility that remains of single dwelling miners' cabins, primitive rock monuments and cairns, and rock markers from the 1904-1905 resurvey of the Idaho-Montana border may exist. On the Lolo, there are old mining cabins, two lookout sites, and two mineral development areas. There also is a 1,200-acre plantation of off-site species of eastern white pine and ponderosa pine, an old mining road, and 4-wheel drive roads along ridges that all impact the area.

Manageability: The boundaries of the Coeur d'Alene portion would be somewhat indistinguishable in the north end of the area. Boundaries on the south end follow Champion Creek and the North Fork of the St. Joe River.

RESOURCES

Wildlife: Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area. The area provides summer range for a variety of big game, including elk, whitetail deer, mule deer, and black bear. Cougar, bobcats, lynx, pine marten, and several small mammals also inhabit the area.

Water: This roadless area contains 1,300 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: This area receives a wide variety of year-round use. Use is concentrated on the trails which access the lakes and areas near the lakes. This is one of the few roadless areas where high elevation winter access is relatively easy as it can be reached from Interstate 90 within one hour when traveling on cross-country skis. This value is offset somewhat by the high natural avalanche hazard in the St. Regis Basin.

Timber: Future development of the timber resource would involve the management of 2,500 acres.

Range: None.

Minerals and Energy: This roadless area contains 347 mining claims, both patented and unpatented. Numerous old prospects are prevalent. A major exploration company has an active diamond drill program on both patented and unpatented claims. Seventy-three percent of the area is rated as having very high mineral potential, with the remainder rated as high. Oil and gas potential is estimated to be low. In Idaho, the entire area is covered by a lease application. In Montana, the entire area is presently under lease. This roadless area contains 4,700 acres of low geothermal potential.

Disturbances: Although the entire area burned in the catastrophic 1910 fire, the number of fires occurring annually is low.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Stevens Peak Roadless Area.

Table Stevens Peak-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Stevens Peak-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Stevens Peak-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Stevens Peak Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule	
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0	
Primitive	0	1,200	0	0	
Similar to Backcountry	4,700	0	0	0	
Backcountry	0	2,600	4,700	CPZ	200
				NonCPZ	4,500
GFRG	0	900	0	0	
SAHTS	0	0	0	0	
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0	0	
Total Acres	4,700	4,700	4,700	4,700	

Table Stevens Peak-2. Potential activities

Stevens Peak Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	3,500	4,700	200*
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	4,700	4,700	4,700	4,700
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	4,700	4,700	4,700	4,700
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	4,700	4,700	200*
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	4,700	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	4,700	4,700	4,700	4,700

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 4,500 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ to facilitate hazardous fuels removal, but only if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system.

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 900 acres are managed under prescription 1 (timber production), 600 acres under prescription 6 (timber production/elk summer range), 2,000 acres under prescription 9 (non-forest), and 1,200 under prescription 10 (semi-primitive recreation).

No regulated timber harvest is permitted under prescription 10, and roads can only be constructed if they improve semi-primitive recreation opportunities. As such, little to no timber harvest or associated road building is expected for the 1,200 acres under this prescription. Timber activities in the 2,000 acres under prescription 9 are limited to salvage and firewood removal that can occur from existing access roads. Roads may be constructed across prescription 9 to reach other destinations. These areas have scattered tree cover, so little to no timber harvest is expected.

Timber harvest and road building to access the timber harvest is allowed under prescriptions 6 if these activities improve or maintain habitat for elk summer range. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would have a dual objective of habitat improvement, the impact to roadless characteristics would be limited. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still have a dual objective of habitat improvement.

For the 900 acres under prescription 1, roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Any timber activities and road building that occur under this prescription could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Stevens Peak Roadless Area. However, no phosphate mining, oil and gas, or geothermal activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 19,600 acres would be available for limited timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 4,700 acres under the Backcountry theme, 200 of which are in the CPZ.

Within the 200 Backcountry acres that are within the CPZ, timber cutting for hazardous fuel removal would be allowed, and temporary roads could be constructed to facilitate timber harvest if the activity cannot be reasonably accomplished without a temporary road. Temporary road construction would likely change roadless characteristics in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber cutting activities would be designed for fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would likely be maintained or enhanced over the long term.

For the 4,500 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ, timber cutting and temporary road construction to facilitate timber harvest could be allowed to reduce hazardous fuels if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system. Since additional conditions would be required, it is likely that temporary road construction for this purpose would be infrequent.

Timber cutting from existing roads, including those constructed for fuel reduction projects, or using aerial systems could be done throughout all 4,700 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since road construction is not permitted to access new mineral leases.

Storm Creek #144

8,200 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Storm Creek Roadless Area borders the north side of the St. Joe River approximately one mile west of Avery, Idaho. The area is situated entirely within Shoshone County on the Avery Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. Maintained roads encircle the area, with the Trego Point Road intruding three miles into the roadless area from the east.

Steep, rugged slopes transected by several small drainages characterize the topography of this rectangular-shaped roadless area. Elevation ranges between 2,400 and 5,700 feet, with Dunn Peak, Storm Mountain, and Flash Peak being the most prominent landscape features. The entire roadless area burned in 1910 and reburned in 1934, creating a mosaic of pole-sized timber and brushfields. Reforestation efforts followed the fires, with ponderosa pine being the primary planted species. Natural stands of lodgepole and Douglas-fir also occur throughout the area. A major portion of the roadless area, however, remains non-stocked. Primary habitat types are western hemlock/clintonia and cedar/clintonia.

Little concentrated use exists within the roadless area. Primary activities include big game hunting, huckleberry picking, and viewing scenery. Primary use centers on Dunn Peak Road 1934 on the northern boundary of the roadless area, which provides an excellent vista of the surrounding countryside. Few opportunities exist for hiking/backpacking, horseback-riding, or other recreational pursuits because of the rugged terrain and existing extensive brushfields.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The impact of past human activities in this area has been relatively minor even though those activities have been extensive. The area is essentially encircled by road systems. One existing road enters the area for a distance of approximately three miles from the eastern boundary below Trego Point. This road is currently on the trail system (Trail 58). Remnants of several old trails that are no longer being maintained can be found in several locations. Along the western boundary the Dunn Peak lookout tower (which can be seen from many places within the roadless area). Dunn Peak has also been classified as an electronic site and is currently being used by the Forest Service and the Shoshone County Sheriff's Office as a communications relay station. There has been recent logging activity on adjacent private lands in the southwest corner of the area.

Undeveloped Character: The Storm Creek Roadless Area, although it is not exceedingly large, does offer most persons visiting the area a feeling that they are in a natural area. The steep topography of its three major drainages (Setzer, Storm, and Rock Creeks) contributes to this feeling by helping to isolate people from the evidence of nearby human activity and development. The extensive brushfields which occurred as a result of the 1910 fire cover such large areas that the periodic burning of some of those fields to maintain big game habitat appears to most people as a natural situation.

Opportunities for Experience: The area offers limited opportunities for solitude. The 8,200 acres included in the Storm Creek area occur in an irregular shape that is approximately four miles long and four-1/2 miles wide (at its widest point). The deeply dissected topography, while providing screening between people, also tends to concentrate their use of the area to ridgetop trails. At no place within this area is a person more than two miles from a road (even though topography may dictate a longer walk than that). The expanse of dense brush gives an appearance of openness from above while actually concealing many of the area's features (inhabitants). Primitive recreation experiences are limited by motorized use of the trail system. Opportunities do exist for big game hunting (elk, deer, bear, and mountain lion), horseback riding, hiking, and backpack camping.

Special Features: The entire area was burned during the 1910 fire. The greatest number of casualties occurred in the 1910 fire when twenty-eight people perished in the fire at the head of Storm Creek. Cultural sites related to that event are known to exist within this roadless area.

Manageability: Area boundaries are readily identified by roads and topographic features.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The fisheries resource is limited. Bull trout habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: The Storm Creek Roadless Area is an important winter and summer range for big game species, including elk, whitetail deer, mule deer, and black bear. Other game and non-game mammals and birds also inhabit the area, including beaver, grouse, martens, goshawks, and pileated woodpeckers. No threatened and endangered species habitat exists in this area. Prescribed burning is considered important to maintain elk winter range. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area. Wolves can be found in this area as well.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Recreation use is light and occurs mostly as elk hunting in the fall. Occasional use of the Dunn Peak road, which forms the northern boundary of the area, also occurs. The road south of Trego Point is now closed to 4-wheel vehicles; cycle use probably occurs.

Timber: About 2,000 acres are considered suitable for timber; however, many of these acres are now brush covered and difficult to reforest.

Range: Grazing use followed the 1910 and 1934 fires but was discontinued by 1950. Little potential exists.

Minerals and Energy: The geology of this area is mainly composed of the metamorphic equivalent of the Wallace Formation of the Belt rocks. This area is almost totally sandwiched between two persistent northwest-striking faults. There are no mining claims in the area at present although some old prospects are in evidence. About 22 percent of the area is rated as having moderate potential and 78 percent low. Lack of information makes the area rate low for oil and gas. This roadless area contains 8,200 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Heritage: The greatest number of casualties occurred in the 1910 fire when twenty-eight people perished in the fire at the head of Storm Creek. Cultural sites related to that event are known to exist here.

Disturbances: Annual fire occurrence is moderate. The area has a history of periodic severe fires. Prescribed fire is used frequently to improve elk winter range.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Storm Creek Roadless Area. Table Storm Creek-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Storm Creek-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Storm Creek-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Storm Creek Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule	
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0	
Primitive	0	0	0	0	
Similar to Backcountry	8,200	0	0	0	
Backcountry	0	4,800	8,200	CPZ	4,000
				NonCPZ	4,200
GFRG	0	3,400	0	0	
SAHTS	0	0	0	0	
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0	0	
Total Acres	8,200	8,200	8,200	8,200	

Table Storm Creek-2. Potential activities

Storm Creek Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	8,200	8,200	4,000*
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	8,200	8,200	8,200	8,200
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	8,200	8,200	8,200	8,200
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	8,200	8,200	4,000*
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	8,200	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	8,200	8,200	8,200	8,200

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 4,200 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ to facilitate hazardous fuels removal, but only if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system.

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 3,400 acres are managed under prescription 1 (timber production), 1,900 acres under prescription 4 (timber production/big game winter range), 1,300 acres under prescription 5 (Big game winter range), 1,500 under prescription 6 (timber production/elk summer range), and 200 acres under prescription 9 (non-forest).

Timber activities in the 200 acres under prescription 9 are limited to salvage and firewood removal that can occur from existing access roads. Roads may be constructed across prescription 9 to reach other destinations. These areas have scattered tree cover, so little to no timber harvest is expected.

Timber harvest and road building to access the timber harvest is allowed under prescriptions 4, 5 and 6 if these activities improve or maintain habitat for big game winter range or elk summer range. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would have a dual objective of habitat improvement, the impact to roadless characteristics would be

limited. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still have a dual objective of habitat improvement.

For the 3,400 acres under prescription 1, roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Any timber activities and road building that occur under this prescription could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Storm Creek Roadless Area. No phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals. The area does contain 8,200 acres of medium geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 8,200 acres would be available for limited timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 8,200 acres under the Backcountry theme, 4,000 of which are in the community protection zone (CPZ).

Within the 4,000 Backcountry acres that are within the CPZ, timber cutting for hazardous fuel removal would be allowed, and temporary roads could be constructed to facilitate timber harvest if the activity cannot be reasonably accomplished without a temporary road. Temporary road construction would likely change roadless characteristics in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber cutting activities would be designed for fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would likely be maintained or enhanced over the long term.

For the 4,200 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ, timber cutting and temporary road construction to facilitate timber harvest could be allowed to reduce hazardous fuels if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system. Since additional conditions would be required, it is likely that temporary road construction for this purpose would be infrequent.

Timber cutting from existing roads, including those constructed for fuel reduction projects, or using aerial systems could be done throughout all 8,200 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since road construction is not permitted to access new mineral leases.

Tepee Creek #133

5,200 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Tepee Creek Roadless Area is located 35 air miles northeast of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. It is within Shoshone County and on the Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. The area is accessible from a maintained gravel road; Trail 407 provides access to the center of the area. It is within two hours drive from Coeur d'Alene. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game has established special fishing regulations for the upper Coeur d'Alene River drainage to promote quality fishing.

The Tepee Creek Roadless Area is mountainous terrain; elevations range from 2,850 feet on the North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River to 4,970 feet under Spyglass Lookout. Exposed in this area are metasediments of the Striped Peak and Libby formations (Belt Supergroup). Faults in the area are generally north-south trending and are more abundant in the western part of the area. The area consists of four smaller entire drainages which form the northeast half of a ridge. The topography is moderately steep--typical of the surrounding area.

Large wildfires burned over most of the area in 1910 and 1926. Currently, second-growth coniferous vegetation dominates the area.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Impact from human activity in the area is very low. A single trail, Trail 407, climbs through the center of the area from Tepee Creek to Spyglass Mountain. Evidence of the 1910 and 1926 fires occurs throughout the area in the form of charred stumps, snags, and young age class timber.

Undeveloped Character: With the exception of the trail, the entire area appears natural.

Opportunities for Experience: The area offers moderate opportunities for solitude because of its relatively small size and some off-site intrusions. Dense vegetative screening and some topographic screening offer the only barriers to off-site intrusions, which would allow a moderate primitive recreation experience to users.

Special Features: Approximately 100 acres are within an eligible Wild and Scenic River corridor

Manageability: The area is small. Boundaries are well defined on major ridges or existing system roads.

RESOURCES

Fish: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive fish species are known to occur.

Wildlife: Wildlife inhabitants include elk, mule deer, whitetail deer, black bear, and an occasional moose and cougar. The area does not provide habitat for any threatened or endangered species. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Current recreation use in the area includes hiking, horseback riding, trail bike riding and hunting. No developed recreation facilities are planned.

Timber: Timber values foregone under wilderness management would be relatively large because the entire area is essentially suitable, with a preponderance of high-site land. Timber values present consist of 60 to 70 year age classes.

Range: The area is not suited for cattle grazing due to the steepness of the terrain.

Minerals and Energy: Hardrock mineral potential is low because it is underlain by members of the Belt Supergroup which are not generally known to contain economic deposits. Just outside this area to the

southeast is the Rock City Mine, which has had production but is presently inactive. There are presently no mining claims in the area. Oil and gas potential is low due to the lack of information. This roadless area contains 5,200 acres of low geothermal potential.

Disturbances: The area has low fire occurrence.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Tepee Creek Roadless Area. Table Tepee Creek-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Tepee Creek-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Tepee Creek-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Tepee Creek Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule	
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0	
Primitive	0	0	0	0	
Similar to Backcountry	5,200	0	0	0	
Backcountry	0	4,600	5,200	CPZ	1,800
				NonCPZ	3,400
GFRG	0	600	0	0	
SAHTS	0	0	0	0	
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0*	0*	0*	
Total Acres	5,200	5,200	5,200	5,200	

Table Tepee Creek-2. Potential activities

Tepee Creek Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	5,100	5,100	1,800*
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	5,200	5,100	5,100	5,100
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	5,200	5,100	5,100	5,100
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	5,100	5,100	1,800*
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	5,100	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	5,200	5,100	5,100	5,100

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 3,300 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ to facilitate hazardous fuels removal, but only if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system.

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 600 acres are managed under prescription 1 (timber production), 900 acres under prescription 4 (timber production/big game winter range), and 3,600 acres under prescription 6 (timber production/elk summer range).

Timber harvest and road building to access the timber harvest is allowed under prescriptions 4 and 6 if these activities improve or maintain habitat for big game winter range or elk summer range. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would have a dual objective of habitat improvement, the impact to roadless characteristics would be limited. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still have a dual objective of habitat improvement. For the 600 acres under prescription 1, roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Any timber activities and road building that occur under this prescription could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Tepee Creek Roadless Area. However, no phosphate mining, oil and gas or geothermal activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 5,100 acres would be available for limited timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 5,200 acres under the Backcountry theme, 1,800 of which are in the CPZ.

Within the 1,800 Backcountry acres that are within the CPZ, timber cutting for hazardous fuel removal would be allowed, and temporary roads could be constructed to facilitate timber harvest if the activity cannot be reasonably accomplished without a temporary road. Temporary road construction would likely change roadless characteristics in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber cutting activities would be designed for fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would likely be maintained or enhanced over the long term. For the 3,400 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ, timber cutting and temporary road construction to facilitate timber harvest could be allowed to reduce hazardous fuels if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system. Since additional conditions would be required, it is likely that temporary road construction for this purpose would be infrequent.

Timber cutting from existing roads, including those constructed for fuel reduction projects, or using aerial systems could be done throughout all 5,200 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since road construction is not permitted to access new mineral leases.

Trestle Peak #129

7,300 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Trestle Peak Roadless Area is located 10 miles east of Sandpoint, Idaho, and three miles northeast of Lake Pend Oreille within the Cabinet Mountains. It is within Bonner County and is on the Sandpoint Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. The area is accessible from several trailheads originating from State Highway 200 to the south, the Trestle Creek Road to the west and north, and the Lightning Creek Road from the east.

This long, narrow roadless area includes the mountain range from Roundtop Mountain (elevation 6,149 feet) to Trestle Peak (elevation 6,032 feet). It is approximately seven miles long and averages 1-1/2 miles wide. The ridge is mostly shaped by continental glaciation. Elevation varies from 3,800 to 6,348 feet. The headwaters of three small streams are also included. Alpine glaciation has created several cirque basins within this area, but no mountain lakes exist.

Most of this area is high alpine forest type with interspersed rocky and grassy openings near the ridgetops. Diversity of vegetative type is most pronounced near the high elevation ridgetops. Forest types include mixed conifer stands common to northern Idaho in the lower elevations to alpine fir, lodgepole pine, and an occasional whitebark pine in the higher elevations.

The ridgetop is the location for Roundtop Trail 120, a popular hiking trail which bisects numerous alpine openings. Scenic views of Lake Pend Oreille can be experienced from Roundtop Mountain and the Cabinet Mountain Range to the east can also be seen. Trails within this area are used for hunting during the fall. Some berry picking also occurs within this area. The southern end of this area contains part of the Strong Creek municipal watershed (community of Hope, Idaho).

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Impacts from human activity in this area have been relatively minor. In the past, some hard rock mining exploration occurred, but evidence of these diggings has been reduced substantially by weathering processes. Trails, where not maintained, quickly become overgrown with trees and shrubs.

Undeveloped Character: Since the area is narrow and encompasses a high ridge, persons visiting can generally view human activities and development near the periphery of this roadless area. Roads, timber harvest areas, and activities along Lake Pend Oreille are some of the activities viewed from this area.

Opportunities for Experience: Portions of the Trestle Peak Roadless Area provide a moderate to high opportunity for solitude while other areas provide a lower level or solitude because of its size and location with respect to developed areas. The topography is not unique to northern Idaho. It does possess diversity in vegetation because of the substantial differences in elevation. Distant viewing into the Cabinet Mountain Range provides for unique views of high alpine, rugged mountainous terrain. The southwest boundary is only 2-1/2 miles from State Highway 200 and the shores of Pend Oreille Lake. The northwest boundary follows within 1/2 miles of Trestle Creek Road, which is a very heavily used road on the Sandpoint District. Sounds from civilization (boats, vehicles, and trains) and recreational activities can be heard at times throughout the roadless area.

This area offers moderate challenges to the visitor because of its moderate topographic diversity. Although big game species frequent the area it is not noted for an abundance of wildlife. Trail 120 is a popular hiking trail, providing numerous opportunities to experience scenic views of the surrounding area. Pend Oreille Lake and the Cabinet Mountain Range make up the most unique scenic views. Trail 120 is currently being used by backpackers and horseback riders. It has been recommended for inclusion into the National Recreational Trail System.

Special Features: Almost the entire area was burned by fires in the early 1900s. The result of these fires was a uniform coniferous forest which is approximately 100 years old. An occasional old-growth tree which survived these fires can be seen protruding above the primary forest canopy.

Manageability: The Trestle Creek Roadless Area is a long and narrow roadless area. Because the boundaries mostly follow man made features or natural features, the manageability is considered quite high. This area is not considered remote and free of external influences. There are no private lands within this area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: No streams have fisheries existing within the roadless area.

Wildlife: Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area. Wildlife inhabitants include elk, moose, black bear, grizzly bear, whitetail deer, mule deer, and grouse. Portions of grizzly bear habitat are present within this area.

Water: This roadless area contains 5,600 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

Botanical: Lance-leaved moonwort (*Botrychium lanceolatum var. lanceolatum*) a sensitive plant species occurs in this roadless area.

Recreation: Current recreation use in the area is primarily hiking and horseback riding along Roundtop Trail 120. Local residents also enjoy huckleberry picking and hunting opportunities within this area. Primitive camping use is low.

Range: While sheep grazed this area before the 1960s, there are no cattle and sheep allotments at this time. This situation will probably not change.

Minerals and Energy: Mineral potential for the area is considered to be medium. There are three unpatented claims in this area. Although there are no known mineral occurrences in this area, there are many old prospects nearby. This area is within the Clark Fork Mining District and approximately 12 miles from the mines which were major past producers of the district. Oil and gas potential is low due to lack of information. All of the area is under application for oil and gas lease. This roadless area contains 7,300 acres of low geothermal potential.

Heritage: Several American Indian cairns (small depressions outlined by rock) exist.

Disturbances: Although large fires have occurred, the number of fires occurring annually is low.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Trestle Peak Roadless Area.

Table Trestle Peak-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Trestle Peak-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Trestle Peak-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Trestle Peak Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule	
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0	
Primitive	0	4,300	0	0	
Similar to Backcountry	7,300	0	0	0	
Backcountry	0	3,000	7,300	CPZ	1,500
				NonCPZ	5,800
GFRG	0	0	0	0	
SAHTS	0	0	0	0	
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0	0	
Total Acres	7,300	7,300	7,300	7,300	

Table Trestle Peak-2. Potential activities

Trestle Peak Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	3,000	7,300	1,500*
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	7,300	7,300	7,300	7,300
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	7,300	7,300	7,300	7,300
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	7,300	7,300	1,500*
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	7,300	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	7,300	7,300	7,300	7,300

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 5,800 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ to facilitate hazardous fuels removal, but only if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system.

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 2,400 acres are managed under prescription 2 (timber production/grizzly bear habitat), 600 acres under prescription 9 (non-forest) and 4,300 acres under prescription 10 (Semi-primitive recreation).

No regulated timber harvest is permitted under prescription 10, and roads can only be constructed if they improve semi-primitive recreation opportunities. As such, little to no timber harvest or associated road building is expected for the 4,300 acres under this prescription. Timber activities in the 600 acres under prescription 9 are limited to salvage and firewood removal that can occur from existing access roads. Roads may be constructed across prescription 9 to reach other destinations. These areas have scattered tree cover, so little to no timber harvest is expected.

Timber harvest and road building to access the timber harvest is allowed under prescriptions 2 if these activities improve or maintain grizzly bear habitat. If temporary roads are used, then the road

construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would have a dual objective of habitat improvement, the impact to roadless characteristics would be limited. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still have a dual objective of habitat improvement.

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Trestle Creek Roadless Area. However, the area has little to no potential for phosphate mining, oil and gas, or geothermal activities, so no new mineral leases are expected in the future.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 7,300 acres would be available for limited timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 7,300 acres under the Backcountry theme, 1,500 of which are in the CPZ.

Within the 1,500 Backcountry acres that are within the CPZ, timber cutting for hazardous fuel removal would be allowed, and temporary roads could be constructed to facilitate timber harvest if the activity cannot be reasonably accomplished without a temporary road. Temporary road construction would likely change roadless characteristics in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber cutting activities would be designed for fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would likely be maintained or enhanced over the long term.

For the 5,800 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ, timber cutting and temporary road construction to facilitate timber harvest could be allowed to reduce hazardous fuels if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system. Since additional conditions would be required, it is likely that temporary road construction for this purpose would be infrequent.

Timber cutting from existing roads, including those constructed for fuel reduction projects, or using aerial systems could be done throughout all 7,300 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since road construction is not permitted to access new mineral leases.

Trouble Creek #138

6,000 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Trouble Creek Roadless Area is located about 10 miles north of Osburn, Idaho, along the Coeur d'Alene River. It is within Shoshone County and on the Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. The area is characterized by steep rock bluffs facing the Coeur d'Alene River, which dominate the view along Forest Highway 9 and Forest Road 208. Major drainages include Trouble, Creaky, and Hopkins Creeks. Topography changes from 4,320 feet at the east end of Uranus Ridge to about 2,400 feet along the Coeur d'Alene River. Metasedimentary rocks of the Precambrian Belt Supergroup are exposed in the Trouble Creek Roadless Area. Several north- to northwest-trending faults have been mapped.

About 60 percent of the area burned in 1890 and the rest in 1910. About 90 percent of the trees are pole size. The Civilian Conservation Corps planted trees extensively in the roadless area in the late 1930s. Oak, chestnut, and maple plantations are still identifiable.

The area is considered to be good for elk hunting and receives some deer hunting. The Coeur d'Alene River along the boundary is the only fishable stream. Trouble Creek Trail provides limited access to the roadless area. Due to access and topography, visitor use is light and probably less than 1,000 days annually. The south end of the roadless area received fairly heavy mineral exploration more than 10 years ago. As a result, the area includes several exploration pits and non-travelable roads. No recent mineral activity has taken place.

Wildlife species include elk, black bear, whitetail deer, mule deer, cougar, bobcat, pileated woodpecker, martin, grouse, and numerous non-game species. The area also possesses quality mountain goat habitat and has historically been considered a prime mountain goat location. The lack of recent sightings may be due to poaching. Much of the area is considered prime big game winter range.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: With some exceptions in the more accessible reaches of the area due to limited past prospecting activity, the Trouble Creek Roadless Area has, for the most part, retained qualities formed by nature without disruption.

Undeveloped Character: The size of the area results in a relatively limited opportunity to view large areas of natural appearing landscape. Views from the higher elevations reveal areas subject to ordinary human activities and development.

Opportunities for Experience: Given the size of the area and its location, opportunities for solitude for a significant number of visitors are hampered by the ruggedness of terrain, which tends to concentrate use. Recreation opportunities on the area would involve camping; backpacking; big game hunting, either on a daily or an extended trip basis; and the occasional rock climber. The Trouble Creek Trail bisects the area and provides limited access. No other developments exist in the area.

Special Features: Approximately 1,000 acres of the Trouble Creek Roadless Area are within the Coeur d'Alene River Scenic Corridor. Massive Precambrian-aged metasediments which have weathered to a steep, broken face are exposed along the Coeur d'Alene River, providing habitat capable of supporting Rocky Mountain goat. The Prichard Ranger Station, consisting of a log cabin and a barn, was constructed at the mouth of Trouble Creek in 1907. It was utilized as a Ranger Station until 1936 when it was dismantled and the lumber was used elsewhere. Trouble Creek Trail follows the ridge between Trouble and Creaky Creeks for 2-1/2 miles. The trail offers good hunting access and scenic views to the south.

Manageability: The Trouble Creek roadless area is bordered on less prominent ridge lines, which could make on-the-ground boundaries difficult to locate. Private land is included in the area, peripherally only, and consists of homesteads and recreational residences.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive fish species are known to occur.

Wildlife: Wildlife species include elk, black bear, whitetail deer, mule deer, cougar, bobcat, pileated woodpecker, martin, grouse, and numerous non-game species. The area also possesses quality mountain goat habitat and has historically been considered a prime mountain goat location. The lack of recent sightings may be due to poaching. Much of the area is considered prime big game winter range. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Water: This roadless area contains 2,300 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Hunting is the predominant recreation use.

Timber: Future development of the timber resource would involve the management of 5,900 acres within the area.

Range: The area is unsuitable for cattle grazing due to the steepness of the terrain.

Lands and Special Uses: A Bonneville Power Administration powerline closely follows the area boundary on the west.

Minerals and Energy: Hardrock mineral potential for the area is medium. The Revett Formation, which is being actively exploited for stratabound copper and silver, crops out in this roadless area. About five to six miles away in Eagle Creek, a deposit of this type has been delineated within the Revett Formation. Presently located in this area are 220 mining claims. Its mineral potential has been rated moderate, with 10 percent of the area having a low rating. The potential for oil and gas in this area is unknown. This roadless area contains 6,000 acres of low geothermal potential.

Disturbances: Although large fires occurred in the area, the number of fires occurring annually is low.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Trouble Creek Roadless Area.

Table Trouble Creek-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Trouble Creek-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Trouble Creek-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Trouble Creek Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule	
				CPZ	NonCPZ
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0		0
Primitive	0	0	0		0
Similar to Backcountry	6,000	0	0		0
Backcountry	0	2,800	5,000	CPZ	4,200
				NonCPZ	800
GFRG	0	2,200	0		0
SAHTS	0	0	0		0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	1000*	1000*		1000*
Total Acres	6,000	6,000	6,000		6,000

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the Trouble Creek Roadless Area is WSR. For further information on this designation, see the Idaho Panhandle National Forest LRMP.

Table Trouble Creek-2. Potential activities

Trouble Creek Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	5,000	5,000	4,200*
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat	6,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Timber cutting to restore ecosystem structure to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildfire effects	6,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildfire to communities	0	5,000	5,000	4,200*
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	5,000	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	6,000	5,000	5,000	5,000

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 800 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ to facilitate hazardous fuels removal, but only if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system.

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 2,200 acres are managed under prescription 1 (timber production), and 2,800 acres under prescription 4 (timber production/big game winter range).

Timber harvest and road building to access the timber harvest is allowed under prescription 4 if these activities improve or maintain habitat for big game winter range. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would have a dual objective of habitat improvement, the impact to roadless characteristics would be limited. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still have a dual objective of habitat improvement.

For the 2,200 acres under prescription 1, roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Any timber activities and road building that occur under this prescription could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Trouble Creek Roadless Area. However, no phosphate mining, oil and gas, or geothermal activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 5,000 acres would be available for limited timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities

would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 5,000 acres under the Backcountry theme, 4,200 of which are in the CPZ.

Within the 4,200 Backcountry acres that are within the CPZ, timber cutting for hazardous fuel removal would be allowed, and temporary roads could be constructed to facilitate timber harvest if the activity cannot be reasonably accomplished without a temporary road. Temporary road construction would likely change roadless characteristics in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber cutting activities would be designed for fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would likely be maintained or enhanced over the long term.

For the 800 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ, timber cutting and temporary road construction to facilitate timber harvest could be allowed to reduce hazardous fuels if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system. Since additional conditions would be required, it is likely that temporary road construction for this purpose would be infrequent.

Timber cutting from existing roads, including those constructed for fuel reduction projects, or using aerial systems could be done throughout all 5,000 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since road construction is not permitted to access new mineral leases.

Trout Creek #664

8,500 Acres Idaho Panhandle (Idaho)
30,900 Acres Kootenai (Montana)
39,400 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The area is located on the southern border of the forest, in western Sanders County and is bordered on the west by Idaho, into which part of the area extends. It is readily accessible from the Clark Fork Valley Roads up Trout Creek, White Pine Creek, Minton Peak, and to the Lost Peak - Bloom Peak Ridgeline provides easy access via several trail heads. From the Idaho Panhandle side of the area, access is available from the Casper Creek Trail and Idaho-Montana Divide Trail.

The area is rugged, steep and mountainous with some very productive timberlands. The high ridgeline setting and timbered drainages make it unique among roadless areas on the Kootenai National Forest. Black Peak, at 6500 feet, is the highest point. The area was mostly burned over during the 1910 fire, but some old growth remains in a few areas untouched by the fires. Most of the productive timberland contains 70-80 year old stands. The fire also left many of the southern slopes bare or brush covered. This area includes numerous named tributaries of Trout Creek plus some headwater areas of both Whitepine and Beaver Creeks on the Kootenai portion. On the Idaho Panhandle portion, major drainages include Casper, West Fork Eagle, and Tributary Creeks.

Clearcut blocks and roads are most noticeable on the Idaho side of the roadless area. However, because of the concaveness of the roadless area, once off the ridgetop, surrounding developments are not an intrusion.

Three ecosystem types are represented; Douglas-fir, cedar hemlock, and western spruce-fir. Elk hunting is the predominant recreational use of the area. The Settler's Grove of Ancient Cedars Botanical Area also attracts many visitors. Recreational visitor use is estimated at 10,000 recreation visitor days annually.

The bulk of this roadless area consists of drainages and tributaries which are entirely roadless. The main "state line" divides to the west from the headwaters of these streams, and is roadless on the Trout Creek (Montana) side.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Outside of two low-standard roads, the natural integrity and appearance of the area is quite high. There are several miles of trail throughout the area, including a National Recreation Trail, which are generally in good shape and lay relatively lightly on the land.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunities for solitude vary from moderate, along the ridgetop of the State line divide, to very high in the upper basins of the various forks of Trout Creek and White Pine Creek and, of course, down in the valleys and canyons of Trout Creek itself.

Visitor use tends to be dispersed throughout the area, which also enhances the solitude for any particular part of the area. The size and configuration of the Trout Creek area lends itself to opportunities for primitive recreation. There are several miles of very scenic streamside trails leading to shallow subalpine basins above with a wide variety of flowers and berries, in addition to the regionally known elk herd, plus other quality hunting opportunities for bear and deer. There is also a high quality fishery in the forks of Trout Creek. Prospective primitive campsites abound throughout the area, both in the canyon bottoms and the basins above, which have small alpine lakes. The potential for challenging experiences in the Trout Creek area would include elk hunting with bow and rifle, cross country hiking in the rugged canyons, and ski mountaineering along the main divide in the winter.

Special Features: The special feature the Trout Creek area is most known for is the elk that inhabit the area, in relatively large numbers. About 100 acres are in a Special Interest Area, and 100 acres are within an eligible Wild and Scenic River corridor.

Manageability: The bulk of this roadless area consists of drainages and tributaries which are entirely roadless. The main "state line" divide to the west form the headwaters of these streams, and is roadless on the Trout Creek (Montana) side. These factors add up to a readily manageable boundary. The boundary could perhaps best be improved by either including the corridor presently excluded along the Granite Creek mining access road, or using it as a boundary and excluding the lands to the east of the road. The road itself is of very low standard and would have the same impact on a wilderness experience whether inside or out.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Upper Trout Creek and its headwaters are in this roadless area. Trout Creek provides popular fishing for cutthroat trout, bull trout, and whitefish.

Wildlife: The area's wildlife is one of its biggest attractions. Wildlife present on the Idaho Panhandle portion includes elk, whitetail and mule deer, black bear, cougar, bobcat, moose, coyote, wolverine, marten, owls, pileated woodpecker, hawks, and beaver. Numerous non-game species inhabit the area. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Water: Mean annual precipitation varies from 30-85 inches in the area, depending on elevation. Average annual runoff for the area in general varies from 8-5 inches, with most of this amount running off as streamflow in May and June. Overall existing water quality is very high, except during high runoff events.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: The area has the potential of providing 9,500 recreation visitor days of wilderness recreation per year. The 22 mile Trout Creek Loop National Recreation Trail is located in this area.

Timber: Most of the lands in Idaho area tentatively suitable timber lands capable of producing at least 20 cubic feet per acre per year of timber growth. Over 90 percent of this timber land is located on slopes in excess of 55 percent. Road construction will be difficult and costly and logging will require the use of cable and helicopter yarding methods.

Range: There are no active grazing allotments in the area. Grazing potential for the area is considered transitory.

Minerals and Energy: The mineral potential is considered high along the South Branch of Trout Creek and Attlebury Creek and very high in the area of the Jack Waite mine. Total acres are approximately 7,920 acres of high and very high potential. Mineral activity is occurring in the Tributary, Casper, Eagle, and Silent Creek drainages. The oil and gas potential is low. This roadless area contains 8,500 acres of low geothermal potential.

Heritage: There are identified historic cultural sites on the Kootenai portion. Historic trails pass through the Trout Creek area. Gold seekers followed these trails in the 1880's to the gold rush towns of Eagle and Murray from the Montana side. The Jack Waite mine and most of its workings are located within the Idaho Panhandle portion of the area. The mine was developed in the 1890's, which included the mine and mill complex and the Duthie townsite. The town remained active until the 1960's but is now a ghost town.

The area has not been surveyed for prehistoric sites so no sites have been identified. However, based on surveys in similar locales, the probability of sites occurring is considered low.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Trout Creek Roadless Area.

Table Trout Creek-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Trout Creek-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Trout Creek-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Trout Creek Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0
Primitive	0	3,700	0	0
Similar to Backcountry	8,500	0	0	0
Backcountry	0	1,400	8,400	8,400
GFRG	0	3,300	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	100*	100*	100*
Total Acres	8,500	8,500	8,500	8,500

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the Trout Creek Roadless Area is 100 acres as SIA. For further information on this designation, see the Idaho Panhandle National Forest LRMP.

Table Trout Creek-2. Potential activities

Trout Creek Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	4,700	8,400	0
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	8,500	8,400	8,400	8,400
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	8,500	8,400	8,400	8,400
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	8,400	8,400	0
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	8,400	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	8,500	8,400	8,400	8,400

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without road access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 3,300 acres are managed under prescription 1 (timber production), 1,400 acres under prescription 9 (non-forest), and 3,700 under prescription 10 (semi-primitive recreation).

No regulated timber harvest is permitted under prescription 10, and roads can only be constructed if they improve semi-primitive recreation opportunities. As such, little to no timber harvest or associated road

building is expected for the 3,700 acres under this prescription. Timber activities in the 1,400 acres under prescription 9 are limited to salvage and firewood removal that can occur from existing access roads. Roads may be constructed across prescription 9 to reach other destinations. These areas have scattered tree cover, so little to no timber harvest is expected.

For the 3,300 acres under prescription 1, roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Any timber activities and road building that occur under this prescription could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Trout Creek Roadless Area. However, no phosphate mining, oil and gas, or geothermal activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 8,400 acres would be available for limited timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 8,400 acres under the Backcountry theme, none of which are in the CPZ.

Since there are no communities or municipal water supply systems adjacent to the Backcountry portion of this roadless area, no roads could be constructed to facilitate fuel reduction projects. In addition, since there are no communities or municipal water supply systems nearby, no timber harvest or associated road building would occur for the purpose of reducing the significant risk of wildland fire effects. Timber cutting from existing roads or using aerial systems could be done throughout all 8,400 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since road construction is not permitted to access new mineral leases.

Upper Priest #123

12,700 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Upper Priest Roadless Area is located about 50 miles north of Priest River, Idaho, within Bonner County and the Priest Lake Ranger District, Idaho Panhandle National Forest. Primary access is provided by paved Forest Road 237 and native-surfaced Roads 401, 1013, and 1341. The area may also be accessed by boat from Upper Priest Lake.

The somewhat triangularly-shaped area includes a portion of Priest River, all of Upper Priest Lake, and the surrounding mountainous forestland. Slopes to the lake are mostly moderate to gentle. Elevations range from 2,440 feet at lake level to the 5,000 foot ridge of Plowboy Mountain. Gold Peak and Armstrong Meadows are other topographical features of the area. About 25 percent of the area is rockland or flat stream bottoms. Drainage is provided by Beaver Creek, Boulder Creek, Hughes Fork, Ruby Creek, Deadman Creek, and Upper Priest River. About 300 acres of private land are included within the boundary.

Mixed conifer forest of fairly recent fire origin (since 1880) covers most of the land area. Old-growth stands are found in the southern part of the area, while cedar, cottonwood, and brush are common along Priest River. Habitat types are generally hemlock or cedar/pachistima.

The primary human use of the roadless area focuses on the river and Upper Priest Lake, visited by thousands of boaters and hikers annually. Unique values of the area include the administratively designated scenic area (4,600 acres) surrounding the lake, part of which is State land managed under complementary objectives. The entire eastern slope of Plowboy Mountain is visible from the lake and is included in the scenic area. There is also a Research Natural Area (1,400 acres) in the Priest River flood plain north of the lake and a 400 acre eligible wild river segment of the Priest, also north of the lake. Two trails, Navigation 291 and Plowboy 295, provide access for hikers and backpackers. The Thorofare, a two mile channel separating the upper and lower lakes, provides access for boating, fishing, and camping activities on the Upper Lake.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The impact from human activity has been related primarily to foot trails, campsites, and mineral exploration activities (tunnel entrances and two old log cabins). A Forest Service fire lookout and cabin were once located in the area, but all that remain are the foundation of the cabin and the footings and other incidental evidence of the tower.

Undeveloped Character: Visitors to the area would feel that they are in a natural area away from ordinary human activity. Signs of human activity are visible primarily as background from higher elevations. A timber harvest area can be viewed adjacent to a foot trail at the northern end of the area, yet a screen of trees keeps much of it from view. Forest roads and timber harvest areas outside the area are visible from the higher elevations. Mineral exploration evidence can be noted inside the area by one of the two old log cabins which are adjacent to a foot trail.

Upper Priest Lake is fed by Upper Priest River, plus several smaller streams. The upper river is a significant fisheries habitat. A three mile long thoroughfare connects Upper and Lower Priest Lakes and is also protected fisheries water.

Opportunities for Experience: The area varies from 1 to 7 miles wide and 3 to 6 miles north to south. It offers opportunities for solitude because of the differences in topography (2,500 to 5,000 feet elevation) and vegetation. There are four specific areas which have concentrated public use, but they are several miles from each other. The foot trails also receive high use during the summer months.

The thorofare is calm and winding, with moderate to heavy boat traffic during the months of July and August. Upper Priest Lake, 3 miles long and up to 1 mile wide in spots, stretches before the hiker and

boater, providing a feeling of solitude with few visible camping spots. The nearest State highway is miles from the area. Forest roads provide access to the boundaries of the area, but the only means of access into the area is by hiking or boating. This is due to the fact that a large portion of the area surrounding Upper Priest Lake was designated as a Scenic Area by the Regional Forester in 1968. The area offers opportunities for hiking, backpacking, boating, canoeing, huckleberry picking, lake fishing, and scenery viewing. The topography and vegetation offer variety to the recreation experience. The area is of a size that it experiences backpacking activities of 2-4 days duration but also offers day hike opportunities. Overnight use is frequent at either of the two dispersed camp sites on the west side of the upper lake or the two dispersed camp sites on the east side of the upper lake.

Two trails into the area, Navigation Trail 291 and Plowboy Trail 295, are maintained annually. Navigation Trail parallels the Thorofare to the upper lake then parallels the shoreline of the lake to the northern end. The trail continues northwest and out of the area. Plowboy Trail leads over Plowboy Mountain then joins with the Navigation Trail near Navigation Campground. Boulder Creek Trail 296 was a fire access trail many years ago but it receives very low use today. At the southeast border, outside the Scenic Area, is Beaver Creek Campground and Day Use Area adjacent to the Navigation Trailhead, which leads to the upper lake. It is a popular site for launching small boats and camping. Fishing is permitted only in the lake due to the important Dolly Varden and cutthroat trout spawning habitat of the tributaries into Upper Priest River and other streams flowing into Upper Priest Lake.

Special Features: Upper Priest River at the northern end of the upper lake is unique in that it has been recommended to Congress for Wild and Scenic River status under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968. Armstrong Meadows is located at the southeast boundary. Navigation Trail runs adjacent to it. Wildlife frequents the meadow, making it an interesting area for a side trip. Grizzly bear habitat extends through Armstrong Meadows, borders the southern end of the Scenic Area, crosses Boulder Creek, and continues east to the area boundary.

Manageability: The boundary around the area follows along several forest roads, topographic features, draws, timber harvest areas, and forest boundaries.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Bull trout habitat overlaps this roadless area. The streams tributary to the river and lake constitute important spawning and rearing habitat for Dolly Varden and cutthroat trout.

Wildlife: Wildlife species in the area include a threatened species, the grizzly bear, and other big game and non-game animals common to northern Idaho (moose, deer, elk, black bear). Great gray owl, harlequin duck, bald eagle, common loon, and fisher occur in the roadless area. Old-growth stands in the area provide habitat for species dependent upon such conditions.

Botanical: Deer-fern (*Blechnum spicant*), lance-leaved moonwort (*Botrychium lanceolatum* var. *lanceolatum*), Mingan moonwort (*Botrychium minganense*), and mountain moonwort (*Botrychium montanum*), and stalked moonwort (*Botrychium pedunculosum*), bristle-stalked sedge (*Carex leptalea*), crested shield-fern (*Dryopteris cristata*), swamp willow-weed (*Epilobium palustre*), creeping snowberry (*Gaultheria hispidula*), blueflag (*Iris versicolor*), groundpine (*Lycopodium dendroideum*), Northern beechfern (*Phegopteris connectilis*), Braun's sword-fern (*Polystichum braunii*), naked mniium (*Rhizomniium nudum*), bog willow (*Salix pedicellaris*), Krushea (*Streptopus streptopoides*), Northern starflower (*Trientalis arctica*), and bog cranberry (*Vaccinium oycoccos*) all sensitive plant species occur in this roadless area.

Recreation: Water quality is currently high, the current uses being boating, fishing, and swimming. Hiking and camping are the primary uses. Camping areas are accessed by both boats and by foot.

Timber: Most of the area contains tentatively suitable timber lands. The scenic area is not included in harvest base because of the administrative designation.

Range: None.

Minerals and Energy: The area contains uranium belts trending northeasterly that have been identified by Bendix Corporation under contract from the Department of Energy. There are several old prospects in the area, one of which produced a small amount of lead, zinc, copper, silver, and gold. Over 3,000 acres of this area are withdrawn from mineral entry as the Upper Priest Lake Scenic Area. The area has a moderate mineral potential. Oil and gas lease potential is low. This roadless area contains 5,900 acres of medium and 6,800 acres of low geothermal potential.

Heritage: The remains of an old fire lookout tower and cabin on Plowboy Mountain offer visitors a historical perspective of past forest fire detection methods of the Forest Service.

Disturbances: The annual fire occurrence is low.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Upper Priest Roadless Area. Table Upper Priest-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Upper Priest-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Upper Priest-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Upper Priest Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule	
				CPZ	NonCPZ
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0		0
Primitive	0	0	0		0
Similar to Backcountry	12,700	0	0		0
Backcountry	0	4,500	6,300	CPZ	500
				NonCPZ	6,000
GFRG	0	2,000	200		0
SAHTS	0	0	0		0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	6,200*	6,200*		6,200*
Total Acres	12,700	12,700	12,700		12,700

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the Upper Priest Roadless Area is 4,700 acres as SIA, 400 acres as WSR, and 1,300 acres as RNA. For further information on this designation, see the Idaho Panhandle National Forest LRMP.

Table Upper Priest-2. Potential activities

Upper Priest Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	6,500	6,500	500*
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	6,500	6,500	6,500	6,500
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	6,500	6,500	6,500	6,500
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	6,500	6,500	500*
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	6,500	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	6,500	6,500	65300	6,500

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 6,000 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ to facilitate hazardous fuels removal, but only if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system.

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without road access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 2,100 acres are managed under prescription 1 (timber production), 2,700 acres under prescription 2 (timber production/grizzly bear habitat), 200 acres under prescription 3 (timber production/grizzly bear habitat/big game winter range), 900 acres under prescription 7 (caribou management), and 600 acres under prescription 9 (non-forest).

Timber activities in the 600 acres under prescription 9 are limited to salvage and firewood removal that can occur from existing access roads. Roads may be constructed across prescription 9 to reach other destinations. Roads may be constructed across prescription 9 to reach other destinations. These areas have scattered tree cover, so little to no timber harvest is expected.

Timber harvest and road building to access the timber harvest is allowed under prescriptions 2, 3 and 7 if these activities improve or maintain habitat for grizzly bear, big game winter range, or caribou. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would have a dual objective of habitat improvement, the impact to roadless characteristics would be limited. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still have a dual objective of habitat improvement.

For the 2,000 acres under prescription 1, roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Any timber activities and road building that occur under this prescription could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Upper Priest Roadless Area. No phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals. The area does contain 5,900 acres of medium geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 6,300 acres would fall under the Backcountry theme and 200 acres would fall under the GFRG theme. For the acres under the Backcountry Theme timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities would be permitted. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

The 200 acres of GFRG is located adjacent to existing roads, on the outer edge of the roadless area. For the 200 acres under the GFRG theme roads would generally be permitted and timber harvest could occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Any timber activities and road building that occur could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term. Leasable mineral activities and road building to access mineral leases are permitted, but no phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals. The area does contain 5,900 acres of medium geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 6,500 acres under the Backcountry theme, 500 of which are in the CPZ.

Within the 500 Backcountry acres that are within the CPZ, timber cutting for hazardous fuel removal would be allowed, and temporary roads could be constructed to facilitate timber harvest if the activity cannot be reasonably accomplished without a temporary road. Temporary road construction would likely change roadless characteristics in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber cutting activities would be designed for fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would likely be maintained or enhanced over the long term.

For the 6,000 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ, timber cutting and temporary road construction to facilitate timber harvest could be allowed to reduce hazardous fuels if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system. Since additional conditions would be required, it is likely that temporary road construction for this purpose would be infrequent.

Timber cutting from existing roads, including those constructed for fuel reduction projects, or using aerial systems could be done throughout all 6,500 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since road construction is not permitted to access new mineral leases.

White Mountain #127

7,600 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The White Mountain Roadless Area is located approximately 15 air miles north of Sandpoint, Idaho, and lies southeast of the Selkirk Crest area. The roadless area is divided in two by Boundary County to the north and Bonner County to the south. It is within the Sandpoint Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest and is accessible by the Pack River Road along the west boundary.

The area is irregular in shape, averaging six miles long and two miles wide. The roadless area rises from the Pack River Valley on the west side and the Purcell Trench on the east side. Three prominent landmarks exist within the area: Dodge Peak, White Mountain, and Mutiny Point. Topography changes from 2,200 feet in Pack River Valley to 5,027 feet at the top of Dodge Peak. No unique features or mountain lakes exist within the area.

Vegetation is diverse within the area, ranging from lodgepole pine, alpine fir, and Engelmann spruce in the higher elevations to grand fir, Douglas-fir, and some cedar in the lower elevations. Scattered ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir are also present. Very little old growth exists within the area due to logging activity and fires which occurred near the turn of the century. The area is generally forested, with a few occasional brushfields.

The area's activities center on the use of White Mountain Trail 453, which bisects the roadless area. The trail runs down the ridgeline from Dodge Peak south to White Mountain. Views from along this trail include the Selkirk Crest to the north, the Cabinet Mountain range to the far east, and immediate viewing of the Purcell Trench and Pack River Valley, U.S. Highway 95, rural farms, and small communities such as Elmira and Naples. The heaviest use of the trail occurs during the fall from big game hunters. Local residents also use the area for berry picking.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The impacts of human activity in this area are relatively light and consist of pack trails (constructed mainly for fire control access), old lookout sites, some very old logging, and some old plantations of conifer trees.

Undeveloped Character: Two major railroads and U.S. Highway 95 are within 2 miles of this roadless area. In addition, numerous other roads surround the area and provide access for area residents, logging, and roaded recreation. There is vegetative screening but very little topographic screening from these developments and the sounds that emanate from such uses.

Opportunities for Experience: It is difficult to get a sense of solitude in this area due to its proximity to so much development and the lack of any real topographic screening from activities that occur on the surrounding developments. This area provides opportunities for hiking, motorcycle and ATV use, berry picking, and hunting.

Special Features: There are no other significant features identified in this area.

Manageability: The boundaries follow property lines or are located midslope on non-defined topographic features. If exchanges and/or purchases could be made, better boundary locations might be available. Regardless of boundary location, human activities occurring outside the area will always be visible or heard from inside the area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The roadless area has no large streams with fisheries value, although bull trout habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Wildlife inhabitants include moose, elk, mule deer, whitetail deer, and grouse. Brushfields within this area are well browsed by the small local population of deer and big game. The area does not contain habitat for threatened and endangered species. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Current recreation use in the area is primarily hiking, motorcycle and ATV use, and hunting along White Mountain Trail 453. The trail runs along the ridgeline from Dodge Peak south to White Mountain and offers views of the Selkirk Crest and Cabinet Mountain Range. Heaviest use occurs during the fall from big game hunters.

Timber: About 6,860 acres of the area are estimated as tentatively suitable for timber production. The area has a moderate to high timber production value, with much of the present area in immature sawtimber. The relatively moderate slopes make harvest activities feasible.

Range: Cattle and sheep have not used the White Mountain area for many years and there are no cattle and sheep allotments at this time.

Minerals and Energy: There is minor potential for contact-type vein deposits. The potential of this area is mostly unknown. No mining claims are located in the area. Oil and gas potential is low. This roadless area contains 7,500 acres of low geothermal potential.

Disturbances: Although large fires have occurred in the area, the number of fires occurring annually is low.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the White Mountain Roadless Area.

Table White Mountain-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table White Mountain-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table White Mountain-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

White Mountain Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule	
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0	
Primitive	0	0	0	0	
Similar to Backcountry	7,600	0	0	0	
Backcountry	0	100	7,500	CPZ	4,500
				NonCPZ	3,000
GFRG	0	7,500	100	100	
SAHTS	0	0	0	0	
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0	0	
Total Acres	7,600	7,600	7,600	7,600	

Table White Mountain-2. Potential activities

White Mountain Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	7,500	7,500	4,500*
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	7,500	7,500	4,500*
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	7,500	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 7,400 acres are managed under prescription 1 (timber production), 100 acres under prescription 4 (timber production/big game winter range).

Timber harvest and road building to access the timber harvest is allowed under prescriptions 4 if these activities improve or maintain habitat for big game winter range. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would have a dual objective of habitat improvement, the impact to roadless characteristics would be limited. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still have a dual objective of habitat improvement.

For the 7,400 acres under prescription 1, roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Any timber activities and road building that occur under this prescription could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the White Mountain Roadless Area. However, no phosphate mining, oil and gas or geothermal activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 7,500 acres would be available for limited timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The

Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 7,500 acres under the Backcountry theme, 4,500 of which are in the CPZ and 100 acres under the GFRG theme.

Within the 4,500 Backcountry acres that are within the CPZ, timber cutting for hazardous fuel removal would be allowed, and temporary roads could be constructed to facilitate timber harvest if the activity cannot be reasonably accomplished without a temporary road. Temporary road construction would likely change roadless characteristics in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber cutting activities would be designed for fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would likely be maintained or enhanced over the long term.

For the 3,000 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ, timber cutting and temporary road construction to facilitate timber harvest could be allowed to reduce hazardous fuels if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system. Since additional conditions would be required, it is likely that temporary road construction for this purpose would be infrequent.

Timber cutting from existing roads, including those constructed for fuel reduction projects, or using aerial systems could be done throughout all 7,500 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

The 100 acres of GFRG are on the outer edge of the roadless area surrounded by areas that have been modified by previous management on private lands. For the 100 acres of GFRG theme roads would generally be permitted and timber harvest could occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes, as long as these activities are consistent with applicable forest plan components. Timber harvest and associated road building could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry or GFRG themes since road construction is not permitted to access new mineral leases. The GFRG exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area. Oil and gas potential is low. This roadless area contains 7,500 acres of low geothermal potential.

Wonderful Peak #152

4,900 Acres Idaho Panhandle (Idaho)

1,600 Acres Lolo (Montana)

6,500 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Wonderful Peak Roadless Area is located on both sides of the Idaho-Montana border about four air miles southeast of Mullan, Idaho, and nine air miles north of Avery, Idaho. The Idaho portion lies within Shoshone County on the Avery Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest, with the Montana portion contained in Mineral County on the Superior Ranger District of the Lolo National Forest.

About 500 acres of patented mining claims are contained within the roadless area. Bonneville Power Administration tower-access roads, the Bullion Creek Road, and Hanakar Creek Road provide motorized access to the eastern and southern boundaries. Low standard mining roads, the Stateline Trail, Wonderful Peak Trail, and Copper Gulch Trail offer interior access.

The roughly diamond-shaped roadless area rises in elevation from 3,400 feet on the North Fork of the St. Joe River to over 6,500 feet on the Bitterroot Divide. Terrain is precipitous with generally steep, rocky slopes. Alpine glaciation occurred along the state line, being most evident on the Montana portion. The Montana portion contains one alpine lake, Copper Lake, and drains northward via Copper Gulch and Hanakar Creek into the St. Regis River. The Idaho segment flows southward into the St. Joe River system.

Existing vegetation resulted from the 1910 and successive fires which consumed the entire roadless area. Extensive non-stocked brushfields remain on the more exposed southern aspects, with mature sapling or small saw timber stands of mixed composition on the cooler north aspects. Additionally, portions of the area were planted with off-site ponderosa pine or western white pine. Little old-growth timber remains anywhere within the roadless area. The Bitterroot Divide is characterized by open subalpine vegetation. Habitat varies from cedar/clintonia at the lower elevations to mountain hemlock or subalpine fir types on the higher slopes.

The roadless area receives only light recreational use, with Copper Lake being the most popular destination, providing water-oriented activities. The primary activity throughout the roadless area however, centers upon big game hunting. Pleasure-driving with motorbikes and 4-wheel-drive vehicles also occurs on existing mining roads and maintained trails. Hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, and other activities remain limited.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: In the Idaho portion, the impact of past human activity in this area is moderate. Mining activity first began in the early 1900s. Nearly 500 acres are patented and under private ownership. There are numerous unpatented claims scattered throughout the planning area. There is a road accessing the Old Wonderful Mine. An existing trail accesses Wonderful Peak. Existing roads completely encircle the Wonderful Peak area. On the Montana portion, impacts include a developed road with earthworks, cut and fill slopes, the quarter mile long Copper Lake Road, a dam which forms Copper Lake, a mining excavation area, dozer trenches and trails, exploratory pits, and 140 acres of thinning and pruning on a white pine plantation.

Undeveloped Character: The Wonderful Peak Roadless Area does not lend itself to the solitude normally attributed to natural or wilderness areas because of the topography. The Bonneville Power Administration powerline and surrounding roads and activity become dominant features of the landscape. Interstate 90 is visible from some places. The Milwaukee Railroad grade which is now a rail trail is partially visible and a Bonneville Power Administration powerline will be constructed within 3 miles of the northeast corner of the area.

Opportunities for Experience: The area offers little opportunity for solitude because of its size and surrounding developments. There is little in terms of topographic or vegetative screening. The distance from its core to the perimeter is 1.5 miles from east to west and less than 1 mile from north to south. The area consists of the Bitterroot Crest to the north with two major ridgelines radiating southward. Wonderful Creek is the only well defined creek which would screen any of the surrounding intrusions. Human use is concentrated along the surrounding road system. Opportunities for primitive recreation experiences are greatly limited. The size and shape of this area provide little opportunity to actually be isolated from evidence of man and his activities. With much of the area having similar topographic and vegetative features, there is little diversity of recreation opportunities. Primitive recreation experiences are further limited by motorized use of the trail and road intruding into the area. Opportunities do exist for big game and hunting (elk, deer, bear, and mountain lion).

Special Features: A high percentage of the Wonderful Peak area was influenced by the 1910 fire. Eight firefighters perished inside the Bullion Mine just outside the boundary of the roadless area where they had taken refuge from the fire. They were eventually buried in the Wallace Cemetery. Vegetative conditions which developed as a result of that fire have created the sort of habitat which is ideal for big game species. There is a high level of public interest in roadless elk hunting as evidenced by the survival of commercial outfitter/guide operation in this general area.

Manageability: Existing boundaries are not well defined. The southern and eastern boundaries do not follow topographic features but, rather, are located so that roads and powerline corridors would not be incorporated within the boundaries. There is private ownership under patented mining claim within the area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Little fisheries resources exist within the roadless area.

Wildlife: The area serves as big game summer and winter range for elk, whitetail deer, mule deer, and black bear. Other game and non-game species common to northern Idaho and western Montana also populate the roadless area. No habitat for threatened and endangered species exists. It is the elk herd existing in this general area which catches public attention. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Elk hunting and driving old mining roads are the predominant recreation uses of this area. Current use is light.

Timber: The area contains 4,800 acres of suitable timberland supporting 38 million board feet of timber. The low volume reflects the fact that much of suitable acreage is presently poorly stocked brushfield.

Range: Neither cattle or sheep have used the Wonderful Peak area since the 1930s. This situation will probably not change under either a wilderness or non-wilderness form of management.

Minerals and Energy: This roadless area is underlain primarily by argillites and quartzites of the Wallace Formation, a unit of the Precambrian Belt Supergroup. The Ravalli Group crops out to the north and northeast. The northwest-striking Placer Creek fault, which is the southern boundary of the silver belt of the Coeur d'Alene Mining District, is located within the northern half of the roadless area.

Two percent of the roadless area is rated as having very high mineral potential and the remaining 98 percent as high. The Idaho Panhandle side of the roadless area has 362 unpatented mining claims and 479 acres of patented mining claims. In Montana there are 63 claims. There are many prospects in the area and exploration is ongoing, with a current diamond drilling project underway. There is presently a gas and oil lease application on file covering the area. This roadless area contains 4,900 acres of low geothermal potential.

Disturbances: Although large fires have occurred, the number of fires occurring annually is low.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Wonderful Peak Roadless Area.

Table Wonderful Peak-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Wonderful Peak-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Wonderful Peak-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Wonderful Peak Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0	0
Similar to Backcountry	4,900	0	0	0
Backcountry	0	1,300	4,900	4,900
GFRG	0	3,600	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0	0
Total Acres	4,900	4,900	4,900	4,900

Table Wonderful Peak-2. Potential activities

Wonderful Peak Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	1,300	4,900	0
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	4,900	4,900	4,900	4,900
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	4,900	4,900	4,900	4,900
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	4,900	4,900	0
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	4,900	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	4,900	4,900	4,900	4,900

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 3,600 acres are managed under prescription 1 (timber production) and 1,300 acres under prescription 9 (non-forest).

Timber activities in the 1,300 acres under prescription 9 are limited to salvage and firewood removal that can occur from existing access roads. Roads may be constructed across prescription 9 to reach other destinations. These areas have scattered tree cover, so little to no timber harvest is expected.

For the 3,600 acres under prescription 1, roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Any timber activities and road building that occur under this prescription could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Wonderful Peak Roadless Area. No phosphate mining, oil and gas or geothermal activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 4,900 acres would be available for limited timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 4,900 acres under the Backcountry theme, none of which are in the community protection zone (CPZ).

Since there are no communities or municipal water supply systems adjacent to the Backcountry portion of this roadless area, no roads could be constructed to facilitate fuel reduction projects. In addition, since there are no communities or municipal water supply systems nearby, no timber harvest or associated road building would occur for the purpose of reducing the significant risk of wildland fire effects. Timber cutting from existing roads, including those constructed for fuel reduction projects, or using aerial systems could be done throughout all 4,900 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since road construction is not permitted to access new mineral leases.

Roberts #691

7,400 Acres Kootenai (Idaho)
3,400 Acres Kootenai (Montana)
10,800 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Roberts Roadless Area is located near the Idaho-Montana state line, immediately north of the Callahan Creek Road. Access is provided via Highway 2 and the Callahan Creek Road. The area is primarily a south exposure mountainside setting, generally vegetated throughout. The area is dominated by the divide between Sweasey and Frezkat Creeks, 6,000 to 6,600 feet. Sweasey, Frezkat, and Jill Creeks, originate in this area.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The natural integrity is rated high with no manmade features detracting from the natural appearance.

Opportunities for Experience: The vegetative cover provides moderate opportunities for solitude although the size and configuration would serve to limit the opportunities. Primitive recreation experiences provided include ridgetop hiking and hunting.

Manageability: The boundary of the area can be considered relatively good from a management standpoint, with a ridgeline defining the north boundary and a road on the south.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The area is partial headwaters for rainbow, cutthroat, and bull trout for Callahan Creek; brook, cutthroat, rainbow and bull trout for Star Creek; and cutthroat and rainbow trout in Ruby Creek. Bull trout habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: The area contains grizzly habitat, elk summer range, and excellent whitetail deer habitat. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Water: Mean annual precipitation for the area is about 65 inches, varying between 50 to 105 inches depending on elevation. Except during occasional rain or snow events, the water quality is high.

Recreation: The area has the potential of providing 2,700 recreation visitor days of wilderness recreation per year. Current use is estimated to be 500 recreation visitor days. Current recreation uses include hunting in the fall and the total use is considered light.

Timber: There are 6,900 acres of suitable timberland capable of producing greater than 20 cubic feet per year of timber growth. Over 90 percent of this timberland is on slopes steeper than 55 percent. Road construction will be difficult and costly and timber harvesting would require cable or helicopter logging. Some regeneration problem areas are located in the northwest corner.

Range: There is no livestock grazing allotments in the area and the areas potential for grazing is considered all transitory.

Minerals and Energy: The mineral potential is low and the oil and gas is low.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no private lands.

Heritage: There are no identified historic or prehistoric cultural sites in the area. Based on surveys done in similar areas, the probability of prehistoric sites occurring is considered low.

Disturbances: The area has low fire occurrence in the last 20 years (five fires). The fuels situation is predominantly dense conifer with downed woody material. About 10 percent of the area contains

lodgepole pine susceptible to mountain pine beetle infestation but no significant insect activity has been identified to date.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Roberts Roadless Area.

Table Roberts-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Roberts-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Roberts-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Roberts Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0
Primitive	0	200	0	0
Similar to Backcountry	7,400	0	0	0
Backcountry	0	6,500	7,400	7,400
GFRG	0	700	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0	0
Total Acres	7,400	7,400	7,400	7,400

Table Roberts-2. Potential activities

Roberts Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	2,000	7,400	0
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	7,400	2,000	7,400	7,400
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	7,400	2,000	7,400	7,400
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	2,000	7,400	0
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	6,600	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	7,400	6,600	7,400	7,400

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Forest Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 5,400 acres would be managed under prescription 2 (roadless recreation), 700 acres under prescription 12 (big game summer range/timber), 400 under prescription 14 (grizzly habitat), 100 under prescription 18 (regeneration problem areas) and 800 under prescription 19 (steep lands).

No timber harvest or new road construction is permitted in the 5,400 acres under prescription 2. The 800 acres under prescription 19 do not allow commercial timber production, but timber harvest and associated road building are still permitted as a tool to improve wildlife habitat, restore ecosystem structure and function or reduce the risk of wildfire. If temporary roads are used for timber activities under prescription 19, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would have a dual objective of habitat improvement or reduction of wildfire risk, the impact to roadless characteristics would be limited. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still have a dual objective of habitat improvement and/or fire risk reduction.

Timber harvest and associated road building is permitted under prescriptions 12, 14 and 18 (1,200 acres) as long as certain road design criteria are met that protect big game summer range (prescription 12), grizzly bear habitat (prescription 14) or regeneration problem areas (prescription 18). Any timber activities and road building that occur under these prescriptions could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

There are no new mineral leases or associated road building permitted in the 800 acres under prescription 19. The remaining 6,600 acres have no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in their existing forest plans. However, no phosphate mining, oil and gas, or geothermal activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 7,400 acres would be available for limited timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildfire risk to communities. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 7,400 acres under the Backcountry theme, none of which are in the community protection zone (CPZ).

Since there are no communities or municipal water supply systems adjacent to the Backcountry portion of this roadless area, no roads could be constructed to facilitate fuel reduction projects. In addition, since there are no communities or municipal water supply systems nearby, no timber harvest or associated road building would occur for the purpose of reducing the significant risk of wildland fire effects. Timber cutting could be done using existing roads or aerial systems, throughout all 7,400 acres of Backcountry to improve threatened, endangered, proposed, or sensitive (TEPS) species habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since road construction is not permitted to access new mineral leases.

West Fork Elk #692

3,700 Acres Kootenai (Idaho)
1,500 Acres Kootenai (Montana)
5,200 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The West Fork Elk Roadless Area is located on the southwest corner of the forest, abutting the divide separating the Kootenai and Idaho Panhandle National Forest. Access is available via Highway 200 and the main Elk Creek Road. The area is generally surrounded by forest management activities such as roads and clearcuts.

The area is primarily a low-elevation stream bottom with steep, rocky upland slopes. The area constitutes the watershed basin for the upper West Fork Elk Creek. A road to Prospect lookout straddles a ridgeline which rims the area.

The quality elk hunting experience and the views of the Clark Fork Valley are among the area's attractions.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The natural integrity is high with no manmade features to detract from the area's natural appearance.

Opportunities for Experience: Despite the area's smallness and compactness, opportunities for solitude are high in the interior, owing to the steep canyon walls. Atop the ridge, opportunities are less so because of the view of existing roads and clearcuts. Recreation opportunities include hunting and some fishing. The steep canyons provide challenging cross country travel.

Special Features: Special features include the resident elk herd which attracts hunters in the fall.

Manageability: This is a good example of a "pocket" wilderness; small and compact with a well defined and easily managed boundary. The boundary is set along a strong ridgeline essentially surrounding the area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Bull trout habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: The area contains elk summer range which is currently maintaining itself. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Water: Mean annual precipitation is 55 inches, which varies from 38 to 78 inches depending on the elevation. The streams normally peak in mid to late May, but may peak mid-winter from the occasional rain-on-snow event.

Recreation: The primary recreation is hunting for elk.

Timber: Most of the area is tentatively suitable timberland capable of producing at least 20 cubic feet per acre of timber growth. The timberland is almost located on slopes steeper than 55 percent. Most of the area is in cedar hemlock. The insect disease situation is stable, with no susceptible stands of lodgepole pine and no insect and disease activity occurring.

Range: There is no livestock grazing allotments in this area. The grazing potential is transitory and considered negligible.

Minerals and Energy: The mineral potential is low.

Landownership and Special Uses: No private lands in the area. There are no special uses.

Heritage: There are no identified historic or prehistoric cultural sites. Based on surveys in similar areas, the probability of prehistoric sites occurring is considered low.

Disturbances: The area has a low occurrence of fires.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the West Fork Elk Roadless Area.

Table West Fork Elk-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table West Fork Elk-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table West Fork Elk-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

West Fork Elk Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0	0
Similar to Backcountry	3,700	0	0	0
Backcountry	0	2,300	3,700	3,700
GFRG	0	1,400	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0	0
Total Acres	3,700	3,700	3,700	3,700

Table West Fork Elk-2. Potential activities

West Fork Elk Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	3,300	3,700	0
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	3,700	3,300	3,700	3,700
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	3,700	3,300	3,700	3,700
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	3,300	3,700	0
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	2,900	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	3,700	2,900	3,700	3,700

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Forest Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 1,200 acres would be managed under prescription 10 (big game winter range), 1,400 acres under prescription 12 (big game summer range/timber), 300 under prescription 13 (old-growth), and 700 under prescription 19 (steep lands).

No timber harvest or new road construction is permitted in the 300 acres under prescription 13. The 1,900 acres under prescriptions 10 and 19 do not allow commercial timber production, but timber harvest and associated road building are still permitted as a tool to improve or maintain big game winter range (prescription 12), or to conduct various restoration or fire risk reduction treatments (prescription 19). If temporary roads are used for timber activities under these prescriptions, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would have a dual objective of habitat improvement or reduction of wildfire risk, the impact to roadless characteristics would be limited. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still have a dual objective of habitat improvement and/or fire risk reduction.

Timber harvest and associated road building is generally permitted in the 1,400 acres under prescription 12 as long as certain road design criteria are met that protect big game summer range. Any timber activities and road building that occur under this prescription could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

There are no new mineral leases or associated road building permitted in the 800 acres under prescription 19. The remaining 2,900 acres have no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in their existing forest plans. However, no phosphate mining, oil and gas, or geothermal activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 3,700 acres would be available for limited timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildfire risk to communities. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 3,700 acres under the Backcountry theme, none of which are in the CPZ.

Since there are no communities or municipal water supply systems adjacent to the Backcountry portion of this roadless area, no roads could be constructed to facilitate fuel reduction projects. In addition, since there are no communities or municipal water supply systems nearby, no timber harvest or associated road building would occur for the purpose of reducing the significant risk of wildland fire effects. Timber cutting, using existing roads or aerial systems could be done throughout all 3,700 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since road construction is not permitted to access new mineral leases.

Clear Creek #844

9,200 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Clear Creek Roadless Area is located in the head of Clear Creek along the western boundary of the Nez Perce National Forest. Private property adjoins this area on the northwestern boundary. The nearest roads are spurs of Road 1842 on the north, Road 650 on the west, and Road 286 on the east, but some of these roads are closed during the general hunting season as a means of mitigating impacts on big game.

Elevation ranges from 2,000 feet on Clear Creek at the forest boundary to 4,600 feet at China Point Ridge and the headwaters of Solo and Kay Creeks. Topography is mountainous with steep slopes, commonly over 70 percent, paralleling the drainages. Ridgetops are relatively flat.

The Clear Creek drainage has been a significant part of the Nez Perce Forest timber sale program since the late 1950s. Most of the acreage remaining in Clear Creek Roadless Area burned twice, once in 1870 and again in 1931, leaving about 7,000 acres covered with brushfields in the South Fork and Middle Fork of Clear Creek drainages. Previous conifer forests have never reestablished themselves.

Vegetation in the area ranges from very moist, warm cedar habitat types, to drier, warm Douglas-fir habitat types. Shrub coverage in the brushfields is primarily maple, willow, serviceberry, and various other shrubs. Bordering the brushfields are patches of young (approximately 70 years old) timber, a mix of grand fir, Douglas-fir, and western redcedar. Understories are sparse, but contain a variety of moist-site plants. There are also some natural meadows in upper Kay Creek in Section 28.

The brushfields have been important big-game (elk and moose) winter range, but the preferred browse species—redstem, willow, mountain maple, and serviceberry — have in recent years grown out of reach of the animals. Some use of prescribed fire has been made in attempt to increase the value of the range. Current uses of the area include livestock grazing, big-game winter and summer range, fishing, hunting, and mining.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Past wildfires in Clear Creek and the resulting vegetative succession are some of the natural processes that have occurred. These processes have been modified to some degree on about 200 acres which have been reburned in an attempt to improve wildlife browse.

Opportunities for Experience: This small area, with nearby logging activity, offers limited opportunity for solitude. Vegetative screening is high, however. The main opportunity here is bushwhacking and following game trails through dense brushfields. It is easy to get turned around in this country.

Manageability: This area has been reduced by at least 14,800 acres since 1979, almost entirely because of timber sales. The area boundary is imprecise except where it coincides with the forest boundary. It has been drawn to exclude existing roads from the remainder of the area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Steelhead, rainbow trout, brook trout, and whitefish are found in Clear Creek. Although the drainage has been impacted by past timber sale activity and road building, the aquatic habitat remains in fair condition on National Forest System land. Habitat has been reduced in that part of the creek between the forest boundary and the mouth, since activities on private property are not restricted. There is a Chinook summer salmon hatchery near the mouth of the creek, although returning spring fish are not allowed to go upstream.

Wildlife: Elk, moose, deer, bear, and cougar are found in the roadless area. The brushfields are important winter range. This area, taken together with the Silver Creek-Pilot Knob Roadless Area to the south, is

potential yearlong gray wolf habitat. Pileated woodpecker, red-naped sapsucker, Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Water: This roadless area contains 9,200 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Recreation use is mostly big game hunting. There are several low-standard trails in the area, which have not been maintained in recent years.

Timber: Timber in the Clear Creek country is predominantly old-growth grand fir. Cedar is also present.

Range: Parts of three allotments are in this area. The majority of the available forage is transitory, being generated from the large brushfields in the South Fork and Middle Fork drainages. The remainder of the area is covered with old-growth cedar/grand fir stands with little available forage underneath except in the natural meadows and stream bottoms.

Minerals and Energy: This roadless area contains 9,200 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There is private land in the northwest corner of the roadless area.

Heritage: There are no known cultural resource sites in the area.

Disturbances: The old-growth grand fir and western redcedar stands are decadent. Heartrot, caused by Indianpaint fungus, is prevalent in the grand fir. Butt rot extending into the upper bole of the tree is common in the western redcedar. Other damaging agents are also present, but are minor problems. Fire frequency is very low in the Clear Creek drainage.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Clear Creek Roadless Area.

Table Clear Creek-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Clear Creek-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Clear Creek-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Clear Creek Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule	
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0	
Primitive	0	0	0	0	
Similar to Backcountry	9,200	0	0	0	
Backcountry	0	8,000	9,200	CPZ	2,400
				NonCPZ	6,800
GFRG	0	1,200	0	0	
SAHTS	0	0	0	0	
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0	0	
Total Acres	9,200	9,200	9,200	9,200	

Table Clear Creek-2. Potential activities

Clear Creek Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	9,200	9,200	2,400*
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	9,200	9,200	9,200	9,200
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	9,200	9,200	9,200	9,200
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	9,200	9,200	2,400*
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	9,000	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	9,200	9,000	9,200	9,200

**Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 6,800 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ to facilitate hazardous fuels removal, but only if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system and other conditions are met.*

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 200 acres would be managed under prescription 10 (lakes, wetlands, riparian), 1,200 under prescription 12 (forested lands - timber production), 700 acres under prescription 15 (timber production/winter-range), 6,900 acres under prescription 16 (winter range), and 200 acres under prescription 20 (old-growth).

Timber harvest and associated road building are allowed on the 8,000 acres under prescriptions 10, 15, 16 and 20. While any timber harvest or road building would likely alter roadless characteristics over the short and long term, the impacts would be somewhat lessened by the mitigation measures required under each of these prescriptions. Prescription 10 requires safeguards for riparian habitat, prescriptions 15 and 16 stipulate mitigation measures to protect elk winter range, and prescription 20 has certain requirements to ensure old-growth conservation.

For the 1,200 under prescription 12 roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Any timber activities and road building that occur could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

No new leasable mineral activities is expected under prescription 10 because surface occupancy is not recommended. There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or associated road building in the other forest plan prescriptions for this roadless area. No phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals. The area does contain 9,200 acres of medium geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 9,200 acres would be available for limited timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless

characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 9,200 acres under the Backcountry theme, 2,400 of which are in the CPZ. All of the roadless area is provides surface water for a municipal water supply system.

Within the 2,400 Backcountry acres that are within the CPZ, timber cutting for hazardous fuel removal would be allowed, and temporary roads could be constructed to facilitate timber harvest if that is the desired tool for hazardous fuel removal. Temporary road construction would likely change roadless characteristics in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber cutting activities would be designed for fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would likely be maintained or enhanced over the long term.

For the 6,800 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ, timber cutting and temporary road construction to facilitate timber harvest could be allowed to reduce hazardous fuels if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system. Since additional conditions would be required, it is likely that temporary road construction for this purpose would be infrequent.

Timber cutting from existing roads, including those constructed for fuel reduction projects, or using aerial systems could be done throughout all 9,200 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since road construction is not permitted to access new mineral leases.

Dixie Summit-Nut Hill #235

13,000 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The name of the Dixie Summit-Nut Hill Roadless Area is somewhat misleading as Dixie Summit and Nut Hill are no longer included within area boundaries. Moose Butte, at 7,100 feet, is the most prominent topographical feature. A ridge runs south from Moose Butte through the roadless area. The east Side of this ridge drains into Red River, a part of the Clearwater drainage and the west side runs into Big Creek and then Crooked Creek, in the Salmon drainage.

The roadless area can be reached by Road 311, which parallels the area on the west, and Roads 9535 and 9531, which approach from the east. The elevation ranges from 5,400 feet at West Fork to 7,100 feet at Moose Butte. Although some of the slopes are steep, much of the country is relatively gentle. Quite a lot of this area is a mountain meadow environment. Big Creek Meadows cover most of the western portion of the area and extend up the tributaries. They are grazed by both cattle and wildlife. The rest of the area ranges from pure lodgepole pine stands on southern slopes at moderate elevations to alpine fir and Engelmann spruce in draws and higher elevations. The predominant species is mature lodgepole pine. As in other lodgepole stands in this locality, mountain pine beetles are causing increasing damage.

There is a passable road from Badger Summit, in the extreme northwest corner of the area, to an old cabin about a mile and a half within the area. The cabin, about 10x15 feet with a metal roof, dates back to the 1940s. Trail 207 runs south from Moose Butte to Burpee. It is not heavily used. Other manmade features include drift fences near Vetter Creek and Eutopia Creek, and mining relics from the earliest days of mining in the area. Traditional recreation uses include fishing, hunting, camping, horseback riding and snowmobiling. Now that the Burpee Road has been built through the middle of the area, motorcycles and ATVs are becoming prevalent. One outfitter operates in this area.

A 1,000 acre Research Natural Area is located in the wet meadows along Moose Meadow Creek and its tributaries. It includes the stream network itself, and the nearby forest of lodgepole pine, subalpine fir, and Engelmann spruce. This area does not adjoin any existing wilderness.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Natural processes have been little impacted, except for a long history of grazing and some placer mining which occurred years ago. Evidence of grazing is most apparent in Big Creek Meadows. Current mining is being carefully regulated. It is possible to see cattle grazing in some parts of the area, and there is mining activity along the western boundary.

Opportunities for Experience: The small size of this area, together with nearby roads and logging activity, restricts isolation. Off-site intrusions are apparent in many places. Roads and cattle are found along the western edge. Clearcuts and ranches in Red River Valley are visible from the ridge top. Primitive recreation opportunities are also limited. The area is small, and evidence of man's activities is not far away. The topography is not challenging, and there is little diversity.

Special Features: A 1,000-acre Research Natural Area in Moose Meadow Creek, a tributary of Big Creek, was approved by the Chief of the Forest Service in 1982. This Research Natural Area is completely within the Dixie Summit-Nut Hill Roadless Area. Although vegetation there has not been studied thoroughly, no known threatened or endangered plant species occur in the area; however, it does contain a few species that are uncommon in Idaho.

Manageability: This area is small, and the boundary is highly irregular. No existing wilderness adjoins this area. Since 1979, the boundary of this area has been adjusted to exclude timber sales and miscellaneous mining activity. The acreage has been recalculated, reducing the acreage from 17,700 to the present 13,000.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The fish in Big Creek and tributaries are not anadromous, but those in Red River are. This roadless area overlaps steelhead, Chinook summer salmon, and bull trout priority watersheds.

Wildlife: Species include elk, moose, deer, bear, and cougar. The endangered gray wolf may inhabit the area based on suitability of habitat and unconfirmed sightings. Wolverine, fisher, and pileated woodpecker, Region 1 sensitive species occur in this roadless area.

Botanical: Spacious monkeyflower (*Mimulus ampliatius*) a sensitive plant species occurs in this roadless area.

Recreation: Most users are hunters and fishermen.

Range: This roadless area contains approximately 700 acres of primary range in the Big Creek grazing allotment, and 500 acres of transitory range in the Moose Butte allotment for a total of 160 animal unit months (AUMs).

Minerals and Energy: There is currently some mining activity along the western boundary of the area, in which exploratory holes are dug with a backhoe, then are refilled and seeded. This operation involves about 100 acres. Presently there are 52 other unpatented claims in the area. This roadless area contains 13,000 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: The area is completely within National Forest System boundaries. The most unique features of the area are managed as a Research Natural Area. The West Fork portion of the roadless area has considerable lodgepole pine in high risk class for mountain pine beetle infestation. The Big Creek side of the roadless area has overmature lodgepole pine, Engelmann spruce, and alpine fir which are dying from old age.

Heritage: There are no known cultural resource sites in the area.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Dixie Summit-Nut Hill Roadless Area.

Table Dixie Summit-Nut Hill-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Dixie Summit-Nut Hill-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Dixie Summit-Nut Hill-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Dixie Summit-Nut Hill Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule	
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0	
Primitive	0	0	0	0	
Similar to Backcountry	13,000	0	0	0	
Backcountry	0	4,000	12,000	CPZ	500
				NonCPZ	11,500
GFRG	0	8,000	0	0	
SAHTS	0	0	0	0	
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	1,000*	1,000*	1,000*	
Total Acres	13,000	13,000	13,000	13,000	

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the Dixie Summit-Nut Hill Roadless Area is Research Natural Area (RNA). For further information on this designation, see the Nez Perce National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP).

Table Dixie Summit-Nut Hill-2. Potential activities

Dixie Summit-Nut Hill Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	12,000	12,000	500*
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	13,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	13,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	12,000	12,000	500*
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	11,200	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	13,000	11,200	12,000	12,000

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 11,500 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ to facilitate hazardous fuels removal, but only if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system.

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 800 acres would be managed under prescription 10 (lakes, wetlands, riparian), 8,000 under prescription 12 (forested lands – timber production), 2,300 acres under prescription 17 (timber production/visual quality), 500 acres under prescription 19 (non-forest grasslands), and 400 acres under prescription 20 (old-growth).

The 300 acres under prescription 19 include a mix of nonforested grasslands and low-productivity forests, and have been identified as unsuitable for commercial timber production. However, in the areas that are forested, timber harvest and associated road building are still permitted as a tool to improve wildlife habitat, restore ecosystem structure and function or reduce the risk of wildfire. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes.

Timber harvest and associated road building are allowed on the 3,500 acres under prescriptions 10, 17, and 20. While any timber harvest or road building would likely alter roadless characteristics over the short and long term, the impacts would be somewhat lessened by the mitigation measures required under each of these prescriptions. Prescription 10 requires safeguards for riparian habitat, prescription 17 stipulates mitigation measures to protect visual quality, and prescription 20 has certain requirements to ensure old-growth conservation.

For the 8,000 under prescription 12 roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Any timber activities and road building that occur could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

No new leasable mineral activities is expected under prescription 10 because surface occupancy is not recommended. There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or associated road building in the

other forest plan prescriptions for this roadless area. No phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals. The area does contain 13,000 acres of medium geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 12,000 acres would be available for limited timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 12,000 acres under the Backcountry theme, 500 of which are in the CPZ.

Within the 500 Backcountry acres that are within the CPZ, timber cutting for hazardous fuel removal would be allowed, and temporary roads could be constructed to facilitate timber harvest if that is the desired tool for hazardous fuel removal. Temporary road construction would likely change roadless characteristics in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber cutting activities would be designed for fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would likely be maintained or enhanced over the long term.

For the 11,500 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ, timber cutting and temporary road construction to facilitate timber harvest could be allowed to reduce hazardous fuels if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system. Since additional conditions would be required, it is likely that temporary road construction for this purpose would be infrequent.

Timber cutting from existing roads, including those constructed for fuel reduction projects, or using aerial systems could be done throughout all 12,000 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since road construction is not permitted to access new mineral leases.

East Meadow Creek #845D

96,800 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

East Meadow Creek Roadless Area joins the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness on the east and is separated from the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness by a road corridor on the south. It is located on the east side of Meadow Creek, a principal tributary of the Selway River, and includes the headwaters of Running Creek, which flows into the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, and Bargamin Creek, which flows into the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness.

The area can be reached by Indian Hill Road 290, which ends at the northern boundary; Running Creek Road 257 and Elk Mountain Road 285, which enter the area from the west; and the "Montana" Road 468, which is the southern boundary. These roads are not surfaced, and can be hazardous when wet. The Elk Mountain Road forks within the area. One fork runs 17 miles and deadends near Elk Mountain; the other deadends at Warm Springs Bar, 12 miles from the junction. Driving time from Grangeville to most trailheads is three to four hours.

Elevation ranges from 2,420 feet on Meadow Creek to 8,200 feet at Burnt Knob. This area is similar in topography and vegetation to the adjacent wildernesses. Slopes are characteristically steep throughout the area, especially toward the lower end of Meadow Creek, but there are exceptions. For example, the country opens up in the heads of some of the larger slide drainages such as Schwar Creek; and Disgrace Ridge, between Buck Lake Creek and Schwar Creek, is almost flat for over 5 miles.

This area contains lakes talus slopes, avalanche chutes, hot springs, rocky peaks, open alpine meadows, varied stream bottoms, and other features commonly associated with wilderness. Vegetation runs from cedar and grand fir in the creek bottoms to ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir on mid-slopes to lodgepole pine and subalpine fir at higher elevations.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Human impacts on this area have been very light. A few sections of trail are heavily eroded, but most are not. Overall, long-term ecological processes are intact and operating naturally.

Undeveloped Character: Since there have been so few human impacts, the area appears natural by almost any criterion. A few trails are noticeable. Although many lookout towers were built in the area, they are all gone now. The only remains are a few burned nails and places of melted glass on some mountain tops. Spans of telephone wire that have never been rolled up and packed out can be found along some trails. Distant roads and clearcuts can be seen from the highest elevations in the area.

Special Features: Burnt Knob and 3 Prong Ridge are scenic features (alpine glaciation) visible from most points in the area. Other scenic or special features in this area include areas along meadow creek, alpine larch stands, and the Meadow Creek National Recreation Trail. A 500 acre Research Natural Area is also located in this roadless area.

East Meadow Creek Roadless Area joins the Selway-Bitterroot and Frank Church-River of No Return Wildernesses and together, offers an opportunity for solitude possibly unmatched in the lower 48 states. Although other people can be encountered on trails and at popular camping spots, there are many places where the probability of encountering others is almost zero. There are no comfort and convenience facilities in this roadless area except a few undeveloped campsites and the already-mentioned substandard trails. This area and the neighboring wilderness make up an undeveloped roadless expanse of over three million acres. There is plenty of diversity of opportunity and challenge once the visitor leaves the established trails. Vegetation, terrain, lakes, streams, and climate vary markedly. Meadow Creek and some of the larger tributaries are difficult and hazardous to cross except when the water is very low. Throughout, the opportunity for risk-taking is significant.

Manageability: Boundaries are well-defined, and follow major topographical features such as streams and ridges. With few exceptions, boundaries would be fairly easy to locate on the ground. Many are trails.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Meadow Creek is bigger than some streams that are called rivers on the Nez Perce Forest. In fact, on some of the original maps of the Forest it is called the South Fork of the Selway. Meadow Creek has more miles of significant fishery than any other roadless area on the Forest. The potential spawning and rearing habitat available for anadromous species in the drainage has been estimated at over 41 acres. Healthy populations of rainbow trout, steelhead trout, cutthroat trout, and Dolly Varden exist throughout the area. The fish are small, but plentiful. Water quality is very high. This roadless area overlaps steelhead, Chinook summer salmon, and bull trout priority watersheds.

Wildlife: Mule and whitetail deer, elk, black bear, and moose inhabit this roadless area. The west-facing slopes along lower Meadow Creek are important winter range. Elk populations are not as large as they were 20 years ago, but recent winter counts by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game indicate numbers are increasing. The area is also possible grizzly bear and lynx habitat. The endangered gray wolf may inhabit the area based on suitability of habitat and unconfirmed sightings. Numerous species of birds and nongame animals are also found in the area, including some not often seen, such as varied thrushes and wolverines. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Botanical: Idaho Douglasia (*Douglasia idahoensis*) a sensitive plant species occurs in this roadless area.

Recreation: Current uses of the area include fishing, motorcycle riding, horseback riding, hunting, backpacking, camping, hiking, snowmobiling, and sightseeing. Three outfitters operate in the area. A trail network built in the 1920s and 1930s exists in the area. Some of these trails are reconstructed stock driveways dating back to 1900-1915. Fifteen miles of Trail 726, which follow Meadow Creek upstream from the mouth, have been designated a National Recreation Trail. It is an easy trail compared to those that climb out of the creek bottom, and receives somewhat more maintenance work than the other trails in the area. Several bridges have been built on this trail in recent years, but major reconstruction will be required to bring it to standard. It is popular with backpackers early in the season when high country trails are still blocked with snow. It is often used by fishermen and is sometimes used by motorcyclists in the summer, and is heavily used during the fall hunting season. A few cougar hunters use it in the winter.

Timber: The middle elevation zones contain stands of ponderosa pine on southern and western exposures. Cedar is present in the lower creek bottoms, and lodgepole and subalpine species prevail at the higher elevations. There is a lack of potential commercial timber production.

Range: There are no rangelands within this area.

Minerals and Energy: There are no mining claims in the area, and there is no patented ground. About 160 acres in Section 23, T 29N, R 11E, has been impacted by past mining activity. This roadless area contains 96,800 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: All land is National Forest System land. A Research Natural Area is located in Sections 11, 14, and 15, T 29N, R 12E. This 500-acre area, in the vicinity of Warm Springs near Running Creek, represents hot springs and associated vegetation.

Heritage: There are no known cultural resource sites in the area.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the East Meadow Creek Roadless Area.

Table East Meadow Creek-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table East Meadow Creek-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table East Meadow Creek-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

East Meadow Creek Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0
Primitive	0	95,600	96,300	96,300
Similar to Backcountry	96,800	0	0	0
Backcountry	0	500	0	0
GFRG	0	200	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	500*	500*	500*
Total Acres	96,800	96,800	96,800	96,800

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the East Meadow Creek Roadless Area is RNA. For further information on this designation, see the Nez Perce National Forest LRMP.

Table East Meadow Creek-2. Potential activities

East Meadow Creek Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	700	0	0
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	96,800	96,300	96,300	96,300
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	96,800	96,300	96,300	5,000*
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	96,300	96,300	0
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	96,300	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	96,800	96,300	0	0

*Timber cutting is prohibited in the Primitive theme except to maintain or restore TEPS habitat, restore ecosystem composition and function or to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire to a community or a municipal water supply system. Such activities are expected to occur in the 5,000 acres of the Primitive theme area that are within 1½ miles of a community and/or contain a municipal water supply system.

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 95,600 acres would be managed under prescription 11 (East Meadow Creek/Rapid River/Silver Creek ands, riparian), 200 under prescription 12 (forested lands – timber production), 100 under prescription 16 (Winter range), 300 acres

under prescription 17 (timber production/visual quality), and 100 acres under prescription 20 (old-growth).

The 95,600 acres under prescription 11 have been identified as unsuitable for commercial timber production. While limited timber cutting is permitted to improve wildlife habitat or to control insect and disease outbreaks, no new road construction is permitted so little to no timber cutting activity is expected.

Timber harvest and associated road building are allowed on the 500 acres under prescriptions 16, 17, and 20. While any timber harvest or associated road building would likely alter roadless characteristics over the short and long term, the impacts would be somewhat lessened by the mitigation measures required under each of these prescriptions. Prescription 16 requires safeguards for elk winter range habitat, prescription 17 stipulates mitigation measures to protect visual quality, and prescription 20 has certain requirements to ensure old-growth conservation.

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or associated road building in the forest plan prescriptions for this roadless area. No phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals. The area does contain 96,800 acres of medium geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule these 96,300 acres would allow limited timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities, but little to no timber cutting would be anticipated because roads could not be constructed. No road construction would be expected because it would be prohibited except in cases of reserved and outstanding rights. There would therefore be no short term adverse effects expected to roadless characteristics due to road construction. The Proposed Rule prohibits surface occupancy for new mineral leases; therefore there would be no change to roadless character from mineral leasing.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 96,300 acres under the Primitive theme. Timber cutting is prohibited except when done to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, or to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire, but only adjacent to a community or a municipal water supply system. Any wildland fire risk reduction activities are expected to occur in the 5,000 acres of the Primitive theme area that are within 1½ miles of a community and/or contain a municipal water supply system. No new roads can be constructed for these activities, so limited timber harvest is expected because of lack of roaded access. In addition these activities must maintain or improve at least one or more roadless characteristics. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

There would be no new leasable mineral activities since new surface occupancy and road building for mineral access are both prohibited.

Gospel Hump #921

46,300 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Gospel-Hump Wilderness was created out of lands in this roadless area and the acreage remaining still carries that name. However, the area is probably better known as “Jersey-Jack”.

The Gospel Hump Roadless Area is immediately above the Salmon River breaks, and has a long common boundary (southeastern) with the Frank Church –River of No Return Wilderness along those breaks. Road 222 borders this area on the southwest; Road 421, Jacks Creek, and Big Mallard Creek make up the northeastern boundary; and Roads 222 and 1190 border on the northwest. Generally, exposures are southeast and all streams in the area flow into the Salmon River. Major creeks within the area include all of Little Mallard Creek, Big Blowout Creek, Jersey Creek, and Noble Creek. Access is by way of Road 222 and its spurs on the north and west, Road 421 on the east, and Road 1190 on the north. Road 222 ends at Mackay Bar and Road 421 ends at Whitewater Ranch, both on the Salmon River. This area several mountains including: Blowout Mountain, Blue Ridge, Sinker Mountain, and Cove Mountain. The elevation ranges from 2,402 feet at Whitewater Ranch to 6,680 feet at Sinker Mountain.

This is a high, rolling, timbered country, with meadows along some of the larger creeks. The ecosystem type ranges from extensive lodgepole pine dominated stands in the Lower Mallard Creek, Lower Noble Creek, Jack Creek, Rhett Creek, and Mammoth Mountain areas to climax ponderosa pine in the Vista Point and Whitewater areas to Engelmann spruce-alpine fir in the higher elevations and cold air drainages. Some larger meadows exist along Jacks Creek, Noble Creek, and Little Mallard Creek. Gospel-Hump adjoins the small town of Dixie, which has a history of mining activity dating back to 1864. Early placer operations exploited creek gravels and high benches. The area’s mining boom came with hardrock activity between 1890 and 1915. Many old mining relics still remain. Current mining activity is located in the Robinson Dike area and the Blowout Mountain area, both southeast of Dixie.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Most impacts are confined to small areas. Overall, long-term ecological processes are intact and operating. The principal impacts come from Mallard Creek Ranch and mining activity in the head of Little Mallard Creek and the Robinson Creek area. The mining activity is on the perimeter of the area and could be excluded.

Undeveloped Character: Present and proposed activities are located along the northern and eastern boundaries. Thus, the farther one travels into the area, the more natural the surroundings will appear. Less than 15 percent of the area is impacted.

Opportunities for Experience: This roadless area has a common boundary with the Frank Church–River of No Return Wilderness and at one point is separated from the Gospel-Hump Wilderness by a road corridor. When taken together with these wildernesses, this area offers very high opportunities or solitude. Vegetative screening is moderate to dense. Most off-site intrusions – airplanes and other activity at Mallard Creek Ranch, timber harvest, and mining – are located a mile or more from the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness. The area by itself is not diverse, and offers few challenges. Topography is mostly rolling hills. The forest cover is uniform, almost monotonous, and the main challenge is a lack of topographical features for orientation. When the area is taken together with the Frank Church –River of No Return Wilderness, however, primitive recreation opportunity becomes very high.

Special Features: Vista Point has a scenic view of Mallard Creek Falls and the Salmon Breaks. The road from Vista Point to Whitewater Ranch goes through one of the few areas containing old-growth ponderosa pine on the Red River District.

Manageability: Boundaries of this area are well defined by roads on the east, north, west, and southwest sides. The southeastern boundary is the Frank Church –River of No Return Wilderness. Administrative costs would be similar to those of the adjacent wildernesses.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Small fish are found in the streams, but they are not anadromous.

Wildlife: This area is also big game summer range, and possible grizzly bear and gray wolf habitat. The northern part of the area is potential spring and summer wolf range, and the southwestern part could also serve as a travel corridor between Gospel-Hump and River of No Return Wilderness. The terrain adjoining the River of No Return Wilderness is bighorn sheep and mountain goat range. The area is also potential habitat for the peregrine falcon and pileated woodpecker.

Botanical: Payson’s milkvetch (*Astragalus paysonii*) a sensitive plant species occurs in this roadless area.

Recreation: Recreation uses include fishing, hunting, camping, horseback riding, hiking, snowmobiling, motorcycling, sightseeing along the Dixie-Mackay Bar Road, and driving to the Salmon River via the two roads that border the roadless area to boat or to fish for steelhead and salmon. Elk hunting is a major recreational activity in the fall.

Timber: Lodgepole pine is the principal species at the higher elevations, with mixed species near the Frank Church –River of No Return Wilderness boundary. There are 46,300 acres of suitable timber land, and 511,528 thousand board feet of standing timber.

Range: Meadows along Noble, Grouse, Jack, and Little Mallard Creeks are used by cattle, horses and game. Impacts are light. There are a few fences, and stock trails follow the stream bottoms. There are currently two grazing allotments in this area.

Minerals and Energy: There are 50 unpatented mining claims in this roadless area. The Little Mallard Quartz Placer has a heavy impact on about 10 acres. About 100 acres west of Mammoth Mountain have also been heavily impacted by past mining activity. There are about 43,600 acres of medium and 2,800 of low geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: Four commercial outfitters operate in the area. About 266 acres of patented mining claims lie within this area.

Heritage: There are no known cultural resource sites in this area.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Gospel Hump Roadless Area. Table Gospel Hump-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Gospel Hump-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Gospel Hump-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Gospel Hump Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule	
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0	
Primitive	0	0	0	0	
Similar to Backcountry	46,300	0	0	0	
Backcountry	0	9,800	46,300	CPZ	16,600
				NonCPZ	29,700
GFRG	0	36,500	0	0	
SAHTS	0	0	0	0	
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0	0	
Total Acres	46,300	46,300	46,300	46,300	

Table Gospel Hump-2. Potential activities

Gospel Hump Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	46,300	46,300	16,600*
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	46,300	46,300	46,300	46,300
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	46,300	46,300	46,300	46,300
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	46,300	46,300	16,600*
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	45,500	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	46,300	45,500	46,300	46,300

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 29,700 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ to facilitate hazardous fuels removal, but only if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system.

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 800 acres would be managed under prescription 10 (lakes, wetlands, riparian), 36,200 under prescription 12 (forested lands - timber production), 200 under prescription 13 (timber production/visual quality), 300 under prescription 15 (timber production/winter range), 5,700 acres under prescription 17 (timber production/visual quality), 300 acres under prescription 19 (non-forest grasslands), 2,700 acres under prescription 20 (old-growth), and 100 under prescription 21 (old-growth pacific yew).

The 300 acres under prescription 19 include a mix of nonforested grasslands and low-productivity forests, and have been identified as unsuitable for commercial timber production. However, in the areas that are forested, timber harvest and associated road building are still permitted as a tool to improve wildlife habitat, restore ecosystem structure and function or reduce the risk of wildfire. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be

designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. For the 36,200 under prescription 12 roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Any timber activities and road building that occur could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term. Timber harvest and associated road building are allowed on the remaining 9,800 acres under prescriptions 10, 13, 15, 17, 20 and 21. While any timber harvest or road building would likely alter roadless characteristics over the short and long term, the impacts would be somewhat lessened by the mitigation measures required under each of these prescriptions. Prescription 10 requires safeguards for riparian habitat, prescription 13 and 17 stipulate mitigation measures to protect visual quality, prescription 15 has requirements to protect winter elk range, and prescriptions 20 and 21 have certain requirements to ensure conservation of old growth forests and pacific yew forests, respectively.

No new leasable mineral activities is expected under prescription 10 because surface occupancy is not recommended. There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or associated road building in the other forest plan prescriptions for this roadless area. No phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals. The area does contain 43,600 acres of medium geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 46,300 acres would be available for limited timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 46,300 acres under the Backcountry theme, 16,600 of which are in the CPZ. Within the 16,600 Backcountry acres that are within the CPZ, timber cutting for hazardous fuel removal would be allowed, and temporary roads could be constructed to facilitate timber harvest if that is the desired tool for hazardous fuel removal. Temporary road construction would likely change roadless characteristics in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber cutting activities would be designed for fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would likely be maintained or enhanced over the long term.

For the 29,700 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ, timber cutting and temporary road construction to facilitate timber harvest could be allowed to reduce hazardous fuels if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system. Since additional conditions would be required, it is likely that temporary road construction for this purpose would be infrequent. Timber cutting from existing roads, including those constructed for fuel reduction projects, or using aerial systems could be done throughout all 46,300 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since road construction is not permitted to access new mineral leases.

Gospel Hump Adjacent to Wilderness #923

2,400 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Gospel Hump Adjacent to Wilderness Roadless Area is a piece of land adjacent to the Gospel-Hump Wilderness which was not included in the wilderness legislation.

This roadless area is above the Salmon River breaks, and has a long common boundary with the Gospel-Hump Wilderness on the west side. Roads 222 and 311 border this area on the east and south. Generally, exposures are southeast and all streams in the area flow into the Salmon River. Major creeks include branches of Crooked Creek.

This is a high, rolling, timbered country, with meadows along some of the creeks. The ecosystem type ranges from lodgepole pine dominated stands to Engelmann spruce-alpine fir in the higher elevations and cold air drainages.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Most impacts are confined to small areas. Overall, long-term ecological processes are intact and operating.

Undeveloped Character: Present and proposed activities are located along the northern and eastern boundaries. Thus, the farther one travels into the area, the more natural the surroundings will appear.

Opportunities for Experience: This roadless area has a common boundary with the Gospel-Hump Wilderness. When taken together with the wilderness, this area offers good opportunities or solitude. Vegetative screening is moderate to dense.

The area by itself is not diverse, and offers few challenges. Topography is mostly rolling hills. The forest cover is uniform, almost monotonous, and the main challenge is a lack of topographical features for orientation.

Manageability: Boundaries of this area are well defined by roads on the east, north and south sides. The western boundary is Gospel-Hump Wilderness. Administrative costs would be similar to those of the adjacent wildernesses. Boundaries may have to be adjusted to exclude existing mining activity.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: This roadless area is in a priority watershed for steelhead and Chinook salmon which are threatened or endangered fish species. Bull trout, Inland redband trout, and westslope cutthroat trout also have habitat that overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: This area is big-game summer range, and possible gray wolf and grizzly bear habitat.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Recreation uses include fishing, hunting, camping, horseback riding, hiking, snowmobiling, motorcycling, sightseeing along the Dixie-Mackay Bar Road. Elk hunting is a major recreational activity in the fall

Timber: Lodgepole pine is the principal species at the higher elevations, with mixed species throughout. There are 2,200 acres of suitable timber land.

Range: There are no grazing allotments.

Minerals and Energy: This roadless area contains 2,400 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Heritage: There are no known cultural resource sites in this area.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Gospel Hump Adjacent to Wilderness Roadless Area.

Table Gospel Hump Adjacent to Wilderness-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Gospel Hump Adjacent to Wilderness-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Gospel Hump Adjacent to Wilderness-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Gospel Hump Adjacent to Wilderness Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0	0
Similar to Backcountry	2,400	0	0	0
Backcountry	0	1,000	2,400	2,400
GFRG	0	1,400	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0	0
Total Acres	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400

Table Gospel Hump Adjacent to Wilderness-2. Potential activities

Gospel Hump Adjacent to Wilderness Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	2,400	2,400	0
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	2,400	2,400	0
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	1,900	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	2,400	1,900	2,400	2,400

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 500 acres would be managed under prescription 10 (lakes, wetlands, riparian), 1,400 under prescription 12 (forested lands – timber production), 400 under prescription 13 (timber production/visual quality), and 100 acres under prescription 17 (timber production/visual quality).

For the 1,400 under prescription 12 roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Any timber activities and road building that occur could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

Timber harvest and associated road building are allowed on the remaining 1,000 acres under prescriptions 10, 13, and 17. While any timber harvest or road building would likely alter roadless characteristics over the short and long term, the impacts would be somewhat lessened by the mitigation measures required under each of these prescriptions. Prescription 10 requires safeguards for riparian habitat, and prescriptions 13 and 17 stipulate mitigation measures to protect visual quality.

No new leasable mineral activities is expected under prescription 10 because surface occupancy is not recommended. There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or associated road building in the other forest plan prescriptions for this roadless area. No phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals. The area does contain 2,400 acres of medium geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 2,400 acres would be available for limited timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 2,400 acres under the Backcountry theme, none of which are in the CPZ.

Since there are no communities or municipal water supply systems adjacent to the Backcountry portion of this roadless area, no roads could be constructed to facilitate fuel reduction projects. In addition, since there are no communities or municipal water supply systems nearby, no timber harvest or associated road building would occur for the purpose of reducing the significant risk of wildland fire effects. Timber cutting could be done from existing roads or using aerial systems throughout all 2,400 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since road construction is not permitted to access new mineral leases.

John Day #852

10,300 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The John Day Roadless Area is located on a high ridge between the Salmon River and Little Slate Creek. The headwaters of Allison Creek and John Day Creek are located within this roadless area. A road corridor on the top of the ridge separates this roadless area from Little Slate Creek Roadless Area to the north. Access is from the north, south, and west on Roads 441, 221, and 263.

The elevation ranges from 3,800 feet at the National Forest boundary to 7,450 feet at John Day Mountain and 7,814 feet at Southwest Butte. Slopes are very steep with hardly any flat benches. This area contains a north-south ridge with perpendicular ridges and draws. On the slopes facing the Salmon River canyon, vegetation runs from nonforested land to an alpine zone. The east side of the main ridge is not as steep as the west, and vegetation is more uniform. South slopes contain mostly grasses with scattered trees at the higher elevations. The north slopes are timbered. The major species are white bark pine, Douglas-fir, and a small amount of ponderosa pine.

The principal topographic features are Southwest Butte and John Day Mountain. John Day, for whom the mountain and creek are named, operated a way station for miners near the mouth of the creek in 1862. The current major use of this area is grazing. The area is also heavily hunted. There is a very scenic view from Road 441 that runs next to the north boundary of this area.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: On the whole, natural processes are intact and operating, although there are heavy impacts on some sites. The thin soils around Southwest Butte and southwest of Nut Basin are locally damaged from off-road vehicle use. These areas still show soil and vegetative impacts from past grazing, although they are not grazed at the present.

Undeveloped Character: Human activities are not far away from this area. The impacts noted above are noticeable, as are off-site intrusions listed below. Roads or logging are visible from nearly all viewpoints.

Opportunities for Experience: Since the area is at or near the top of a ridge, one does not have the opportunity to experience the Solitude of an enclosed drainage.

Manageability: Other than the portion of the western boundary that is also the forest boundary, avoidance of existing roads has been the gilding factor in establishing the perimeter of the area. Managing this area as a wilderness would be difficult due to irregular boundaries and small size. Administrative costs per acre would be high.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: This roadless area overlaps steelhead, Chinook summer salmon summer/fall salmon, and bull trout priority watersheds. Allison Creek and John Day Creek support anadromous fish.

Wildlife: Bald eagles occur in this roadless area.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: A jeep trail runs from Nut Basin to Chair Point via Southwest Butte, causing locally heavy impacts. Off-road vehicles use other parts of the area. Hunter use during the season is moderate to heavy.

Timber: The standing volume of 138 million board feet is mixed species on steep slopes.

Range: There are few trees below 4,500 feet on south slopes and below 3,000 feet on north slopes. This land is primary range. Transitory range is above these elevations. Parts of three grazing allotments are within this roadless area.

Minerals and Energy: This roadless area contains 10,300 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: No State or private lands are in this area.

Heritage: An upland Native American campsite has been discovered in the area. It was probably a late summer or early fall occupation. Various cultural remains have been found at the site.

Disturbances: There is a mistletoe problem in the Douglas-fir, but it is not as severe as on other parts of the Forest. Bark beetles are endemic in the East Fork of John Day Creek.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the John Day Roadless Area. Table John Day-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table John Day-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table John Day-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

John Day Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0	0
Similar to Backcountry	10,300	0	0	0
Backcountry	0	2,000	10,300	10,300
GFRG	0	8,300	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0	0
Total Acres	10,300	10,300	10,300	10,300

Table John Day-2. Potential activities

John Day Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	10,300	10,300	0
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	10,300	10,300	10,300	10,300
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	10,300	10,300	10,300	10,300
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	10,300	10,300	0
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	10,300	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	10,300	10,300	10,300	10,300

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 6,000 acres would be managed under prescription 12 (forested lands- timber production), 200 under prescription 15 (timber production/winter range), 100 acres under prescription 18 (winter range/visual quality), 2,300 acres under prescription 19 (non-forest grasslands), and 1,700 acres under prescription 20 (old-growth). The 2,300 acres under prescription 19 include a mix of nonforested grasslands and low-productivity forests, and have been identified as unsuitable for commercial timber production. However, in the areas that are forested, timber harvest and associated road building are still permitted as a tool to improve wildlife habitat, restore ecosystem structure and function or reduce the risk of wildfire. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes.

For the 6,000 under prescription 12 roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Any timber activities and road building that occur could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term. Timber harvest and associated road building are allowed on the remaining 2,000 acres under prescriptions 15, 18, and 20. While any timber harvest or road building would likely alter roadless characteristics over the short and long term, the impacts would be somewhat lessened by the mitigation measures required under each of these prescriptions. Prescription 15 has requirements to protect winter elk range, prescription 18 requires measures to protect both visual quality and elk winter range, and prescriptions 20 has certain requirements to ensure conservation of old growth forests.

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or associated road building in the forest plan prescriptions for this roadless area. No phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals. The area contains 10,300 acres of high geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 10,300 acres would be available for limited timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 10,300 acres under the Backcountry theme, none of which are in the CPZ. Since there are no communities or municipal water supply systems adjacent to the Backcountry portion of this roadless area, no roads could be constructed to facilitate fuel reduction projects. Timber cutting using existing roads or aerial

systems could be done throughout all 10,300 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since road construction is not permitted to access new mineral leases.

Lick Point #227

6,900 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Lick Point Roadless Area contains Lick Creek and the head of American River. It is between 5,000 and 6,000 feet in elevation, and is completely surrounded by roads.

Meadows are found along the creek bottoms. The rest of the area is rolling and homogeneous. Over half of the area is covered with brushfields. The remaining portions are covered by either patches of old growth mixed with alder glades or stands comprised of various age classes. Lodgepole pine is the main species.

Cattle, horses, elk, and deer use all of the area, especially the meadows. Grazing by these animals causes most of the impacts which are especially heavy near the salt lick at Lick Point and on the trails. About five acres at the lick have been fenced to reduce impacts. There are also semi-permanent exclosures on this range, as well as a number of drift fences. Trails cover the area. Some are not on the Forest Service trail system, but have resulted from game and stock use over the years.

The American River is an anadromous fishery and supports steelhead trout and Chinook summer salmon summer salmon. Rainbow, cutthroat, brook trout, and whitefish are also present. The area is excellent moose range, potential elk summer range, and potential wolf habitat. The meadows along Lick Creek and the American River are very heavily used for calving and calf rearing.

Current major uses include hunting and grazing. One hundred forty-five acres of private land adjoin this area on the south.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Impacts on natural processes are moderate. Trails and streambanks in the area are used by stock and game. Thistles and other non-native plants are present.

Undeveloped Character: Sights, sounds, and smells of grazing animals are present. Fences and exclosures are noticeable. Noise by vehicles on roads is apparent near the edges of the area.

Opportunities for Experience: This is the smallest roadless area on the Nez Perce National Forest. Although vegetation is sometimes dense, both on-site and off-site intrusions seriously restrict the isolation required for a feeling of solitude.

Manageability: There is little diversity in the area, and few challenges are present. Even if one became lost because of the absence of prominent landmarks, roads are located within a few miles in any direction. Roads form a natural boundary around this area. Administrative costs per acre would be high, however, due to the small size of the area and the fact that it does not share a boundary with any other wilderness or roadless area. Due to the relatively narrow shape, the majority of the area is influenced by the surrounding roads.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Native and anadromous fish are found in American River and its tributaries.

Wildlife: Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area. Elk, deer, and moose are the principal big-game species. There is little big-game winter range mostly because of the elevations.

Botanical: Payson's milkvetch (*Astragalus paysonii*) and evergreen kittentail (*Synthyris platycarpa*) two sensitive plant species occur in this roadless area.

Recreation: This roadless area is popular as a place to hunt big game.

Timber: The 105.3 million board feet of timber in the area is predominantly lodgepole pine.

Range: The meadows in this area have been grazed for many years. There are currently two allotments with a combined total of 753 AUMs.

Minerals and Energy: This roadless area contains 6,900 acres of medium geothermal potential.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Lick Point Roadless Area.

Table Lick Point-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Lick Point-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Lick Point-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Lick Point Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule	
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0	
Primitive	0	0	0	0	
Similar to Backcountry	6,900	0	0	0	
Backcountry	0	5,000	6,900	CPZ	2,300
				NonCPZ	4,600
GFRG	0	1,900	0	0	
SAHTS	0	0	0	0	
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0	0	
Total Acres	6,900	6,900	6,900	6,900	

Table Lick Point-2. Potential activities

Lick Point Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	6,900	6,900	2,300*
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	6,900	6,900	6,900	6,900
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	6,900	6,900	6,900	6,900
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	6,900	6,900	2,300*
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	6,900	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	6,900	6,900	6,900	6,900

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 4,600 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ to facilitate hazardous fuels removal, but only if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system.

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 1,100 acres would be managed under prescription 1 (non-forest), 1,900 under prescription 12 (forested lands – timber production), 300 acres under prescription 17 (timber production/visual quality), 1,200 acres under prescription 20 (old-growth), and 2,400 under prescription 21 (old-growth pacific yew).

The 1,100 acres under prescription 1 include a mix of nonforested land and low-productivity forests, and have been identified as unsuitable for commercial timber production. However, in the areas that are forested, timber harvest and associated road building are still permitted as a tool to improve wildlife habitat, restore ecosystem structure and function or reduce the risk of wildfire. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes.

For the 1,900 under prescription 12 roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Any timber activities and road building that occur could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

Timber harvest and associated road building are allowed on the remaining 3,900 acres under prescriptions 17, 20 and 21. While any timber harvest or road building would likely alter roadless characteristics over the short and long term, the impacts would be somewhat lessened by the mitigation measures required under each of these prescriptions. Prescription 18 requires measures to protect visual quality, and prescriptions 20 and 21 have certain requirements to ensure conservation of old growth forests and pacific yew forests, respectively.

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or associated road building in the forest plan prescriptions for this roadless area. No phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals. The area does contain 6,900 acres of high geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 6,900 acres would be available for limited timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 6,900 acres under the Backcountry theme, 2,300 of which are in the CPZ.

Within the 2,300 Backcountry acres that are within the CPZ, timber cutting for hazardous fuel removal would be allowed, and temporary roads could be constructed to facilitate timber harvest if that is the desired tool for hazardous fuel removal. Temporary road construction would likely change roadless characteristics in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber cutting activities would be designed for fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would likely be maintained or enhanced over the long term.

For the 4,600 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ, timber cutting and temporary road construction to facilitate timber harvest could be allowed to reduce hazardous fuels if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system. Since additional conditions would be required, it is likely that temporary road construction for this purpose would be infrequent.

Timber cutting from existing roads, including those constructed for fuel reduction projects, or using aerial systems be done throughout all 6,900 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since road construction is not permitted to access new mineral leases.

Little Slate Creek #851

12,200 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Little Slate Creek Roadless Area and John Day Roadless Area, which are separated by a road corridor, are both located on the divide between the Salmon River and Little Slate Creek. Principal drainages are Van Buren Creek, Little Van Buren Creek, No Business Creek, Waterspout Creek, and Deadhorse Creek. All are part of the Slate Creek drainage. This area is bordered by Slate Creek and Road 354 on the north, and Road 441, which traverses the Slate Point-Nut Basin ridge, on the south and west. Little Slate Creek North Roadless Area was split off from this roadless area during the revision of the Nez Perce Forest Plan, because of development between the two roadless areas.

The elevation ranges from 2,100 feet where Slate Creek crosses the National Forest boundary to 7,370 feet just below Nut Basin. This area has very steep side slopes and tributary draws, with some flat benches along the mid-elevations. Deadhorse Creek is hidden in the middle of the area and has solitude qualities. The area contains many springs and intermittent streams. There is one small lake, Nut Basin, at the head of Van Buren Creek beneath Nut Basin. It is unique in that one would hardly expect to find a lake there. It is about two acres, and deep enough to support a large population of eastern brook trout. Marsh vegetation is present on the shoreline, making the lake hard to fish. This area is almost completely forested. It lies on north to east slopes, or high enough south slopes for the climax vegetation to be trees. The major species is Douglas-fir.

Trail 307, which crosses the area from west to east, is a part of the old miners' route to Florence. Gold was discovered in Florence Basin in the summer of 1861, and by November there were 2,000 miners in the camp. The winter of 1861-62 was one of the coldest in Idaho history, and Van Buren Creek was named after a traveler who froze to death there. The major current uses are grazing and hunting. This is a quality hunting area for elk and deer. This area contains deer and elk summer and winter range.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Other than trails and grazing, the area has been little impacted.

Undeveloped Character: The area itself appears natural. There are many off-site intrusions, however.

Opportunities for Experience: The area offers little opportunity for solitude. It is almost impossible not to notice off-site intrusions such as lookout towers, roads, old clearcuts, and present logging activity from most parts of the area because these impacts are an integral part of it. Although topographic and vegetative screening are moderate over most of the area, there is little diversity and challenge. One lake is present, but it is close to the road and can hardly be called isolated. There are few features that are commonly considered hazardous.

Special areas: Scenic points include Slate Point, Dead Point, and Nut Point.

Manageability: The northern boundary of this area is Slate Creek. The remaining boundary is irregular, drawn mostly to exclude existing roads and timber sale areas. Some parts of it would be hard to locate on the ground with any degree of accuracy.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: This roadless area overlaps steelhead, Chinook summer salmon, and bull trout priority watersheds.

Wildlife: Parts of the area are summer habitat for big game, and other parts are winter range.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are known to occur.

Recreation: Use is light except for hunting. Impacts are light, except along the roaded parts of Slate Creek and Little Slate Creek.

Timber: Almost all parts of the area are timbered with mixed species on steep slopes.

Range: This area is grazed by both cattle and big-game. Primary range is on south slopes below 4,500 feet and on north slopes below 3,000 feet. Transition range is above 4,500 feet and on ridgetops. There are two grazing allotments with a total of 700 AUMs.

Minerals and Energy: This roadless area contains 12,200 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no non-Federal lands in this roadless area.

Heritage: Two upland Native American campsites have been discovered in this area. These sites are high on the ridgetop and were probably late summer to early fall occupations. Various chipped and ground stone artifacts have been found at these sites.

Disturbances: Douglas-fir bark beetles, mistletoe, and small pockets of root rot in the Douglas-fir.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Little Slate Creek Roadless Area. Table Little Slate Creek-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Little Slate Creek-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Little Slate Creek-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Little Slate Creek Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0	0
Similar to Backcountry	12,200	0	0	0
Backcountry	0	3,500	12,200	12,200
GFRG	0	8,700	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0	0
Total Acres	12,200	12,200	12,200	12,200

Table Little Slate Creek-2. Potential activities

Little Slate Creek Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	12,200	12,200	0
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	12,200	12,200	12,200	12,200
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	12,200	12,200	12,200	12,200
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	12,200	12,200	0
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	11,700	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	12,200	11,700	12,200	12,200

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 500 acres would be managed under prescription 10 (lakes, wetlands, riparian), 8,200 under prescription 12 (forested lands - timber production), 700 under prescription 15 (timber production/winter range), 500 acres under prescription 19 (non-forest grasslands), and 2,300 acres under prescription 20 (old-growth).

The 500 acres under prescription 19 include a mix of nonforested grassland and low-productivity forests, and have been identified as unsuitable for commercial timber production. However, in the areas that are forested, timber harvest and associated road building are still permitted as a tool to improve wildlife habitat, restore ecosystem structure and function or reduce the risk of wildfire. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes.

Timber harvest and associated road building are allowed on the 3,500 acres under prescriptions 10, 15, and 20. While any timber harvest or road building would likely alter roadless characteristics over the short and long term, the impacts would be somewhat lessened by the mitigation measures required under each of these prescriptions. Prescription 10 requires safeguards for riparian habitat, prescription 15 stipulates mitigation measures to protect elk winter range, and prescription 20 has certain requirements to ensure old-growth conservation.

For the 8,200 under prescription 12 roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Any timber activities and road building that occur could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

No new leasable mineral activities is expected under prescription 10 because surface occupancy is not recommended. There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or associated road building in the other forest plan prescriptions for this roadless area. No phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals. The area does contain 12,200 acres of

high geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 12,200 acres would be available for limited timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 12,200 acres under the Backcountry theme, none of which are in the CPZ.

Since there are no communities or municipal water supply systems adjacent to the Backcountry portion of this roadless area, no roads could be constructed to facilitate fuel reduction projects. In addition, since there are no communities or municipal water supply systems nearby, no timber harvest or associated road building would occur for the purpose of reducing the significant risk of wildland fire effects. Timber cutting from existing roads or using aerial systems could be done throughout all 12,200 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since road construction is not permitted to access new mineral leases.

Little Slate Creek North #856

5,900 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Little Slate Creek North Roadless Area was split from the Little Slate Creek Roadless Area during revision of the Nez Perce Forest Plan due to development. The Little Slate Creek North Roadless Area and the North Fork of Slate Creek Roadless Area are separated by a road corridor located along Slate Creek. Principal drainages are Little Van Buren Creek, No Business Creek, and Waterspout Creek. All are part of the Slate Creek drainage. This roadless area is bordered by Slate Creek and Road 354 on the north, Road 9303 and Road 441 on the southwest.

The elevation ranges from 2,100 at Slate Creek where it meets the Forest boundary to 7,291 feet at Slate Point. The area contains very steep side slopes and tributary draws.

The major current uses are grazing and mining. The area is generally too steep for hunting. This area is also winter range for deer and elk.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: the area has not been significantly impacted.

Undeveloped Character: Except for the roads near the boundaries, the area would appear natural to most people.

Opportunities for Experience: Topographic and vegetative screening is moderate. There are few drainages and a few miles of trail available for extensive travel. Management activities are present on almost every side. Primitive recreation opportunity is moderate. Although there is some diversity in the Slate Creek breaks and the area is too small for a significant range of opportunity. Cliffs and bluffs on the breaks would be challenges.

Manageability: The northern boundary of this area is Slate Creek. The remaining boundary is irregular, drawn mostly to exclude existing roads and timber sale areas. Some parts of it would be hard to locate on the ground with any degree of accuracy.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Slate Creek is an anadromous stream. Some of the creeks contain steelhead and rainbow trout. This roadless area overlaps steelhead, Chinook salmon, and bull trout priority watersheds.

Wildlife: The usual big-game species, including moose, are present. This area is both summer and winter range for deer and elk. Introduced bird species such as turkeys and chukars are also present, as well as Mountain quail, a Region 1 sensitive species.

Botanical: A 1,200 acres Research Natural Area is located in No Business Creek. Maidenhair fern grows in this drainage, which is near the southern extreme of this plant's range.

Recreation: The trail network in the area is little used except by hunters.

Timber: Almost all parts of the area are timbered (approximately 75 percent) with mixed species on steep slopes.

Range: No grazing is permitted in this area.

Minerals and Energy: This roadless area contains 5,900 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no non-Federal lands in this roadless area.

Heritage: The area probably had late summer to early fall occupations by Native Americans.

Disturbances: There is a problem with Douglas-fir' bark beetles, mistletoe, and small pockets of root rot in the Douglas-fir.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Little Slate Creek North Roadless Area.

Table Little Slate Creek North-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Little Slate Creek North-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Little Slate Creek North-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Little Slate Creek North Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule	
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0		0
Primitive	0	0	0		0
Similar to Backcountry	5,900	0	0		0
Backcountry	0	2,800	4,700	CPZ	400
				NonCPZ	4,300
GFRG	0	1,900	0		0
SAHTS	0	0	0		0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	1,200*	1,200*		1,200*
Total Acres	5,900	5,900	5,900		5,900

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the Little Slate Creek North Roadless Area is RNA. For further information on this designation, see the Nez Perce National Forest LRMP.

Table Little Slate Creek North-2. Potential activities

Little Slate Creek North Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	4,700	4,700	400*
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	5,900	4,700	4,700	4,700
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	5,900	4,700	4,700	4,700
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	4,700	4,700	400*
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	4,600	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	5,900	4,600	4,700	4,700

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 4,300 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ to facilitate hazardous fuels removal, but only if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system.

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 100 acres would be managed under prescription 10 (lakes, wetlands, riparian), 1,900 under prescription 12 (forested lands – timber production), 1,100 under prescription 15 (timber production/winter range), 1,100 acres under prescription 16 (Winter range), and 500 acres under prescription 20 (old-growth).

Timber harvest and associated road building are allowed on the 2,800 acres under prescriptions 10, 15, 16 and 20. While any timber harvest or road building would likely alter roadless characteristics over the short and long term, the impacts would be somewhat lessened by the mitigation measures required under each of these prescriptions. Prescription 10 requires safeguards for riparian habitat, prescriptions 15 and 16 stipulate mitigation measures to protect elk winter range, and prescription 20 has certain requirements to ensure old-growth conservation.

For the 1,900 under prescription 12 roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Any timber activities and road building that occur could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

No new leasable mineral activities is expected under prescription 10 because surface occupancy is not recommended. There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or associated road building in the other forest plan prescriptions for this roadless area. No phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals. The area does contain 5,900 acres of high geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 4,700 acres would be available for limited timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 4,700 acres under the Backcountry theme, 400 of which are in the CPZ. Within the 400 Backcountry acres that are within the CPZ, timber cutting for hazardous fuel removal would be allowed, and temporary roads could be constructed to facilitate timber harvest if that is the desired tool for hazardous fuel removal. Temporary road construction would likely change roadless characteristics in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber cutting activities would be designed for fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would likely be maintained or enhanced over the long term.

For the 4,300 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ, timber cutting and temporary road construction to facilitate timber harvest could be allowed to reduce hazardous fuels if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system. Since additional conditions would be required, it is likely that temporary road construction for this purpose would be infrequent. Timber

cutting from existing roads, including those constructed for fuel reduction projects, or using aerial systems could be done throughout all 4,700 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since road construction is not permitted to access new mineral leases.

Mallard #847**19,600 Acres****OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION**

The Mallard Roadless Area is immediately above the Salmon River breaks, and includes most of Big Mallard Creek. The Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness borders this area on the south and east, the Nez Perce trail is part of the north boundary, and roads form most of the boundary on the west and north.

Access is via Roads 421, 468, and 9550. Road 468 follows the route of the Nez Perce Trail, which was used long before Lewis and Clark as a passage over the Bitterroot Range.

The Mallard Roadless Area consists of rolling hills, lightly to moderately dissected, with fairly low stream gradients until nearing the Salmon River breaks. Big Mallard Creek is the principal drainage. Elevation ranges from 5,200 feet at the East Fork of Mallard Creek to 7,648 feet at Boston Mountain. There is evidence of glaciation in the northeast portion of the roadless area.

The ecosystem type ranges from Engelmann spruce-alpine fir in the wet areas and draws in the upper Slide and Mallard Creek areas to ponderosa pine-Douglas-fir in the lower Mallard and Cup Creek areas. Lodgepole pine dominates dryer ridges and exposed aspects across the entire roadless area, and high mountain meadows occupy sites along Big Mallard Creek.

This area contains a lot of lodgepole pine over 80 years old and greater than 8 inches in diameter, growing at elevations under 6,200 feet. These trees are especially vulnerable to attacks by mountain pine beetles, a species that has already caused widespread damage to the timber resource in nearby drainages.

Recreation uses include fishing, hunting, camping, horseback riding, hiking, and snowmobiling. One outfitter operates in the area. The area is also used for grazing in the meadows.

The Cook Ranch consisting of two adjoining homesteads in Big Mallard Meadows patented in 1919 and 1924 is located about a mile inside the area. There are four buildings on this 141-acre site. An airport was built in the nearby meadow some years ago. An old Jeep trail runs from Road 421 to the ranch, but no motorized traffic is allowed on it.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Except for the buildings, fences, and airport at the Cook Ranch, the area would appear natural to most people.

Undeveloped Character: Diversity and challenge are outstanding when this area is taken together with the adjoining existing wilderness. Developed recreation facilities are limited to the Cook Ranch, a private facility.

Opportunities for Experience: When this area is taken together with the adjacent Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness, opportunities for solitude are outstanding, even though there are off-site intrusions near the boundary in the forms of roads, and on-site intrusions caused by airplanes and other activities at the Cook Ranch.

Manageability: This roadless area could be managed as a part of the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness at about the same cost per acre as that wilderness.

The Cook Ranch would present a problem in wilderness administration. If boundaries were adjusted to exclude it, the size of the area would be considerably reduced.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Big Mallard Creek does not contain anadromous fish: a waterfall in the lower part of the creek blocks fish passage. The creek does contain a population of cutthroat, rainbow, and brook trout. This roadless area overlaps steelhead, Chinook summer salmon, and bull trout priority watersheds.

Wildlife: The area is elk, deer, and moose summer range, and potential gray wolf habitat. It also contains potential nesting habitat for peregrine falcons. Wolverine and fisher, and northern goshawk, three toed woodpecker, and black-backed woodpeckers, all Region 1 sensitive species occur in this roadless area.

Botanical: Payson’s milkvetch (*Astragalus paysonii*), a sensitive plant species occurs in this roadless area.

Recreation: Recreation activity in this area is associated mainly with big-game hunting, with some fleshing in the summer.

Timber: Timber is predominantly lodgepole pine, except for areas adjacent to the wilderness boundary which contain ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir. Spruce is found in the Slide Creek area.

Range: Parts of two allotments lie within this area. Cattle are grazed in this area under term permit.

Minerals and Energy: This roadless area contains 19,600 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: The Cook Ranch (HES 241 & 242) is located in the west central part of the area.

Heritage: There are no known cultural resource sites in the area.

Disturbances: Most of the Engelmann spruce-alpine fir component is mature to overmature, with increasing mortality rates. The 80-year-old lodgepole pine is vulnerable to attacks by the mountain pine beetle. Widespread damage has already occurred to the timber resource in nearby drainages. There is also some root rot activity in the southern part of the area.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Mallard Roadless Area.

Table Mallard-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Mallard-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Mallard-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Mallard Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule	
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0	
Primitive	0	0	0	0	
Similar to Backcountry	19,600	0	0	0	
Backcountry	0	12,700	19,600	CPZ	3,600
				NonCPZ	16,000
GFRG	0	6,900	0	0	
SAHTS	0	0	0	0	
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0	0	
Total Acres	19,600	19,600	19,600	19,600	

Table Mallard-2. Potential activities

Mallard Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	19,600	19,600	3,600*
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	19,600	19,600	19,600	19,600
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	19,600	19,600	19,600	19,600
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	19,600	19,600	3,600*
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	18,600	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	19,600	18,600	19,600	19,600

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 16,000 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ to facilitate hazardous fuels removal, but only if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system.

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 1,000 acres would be managed under prescription 10 (lakes, wetlands, riparian), 6,900 under prescription 12 (forested lands - timber production), 11,300 acres under prescription 17 (timber production/visual quality), and 400 acres under prescription 20 (old-growth).

Timber harvest and associated road building are allowed on the 12,700 acres under prescriptions 10, 17 and 20. While any timber harvest or road building would likely alter roadless characteristics over the short and long term, the impacts would be somewhat lessened by the mitigation measures required under each of these prescriptions. Prescription 10 requires safeguards for riparian habitat, prescription 17 stipulates mitigation measures to protect visual quality, and prescription 20 has certain requirements to ensure old-growth conservation.

For the 6,900 under prescription 12 roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Any timber activities and road building that occur could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

No new leasable mineral activities is expected under prescription 10 because surface occupancy is not recommended. There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or associated road building in the other forest plan prescriptions for this roadless area. No phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals. The area does contain 19,600 acres of high geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 19,600 acres would be available for limited timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless

characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 19,600 acres under the Backcountry theme, 3,600 of which are in the CPZ.

Within the 3,600 Backcountry acres that are within the CPZ, timber cutting for hazardous fuel removal would be allowed, and temporary roads could be constructed to facilitate timber harvest if that is the desired tool for hazardous fuel removal. Temporary road construction would likely change roadless characteristics in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber cutting activities would be designed for fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would likely be maintained or enhanced over the long term.

For the 16,000 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ, timber cutting and temporary road construction to facilitate timber harvest could be allowed to reduce hazardous fuels if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system. Since additional conditions would be required, it is likely that temporary road construction for this purpose would be infrequent.

Timber cutting from existing roads, including those constructed for fuel reduction projects, or using aerial systems could be done throughout all 19,600 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since road construction is not permitted to access new mineral leases.

North Fork Slate Creek #850

10,400 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

Slate Creek and Road 354 from the forest boundary upstream to the North Fork of Slate Creek Campground make up the southern boundary of the North Fork Slate Creek Roadless Area. The National Forest boundary is the area's western boundary. Approximately 2/3 of the northern and eastern sides are bordered by Roads 463, 243, and 398. The remaining boundary is drawn to eliminate existing and proposed roads and timber harvest sites. Principal streams are the head of McKenzie Creek which drains into the Salmon River, and the North Fork of Slate Creek. Exposures are west, south, and southwest. Road access is principally by way of Roads 354 and 463.

The elevation ranges from 2,100 at Slate Creek where it meets the forest boundary to 6,480 feet at Dairy Mountain. The area contains very steep side slopes and tributary draws with some flat benches in the northeastern portion. The western and southern portions are open grass slopes with sparse timber, the northern portion below Dairy Mountain is typical rimrock, and the remainder is timbered hillsides. Grasslands, scattered timber, and rimrock cover the steep south and west slopes in the western half of this area. The east half of the area has more timber cover, with scattered grassy openings.

This roadless area was important in early Idaho history. In the fall of 1811, 11 members of the Wilson Price Hunt expedition, led by Donald McKenzie, passed the mouth of what is now McKenzie Creek. The river route was also used by miners in the 1860s. The major current uses are grazing and mining. The area is generally too steep for hunting. This area is also winter range for deer and elk.

About 110 acres of private property is located in the southwest portion of the area next to Hurley Creek. A road runs about one mile into the area.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Other than the private property, the road to the private property, and a logged area near it, the area has not been significantly impacted.

Undeveloped Character: Except for the above impacts, the area would appear natural to most people.

Opportunities for Experience: Topographic and vegetative screening is moderate. There are a few drainages and a few miles of trail available for extensive travel. Management activities are present on almost every side. Primitive recreation opportunity is moderate. Although there is some diversity in the Slate Creek and Salmon River breaks and the ridge tops around the North Fork of Slate Creek, the area is too small for a significant range of opportunity. Cliffs and bluffs on the breaks would be challenges.

Manageability: The boundary is well defined by roads on every side except the west, which borders private land. Since 1979, at least 1,700 acres have been removed from this area to account for timber sales.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Slate Creek is an anadromous stream. Some of the creeks contain steelhead and rainbow trout. This roadless area overlaps steelhead, Chinook summer salmon summer/fall salmon, and bull trout priority watersheds.

Wildlife: The usual big-game species, including moose, are present. This roadless area is both summer and winter range for deer and elk. Introduced bird species such as turkeys and chukars are also present, as well as pileated woodpeckers a Region 1 sensitive species.

Botanical: Broad-fruit mariposa (*Calochortus nitidus*) a sensitive plant species occurs in this roadless area.

Recreation: The trail network in the area is little used except by hunters and grazing permittees.

Timber: Most of the timber in this area is in the North Fork of Slate Creek.

Range: One grazing allotment exists. The impacts are light.

Minerals and Energy: This roadless area contains 10,400 acres of high geothermal potential.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the North Fork Slate Creek Roadless Area. Table North Fork Slate Creek-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table North Fork Slate Creek-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table North Fork Slate Creek-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

North Fork Slate Creek Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0	0
Similar to Backcountry	10,400	0	0	0
Backcountry	0	3,800	10,400	10,400
GFRG	0	6,600	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0	0
Total Acres	10,400	10,400	10,400	10,400

Table North Fork Slate Creek-2. Potential activities

North Fork Slate Creek Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	10,400	10,400	0
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	10,400	10,400	10,400	10,400
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	10,400	10,400	10,400	10,400
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	10,400	10,400	0
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	10,200	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	10,400	10,200	10,400	10,400

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 400 acres would be managed under prescription 1 (non-forest), 200 under prescription 10 (lakes, wetlands, riparian), 4,700 under prescription 12 (forested lands – timber production), 100 under prescription 15 (timber production/winter range), 1,700 under prescription 16 (Winter range), 1,900 acres under prescription 19 (non-forest grasslands), and 1,400 acres under prescription 20 (old-growth).

The 2,300 acres under prescriptions 1 and 19 include a mix of nonforested land and low-productivity forests, and have been identified as unsuitable for commercial timber production. However, in the areas that are forested, timber harvest and associated road building are still permitted as a tool to improve wildlife habitat, restore ecosystem structure and function or reduce the risk of wildfire. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes.

For the 4,700 under prescription 12 roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Any timber activities and road building that occur could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term. Timber harvest and associated road building are allowed on the remaining 3,400 acres under prescriptions 10, 15, 16 and 20. While any timber harvest or road building would likely alter roadless characteristics over the short and long term, the impacts would be somewhat lessened by the mitigation measures required under each of these prescriptions. Prescription 10 requires safeguards for riparian habitat, prescriptions 15 and 16 both stipulate mitigation measures to protect elk winter range, and prescription 20 has certain requirements to ensure old-growth conservation.

No new leasable mineral activities is expected under prescription 10 because surface occupancy is not recommended. There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or associated road building in the other forest plan prescriptions for this roadless area. No phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals. The area does contain 10,400 acres of high geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 10,400 acres would be available for limited timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 10,400 acres under the Backcountry theme, none of which are in the CPZ. Since there are no communities or municipal water supply systems adjacent to the Backcountry portion of this roadless area, no roads could be constructed to facilitate fuel reduction projects. In addition, since there are no communities or municipal water supply systems nearby, no timber harvest or associated road building would occur for the purpose of reducing the significant risk of wildland fire effects. Timber cutting could be done throughout all 10,400 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. No roads would be constructed to support these activities because there are no communities or municipal water supply systems near the Backcountry theme. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since road construction is not permitted to access new mineral leases.

O'Hara-Falls Creek #226

33,200 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The O'Hara-Falls Creek Roadless Area contains all of the O'Hara Creek drainage and the southside breaks of the Selway River for about 10 miles upstream from the mouth of O'Hara Creek. The name of this area is somewhat misleading, since the major part of Falls Creek is no longer included. The area is almost completely surrounded by roads. Principal access is by Road 651, Road 464, and Road 356.

Topography is fairly typical of the lower Selway country - steep slopes, but not highly dissected. Elevations range from about 1,600 feet on the Selway River to 6,056 feet at West Fork Point and 6,185 feet at Iron Mountain.

Vegetation over most of the area is heavy, but the country opens up near the top of Iron Mountain. The west side of O'Hara Creek is heavily timbered with mixed species. Cedar is common in the Creek bottom and lodgepole pine prevails on the ridge tops. On the east side of the area, Saddle Ridge has dense brushfields which are the result of past fires.

A walk up the trail along O'Hara Creek reveals a constantly changing watercourse. Small clearings or meadows are found along the first few miles.

Large, blackened cedar snags, the result of past fires, are also found in the area. From Saddle Creek on, the trail becomes difficult to find. The tread is almost gone and in some of the wet, shady draws, the ferns are often over the hiker's head. The middle section of the Creek cascades through a steep, rocky gorge, with waterfalls and pools. The canyon opens up in the upper section of the Creek where there are meadows and beaver ponds. If one attempts to walk up the West Fork from its confluence with the main Creek, it is necessary to climb over tall bluffs.

Major current uses of this area include hiking, hunting, big-game winter range, and outfitter and guide businesses.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Long-term ecological processes are operating with only low impacts from development activities on lands surrounding the area. The trails are generally so bad that in another 10 years without maintenance, natural processes will take over. A few non-indigenous plants will probably remain, however, as the result of heavy stock use on the trails in past years.

In the creek bottom, the area appears almost completely natural, except for the trail and a few sections of old telephone wire that were never picked up. In the Iron Mountain vicinity, there are some old mining sink holes which are now almost completely grown over. Most people would not notice them.

Opportunities for Experience: At 33,200 acres, O'Hara-Falls Creek Roadless Area offers a moderate potential for solitude. Topographic and vegetative screening range from moderate to high. The area includes almost all of the O'Hara Creek drainage, one of the largest on the lower Selway, and opportunities for solitude are highest in and near the stream bottoms.

The Selway River Road is visible from about half of the Selway Face portion of the area, and the Hamby Road is visible from other parts. A telephone microwave relay and a Forest Service radio remote station atop Iron Mountain are visible from some parts of the area. Potential for primitive recreation opportunity is limited. Although the area is very diverse in plants, it is less so in fish, wildlife, and terrain. There are no lakes. Following the trails is often a challenge, as is wading O'Hara Creek in high water. There are few dominant visual features.

Special Features: Key attractions of this area include Iron Mountain, water falls on Island Creek, the 2,900 acre Selway Wild and Scenic River, and a Research Natural Area. All of the 6,600-acre O'Hara Research

Natural Area, established in 1980, is contained within this roadless area. Three rare plant species and one threatened species have been located in this Research Natural Area.

Manageability: About half of the boundary follows roads, trails, and the Selway River. Some of the remainder, drawn around existing and past timber sale areas, would be difficult to establish on the ground.

The portion of this area that is most unique is already being managed as a Research Natural Area and, as such, must be protected against activities which modify ecological processes. Logging is prohibited, and recreation is discouraged. Roads are not permitted unless they contribute to Research Natural Area objectives. Unique scenic qualities of the Selway Face are protected under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The O'Hara Creek fishery is typical of Selway tributaries, with anadromous fish throughout and a few natives in the head of the creek. Like many other streams in the Selway country, O'Hara Creek contains eastern brook trout in the headwaters. These were planted long ago.

Wildlife: The usual big game species -- deer, elk, bear, and moose -- inhabit the area. Hunting pressure is light because of difficult access over existing trails. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Botanical: Payson's milkvetch (*Astragalus paysonii*), Constance's bittercress (*Cardamine constancei*), Pacific dogwood (*Cornus nutallii*), clustered lady's-slipper (*Cypripedium fasciculatum*), evergreen kittentail (*Synthyris platycarpa*) all sensitive plant species occur in this roadless area.

Recreation: The O'Hara Creek trailhead is located four miles up Road 651. This trail, once a mainline route, is now in very poor condition, but a few hunters and fishermen use it each year. The other trails in the area get even less use. A full-service, 34-unit campground is located at O'Hara Bar, just outside of the roadless area, but visitors here seldom venture far inside the area. There are many fishermen and floaters on the Selway River in the summer, but these people also never get very far into the roadless area.

Timber: Estimated standing volume is 309 million board feet, but part of this is in the Research Natural Area, as are approximately 6,500 of the 30,000 tentatively suitable acres.

Range: A grazing allotment in the Iron Mountain vicinity was discontinued in 1970 due to overuse, and natural processes are slowly being restored.

Minerals and Energy: Iron Mountain, the highest point in the area, is evidently composed of some kind of magnetic iron, because lightning strikes there often during thunderstorms. There has been some past mining activity in the Iron Mountain vicinity and there are currently is unpatented claims in the area. Current mineral potential is low. This roadless area contains 33,200 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: The O'Hara drainage is unique. This fact was recognized when the Chief of the Forest Service established a 6,600-acre Research Natural Area there in 1980, the first such area established on the Nez Perce National Forest. According to the Research Natural Area establishment report, "O'Hara Creek has been selected because it has the best known representation of several characteristics of the lower Lochsa-Selway area, is accessible, and presents minimal conflicts with other uses. The nearby Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness includes some of the individual values found in O'Hara Creek; however, a comparable area within the wilderness has not been found and access is very limited."

A protected 1/4-mile corridor immediately adjacent to the Selway River has been established under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and everything that can be seen from the river is managed to retain the present visual qualities.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the O’Hara-Falls Creek Roadless Area. Table O’Hara-Falls Creek-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table O’Hara-Falls Creek-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table O’Hara-Falls Creek-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

O’Hara-Falls Creek Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0	0
Similar to Backcountry	33,200	0	0	0
Backcountry	0	20,300	23,800	23,800
GFRG	0	3,500	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	9,400*	9,400*	9,400*
Total Acres	33,200	33,200	33,200	33,200

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the O’Hara-Falls Creek Roadless Area is 6,500 acres as RNA and 2,900 as WSR. For further information on this designation, see the Nez Perce National Forest LRMP.

Table O’Hara-Falls Creek-2. Potential activities

O’Hara-Falls Creek Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	23,800	23,800	0
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	33,200	23,800	23,800	23,800
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	33,200	23,800	23,800	23,800
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	23,800	23,800	0
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	23,300	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	33,200	23,300	23,800	23,800

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 300 acres would be managed under prescription 1 (non-forest), 500 acres under prescription 10 (lakes, wetlands, riparian), 3,500 acres under prescription 12 (forested lands – timber production), 500 acres under prescription 13 (timber production/visual quality), 3,700 acres under prescription 15 (timber production/winter range), 7,500 acres under prescription 16 (winter range), 400 acres under prescription 17 (timber production/visual

quality), 300 acres under prescription 18 (winter range/visual quality), 2,700 acres under prescription 20 (old-growth), and 4,400 under prescription 21 (old-growth pacific yew).

The 300 acres under prescription 1 includes a mix of nonforested land and low-productivity forests, and have been identified as unsuitable for commercial timber production. However, in the areas that are forested, timber harvest and associated road building are still permitted as a tool to improve wildlife habitat, restore ecosystem structure and function or reduce the risk of wildfire. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. For the 3,500 acres under prescription 12 roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Any timber activities and road building that occur could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

Timber harvest and associated road building are allowed on the remaining 20,000 acres under prescriptions 10, 13, 15, 16 17, 18, 20 and 21. While any timber harvest or road building would likely alter roadless characteristics over the short and long term, the impacts would be somewhat lessened by the mitigation measures required under each of these prescriptions. Prescription 10 requires safeguards for riparian habitat, prescriptions 13 and 17 and 18 require protections to protect visual quality, prescriptions 15, 16 and 18 stipulate mitigation measures to protect elk winter range, prescription 20 has certain requirements to ensure old-growth conservation, and prescription 21 has requirements to safeguard pacific yew habitat.

No new leasable mineral activities is expected under prescription 10 because surface occupancy is not recommended. There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or associated road building in the other forest plan prescriptions for this roadless area. No phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals. The area does contain 33,200 acres of high geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 23,800 acres would be available for limited timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 23,800 acres under the Backcountry theme, none of which are in the CPZ. Since there are no communities or municipal water supply systems adjacent to the Backcountry portion of this roadless area, no roads could be constructed to facilitate fuel reduction projects. In addition, since there are no communities or municipal water supply systems nearby, no timber harvest or associated road building would occur for the purpose of reducing the significant risk of wildland fire effects. Timber cutting from existing roads, including those constructed for fuel reduction projects, or using aerial systems could be done throughout all 23,800 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function,

provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since road construction is not permitted to access new mineral leases.

Rackliff-Gedney #841**53,600 Acres Nez Perce****36,400 Acres Clearwater****90,000 Acres Total****OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION**

Rackliff-Gedney Roadless Area is generally the lands between the Lochsa and Selway Rivers from their confluence eastward to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness boundary. The ridgetop that separates the drainages is also the boundary between the Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests.

The area's northern boundary is the Lochsa River, and the southern boundary is located 1/4 mile above the Selway River. This river corridor, established under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, contains the Selway River road, several parcels of private property, Forest Service facilities, and numerous recreational developments. Although both the Lochsa and Selway are classified rivers, only the Lochsa corridor is included in the roadless area because there is very little development there.

Coolwater Road 317, an unsurfaced, primitive road built in the 1930s, traverses about two-thirds of the boundary between the Forests, and deadends at Roundtop Mountain -- 16 miles from the Selway River. This road furnishes access from the west. Fog Mountain Road 319 enters the area from the south and deadends at Big Fog Saddle, 13 miles from the Selway River. Both are routes to Selway Bitterroot Wilderness trailheads. U.S. Highway 12 parallels the northern boundary of the area across the Lochsa River. A pack bridge at Split Creek furnishes access from the North.

Slopes are steep throughout and the country is rugged. Such topographical features as Knife Edge Ridge are appropriately named. The river canyons range from 1,500 to 1,900 feet in elevation, and the highest point in the area, Coolwater Lookout, is 6,926 feet.

Vegetation in the area is largely a result of past wildfires. Although trees have reestablished themselves on some sites, much of the area consists of extensive brushfields with islands of unburned trees and snags. Mixed conifer species occupy the lower elevations, and brush and meadows the upper elevations.

Uses of the roadless area include hunting, fishing, hiking, sightseeing, horseback riding, berry picking, outfitter and guide services, and grazing.

There are many other special features of the roadless area including Native American religious sites and trails, a sheep drive trail, a grave site, the Boyd Glover Roundtop National Recreation Trail, high mountain lakes, bald eagle and osprey in the river corridors, and brushfields from the 1934 Pete King fire with excellent elk habitat (both elk summer and winter range) and an elk herd. Scenic landmarks include Coolwater Ridge and Big Fog Saddle.

The parts of the roadless area near Andy's Lake, Coolwater Lake, and Fire Lake have been glaciated, and contain landforms and Cirque basins commonly found in the adjoining wilderness.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Except for the roads and a few trails, man's activities have had small impact on natural processes in the area. Most of the trails are little used and receive little maintenance. Some, however, are heavily used by stock during the hunting seasons and erosion is locally severe.

Parts of the brushfields have been broadcast burned in order to improve big-game forage. Although these projects were begun in the 1960s, only the most recent burns would show effects apparent to untrained observers.

Some physical evidence of placer mining around the turn of the century can be found at China Flat on the Lochsa River near the mouth of Kerr Creek.

There is evidence of past logging activity in almost all major drainages on the Lochsa side of the area, and some on the Selway side. This logging was mostly for cedar products - poles, posts, and shakes. Remnants of old flumes still exist along the Lochsa.

In the early 1960s, erosion became a major problem on the steep southern slopes just below Coolwater Lookout. All grazing allotments were closed, and a bulldozer was brought in to terrace the hillside. These trenches are now revegetated. Other impacts are located near the roads, and are not extensive. Overall, less than 15 percent of the area is impacted.

Undeveloped Character: Although the appearance of the area has been altered by 20th century wildfires, this is probably not an impact that is apparent to most visitors -- there is little recent evidence of fire. Impacts on apparent naturalness are caused mainly by facilities and activities along the roads.

A short spur road leads from Coolwater Road to Idaho Point. A snow-measuring installation owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is located along this road. A television receiving installation with antennas and a small block house is located near the Idaho Point Junction. There is a short spur road at Remount that leads to an outfitter camp, which is occupied during the summer and fall. Coolwater Lookout is located on the highest pinnacle in the area, and is visible from most of the higher elevations. Trenches dug by bulldozers in the early 1960s to control erosion below the lookout are still visible.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunities for solitude vary throughout the area. Traffic noise from U.S. Highway 12 is apparent in many parts of the Lochsa face, and the highway is visible from much of it. The view from the Coolwater ridgetop gives one an impression of vastness, especially on a clear day or clear night, but there are also intrusions. Although the Coolwater Road receives light use much of the year, traffic is heavy during the hunting season.

The mid-slope areas, especially those in the larger drainages, offer the highest opportunities for solitude. Topographic and vegetative screening is highest here, and few off-site intrusions are visible, especially in the stream bottoms, away from the ridgetop trails.

Overall, primitive recreation opportunities are somewhat limited because of the roads entering the area, but they exist nonetheless. Topographic and vegetative cover is significant over much of the area, and trails tend to concentrate visitors on ridgetops. The area is not without challenge and risk, there are cliffs and very steep slopes. Cross-country travel is often difficult; and it is sometimes a challenge to follow the trails. Hunters are injured or die in this area and in the nearby wilderness nearly every year. The area adjoins the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness on the east, offering an additional million acres of solitude and primitive recreation opportunity.

Special Features: About 100 acres of the Lochsa Research Natural Area are located in this roadless area. The Research Natural Area also is within the 5,600 acre designated Wild and Scenic River Corridor.

Manageability: For the most part, the boundaries follow well-defined topographical features. Some surveying and marking might be necessary to establish a wilderness boundary along the private property on the west and south sides. Boundaries would probably have to be adjusted near the roads in this area to allow for some activities using motorized equipment.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The area contains several streams on both the Lochsa and Selway sides of the divide that are potential spawning and rearing habitat for anadromous and native fish. These streams contain populations of both. All of the smaller streams contain fish, but few are important fisheries.

Wildlife: The brushfields in the area supply browse for elk and other big-game species. Elk populations have declined from those once found; one reason is that much of the vegetation has grown too high to furnish quality browse for the animals. In recent years, a modest program of prescribed burning has been conducted in an attempt to encourage new vegetation. The area provides habitat for elk, mule and whitetail deer, black bear, moose, mountain goat, fisher, and cougar. High-quality elk summer range is

found at the mid and high elevations, and the lower elevations are important winter range. Glover Ridge, a flat, open ridge on the east side of the area, is a major elk-calving site. Although bald eagle and osprey are found mainly in the river corridor, they are active in lower parts of the area as well. The entire area is potential wolf, lynx, and grizzly bear habitat. Northern flicker, pileated woodpecker, hairy woodpecker, red-naped sapsucker, Williamson's sapsucker, and downy woodpecker occur in this roadless area.

Botanical: Payson's milkvetch (*Astragalus paysonii*), lance-leaved moonwort (*Botrychium lanceolatum* var. *lanceolatum*), Northern moonwort (*Botrychium pinnatum*), Constance's bittercress (*Cardamine constancei*), Pacific dogwood (*Cornus nuttallii*), Daubenmire's dasynotus (*Dasynotus daubenmirei*), clustered ladyslipper (*Cypripedium fasciculatum*), and evergreen kittentail (*Synthyris platycarpa*), all sensitive plant species occur in this roadless area.

Recreation: Travelers driving U.S. Highway 12 consider the part of the area visible from the highway as pleasant scenery. The highway is a major recreational route. Hunting, berry picking, and sightseeing are the principal uses of the area; hunting is the most important. Commercial outfitters have base camps and stock facilities in the area, and many hunters bring in their own pack and saddle stock during the hunting seasons.

Access from U.S. Highway 12 is limited to several foot and horse trails crossing the river. There is a pack bridge at the Split Creek trailhead, but other river crossings are limited to low-water fords. A road also follows the southern boundary of the area. Although at one time or another trails were built up almost every southside ridge from the river to the ridgetop, only a few are now maintained, and use is light. A National Recreation Trail has been established on the south side, but it is steep and hard to find in places, and is thus suitable only for the hardest.

The main access route is Coolwater Road 317, which enters the area from the West and bisects it for 16 miles. It is not surfaced and becomes difficult to traverse in years of heavy rain and snow during hunting seasons. It is usually impossible to drive to the end of this road before July 4 because of snow.

Timber: Tree species in the area include western redcedar, larch, Douglas-fir, grand fir, ponderosa pine, and western white pine. At the higher elevations, lodgepole pine, subalpine fir, and Engelmann spruce are found. Scattered whitebark pine stands are located along the ridgetop.

Range: The only active grazing allotment in Rackliff-Gedney is also located on and around Glover Ridge.

Minerals and Energy: There is one mining claim in the area, on an alluvial terrace near the mouth of Kerr Creek, known as China Flat. Some minor hand tool exploration has been undertaken there in recent years. This roadless area contains 90,000 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no non-Federal lands in this roadless area.

Heritage: Coolwater Ridge, Knife Edge Ridge, and Ridgetop Trail 3A into the wilderness were used by both prehistoric peoples and by Native Americans during historic times. Artifacts have been found on the ridgetops, and historic records have established the Coolwater Ridge route as a major avenue into the high country to the east. There is at least one marked grave in the area.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Rackliff-Gedney Roadless Area.

Table Rackliff-Gedney-1a-c displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Rackliff-Gedney-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Rackliff-Gedney-1a. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative (Nez Perce)

Rackliff-Gedney Management Theme Nez Perce	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0	0
Similar to Backcountry	53,600	0	0	0
Backcountry	0	51,900	51,900	51,900
GFRG	0	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	1,700*	1,700*	1,700*
Total Acres	53,600	53,600	53,600	53,600

**The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the Nez Perce portion of the Rackliff-Gedney Roadless Area is WSR. For further information on this designation, see the Nez Perce National Forest LRMP.*

Table Rackliff-Gedney-1b. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative (Clearwater)

Rackliff-Gedney Management Theme Clearwater	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0
Primitive	0	5,700	0	0
Similar to Backcountry	36,400	0	0	0
Backcountry	0	26,800	32,500	32,500
GFRG	0	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	3,900*	3,900*	3,900*
Total Acres	36,400	36,400	36,400	36,400

**The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the Clearwater portion of the Rackliff-Gedney Roadless Area is 100 acres as both RNA and WSR and 3,800 acres as WSR. For further information on this designation, see the Clearwater National Forest LRMP.*

Table Rackliff-Gedney-1c. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative (Total)

Rackliff-Gedney Management Theme Total	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0
Primitive	0	5,700	0	0
Similar to Backcountry	90,000	0	0	0
Backcountry	0	78,700	84,400	84,400
GFRG	0	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	5,600	5,600	5,600
Total Acres	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000

Table Rackliff-Gedney-2. Potential activities (Nez Perce and Clearwater combined)

Rackliff-Gedney Potential Activities Total	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	78,700	84,400	0
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	90,000	84,400	84,400	84,400
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	90,000	84,400	84,400	84,400
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	84,400	84,400	0
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	78,700	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	90,000	84,400	84,400	84,400

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): For the portions of the roadless area in the Nez Perce National Forest, around 10,400 acres would be managed under prescription 15 (timber production/winter range), 41,300 acres under prescription 16 (winter range), and 200 acres under prescription 17 (timber production/visual quality). For the portions in the Clearwater National Forest, 5,700 acres would be managed under prescription A3 (dispersed recreation in an unroaded setting), 9,600 acres under prescription C4 (key big game winter range/timber management), 16,300 acres under prescription C8S (big game summer range/timber management), and 900 acres under prescription US (unsuitable land).

Limited timber harvest is permitted under prescription A3, but no new roads can be constructed, so little to no activity is expected on the 5,700 acres under this prescription. The 900 acres under prescription US have been identified as unsuitable for commercial timber production. However, timber harvest and associated road building are still permitted as a tool to improve wildlife habitat, restore ecosystem structure and function or reduce the risk of wildfire. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes.

Timber harvest and associated road building are generally allowed on the 51,900 acres under prescriptions 15, 16 and 17. While any timber harvest or road building would likely alter roadless characteristics over the short and long term, the impacts would be somewhat lessened by the mitigation measures required under each of these prescriptions. Prescription 17 requires protections to protect visual quality and prescriptions 15 and 16 stipulate mitigation measures to protect elk winter range.

For the 25,900 acres under prescriptions C8S and C4, roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Any timber activities and road building that occur under these prescriptions could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

No new roads are permitted to access new mineral leases under prescription A3, so no new mineral lease activity is expected in the 5,700 acres under this prescription. There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or associated road building in the other forest plan prescriptions for this roadless area. No phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals. The area does contain 90,000 acres of medium geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 84,400 acres would be available for limited timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 84,400 acres under the Backcountry theme, none of which are in the CPZ.

Since there are no communities or municipal water supply systems adjacent to the Backcountry portion of this roadless area, no roads could be constructed to facilitate fuel reduction projects. In addition, since there are no communities or municipal water supply systems nearby, no timber harvest or associated road building would occur for the purpose of reducing the significant risk of wildland fire effects. Timber cutting using existing roads or aerial systems could be done throughout all 84,400 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since road construction is not permitted to access new mineral leases.

Salmon Face #855

9,200 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Salmon Face Roadless Area is high on the east side of the divide between the Snake and Salmon Rivers. It joins the Hells Canyon Wilderness at the ridge top on the west side. Squaw Creek, Race Creek, and Papoose Creek, which flow into the Salmon River, originate in the area. Road 517 borders on the south side. Other access roads are roads 487, 9901, 2052, and 205 on the east side.

The elevation ranges from 3,500 feet to 8,429 feet at Heavens Gate Lookout. The area is made up of very steep side slopes and tributary draws with a few flat benches. This area contains mostly heavy timber with underbrush. Less brush grows on the south slopes than on the north slopes. The major tree species are Douglas-fir and grand fir.

The current major uses include grazing, hunting, and spelunking. The Papoose grazing allotment is divided into four pastures which are rotated, and the area contains numerous developed springs, dams, corrals, and fences. Big game animals also use the area as summer range. The key grass species is bluebunch wheatgrass.

Two east-west trails cross the area and connect to Trail #101, the old Boise Trail. This trail, used since prehistoric times, follows the ridgetops which, for the most part coincides with the boundary of this roadless area. Two small lakes are also present high on the ridge, both support fish.

Scenery from within the area is spectacular to those who hike or ride horseback on the trails. On clear days, one can see four states from the summit, and view the Snake River and canyon.

Papoose Cave, a large, deep, limestone cave, is one of the most important undeveloped caves of its type in Idaho, and perhaps the Pacific Northwest. An unusually deep and rugged cave, it has gained both national and international attention. It has been managed since 1971 under a cooperative agreement with the Gem State Grotto, National Speleological Society. This cave lies below the roadless area with the entrance just within the roadless boundary.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The heaviest impact is that caused by grazing, and facilities such as stock tanks and fences associated with livestock management. Much of the area contains on-site intrusions that result from grazing livestock and range-related, manmade structures. Parts of the area not grazed would appear natural.

Opportunities for Experience: Solitude opportunities are good when the area is considered together with the Hells Canyon Wilderness. Topographic and vegetative screening is both moderate. There are roads, and noises associated with roads, on all sides, and cutting units are visible.

Special Features: Papoose Cave is the only known extensive, undeveloped limestone cave available for “wild” caving in the Pacific Northwest. In spite of its reputation as one of the west’s most “unfriendly” caves, Papoose remains popular with experienced explorers because of its rugged challenges and pristine conditions. There are a few other small limestone caves in the area, none of which has attracted any particular attention from spelunkers.

Manageability: The boundary is well defined by roads on every side except the west, which borders the Hells Canyon Wilderness. This area could be added to the Hells Canyon Wilderness even though it was originally left out when Congress established the wilderness in 1975.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Two lakes support fish populations. Almost all streams inside the area drain into anadromous fisheries outside of the roadless area, such as Squaw Creek, Race Creek, and Papoose Creek. There are

resident fish inside the boundary where there is enough water to support them. This roadless area overlaps steelhead, Chinook summer salmon, and bull trout priority watersheds.

Wildlife: Elk, deer, bear, and cougar are the primary big-game species. There is summer and winter habitat for both deer and elk.

Water: There are several hydro projects proposed for the drainages running out of this area at or near the forest boundary.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: The trails are mainly used by hunters and livestock. Other recreational activity such as berry picking and mushroom gathering occurs in season.

Timber: There are 5,800 suitable timber acres in this roadless area with a standing volume of 70,400 million board feet. Species is mixed and located on steep slopes. There is a small problem with Douglas-fir bark beetles, mistletoe in the Douglas-fir, and small pockets of root rot.

Range: The area has a long history of grazing use, dating back to the late 1700’s when the Indians acquired horses. Almost all of the area is presently grazed.

Minerals and Energy: There are 28 unpatented mining claims in the area. Potential exists for development of a mine just outside the boundary, and veins with good mineralization may extend into the northern part of the area. Most of the interest shown has been in gold. This roadless area contains 9,200 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There is one small tract of private land in the northeastern portion of this area.

Heritage: The old Boise Trail, which was used for centuries, runs through this area. Although parts of the trail are now difficult to find, cultural resource sites may exist in the vicinity.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Salmon Face Roadless Area.

Table Salmon Face-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Salmon Face-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Salmon Face-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Salmon Face Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0	0
Similar to Backcountry	9,200	0	0	0
Backcountry	0	2,000	9,200	9,200
GFRG	0	7,200	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0	0
Total Acres	9,200	9,200	9,200	9,200

Table Salmon Face-2. Potential activities

Salmon Face Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	9,200	9,200	0
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	9,200	9,200	9,200	9,200
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	9,200	9,200	9,200	9,200
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	9,200	9,200	0
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	9,200	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	9,200	9,200	9,200	9,200

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 4,400 acres would be managed under prescription 12 (forested lands – timber production), 200 acres under prescription 13 (timber production/visual quality), 100 acres under prescription 15 (timber production/winter range), 500 acres under prescription 16 (Winter range), 300 acres under prescription 17 (timber production/visual quality), 2,800 acres under prescription 19 (non-forest/grasslands), and 900 under prescription 20 (old-growth).

The 2,800 acres under prescription 19 include a mix of nonforested grasslands and low-productivity forests, and have been identified as unsuitable for commercial timber production. However, in the areas that are forested, timber harvest and associated road building are still permitted as a tool to improve wildlife habitat, restore ecosystem structure and function or reduce the risk of wildfire. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes.

Timber harvest and associated road building are allowed on the 2,000 acres under prescriptions 13, 15, 16, 17 and 20. While any timber harvest or road building would likely alter roadless characteristics over the short and long term, the impacts would be somewhat lessened by the mitigation measures required under each of these prescriptions. Prescriptions 13 and 17 stipulates mitigation measures to protect visual quality, prescriptions 15 and 16 have certain requirements to protect elk winter range, and prescription 20 requires measure to ensure old-growth conservation.

For the 4,400 under prescription 12 roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Any timber activities and road building that occur could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or associated road building in the forest plan prescriptions for this roadless area. No phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals. The area does contain 9,200 acres of high geothermal

potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 9,200 acres would be available for limited timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 9,200 acres under the Backcountry theme, none of which are in the CPZ.

Since there are no communities or municipal water supply systems adjacent to the Backcountry portion of this roadless area, no roads could be constructed to facilitate fuel reduction projects. In addition, since there are no communities or municipal water supply systems nearby, no timber harvest or associated road building would occur for the purpose of reducing the significant risk of wildland fire effects. Timber cutting using existing roads or aerial systems could be done throughout all 9,200 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since road construction is not permitted to access new mineral leases.

Selway Bitterroot #new**600 Acres****OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION**

This is a new roadless area which was identified during the revision of the Nez Perce Forest Plan. It is a 600 acre parcel adjacent to the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness that had not been included in the Wilderness designation.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Natural processes have received little impact.

Undeveloped Character: Except for the roads near the boundaries, the area would appear natural to most people.

Opportunities for Experience: The adjacency of the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness along with this area offer good possibility for isolation. There is limited trail access to the interior of the area.

Manageability: The Selway Bitterroot Wilderness boundary is not easily pinpointed. The remainder of the area is bordered by a creek and roads.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: This roadless area overlaps steelhead, Chinook summer salmon, and bull trout priority watersheds.

Wildlife: Parts of the area are summer habitat for big game, and other parts are winter range.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are known to occur.

Recreation: Use is light except for hunting. Impacts are light.

Timber: Almost all parts of the area are timbered with mixed species on steep slopes.

Minerals and Energy: This roadless area contains 600 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no non-Federal lands in this roadless area.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Selway Bitterroot Roadless Area. Table Selway Bitterroot-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Selway Bitterroot-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Selway Bitterroot-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Selway Bitterroot Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0
Primitive	0	600	600	600
Similar to Backcountry	600	0	0	0
Backcountry	0	0	0	0
GFRG	0	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0	0
Total Acres	600	600	600	600

Table Selway Bitterroot-2. Potential activities

Selway Bitterroot Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	0	0	0
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	600	0	600	600
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	600	0	600	0
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	0	600	0
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	0	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	600	0	0	0

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): No prescription is assigned to the 600 acres of this roadless area on the Nez Perce National Forest. This is a new roadless area which was identified during the revision of the Nez Perce Forest Plan. It is a parcel adjacent to the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness that had not been included in the Wilderness designation.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule these 600 acres would allow limited timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities, but little to no timber cutting would be anticipated because roads could not be constructed. No road construction would be expected because it would be prohibited except in cases of reserved and outstanding rights. There would therefore be no short term adverse effects expected to roadless characteristics due to road construction. The Proposed Rule prohibits surface occupancy for new mineral leases; therefore there would be no change to roadless character from mineral leasing.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule all 600 acres of the roadless area would be managed under the Primitive theme. Timber cutting is prohibited in the Primitive theme except to maintain or restore TEPS habitat, restore ecosystem composition and function or to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire to a community or a municipal water supply system. Activities to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire are not expected to occur in this roadless area because the area is not within 1 ½ miles of a community, nor does it contain a municipal water supply system. No new roads can be constructed and any timber cutting activities that occur must maintain or improve at least one or more roadless characteristics. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term. No new leasable mineral activity is expected since surface occupancy and road construction to access new mineral leases is prohibited.

Silver Creek-Pilot Knob #849

21,000 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Silver Creek-Pilot Knob Roadless Area includes the upper two-thirds of Silver Creek and several small tributaries of Newsome Creek. Roads 1853, 244, 284, 1858, and 1834 border this area on all of the north side and parts of the east and west sides. Road 466 enters the area from the north and runs 4.5 miles to Pilot Knob Lookout. Two short spurs extend from this road, one to an old mine.

The elevation ranges from approximately 4,000 feet at the lowest point in Newsome Creek to 7,000 feet at Pilot Rock. Topography is uniformly rolling with uniform forest cover. The Pilot Knob/Pilot Rock Ridge is a highly visible landmark in the center of the area with rock outcrops, meadows, and timber providing a visually pleasing mosaic. Drainages form a dendritic pattern.

Vegetation types are diverse. Old-growth grand fir stands are prevalent next to Newsome Creek. Subalpine fir habitat types, currently dominated by lodgepole pine, are found near Nellie Mountain and Reed Mountain. Moist grand fir and subalpine fir types cover the majority of the area. Small, wet openings dominated by Sitka spruce and alder are scattered throughout the Silver Creek drainage.

A key visual attraction in this area is Pilot Rock, a massive, bare rock formation almost in the center of the area. There is easy walking access from the lookout to the top of this formation. Pilot Rock is reported to be an ancient "vision quest" site for the Nez Perce Indian Tribe. Other attractions include several large, natural meadows below China Point and at Mountain House Site. There are also a few remnants of early day mining along Newsome Creek, but nothing that would require special considerations.

The mining frontier arrived in this area in 1861, only a year after the first gold discoveries in Idaho. John Newsome's company started panning about the same time that gold fever hit Elk City. By August 1861, over 300 miners were staked out along Newsome Creek, but by fall 1864, only 21 people were left at Newsome townsite, which is adjacent to Silver Creek-Pilot Knob Roadless Area.

Mining here followed the same trend as other mining camps in Idaho County: a boom of initial placer discoveries in the 1860's, a decline followed by placer mining by the Chinese, a quartz (hardrock) boom in the 1880's, decline, stream-dredging activities, then final collapse. Between 1870 and 1890, Chinese miners lived and mined in and near this roadless area. The Chinese arrived after the claims began to decline by white standards, and those miners were willing to sellout. When the properties became valuable again in the quartz boom of the 1880's, courts ruled that Chinese could not legally own mining property. There were few Chinese left in the area by 1900. A memento of their presence in Silver Creek-Pilot Knob Roadless Area is Sing Lee Creek, named after a miner who was especially friendly to white men, and who reputedly lived over 100 years.

Current uses include livestock grazing, mining, big-game hunting, sightseeing, special use electronics sites, and fishing.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Overall, natural processes are intact and operating. Although the area has been impacted by fire, mining, and grazing, the sum of these impacts is moderate. Most are sharply localized.

Undeveloped Character: A road enters the area from the north, and climbs the ridge to Pilot Knob, where a lookout and electronic site are located. These are apparent to most observers. Elsewhere in the area, there are signs of grazing and past mining activity.

Opportunities for Experience: The size of this area does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The road to Pilot Knob almost divides the area in half. Topographic and vegetative screening is both moderate, and there are off-site intrusions in the form of visible clearcuts, roads, and sounds from logging activity. Opportunities for primitive recreation are moderate. Challenges are limited to the rocks

and cliffs around Pilot Rock and Pilot Knob. Manmade facilities are present in the center of the area (Pilot Knob Lookout) and on the edges roads, timber sale areas. There is a small opportunity for isolation.

Manageability: Some parts of the boundary would be difficult to locate on the ground. Since the south side of the area shares a boundary with roaded development, trespass with motorized equipment would be likely.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Anadromous fish are not present in Silver Creek, but the upper portion contains a reproducing population of eastern brook trout. Newsome Creek and its tributaries do contain anadromous fish as well as native species.

Wildlife: The area supports elk, deer, moose, fisher, and bear populations. Controlled hunts are made each year for a few moose. Silver Creek-Pilot Knob Roadless Area is a major elk summer range and security area. In addition, when taken together with Clear Creek roadless area to the north, it is a possible yearlong gray wolf habitat.

Botanical: Candystick (*Allotropa virgata*), a sensitive plant species occur in this roadless area.

Recreation: Recreation use is light except for fall hunting. A couple of trails cross the area, but receive only very light use.

Timber: The Pilot Rock/Pilot Knob ridge is not heavily forested. The rest of the area is covered with mixed species.

Range: This area contains parts of two allotments. The majority of the available forage is from low brush and forbs found under the overstory and along stream courses. There are a few small natural meadows along the streams and some small open grass areas along the ridges.

Minerals and Energy: Mining activity is not widespread, but in view of the area's mining history, interest continues. There are currently 12 unpatented mining claims. This roadless area contains 21,000 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: A 160-acre homestead patented in 1923 and an adjoining patented mining claim of 31 acres are located at the mouth of Pilot Creek on the northeast edge of the area. This land has been partially subdivided and is the site of several summer homes.

Heritage: The area may contain undiscovered historic and prehistoric cultural resources. In addition to past mining, the northeastern boundary of the Silver Creek-Pilot Knob Roadless Area is the historic Nez Perce Trail, which was used by Indians long before the time of mountain men and miners. This trail was the main access route to Idaho County mines of the 19th century, later became the Elk City Wagon Road, and still later was improved to accommodate motor vehicles. Pilot Rock is reported to be an ancient "vision quest" site for the Nez Perce Indian Tribe. The Tribe is presently negotiating with the Forest Service to establish an undisturbed area around Pilot Rock that encompasses nearly the game acreage and boundaries as the proposed roadless area.

Disturbances: Silver Ridge, on the west edge of the roadless area, and the entire Silver Creek drainage are hotspots for lightning strikes and resultant fires.

Heartrot caused by Indian paint fungus is predominant in the old-growth grand fir. Lodgepole pine stands are currently 70 to 75 years old. Stands which are 80 years old are considered moderately susceptible to mountain pine beetle attack. Other factors, such as large size and low elevation can compound the susceptibility, creating high risk of a mountain pine beetle attack.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Silver Creek-Pilot Knob Roadless Area. Table Silver Creek-Pilot Knob-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Silver Creek-Pilot Knob-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Silver Creek-Pilot Knob-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Silver Creek-Pilot Knob Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0
Primitive	0	12,500	0	0
Similar to Backcountry	21,000	0	0	0
Backcountry	0	3,600	0	0
GFRG	0	4,900	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	21,000	21,000
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0	0
Total Acres	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000

Table Silver Creek-Pilot Knob-2. Potential activities

Silver Creek-Pilot Knob Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	8,500	0	0
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	21,000	21,000	21,000	0
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	21,000	21,000	0
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	20,400	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	21,000	20,400	0	0

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 300 acres would be managed under prescription 1 (non-forest), 600 acres under prescription 10 (lakes, wetlands, riparian), 12,500 acres under prescription 11 (East Meadow/Rapid River/Silver Creek), 4,900 acres under prescription 12 (forested lands – timber production), 100 acres under prescription 16 (winter range), 500 acres under prescription 17 (timber production/visual quality), 1,400 acres under prescription 20 (old-growth), and 700 acres under prescription 21 (old-growth- pacific yew).

The 12,500 acres under prescription 11 have been identified as unsuitable for commercial timber production. While limited timber cutting is permitted to improve wildlife habitat or to control insect and disease outbreaks, no new road construction is permitted so little to no timber cutting activity is expected.

The 300 acres under prescription 1 include a mix of nonforested land and low-productivity forests, and have been identified as unsuitable for commercial timber production. However, in the areas that are forested, timber harvest and associated road building are still permitted as a tool to improve wildlife habitat, restore ecosystem structure and function or reduce the risk of wildfire. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. For the 4,900 under prescription 12 roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Any timber activities and road building that occur could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

Timber harvest and associated road building are allowed on the remaining 3,300 acres under prescriptions 10, 16, 17, 20 and 21. While any timber harvest or road building would likely alter roadless characteristics over the short and long term, the impacts would be somewhat lessened by the mitigation measures required under each of these prescriptions. Prescription 10 requires safeguards for riparian habitat, prescription 16 stipulates mitigation measures to protect elk winter range, prescription 17 has requirements to protect visual quality, and prescriptions 20 and 21 has certain requirements to ensure conservation of old-growth and the pacific yew forest type, respectively

No new leasable mineral activities is expected under prescription 10 because surface occupancy is not recommended. There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or associated road building in the other forest plan prescriptions for this roadless area. No phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals. The area does contain 21,000 acres of medium geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule these 21,000 acres would allow limited timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities, but little to no timber cutting would be anticipated because roads could not be constructed. No road construction would be expected because it would be prohibited except in cases of reserved and outstanding rights. There would therefore be no short term adverse effects expected to roadless characteristics due to road construction. The Proposed Rule prohibits surface occupancy for new mineral leases; therefore there would be no change to roadless character from mineral leasing.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule all 21,000 acres of the roadless area would be managed under the Primitive theme. Timber cutting is prohibited in the Primitive theme except to maintain or restore TEPS habitat, restore ecosystem composition and function or to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire to a community or a municipal water supply system. Activities to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire are not expected to occur in this roadless area because the area is not within 1½ miles of a community, nor does it contain a municipal water supply system. No new roads can be constructed and any timber cutting activities that occur must maintain or improve at least one or more roadless characteristics. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term. No new leasable mineral activity is expected since surface occupancy and road construction to access new mineral leases is prohibited.

West Fork Crooked River #new

9,500 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The West Fork Crooked River Roadless Area was identified during revision of the Nez Perce Forest Plan. The roadless area is reached by Road 233 from the north, which also forms the western and southern borders. The western border is the Gospel Hump Wilderness. Fivemile Creek forms the northern border.

West Fork Crooked River, Umatilla Creek and Fivemile Creek are the dominant drainages of the area. Vegetation cover types range from pure lodgepole pine stands on southern slopes at moderate elevations to alpine fir and Engelmann spruce in draws and higher elevations. The predominant species is mature lodgepole pine. As in other lodgepole stands in this locality, mountain pine beetles are increasing mortality.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Natural processes have received little impact, except near the road corridors along the west and south boundaries.

Undeveloped Character: Except for the roads near the boundaries, the area would appear natural to most people.

Opportunities for Experience: The adjacency of the Gospel Hump Wilderness along with this area offer good possibility for isolation. There is limited trail access to the interior of the area.

Manageability: The Gospel Hump Wilderness boundary is not easily pinpointed. The remainder of the area is bordered by a creek and roads.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The drainages in the area are anadromous and provide habitat for Chinook and Steelhead. Bull trout habitat is extensive as well.

Wildlife: Species include elk, moose, deer, bear, wolverine, fisher, and cougar. The endangered gray wolf may inhabit the area based on suitability of habitat.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Most users are hunters and fishermen.

Timber: The area is dominated by lodgepole pine with subalpine fir at higher elevations.

Range: The area is open to grazing.

Minerals and Energy: This roadless area contains 9,500 acres of medium geothermal potential. The area has had some placer and other exploratory mining for locatable minerals.

Roads and Trails: There is a trail crossing the south west portion of the area.

Disturbances: Fire has been the most extensive disturbance throughout the area.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the West Fork Crooked River Roadless Area.

Table West Fork Crooked River-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table West Fork Crooked River-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table West Fork Crooked River-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

West Fork Crooked River Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule	
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0	
Primitive	0	0	0	0	
Similar to Backcountry	9,500	0	0	0	
Backcountry	0	8,500	9,500	CPZ	5,500
				NonCPZ	4,000
GFRG	0	1,000	0	0	
SAHTS	0	0	0	0	
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0	0	
Total Acres	9,500	9,500	9,500	9,500	

Table West Fork Crooked River-2. Potential activities

West Fork Crooked River Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	9,500	9,500	5,500*
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	9,500	9,500	9,500	9,500
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	9,500	9,500	9,500	9,500
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	9,500	9,500	5,500*
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	9,500	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	9,500	9,500	9,500	9,500

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 4,000 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ to facilitate hazardous fuels removal, but only if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system.

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 2,200 acres would be managed under prescription 1 (non-forest), 1,000 acres under prescription 12 (forested lands – timber production), 5,300 acres under prescription 17 (timber production/visual quality), 700 acres under prescription 20 (old-growth), and 300 acres under prescription 21 (old-growth – pacific yew).

The 2,200 acres under prescription 1 include a mix of nonforested land and low-productivity forests, and have been identified as unsuitable for commercial timber production. However, in the areas that are forested, timber harvest and associated road building are still permitted as a tool to improve wildlife habitat, restore ecosystem structure and function or reduce the risk of wildfire. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to

unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. For the 1,000 under prescription 12 roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Any timber activities and road building that occur could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

Timber harvest and associated road building are allowed on the remaining 6,300 acres under prescriptions 17, 20 and 21. While any timber harvest or road building would likely alter roadless characteristics over the short and long term, the impacts would be somewhat lessened by the mitigation measures required under each of these prescriptions. Prescription 17 has requirements to protect visual quality and prescriptions 20 and 21 has certain requirements to ensure conservation of old-growth and the pacific yew forest type, respectively

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or associated road building in the forest plan prescriptions for this roadless area. No phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals. The area does contain 9,500 acres of medium geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 9,500 acres would be available for limited timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 9,500 acres under the Backcountry theme, 5,500 of which are in the CPZ.

Within the 5,500 Backcountry acres that are within the CPZ, timber cutting for hazardous fuel removal would be allowed, and temporary roads could be constructed to facilitate timber harvest if that is the desired tool for hazardous fuel removal. Temporary road construction would likely change roadless characteristics in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber cutting activities would be designed for fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would likely be maintained or enhanced over the long term.

For the 4,000 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ, timber cutting and temporary road construction to facilitate timber harvest could be allowed to reduce hazardous fuels if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system. Since additional conditions would be required, it is likely that temporary road construction for this purpose would be infrequent. Timber cutting from existing roads, including those constructed for fuel reduction projects, or using aerial systems could be done throughout all 9,500 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since road construction is not permitted to access new mineral leases.

West Meadow Creek #845C

115,900 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

Meadow Creek is a principal tributary of the Selway River which enters about a mile above Selway Falls. West Meadow Creek Roadless Area is essentially the west side of the Meadow Creek drainage, although a few small streams drain into American River, a tributary of the South Fork of the Clearwater.

This area joins the East Meadow Creek Roadless Area on the east and is separated by a road corridor from the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness on the south. The western boundary is, for the most part, the divide that separates the Selway and South Fork of the Clearwater drainages. Road access is by way of Road 443 on the north and west sides, and Roads 468 and 285 on the south.

The entire main stem of Meadow Creek above the junction with the East Fork is included in this area. Elevations range from about 1,800 feet at the trailhead on the northern boundary to 7,232 feet at Granite Peak. Slopes are steep, mostly facing east and north. As is characteristic of north and east exposures, vegetation in most parts of the area is dense, especially in the stream bottoms. Pacific yew is common, and thick. The head of Meadow Creek is open, however, with the meadows that give the creek its name.

Virtually all of the upper Meadow Creek drainage burned in 1919, and much of it is now covered with thick reproduction. There are some stands of fir and spruce on lands that escaped this and other fires. Lodgepole pine and subalpine species are common at higher elevations.

Scenic areas include Anderson Butte and Meadow Creek. Wildlife and fisheries occurring in the area includes gray wolves, elk, bald eagle, steelhead trout, Chinook summer salmon, and possibly grizzly bears. One of the key attractions of this area is the extremely high water quality of Meadow Creek. It is one of the very few streams left on the forest with very excellent water quality and a productive anadromous fishery. Other special features are Green Mountain Lookout, which is one of the older lookout locations on the Forest, Horse Point Lookout site, Meadow Creek cabin, old sheep driveways, evidence of glaciations in the upper Meadow-Fourmile area, Meadow Creek and Anderson Butte National Recreation Trails, and the Nez Perce Trail.

Current uses include grazing, hiking, motorcycle riding, hunting, fishing, backpacking, camping, horseback riding, snowmobiling, and sightseeing along the Montana Road. One outfitter operates in the area.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Long-term ecological processes have been only slightly impacted in the West Meadow Creek Roadless Area. The area has a history of grazing. At one time, there were many sheep grazing allotments in the East and West Meadow Creek Roadless Areas. Stock driveways are shown on forest maps as early as 1911, and large sheep allotments first appeared on forest maps in 1920. Most likely, they were both established before these maps came out.

Although the effects of past sheep grazing have largely vanished, the effects of the stock driveways have not. They can be identified in the Meadow Creek Roadless Area and in the adjoining Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness because they go almost straight down one side of a hill and straight up the other side, and are cleared to a width of 50 feet. Erosion has left its mark on these sites, despite reconstruction of many of the driveways into graded trails. Grazing today is much less extensive, concentrated mostly along the western boundary and around the meadows in the head of Meadow Creek.

Undeveloped Character: The area as a whole is not heavily impacted, although some sites obviously are. The most noticeable sites are described below:

Anderson Butte and Green Mountain Lookouts are both noticeable from parts of the area. Several other lookouts were present, but they have been removed. There are a few drift fences in the upper end of Meadow Creek.

Trails, especially the old stock driveways and an old jeep trail from Blackhawk Mountain to Anderson Butte, have caused impacts. A few of these trails are heavily used, especially during hunting season. Motorcycle use is also common on some of the better trails.

Past mining activity on the ridge between Three Prong Creek and the East Fork of Meadow Creek has resulted in about 100 acres of roads and pits. There are currently no claims in this area, and no activity.

Human-caused developments are very obvious in Section 4, T 29 N, R 10 E, in the form of a complete custodial-era Forest Service Ranger Station. This building was constructed in 1923 and has recently been restored. In addition to the small main cabin, there are three other buildings and a corral. These are localized impacts. Overall, the area would appear natural to most visitors.

Opportunities for Experience: This area, along with the East Meadow Creek Roadless Area, the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness on the east and north, and the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness on the south, offers excellent opportunity for solitude. Topographic and vegetative screening is also significant. This area is not as diverse as East Meadow Creek Roadless Area across the creek. For example, there are no lakes. Challenges, too, are probably fewer than those found on the east side of the creek, but land navigation would be more difficult in some parts of this area due to heavy vegetation and lack of recognizable landmarks. A person who broke a leg or suffered a similar mishap in this area might not be rescued, especially since some of the draws are too damp to build much of a fire.

The old Meadow Creek Ranger Station built in 1923 is accessible only by trail or helicopter. To some visitors, these buildings may seem an intrusion, an invasion of solitude; to others, they may seem to fit in perfectly with the surrounding area.

Special Features: About 300 acres are within the designated Wild and Scenic River corridor for the Middle Fork of the Clearwater River.

Manageability: Boundaries for the most part follow definite topographic features. The majority of the area is relatively uninfluenced by roads and other factors that would decrease the wilderness attributes. Manageability as wilderness would depend in part on the classification of East Meadow Creek Roadless Area to the east; that is, whether this area would be managed as a part of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, or as an isolated, independent wilderness. Costs per acre would, of course, be higher for a separate wilderness.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Meadow Creek is a significant fishery. Both Chinook summer salmon and steelhead trout inhabit Meadow Creek, while most of the tributaries to Meadow Creek support steelhead. Some of the side drainages on the west side have obstacles that prevent passage of anadromous fish. Meadow Creek gets little fishing pressure, and the westside tributaries get even less. This roadless area overlaps steelhead, Chinook summer salmon, and bull trout priority watersheds.

Wildlife: Mule and whitetail deer, elk, black bear, fisher, and moose inhabit West Meadow Creek Roadless Area. Pacific yew thickets furnish winter browse for moose. Other wildlife occurring in the area includes gray wolves, elk, bald eagles, and grizzly bears. The roadless area contains some very productive elk summer range. The elk winter range is low in productivity and is in need of logging and/or prescribed burning to regenerate winter forage.

Water: Facilities of the Horse Creek Administrative-Research project are present in the East Fork of Horse Creek. This project, begun in the late 1960s, will furnish better data on stream sedimentation caused by road construction. Although the major part of this activity is in the Main Fork and not in the roadless area, the East Fork is the control drainage for the research activities. Climatic, streamflow, and sediment-

measuring instruments are installed in the East Fork near the confluence with the Main Fork. The control drainage will not be disturbed until the completion of the research project. This roadless area contains 100 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

Botanical: Payson’s milkvetch (*Astragalus paysonii*), clustered lady’s-slipper (*Cypripedium fasciculatum*), and evergreen kittentail (*Synthyris platycarps*) all sensitive plant species occur in this roadless area.

Recreation: Trails 830 and 835 together make up the Anderson Butte National Recreation Trail, and furnish access from the west side of the area. Trail 809 from Anderson Butte to Meadow Creek is heavily used in hunting season. These trails receive minimum maintenance. A 55-foot native timber bridge was built across Meadow Creek at the end of Trail 809 in 1975 and 1976, replacing an unsafe tram and a ford that was impossible in high water and dangerous all of the time. This is the only trail bridge across Meadow Creek. Other than hunting, recreation use is generally light.

Timber: Timber harvest in this area is for the most part confined to areas which escaped earlier wildfires. Thick reproduction is common.

Minerals and Energy: This roadless area contains 115,900 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no non-Federal lands in the area. Meadow Creek Ranger Station is located on the east side of Meadow Creek adjacent to East Meadow Creek Roadless Area. There are four buildings on the site: the station itself, a 22x28-foot log structure with a kitchen, two bedrooms and a small office; a 15x20-foot bunkhouse with a loft; a log tack room of about the same dimensions; and a small pole and shake woodshed. The station was built in 1923, the tack room in 1925, and the bunkhouse in 1930. The main building was completely renovated in 1983, and the other buildings were repaired in 1984.

Heritage: There are no known cultural resource sites in the area except Meadow Creek Ranger Station, although the existence of old cabins is suspected.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the West Meadow Creek Roadless Area.

Table West Meadow Creek-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table West Meadow Creek-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table West Meadow Creek-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

West Meadow Creek Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule	
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0	
Primitive	0	400	0	0	
Similar to Backcountry	115,900	0	0	0	
Backcountry	0	88,600	115,600	CPZ	3,100
				NonCPZ	112,500
GFRG	0	26,600	0	0	
SAHTS	0	0	0	0	
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	300*	300*	300*	
Total Acres	115,900	115,900	115,900	115,900	

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the West Meadow Creek Roadless Area is WSR. For further information on this designation, see the Nez Perce National Forest LRMP.

Table West Meadow Creek-2. Potential activities

West Meadow Creek Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	115,200	115,600	3,100*
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	115,900	115,200	115,600	115,600
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	115,900	115,200	115,600	115,600
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	115,200	115,600	3,100*
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	113,900	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	115,900	113,900	115,600	115,600

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 112,500 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ to facilitate hazardous fuels removal, but only if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system.

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 2,700 acres would be managed under prescription 1 (non-forest), 1,700 acres under prescription 10 (lakes, wetlands, riparian), 400 under prescription 11 (East Meadow/Rapid River/Silver Creek), 26,600 acres under prescription 12 (forested lands – timber production), 1,300 acres under prescription 13 (timber production/visual quality), 200 under prescription 14 (timber production/visual quality/winter range), 3,900 acres under prescription 15 (timber production/winter range), 9,000 acres under prescription 16 (Winter range), 21,400 acres under prescription 17 (timber production/visual quality), 4,900 acres under prescription 18 (Winter range/visual quality), 1,300 under prescription 19 (non-forest grasslands), 4,900 acres under prescription 20 (old-growth), and 37,300 under prescription 21 (old-growth pacific yew).

The 400 acres under prescription 11 have been identified as unsuitable for commercial timber production. While limited timber cutting is permitted to improve wildlife habitat or to control insect and disease outbreaks, no new road construction is permitted so little to no timber cutting activity is expected.

The 4,000 acres under prescriptions 1 and 19 include a mix of nonforested land and low-productivity forests, and have been identified as unsuitable for commercial timber production. However, in the areas that are forested, timber harvest and associated road building are still permitted as a tool to improve wildlife habitat, restore ecosystem structure and function or reduce the risk of wildfire. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes.

For the 26,600 under prescription 12 roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Any timber activities and road building that occur could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

Timber harvest and associated road building are allowed on the remaining 84,600 acres under prescriptions 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20 and 21. While any timber harvest or road building would likely alter roadless characteristics over the short and long term, the impacts would be somewhat lessened by the mitigation measures required under each of these prescriptions. Prescription 10 requires safeguards for riparian habitat, prescriptions 13 and 17 have requirements to protect visual quality, prescriptions 15 and 16 stipulates mitigation measures to protect elk winter range, prescriptions 14 and 18 have requirements to protect both visual quality and elk winter range, and prescriptions 20 and 21 have certain requirements to ensure conservation of old-growth and the pacific yew forest type, respectively

No new leasable mineral activities is expected under prescription 10 because surface occupancy is not recommended. There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or associated road building in the other forest plan prescriptions for this roadless area. No phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals. The area does contain 115,900 acres of medium geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 115,600 acres would be available for limited timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 115,600 acres under the Backcountry theme, 3,100 of which are in the CPZ.

Within the 3,100 Backcountry acres that are within the CPZ, timber cutting for hazardous fuel removal would be allowed, and temporary roads could be constructed to facilitate timber harvest if that is the desired tool for hazardous fuel removal. Temporary road construction would likely change roadless characteristics in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber cutting activities would be designed for fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would likely be maintained or enhanced over the long term.

For the 112,500 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ, timber cutting and temporary road construction to facilitate timber harvest could be allowed to reduce hazardous fuels if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system. Since additional conditions would be required, it is likely that temporary road construction for this purpose would be infrequent.

Timber cutting from existing roads, including those constructed for fuel reduction projects, or using aerial systems could be done throughout all 115,600 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since road construction is not permitted to access new mineral leases.

Big Canyon #853
14,100 Acres Wallowa-Whitman
14,100 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Big Canyon Roadless Area is north of the Pittsburg Landing Road. Its northern edge is the Nez Perce National Forest boundary. It extends from the Snake River to the Salmon-Snake River Divide. The entire unit is National Forest System land. The much dissected topography is mostly covered with bunchgrasses except for the upper reaches of Big Canyon Creek. Most of the land is steep.

Access to Big Canyon is the Pittsburg Road, associated four-wheel drive roads. The river also provides access.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Much of the area is unnatural in appearance because of the extent of man's activities.

Opportunities for Experience: There is low opportunity for solitude and little recreation opportunity exists. Views of the Snake River and geologic formations are available.

Special Features: The area is known to contain threatened or endangered plant species.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: No anadromous fish are known to occur. Big Canyon and Jones Creeks probably support resident rainbow trout populations in their lower reaches.

Wildlife: Hairy woodpecker, mountain quail, northern flicker, pileated woodpecker, and flammulated owl occur in this roadless area. The area supports many of the wildlife species indigenous to the roadless area including deer, elk, bear, cougar, and numerous game and non-game species. Lower elevations are deer and elk winter range. No threatened or endangered animals are known to inhabit the area.

Botanical: Broad-fruit mariposa (*Calochortus nitidus*) a sensitive plant species occurs in this roadless area.

Minerals and Energy: One property has been identified with mineral resources and the area has favorable potential for additional discoveries; however, it is withdrawn from further mineral entry. No power withdrawals, existing or proposed impoundments or irrigation systems are located in the area. Downstream uses include irrigation and power generation. There is limited opportunity for improvement. This roadless area contains 14,100 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: Pittsburg Landing has until recently been privately owned as has portions of Big Canyon Creek. This land and adjacent National Forest System land was grazed from the beginning of the century. Some soil and range has been affected. There are ranch buildings still in use in Big Canyon Creek and at Pittsburg Landing. Numerous fences have been constructed. Pastures have been tilled and range structures built.

Heritage: Numerous prehistoric Indian sites occur.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Big Canyon Roadless Area.

Table Big Canyon-1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Big Canyon-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Big Canyon-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Big Canyon Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule	
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0	
Primitive	0	0	0	0	
Similar to Backcountry	14,100	0	0	0	
Backcountry	0	14,100	14,100	CPZ	4,600
				NonCPZ	9,500
GFRG	0	0	0	0	
SAHTS	0	0	0	0	
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0	0	
Total Acres	14,100	14,100	14,100	14,100	

Table Big Canyon-2. Potential activities

Big Canyon Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	14,100	14,100	4,600*
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	14,100	14,100	14,100	14,100
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	14,100	14,100	14,100	14,100
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	14,100	14,100	4,600*
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	14,100	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	14,100	14,100	14,100	14,100

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 9,500 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ to facilitate hazardous fuels removal, but only if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system.

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan 14,100 acres would be managed under prescription 9 (dispersed recreation/native vegetation). Timber harvest for commercial purposes is not permitted under this prescription, but timber harvest and associated road building are still permitted as a tool to improve wildlife habitat, restore ecosystem structure and function or reduce the risk of wildfire. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes.

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or associated road building under the forest plan prescription for this roadless area. No phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals. The area does contain 14,100 acres of high geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 14,100 acres would be available for limited timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildfire risk to communities. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 14,100 acres under the Backcountry theme, 4,600 of which are in the community protection zone (CPZ). Within the CPZ timber cutting for hazardous fuel removal would be allowed, and temporary roads could be constructed to facilitate timber harvest if that is the desired tool for hazardous fuel removal. Temporary road construction would likely change roadless characteristics in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest would be designed for fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would likely be maintained or enhanced over the long term.

For the 9,500 acres outside the CPZ, timber cutting and temporary road construction to facilitate timber harvest could be allowed to reduce hazardous fuels if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system. Since additional conditions are required, it is likely that temporary road construction for this purpose would be infrequent.

Timber cutting from existing roads, including those constructed for fuel reduction projects, or using aerial systems could be done throughout all 14,100 Backcountry acres to improve threatened, endangered, proposed, or sensitive (TEPS) species habitat or ecosystem composition and structure. Timber cutting for these purposes would occur on a limited basis and must maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. As such, these activities are expected to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since road construction is not permitted to access new mineral leases.

Klopton Creek-Corral Creek #854

21,300 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Klopton Creek Roadless Area lies between the Pittsburg Landing Road and the Hells Canyon Wilderness. The area is generally steep, dissected terrain with the exception of some benchlands north of Sawpit Saddle. The northern fourth of the area is grassland. The rest is moderately dense to dense forest land. The face above the river is generally the steepest and rockiest.

Much of the area has been grazed. Numerous cabins exist as remnants of earlier homesteads and ranches. Some picnic tables and toilets have been located along the Snake River. Some water diversion structures have been constructed at Big Bar and Sheep Creek along the Snake River. Numerous fences have been built throughout. Extensive prospecting has occurred at the Blue Jacket Mine adjacent to Cow Creek Saddle. An unimproved road goes from Cow Creek Saddle to Kirkwood Creek on the river and serves the active Kirkwood Ranch. Numerous clearcuts are located adjacent to the area in Sawpit Saddle and Dutch Oven Ridge.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: People can reach the area via the Pittsburg Landing Road, the river, and several roads. Most of the roads traverse the Snake-Salmon Divide. Several trails cross the area.

Opportunities for Experience: Many opportunities exist for solitude and primitive recreation. Topographic screening is high throughout the area while vegetation gives excellent screening in the middle and southern portions. The area itself is very natural appearing but off-site activities do intrude. Most of the area is scenic with excellent views available of the river and the Hells Canyon Wilderness. Some endangered or threatened plant species are known to occur. Although many of man's activities are noticeable, the effect is generally restricted to immediate sites.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The lower reaches of Corral, Klopton, Kirby and Kirkwood Creeks probably contain resident populations of rainbow trout. No anadromous fish are known to use these streams. Bull trout, Chinook summer/fall salmon, steelhead, inland redband trout, pacific lamprey, and westslope cutthroat habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Hairy woodpecker, mountain quail, northern flicker, Townsend's big eared bat, whiteheaded woodpecker, and flammulated owl occur in this roadless area. Many of the wildlife species indigenous to the roadless area including deer, elk, bear, cougar, and other game and non-game occur. The lower elevations are used as winter range and the upper elevations as summer range.

Botanical: Broad-fruit mariposa (*Calochortus nitidus*), spacious monkeyflower (*Mimulus ampliatius*) two sensitive plant species occur in this roadless area

Minerals and Energy: No producing mines exist. However, the Blue Jacket Mining Group does contain a substantial resource and extensive exploration is being conducted by the owners. Several other mining properties are in the area which has a very high mineral potential. No power withdrawals, existing or proposed impoundments or irrigation systems are located in the area, which contributes high quality water to the Snake River and is used downstream for irrigation and power generation. There is limited opportunity for improvement. Some historical water diversion structures have been developed at Big Bar and Sheep Creek. This roadless area contains 21,300 acres of high geothermal potential.

Heritage: Numerous historic and prehistoric sites occur, primarily along the Snake River and its larger tributaries.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Klopton Creek-Corral Creek Roadless Area.

Table Klopton Creek-Corral Creek -1 displays distribution of acres to each theme or theme equivalents by alternative. These values represent potential, long-term outcomes of managing the roadless area based solely on theme assignments. Table Klopton Creek-Corral Creek -2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Klopton Creek-Corral Creek-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

Klopton Creek-Corral Creek Management Theme	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule	
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0	0	
Primitive	0	0	0	0	
Similar to Backcountry	21,300	0	0	0	
Backcountry	0	21,300	21,300	CPZ	7,100
				NonCPZ	14,200
GFRG	0	0	0	0	
SAHTS	0	0	0	0	
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0	0	
Total Acres	21,300	21,300	21,300	21,300	

**Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in 14,200 acres of Backcountry outside the CPZ to facilitate hazardous fuels removal, but only if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system.*

Table Klopton Creek-Corral Creek-2. Potential activities

Klopton Creek-Corral Creek Potential Activities	Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule	Alternative 2 Existing Plan	Alternative 3 Proposed Rule	Alternative 4 Modified Rule
Road construction or reconstruction when timber cutting is allowed	0	21,300	21,300	0
Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure	21,300	21,300	21,300	21,300
Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects	21,300	21,300	21,300	21,300
Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire	0	21,300	21,300	0
Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases	0	21,300	0	0
Surface use and occupancy for new leases	21,300	21,300	21,300	21,300

Alternative 1 (2001 Roadless Rule): Under the 2001 Roadless Rule little to no timber cutting for ecosystem restoration would be anticipated because road construction is prohibited to facilitate timber harvest. Therefore no adverse effects to roadless characteristics are expected from timber activities or associated road building. Additionally, no new leasable mineral activity would be expected given the final EIS analysis assumption that no activity would occur without roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 21,300 acres would be managed under prescription 9 (dispersed recreation/native vegetation). Timber harvest for commercial purposes is not permitted under this prescription, but timber harvest and associated road building are still permitted as a tool to improve wildlife habitat, restore ecosystem structure and function or reduce the risk of

wildfire. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes.

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or associated road building under the forest plan prescription for this roadless area. No phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals. The area does contain 21,300 acres of high geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 21,300 acres would be available for limited timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildfire risk to communities. Road construction would be permitted when necessary for the permitted timber activities. If temporary roads are used, then the road construction would likely change the unroaded character in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest activities would be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term. If the project used a permanent road, then the changes to unroaded character would be long-term, while the timber harvest activities would still be designed for restoration and/or fire risk reduction purposes. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 21,300 acres under the Backcountry theme, 7,100 of which are in the CPZ.

Within the CPZ timber cutting for hazardous fuel removal would be allowed, and temporary roads could be constructed to facilitate timber harvest for hazardous fuel removal. Temporary road construction would likely change roadless characteristics in the short-term. However, since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, and the timber harvest would be designed for fire risk reduction purposes, roadless characteristics would likely be maintained or enhanced over the long term.

For the 14,200 acres outside the CPZ, timber cutting and temporary road construction to facilitate timber harvest could be allowed to reduce hazardous fuels if it is determined that there is a significant risk to a community or a municipal water supply system. Since additional conditions are required, it is likely that temporary road construction for this purpose would be infrequent outside the CPZ.

Timber cutting from existing roads, including those constructed for fuel reduction projects, or using aerial systems could be done throughout all 21,300 Backcountry acres to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and structure. Timber cutting for these purposes would occur on a limited basis and must maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. As such, these activities are expected to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since road construction is not permitted to access new mineral leases.

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