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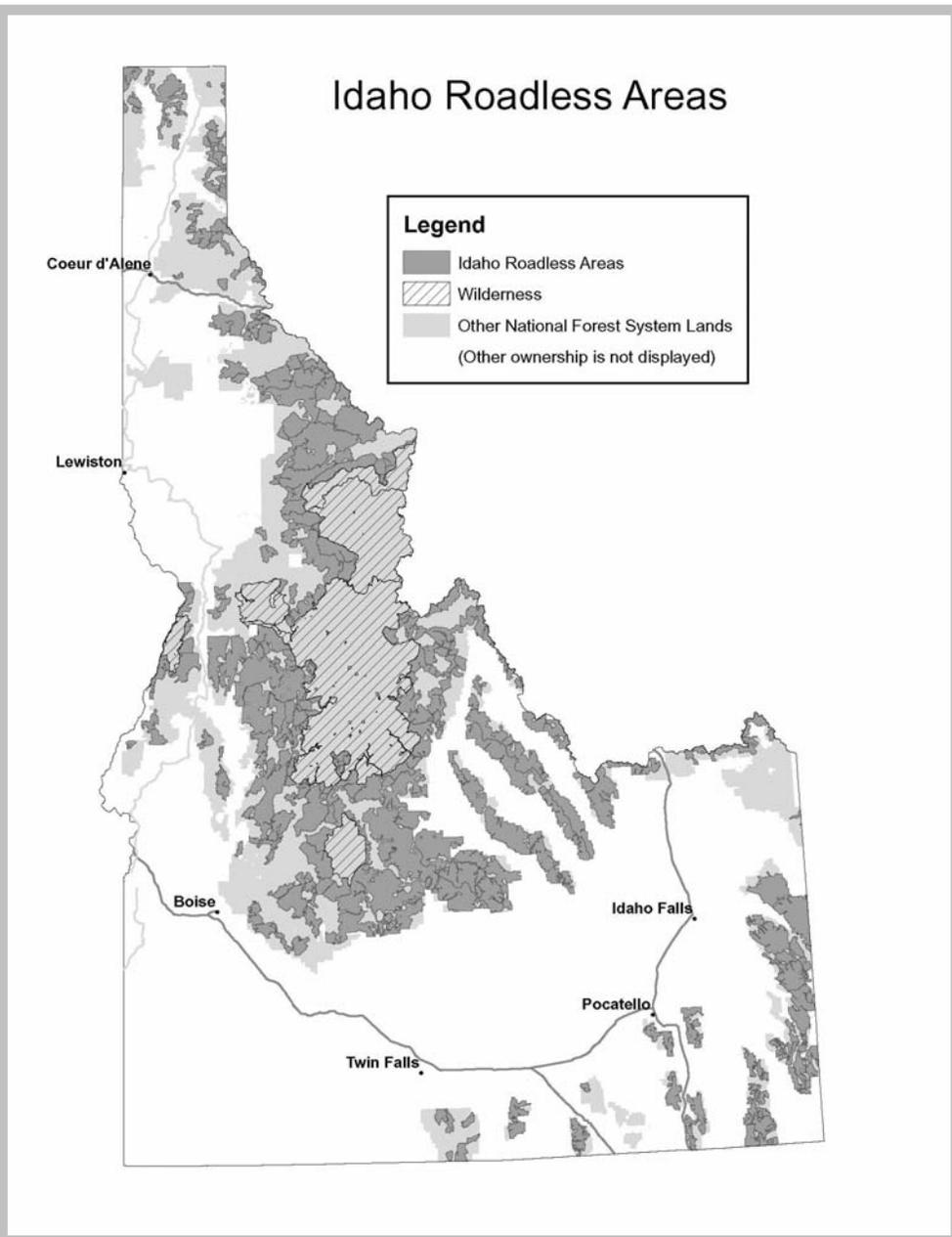
Roadless Area Conservation

National Forest System Lands in Idaho

Final Environmental Impact Statement

Appendix C—Idaho Roadless Areas

Volume 5: Caribou, Challis, Salmon, and Targhee 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 1½ 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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Bear Creek #615**21,000 Acres Caribou****97,600 Acres Targhee****118,600 Acres Total****OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION**

The Bear Creek Roadless Area is located in Bonneville County, Idaho and straddles the boundary between the Caribou and Targhee National Forests. The area includes most of the Caribou Range between Fall Creek Road on the north, McCoy Creek Road on the south, and Bear Creek-Jensen Road on the east. Approximately 118,600 acres of the roadless area is on the Caribou-Targhee National Forest, of which 21,000 acres is managed under the Caribou Forest Plan and 97,600 acres are managed under the Revised Targhee Forest Plan.

The topography is moderately steep, characterized by parallel ridges. Elevations range from 6,000 feet above sea level to 9,400 feet above sea level. Vegetation includes large open areas of grass and brush interspersed with aspen stands. Conifer stands include scattered patches of Douglas -fir and lodgepole pine.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is considered moderate to low; human activities are very evident, including unimproved roads.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude are rated as moderate, due to the roadless area's size and existing road intrusions. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are considered moderate due to size and road intrusions.

Special Features: Special features or attractions include good elk habitat. About 900 acres of the Caribou Mountain Special Area are located in this roadless area. About 4,900 acres are in an eligible Wild and Scenic River corridor for the South Fork of the Snake River, the North Fork of Bear Creek and Deadman Creek.

Manageability: Manageability of the area would be fair, due to road intrusions.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The area has high quality fish habitat and a population of Yellowstone cutthroat trout.

Wildlife: The Targhee portion of this area is considered occupied habitat for Canada lynx, a threatened species. Most of the area is managed as deer and elk winter range. Other sensitive and management indicator species occur in this area.

Water: The area has no municipal water use.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present.

Recreation: Recreation use includes horseback riding and deer hunting. The Targhee portion of Bear Creek Roadless Area is managed for motorized recreation, on designated routes. Some of the area is open to snowmobiling, however most areas are closed to protect wildlife.

Timber: No recent timber management activities have occurred in this roadless area. Most of the area is grass and shrub cover.

Wildland Fire Use: Much of this area is managed for Wildland Fire Use: The application of the appropriate management response to naturally-ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific resource management objectives in predefined, designated areas outlined in Fire Management Plans.

Range: Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Minerals and Energy: Bald Mountain is considered to have moderate potential for oil and gas occurrence and has one valid lease issued in December 2007. The lease is 100 percent stipulated with No Surface Occupancy because it is located in an Inventoried Roadless Area and unstable soils. Portions of the area are also stipulated with NSO because of steep slopes and the presence of Yellowstone cutthroat trout. Timing limitations (April 1 – December 31) apply to the lease to protect elk summer range. It is possible that the lease could be partially developed by directional drilling from existing roads. However, since natural gas would be the most likely carbon reserve discovered, and the cost of developing infrastructure to develop natural gas is very high (i.e., roads and pipelines), the area is unlikely to ever support any producing wells or full-field developments. The area has patented claims and past mining activity on the southern boundary. The area contains 23,700 acres of high and 94,900 acres of medium geothermal potential. It also contains 5,100 acres of known phosphate deposits on the northeast edge of the area that are not yet under lease.

Landownership and Special Uses: Special use authorizations within the area include outfitting and guiding for big game and a communication tower. No State or private lands occur within the roadless area.

Roads and Trails: The Bear Creek Roadless Area includes 10 miles of road and 99 miles of trail open to motorized summer travel on the Targhee portion. The Caribou portion has 3 miles of motorized road and 2 miles of motorized trails. The entire area is open to snowmobiling in the winter.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Bear Creek roadless area.

Table Bear Creek-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 Bear Creek-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Bear Creek-1a. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative (Caribou only)

| Bear Creek Management Theme Caribou | 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 | 14,700 | 14,700 | 14,700 |
| Similar to Backcountry | 21,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Backcountry | 0 | 2,700 | 2,700 | 2,700 |
| GFRG | 0 | 2,700 | 2,700 | 2,700 |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 900 | 900 | 900 |
| Total Acres | 21,000 | 21,000 | 21,000 | 21,000 |

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in Caribou portion of the Bear Creek Roadless Area is Caribou Mountain Special Area. For further information on this designation, see the Caribou National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP).

Table Bear Creek -1b. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative (Targhee only)

| Bear Creek Management Theme Targhee | 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 | 97,600 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Backcountry | 0 | 33,800 | 33,800 | CPZ | 3,200 |
| | | | | Non-CPZ | 77,400 |
| GFRG | 0 | 58,900 | 58,900 | 12,100 | |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 4,900 | 4,900 | 4,900 | |
| Total Acres | 97,600 | 97,600 | 97,600 | 97,600 | |

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in Targhee portion of the Bear Creek Roadless Area is Wild and Scenic River (WSR). For further information on this designation, see the Targhee National Forest LRMP.

Table Bear Creek -1c. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative (Total)

| Bear Creek 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 | 14,700 | 14,700 | 14,700 | |
| Similar to Backcountry | 118,600 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Backcountry | 0 | 36,500 | 36,500 | CPZ | 3,200 |
| | | | | Non-CPZ | 80,100 |
| GFRG | 0 | 61,600 | 61,600 | 14,800 | |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 5,800 | 5,800 | 5,800 | |
| Total Acres | 118,600 | 118,600 | 118,600 | 118,600 | |

Table Bear Creek -2. Potential activities (Caribou and Targhee combined)

| Bear Creek 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 | 98,100 | 98,100 | 18,000 ² |
| Timber cutting to improve TES species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 118,600 | 112,800 | 112,800 | 112,800 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 118,600 | 112,800 | 112,800 | 98,100 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 112,800 | 112,800 | 18,000 ² |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 95,400 | 98,100 ¹ | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 118,600 | 12,800 | 98,100 | 98,100 |

¹Road building in Backcountry areas under Alternative 3 would be permitted for phosphate leases only.

²Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 80,100 acres of Backcountry outside the community protection zone (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): For the portions of the Bear Creek Roadless Area in the Targhee National Forest, existing forest plan direction manages around 600 acres under prescription 5.1.3 (timber management with no clear cutting, urban interface fuels management emphasis), 100 acres under prescription 5.1.4 (timber management, big game security emphasis), 21,600 acres under prescription 2.7 (deer and elk winter range), 11,500 acres under prescription 5.4 (elk summer range), and 58,900 acres under prescription 6.1 (range management). For the parts of Bear Creek in the Caribou National Forest, around 14,700 acres are managed under prescription 3.1 (non-motorized recreation and wildlife security), around 2,800 acres are managed under prescription 3.2 (semi-primitive recreation), and roughly 2,700 acres under 6.2 (rangeland vegetation).

Roads for new mineral leases are not permitted for the 14,700 acres under the Caribou National Forest's prescription 3.1. For all the other areas, new mineral leases and roads would generally be permitted. The Bear Creek Roadless Area has little to no potential for oil and gas leasing, but contains 94,900 acres of medium geothermal potential, 23,700 acres of high geothermal potential, and 5,100 acres of known phosphate deposits not yet under lease. If any geothermal or phosphate leasing occurred, it would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the Bear Creek Roadless Area over both the short and long term.

With regards to timber harvest, Caribou prescription 3.1 only allows timber harvest if it contributes to non-motorized recreation or wildlife security. Since construction of new public roads is also prohibited under 3.1, little to no timber harvest is expected for these acres. For the 32,600 acres under Targhee prescriptions 2.7, 5.1.4, and 5.4, timber harvest and road building to access the timber harvest are permitted only if they produce some additional habitat values, e.g. improvements in winter elk range habitat. While the immediate impact of any timber harvest would likely alter roadless characteristics in the short run, the dual objective of habitat protection would limit the long term impact.

Under Caribou prescription 3.2, temporary roads for salvage harvest are allowed, as well as general timber harvest for fuels reduction or restoration projects. If temporary roads were constructed they would affect roadless characteristics in the short term, but the effects would decrease over the long term. For the 600 acres under Targhee prescription 5.1.3, both road building and timber harvest are permitted. If any timber activities or road building occurred, they would likely alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

The rangeland management prescriptions (6.1 and 6.2) allow timber harvest to improve wildlife habitat. However, these lands are generally non-forested so little to no timber harvest (or road building to access timber harvest) is expected. As such, it is unlikely that roadless characteristics would be altered.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule about 58,800 acres would be managed under the GFRG, Rangeland and Grassland theme (GFRG), 36,600 acres would be managed under the Backcountry theme, and 14,700 acres would be managed under the Primitive 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 58,800 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. Since this section of the Bear Creek Roadless Area is primarily rangeland, however, little to no timber activity is expected.

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.

Little to no timber cutting would be anticipated for the 14,700 acres under the primitive theme because roads are prohibited except for reserved and outstanding rights.

There are currently around 5,070 acres of known phosphate deposits not yet under lease in the Bear Creek Roadless Area. 4,160 acres of the phosphate deposits are under the Backcountry theme and 910 acres are under the GFRG theme. Road construction and surface occupancy to develop the known phosphate deposits would be allowed under both the Backcountry and GFRG themes.

Any new leasing in the 36,600 Backcountry acres would be limited to phosphate leases. For the 61,500 acres under the GFRG theme, non-phosphate mineral leases and road building to access these leases would also be permitted. While there is little to no potential for oil and gas development in the Bear Creek Roadless Area, the area does contain 94,900 acres of medium geothermal potential and 23,700 acres of high geothermal potential. If any leasable mineral activities occurred in either the Backcountry or GFRG themes then they would alter roadless characteristics in both the short and long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity would occur under the Primitive theme since surface occupancy for new mineral leases is prohibited.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 14,700 acres under the Primitive theme, 83,300 acres under the Backcountry theme, 3,200 of which are in the community protection zone (CPZ), and 14,800 acres under the GFRG 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 the Primitive theme portions of this roadless area because the Primitive theme portions are not within 1½ miles of a community, nor do they 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. 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.

Within the 3,200 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 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 80,100 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, including those constructed for fuel reduction projects, or using aerial systems could be done throughout all 83,300 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. 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.

For the 14,800 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. The area in GFRG is already roaded and is generally rangeland; therefore there would be limited change in roadless characteristics from future actions.

There are currently around 5,070 acres of known phosphate deposits not yet under lease in the Bear Creek Roadless Area. However, 4,160 of these acres would be under the Backcountry theme where road construction for new mineral leases would not be permitted. The remaining 910 acres would be under the GFRG theme. These 910 acres of KPLAs would not be available for development because they are not included in the map associated with the rule showing which unleased KPLAs would be available for development in the GFRG theme (final EIS, fig. 3.20, section 3.5 Minerals and Energy). Since new roads could not be constructed to access the 5,070 acres of unleased phosphate deposits, no phosphate mining activity is expected in this roadless area under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule.

No non-phosphate mineral activity is expected in the Bear Creek Roadless Area either since the Primitive theme prohibits surface occupancy, the Backcountry prohibits road construction to access new mineral leases, and the GFRG theme prohibits road construction to access non-phosphate mineral leases.

Bonneville Peak #154

32,300 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Bonneville Peak Roadless Area is in Bannock and Caribou Counties on the Westside Ranger District. The area lies four miles east of Inkom, Idaho. Major road access includes the Pebble Creek Road, Green Canyon Road, Inman Creek Road and Bell Canyon Road. Lands within the area were once Shoshone-Bannock Indian lands and are now subject to Indian Treaty Rights.

The topography of the roadless area is typical for southeast Idaho. Terrain varies from very steep rocky ledges to moderately sloping valleys and basins. Bonneville Peak is 9,260 feet above sea level. The lowest elevation is 5,500 feet above sea level. Vegetation includes brush and grass-covered slopes with some aspen. Narrow stands of Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine are found on high north facing slopes.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is considered high, with evidence of some human activities such as unimproved roads.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude are rated as moderate, because of minimal screening of valley developments. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are considered moderate due to the area's limited size and road intrusions.

Special Features: Special features or attractions include a popular back-country skiing area.

Manageability: Manageability of the area is considered poor, due to road intrusions. Locating boundaries on natural features and eliminating road corridors could achieve a core area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The area has moderate values for fish habitat. No threatened, endangered, or sensitive fish species occur in this roadless area.

Wildlife: Wolverine, a Region 4 sensitive species occurs in this roadless area. The area has moderate values for wildlife habitat.

Water: This roadless area contains 10,900 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present.

Recreation: The area has the Boundary National Recreation Trail, popular with horseback riders and off highway vehicle users. Big Springs Campground and Pebble Creek Ski Area are on the west and south boundaries respectively. Portions of the area are very popular with back-country skiers and snowmobilers. About 900 acres are in a special use authorization area (Management Prescription 4.2). A portion of the area is open to snowmobiling, some areas are closed to protect wildlife.

Timber: The area does not have recent timber sales; past timber harvest is evident along roads.

Wildland Fire Use: This area is not managed for Wildland Fire Use. The Fire Management Plan has identified the entire roadless area for suppression.

Range: Cattle are authorized to graze most of the area.

Minerals and Energy: The area has low potential for oil and gas; 32,300 acres of high geothermal potential. There are no leases at this time.

Landownership and Special Uses: This roadless area has two special use authorizations: one for outfitting and guiding, one for a slurry pipeline. Approximately 1,480 acres of State or private lands occur within the roadless area.

Roads and Trails: The area has 0.2 miles of forest roads, and there are thirty-nine miles of motorized trail.

Disturbances: The area includes motorized trail use, Pebble Creek Ski Area, and a slurry pipeline.

Heritage: Cultural resources have been identified within this roadless area. Recorded cultural resources include evidence of pre-historic and historic use of the area.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Bonneville Peak roadless area.

Table Bonneville 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 Bonneville Peak-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| Bonneville 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 | 32,300 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Backcountry | 0 | 23,600 | 23,600 | CPZ | 1,700 |
| | | | | NonCPZ | 21,900 |
| GFRG | 0 | 7,700 | 7,700 | 7,700 | |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 1000* | 1000* | 1,000* | |
| Total Acres | 32,300 | 32,300 | 32,300 | 32,300 | |

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the Bonneville Peak Roadless Area is Special Use Authorization/Recreation Sites. For further information on this designation, see the Caribou National Forest LRMP.

Table Bonneville Peak-2. Potential activities

| Bonneville 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 | 31,300 | 31,300 | 9,400* |
| Timber cutting to improve TES species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 32,300 | 31,300 | 31,300 | 31,300 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 32,300 | 31,300 | 31,300 | 31,300 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 31,300 | 31,300 | 9,400* |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 31,300 | 7,700 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 32,300 | 31,300 | 31,300 | 31,300 |

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 21,900 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 9,700 acres are under prescription 2.7.1 (elk & deer winter range critical), 11,300 acres under prescription 3.2 (semi-primitive recreation), 2,600 acres under prescription 3.3 (semi-primitive restoration), 900 acres under prescription 5.2 (forest vegetation management) and 6,800 acres under prescription 6.2 (rangeland vegetation management).

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Bonneville Peak Roadless Area. No phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the Bonneville Peak Roadless Area has little to no potential for these minerals. The Bonneville Peak Roadless Area does contain 8,500 acres of high geothermal potential and 84,900 acres of medium geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the Bonneville Peak Roadless Area over both the short and long term.

With regards to timber harvest, the 12,300 acres under Caribou prescriptions 2.7.1 and 3.3 only allow timber harvest and associated road building if they produce some additional habitat values, e.g. improvements in winter elk range habitat. While the immediate impact of any timber harvest would likely alter roadless characteristics in the short run, the dual objective of habitat protection would limit the long term impact.

Under prescription 3.2, temporary roads for salvage harvest are allowed, as well as general timber harvest for fuels reduction or restoration projects. If temporary roads were constructed they would affect roadless characteristics in the short term, but the effects would decrease over the long term since the road would be decommissioned and rehabilitated after the project is completed.

For the 6,800 acres under the rangeland management prescription (6.2), limited timber harvest is allowed to improve wildlife habitat. However, these lands are generally non-forested so little to no timber harvest (or road building to access timber harvest) is expected. As such, it is unlikely that roadless characteristics would be altered.

Caribou prescription 5.2 permits both road building and timber harvest. For the 900 acres under this prescription, any timber activities or road building that occurred would likely alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 23,700 acres would fall under the Backcountry theme and 7,700 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.

About 6,800 acres are rangeland and 900 acres are forested. For the 7,700 acres under the GFRG theme roads would generally be permitted and timber harvest could occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. However, timber harvest and associated road construction is most likely to occur on the forested lands. Timber activities and road building to meet these objectives could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

For the 7,700 acres under the GFRG theme, there could be development of the areas with high or medium geothermal potential since roads would be permitted for this purpose. If any geothermal activity did occur, it would likely alter roadless characteristics in both the short and long-term. No mineral activities are expected in the acres under the Backcountry theme because roads are not permitted for new 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 23,600 acres under the Backcountry theme, 1,700 of which are in the CPZ, and 7,700 acres under the GFRG theme.

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 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 21,900 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 23,600 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.

For the 7,700 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. However, timber harvest and associated road construction is most likely to occur on the 900 acres of forested lands.

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.

Caribou City #161

81,500 Acres Caribou

11,800 Acres Targhee

93,300 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Caribou City Roadless Area is in Bonneville County on the Soda Springs Ranger District and the Palisades Ranger District on the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. About 81,500 acres are managed under the Caribou Forest Plan, and 11,800 acres are managed under the Targhee Forest Plan. The area lies one mile east of the Grays Lake National Wildlife Refuge, and .25 miles southwest of the Palisades Reservoir. In the 1870s Caribou City was once the center of a brisk gold boom, but is now a ghost town and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Patented and unpatented mining claims are found on Caribou Mountain and McCoy Creek. On the southern portion of the area, McCoy Creek, Caribou City, and Bald Mountain roads provide access to the area. Deep Creek, Jackknife Creek and Cabin Creek roads are on the eastern boundary. The Tincup Highway, State Highway 34, runs along the southern border. The Tincup Road lies on the southwest side. The Morgan Meadows, North Fork of Eagle Creek, and Barnes Creek roads are on the western boundary.

The topography and geography of the roadless area are diverse. Flat benches and basins to steep mountain ridges and side slopes are all represented. Elevations range from 9,803 feet at Caribou Mountain to 6,000 feet above sea level near the Palisades Reservoir. Vegetation includes lodgepole pine, Douglas -fir, sagebrush, mountain brush and aspen.

The area includes roughly 28,900 acres of Recommended Wilderness and therefore holds a high level of roadless characteristics.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is considered high, with evidence of some human activities such as unimproved roads and historic and current mining activity.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude are rated as high, because of the area's large size. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are considered high due to large, contiguous acreage.

Special Features: Special features or attractions include good wildlife habitat, primitive non-motorized recreation, and historic mining areas. About 14,600 acres are in the Caribou Mountain Special Emphasis Area (Management Prescription 2.1.4.). About 1,400 acres are in Management Prescription 2.1.2(b) Visual Quality Maintenance. This prescription is located along major travel corridors.

Manageability: Manageability of the area is considered fair along roadless boundaries, due to road intrusions. A large core area could be achieved by locating boundaries on natural features, such as watershed or topographic ridges.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: This Roadless Area provides important Yellowstone cutthroat trout habitat.

Wildlife: This area is considered a linkage area for Canada lynx, a threatened species. Great gray owl and the bat, fringed myotis, Region 4 sensitive species and other sensitive and management indicator species occur in the roadless area. The area has high values for wildlife.

Water: The area contains no municipal water use.

Botanical: Payson's bladderpod (*Lesquerella paysonii*) a sensitive plant species occurs in this roadless area

Recreation: The primary recreation attraction is deer, elk and moose hunting. The core area of the roadless area offers the only primitive recreation experience on the forest. The northwest portion of the

roadless area is popular for recreational gold panning. Most of the area is open to snowmobiling; some areas are closed to protect wildlife..

Timber: No recent timber activity has occurred in the area. Soils are unstable and slumpy.

Wildland Fire Use: Much of this area is managed for Wildland Fire Use: The application of the appropriate management response to naturally-ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific resource management objectives in predefined, designated areas outlined in Fire Management Plans.

Range: Livestock are authorized to graze most of the area.

Minerals and Energy: Patented and unpatented mining claims for locatable minerals exist in the area. This roadless area contains 8,500 acres of high and 84,900 acres of medium geothermal potential and is considered to have moderate potential for oil and gas. The area has no current oil or gas leases.

Landownership and Special Uses: Special use authorizations include a buried fiber optic line and an above ground power line along the Tincup Highway. Approximately 280 acres of State or private lands occur within the roadless area.

Roads and Trails: The area has about 11 miles of trails and 4 miles of road open to motorized use in the summer and is open to snowmobiling in the winter.

Heritage: The area includes a historic management area.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Caribou City-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 Caribou City-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Caribou City-1a. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative (Caribou only)

| Caribou City Management Theme Caribou | Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule | Alternative 2 Existing Plan | Alternative 3 Proposed Rule | Alternative 4 Modified Rule | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------|
| Wild Land Recreation | 0 | 28,900 | 28,900 | 28,900 | |
| Primitive | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Similar to Backcountry | 81,500 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Backcountry | 0 | 17,800 | 17,800 | CPZ | 5,300 |
| | | | | NonCPZ | 31,100 |
| GFRG | 0 | 18,600 | 18,600 | 0 | |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 16,200* | 16,200* | 16,200* | |
| Total Acres | 81,500 | 81,500 | 81,500 | 81,500 | |

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the Caribou portion of the Caribou City Roadless Area is 1,400 acres as Visual Quality Maintenance, 14,600 acres as the Caribou Mountain Special Area, and 200 acres as Concentrated Development Area For further information on this designation, see the Caribou National Forest Plan LRMP.

Table Caribou City-1b. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative (Targhee only)

| Caribou City Management Theme Targhee | 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 | 11,800 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Backcountry | 0 | 11,800 | 11,800 | CPZ | 700 |
| | | | | Non-CPZ | 9,800 |
| GFRG | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,300 | |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Total Acres | 11,800 | 11,800 | 11,800 | 11,800 | |

Table Caribou City-1c. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative (Total)

| Caribou City Management Theme Total | Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule | Alternative 2 Existing Plan | Alternative 3 Proposed Rule | Alternative 4 Modified Rule | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------|
| Wild Land Recreation | 0 | 28,900 | 28,900 | 28,900 | |
| Primitive | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Similar to Backcountry | 93,300 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Backcountry | 0 | 29,600 | 29,600 | CPZ | 6,000 |
| | | | | NonCPZ | 40,900 |
| GFRG | 0 | 18,600 | 18,600 | 1,300 | |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 16,200 | 16,200 | 16,200 | |
| Total Acres | 93,300 | 93,300 | 93,300 | 93,300 | |

Table Caribou City-2. Potential activities (Caribou and Targhee combined)

| Caribou City 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 | 48,200 | 48,200 | 7,300* |
| Timber cutting to improve TES species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 93,300 | 48,200 | 48,200 | 48,200 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 93,300 | 48,200 | 48,200 | 48,200 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 48,200 | 48,200 | 7,300* |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 48,200 | 18,600 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 93,300 | 48,200 | 48,200 | 48,200 |

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 40,900 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): For the portions of the Caribou City roadless area in the Targhee National Forest, existing forest plan direction manages around 800 acres under prescription 5.1.3 (timber management with no clear cutting, urban interface fuels management emphasis) and 11,000 acres under prescription 5.4 (elk summer range). For the parts of Caribou City Roadless Area in the Caribou National Forest, around 28,900 acres are managed under prescription 1.3 (recommended wilderness), 5,200 acres under prescription 2.7.1 (elk & deer winter range critical), 1,100 acres under prescription 2.7.2 (2,800 acres under prescription 3.2 (semi-primitive recreation), 11,500 acres under prescription 3.3 (semi-primitive restoration), and 18,600 acres under prescription 6.2 (rangeland vegetation management).

All mineral activities are prohibited on the 28,900 acres under Recommended Wilderness. For the rest of the Caribou City roadless area, however, there are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions. No oil and gas activities are expected since the Caribou roadless area has little to no potential for oil and gas leasing. The Caribou City roadless area does contain 8,500 acres of high geothermal potential and 84,900 acres of medium geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the roadless area over both the short and long term.

Timber activity is only permitted in the 28,900 acres under prescription 1.3 if it enhances wilderness character, and no road building is permitted. These acres would therefore maintain both their roadless and wilderness characteristics.

For the 28,800 acres under Caribou prescriptions 2.7.1 and 2.7.2, 3.3 and Targhee prescription 5.4, timber harvest and road building to access the timber harvest are permitted only if they produce some additional habitat values, e.g. improvements in elk habitat. While the immediate impact of any timber harvest would likely alter roadless characteristics in the short run, the dual objective of habitat protection would limit the long term impact. For the 800 acres under Targhee prescription 5.1.3, both road building and timber harvest are permitted. If any timber activities or road building occurred, they would likely alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

The rangeland management prescription 6.2 allows timber harvest to improve wildlife habitat. However, these lands are generally non-forested so little to no timber harvest (or road building to access timber harvest) is expected. As such, it is unlikely that roadless characteristics would be altered.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule about 18,600 acres would be managed under the GFRG, 29,600 under the Backcountry theme and around 28,900 under the Wild Land Recreation theme.

For the 18,600 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. Since this section of the Caribou City Roadless Area is primarily rangeland, however, little to no timber activity is expected.

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 timber cutting, road building or mineral activities would occur in the 28,900 acres in the Wild Land Recreation theme because these activities are prohibited. 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 Caribou City Roadless Area, the area does contain 8,500 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 in the 29,600 in the Backcountry theme because new roads to access leases are prohibited. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area. Leasable mineral activity is prohibited in the Wild Land Recreation theme.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 28,900 acres under the Wild Land Recreation theme, 46,900 acres under the Backcountry theme, 6,000 of which are in the CPZ, and 1,300 acres under the GFRG theme.

The 28,900 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 6,000 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 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 40,900 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 46,900 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.

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 themes since these themes prohibit construction of roads to access new mineral leases. The GFRG exception for road building for phosphate leases does not apply to this area and there is no known phosphate present in this roadless area.

Clarkston Mountain #159
15, 500 Acres (Caribou – Idaho)
6,600 Acres (Caribou – Utah)
22,100 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Clarkston Mountain Roadless Area is in Oneida County, Idaho and Box Elder and Cache counties in Utah on the Westside Ranger District. The area extends from two miles southeast of Malad, Idaho to 1.5 miles north of Plymouth, Utah. Approximately 6,600 acres of the area are in Utah. The area is eighteen miles long and averages about two miles in width. Road access to the area includes the Two Mile Canyon Road along the north border, the Skyline, Left Fork of Dry Canyon, Steel Canyon, and Black Canyon roads from the east, the Water Canyon Road from the south, and the Gardner Canyon, Burnett Canyon, and Four Mile Canyon roads from the west. The Willow Spring Road (pre-1978) bisects the area.

The area's topography is steep and rocky with sagebrush, grass, juniper and mountain brush. Small patches of Douglas -fir and aspen occur on some northern slopes. Elevations range from 4,800 feet near Cherry Creek to 8,224 feet at Gunsight Peak.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is considered moderate, with evidence of some human activities, such as unimproved roads.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude are rated as low, because of minimal natural screening and the area's small size. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are considered low due to area's small size.

Special Features: Special features or attractions include areas of good deer habitat.

Manageability: Manageability of the area is considered poor, due to narrow width of the area and private in holdings.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The Bonneville cutthroat trout, a Region 4 sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

Wildlife: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive terrestrial species are present. The area has moderate values for wildlife habitat.

Water: The area has no municipal water use.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present.

Recreation: The entire roadless area is managed for a Semi-Primitive Motorized setting in summer. A small campground is adjacent to the east boundary. The area is popular for horse and trail bike riding, snowmobiling, and deer hunting. Most of the area is open to snowmobiling; some areas are closed to protect wildlife.

Timber: No recent timber activity has occurred in this roadless area.

Wildland Fire Use: Much of this area is managed for Wildland Fire Use: The application of the appropriate management response to naturally-ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific resource management objectives in predefined, designated areas outlined in Fire Management Plans.

Range: Livestock are authorized to graze entire area.

Minerals and Energy: No current oil or gas leases occur in the roadless area. This roadless area is considered to have low potential for oil and gas and contains 15,500 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: The roadless area has one groomed snowmobile trail and one special use authorization for outfitting and guiding big game. Approximately 560 acres of State or private lands occur within the roadless area.

Roads and Trails: There are about 4 miles of forest roads, and 14 miles of motorized trail.

Disturbances: The area includes motorized trail use and waterlines.

Heritage: Cultural resources have been identified within this roadless area. Recorded cultural resources include evidence of pre-historic and historic use of the area

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Clarkston 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 Clarkston Mountain-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| Clarkston 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 | 15,500 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Backcountry | 0 | 5,600 | 5,600 | CPZ | 3,600 |
| | | | | NonCPZ | 2,000 |
| GFRG | 0 | 9,900 | 9,900 | 9,900 | |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Total Acres | 15,500 | 15,500 | 15,500 | 15,500 | |

Table Clarkston Mountain-2. Potential activities

| Clarkston 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 | 15,500 | 15,500 | 13,500* |
| Timber cutting to improve TES species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 15,500 | 15,500 | 15,500 | 15,500 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 15,500 | 15,500 | 15,500 | 15,500 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 15,500 | 15,500 | 13,500* |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 15,500 | 9,900 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 15,500 | 15,500 | 15,500 | 15,500 |

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 2,000 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 5,600 acres are under prescription 2.7.1 (elk & deer winter range critical) and 9,900 acres under prescription 6.2 (rangeland vegetation management).

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for this roadless area. No phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since Clarkston Mountain has little to no potential for these minerals. The area does contain 15,500 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.

With regards to timber harvest, the 5,600 acres under prescription 2.7.1 only allow timber harvest and associated road building if they produce some additional habitat values, e.g. improvements in winter elk range habitat. While the immediate impact of any timber harvest would likely alter roadless characteristics in the short run, the dual objective of habitat protection would limit the long term impact.

For the 9,900 acres under the rangeland management prescription (6.2), limited timber harvest is allowed to improve wildlife habitat. However, these lands are generally non-forested so little to no timber harvest (or road building to access timber harvest) is expected. As such, it is unlikely that roadless characteristics would be altered.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 5,600 acres would fall under the Backcountry theme and 9,900 acres would fall under the GFRG. Timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities would be permitted under the Backcountry theme. 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.

While this prescription allows timber harvest and road construction to access timber harvests, little activity is expected since the GFRG areas in the Clarkston Mountain Roadless Area are rangelands. If timber activities and road building did occur, then they would likely alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

Mineral development of the GFRG areas with high geothermal potential could occur since roads would be permitted for this purpose. If any geothermal activity did occur, it would likely alter roadless characteristics in both the short and long-term. No mineral activities are expected in the acres under the Backcountry theme because roads are not permitted for new 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 5,600 acres under the Backcountry theme, 3,600 of which are in the CPZ, and 9,900 acres under the GFRG theme.

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 2,000 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 5,600 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.

For the 9,900 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; however all the lands in the GFRG theme are rangelands.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry or GFRG themes since these themes prohibit construction of roads to access new mineral leases. The GFRG exception for road building for phosphate leases does not apply to this area and there is no known phosphate present in this roadless area.

Deep Creek #158

7,100 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Deep Creek Roadless Area is within Oneida County, Idaho on the Westside Ranger District within the Caribou portion of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. It lies approximately .5 miles east of Malad, Idaho. Access routes to the area include the Deep Creek and Weston Canyon roads along the north and east, Two Mile Canyon and Trail Hollow roads along the southern border, and the Little Valley Road on the western boundary. Interstate 15 is .5 miles away and runs parallel to the western boundary of the roadless area.

Moderate slopes characterized the area, and brush and grass are the predominant vegetation. The area exhibits less topographic relief than is typical for other nearby roadless areas.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is considered moderate. The general appearance of the area is natural due to the steep, inaccessible west-facing slopes that dominate the area. Livestock grazing, unimproved roads and off highway vehicle use are evident.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude are rated as low, because of the area's small size and minimal natural screening. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are considered low due to area's size.

Special Features: Special features or attractions include areas of good deer habitat.

Manageability: Manageability of the area is considered poor, due to the area's small size and road intrusions.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The Bonneville cutthroat trout, a Region 4 sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

Wildlife: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive terrestrial species are present. The area has moderate values for wildlife habitat.

Water: The area has no municipal water use.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present.

Recreation: Dispersed recreation includes horseback and motorized trail use, snowmobiling and deer hunting. Visitors are attracted to the area, because of its close proximity to the community of Malad. The Deep Creek Reservoir near the eastern border of the area attracts many anglers and campers. Most of the area is open to snowmobiling; some areas are closed to protect wildlife.

Timber: No recent timber activity has occurred in this roadless area.

Wildland Fire Use: Some of this area is managed for Wildland Fire Use: The application of the appropriate management response to naturally-ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific resource management objectives in predefined, designated areas outlined in Fire Management Plans.

Range: Livestock are authorized to graze entire area. Range improvements are present.

Minerals and Energy: The area has a low potential for oil and gas and locatable minerals. No current oil or gas leases occur in the roadless area. This roadless area contains 7,100 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: Special use authorizations within the roadless area include outfitting and guiding big game; two water transmission systems, an area under cultivation, and a pasture. No State or private lands occur within the roadless area.

Roads and Trails: The area has no forest roads, and about 16 miles of motorized trail.

Disturbances: The area includes motorized trail use and waterlines.

Heritage: Cultural resources have been identified within this roadless area. Recorded cultural resources include evidence of pre-historic and historic use of the area.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Deep 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 Deep Creek-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| Deep 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 | 7,100 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Backcountry | 0 | 2,000 | 2,000 | CPZ | 1,700 |
| | | | | NonCPZ | 300 |
| GFRG | 0 | 4,900 | 4,900 | 4,900 | |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 200* | 200* | 200* | |
| Total Acres | 7,100 | 7,100 | 7,100 | 7,100 | |

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the Deep Creek Roadless Area is Visual Quality Maintenance. For further information on this designation, see the Caribou National Forest LRMP.

Table Deep Creek-2. Potential activities

| Deep 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 | 6,900 | 6,900 | 6,600* |
| Timber cutting to improve TES species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 7,100 | 6,900 | 6,900 | 6,900 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 7,100 | 6,900 | 6,900 | 6,900 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 6,900 | 6,900 | 6,600* |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 6,900 | 4,900 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 7,100 | 6,900 | 6,900 | 6,900 |

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 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 2,000 acres are under prescription 2.7.1 (elk & deer winter range critical) and 4,900 acres under prescription 6.2 (rangeland vegetation management).

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for this roadless area. No phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since Deep Creek has little to no potential for these minerals. The area does contain 7,100 acres of high geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the Deep Creek Roadless Area over both the short and long term.

With regards to timber harvest, the 2,000 acres under prescription 2.7.1 only allow timber harvest and associated road building if they produce some additional habitat values, e.g. improvements in winter elk range habitat. While the immediate impact of any timber harvest would likely alter roadless characteristics in the short run, the dual objective of habitat protection would limit the long term impact.

For the 4,900 acres under the rangeland management prescription (6.2), limited timber harvest is allowed to improve wildlife habitat. However, these lands are generally non-forested so little to no timber harvest (or road building to access timber harvest) is expected. As such, it is unlikely that roadless characteristics would be altered.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 2,000 acres would fall under the Backcountry theme and 4,900 acres would fall under the GFRG theme. Timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities would be permitted under the Backcountry theme. 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.

While this prescription allows timber harvest and road construction to access timber harvests, little activity is expected since the GFRG areas in the Deep Creek roadless area are rangelands. If timber activities and road building did occur, then they would likely alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

Mineral development of the GFRG areas with high geothermal potential could occur since roads would be permitted for this purpose. If any geothermal activity did occur, it would likely alter roadless characteristics in both the short and long-term. No mineral activities are expected in the acres under the Backcountry theme because roads are not permitted for new 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 2,000 acres under the Backcountry theme, 1,700 of which are in the CPZ, and 4,900 acres under the GFRG theme.

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 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 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 2,000 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 4,900 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; however the lands in the GFRG theme are rangelands so little to no timber harvest is anticipated.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry or GFRG themes since these themes prohibit construction of roads to access new mineral leases. The GFRG exception for road building for phosphate leases does not apply to this area and there is no known phosphate present in this roadless area.

Dry Ridge #164

23,500 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Dry Ridge Roadless Area is within Caribou and Bear Lake counties, Idaho on the Soda Springs and Montpelier Ranger Districts on the Caribou portion of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. It lies approximately fourteen miles east of Soda Springs, Idaho. The major access roads to the area are Diamond Creek Road on the northeast, the Georgetown Canyon Road along the southeast, and the Slug Creek Road on the western boundary. Other roads into the area include the Left Fork of the Georgetown Canyon Road on the southwest, and the Dry Canyon Road on the west. The area is rich in phosphate ore and is extensively leased.

The area's topography includes the high, rather uniform, Dry Ridge at about 8,000 feet, although fifty percent of the area gently slopes down to about 6,500 feet. The vegetative cover includes wet and dry meadows, sagebrush, grass, mountain brush, aspen, and conifer stands on north and east-facing slopes.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is considered low to moderate, because some human activities are evident including past timber harvest units, unimproved or closed roads, livestock grazing, and extensive evidence of phosphate mining. The general appearance of the area is natural, due to the steep, inaccessible west-facing slopes that dominate the area.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude are rated as low, because of the area's size and minimal natural screening from adjacent mining activity. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are considered low due to area's small size.

Special Features: No special features have been identified in this roadless area.

Manageability: Manageability of the area is considered very poor, due to the area's size and numerous human intrusions.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The Bonneville cutthroat trout, a Region 4 sensitive species potentially occurs in this roadless area. This species was not located in the most recent surveys in Georgetown Creek, the only perennial stream with potential for Bonneville cutthroat trout.

Wildlife: This area is considered a linkage area for the Canada lynx, a Forest Service sensitive species. Great gray owls a Region 4 sensitive species occur in this roadless area.

Water: The area has no municipal water use.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present.

Recreation: A campground is located adjacent to the southwest boundary. Dry Ridge Roadless Area receives moderate use for big game hunting, off highway vehicle use, and dispersed camping. Visitors are attracted to the area by the loop road from Georgetown Canyon into Diamond Creek and the driving for pleasure opportunities it affords. Most of the area is open to snowmobiling; some areas are closed to protect wildlife.

Timber: No recent timber activity has occurred in the roadless area, but there is evidence of past timber harvest.

Wildland Fire Use: Much of this area is managed for Wildland Fire Use: The application of the appropriate management response to naturally-ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific resource management objectives in predefined, designated areas outlined in Fire Management Plans.

Range: Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Minerals and Energy: Patented mining claims border the area on the south. The area has moderate potential for oil and gas and no current oil or gas leases. Phosphate leases cover much of the Dry Ridge Roadless Area. Considerable phosphate exploration work is evident within and adjacent to the area. Past mining is evident north of the area in Maybe Canyon and the Mountain Fuel. Active phosphate mining at the Dry Valley mine is clearly visible to much of this roadless area. About 1,400 acres of phosphate deposits are under lease, and 800 acres of known deposits are not leased. This roadless area contains 23,500 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: The roadless area has special use authorizations for outfitting and guiding big game, a railroad spur and a slurry pipeline. No State or private lands occur within the area.

Roads and Trails: The area has about 3 miles of forest roads and 9.5 miles of motorized trail.

Disturbances: The area includes motorized trail use, a slurry line, and phosphate leases.

Heritage: Cultural resources have been identified within this roadless area.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Dry Ridge Roadless Area. Table Dry 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 Dry Ridge-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| Dry 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 | 23,500 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Backcountry | 0 | 14,000 | 14,000 | CPZ | 1,000 |
| | | | | NonCPZ | 7,600 |
| GFRG | 0 | 9,500 | 9,500 | 14,900 | |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Total Acres | 23,500 | 23,500 | 23,500 | 23,500 | |

Table Dry Ridge-2. Potential activities

| Dry 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 | 23,500 | 23,500 | 15,900 ² |
| Timber cutting to improve TES species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 23,500 | 23,500 | 23,500 | 23,500 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 23,500 | 23,500 | 23,500 | 23,500 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 23,500 | 23,500 | 15,900 ² |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 23,500 | 23,500 ¹ | 14,900 ³ |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 23,500 | 23,500 | 23,500 | 23,500 |

¹Road building in Backcountry areas under Alternative 3 would be permitted for phosphate leases only.

²Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 7,600 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.

³Road building in GFRG areas under Alternative 4 would be permitted for phosphate leases only.

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. There are currently around 1,400 acres of phosphate deposits under lease in the Dry Ridge Roadless Area. The mining activities under these existing leases would continue under the 2001 Roadless Rule and would likely alter roadless characteristic over the short and long term. No new mining leases would be expected, however, since road building for any new leases in the area would be prohibited.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan, around 2,000 acres are under prescription 2.7.1 (elk & deer winter range critical), 2,800 acres under prescription 2.7.2 (elk and deer winter range), 9,200 acres under prescription 3.2 (semi-primitive recreation), 3,900 acres under prescription 5.2 (forest vegetation management), and 5,600 acres under prescription 6.2 (rangeland vegetation management).

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Dry Ridge Roadless Area. No oil and gas activities are expected since the Dry Ridge Roadless Area has little to no potential for oil and gas leasing. The Dry Ridge Roadless Area does contain 23,500 acres of high geothermal potential, 1,400 acres of an active phosphate lease, and 780 additional acres of known phosphate deposits that are not leased. Any geothermal or phosphate mining activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the Dry Ridge Roadless Area over both the short and long term.

With regards to timber harvest, the 4,800 acres under Caribou prescriptions 2.7.1 and 2.7.2 only allow timber harvest and associated road building if they produce some additional habitat values, e.g. improvements in winter elk range habitat. While the immediate impact of any timber harvest would likely alter roadless characteristics in the short run, the dual objective of habitat protection would limit the long term impact.

Under Caribou prescription 3.2, temporary roads for salvage harvest are allowed, as well as general timber harvest for fuels reduction or restoration projects. If temporary roads were constructed they would affect roadless characteristics in the short term, but the effects would decrease over the long term.

For the 5,600 acres under the rangeland management prescription (6.2), limited timber harvest is allowed to improve wildlife habitat. However, these lands are generally non-forested so little to no timber harvest (or road building to access timber harvest) is expected. As such, it is unlikely that roadless characteristics would be altered.

Caribou prescription 5.2 permits both road building and timber harvest. For the 3,900 acres under this prescription, any timber activities or road building that occurred would likely alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 14,000 acres would fall under the Backcountry theme and 9,500 acres would fall under the GFRG. 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.

About 5,600 acres are rangeland and 3,900 acres are forested. For the 9,500 acres under the GFRG theme roads would generally be permitted and timber harvest could occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. However, timber harvest and associated road construction is most likely to occur on the forested lands. Timber activities and road building to meet these objectives could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

There are currently around 1,400 acres of phosphate deposits under lease in the Dry Ridge Roadless Area, and an additional 780 acres of known deposits are not yet under lease. The Backcountry portion of the roadless area contains 1,220 acres of deposits under lease and 570 acres not under lease. The GFRG portion of the roadless area contains 180 acres of deposits under lease and 210 acres not under lease. Road building and surface occupancy would continue for the existing leases and new phosphate leases would also be allowed under both the Backcountry or GFRG themes.

Any new leasing in the 14,000 Backcountry acres would be limited to phosphate leases. For the 9,500 acres under the GFRG theme, non-phosphate mineral leases and road building to access these leases would also be permitted. While there is little to no potential for oil and gas development in the Dry Ridge Roadless Area, the area does contain 23,500 acres of high geothermal potential. If any leasable mineral activities occurred in either the Backcountry or GFRG themes then they would alter roadless characteristics in both the short and long-term.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 8,600 acres under the Backcountry theme, 1,000 of which are in the CPZ, and 14,900 acres under the GFRG theme.

Within the 1,000 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 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 7,600 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 8,600 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.

For the 14,900 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. About 5,500 acres of the GFRG theme are rangelands. Little to no timber cutting would occur in these areas.

The Dry Ridge Roadless Area contains around 1,400 acres of known phosphate deposits under lease and around 780 acres not under lease. Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, all 2,180 acres would be under the GFRG theme. These areas would therefore be available for development since the GFRG theme allows construction of roads to access both existing and new phosphate leases. Any phosphate mining activity that occurs would alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

No new mineral lease activity is expected in the Backcountry areas since road construction for new mineral leases is prohibited. Any new leasing in the 14,900 GFRG acres would be limited to phosphate since road construction is prohibited for all other types of new mineral leases.

Elkhorn Mountain #156

41,800 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Elkhorn Mountain Roadless Area is within Bannock and Oneida counties, Idaho on the Westside Ranger District on the Caribou portion of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. The center of the area is about twelve air miles north of Malad, Idaho. The Wright's Creek National Recreation Trail bisects the southern portion of the roadless area. The Elkhorn Mountain Roadless Area is bordered by the Wright's Creek Road to the northwest and Mill Canyon Road to the east. Other roads to the area include Heath Canyon, Limekiln Canyon, and Secret Springs roads on the south; Elkhorn Creek, Bill Morgan Canyon, Indian-Mill Creek, and the Tom Perry Canyon roads on the west; and the South Fork of Hawkins Creek Road on the north.

The topography of the area is typical for the mountain ranges in this part of Southeast Idaho. The elevation varies from 9,095 feet at Elkhorn Peak to about 5,500 feet near the east and south boundaries. The terrain is generally steep, and the vegetative cover types include sagebrush, grass, mountain brush, and scattered stands of aspen and mountain maple. Narrow stands of Douglas -fir are found on the area's north slopes.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is considered high; human intrusion is evident as a result of firewood cutting, grazing use, and unimproved roads. A perlite mine is operating on the northwestern border and is visible from the roadless area.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude are rated as low, because of the size and minimal screening from valley developments. Opportunities for primitive recreation are considered moderate due to limited size, but rated as low for challenging experiences due to size and lack of challenging terrain.

Special Features: Special features or attractions include areas of good deer habitat.

Manageability: Manageability of the area is considered poor along the inventoried boundaries, but a core area could be achieved by locating a boundary on natural features.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The Yellowstone cutthroat trout, a Region 4 sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

Wildlife: Townsend's big eared bat a Region 4 sensitive species occur in this roadless area. The area has moderate values for wildlife habitat.

Water: The area has no municipal water use.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present.

Recreation: Activities include hunting, camping, off highway vehicle and snowmobile use. Summit Campground is located just east of the roadless area. Horseback riding, off highway vehicle use, and hiking are popular on the Wright's Creek National Recreational Trail. The area is also used for cross-country skiing. Most of the area is open to snowmobiling; some areas are closed to protect wildlife.

Timber: No recent timber activity has occurred in the roadless area.

Wildland Fire Use: Much of this area is managed for Wildland Fire Use: The application of the appropriate management response to naturally-ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific resource management objectives in predefined, designated areas outlined in Fire Management Plans.

Range: Most of the area is authorized for livestock grazing.

Minerals and Energy: The area has low potential for oil and gas and no current oil or gas leases. This roadless area contains 41,800 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: The roadless area has special use authorizations, including outfitting and guiding big game and a power line. Approximately 190 acres of State or private lands occur within the roadless area.

Roads and Trails: The area has 2 miles of forest roads and about 62 miles of motorized trail.

Disturbances: The area includes motorized trail use and a power line.

Heritage: Cultural resources have been identified within this roadless area. Recorded cultural resources include evidence of pre-historic and historic use of the area.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Elkhorn Mountain Roadless Area. Table Elkhorn 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 Elkhorn Mountain-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| Elkhorn 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 | 41,800 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Backcountry | 0 | 13,300 | 13,300 | CPZ | 3,000 |
| | | | | NonCPZ | 37,000 |
| GFRG | 0 | 28,500 | 28,500 | 1,800 | |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Total Acres | 41,800 | 41,800 | 41,800 | 41,800 | |

Table Elkhorn Mountain-2. Potential activities

| Elkhorn 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 | 41,800 | 41,800 | 4,800* |
| Timber cutting to improve TES species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 41,800 | 41,800 | 41,800 | 41,800 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 41,800 | 41,800 | 41,800 | 41,800 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 41,800 | 41,800 | 4,800* |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 41,800 | 28,500 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 41,800 | 41,800 | 41,800 | 41,800 |

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 37,000 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 8,000 acres are under prescription 2.7.1 (elk & deer winter range critical), 5,300 acres under prescription 2.7.2 (elk and deer winter range), 1,900 acres under prescription 5.2 (forest vegetation management) and 26,600 acres under prescription 6.2 (rangeland vegetation management).

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for this roadless area. No phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the Elkhorn Mountain roadless area has little to no potential for these minerals. The area does contain 41,800 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.

With regards to timber harvest, the 13,300 acres under prescription 2.7.1 and 2.7.2 only allow timber harvest and associated road building if they produce some additional habitat values, e.g. improvements in winter elk range habitat. While the immediate impact of any timber harvest would likely alter roadless characteristics in the short run, the dual objective of habitat protection would limit the long term impact.

Timber harvest and road building are both permitted under prescription 5.2. For the 1900 acres under this prescription, any timber activities or road building that occurred would likely alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

For the 26,600 acres under the rangeland management prescription (6.2), limited timber harvest is allowed to improve wildlife habitat. However, these lands are generally non-forested so little to no timber harvest (or road building to access timber harvest) is expected. As such, it is unlikely that roadless characteristics would be altered.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 13,300 acres would fall under the Backcountry theme and 28,500 acres would fall under the GFRG theme. Timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities would be permitted under the Backcountry theme. 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.

About 28,500 acres are rangeland and 26,610 acres are forested. For the 28,500 acres under the GFRG theme roads would generally be permitted and timber harvest could occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. However, timber harvest and associated road construction is most likely to occur on the forested lands. Timber activities and road building to meet these objectives could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

Mineral development of the GFRG areas with high geothermal potential could occur since roads would be permitted for this purpose. If any geothermal activity did occur, it would likely alter roadless characteristics in both the short and long-term. No mineral activities are expected in the acres under the Backcountry theme because roads are not permitted for new 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 40,000 acres under the Backcountry theme, 3,000 of which are in the CPZ, and 1,800 acres under the GFRG theme.

Within the 3,000 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 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 37,000 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 40,000 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 1,800 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 does not apply to this area and there is no known phosphate present in this roadless area.

Gannett-Spring Creek #111
20,400 Acres Caribou (Idaho)
45,100 Acres Bridger-Teton (Wyoming)
65,500 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Gannett Spring Creek Roadless Area lies within the Bridger-Teton National Forest in Wyoming (45,100 acres) and the Caribou-Targhee National Forest (20,400 acres) in Idaho. The Gannett Spring Creek Roadless Area (Idaho portion) is within Caribou County, Idaho on the Montpelier Ranger District on the Caribou portion of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. During the 1985 Forest planning effort, the Wyoming Wilderness Act was passed by Congress and signed into law on October 30, 1984. This occurred after the Forest's Draft EIS and proposed Forest Plan had been released to the public for review. The Wyoming Wilderness Act either designated areas as wilderness or wilderness study areas, or released the remaining areas to multiple uses other than wilderness. The Wyoming portion of this area was released. As a result, it was no longer required to evaluate the entire area as one unit. The Idaho portion of the roadless area is approximately ten miles southwest of Afton, Wyoming. The forest boundary forms the north and east border. Access to the area from the south is by Elk Valley Road and Ephraim Valley Road. The Crow Creek Road forms much of the western boundary.

Elevations range from approximately 6,000 feet near Crow Creek to 8,000 feet along mountain ridges near the center of the area. Most of the area is comprised of moderate to gently rolling hills, with steep drainages, typical of the topography of this part of Southeast Idaho. Vegetation includes grasses and sagebrush with stands of Douglas -fir on northern slopes.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is considered moderate, because of past vegetation treatments, livestock improvements, and adjacent oil and gas drilling activity.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude are rated as low, because of the size and minimal screening from valley developments. Opportunities for primitive recreation are considered moderate due to roads and other uses; opportunity for challenging experiences is low due to the rolling terrain.

Special Features: Special features or attractions include the Crow Creek Road, which is a popular recreation access road and is located on the old pioneer travel route. Other early pioneer wagon roads exist in the area. Elk Valley Marsh is a unique high elevation wetland. A 200-acre parcel was found to be eligible for further study under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Manageability: Manageability of the area is considered poor along inventoried boundaries, but a core area could be achieved by locating a boundary on natural features.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The Yellowstone cutthroat trout, a Region 4 sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

Wildlife: This area is considered a linkage area for the Canada lynx, a Forest Service sensitive species. Bald eagle, also sensitive winters near this roadless area. The area has moderate wildlife habitat.

Water: The area has no municipal water use.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present.

Recreation: Recreation use includes big-game hunting, fishing, off highway vehicle use, and camping. Most of the area is open to snowmobiling; some areas are closed to protect wildlife.

Timber: No recent timber activity has occurred in the area.

Wildland Fire Use: Much of this area is managed for Wildland Fire Use: The application of the appropriate management response to naturally-ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific resource management objectives in predefined, designated areas outlined in Fire Management Plans.

Range: Livestock grazing is authorized for most of the area.

Minerals and Energy: The area has moderate potential for oil and gas and no current oil or gas leases. Exploration wells have been drilled adjacent to the boundary in Elk Valley and to the south on Red Mountain. This area contains 2,900 acres of high and 17,500 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: Approximately 655 acres of State or private lands occur within the area. Outfitting and Guiding is authorized.

Roads and Trails: The area has no forest roads and 10.5 miles of motorized trail.

Disturbances: The area includes motorized trail use.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Gannett-Spring Creek Roadless Area. Table Gannett-Spring 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 Gannett-Spring Creek-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| Gannett-Spring 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 | 4,500 | 4,500 | 4,500 |
| Similar to Backcountry | 20,400 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Backcountry | 0 | 7,800 | 7,800 | 7,800 |
| GFRG | 0 | 7,900 | 7,900 | 7,900 |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 200* | 200* | 200* |
| Total Acres | 20,400 | 20,400 | 20,400 | 20,400 |

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the Gannett-Spring Creek Roadless Area is WSR. For further information on this designation, see the Caribou National Forest LRMP.

Table Gannett-Spring Creek-2. Potential activities

| Gannett-Spring 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 | 15,700 | 15,700 | 7,900 |
| Timber cutting to improve TES species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 20,400 | 20,200 | 20,200 | 20,200 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 20,400 | 20,200 | 20,200 | 15,700 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 20,200 | 20,200 | 7,900 |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 15,700 | 7,900 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 20,400 | 20,200 | 15,700 | 15,700 |

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 4,500 acres are managed under prescription 3.1 (non-motorized recreation and wildlife security), 7,800 acres under prescription 2.7.2 (elk and deer winter range), and 7,900 acres under 6.2 (rangeland vegetation).

Roads for new mineral leases are not permitted for the 4,500 acres under prescription 3.1. For all the other areas, new mineral leases and roads would generally be permitted. The Gannett-Spring Creek roadless area contains 17,500 acres of medium geothermal potential and 2,900 acres of high geothermal potential, but it has little to no potential for oil and gas leasing or phosphate mining. If any geothermal leasing occurred, it would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

With regards to timber harvest, Caribou prescription 3.1 only allows timber harvest if it contributes to non-motorized recreation or wildlife security. Since construction of new public roads is also prohibited under 3.1, little to no timber harvest is expected for these acres. For the 32,600 acres under prescription 2.7.2, timber harvest and road building to access the timber harvest are permitted only if they produce some additional habitat values, e.g. improvements in winter elk range habitat. While the immediate impact of any timber harvest would likely alter roadless characteristics in the short run, the dual objective of habitat protection would limit the long term impact.

The rangeland management prescription (6.2) allows timber harvest to improve wildlife habitat. However, these lands are generally non-forested so little to no timber harvest (or road building to access timber harvest) is expected. As such, it is unlikely that roadless characteristics would be altered.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule about 7,900 acres would be managed under the GFRG, 7,800 acres would be managed under the Backcountry theme, and 4,500 acres would be managed under the Primitive 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 7,900 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. Since this section of the Gannett-Spring Creek Roadless Area is primarily rangeland, however, little to no timber activity is expected.

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.

Little to no timber cutting would be anticipated for the 4,500 acres under the Primitive theme because roads are prohibited except for reserved and outstanding rights.

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 Gannett-Spring Creek Roadless Area, the area does contain 2,900 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 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 4,500 acres under the Primitive theme, 7,200 acres under the Backcountry theme, none of which are in the CPZ, and 7,900 acres under the GFRG 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 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 7,200 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. 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.

For the 7,900 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 Primitive, Backcountry or GFRG theme since either surface occupancy is prohibited or roads are not permitted to access new mineral leases. The GFRG exception for road building for phosphate leases does not apply to this area and there is no known phosphate present in this roadless area.

Gibson #181

8,300 Acres Caribou (Idaho)
5,300 Acres Wasatch-Cache (Utah)
13,600 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Gibson Roadless Area lies in Franklin County, Idaho, and Cache County, Utah. All of the roadless area is on the Cache portion of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. The Idaho portion (8,300 acres) of the roadless area is administered by the Montpelier Ranger District on the Caribou portion of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest, and the Utah portion (5,300 acres) of the roadless area is administered by the Logan Ranger District of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. The area straddles the Utah-Idaho border and is located about eight miles west of Bear Lake. Access on the north is provided by the Egan Basin Road and on the east by the Beaver Creek Road. The west boundary is formed by Logan River Road. The Gibson Basin Road makes a corridor into the northern edge of the area.

The average elevation of the area is around 8,500 feet above sea level. The topography is quite gentle with a few steep and rocky slopes. Vegetation cover types include mountain brush, maple, aspen, sagebrush, and grass at lower elevations. Douglas -fir, lodgepole pine, spruce, and subalpine fir occur along northern slopes.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is considered moderate, because portions of the area have been affected by timber harvest, unimproved roads, recreation use, and grazing. Roads penetrate the area to Horse Lake and Sink Hollow.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude are rated as moderate, due to road intrusions. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are considered low, due to terrain.

Special Features: Special features or attractions include Gibson Lakes.

Manageability: Manageability is considered fair, due to existing intrusions.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The Bonneville cutthroat trout, a Region 4 sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

Wildlife: This area is a linkage area for the Canada lynx, a Forest Service sensitive species. The area has moderate values for wildlife habitat.

Water: The area has no municipal water use.

Botanical: Mt Naomi penstemon (*Penstemon compactus*) a sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

Recreation: The primary recreation pursuits are snowmobiling, hunting, and camping. A small, campground exists on the east boundary. The Highline National Recreation Trail is popular with off highway vehicle users, equestrians, and day hikers. Portions of the area are popular for back-country skiing. Most of the area is open to snowmobiling; some areas are closed to protect wildlife.

Timber: Some of the conifer stands in the area have been selectively logged in the past. The Franklin Basin timber sale (1996) was just south of the Danish Pass Road and just east of the Franklin Basin Road.

Wildland Fire Use: Much of this area is managed for Wildland Fire Use: The application of the appropriate management response to naturally-ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific resource management objectives in predefined, designated areas outlined in Fire Management Plans.

Range: Most of the area is authorized for livestock grazing.

Minerals and Energy: The area is considered to have low potential for oil and gas and has no current oil or gas leases. This roadless area contains 8,300 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: Outfitter and guide special use authorizations exist in the roadless area. No State or private lands occur within the roadless area.

Roads and Trails: The area has no forest roads and eleven miles of motorized trail.

Disturbances: The area includes motorized trail use.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Gibson-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 Gibson-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| Gibson 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 | 8,300 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Backcountry | 0 | 7,400 | 7,400 | 7,400 |
| GFRG | 0 | 900 | 900 | 900 |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Acres | 8,300 | 8,300 | 8,300 | 8,300 |

Table Gibson-2. Potential activities

| Gibson 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 | 8,300 | 8,300 | 900 |
| Timber cutting to improve TES species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 8,300 | 8,300 | 8,300 | 8,300 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 8,300 | 8,300 | 8,300 | 8,300 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 8,300 | 8,300 | 900 |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 8,300 | 900 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 8,300 | 8,300 | 8,300 | 8,300 |

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 4,200 acres are managed under prescription 3.2 (semi-primitive recreation), 3,100 acres under prescription 3.3 (semi-primitive restoration), and 900 acres under 5.2 (forest vegetation management).

There are no prohibitions on new mineral leases and or roads to access leases under any of these forest plan prescriptions. The Gibson roadless area contains 8,300 acres of high geothermal potential, but it has little to no potential for oil and gas leasing or phosphate mining. If any geothermal leasing occurred, it would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

With regards to timber harvest, prescription 3.3 only allows timber harvest and associated road building if they attain restoration goals. While the immediate impact of any timber harvest would likely alter roadless characteristics in the short run, the dual objective of forest restoration would limit the long term impact.

Under prescription 3.2, temporary roads for salvage harvest are allowed, as well as general timber harvest for fuels reduction or restoration projects. If temporary roads were constructed they would affect roadless characteristics in the short term, but since the roads would be decommissioned and restored, the effects would decrease over the long term.

Prescription 5.2 permits both road building and timber harvest. For the 900 acres under this prescription, any timber activities or road building that occurred would likely alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule about 900 acres would be managed under the GFRG and 7,400 acres would be managed under the Backcountry 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 900 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.

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.

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 Gibson roadless area, the area does contain 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 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.

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 CPZ, and 900 acres under the GFRG theme.

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 7,400 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.

For the 900 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 does not apply to this area and there is no known phosphate present in this roadless area.

Hell Hole #168

4,700 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Hell Hole Roadless Area is in Bear Lake County, Idaho on the Montpelier Ranger District on the Caribou portion of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. It lies about four miles east of Montpelier, Idaho. The Sheep Creek Road is south of the area, and the Bear Hollow Road cuts a corridor into the southern boundary.

The topography of the area is moderately steep and characterized by sagebrush and grass-covered slopes, with a few pockets of Douglas -fir and aspen on north and east aspects. Riparian vegetation covers the low areas along Montpelier Creek and Willow Spring. The average elevation of the area is 6,900 feet.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is considered moderate, because human activities are evident, including unimproved roads, a communication site, and livestock grazing.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude are rated as low, due to two-track roads on many ridges within the roadless area, small size of area, and agricultural activities and Hwy 89 are visible from most of the area. Opportunities for primitive and challenging experiences are rated as low, due to the area's small size.

Special Features: Special features or attractions include areas of deer transition/migration range.

Manageability: Manageability of the area is considered poor, due to the area's many road intrusions. A core area could not be achieved by placing boundaries on natural features.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The Bonneville cutthroat trout, a Region 4 sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

Wildlife: This area is a linkage area for the Canada lynx, a Forest Service sensitive species. The area has low to moderate values for wildlife habitat.

Water: The area has no municipal water use.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present.

Recreation: Most of the area is managed for semi-primitive motorized experiences year-round. Activities include driving for pleasure, OVH use, and deer hunting. Most of the area is open to snowmobiling; some areas are closed to protect wildlife.

Timber: No recent timber activity has occurred in the area.

Wildland Fire Use: Much of this area is managed for Wildland Fire Use: The application of the appropriate management response to naturally-ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific resource management objectives in predefined, designated areas outlined in Fire Management Plans.

Range: The area has no current oil or gas leases. Phosphate leases are adjacent to area. Most of the area is authorized for livestock grazing.

Minerals and Energy: This roadless area is considered to have moderate potential for oil and gas and contains 4,700 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are outfitter and guide special use authorizations within the roadless area. There is a Forest Service radio repeater within the roadless area. No State or private land in-holdings are located within this roadless area.

Roads and Trails: There are about 7 miles of Forest roads within the area and no motorized trails.

Disturbances: The area includes roads. There are no system trails.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Hell Hole-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 Hell Hole-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Hell Hole-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

| Hell Hole 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 | 4,700 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Backcountry | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GFRG | 0 | 4,200 | 4,200 | 4,200 |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 500* | 500* | 500* |
| Total Acres | 4,700 | 4,700 | 4,700 | 4,700 |

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the Hell Hole Roadless Area is visual quality maintenance. For further information on this designation, see the Caribou National Forest LRMP.

Table Hell Hole-2. Potential activities

| Hell Hole 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 | 4,200 | 4,200 | 4,200 |
| Timber cutting to improve TES species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 4,700 | 4,200 | 4,200 | 4,200 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 4,700 | 4,200 | 4,200 | 4,200 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 4,200 | 4,200 | 4,200 |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 4,200 | 4,200 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 4,700 | 4,200 | 4,200 | 4,200 |

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 4,200 acres are under prescription 6.2 (rangeland vegetation management).

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases under prescription 6.2. No phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the Hell Hole roadless area has little to no potential for these minerals. The area does contain 4,700 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.

With regards to timber harvest, the rangeland management prescription allows limited timber harvest to improve wildlife habitat. However, these lands are generally non-forested so little to no timber harvest (or road building to access timber harvest) is expected. As such, it is unlikely that roadless characteristics would be altered.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 7,400 acres would fall under the GFRG. Under the GFRG theme roads would generally be permitted and timber harvest could occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. However, since the Hell Hole Roadless Area is primarily rangeland, timber harvest and associated road construction is not likely.

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 Hell Hole roadless area, the area does contain areas 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.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule 4,200 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, the Hell Hole Roadless Area is primarily rangeland; therefore timber harvest and associated road construction is not likely.

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.

Huckleberry Basin #165

20,200 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Huckleberry Basin Roadless Area is in Bear Lake and Caribou counties, Idaho on the Soda Springs Ranger District. The area lies six miles east of Soda Springs. Johnson Creek and Patterson Canyon roads provide access from the north. The Slug Creek Road forms the eastern boundary. The Left Fork of the Georgetown Canyon Road and the Red Pine Canyon Road provide access from the south. Big Canyon, Rattlesnake Canyon, Fossil Canyon, Dry Canyon and Sulphur Canyon roads are found along the western boundary.

Topography of the area ranges from gentle to very steep. Elevation ranges from 8,302 feet at Sulphur Peak to about 6,000 feet near U.S. Highway 30. Vegetation includes sagebrush, grass, mountain brush, aspen, Douglas fir, and lodgepole pine on north and east facing slopes. Stands of Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine are found on high, north-facing slopes.

Timber sales and associated road construction in the 1990's dissected this roadless area into 5 distinct areas ranging from 1043 acres to 5953 acres.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is considered low, with evidence of unimproved roads, timber harvest activities, and mining.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude rate as low, because of development. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are considered very low due to roads and timber harvest.

Special Features: No special features or attractions have been identified in this roadless area.

Manageability: Manageability of the area is considered poor, due to road intrusions and timber harvest activities.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: No threatened, endangered or sensitive fish species are present.

Wildlife: This area is a linkage zone for the Canada lynx, a Forest Service sensitive species. The northern goshawk, also a sensitive species occur in this roadless area. The area has low to moderate values for wildlife habitat.

Water: The area has no municipal water use.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present.

Recreation: Dispersed recreation use includes OHV trail riding, huckleberry picking, firewood gathering, and hunting. A popular snowmobile trail is groomed through the roadless area and most of the area is open to snowmobiling; some areas are closed to protect wildlife.

Timber: Recent timber harvest activities are very evident in the area. Five separate sales occurred in or immediately adjacent to the roadless area from 1985 through 2004.

Wildland Fire Use: This area is not managed for Wildland Fire Use. The Fire Management Plan has identified the entire roadless area for suppression.

Range: Livestock are authorized to graze most of the area.

Minerals and Energy: The northeast edge of this area is considered to have moderate potential for oil and gas and has no current oil or gas leases. About 2,090 acres of phosphate deposits is under lease; and 2,120 acres of known phosphate deposits are not leased. This roadless area contains 20,200 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: The area has one special use authorization for outfitting and guiding big game. Approximately 156 acres of private lands occur within the roadless area.

Roads and Trails: The area has about 3 miles of Forest road and 14 miles of motorized trail.

Disturbances: The area includes motorized trail use and firewood gathering.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Huckleberry Basin-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 Huckleberry Basin-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Huckleberry Basin-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

| Huckleberry Basin 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 | 20,200 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Backcountry | 0 | 2,500 | 2,500 | 2,500 |
| GFRG | 0 | 17,700 | 17,700 | 17,700 |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Acres | 20,200 | 20,200 | 20,200 | 20,200 |

Table Huckleberry Basin-2. Potential activities

| Huckleberry Basin 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 | 20,200 | 20,200 | 17,700 |
| Timber cutting to improve TES species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 20,200 | 20,200 | 20,200 | 20,200 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 20,200 | 20,200 | 20,200 | 20,200 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 20,200 | 20,200 | 17,700 |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 20,200 | 20,200 ¹ | 17,700 ² |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 20,200 | 20,200 | 20,200 | 20,200 |

¹Road building in Backcountry areas under Alternative 3 would be permitted for phosphate leases only.

²Road building in GFRG areas under Alternative 4 would be permitted for phosphate leases only.

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. There are currently around 2,090 acres of phosphate deposits under lease in the Huckleberry Basin Roadless Area. The mining activities under these existing leases would continue under the 2001 Roadless Rule and would likely alter roadless characteristic over the short and long term.

No new mining leases would be expected, however, since road building for any new leases in the area would be prohibited.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan, around 2,500 acres are under prescription 2.7.1 (elk & deer winter range critical) and 17,700 acres under prescription 5.2 (forest vegetation management).

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Huckleberry Basin roadless area. No oil and gas activities are expected since the Huckleberry Basin roadless area has little to no potential for oil and gas leasing. The Huckleberry Basin roadless area does contain 20,200 acres of high geothermal potential, 2,090 acres of an active phosphate lease, and 2,120 additional acres of known phosphate deposits that are not leased. Any geothermal or phosphate mining activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the Huckleberry Basin roadless area over both the short and long term.

With regards to timber harvest, the 2,500 acres under prescriptions 2.7.1 only allow timber harvest and associated road building if they produce some additional habitat values, e.g. improvements in winter elk range habitat. While the immediate impact of any timber harvest would likely alter roadless characteristics in the short run, the dual objective of habitat protection would limit the long term impact.

Prescription 5.2 permits both road building and timber harvest. For the 17,700 acres under this prescription, any timber activities or road building that occurred would likely alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 2,500 acres would fall under the Backcountry theme and 17,700 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.

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.

There are currently around 2,120 acres of phosphate deposits under lease in the Huckleberry Basin Roadless Area, and an additional 2,120 acres of known deposits are not yet under lease. All of these areas are located in the portion of the roadless area under the GFRG theme. Road building and surface occupancy would continue for the existing leases and new phosphate leases would also be allowed under the GFRG theme. While the Backcountry theme would allow for the development of new phosphate leases, none is expected since there are no known phosphate deposits in the Backcountry portions of this roadless area.

For the 17,700 acres under the GFRG theme, non-phosphate mineral leases and road building to access these leases would also be permitted. While there is little to no potential for oil and gas development in the Huckleberry Basin Roadless Area, the area does contain 20,200 acres of high geothermal potential. If any leasable mineral activities occurred then they would alter roadless characteristics over both the short and long-term.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 2,500 acres under the Backcountry theme, none of which are in the CPZ, and 17,700 acres under the GFRG theme.

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 2,500 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. 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 17,700 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.

The Huckleberry Basin Roadless Area contains around 2,090 acres of known phosphate deposits under lease and around 2,120 acres not under lease. Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, all 4,210 acres would be under the GFRG theme. These areas would therefore be available for development since the GFRG theme allows construction of roads to access both existing and new phosphate leases. Any phosphate mining activity that occurs would alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

No new mineral lease activity is expected in the Backcountry areas since road construction for new mineral leases is prohibited. Any new leasing in the 14,900 GFRG acres would be limited to phosphate mining since road construction is prohibited for all other types of new mineral leases.

Liberty Creek #175**15,000 Acres****OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION**

The Liberty Creek Roadless Area is in Bear Lake and Franklin Counties, Idaho on the Cache portion of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, but is administered by the Montpelier Ranger District on the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. The area is twelve miles west of Montpelier, Idaho. Access to the unit is from State Highway 36 on the northwest, the Copenhagen Canyon Road and the Power Line Road. Eastern access is from the Green Basin Road.

The area's topography is moderate with vegetation of mountain brush, aspen, lodgepole pine and Douglas -fir. The average elevation is 7,700 feet above sea level.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is considered low, with evidence of some human activities, such as unimproved roads and timber harvest.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude are rated as low, due to the area's small size and road intrusions. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are considered low due to the area's small size and road intrusions.

Special Features: No special features or attractions have been identified in this roadless area.

Manageability: Manageability of the area is considered poor along roadless boundaries, due to road intrusions.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The Bonneville cutthroat trout, a Region 4 sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

Wildlife: This area is a linkage zone for the Canada lynx, a Forest Service sensitive species. The area has low to moderate values for wildlife habitat.

Water: The area has no municipal water use.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present.

Recreation: Snowmobiling, off highway vehicle use, and hunting are popular in the area. Most of the area is open to snowmobiling; some areas are closed to protect wildlife.

Timber: Several timber sales have occurred in this area.

Wildland Fire Use: Much of this area is managed for Wildland Fire Use: The application of the appropriate management response to naturally-ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific resource management objectives in predefined, designated areas outlined in Fire Management Plans.

Range: Livestock are authorized to graze most of the area.

Minerals and Energy: The area has low potential for oil and gas and no current oil or gas leases. There is low potential for phosphate and locatable minerals. This roadless area contains 15,000 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: Two special use authorizations exist in the area: a water transmission ditch and outfitter and guide. No State or private lands occur within this roadless area.

Roads and Trails: The area has no forest roads and about 14 miles of motorized trail.

Disturbances: The area includes motorized trail use and a water line. A power line also occurs outside the northern edge of the roadless area.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Liberty 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 Liberty Creek-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| Liberty 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 | 15,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Backcountry | 0 | 12,500 | 12,500 | CPZ | 200 |
| | | | | NonCPZ | 12,300 |
| GFRG | 0 | 2,200 | 2,200 | 2,200 | |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 300* | 300* | 300* | |
| Total Acres | 15,000 | 15,000 | 15,000 | 15,000 | |

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the Liberty Creek Roadless Area is Visual Quality Maintenance. For further information on this designation, see the Caribou National Forest LRMP.

Table Liberty Creek-2. Potential activities

| Liberty 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 | 14,700 | 14,700 | 2,400* |
| Timber cutting to improve TES species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 14,700 | 14,700 | 14,700 | 14,700 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 14,700 | 14,700 | 14,700 | 14,700 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 14,700 | 14,700 | 2,400* |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 14,700 | 2,200 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 14,700 | 14,700 | 14,700 | 14,700 |

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 12,300 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 2,200 acres are under prescription 3.2 (semi-primitive recreation), 10,300 acres under prescription 3.3 (semi-primitive restoration), 1,600 acres under prescription 5.2 (forest vegetation management) and 600 acres under prescription 6.2 (rangeland vegetation management).

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Liberty 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 Liberty Creek roadless area does contain 15,000 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.

With regards to timber harvest, the 10,300 acres under prescription 3.3 only allow timber harvest and associated road building to achieve restoration objectives. While the immediate impact of any timber harvest would likely alter roadless characteristics in the short run, the restoration objective of the project would limit the long term impact.

Under prescription 3.2, temporary roads for salvage harvest are allowed, as well as general timber harvest for fuels reduction or restoration projects. If temporary roads were constructed they would affect roadless characteristics in the short term, but the effects would decrease over the long term as the road was decommissioned and restored.

Rangeland management prescription (6.2) allows limited timber harvest to improve wildlife habitat. However, these lands are generally non-forested so little to no timber harvest (or road building to access timber harvest) is expected. As such, it is unlikely that roadless characteristics would be altered.

Prescription 5.2 permits both road building and timber harvest. For the 1,600 acres under this prescription, any timber activities or road building that occurred would likely alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 12,500 acres would fall under the Backcountry theme and 2,200 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.

Of the 2,200 acres in the GFRG theme about 600 acres are rangeland and 1,600 acres are forested. Roads would generally be permitted and timber harvest could occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. However, timber harvest and associated road construction is most likely to occur on the forested lands. Timber activities and road building to meet these objectives could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

For the 2,200 acres under the GFRG theme, there could be development of the areas with high geothermal potential since roads would be permitted for this purpose. If any geothermal activity did occur, it would likely alter roadless characteristics in both the short and long-term. No mineral activities are expected in the acres under the Backcountry theme because roads are not permitted for new 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 12,500 acres under the Backcountry theme, 200 of which are in the CPZ, and 2,200 acres under the GFRG theme.

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 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 12,300 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 12,500 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.

For the 2,200 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 construction is most likely to occur on the 1,600 acres of forested lands. 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 does not apply to this area and there is no known phosphate present in this roadless area.

Meade Peak #167**44,700 Acres****OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION**

The Meade Peak Roadless Area is in Caribou and Bear Lake counties, Idaho on the Montpelier Ranger District. The center of this area is about twenty miles southwest of Afton, Wyoming. Road access to the area includes Georgetown Creek and Wells Canyon roads. The eastern boundary is formed by the Crow Creek Road, and the southern boundary is the Montpelier Canyon Highway. The Home Canyon Road cuts a deep corridor into the south 1/3 of the roadless area. Bennington Canyon, Pine Canyon, and Little Three mile Canyon roads are found along the western edge of the area.

The area's topography varies from gently sloping foothills to high, steep, subalpine mountains. Meade Peak is the highest point on the Forest at 9,953 feet above sea level. Conifer stands include Douglas -fir, lodgepole pine, and alpine fir; aspen occurs on all slopes.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is rated as moderate, because of the evidence of some human activities, such as unimproved roads and timber harvest activities.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude rate as moderate, because of road intrusions into the area and agricultural fields and communities can be seen from much of the area. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are considered moderate due to area's size, but there are many road intrusions.

Special Features: Special features or attractions include good wildlife and fish habitat. The roadless area contains Meade Peak, the highest point on the forest, and a 300 acre Research Natural Area,

Manageability: Manageability of the area is considered poor, due to road intrusions into the area. A core area, with boundaries along natural features, could be achieved.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The Bonneville cutthroat trout, a Region 4 sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

Wildlife: This area is a linkage zone for the Canada lynx, a Forest Service sensitive species. The area has moderate values for wildlife habitat.

Water: The area provides municipal water use to five homes at the mouth of Home Canyon.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present.

Recreation: The area is popular for big game hunting, fishing, and camping. Some of the area is open to snowmobiling; some areas are closed to protect wildlife.

Timber: Recent timber harvest activities have occurred in the area.

Wildland Fire Use: Much of this area is managed for Wildland Fire Use: The application of the appropriate management response to naturally-ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific resource management objectives in predefined, designated areas outlined in Fire Management Plans.

Range: Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Minerals and Energy: The area is considered to have moderate potential for oil and gas and no current oil or gas leases. About 550 acres of phosphate deposits are currently leased and another 2,500 acres of known deposits are unleased. This roadless area contains 44,700 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: The area has outfitter and guide special-use authorizations. Approximately 1,267 acres of State or private lands occur within the roadless area.

Roads and Trails: There are less than a mile of forest roads and 39 miles of motorized trails.

Disturbances: The area includes motorized trail use.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Meade Peak Roadless Area. Table Meade 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 Meade Peak-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| Meade 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 | 5,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 | |
| Similar to Backcountry | 44,700 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Backcountry | 0 | 7,900 | 7,900 | CPZ | 3,300 |
| | | | | NonCPZ | 30,700 |
| GFRG | 0 | 31,100 | 31,100 | 5,000 | |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 700* | 700* | 700* | |
| Total Acres | 44,700 | 44,700 | 44,700 | 44,700 | |

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the Meade Peak Roadless Area is 400 acres as Visual Quality Maintenance and 300 acres as Research Natural Area (RNA). For further information on this designation, see the Caribou National Forest LRMP.

Table Meade Peak-2. Potential activities

| Meade 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 | 39,000 | 39,000 | 8,300 ² |
| Timber cutting to improve TES species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 44,700 | 44,000 | 44,000 | 44,000 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 44,700 | 44,000 | 44,000 | 39,000 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 44,000 | 44,000 | 8,300 ² |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 39,000 | 39,000 ¹ | 5,000 ³ |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 44,700 | 44,000 | 39,000 | 39,000 |

¹Road building in Backcountry areas under Alternative 3 would be permitted for phosphate leases only.

²Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 30,700 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.

³Road building in GFRG areas under Alternative 4 would be permitted for phosphate leases only.

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. There are currently around 550 acres of phosphate deposits under lease in the Meade Peak Roadless Area. The mining activities under these existing leases would continue under the 2001 Roadless Rule and would likely alter roadless characteristic over the short and long term. No new

mining leases would be expected, however, since road building for any new leases in the area would be prohibited.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan, around 700 acres are under prescription 2.7.1 (elk & deer winter range critical), 7,200 acres under prescription 2.7.2 (elk and deer winter range), 5,000 under prescription 3.1 (non motorized recreation and wildlife security), 1,100 acres under prescription 5.2 (forest vegetation management), and 30,000 acres under prescription 6.2 (rangeland vegetation management).

No mineral activities are expected for the 5,000 acres under prescription 3.1 because road building is not permitted. For the remaining 39,000 acres of the Meade Peak Roadless Area, however, there are no prohibitions in the existing forest plans against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases. No oil and gas activities are expected since the Meade Peak Roadless Area has little to no potential for oil and gas leasing. The area does contain 44,700 acres of high geothermal potential, 550 acres of an active phosphate lease, and 2,470 additional acres of known phosphate deposits that are not leased. Any geothermal or phosphate mining activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the Meade Peak Roadless Area over both the short and long term.

With regards to timber harvest, prescription 3.1 only allows timber harvest if it contributes to non-motorized recreation or wildlife security. Since construction of new public roads is also prohibited in 3.1, little to no timber harvest is expected for these acres. The 7,900 acres under prescriptions 2.7.1 and 2.7.2 only allow timber harvest and associated road building if they produce some additional habitat values, e.g. improvements in winter elk range habitat. While the immediate impact of any timber harvest would likely alter roadless characteristics in the short run, the dual objective of habitat protection would limit the long term impact. For the 30,000 acres under the prescription 6.2, limited timber harvest is allowed to improve wildlife habitat. However, these lands are generally non-forested so little to no timber harvest (or road building to access timber harvest) is expected. As such, it is unlikely that roadless characteristics would be altered.

Prescription 5.2 permits both road building and timber harvest. For the 1,100 acres under this prescription, any timber activities or road building that occurred would likely alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 5,000 acres would fall under the Primitive theme, 7,900 acres would fall under the Backcountry theme and 31,100 acres would fall under the GFRG theme.

Little to no timber cutting would be anticipated for the 14,700 acres under the primitive theme because roads are prohibited except for reserved and outstanding rights. Timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities would be permitted for the 7,900 acres under the Backcountry theme. 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.

Under the GFRG theme about 30,000 acres are rangeland and 1,100 acres are forested. Roads would generally be permitted and timber harvest could occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. However, timber harvest and associated road construction is most likely to occur on the forested lands. Timber activities and road building to meet these objectives could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

There are currently around 500 acres of phosphate deposits under lease in the Meade Peak Roadless Area, and an additional 2,500 acres of known deposits not yet under lease. All of these acres are under the

GFRG theme except for 900 acres of unleased deposits that are under the Primitive theme. Road building and surface occupancy would continue for the existing leases, and new phosphate leases would be allowed for the 1,600 acres of unleased deposits that are under the GFRG theme. No new leasable activities could occur in the 5,000 acres under the Primitive theme and no non-phosphate leasing would occur in the 7,900 acres of the Backcountry theme. While the Backcountry theme would allow for the development of new phosphate leases, none is expected since there are no known phosphate deposits in the Backcountry portions of this roadless area. For the 31,100 acres under the GFRG theme, non-phosphate mineral leases and road building to access these leases would also be permitted. While there is little to no potential for oil and gas development in the Meade Peak Roadless Area, the area does contain 23,500 acres of high geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities or phosphate mining that occurs under the GFRG theme would alter roadless characteristics over both the short and long-term.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are around 5,000 acres under the Primitive theme, 34,000 acres under the Backcountry theme, 3,300 of which are in the CPZ, and 5,000 acres under the GFRG theme.

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 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 30,700 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 34,000 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. 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.

For the 5,000 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.

The Meade Peak Roadless Area contains around 550 acres of known phosphate deposits under lease and around 1,570 acres of phosphate deposits not under lease. Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, all 550 acres of the leased deposits and 1,540 acres of the unleased deposits would be under the GFRG theme. The remaining 900 acres of unleased deposits would be under the Primitive theme. The 2,090 acres under the GFRG theme would be available for development since this theme allows construction of roads to access both existing and new phosphate leases. Any phosphate mining activity that occurs would alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and 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. Any new leasing in the 5,000 GFRG acres would be limited to phosphate since road construction is prohibited for all other types of new mineral leases.

Mink Creek #176**16,300 Acres****OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION**

The Mink Creek Roadless Area is in Bear Lake and Franklin counties, Idaho on the Cache portion of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, but is administered by the Montpelier Ranger District. It is located approximately twenty miles northeast of Preston, Idaho. Access from the north is on State Highway 36 and Mill Hollow Road. Dry Basin Road and the Horseshoe Basin Road form the eastern boundary. Birch Creek and Paris Canyon roads form the southern boundary.

Topography in the area is quite steep and rocky. Elevations range from 8,000 feet to 5,500 feet above sea level. Vegetation includes mountain maple, aspen, mahogany, Douglas -fir, sagebrush, and grass.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is rated as very high, even though livestock facilities and unimproved roads are present in the area.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude are considered moderate because of the area's size and minimal natural screening. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are rated as moderate, the area is small in size, but does have some steep, rocky terrain.

Special Features: No special features or attractions have been identified for this roadless area.

Manageability: Manageability of the area is considered poor, due to the area's small size and road intrusions. A core area could be achieved by locating the boundaries on natural features.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The Bonneville cutthroat trout, a Region 4 sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

Wildlife: This area is a linkage zone for the Canada lynx, a Forest Service sensitive species. The area has low to moderate values for wildlife habitat.

Water: The area supports a water diversion under special use authorization.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present.

Recreation: Dispersed recreation activities include motorized trail use, snowmobiling, and deer hunting. Most of the area is open to snowmobiling; some areas are closed to protect wildlife.

Timber: Recent timber sale activities have occurred in this area.

Wildland Fire Use: Much of this area is managed for Wildland Fire Use: The application of the appropriate management response to naturally-ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific resource management objectives in predefined, designated areas outlined in Fire Management Plans.

Range: Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Minerals and Energy: The area has low potential for oil and gas and no current oil or gas leases. The roadless area has low locatable mineral potential. This roadless area contains 16,300 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: The area has a special use authorization for outfitting and guiding.

Roads and Trails: There are no forest roads, and about 3 miles of motorized trail.

Disturbances: The area includes motorized trail use.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Mink 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 Mink Creek-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| Mink 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 | 16,300 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Backcountry | 0 | 13,400 | 13,400 | 13,400 |
| GFRG | 0 | 2,500 | 2,500 | 2,500 |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 400* | 400* | 400* |
| Total Acres | 16,300 | 16,300 | 16,300 | 16,300 |

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the Mink Creek Roadless Area is Visual Quality Maintenance. For further information on this designation, see the Caribou National Forest LRMP.

Table Mink Creek-2. Potential activities

| Mink 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 | 15,900 | 15,900 | 2,500 |
| Timber cutting to improve TES species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 16,300 | 15,900 | 15,900 | 15,900 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 16,300 | 15,900 | 15,900 | 15,900 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 15,900 | 15,900 | 2,500 |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 15,900 | 2,500 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 16,300 | 15,900 | 15,900 | 15,900 |

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 6,100 acres are under prescription 2.7.2 (elk & deer winter range), 7,300 acres under prescription 3.2 (semi-primitive recreation), and 2,500 acres under prescription 5.2 (forest vegetation management). There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Mink Creek Roadless Area. No phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the Mink Creek Roadless Area has little to no potential for these minerals. The Mink Creek Roadless Area does contain 16,300 acres of high geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter

the roadless characteristics of the Mink Creek Roadless Area over both the short and long term. With regards to timber harvest, the 6,100 acres under prescription 2.7.1 only allow timber harvest and associated road building if they produce some additional habitat values, e.g. improvements in winter elk range habitat. While the immediate impact of any timber harvest would likely alter roadless characteristics in the short run, the dual objective of habitat protection would limit the long term impact. Under prescription 3.2, temporary roads for salvage harvest are allowed, as well as general timber harvest for fuels reduction or restoration projects. If temporary roads were constructed they would affect roadless characteristics in the short term, but the effects would decrease over the long term.

Prescription 5.2 permits both road building and timber harvest. For the 2,500 acres under this prescription, any timber activities or road building that occurred would likely alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 13,400 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.

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. Timber activities and road building to meet these objectives could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

With regards to mineral activities, there could be development of the areas with high or medium geothermal potential in the GFRG acres since roads would be permitted for this purpose. If any geothermal activity did occur, it would likely alter roadless characteristics in both the short and long-term. No mineral activities are expected in the acres under the Backcountry theme because roads are not permitted for new 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 13,400 acres under the Backcountry theme, none of which are in the CPZ, and 2,500 acres under the GFRG theme. 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 13,400 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.

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, 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 does not apply to this area and there is no known phosphate present in this roadless area.

Mount Naomi #758
28,500 Acres Caribou (Idaho)
45,100 Acres Wasatch-Cache (Utah)
73,600 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Idaho portion of the Mount Naomi Roadless Area is in Franklin County, Idaho on the Cache portion of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, but is administered by the Montpelier Ranger District. The area lies about four miles east of Franklin, Idaho. The Mt. Naomi Roadless Area originally included a total acreage of 94,100 acres within the states of Idaho and Utah. In 1984, Utah Wilderness legislation designated 44,350 acres of Mt. Naomi Roadless Area in Utah for inclusion into the National Wilderness Preservation System. The major access roads to the area include Cub River Road on the north, Hillyard Canyon and Logan River roads on the east, and Sugar and Maple Creek roads on the west.

The roadless area's topography includes rolling hills on the east and steep, rocky slopes near the interior of the area. Elevations vary from 6,000 feet to two peaks that exceed 9,000 feet. About fifty percent of the area gently slopes down to about 6,500 feet. Much of the higher elevations are exposed rock outcrops. Vegetation includes conifer stands on the north and east-facing slopes, with some aspen, mountain brush, and maple. Drainage bottoms also include maple and scattered conifer.

The area includes roughly 13,200 acres of Recommended Wilderness and therefore holds a high level of roadless characteristics.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is considered very high, although some evidence of human activities is present.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude are rated as high, because of the area's large size. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are considered high.

Special Features: Special features or attractions include a large area for semi-primitive non-motorized (summer) recreation. Two undeveloped cave systems exist in the roadless area.

Manageability: Manageability of the area is considered poor along the roadless area boundaries. A substantial core area would be achieved if boundaries were adjusted to exclude popular motorized trails and lower elevations.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The area has high values for fish habitat. The Bonneville cutthroat trout, a Region 4 sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

Wildlife: This area is a linkage zone for the Canada lynx, a Forest Service sensitive species. Great gray owls and northern goshawk, also sensitive species occur in this roadless area.

Water: The area includes Berquist Springs, one source of municipal water for the city of Preston and Foster Spring, the source of municipal water for residents of Cub River.

Botanical: Mt Naomi penstemon (*Penstemon compactus*) a sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

Recreation: Dispersed recreation includes snowmobiling, off highway vehicle use, and semi-primitive non-motorized summer use within the interior of the area. Most of the area is open to snowmobiling; some areas are closed to protect wildlife.

Timber: Recent timber sales have occurred on the eastern boundary.

Wildland Fire Use: Much of this area is managed for Wildland Fire Use: The application of the appropriate management response to naturally-ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific resource management objectives in predefined, designated areas outlined in Fire Management Plans.

Range: Livestock grazing is authorized over most of the area.

Minerals and Energy: The area has low potential for oil and gas and no current oil or gas leases. This roadless area contains 28,500 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: The area has two special use authorizations for water transmission lines and one authorization for outfitter and guide. About forty acres of private lands occur within the roadless area.

Roads and Trails: There is less than a mile of forest roads and thirteen miles of motorized trail.

Disturbances: The area includes motorized trail use.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Mount Naomi-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 Mount Naomi-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Mount Naomi-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

| Mount Naomi Management Theme | Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule | Alternative 2 Existing Plan | Alternative 3 Proposed Rule | Alternative 4 Modified Rule | |
|------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Wild Land Recreation | 0 | 13,200 | 13,200 | 13,200 | |
| Primitive | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Similar to Backcountry | 28,500 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Backcountry | 0 | 12,700 | 12,700 | CPZ | 2,500 |
| | | | | NonCPZ | 10,200 |
| GFRG | 0 | 2,200 | 2,200 | 2,200 | |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 400 | 400 | 400* | |
| Total Acres | 28,500 | 28,500 | 28,500 | 28,500 | |

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the Mink Creek Roadless Area is Visual Quality Maintenance. For further information on this designation, see the Caribou National Forest LRMP.

Table Mount Naomi-2. Potential activities

| Mount Naomi 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 | 14,900 | 14,900 | 4,700* |
| Timber cutting to improve TES species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 28,500 | 14,900 | 14,900 | 14,900 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 28,500 | 14,900 | 14,900 | 14,900 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 14,900 | 14,900 | 4,700* |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 14,900 | 2,200 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 28,500 | 14,900 | 14,900 | 14,900 |

²Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 10,200 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 road access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan around 13,200 acres are managed under prescription 1.3 (recommended wilderness), 2,600 acres under prescription 2.7.2 (elk and deer winter range), 10,100 acres under prescription 3.2 (semi-primitive recreation), 400 acres under prescription 4.3 (dispersed camping management), and 2,200 acres under prescription 5.2 (forest vegetation management).

All mineral activities are prohibited on the 28,900 acres under Recommended Wilderness. For the rest of the Mount Naomi roadless area, however, there are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions. No oil and gas activities are expected since the Mount Naomi Roadless Area has little to no potential for oil and gas leasing. The area does contain 28,500 acres of high geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the roadless area over both the short and long term.

Timber activity is only permitted in the 28,900 acres under prescription 1.3 if it enhances wilderness character, and no road building is permitted. These acres would therefore maintain both their roadless and wilderness characteristics.

For the 2,600 acres under prescriptions 2.7.2, timber harvest and road building to access the timber harvest are permitted only if they produce some additional habitat values, e.g. improvements in elk habitat. While the immediate impact of any timber harvest would likely alter roadless characteristics in the short run, the dual objective of habitat protection would limit the long term impact.

Under Caribou prescription 3.2, temporary roads for salvage harvest are allowed, as well as general timber harvest for fuels reduction or restoration projects. If temporary roads were constructed they would affect roadless characteristics in the short term, but the effects would decrease over the long term.

Timber harvest and associated road building are both permitted for the 2,600 acres under prescription 4.3 and 5.2. Any timber activities or road building that occurred would likely alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule about 2,200 acres would be managed under the GFRG, 12,700 under the Backcountry theme and around 13,200 under the Wild Land Recreation theme.

For the 2,200 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.

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 timber cutting, road building or mineral activities would occur in the 13,200 acres in the Wild Land Recreation theme because these activities are prohibited. 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 Mount Naomi Roadless Area, the area does contain 28,500 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 in the Backcountry theme because new roads to access leases are prohibited. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area. Leasable mineral activity is prohibited in the Wild Land Recreation theme.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 13,200 acres under the Wild Land Recreation theme, 12,700 acres under the Backcountry theme, 2,500 of which are in the CPZ, and 2,200 acres under the GFRG theme.

The 13,200 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.

Within the 2,500 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 10,200 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 12,700 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.

For the 2,200 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 themes since these themes prohibit construction of roads 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.

North Pebble #155**5,500 Acres****OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION**

The North Pebble Roadless Area is in Caribou County, Idaho on the Westside Ranger District. It is located nine miles northwest of Bancroft, Idaho. The Pebble Creek Road and the Wood Gulch Road form the eastern boundary of the North Pebble Roadless Area. The Hornet Canyon, King Creek and Gooding Canyon roads also provide access to the area.

The area's topography is dominated by gently sloping terrain, making it non-typical of other forest roadless areas. The elevation varies from about 6,000 feet to 7,500 feet. Vegetation cover types include grass, forbs, and mountain brush, with a few scattered stands of aspen and conifer on north slopes.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is rated as moderate, because the evidence of unimproved roads and timber harvest activities.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude are considered low, because of the area's small size and minimal natural screening. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are rated as low due to area's small size.

Special Features: No special features or attractions have been identified for this roadless area.

Manageability: Manageability of the area is considered good along inventoried boundaries.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: A population of Yellowstone cutthroat trout occurs in this roadless area.

Wildlife: The area has moderate values for wildlife habitat.

Water: This roadless area contains 2,100 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present.

Recreation: Activities include hiking, hunting, camping, and snowmobile use. The area receives heavy recreation use of all kinds. Most of the area is open to snowmobiling; some areas are closed to protect wildlife.

Timber: There has been recent timber harvest within the area.

Wildland Fire Use: This area is not managed for Wildland Fire Use. The Fire Management Plan has identified the entire roadless area for suppression.

Range: Livestock grazing is authorized on much of the area.

Minerals and Energy: The area has low potential for oil and gas and no current oil or gas leases. This roadless area contains 5,500 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: The area has one special use authorization for outfitting and guiding big game. A power line and phosphate slurry line is located along the area's perimeter.

Roads and Trails: There are less than ½ mile of forest roads and no motorized trails.

Disturbances: The area includes a slurry line and a power line.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the North Pebble Roadless Area. Table North Pebble-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 Pebble-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table North Pebble-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

| North Pebble 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 | 5,500 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Backcountry | 0 | 3,900 | 3,900 | 3,900 |
| GFRG | 0 | 1,600 | 1,600 | 1,600 |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Acres | 5,500 | 5,500 | 5,500 | 5,500 |

Table North Pebble-2. Potential activities

| North Pebble 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 | 5,500 | 3,700* |
| Timber cutting to improve TES species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 5,500 | 5,500 | 5,500 | 5,500 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 5,500 | 5,500 | 5,500 | 5,500 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 5,500 | 5,500 | 3,700* |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 5,500 | 1,600 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 5,500 | 5,500 | 5,500 | 5,500 |

* Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the Backcountry areas 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. Roughly 2,100 acres of the North Pebble Roadless Area are within a municipal watershed. If any wildland fire risk reduction activities occur in this roadless area, they are expected to take place within the municipal watershed area.

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 3,900 acres under prescription 3.2 (semi-primitive recreation) and 1,600 acres under prescription 5.2 (forest vegetation management). There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the North Pebbles Roadless Area. No phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the North Pebbles Roadless Area has little to no potential for these minerals.

The area does contain 5,500 acres of high geothermal. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the North Pebbles Roadless Area over both the short and long term.

With regards to timber harvest, the 3,900 acres under prescription 3.2 allow temporary roads for salvage harvest, as well as general timber harvest for fuels reduction or restoration projects. If temporary roads were constructed they would affect roadless characteristics in the short term, but the effects would decrease over the long term. Prescription 5.2 permits both road building and timber harvest. For the 1,600 acres under this prescription, any timber activities or road building that occurred would likely alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 3,900 acres would fall under the Backcountry theme and 1,600 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.

For the 1,600 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.

In the minerals sector, there could be development in the GFRG areas with high geothermal potential since roads would be permitted for this purpose. If any geothermal activity did occur, it would likely alter roadless characteristics in both the short and long-term. No mineral activities are expected in the acres under the Backcountry theme because roads are not permitted for new 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 1,600 acres under the GFRG theme and 3,900 acres under the Backcountry theme. None of the Backcountry acres are in the CPZ, but 2,100 acres of the roadless area are within a municipal watershed.

Within the Backcountry areas, 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. Any wildland fire risk reduction activities that occur are expected to occur in the 2,100 acres of this roadless area that are within a municipal watershed. Timber cutting from existing roads, including those constructed for fuel reduction projects, 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.

For the 1,600 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 does not apply to this area and there is no known phosphate present in this roadless area.

Oxford Mountain #157

40,800 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Oxford Mountain Roadless Area is in Bannock, Franklin and Oneida counties, Idaho on the Westside District on the Caribou portion of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. It includes the mountain range south of Downey, Idaho between U.S. Highway 91 and Interstate 15. Access includes the Deep Creek-Weston Canyon Road along the southwest border and the Cherry Creek Road. Other roads leading to the area include Rockslide Canyon, Clifton Basin, Five mile Creek roads on the east; and First, Second, Third and Dry Creeks and New Canyon roads on the west.

Elevations in the roadless area range from approximately 5,500 feet, rising to 9,282 feet at Oxford Peak. The area's topography is typical of the region with steep sagebrush and grass slopes with patches of aspen and mountain maple. Narrow stands of Douglas -fir are found on northern slopes.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment rates as moderate, because of the presence of unimproved roads and livestock grazing.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude rate low, due to the area's size and minimal natural screening from valley developments. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are considered low due to area's small size.

Special Features: No special features or attractions have been identified for this roadless area. About 400 acres are in Management Prescription 2.1.2(b) Visual Quality Maintenance. This prescription is located along major travel corridors.

Manageability: Manageability of the area is considered poor along inventoried boundaries, but a core area could be achieved by locating a boundary on natural features.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The Bonneville cutthroat trout, a Region 4 sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

Wildlife: Bald eagles, a Forest Service sensitive species occur in this roadless area. The area has moderate values for wildlife habitat.

Water: The area has no municipal water use.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present.

Recreation: Recreation uses include off highway vehicle use, camping, and snowmobiling. Most of the area is open to snowmobiling; some areas are closed to protect wildlife.

Timber: No recent timber activity has occurred in the area.

Wildland Fire Use: Much of this area is managed for Wildland Fire Use: The application of the appropriate management response to naturally-ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific resource management objectives in predefined, designated areas outlined in Fire Management Plans.

Range: Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Minerals and Energy: The area has low potential for oil and gas and has no current oil or gas leases. This roadless area contains 40,800 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: One special use authorization exists for outfitting and guiding. No State or private lands occur within the area.

Roads and Trails: The area has 2.4 miles of forest roads and 62 miles of motorized trail.

Disturbances: The area includes high motorized trail use.

Heritage: Cultural resources have been identified within this roadless area. Recorded cultural resources include evidence of pre-historic and historic use of the area.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Oxford 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 Oxford Mountain-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| Oxford 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 | 40,800 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Backcountry | 0 | 9,300 | 9,300 | CPZ | 200 |
| | | | | NonCPZ | 13,500 |
| GFRG | 0 | 31,100 | 31,100 | 26,700 | |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 400* | 400* | 400* | |
| Total Acres | 40,800 | 40,800 | 40,800 | 40,800 | |

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the Oxford Mountain Roadless Area is Visual Quality Maintenance. For further information on this designation, see the Caribou National Forest LRMP.

Table Oxford Mountain-2. Potential activities

| Oxford 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 | 40,400 | 40,400 | 26,900* |
| Timber cutting to improve TES species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 40,800 | 40,400 | 40,400 | 40,400 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 40,800 | 40,400 | 40,400 | 40,400 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 40,400 | 40,400 | 26,900* |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 40,400 | 31,100 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 40,800 | 40,400 | 40,400 | 40,400 |

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 13,500 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 9,300 acres are under prescription 2.7.2 (elk and deer winter range), 800 acres under prescription 5.2 (forest vegetation management), and 31,100 acres under prescription 6.2 (rangeland vegetation management).

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Oxford Mountain Roadless Area. No oil and gas or phosphate leases are expected since the Oxford Mountain Roadless Area has little to no potential for these mineral activities. The Oxford Mountain Roadless Area does contain 40,800 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.

With regards to timber harvest, the 9,300 acres under prescriptions 2.7.2 only allow timber harvest and associated road building if they produce some additional habitat values, e.g. improvements in winter elk range habitat. While the immediate impact of any timber harvest would likely alter roadless characteristics in the short run, the dual objective of habitat protection would limit the long term impact.

Limited timber harvest is allowed to improve wildlife habitat in the 31,100 acres under prescription 6.2. However, these lands are generally non-forested so little to no timber harvest (or road building to access timber harvest) is expected. As such, it is unlikely that roadless characteristics would be altered.

Prescription 5.2 permits both road building and timber harvest. For the 800 acres under this prescription, any timber activities or road building that occurred would likely alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 9,300 acres would fall under the Backcountry theme and 31,100 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.

For the 31,100 acres under the GFRG theme roads would generally be permitted and timber harvest could occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. However, little timber harvest and associated road construction is expected since the majority of these lands are rangeland, and not forested landscapes.

With regards to mineral activities, there could be development of the areas with high geothermal potential in the GFRG acres since roads would be permitted for this purpose. If any geothermal activity did occur, it would likely alter roadless characteristics in both the short and long-term. No mineral activities are expected in the acres under the Backcountry theme because roads are not permitted for new 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 13,700 acres under the Backcountry theme, 200 of which are in the CPZ, and 26,700 acres under the GFRG theme.

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 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 13,500 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 13,700 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.

For the 26,700 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.

Paris Peak #177

8,500 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

Paris Peak Roadless Area lies in Bear Lake County, Idaho on the Cache portion of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, but is administered by the Montpelier Ranger District on the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. It is located six miles west of Bloomington, Idaho. Access on the north is by the Paris Canyon Road. The Bloomington Canyon and Middle Fork roads form the southern and western boundary. Harry's Hollow, Bloomington Canyon North Fork, and the Paris Flat Roads also provide access to the area.

The lower reaches of the area are gently sloping, but Paris Peak rises sharply to 9,587 feet above sea level. The dominant vegetation cover is lodgepole pine and Douglas -fir. Aspen, mountain brush, sagebrush, and grass are found in the area.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is rated high, but portions of the area have been affected by timber harvest activities.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude are considered low, due to area's small size and road intrusions. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are rated low due to area's small size and road intrusions.

Special Features: No special features or attractions have been identified for this roadless area.

Manageability: Manageability is considered poor, due to existing road intrusions.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: No threatened, endangered or sensitive fish species are present.

Wildlife: This area is a linkage zone for the Canada lynx, a Forest Service sensitive species. The area has moderate values for wildlife habitat.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present.

Recreation: The primary recreation pursuits are snowmobiling, off highway vehicle use, skiing, hunting, and camping. Paris Campground is immediately adjacent to the roadless area. Most of the area is open to snowmobiling; some areas are closed to protect wildlife.

Minerals: The area has low potential for oil and gas and no current oil or gas leases. 8,500 acres have high geothermal potential.

Timber: Some of the conifer stands have been selectively logged in the past.

Wildland Fire Use: Much of this area is managed for Wildland Fire Use: The application of the appropriate management response to naturally-ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific resource management objectives in predefined, designated areas outlined in Fire Management Plans.

Range: Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Minerals and Energy: This roadless area contains 8,500 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: Special use authorizations for the area include outfitter and guide and a communication site on Paris Peak. No State or private lands occur within the roadless area.

Roads and Trails: The area has no forest roads and three miles of motorized trail.

Disturbances: The area includes a communication site, the remains of a 1998 blow down event, and a 1998 wildfire.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Paris 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 Paris Peak-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| Paris 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 | 8,500 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Backcountry | 0 | 7,300 | 7,300 | CPZ | 1,200 |
| | | | | NonCPZ | 6,100 |
| GFRG | 0 | 1,200 | 1,200 | 1,200 | |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Total Acres | 8,500 | 8,500 | 8,500 | 8,500 | |

Table Paris Peak-2. Potential activities

| Paris 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 | 8,500 | 8,500 | 2,400* |
| Timber cutting to improve TES 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 | 2,400* |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 8,500 | 1,200 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 8,500 | 8,500 | 8,500 | 8,500 |

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 6,100 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 7,300 acres are managed under prescription 3.3 (semi-primitive restoration) and 1,200 acres under 5.2 (forest vegetation management).

There are no prohibitions on new mineral leases and or roads to access leases under either of these forest plan prescriptions. The Paris Peak Roadless Area contains 8,500 acres of high geothermal potential, but it

has little to no potential for oil and gas leasing or phosphate mining. If any geothermal leasing occurred, it would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term. With regards to timber harvest, prescription 3.3 only allows timber harvest and associated road building if they achieve restoration goals. While the immediate impact of any timber harvest would likely alter roadless characteristics in the short run, the dual objective of forest restoration would limit the long term impact.

Prescription 5.2 permits both road building and timber harvest. For the 1,200 acres under this prescription, any timber activities or road building that occurred would likely alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule about 1,200 acres would be managed under the GFRG and 7,300 acres would be managed under the Backcountry theme.

For the 1,200 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.

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.

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 Paris Peak Roadless Area, the area does contain 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 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.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 7,300 acres under the Backcountry theme, 1,200 of which are in the CPZ, and 1,200 acres under the GFRG theme.

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 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 6,100 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, 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.

For the 1,200 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 does not apply to this area and there is no known phosphate present in this roadless area.

Pole Creek #160**3,500 Acres Caribou****2,600 Acres Targhee****6,100 Acres Total****OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION**

The Pole Creek Roadless Area is in Bonneville County, Idaho on the Soda Springs Ranger District and the Palisades Ranger District of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. Each portion is managed under the respective forest plans; the Caribou Forest Plan and the Targhee Forest Plan. The area is located about twelve miles north of Wayan, Idaho. Road access to the area is by the Brockman Creek Road, the McCoy Creek Road, and the Brockman Ridge Road.

The area's topography is comprised of rolling hills with a few moderately steep slopes. The average elevation is 7,000 feet above sea level. Vegetation types include aspen and mountain brush with small stands of Douglas -fir and lodgepole pine on north and east-facing slopes.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is rated low, because human activities are evident, including unimproved roads and timber harvest activities.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude rate low, due to the area's small size. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are rated low due to small size and road intrusions.

Special Features: No special features or attractions have been identified in this roadless area.

Manageability: Manageability of the area is considered poor, due to the area's small size and motorized route.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: A population of Yellowstone cutthroat trout occurs in this roadless area.

Wildlife: The Targhee portion of this roadless area is considered occupied habitat for the Canada lynx, a Forest Service sensitive species. Bald eagles, also sensitive, occur in this roadless area. The area has low values for wildlife habitat.

Water: The area has no municipal water use.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present.

Recreation: Most of the area is managed for semi-primitive motorized experiences. Activities include snowmobiling and hunting. Most of the area is open to snowmobiling; some areas are closed to protect wildlife.

Timber: The 1989 Brockman timber sale occurs along the eastern boundary.

Wildland Fire Use: Some of this area is managed for Wildland Fire Use: The application of the appropriate management response to naturally-ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific resource management objectives in predefined, designated areas outlined in Fire Management Plans.

Range: Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Minerals and Energy: The area has moderate potential for oil and gas and no current oil or gas leases. This roadless area contains 4,600 acres of high and 1,500 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: The area has one special use authorization for outfitting and guiding. No State or private lands occur within the area.

Roads and Trails: The area has no forest roads and about 3 miles of motorized trail.

Disturbances: The area includes motorized trail use.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Pole Creek-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 Pole Creek-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Pole Creek-1a. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative (Caribou only)

| Pole Creek Management Theme Caribou | 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 | 3,500 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Backcountry | 0 | 3,200 | 3,200 | 3,200 |
| GFRG | 0 | 300 | 300 | 300 |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Acres | 3,500 | 3,500 | 3,500 | 3,500 |

Table Pole Creek-1b. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative (Targhee only)

| Pole Creek Management Theme Targhee | 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 | 2,600 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Backcountry | 0 | 2,600 | 2,600 | 2,600 |
| GFRG | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Acres | 2,600 | 2,600 | 2,600 | 2,600 |

Table Pole Creek-1c. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative (Total)

| Pole Creek 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 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Similar to Backcountry | 6,100 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Backcountry | 0 | 5,800 | 5,800 | 5,800 |
| GFRG | 0 | 300 | 300 | 300 |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Acres | 6,100 | 6,100 | 6,100 | 6,100 |

Table Pole Creek-2. Potential activities (Caribou and Targhee combined)

| Pole Creek 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 | 5,800 | 5,800 | 300 |
| Timber cutting to improve TES species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 6,100 | 5,800 | 5,800 | 6,100 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 6,100 | 5,800 | 5,800 | 6,100 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 5,800 | 5,800 | 300 |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 5,800 | 300 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 6,100 | 5,800 | 5,800 | 6,100 |

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 plans, around 2,600 acres are under the Targhee Forest Plan prescription 5.1.4 (timber management - big game security emphasis), 3,200 acres under Caribou Forest Plan prescription 3.3 (semi-primitive restoration), and 6,800 acres under Caribou Forest Plan prescription 6.2 (rangeland vegetation management).

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Pole 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 Pole Creek Roadless Area does contain 4,600 acres of high geothermal potential and 1,500 acres of medium geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the Pole Creek Roadless Area over both the short and long term.

With regards to timber harvest, the 3,200 acres under Caribou prescription 3.3 and 2,600 acres under Targhee prescription 5.1.4 only allow timber harvest and associated road building to achieve a restoration or wildlife management objective. While the immediate impact of any timber harvest would likely alter roadless characteristics in the short run, the dual objective of forest restoration/habitat improvement would limit the long term impact. For the 300 acres under the rangeland prescription 6.2, limited timber harvest is allowed to improve wildlife habitat. However, these lands are generally non-forested so little to no timber harvest (or road building to access timber harvest) is expected. As such, it is unlikely that roadless characteristics would be altered.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 5,800 acres would fall under the Backcountry theme and 300 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.

For the 300 acres under this theme roads would generally be permitted and timber harvest could occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. However, little timber harvest and associated road construction is expected since the majority of these lands are rangeland, and not forested landscapes.

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 Mount Naomi Roadless Area, the area does contain 4,600 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 in the Backcountry theme because new roads to access leases are prohibited. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area. Leasable mineral activity is prohibited in the Wild Land Recreation theme.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 5,800 acres under the Backcountry theme, none of which are in the CPZ, and 300 acres under the GFRG theme. 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 5,800 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. 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.

For the 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 does not apply to this area and there is no known phosphate present in this roadless area.

Red Mountain #170

13,600 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Red Mountain Roadless Area is in Bear Lake County, Idaho on the Montpelier Ranger District. The area lies four miles northwest of Geneva, Idaho and one mile west of the Idaho-Wyoming border. Access to the area is by the Elk Valley Road on the north, the Boulevard Road on the east, and the Crow Creek Road on the west.

The area's topography is comprised of gently sloping hills covered with sagebrush, grass, and mountain brush, rising to barren red rock cliffs near the summit of Red Mountain. Elevation ranges from 8,727 feet at Red Mountain to about 6,300 feet near Geneva. Patches of Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine are found on north and east-facing slopes.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is rated very high, but evidence is present of grazing and unimproved roads.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude are considered low, because of the area's size and lack of natural screening. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are rated low due to area's small size and lack of screening.

Special Features: Special features or attractions include barren, red rock cliffs near the summit of Red Mountain.

Manageability: Manageability of the area is considered fair; although an improved exploration road bisects the area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The Bonneville cutthroat trout, a Region 4 sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

Wildlife: This area is a linkage zone for the Canada lynx, a Forest Service sensitive species. The area has moderate values for wildlife habitat.

Water: The area has no municipal water use.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present.

Recreation: Dispersed recreation use includes hunting and limited snowmobiling. Most of the area is open to snowmobiling; some areas are closed to protect wildlife.

Timber: No recent timber harvest activity has occurred in this area.

Wildland Fire Use: Much of this area is managed for Wildland Fire Use: The application of the appropriate management response to naturally-ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific resource management objectives in predefined, designated areas outlined in Fire Management Plans.

Range: Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Minerals and Energy: The area has moderate potential for oil and gas and no current oil or gas leases. This roadless area contains 5,900 acres of high and 7,700 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: The area has one outfitter and guide special use authorization. No State or private lands occur within the roadless area.

Roads and Trails: There are no forest roads and less than 1 mile of motorized trails.

Disturbances: One reclaimed Oil and Gas exploration road and drill site.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Red 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 Red Mountain-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| Red 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 | 6,600 | 6,600 | 6,600 |
| Similar to Backcountry | 13,600 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Backcountry | 0 | 1,900 | 1,900 | 7,000 |
| GFRG | 0 | 5,100 | 5,100 | 0 |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Acres | 13,600 | 13,600 | 13,600 | 13,600 |

Table Red Mountain-2. Potential activities

| Red 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 | 7,000 | 7,000 | 0 |
| Timber cutting to improve TES species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 13,600 | 13,600 | 13,600 | 13,600 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 13,600 | 13,600 | 13,600 | 7,000 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 13,600 | 13,600 | 0 |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 7,000 | 5,100 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 13,600 | 7,000 | 7,000 | 7,000 |

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 6,600 acres are managed under prescription 3.1 (non-motorized recreation and wildlife security), 1,900 acres under prescription 2.7.1 (elk and deer winter range critical), and 5,100 acres under 6.2 (rangeland vegetation).

Roads for new mineral leases are not permitted for the 6,600 acres under prescription 3.1. For all the other areas, new mineral leases and roads would generally be permitted. The Red Mountain roadless area contains 5,900 acres of high and 7,700 acres of medium geothermal potential, but it has little to no

potential for oil and gas leasing or phosphate mining. If any geothermal leasing occurred, it would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

With regards to timber harvest, prescription 3.1 only allows timber harvest if it contributes to non-motorized recreation or wildlife security. Since construction of new public roads is also prohibited under 3.1, little to no timber harvest is expected for these acres. For the 1,900 acres under prescription 2.7.1, timber harvest and road building to access the timber harvest are permitted only if they produce some additional habitat values, e.g. improvements in winter elk range habitat. While the immediate impact of any timber harvest would likely alter roadless characteristics in the short run, the dual objective of habitat protection would limit the long term impact.

Timber harvest is allowed under prescription 6.2 to improve wildlife habitat. However, these lands are generally non-forested so little to no timber harvest (or road building to access timber harvest) is expected. As such, it is unlikely that roadless characteristics would be altered.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule about 5,100 acres would be managed under the GFRG, 1,900 acres would be managed under the Backcountry theme, and 6,600 acres would be managed under the Primitive theme.

For the 5,100 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. Since this section of the Red Mountain Roadless Area is primarily rangeland, however, little to no timber activity is expected.

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.

Little to no timber cutting would be anticipated for the 6,600 acres under the Primitive theme because roads are prohibited except for reserved and outstanding rights.

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 Red Mountain Roadless Area, the area does contain 5,900 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 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 6,600 acres under the Primitive theme and 7,000 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 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 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 7,000 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. 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.

Sage Creek #166

12,800 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Sage Creek Roadless Area is in Caribou County, Idaho and administered by the Montpelier Ranger District and the Soda Springs Ranger District. This area is located ten miles southwest of Afton, Wyoming. The Timber Creek and Smoky Canyon roads access the area from the north. Pole Canyon, Sage Creek and Crow Creek roads approach the area from the east. Wells Canyon Road access the area from the southwest border. The Freeman Pass road parallels the west border. Timber sales and associated roads in the 1980's and 1990's have altered the west boundary of the roadless area.

Elevations in the roadless area range from 8,643 feet to 6,700 feet near Crow Creek. Vegetation on the north slopes includes Douglas -fir and lodgepole pine with aspen, mountain brush, sagebrush, and grass on west and south-facing slopes.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is considered low, with evidence of mining and timber harvest activities.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude are rated low, due to the area's small size, road intrusions, and mining activities. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are considered low due to the area's small size and road intrusions.

Special Features: No special features or attractions have been identified for this roadless area.

Manageability: Manageability of the area is considered fair along roadless boundaries. Road intrusions are present and adjacent mining activities are visible from the area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The area has high values for fish habitat. Yellowstone cutthroat trout, a sensitive fish species, occurs in this roadless area.

Wildlife: This area is a linkage zone for the Canada lynx, a Forest Service sensitive species. The hairy woodpecker, northern flicker, and flammulated owl, Forest Service sensitive species also occur in this roadless area.

Water: The area has no municipal water use.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present.

Recreation: Off-highway vehicle use and hunting are popular in the area. Most of the area is open to snowmobiling; some areas are closed to protect wildlife.

Timber: Several timber sales have occurred in this area.

Wildland Fire Use: The southern portion of this area is managed for Wildland Fire Use: The application of the appropriate management response to naturally-ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific resource management objectives in predefined, designated areas outlined in Fire Management Plans.

Range: Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Minerals and Energy: The area has moderate potential for oil and gas and no current oil or gas leases. About 1,900 acres of phosphate deposits are currently under lease and another 2,080 acres of known deposits are unleased in the southern portion of the area. This roadless area contains 10,800 acres of high and 1,900 of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: The area has one outfitter and guide and a small communication site under special use authorization. No State or private lands occur within the roadless area.

Roads and Trails: There are about 3 miles of forest roads and 1 mile of motorized trail.

Disturbances: The small communication site.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Sage 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 Sage Creek-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| Sage 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 | 12,800 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Backcountry | 0 | 2,100 | 2,100 | 2,600 |
| GFRG | 0 | 10,700 | 10,700 | 10,200 |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Acres | 12,800 | 12,800 | 12,800 | 12,800 |

Table Sage Creek-2. Potential activities

| Sage 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 | 12,800 | 12,800 | 10,200 |
| Timber cutting to improve TES species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 12,800 | 12,800 | 12,800 | 12,800 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 12,800 | 12,800 | 12,800 | 12,800 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 12,800 | 12,800 | 10,200 |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases* | 0 | 12,800 | 12,800 ¹ | 10,200 ² |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 12,800 | 12,800 | 12,800 | 12,800 |

¹Road building in Backcountry areas under Alternative 3 would be permitted for phosphate leases only.

²Road building in GFRG areas under Alternative 4 would be permitted for phosphate leases only.

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. There are currently around 1,900 acres of phosphate deposits under lease in the Sage Creek Roadless Area. The mining activities under these existing leases would continue under the 2001 Roadless Rule and would likely alter roadless characteristic over the short and long term. No new mining leases would be expected, however, since road building for any new leases in the area would be prohibited.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan, around 2,100 acres are under prescription 2.7.2 (elk & deer winter range), 6,700 acres under prescription 5.2 (forest vegetation management), and 4,000 acres under prescription 6.2 (rangeland vegetation management).

Under the existing forest plan 880 acres of this roadless area would be unavailable for mineral development. The remaining acres would allow both road construction and surface occupancy to access new mineral leases. No oil and gas activities are expected in the Sage Creek Roadless Area since the area has little to no potential for oil and gas leasing. The Sage Creek Roadless Area does contain 10,800 acres of high geothermal potential, 1,900 acres of medium geothermal potential, 1,900 acres of an active phosphate leases, and an additional 2,080 acres of known phosphate deposits that are not leased. Of these 3,980 acres of phosphate deposits, 880 acres fall within the portion of the roadless area that does not allow road development. Any geothermal or phosphate mining activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the Sage Creek Roadless Area over both the short and long term.

With regards to timber harvest, the 2,100 acres under prescription 2.7.2 only allow timber harvest and associated road building if they produce some additional habitat values, e.g. improvements in winter elk range habitat. While the immediate impact of any timber harvest would likely alter roadless characteristics in the short run, the dual objective of habitat protection would limit the long term impact.

For the 4,000 acres under prescription 6.2, limited timber harvest is allowed to improve wildlife habitat. However, these lands are generally non-forested so little to no timber harvest (or road building to access timber harvest) is expected. As such, it is unlikely that roadless characteristics would be altered.

Prescription 5.2 permits both road building and timber harvest. For the 6,700 acres under this prescription, any timber activities or road building that occurred would likely alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 2,100 acres would fall under the Backcountry theme and 10,700 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.

For the 10,700 acres under the GFRG theme about 4,000 acres are rangeland and 6,700 acres are forested. Roads would generally be permitted and timber harvest could occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. However, timber harvest and associated road construction is most likely to occur on the forested lands. Timber activities and road building to meet these objectives could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

There are currently around 1,900 acres of phosphate deposits under lease in the Sage Creek Roadless Area, and an additional 2,080 acres of known deposits are not yet under lease. The Backcountry theme contains 230 acres of the leased phosphate deposits and 550 acres of the unleased deposits. The GFRG theme contains around 1,670 acres of leased deposits and 1,530 of unleased deposits. Road building and surface occupancy would continue for the existing leases and new phosphate leases would also be allowed under both the Backcountry or GFRG theme.

Any new leasing in the 2,100 Backcountry acres would be limited to phosphate leases. For the 10,700 acres under the GFRG theme, non-phosphate mineral leases and road building to access these leases would also be permitted. While there is little to no potential for oil and gas development in the Sage Creek Roadless Area, the area does contain 10,800 acres of high geothermal potential and 1,900 acres of

medium geothermal potential. If any leasable mineral activities occurred in either the Backcountry or GFRG themes then they would alter roadless characteristics in both the short and long-term.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 2,600 acres under the Backcountry theme, none of which are in the CPZ, and 10,200 acres under the GFRG theme.

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 2,600 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. 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.

For the 10,200 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.

The Sage Creek Roadless Area contains around 1,900 acres of known phosphate deposits under lease and around 2,080 acres of phosphate deposits not under lease. Under the existing forest plan, about 880 acres of the unleased phosphate deposits in this roadless area are available for development. These 880 acres would fall under the Backcountry theme in the Modified Rule and would therefore still be unavailable for development. The remaining 3,100 acres (leased and unleased acres) would be under the GFRG theme, under which surface occupancy and road building to access new and existing phosphate leases is allowed. Any phosphate mining activity that occurs would alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since these themes either prohibit surface occupancy or roads to access new mineral leases of any kind. Any new leasing in the 10,200 GFRG acres would be limited to phosphate since road construction is prohibited for all other types of new mineral leases.

Schmid Peak #163

6,900 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Schmid Peak Roadless Area is in Caribou County, Idaho on the Soda Springs Ranger District on the Caribou portion of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. The area is about seventeen miles northeast of Soda Springs, Idaho. Road access from the north includes Mill Canyon, Mills Spring, Diamond Creek and Kendall Canyon roads. The Stewart Canyon Road parallels the south and west boundary. The Maybe Canyon Road provides access from the west.

The area's topography is moderately steep. Elevations range from 8,500 feet to 6,500 feet above sea level. West and south-facing slopes are covered with sagebrush, grass, mountain brush, and aspen. The north and east slopes support conifer stands.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is rated low to moderate, with evidence of some unimproved roads, timber harvest, and mining activities.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude are considered low, because of road and mining intrusions. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are rated low with road intrusions and mining activities.

Special Features: No special features or attractions have been identified for this roadless area.

Manageability: Manageability of the area is considered very poor, due to road intrusions and the narrow width of area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: A population of Yellowstone cutthroat trout occurs in this roadless area.

Wildlife: This area is a linkage zone for the Northern lynx, a Forest Service sensitive species. The area has moderate values for wildlife habitat.

Water: The area has no municipal water use.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present.

Recreation: The area is popular for camping, hiking, off highway vehicle use, and snowmobile use. Most of the area is open to snowmobiling; some areas are closed to protect wildlife.

Timber: Recent timber harvesting activities have occurred in the area.

Wildland Fire Use: Much of this area is managed for Wildland Fire Use: The application of the appropriate management response to naturally-ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific resource management objectives in predefined, designated areas outlined in Fire Management Plans.

Range: Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Minerals and Energy: The area has moderate potential for oil and gas and no current oil or gas leases. About 40 acres of phosphate deposits are under lease and another 20 acres of known deposits are unleased. This roadless area contains 6,900 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: The area has an outfitter and guide special use authorization. No State or private lands occur within the roadless area.

Roads and Trails: There is one mile of forest road and no motorized trails.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Schmid 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 Schmid Peak-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| Schmid 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 | 6,900 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Backcountry | 0 | 6,500 | 6,500 | 6,500 |
| GFRG | 0 | 400 | 400 | 400 |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Acres | 6,900 | 6,900 | 6,900 | 6,900 |

Table Schmid Peak-2. Potential activities

| Schmid 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 | 6,900 | 6,900 | 300 |
| Timber cutting to improve TES 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 | 300 |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 6,900 | 6,900 ¹ | 300 ² |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 6,900 | 6,900 | 6,900 | 6,900 |

¹Road building in Backcountry areas under Alternative 3 would be permitted for phosphate leases only.

²Road building in GFRG areas under Alternative 4 would be permitted for phosphate leases only.

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. There are currently around 40 acres of phosphate deposits under lease in the Schmid Peak Roadless Area. The mining activities under these existing leases would continue under the 2001 Rule and would likely alter roadless characteristic over the short and long term. No new mining leases would be expected, however, since road building for any new leases in the area would be prohibited.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan, around 2,000 acres are under prescription 600 acres under prescription 2.7.2 (elk and deer winter range), 3,900 acres under prescription 3.2 (semi-primitive recreation), 2,000 acres are under prescription 3.3 (semi-primitive restoration), 200 acres under

prescription 5.2 (forest vegetation management), and 200 acres under prescription 6.2 (rangeland vegetation management).

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Schmid Peak Roadless Area. No oil and gas activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for oil and gas leasing. The Schmid Peak Roadless Area does contain 6,900 acres of high geothermal potential, 40 acres of an active phosphate lease, and 20 additional acres of known phosphate deposits that are not leased. Any geothermal or phosphate mining activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the Schmid Peak Roadless Area over both the short and long term.

With regards to timber harvest, the 2,600 acres under prescriptions 2.7.2 and 3.3 only allow timber harvest and associated road building if they produce some additional habitat values, e.g. improvements in winter elk range habitat. While the immediate impact of any timber harvest would likely alter roadless characteristics in the short run, the dual objective of habitat protection would limit the long term impact.

Under prescription 3.2, temporary roads for salvage harvest are allowed, as well as general timber harvest for fuels reduction or restoration projects. If temporary roads were constructed they would affect roadless characteristics in the short term, but the effects would decrease over the long term.

Limited timber harvest is allowed to improve wildlife habitat for the 200 acres under prescription 6.2. However, these lands are generally non-forested so little to no timber harvest (or road building to access timber harvest) is expected. As such, it is unlikely that roadless characteristics would be altered.

Prescription 5.2 permits both road building and timber harvest. For the 200 acres under this prescription, any timber activities or road building that occurred would likely alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 6,500 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.

Of the 400 acres under the GFRG theme about 200 acres are rangeland and 200 acres are forested. Roads would generally be permitted and timber harvest could occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. However, timber harvest and associated road construction is most likely to occur on the forested lands. Timber activities and road building to meet these objectives could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

There are currently around 40 acres of phosphate deposits under lease in the Schmid Peak Roadless Area, and an additional 20 acres of known deposits are not yet under lease. The 40 leased acres are within the Backcountry theme and the 20 unleased acres are under the GFRG theme. Road building and surface occupancy would continue for the existing leases and new phosphate leases would also be allowed under the Backcountry or GFRG theme.

Any new leasing in the 6,500 Backcountry acres would be limited to phosphate leases. For the 400 acres under the GFRG theme, non-phosphate mineral leases and road building to access these leases would also be permitted. While there is little to no potential for oil and gas development in the Schmid Peak Roadless Area, the area does contain 6,900 acres of high geothermal potential. If any leasable mineral

activities occurred in either the Backcountry or GFRG themes then they would alter roadless characteristics in 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, none of which are in the CPZ, and 400 acres under the GFRG theme.

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 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. 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.

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, 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 Schmid Peak Roadless Area contains around 40 acres of known phosphate deposits under lease and around 20 acres of phosphate deposits not under lease. Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule all 60 acres would fall under the GFRG theme, and surface occupancy and road development to access new mineral leases would be permitted. Any phosphate mining activity that occurs would alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since road construction is not allowed to access new mineral leases of any kind. Any new leasing in the 400 GFRG acres would be limited to phosphate since road construction is prohibited for all other types of new mineral leases.

Scout Mountain #152

24,500 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Scout Mountain Roadless Area is in Bannock County, Idaho, and is administered by the Westside Ranger District of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. It is located approximately thirteen miles southeast of Pocatello, Idaho. Access roads include Mink Creek, South Fork, and East Fork roads. Other lower standard access roads include Indian Creek, Goodenough Creek, Kinney Creek, Lead Draw, Camp Tedoy, and Scout Mountain roads.

Topography in the area is quite steep with brush and grass covered slopes. Aspen stands are common, and small stringers of Douglas -fir are found on north-facing slopes. Elevations range from 4,600 feet to 8,710 feet above sea level at Scout Mountain.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is considered moderate, because unimproved roads and timber harvest activities are evident in the area.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude are considered low, because of the area's size and minimal natural screening. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are considered moderate.

Special Features: No special features or attractions have been identified in this roadless area. About 200 acres are in Management Prescription 2.1.2(b) Visual Quality Maintenance. This prescription is located along major travel corridors.

Manageability: Manageability of the area is considered poor, due to the area's small size and road intrusions. A substantial core area could be achieved by locating the boundaries on natural features.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: A population of Yellowstone cutthroat trout occurs in this roadless area.

Wildlife: Bald eagles, a Forest Service sensitive species occurs in this roadless area. Great gray owls and flammulated owls, also sensitive species occur in this roadless area. The area has moderate values for wildlife habitat.

Water: The area supports a water diversion under a special use authorization.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present.

Recreation: Dispersed recreational activities include motorized trail use, snowmobiling, and camping. Most of the area is open to snowmobiling; some areas are closed to protect wildlife.

Timber: Recent timber activity has occurred in the area.

Wildland Fire Use: This area is not managed for Wildland Fire Use. The Fire Management Plan has identified the entire roadless area for suppression.

Range: Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Minerals and Energy: The area has low potential for oil and gas and no current oil or gas leases. This roadless area contains 24,500 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: Special use authorizations within the area include an outfitter and guide and an electronic site.

Roads and Trails: The area has about 1 mile of forest road and twenty-six miles of motorized trail.

Disturbances: The area includes motorized trail use, a communication site, and developed and dispersed recreation management.

Heritage: Cultural resources have been identified within this roadless area. Recorded cultural resources include evidence of pre-historic and historic use of the area.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Scout 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 Scout Mountain-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| Scout 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 | 24,500 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Backcountry | 0 | 20,000 | 20,000 | CPZ | 4,200 |
| | | | | NonCPZ | 15,800 |
| GFRG | 0 | 2,500 | 2,500 | 2,500 | |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 2000* | 2000* | 2,000* | |
| Total Acres | 24,500 | 24,500 | 24,500 | 24,500 | |

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the Scout Mountain Roadless Area is Visual Quality Maintenance. For further information on this designation, see the Caribou National Forest LRMP.

Table Scout Mountain-2. Potential activities

| Scout 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 | 22,500 | 22,500 | 6,700* |
| Timber cutting to improve TES species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 24,500 | 22,500 | 22,500 | 22,500 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 24,500 | 22,500 | 22,500 | 22,500 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 22,500 | 22,500 | 6,700* |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 22,500 | 2,500 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 24,500 | 22,500 | 22,500 | 22,500 |

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 15,800 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 6,400 acres under prescription 2.7.2 (elk and deer winter range), 12,500 acres under prescription 3.2 (semi-primitive recreation), 1,200 acres under prescription 3.3 (semi-primitive restoration), 1,700 acres under prescription 4.3 (dispersed camping management), 200 acres under prescription 5.2 (forest vegetation management), and 2,300 acres under prescription 6.2 (rangeland vegetation management).

There are no prohibitions against mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions. No oil and gas activities are expected since the Scout Mountain Roadless Area has little to no potential for oil and gas leasing. The area does contain 24,500 acres of high geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the roadless area over both the short and long term.

For the 7,600 acres under prescriptions 2.7.2 and 3.3, timber harvest and road building to access the timber harvest are permitted only if they produce some additional habitat values, e.g. improvements in elk habitat. While the immediate impact of any timber harvest would likely alter roadless characteristics in the short run, the dual objective of habitat protection would limit the long term impact.

Under prescription 3.2, temporary roads for salvage harvest are allowed, as well as general timber harvest for fuels reduction or restoration projects. If temporary roads were constructed they would affect roadless characteristics in the short term, but the effects would decrease over the long term.

Limited timber harvest is allowed to improve wildlife habitat for the 2,300 acres under prescription 6.2. However, these lands are generally non-forested so little to no timber harvest (or road building to access timber harvest) is expected. As such, it is unlikely that roadless characteristics would be altered.

Timber harvest and associated road building are both permitted for the 1,900 acres under prescription 4.3 and 5.2. Any timber activities or road building that occurred would likely alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule about 2,500 acres would be managed under the GFRG theme and 20,000 under the Backcountry theme.

Of the 2,500 acres under the GFRG theme about 2,300 acres are rangeland and 200 acres are forested. Roads would generally be permitted and timber harvest could occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. However, timber harvest and associated road construction is most likely to occur on the forested lands. Timber activities and road building to meet these objectives could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

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.

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 Scout Mountain Roadless Area, the area does contain 24,500 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 in the Backcountry theme because new roads to access leases are prohibited. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since

there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area. Leasable mineral activity is prohibited in the Wild Land Recreation theme.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 20,000 acres under the Backcountry theme, 4,200 of which are in the CPZ, and 2,500 acres under the GFRG theme.

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 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 15,800 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 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.

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, 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 does not apply to this area and there is no known phosphate present in this roadless area.

Sherman Peak #172

7,700 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Sherman Peak Roadless Area is in Bear Lake County, Idaho on the Cache National Forest, administered by the Montpelier Ranger District. The area lies twelve miles south of Soda Springs, Idaho. Eight mile Creek Road provides access to the area from the northwest. The Skinner Canyon Road provides access from the east.

The area's topography varies from moderate to quite steep. Most of the area is covered in conifer forest, but some aspen, mountain brush, sagebrush, and grass occur in the area. Sherman Peak rises 9,686 feet above sea level; the area's low point is near Eight mile Creek at 6,500 feet above sea level.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is considered moderate, because human activities are evident in unimproved roads and past timber harvest activities.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude are rated as low, because of the area's small size and lack of natural screening. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are considered low due to area's small size and lack of topographic and vegetative screening.

Special Features: No special features or attractions have been identified in this roadless area.

Manageability: Manageability of the area is considered fair along the roadless area boundaries.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The area has high values for fish habitat. The Bonneville cutthroat trout, a Region 4 sensitive species occurs adjacent to in this roadless area.

Wildlife: This area is a linkage zone for Canada lynx, a Forest Service sensitive species. The area has moderate values for wildlife habitat.

Water: The area has no municipal water use.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present.

Recreation: Dispersed recreation includes snowmobiling, off highway vehicle use, back-country skiing, and semi-primitive non-motorized summer use in the area's interior. Most of the area is open to snowmobiling; some areas are closed to protect wildlife.

Timber: Timber harvesting activity has occurred in the roadless area in the late 1980s.

Wildland Fire Use: Much of this area is managed for Wildland Fire Use: The application of the appropriate management response to naturally-ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific resource management objectives in predefined, designated areas outlined in Fire Management Plans.

Range: Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Minerals and Energy: The area has low potential for oil and gas and no current oil or gas leases. This roadless area contains 7,700 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: The area has one communication site and a back-country yurt for avalanche forecasting under special use authorizations. No State or private lands occur within the roadless area.

Roads and Trails: There are no forest roads and about 10 miles of motorized trail.

Disturbances: The area includes motorized trail use, a yurt, and a communication site.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Sherman 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 Sherman Peak-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| Sherman 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 | 7,700 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Backcountry | 0 | 6,200 | 6,200 | 6,200 |
| GFRG | 0 | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,500 |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | aa0 |
| Total Acres | 7,700 | 7,700 | 7,700 | 7,700 |

Table Sherman Peak-2. Potential activities

| Sherman 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 | 7,700 | 7,700 | 1,500 |
| Timber cutting to improve TES species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 7,700 | 7,700 | 7,700 | 7,700 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 7,700 | 7,700 | 7,700 | 7,700 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 7,700 | 7,700 | 1,500 |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 7,700 | 1,500 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 7,700 | 7,700 | 7,700 | 7,700 |

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 2,200 acres are under prescription 3.2 (semi-primitive recreation) and 1,500 acres under prescription 5.2 (forest vegetation management).

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Sherman 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 Sherman Peak roadless area does contain 7,700 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.

With regards to timber harvest, prescription 3.2, allows temporary roads for salvage harvest, as well as general timber harvest for fuels reduction or restoration projects. If temporary roads were constructed they would affect roadless characteristics in the short term, but the effects would decrease over the long term as the road was decommissioned and restored. Prescription 5.2 permits both road building and timber harvest. For the 1,500 acres under this prescription, any timber activities or road building that occurred would likely alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 6,200 acres would fall under the Backcountry theme and 1,500 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.

For the 1,500 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.

For the 1,500 acres under the GFRG theme, there could be development of the areas with high geothermal potential since roads would be permitted for this purpose. If any geothermal activity did occur, it would likely alter roadless characteristics in both the short and long-term. No mineral activities are expected in the acres under the Backcountry theme because roads are not permitted for new 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 6,200 acres under the Backcountry theme, none of which are in the CPZ, and 1,500 acres under the GFRG theme. 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 6,200 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. 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.

For the 1,500 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 does not apply to this area and there is no known phosphate present in this roadless area.

Soda Point #171

23,100 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Soda Point Roadless Area is in Caribou and Bear Lake Counties, Idaho on the Cache portion of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, but is administered by the Montpelier District. It lies seven miles south of Soda Springs, Idaho. The Nelson Canyon Road provides access from the north, and the Eight mile Road provides access from the east. Cheatbeck and Cow Creek roads provide access to the area from the northwest. North Ant Canyon Road is on the southern boundary.

The area forms the northern tip of the Wasatch Range. The elevation varies from 8,921 feet at Soda Point to 6,600 feet near the Bear River. Southwest slopes are steep and rocky with juniper, sagebrush, and mountain mahogany. North and east slopes are gentle with lodgepole pine, Douglas -fir, aspen and mountain brush.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is rated as moderate, because the area contains evidence of unimproved roads and timber harvest activities.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude are considered moderate, because of the area's moderate size and natural screening. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are considered low due to lack of screening.

Special Features: Special features include a 1,000 acre Research Natural Area.

Manageability: Manageability of the area is considered poor along inventoried boundaries. A core area could be achieved if boundaries were placed on natural features.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The Bonneville cutthroat trout, a Region 4 sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

Wildlife: This area is a linkage zone for the Canada lynx, a Forest Service sensitive species. Bald eagles, a Forest Service sensitive species, have a nest within two miles of the north edge of this roadless area. The area has moderate values for wildlife habitat.

Water: The area supports one municipal water use for the town of Grace.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present.

Recreation: Activities include hiking, hunting, off highway vehicle use, and snowmobiling. Most of the area is open to snowmobiling; some areas are closed to protect wildlife.

Timber: One recent timber sale has occurred in the area.

Wildland Fire Use: Some of this area is managed for Wildland Fire Use: The application of the appropriate management response to naturally-ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific resource management objectives in predefined, designated areas outlined in Fire Management Plans.

Range: Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Minerals and Energy: The area has low potential for oil and gas and no current oil or gas leases. This roadless area contains 23,100 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: The area has an outfitter and guide and a several water transmission special use authorizations.

Roads and Trails: There are about 2 miles of forest road and 26 miles of motorized trail.

Disturbances: The area includes motorized trail use.

Heritage: Cultural resources have been identified within this roadless area. Recorded cultural resources include evidence of pre-historic and historic use of the area.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Soda 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 Soda Point-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Soda Point-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

| Soda 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 | 23,100 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Backcountry | 0 | 14,300 | 14,300 | CPZ | 3,400 |
| | | | | NonCPZ | 10,900 |
| GFRG | 0 | 7,800 | 7,800 | 7,800 | |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 1,000* | 1,000* | 1,000* | |
| Total Acres | 23,100 | 23,100 | 23,100 | 23,100 | |

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

Table Soda Point-2. Potential activities

| Soda 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 | 22,100 | 22,100 | 11,200* |
| Timber cutting to improve TES species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 23,100 | 22,100 | 22,100 | 22,100 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 23,100 | 22,100 | 22,100 | 22,100 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 22,100 | 22,100 | 11,200* |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 22,100 | 7,800 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 23,100 | 22,100 | 22,100 | 22,100 |

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 10,900 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 4,000 acres are under prescription 2.7.1 (elk & deer winter range critical), 1,200 acres under prescription 2.7.2 (elk and deer winter range),

7,800 acres under prescription 3.2 (semi-primitive recreation), 1,300 acres under prescription 3.3 (semi-primitive restoration), and 7,800 acres under prescription 5.2 (forest vegetation management).

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Soda Point Roadless Area. No phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals. The Soda Point Roadless Area does contain 23,100 acres of high geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the Soda Point Roadless Area over both the short and long term.

With regards to timber harvest, the 6,500 acres under prescriptions 2.7.1, 2.7.2 and 3.3 only allow timber harvest and associated road building if they produce some additional habitat values, e.g. improvements in winter elk range habitat. While the immediate impact of any timber harvest would likely alter roadless characteristics in the short run, the dual objective of habitat protection would limit the long term impact.

Under prescription 3.2, temporary roads for salvage harvest are allowed, as well as general timber harvest for fuels reduction or restoration projects. If temporary roads were constructed they would affect roadless characteristics in the short term, but the effects would decrease over the long term.

Both road building and timber harvest are permitted for the 7,800 acres under prescription 5.2. Any timber activities or road building that occurred would likely alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 14,300 acres would fall under the Backcountry theme and 7,800 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.

For the 7,800 acres under the GFRG theme roads would generally be permitted and timber harvest could occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. However, timber harvest and associated road construction is most likely to occur on the forested lands. Timber activities and road building to meet these objectives could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

There could be development of the areas with high or medium geothermal potential in the GFRG areas since roads would be permitted for this purpose. If any geothermal activity did occur, it would likely alter roadless characteristics in both the short and long-term. No mineral activities are expected in the acres under the Backcountry theme because roads are not permitted for new 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 14,300 acres under the Backcountry theme, 3,400 of which are in the CPZ, and 7,800 acres under the GFRG theme.

Within the 3,400 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 10,900 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 14,300 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 7,800 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 does not apply to this area and there is no known phosphate present in this roadless area.

Station Creek #178

9,500 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Station Creek Roadless Area is in Franklin County, Idaho on the Cache portion of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, but is administered by the Montpelier Ranger District. It is eleven miles northeast of Preston, Idaho. Access roads include Birch Creek Road on the north and east, and Cub River Road on the south. The Worm Creek road cherry-stems into the roadless area on the west.

The area is on the west slope of the Wasatch Range. Slopes are quite steep, but large benches and basins occur at upper elevations. Elevations average about 7,000 feet above sea level. Dominant vegetation includes sagebrush, grass, mountain brush, aspen, maple and some stringers of conifer on the north slopes.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is considered high, but the area has been affected by unimproved roads and livestock grazing.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude are rated low, due to the area's size and minimal natural screening. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are considered low due to area's small size.

Special Features: No special features or attractions have been identified in this roadless area.

Manageability: Manageability of the area is considered very poor along inventoried boundaries; the distance between roads rarely exceeds two miles.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The Bonneville cutthroat trout, a Region 4 sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

Wildlife: This area is a linkage zone for the Canada lynx, a Forest Service sensitive species. The area has moderate values for wildlife habitat.

Water: The area has no municipal water use.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present.

Recreation: Recreation uses include off highway vehicle use, snowmobiling, and hunting. Most of the area is open to snowmobiling; some areas are closed to protect wildlife.

Timber: No recent timber sales have occurred in this area.

Wildland Fire Use: Much of this area is managed for Wildland Fire Use: The application of the appropriate management response to naturally-ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific resource management objectives in predefined, designated areas outlined in Fire Management Plans.

Range: Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Minerals and Energy: The area has low potential for oil and gas and no current oil or gas leases. This roadless area contains 9,500 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: One special use authorization outfitter and guide operation is permitted. No State or private lands occur within the area.

Roads and Trails: The area has about 2 miles of forest road and 26 miles of motorized trail.

Disturbances: The area includes motorized trail use.

Heritage: Cultural resources have been identified within this roadless area. Recorded cultural resources include evidence of pre-historic and historic use of the area.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Station 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 Station Creek-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| Station 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 | 9,500 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Backcountry | 0 | 3,400 | 3,400 | CPZ | 400 |
| | | | | NonCPZ | 3,000 |
| GFRG | 0 | 6,100 | 6,100 | 6,100 | |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Total Acres | 9,500 | 9,500 | 9,500 | 9,500 | |

Table Station Creek-2. Potential activities

| Station 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 | 9,500 | 9,500 | 6,500* |
| Timber cutting to improve TES 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 | 6,500* |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 9,500 | 6,100 | 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 3,000 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 6,600 acres are under prescription 2.7.2 (elk & deer winter range), 800 acres under prescription 3.2 (semi-primitive recreation), and 6,100 acres under prescription 6.2 (rangeland vegetation management).

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Station Creek Roadless Area. No phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the Station area has little to no potential for these minerals. The Station Creek Roadless Area does contain 9,500 acres of high geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the Station Creek Roadless Area over both the short and long term.

With regards to timber harvest, the 6,600 acres under prescription 2.7.2 only allow timber harvest and associated road building if they produce some additional habitat values, e.g. improvements in winter elk range habitat. While the immediate impact of any timber harvest would likely alter roadless characteristics in the short run, the dual objective of habitat protection would limit the long term impact.

Under prescription 3.2, temporary roads for salvage harvest are allowed, as well as general timber harvest for fuels reduction or restoration projects. If temporary roads were constructed they would affect roadless characteristics in the short term, but the effects would decrease over the long term.

Limited timber harvest is allowed to improve wildlife habitat in the 6,100 acres under prescription 6.2. However, these lands are generally non-forested so little to no timber harvest (or road building to access timber harvest) is expected. As such, it is unlikely that roadless characteristics would be altered.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 3,400 acres would fall under the Backcountry theme and 6,100 acres would fall under the GFRG, Rangeland and Grassland (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.

For the 6,100 acres under the GFRG theme roads would generally be permitted and timber harvest could occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. Little timber harvest or associated road building is expected, however, since the GFRG acres are rangeland

There could be development of the areas with geothermal potential in the GFRG areas since roads would be permitted for this purpose. If any geothermal activity did occur, it would likely alter roadless characteristics in both the short and long-term. No mineral activities are expected in the acres under the Backcountry theme because roads are not permitted for new 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 3,400 acres under the Backcountry theme, 400 of which are in the CPZ, and 6,100 acres under the GFRG theme.

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 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 3,400 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.

For the 6,100 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, however, little timber harvest or associated road building is expected, however, since the GFRG acres are rangeland

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 does not apply to this area and there is no known phosphate present in this roadless area.

Stauffer Creek #173**6,100 Acres****OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION**

The Stauffer Creek Roadless Area is in Bear Lake County, on the Cache portion of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, but is administered by the Montpelier Ranger District of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. The area is 7 miles west of Georgetown, Idaho. Road access includes the Skinner Canyon Road, the South Stauffer Creek Road, the Mill Hollow Road, and the Meadow Creek Road.

Topography of the roadless area is moderately sloping and vegetation cover is predominately lodgepole pine and mixed conifer. The average elevation is 7,500 feet above sea level.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is considered low; the area has been affected by roads and timber harvest.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude are rated low, due to the area's size and minimal natural screening. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are considered low due to area's small size and road intrusions.

Special Features: No special features or attractions have been identified in this roadless area.

Manageability: Manageability of the area is considered fair along inventoried boundaries; boundary adjustments would be limited within the small area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The area has high values for fish habitat. The Bonneville cutthroat trout, a Region 4 sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

Wildlife: This area is a linkage zone for the Canada lynx, a Forest Service sensitive species. Northern goshawk, a Forest Service sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

Water: The area has no municipal water use.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present.

Recreation: The area is popular for hunting, off highway vehicle use and snowmobiling. Most of the area is open to snowmobiling; some areas are closed to protect wildlife.

Timber: The area has recent timber sales and past timber harvest is evident along the boundaries of the area.

Wildland Fire Use: Much of this area is managed for Wildland Fire Use: The application of the appropriate management response to naturally-ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific resource management objectives in predefined, designated areas outlined in Fire Management Plans.

Range: Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Minerals and Energy: The area has low potential for oil and gas and no current oil or gas leases. This roadless area contains 6,000 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no special use authorizations within the area. No State or private land occurs within the area.

Roads and Trails: The area has no forest roads and about 6 miles of motorized trail.

Disturbances: The area includes motorized trail use.

Heritage: Cultural resources have been identified within this roadless area. Recorded cultural resources include evidence of pre-historic and historic use of the area.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Stauffer 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 Stauffer Creek-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| Stauffer 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 | 6,100 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Backcountry | 0 | 6,000 | 6,100 | 6,100 |
| GFRG | 0 | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Acres | 6,100 | 6,100 | 6,100 | 6,100 |

Table Stauffer Creek-2. Potential activities

| Stauffer 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 | 6,100 | 6,100 | 0 |
| Timber cutting to improve TES species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 6,100 | 6,100 | 6,100 | 6,100 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 6,100 | 6,100 | 6,100 | 6,100 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 6,100 | 6,100 | 0 |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 6,100 | 100 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 6,100 | 6,100 | 6,100 | 6,100 |

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 6,000 acres are managed under prescription 3.2 (semi-primitive recreation) and 100 acres under 5.2 (forest vegetation management).

There are no prohibitions on new mineral leases and or roads to access leases under any of these forest plan prescriptions. The Stauffer Creek roadless area contains 6,000 acres of high geothermal potential, but it has little to no potential for oil and gas leasing or phosphate mining. If any geothermal leasing occurred, it would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

With regards to timber harvest, prescription 3.2 allows temporary roads for salvage harvest and permits general timber harvest for fuels reduction or restoration projects. If temporary roads were constructed they would affect roadless characteristics in the short term, but since the roads would be decommissioned and restored, the effects would decrease over the long term.

Prescription 5.2 permits both road building and timber harvest. For the 100 acres under this prescription, any timber activities or road building that occurred would likely alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule about 6,100 acres would be managed under the Backcountry theme.

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 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.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 6,100 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 6,100 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 roads are not permitted to access new mineral leases.

Stump Creek #162

96,800 Acres Caribou (Idaho)
700 Acres Caribou (Wyoming)
97,500 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Stump Creek Roadless Area is in Caribou County, Idaho and Lincoln County, Wyoming on the Soda Springs Ranger District of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. It is located twenty miles northeast of Soda Springs, Idaho and ten miles northwest of Afton, Wyoming. The Tincup Highway is the northern boundary of the area. Eastern access is on the Stump Creek Road. From the northeast side, Deer Creek, Limekiln Creek, and Water Canyon roads provide access to the area. The Smoky Canyon Road forms the southern boundary. Cabin Creek, Timothy Creek, Bacon Creek, and Brown Creek roads provide access to the area from the west.

Stump Creek is the largest roadless area on the Forest. Most of the acres are in Idaho. Only about 700 acres are in Wyoming. The area is located in the Caribou and Webster Mountain Ranges. The highest point in the roadless area is Drainy Peak at 9,131 feet above sea level. The low point is around 6,000 feet above sea level near Star Valley, Wyoming. The area has moderately sloping hills covered with sagebrush, grass, and mountain brush with aspen and conifer at higher elevations.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is rated as high. Unimproved roads, livestock grazing, and recreation impacts are evident in some portions of the area.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude are considered very high, due to the area's large size and low development. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are rated high, due to the remoteness of portions of the area.

Special Features: Special features or attractions include 1,600 acres in the Historic Lander Trail, a large expanse of land for semi-primitive recreation, and a 600 acre Research Natural Area.

Manageability: Manageability is considered fair. A large core area could be achieved if boundaries followed natural features.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The area has high values for fish habitat. Yellowstone cutthroat trout occurs here.

Wildlife: This area is a linkage zone for the Canada lynx, a Forest Service sensitive species. Bald eagles and Great gray owls, also sensitive occur in this roadless area. The area has high values for wildlife habitat.

Water: The area has no municipal water uses.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present.

Recreation: The primary recreation pursuits are snowmobiling, off highway vehicle use, hunting, and camping. Most of the area is open to snowmobiling; some areas are closed to protect wildlife.

Timber: Recent timber sales have occurred in the area.

Wildland Fire Use: Much of this area is managed for Wildland Fire Use: The application of the appropriate management response to naturally-ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific resource management objectives in predefined, designated areas outlined in Fire Management Plans.

Range: Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Minerals and Energy: The area has moderate potential for oil and gas and no current oil or gas leases. About 160 acres of phosphate deposits are under leased and another 120 acres of deposits are not leased. This roadless area contains 16,500 acres of high and 80,300 of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: Special use authorizations include a power line and outfitting and guiding. No State or private land occurs within the roadless area.

Roads and Trails: There are about 4 miles of forest roads and 23 miles of motorized trail.

Disturbances: The area includes high motorized trail use and power lines.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Stump Creek Roadless Area. Table Stump 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 Stump Creek-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| Stump 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 | 6,300 | 6,300 | | 6,300 |
| Similar to Backcountry | 96,800 | 0 | 0 | | 0 |
| Backcountry | 0 | 76,600 | 76,600 | CPZ | 6,300 |
| | | | | NonCPZ | 69,300 |
| GFRG | 0 | 10,300 | 10,300 | | 11,300 |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 0 |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 3,600* | 3,600* | | 3,600* |
| Total Acres | 96,800 | 96,800 | 96,800 | | 96,800 |

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the Stump Creek Roadless Area is 1,400 acres as Visual Quality Maintenance, 1,600 acres as Lander Trail Special Emphasis Area, and 600 acres as RNA. For further information on this designation, see the Caribou National Forest LRMP.

Table Stump Creek-2. Potential activities

| Stump 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 | 86,900 | 86,900 | 17,600 ² |
| Timber cutting to improve TES species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 96,800 | 93,200 | 93,200 | 93,200 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 96,800 | 93,200 | 93,200 | 88,400 ³ |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 93,200 | 93,200 | 17,600 ² |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 86,900 | 86,900 ¹ | 11,300 ⁴ |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 96,800 | 86,900 | 86,900 | 86,900 |

¹Road building in Backcountry areas under Alternative 3 would be permitted for phosphate leases only.

²Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 69,300 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.

³Timber cutting is prohibited in Primitive 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 are expected to occur in the 1,500 acres of the Primitive theme within 1 ½ miles of a community and/or contain a municipal water supply system.

⁴Road building in GFRG areas under Alternative 4 would be permitted for phosphate leases only.

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. There are currently around 160 acres of phosphate deposits under lease in the Stump Creek Roadless Area. The mining activities under these existing leases would continue under the 2001 Roadless Rule and would likely alter roadless characteristic over the short and long term. No new mining leases would be expected, however, since road building for any new leases in the area would be prohibited.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan, around 19,900 acres are managed under prescription 2.7.2 (elk & deer winter range), 6,300 under prescription 3.1 (non motorized recreation and wildlife security), 56,700 acres under prescription 3.2 (semi-primitive recreation), 7,300 under prescription 5.2 (forest vegetation management), and 3,000 acres under prescription 6.2 (rangeland vegetation management).

No mineral activities are expected for the 6,300 acres under prescription 3.1 because road building is not permitted. For the remaining 86,900 acres of the Stump Creek Roadless Area, however, there are no prohibitions in the existing forest plans against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases. No oil and gas activities are expected since the Stump Creek Roadless Area has little to no potential for oil and gas leasing. The area does contain 16,500 acres of high geothermal potential, 80,300 acres of medium geothermal potential, 160 acres of an active phosphate lease, and 110 additional acres of known phosphate deposits that are not leased. Any geothermal or phosphate mining activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the Stump Creek Roadless Area over both the short and long term.

With regards to timber harvest, prescription 3.1 only allows timber harvest if it contributes to non-motorized recreation or wildlife security. Since construction of new public roads is also prohibited under 3.1, little to no timber harvest is expected for these acres. The 19,900 acres under prescription 2.7.2 only allow timber harvest and associated road building if they produce some additional habitat values, e.g. improvements in winter elk range habitat. While the immediate impact of any timber harvest would

likely alter roadless characteristics in the short run, the dual objective of habitat protection would limit the long term impact.

Under prescription 3.2, temporary roads for salvage harvest are allowed, as well as general timber harvest for fuels reduction or restoration projects. If temporary roads were constructed they would affect roadless characteristics in the short term, but the effects would decrease over the long term.

Limited timber harvest is allowed to improve wildlife habitat for the 3,000 acres under the prescription 6.2. However, these lands are generally non-forested so little to no timber harvest (or road building to access timber harvest) is expected. As such, it is unlikely that roadless characteristics would be altered.

Prescription 5.2 permits both road building and timber harvest. For the 7,300 acres under this prescription, any timber activities or road building that occurred would likely alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 6,300 acres would fall under the Primitive theme, 76,600 acres would fall under the Backcountry theme and 10,300 acres would fall under the GFRG theme.

Little to no timber cutting would be anticipated for the 6,300 acres under the Primitive theme because roads are prohibited except for reserved and outstanding rights. Timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities would be permitted for the 76,600 acres under the Backcountry theme. 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.

Of the GFRG theme about 3,000 acres are rangeland and 7,300 acres are forested. Roads would generally be permitted and timber harvest could occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. However, timber harvest and associated road construction is most likely to occur on the forested lands. Timber activities and road building to meet these objectives could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

There are currently around 160 acres of phosphate deposits under lease in the Stump Creek Roadless Area, and an additional 110 acres of known deposits not yet under lease. The phosphate deposit acres are split between the Backcountry and GFRG themes. Road building and surface occupancy would continue for the existing leases, and new phosphate leases and associated road building would also be allowed under both the Backcountry and GFRG themes.

No new leasable activities could occur in the 6,300 acres under the Primitive theme, and any new leasing in the 76,600 acres of Backcountry would be limited to phosphate leases. For the 10,300 acres under the GFRG theme, non-phosphate mineral leases and road building to access these leases would also be permitted. While there is little to no potential for oil and gas development in the Stump Creek Roadless Area, the area does contain 16,500 acres of high geothermal potential and 80,300 acres of medium geothermal potential. If any geothermal activities occurred in the GFRG themes then they would alter roadless characteristics in both the short and long-term.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 6,300 acres under the Primitive theme, 75,600 acres under the Backcountry theme, 6,300 of which are in the CPZ and 11,300 under the GFRG theme.

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 69,300 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 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 on 75,600 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.

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 1,500 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 road access. In addition these activities 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.

For the 11,300 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.

The Stump Creek Roadless Area contains around 160 acres of known phosphate deposits under lease and around 110 acres of phosphate deposits not under lease. Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule all 280 acres would fall under the GFRG theme, and surface occupancy and road development to access new mineral leases would be permitted. Any phosphate mining activity that occurs would alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and 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. Any new leasing in the 11,300 GFRG acres would be limited to phosphate since road construction is prohibited for all other types of new mineral leases.

Swan Creek #180

7,100 Acres Caribou (Idaho)
9,400 Acres Wasatch-Cache (Utah)
16,500 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Swan Creek Roadless Area straddles the Idaho and Utah border about three miles west of Bear Lake. About 7,100 acres is located in Idaho. Management direction is provided by the Caribou Forest Plan. About 9,400 acres is located in Utah. Management direction is provided by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

The Idaho portion of the roadless area is in Bear Lake and Franklin Counties, Idaho. The area is located about three miles west of Fish Haven, Idaho. Road access from the north and east is on the Fish Haven and Logan Canyon roads respectively. Access from the west is on the Beaver Creek Road. The Old Logan Road is the western boundary.

The area's topography is quite steep, but more rolling and gentle slopes appear at higher elevations. The average elevation is about 8,000 feet above sea level. Vegetation types include sagebrush, grass, mahogany, and maple on lower slopes, with aspen and fir types occurring at higher elevations.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is considered moderate, because human activities are evident, including unimproved roads and timber harvest activities.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude are rated moderate, due to the area's size and some natural screening. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are considered moderate due to area's size.

Special Features: No special features or attractions have been identified in this roadless area.

Manageability: Manageability of the area is considered poor, due to the area's small size and road intrusions.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The Bonneville cutthroat trout, a Region 4 sensitive species occur adjacent to this roadless area.

Wildlife: This area is a linkage zone for the Canada lynx, a Forest Service sensitive species. The area has low values for wildlife habitat.

Water: The area has no municipal water use.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present.

Recreation: Most of the area is managed for semi-primitive motorized experiences. Activities include OHV trail use, snowmobiling and hunting. Most of the area is open to snowmobiling; some areas are closed to protect wildlife.

Timber: Recent timber sale activity has occurred in this area.

Wildland Fire Use: Much of this area is managed for Wildland Fire Use: The application of the appropriate management response to naturally-ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific resource management objectives in predefined, designated areas outlined in Fire Management Plans.

Range: Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Minerals and Energy: The area has low potential for oil and gas and no current oil or gas leases. This roadless area contains 7,100 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: The area has two outfitter and guide special use authorizations.

Roads and Trails: The area has less than ½ mile of forest road and 7 miles of motorized trails.

Disturbances: The area includes motorized trail use.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Swan 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 Swan Creek-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| Swan 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 | 7,100 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Backcountry | 0 | 7,100 | 7,100 | CPZ | 2,800 |
| | | | | NonCPZ | 4,300 |
| GFRG | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Total Acres | 7,100 | 7,100 | 7,100 | 7,100 | |

Table Swan Creek-2. Potential activities

| Swan 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 | 7,100 | 7,100 | 2,800* |
| Timber cutting to improve TES species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 7,100 | 7,100 | 7,100 | 7,100 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 7,100 | 7,100 | 7,100 | 7,100 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 7,100 | 7,100 | 2,800* |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 7,100 | 0 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 7,100 | 7,100 | 7,100 | 7,100 |

*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 1,000 acres are under prescription 2.7.1 (elk & deer winter range critical) and 6,100 acres under prescription 3.3 (semi-primitive restoration).

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Swan 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 Swan Creek Roadless Area does contain 7,100 acres of high geothermal. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the Swan Creek Roadless Area over both the short and long term.

With regards to timber harvest, the 7,100 acres under Caribou prescriptions 2.7.1 and 3.3 only allow timber harvest and associated road building if they produce some additional habitat values, e.g. improvements in winter elk range habitat. While the immediate impact of any timber harvest would likely alter roadless characteristics in the short run, the dual objective of habitat protection would limit the long term impact.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule all 7,100 acres would fall 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 mineral activities are expected in the acres under the Backcountry theme because roads are not permitted for new 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 7,100 acres under the Backcountry theme, 2,800 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 4,300 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 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 on 7,100 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.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads construction is now allowed to access new mineral leases of any kind.

Telephone Draw #169

4,900 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Telephone Draw Roadless Area is in Bear Lake County, Idaho administered by the Montpelier Ranger District of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. This area is located approximately seven miles east of Montpelier, Idaho. The northern boundary of the area is formed by Snowslide Canyon Road. U.S. Highway 89 forms the southern boundary. The area is accessible from the Montpelier Reservoir and the Crow Creek Road on the west.

The area's topography is comprised primarily of steep terrain. Average elevation is 7,000 feet above sea level. Sagebrush, grass, mountain brush, and aspen make up the vegetation cover in the area.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is considered high, with evidence of some unimproved roads.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude are rated low due to the area's small size. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are also rated low due to area's small size and lack of screening.

Special Features: No special features or attractions have been identified in this roadless area.

Manageability: Manageability of the area is considered poor due to the area's small size.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The Bonneville cutthroat trout, a Region 4 sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

Wildlife: This area is a linkage zone for the Canada lynx, a Forest Service sensitive species. The area has low values for wildlife habitat.

Water: The area has no municipal water use.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present.

Recreation: off highway vehicle use and hunting are popular recreation activities in the area. Most of the area is open to snowmobiling; some areas are closed to protect wildlife.

Timber: No timber harvest activities have occurred in this area.

Wildland Fire Use: Much of this area is managed for Wildland Fire Use: The application of the appropriate management response to naturally-ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific resource management objectives in predefined, designated areas outlined in Fire Management Plans.

Range: Livestock grazing is authorized for most of the area.

Minerals and Energy: The area has moderate potential for oil and gas and no current oil or gas leases. This roadless area contains 4,900 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: The area has one outfitter and guide special use authorization.

Roads and Trails: There are no forest roads and about 3 miles of motorized trail.

Disturbances: The area includes motorized trail use.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Telephone Draw-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 Telephone Draw-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Telephone Draw-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

| Telephone Draw 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 | 3,400 | 3,400 | 3,400 |
| GFRG | 0 | 1,400 | 1,400 | 1,400 |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 100* | 100* | 100* |
| Total Acres | 4,900 | 4,900 | 4,900 | 4,900 |

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the Telephone Draw Roadless Area is Visual Quality Maintenance. For further information on this designation, see the Caribou National Forest LRMP.

Table Telephone Draw-2. Potential activities

| Telephone Draw 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 | 1,400 |
| Timber cutting to improve TES species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 4,900 | 4,800 | 4,800 | 4,800 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 4,900 | 4,800 | 4,800 | 4,800 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 4,800 | 4,800 | 1,400 |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 4,800 | 1,400 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 4,900 | 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 3,400 acres are under prescription 2.7.1 (elk & deer winter range critical) and 1,400 acres under prescription 6.2 (rangeland vegetation management).

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for this roadless area. No phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since Telephone Draw has little to no potential for these minerals. The area does contain 4,900 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.

With regards to timber harvest, the 3,400 acres under prescription 2.7.1 only allow timber harvest and associated road building if they produce some additional habitat values, e.g. improvements in winter elk

range habitat. While the immediate impact of any timber harvest would likely alter roadless characteristics in the short run, the dual objective of habitat protection would limit the long term impact.

For the 1,400 acres under the prescription 6.2, limited timber harvest is allowed to improve wildlife habitat. However, these lands are generally non-forested so little to no timber harvest (or road building to access timber harvest) is expected. As such, it is unlikely that roadless characteristics would be altered.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 3,400 acres would fall under the Backcountry theme and 1,400 acres would fall under the GFRG theme. Timber cutting for ecosystem restoration and/or reduction of wildland fire risk to communities would be permitted under the Backcountry theme. 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.

While the GFRG theme allows timber harvest and road construction to access timber harvests, little activity is expected since the GFRG areas in the Telephone Draw roadless area are rangelands. If timber activities and road building did occur, then they would likely alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

Mineral development of the GFRG areas with high geothermal potential could occur since roads would be permitted for this purpose. If any geothermal activity did occur, it would likely alter roadless characteristics in both the short and long-term. No mineral activities are expected in the acres under the Backcountry theme because roads are not permitted for new 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 3,400 acres under the Backcountry theme, none of which are in the CPZ, and 1,400 acres under the GFRG theme.

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 4,800 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. 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.

For the 1,400 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; however all the lands in the GFRG theme are rangelands so little to no timber harvest is anticipated.

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 does not apply to this area and there is no known phosphate present in this roadless area.

Toponce #153**18,300 Acres****OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION**

The Toponce Roadless Area is in Bannock and Caribou Counties, Idaho on the Westside Ranger District of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. The area is located about twelve miles east of Pocatello, Idaho. Road access from the south includes Inman Creek and Toponce Creek roads.

The area's topography consists of gently sloping terrain and open valleys of grasses and forbs. Mountain slopes have brush and aspen cover with lodgepole pine and Douglas -fir on the north aspects. Elevations range from 8,000 feet to 5,500 feet above sea level.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is considered high, even though the area displays evidence of human development, including several unimproved roads and old mining activities.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude are rated low because of area's small size and lower valley development is visible from most of the area. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are considered moderate, and back-country skiing in the area can be challenging.

Special Features: Special features or attractions include back-country ski experiences.

Manageability: Manageability of the area is considered good, due to the lack of development on surrounding lands.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: A population of Yellowstone cutthroat trout occurs in this roadless area.

Wildlife: Bald eagles, a Forest Service sensitive species occurs in this roadless area. The area has high values for wildlife habitat.

Water: The area has no municipal water use.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present.

Recreation: The area is popular for hiking, skiing, and snowmobile use. About one-half of the area is open to snowmobiling; some areas are closed to protect wildlife.

Timber: No recent timber activity has occurred in the area.

Wildland Fire Use: This area is not managed for Wildland Fire Use. The Fire Management Plan has identified the entire roadless area for suppression.

Range: Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Minerals and Energy: The area has no current oil or gas leases. This roadless area contains 18,300 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: Special use authorizations include one outfitter and guide, several back-country yurts and a phosphate slurry line. No State or private land occurs within the roadless area.

Roads and Trails: There are less than ½ miles of forest road and no motorized trails.

Disturbances: The area includes a slurry line and a yurt system.

Heritage: Cultural resources have been identified within this roadless area. Recorded cultural resources include evidence of pre-historic and historic use of the area.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Toponce-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 Toponce-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| Toponce 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 | 7,300 | 7,300 | 7,300 |
| Similar to Backcountry | 18,300 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Backcountry | 0 | 1,200 | 1,200 | 11,000 |
| GFRG | 0 | 9,800 | 9,800 | 0 |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Acres | 18,300 | 18,300 | 18,300 | 18,300 |

Table Toponce-2. Potential activities

| Toponce 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 | 11,000 | 11,000 | 0 |
| Timber cutting to improve TES species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 18,300 | 18,300 | 18,300 | 18,300 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 18,300 | 18,300 | 18,300 | 11,000 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 18,300 | 18,300 | 0 |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 11,000 | 9,800 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 18,300 | 11,000 | 11,000 | 11,000 |

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 7,300 acres are managed under prescription 3.1 (non-motorized recreation and wildlife security), 1,200 acres under prescription 2.7.1 (elk and deer winter range critical), and 9,800 acres under 6.2 (rangeland vegetation).

Roads for new mineral leases are not permitted for the 7,300 acres under prescription 3.1. For all the other areas, new mineral leases and roads would generally be permitted. The Toponce roadless area contains 18,300 acres of medium geothermal potential, but it has little to no potential for oil and gas leasing or phosphate mining. If any geothermal leasing occurred, it would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

With regards to timber harvest, prescription 3.1 only allows timber harvest if it contributes to non-motorized recreation or wildlife security. Since construction of new public roads is also prohibited under 3.1, little to no timber harvest is expected for these acres. For the 1,200 acres under prescription 2.7.2, timber harvest and road building to access the timber harvest are permitted only if they produce some additional habitat values, e.g. improvements in winter elk range habitat. While the immediate impact of any timber harvest would likely alter roadless characteristics in the short run, the dual objective of habitat protection would limit the long term impact.

The rangeland management prescription 6.2 allows timber harvest to improve wildlife habitat. However, these lands are generally non-forested so little to no timber harvest (or road building to access timber harvest) is expected. As such, it is unlikely that roadless characteristics would be altered.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule about 9,800 acres would be managed under the GFRG theme, 1,200 acres would be managed under the Backcountry theme, and 7,300 acres would be managed under the Primitive theme.

For the 7,900 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. Since this section of the Toponce Roadless Area is primarily rangeland, however, little to no timber activity is expected.

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.

Little to no timber cutting would be anticipated for the 7,300 acres under the Primitive theme because roads are prohibited except for reserved and outstanding rights.

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 Toponce Roadless Area, the area does contain 18,300 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 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 7,300 acres under the Primitive theme and 11,000 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 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 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 11,000 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. 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.

West Mink #151**19,600 Acres****OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION**

The West Mink Roadless Area is in Bannock and Power Counties, Idaho and is administered by the Westside Ranger District of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. It is located approximately six miles south of Pocatello, Idaho. Access roads include the Mink Creek Road (Bannock Highway), which borders the area along the southeast. The area is also bordered on the west by the Fort Hall Indian Reservation and on the southwest by Bureau of Land Management administered lands.

The area's topography is steep with grass and brush covered slopes. Some patches of aspen and stringers of Douglas -fir occur on the north slopes. Elevations range from 5,000 feet to 7,000 feet above sea level.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is rated as moderate, because unimproved roads and timber harvest activities are evident in the area.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude are considered low, because of the area's size, road intrusions, and minimal natural screening. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are rated as moderate, and back-country skiing in the area can be challenging.

Special Features: Special features or attractions include areas for non-motorized recreation use, and two Research Natural Areas that cover 3,000 acres. In addition, about 700 acres are in Management Prescription 2.1.2(b) Visual Quality Maintenance. This prescription is located along major travel corridors.

Manageability: Manageability of the area is considered poor, due to the area's small size and road intrusions. A substantial core area could be achieved by locating the boundaries on natural features.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: A population of Yellowstone cutthroat trout occurs in this roadless area.

Wildlife: Bald eagles, a Forest Service sensitive species occurs in this roadless area. Ringneck snake and flammulated owl, Region 4 sensitive species occur in this roadless area. The area has moderate values for wildlife habitat.

Water: The area supports a non-culinary water line for the City of Pocatello under a special use authorization.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present.

Recreation: Dispersed recreational activities include off highway vehicle use, hiking, snowmobiling, and cross-country skiing.

Timber: Recent timber sales have occurred in the area.

Wildland Fire Use: This area is not managed for Wildland Fire Use. The Fire Management Plan has identified the entire roadless area for suppression.

Range: Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Minerals and Energy: The area has low potential for oil and gas and no current oil or gas leases. This roadless area contains 19,600 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: Special use authorizations within the area include a power line, a waterline, and outfitting and guiding.

Roads and Trails: The area has less than 2 miles of forest road and about 22 miles of motorized trail.

Disturbances: The area includes motorized trail use, a power line, and a waterline.

Heritage: Cultural resources have been identified within this roadless area. Recorded cultural resources include evidence of pre-historic and historic use of the area.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table West Mink-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 Mink-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table West Mink-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

| West Mink 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 | 15,600 | 15,600 | CPZ | 10,700 |
| | | | | NonCPZ | 4,900 |
| GFRG | 0 | 300 | 300 | 300 | |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 3,700* | 3,700* | 3,700* | |
| Total Acres | 19,600 | 19,600 | 19,600 | 19,600 | |

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the West Mink Roadless Area is 3000 acres as RNA and 700 acres as Visual Quality Maintenance. For further information on this designation, see the Caribou National Forest LRMP.

Table West Mink-2. Potential activities

| West Mink 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 | 10,700 | 15,900 | 11,000* |
| Timber cutting to improve TES species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 19,600 | 15,900 | 15,900 | 15,900 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 19,600 | 15,900 | 15,900 | 15,900 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 15,900 | 15,900 | 11,000* |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 15,900 | 300 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 19,600 | 15,900 | 15,900 | 15,900 |

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 4,900 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 5,200 acres are under prescription 2.1.3 (municipal watershed) 1,600 acres are under prescription 2.7.2 (elk & deer winter range), 8,800 acres

under prescription 3.2 (semi-primitive recreation), and 300 acres under prescription 5.2 (forest vegetation management).

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the West Mink Roadless Area. No phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals. The West Mink Roadless Area does contain 19,600 acres of high geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the West Mink Roadless Area over both the short and long term.

With regards to timber harvest, the 1,600 acres under prescription 2.7.2 allow timber harvest and associated road building if they produce some additional habitat values, e.g. improvements in winter elk range habitat. While the immediate impact of any timber harvest would likely alter roadless characteristics in the short run, the dual objective of habitat protection would limit the long term impact.

Timber harvest is only allowed under prescription 2.1.3 if it is necessary to protect the health of the municipal watershed. No new road construction is allowed for timber harvest; however, so little activity is expected. As such, little to no impact from road building or timber harvest is expected for the 5,200 acres under prescription 2.1.3.

Under prescription 3.2, temporary roads for salvage harvest are allowed, as well as general timber harvest for fuels reduction or restoration projects. If temporary roads were constructed they would affect roadless characteristics in the short term, but the effects would decrease over the long term. .

Prescription 5.2 permits both road building and timber harvest. For the 300 acres under this prescription, any timber activities or road building that occurred would likely alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 15,600 acres would fall under the Backcountry theme and 300 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.

For the 300 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.

There could be development of the areas with high geothermal potential in the GFRG areas since roads would be permitted for this purpose. If any geothermal activity did occur, it would likely alter roadless characteristics in both the short and long-term. No mineral activities are expected in the acres under the Backcountry theme because roads are not permitted for new 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 15,600 acres under the Backcountry theme, 10,700 of which are in the CPZ, and 300 acres under the GFRG theme.

Within the 10,700 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 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 4,900 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 15,600 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.

For the 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 does not apply to this area and there is no known phosphate present in this roadless area.

Williams Creek #174

9,800 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Williams Creek Roadless Area is in Franklin and Bear Lake Counties, Idaho on the Cache portion of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, but is administered by the Montpelier Ranger District. The area is about fifteen miles west of Montpelier, Idaho. The south boundary is State Highway 36. The eastern edge is deeply penetrated by Squirrel Hollow Road. The Williams Canyon Road forms the southwest boundary. The Post Hollow Road makes a deep corridor into the western boundary.

The topography of the area is moderately steep. Major vegetation cover includes maple, sagebrush, grass, and juniper with aspen and conifer on northern slopes. The average elevation is 7,400 feet above sea level.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is considered moderate, even though human activities are present, including unimproved roads and timber harvest activities.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude are rated low, because of the area's small size and lack of natural screening. Opportunity for primitive recreation and challenging experiences is rated low due to area's small size.

Special Features: No special features or attractions have been identified in the roadless area. About 600 acres are in Management Prescription 2.1.2(b) Visual Quality Maintenance. This prescription is located along major travel corridors.

Manageability: Manageability of the area is considered very poor on the roadless area boundaries, due to road intrusions and the area's narrow width.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The area has low values for fish habitat.

Wildlife: This area is a linkage zone for the Canada lynx, a Forest Service sensitive species. Bald eagles, a Forest Service sensitive species occurs in this roadless area. The area has low values for wildlife habitat.

Water: The area has no municipal water use.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present.

Recreation: Dispersed recreation includes snowmobiling, off highway vehicle use, and camping.

Timber: Several recent timber sales have occurred in the area.

Wildland Fire Use: Some of this area is managed for Wildland Fire Use: The application of the appropriate management response to naturally-ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific resource management objectives in predefined, designated areas outlined in Fire Management Plans.

Range: Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Minerals and Energy: The area has low potential for oil and gas and no current oil or gas leases. This roadless area contains 9,800 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: The area has an outfitter and guide under special use authorization. No State or private land occurs within the roadless area.

Roads and Trails: The area has no forest roads and about 6 miles of motorized trail.

Disturbances: The area includes motorized trail use.

Heritage: Cultural resources have been identified within this roadless area. Recorded cultural resources include evidence of pre-historic and historic use of the area.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Williams Creek Roadless Area. Table Williams 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 Williams Creek-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| Williams 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 | 9,800 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Backcountry | 0 | 4,400 | 4,400 | 4,400 |
| GFRG | 0 | 4,800 | 4,800 | 4,800 |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 600* | 600* | 600* |
| Total Acres | 9,800 | 9,800 | 9,800 | 9,800 |

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the Williams Creek Roadless Area is Visual Quality Maintenance. For further information on this designation, see the Caribou National Forest LRMP.

Table Williams Creek-2. Potential activities

| Williams 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 | 4,800 |
| Timber cutting to improve TES species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 9,800 | 9,200 | 9,200 | 9,200 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 9,800 | 9,200 | 9,200 | 9,200 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 9,200 | 9,200 | 4,800 |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 9,200 | 4,800 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 9,800 | 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 2,000 acres are under prescription 2.7.2 (elk & deer winter range), 2,400 acres under prescription 3.2 (semi-primitive recreation) and 4,800 acres under prescription 5.2 (forest vegetation management).

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Williams 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 Williams Creek Roadless Area does contain 9,800 acres of high geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the Williams Creek Roadless Area over both the short

and long term. With regards to timber harvest, the 2,000 acres under prescription 2.7.2 only allow timber harvest and associated road building if they produce some additional habitat values, e.g. improvements in winter elk range habitat. While the immediate impact of any timber harvest would likely alter roadless characteristics in the short run, the dual objective of habitat protection would limit the long term impact. Under prescription 3.2, temporary roads for salvage harvest are allowed, as well as general timber harvest for fuels reduction or restoration projects. If temporary roads were constructed they would affect roadless characteristics in the short term, but the effects would decrease over the long term.

Prescription 5.2 permits both road building and timber harvest. For the 4,800 acres under this prescription, any timber activities or road building that occurred would likely alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 4,400 acres would fall under the Backcountry theme and 4,800 acres would fall under the GFRG, Rangeland and Grassland (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. For the 4,800 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.

There could be development of the areas with high geothermal potential in the GFRG areas since roads would be permitted for this purpose. If any geothermal activity did occur, it would likely alter roadless characteristics in both the short and long-term. No mineral activities are expected in the acres under the Backcountry theme because roads are not permitted for new 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 4,400 acres under the Backcountry theme, none of which are in the CPZ, and 4,800 acres under the GFRG theme. 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 4,400 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.

For the 4,800 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 does not apply to this area and there is no known phosphate present in this roadless area.

Worm Creek #179

41,900 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Worm Creek Roadless Area is in Franklin and Bear Lake Counties, Idaho on the Cache portion of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, but is administered by the Montpelier District. It is eight miles west of St. Charles, Idaho. The Bloomington Canyon and Paris Flat roads provide access to the area on the north, and Dry Creek, Worm Creek, Dry Canyon, and St. Charles Canyon roads provide access from the east. Green Canyon, Eagan Basin, Hillyard Canyon, and Carter Creek provide access on the south and west sides. Willow Flat Campground is immediately adjacent and Bloomington Lake is near the center of the roadless area. Minnetonka Cave and 5 campgrounds in St. Charles form significant cherry stem into the roadless area, receiving over 48,000 visitors each summer.

The area includes flat to gentle-sloping hills to high elevation basins and steep, rocky mountain peaks. Glacial land types are evident. The elevation varies from 9,000 feet to 6,600 feet above sea level. Much of the higher elevations are exposed rock outcrops. Vegetation consists of large stands of Douglas -fir and lodgepole pine with meadow type vegetation in the high basins. Stands of aspen and maple add dramatic color in the fall.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is rated very high, even though some evidence of unimproved roads and timber harvest activities exist.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude are considered moderate, because of the moderate size of the area and natural screening. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are rated as high due to rocky, steep terrain at higher elevations.

Special Features: Special features or attractions include Bloomington Lake Special Area (200 acres) and its non-motorized recreation setting in the summer, a 400 acre Research Natural Area, Minnetonka Cave, and 1,200 acres of eligible Wild and Scenic River corridor.

Manageability: Manageability of the area is considered poor along inventoried boundaries. A core area could be achieved if boundaries were placed on natural features.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The area has moderate to high values for fish habitat. The Bonneville cutthroat trout, a Region 4 sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

Wildlife: This area is a linkage zone for the Canada lynx, a Forest Service sensitive species. Townsend's big eared bat, a Region 4 sensitive species occur in this roadless area. The area has moderate to high values for wildlife habitat.

Water: The area provides municipal water to the city of St. Charles.

Botanical: Mt Naomi penstemon (*Penstemon compactus*) a sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

Recreation: Activities include hiking, hunting, limited off highway vehicle, and snowmobile use.

Timber: There have been recent timber sales in the area.

Wildland Fire Use: Much of this area is managed for Wildland Fire Use: The application of the appropriate management response to naturally-ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific resource management objectives in predefined, designated areas outlined in Fire Management Plans.

Range: Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Minerals and Energy: The area has low potential for oil and gas and no current oil or gas leases. This roadless area contains 41,900 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: The area has one water transmission special use authorization.

Roads and Trails: There are about 1 ½ miles of forest road and 26 miles of motorized trail.

Disturbances: The area includes motorized trail use and recreation management at Bloomington Lake.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Worm 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 Worm Creek-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| Worm 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 | 41,900 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Backcountry | 0 | 33,700 | 33,700 | 33,700 |
| GFRG | 0 | 6,400 | 6,400 | 6,400 |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 1,800* | 1,800* | 1,800* |
| Total Acres | 41,900 | 41,900 | 41,900 | 41,900 |

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the Worm Creek Roadless Area is 200 acres as Bloomington Lake Special Emphasis Area, 300 acres as RNA and 1,300 acres as WSR. For further information on this designation, see the Caribou National Forest LRMP.

Table Worm Creek-2. Potential activities

| Worm 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 | 40,100 | 40,100 | 6,400 |
| Timber cutting to improve TES species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 41,900 | 40,100 | 40,100 | 40,100 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 41,900 | 40,100 | 40,100 | 40,100 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 40,100 | 40,100 | 6,400 |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 40,100 | 6,400 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 41,900 | 40,100 | 40,100 | 40,100 |

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 6,000 acres are under prescription 2.7.1 (elk & deer winter range critical), 12,700 acres under prescription 3.2 (semi-primitive recreation), 15,000 acres under prescription 3.3 (semi-primitive restoration), 800 acres under prescription 5.2 (forest vegetation management) and 5,600 acres under prescription 6.2 (rangeland vegetation management).

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Worm 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 Worm Creek Roadless Area does contain 41,900 acres of high geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter roadless characteristics over both the short and long term.

With regards to timber harvest, the 21,000 acres under prescriptions 2.7.1 and 3.3 only allow timber harvest and associated road building if they produce some additional habitat values, e.g. improvements in winter elk range habitat. While the immediate impact of any timber harvest would likely alter roadless characteristics in the short run, the dual objective of habitat protection would limit the long term impact.

Under prescription 3.2, temporary roads for salvage harvest are allowed, as well as general timber harvest for fuels reduction or restoration projects. If temporary roads were constructed they would affect roadless characteristics in the short term, but the effects would decrease over the long term.

Limited timber harvest is allowed to improve wildlife habitat under the rangeland management prescription 6.2. However, these lands are generally non-forested so little to no timber harvest (or road building to access timber harvest) is expected. As such, it is unlikely that roadless characteristics would be altered.

Prescription 5.2 permits both road building and timber harvest. For the 800 acres under this prescription, any timber activities or road building that occurred would likely alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 33,700 acres would fall under the Backcountry theme and 6,400 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.

Of the 6,400 acres under the GFRG theme about 5,600 acres are rangeland and 800 acres are forested. Roads would generally be permitted and timber harvest could occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. However, timber harvest and associated road construction is most likely to occur on the forested lands. Timber activities and road building to meet these objectives could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

There could be development of the areas with high geothermal potential in the GFRG areas since roads would be permitted for this purpose. If any geothermal activity did occur, it would likely alter roadless characteristics in both the short and long-term. No mineral activities are expected in the acres under the Backcountry theme because roads are not permitted for new 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 33,700 acres under the Backcountry theme, none of which are in the CPZ, and 6,400 acres under the GFRG theme.

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 33,700 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. 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.

For the 6,400 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 does not apply to this area and there is no known phosphate present in this roadless area.

Blue Bunch #923**6,100 Acres Challis****4,900 Acres Boise****11,000 Acres Total****OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION**

The Boise portion of the Blue Bunch Roadless Area is 4,900 acres; the Challis portion is 6,100 acres, with the entire Blue Bunch Roadless Area totaling 11,000 acres. The Challis National Forest is the lead forest for evaluation of the entire shared roadless area.

The Blue Bunch Roadless Area, on the Lowman and Middle Fork Ranger District, lies east of Fir Creek, south of Bear Valley Creek, and adjacent to the Frank Church - River of No Return Wilderness. On the Boise National Forest side the area is accessed by the graveled Warm Lake-Stanley road west of State Highway 21. The area is also accessed by the Bear Valley Creek (No. 012) and the Lola Creek (No. 014) trails. On the Challis portion of the Salmon-Challis National Forest the roadless area is accessed by the graveled Cape Horn-Fir Creek road off State Highway #21.

Elevations range from about 6,400 feet near Bear Valley Creek to 9,500 feet at Capehorn Mountain. The area is underlain by Cretaceous granitics of the Idaho Batholith. At the lower elevations, slopes are moist and steep with scattered to dense stands of lodgepole pine and Douglas-fir. Engelmann spruce thrive in the wetter bog areas. In higher areas, glacial troughlands are vegetated with dense to open stands of lodgepole pine and subalpine fir.

Overall, the Blue Bunch Roadless Area includes forested slopes and meadows, and rocky glaciated areas. Capehorn Mountain, a massive, glaciated peak, is the area's prominent feature. One small lake lies on the mountain's northwestern flank.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The natural appearance and integrity of the area is intact.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunities for primitive recreation are moderate. Because few trails exist within the area and due to the rugged terrain, cross-country travel is challenging. When considered as a potential addition to the existing adjacent Frank-Church River of No Return Wilderness there are considerable opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

Special Features: Along the northern boundary the roadless area contains portions of Bear Valley Creek, a 4,000 acre river segment eligible for wild classification in the Wild and Scenic River System.

Manageability: The area could be managed as a part of the adjoining Frank Church - River of No Return Wilderness.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The Blue Bunch Roadless Area borders a short section of Bear Valley, and Fir Creek. A significant tributary of Fir Creek originates within this roadless area. Bear Valley Creek provides critical spawning and rearing habitat for Snake River spring/summer Chinook and Snake River Basin steelhead. Bull trout may use this section of Bear Valley as a migratory corridor, over wintering habitat, and occasional summer habitat. The mouth and lower portion of Fir Creek may have historically provided spawning habitat for Snake River Chinook and steelhead, however currently Fir Creek is probably only used by these fish for rearing (1 mile for Chinook and 4 miles for steelhead). Fir Creek provides 4 miles of spawning and rearing habitat for redband rainbow, westslope cutthroat, and bull trout.

Wildlife: Potential habitat for lynx, wolverine, and fisher occurs. Wolverine and fisher have been documented within or nearby this roadless area within the last ten years. These species are vulnerable to trapping which increases with human access. The roadless area provides relatively secluded habitat important to these species. Boreal owl, great gray owl, northern goshawk, three-toed woodpecker, and

spotted frog are sensitive species which are known to occur or could potentially occur within the roadless area.

Elk, mule deer, red-backed vole, meadow vole, pileated woodpecker, mountain chickadee, and yellow warbler are management indicator species and are present within the roadless area. The area provides summer and fall habitat for elk and mule deer. This roadless area is important for providing security areas for elk and deer during hunting seasons and for maintaining the snag component of forested habitats across large areas. Higher elevations within this roadless area have been identified as mountain goat habitat.

Water: There are a few perennial streams that flow northerly to Bear Valley Creek. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish wildlife and other uses on the Forest.

Botanical: There is potential habitat for Idaho Douglasia in conjunction with high elevation ridge tops. No threatened, endangered or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: The roadless area receives typical backcountry fall big game hunting use, concentrated mostly in the areas adjacent to trails and the Landmark-Stanley road. There are portions of 2 non-motorized trails in the area totaling about 4.5 miles. These trails access the adjacent Frank Church - River of No Return Wilderness and this area receives some backcountry use from those accessing the wilderness on these routes. Inventoried Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classes within the roadless area are 75 percent Semi-Primitive Motorized and 25 percent Roaded Natural.

Timber: The roadless area contains about 3,500 acres of forest considered tentatively suited for timber management. These acres are considered low to moderate in productivity.

Range: Over 3,000 acres are grassland and coniferous timber land suitable for livestock grazing. The entire area is within a vacant sheep allotment not current being grazed.

Minerals and Energy: This roadless area contains 11,000 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no private or State owned lands within the roadless area.

Roads and Trails: This area contains both authorized and unauthorized roads and motorized trails.

Heritage: Cultural resource site sensitivity is rated as low.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Blue Bunch Roadless Area. Table Blue Bunch-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 Blue Bunch-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Blue Bunch-1a. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative (Challis only)

| Blue Bunch Management Theme Challis | 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 | 6,100 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Backcountry | 0 | 6,100 | 6,100 | 6,100 |
| GFRG | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Acres | 6,100 | 6,100 | 6,100 | 6,100 |

Table Blue Bunch-1b. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative (Boise only)

| Blue Bunch Management Theme Boise | 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 | 4,500 | 4,500 | 4,500 |
| GFRG | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 400* | 400* | 400* |
| Total Acres | 4,900 | 4,900 | 4,900 | 4,900 |

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the Blue Bunch Roadless Area is Wild and Scenic River. For further information on this designation, see the Boise National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP).

Table Blue Bunch-1c. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative (Total)

| Blue Bunch 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 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Similar to Backcountry | 11,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Backcountry | 0 | 10,600 | 10,600 | 10,600 |
| GFRG | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 400* | 400* | 400* |
| Total Acres | 11,000 | 11,000 | 11,000 | 11,000 |

Table Blue Bunch-2. Potential activities (Challis and Boise combined)

| Blue Bunch 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 | 10,600 | 10,600 | 0 |
| Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 11,000 | 10,600 | 10,600 | 10,600 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 11,000 | 10,600 | 10,600 | 10,600 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 10,600 | 10,600 | 0 |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 6,100 | 0 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 11,000 | 10,600 | 10,600 | 10,600 |

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): For the portions of the roadless area in the Challis National Forest, around 6,100 acres would be managed under prescription 3 (Marsh Creek). For the portions of the Blue Bunch Roadless Area in the Boise National Forest, around 4,500 acres are managed under prescription 3.1 (passive restoration and maintenance). Road construction or reconstruction and timber harvest are permitted under Boise prescription 3.1 if action is needed to prevent unacceptable impacts to aquatic, terrestrial or hydrology resource values could occur. The Forest Plan prescriptions do not require that the road be temporary. If temporary roads were 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 purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced in the long-run. 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 to maintain or enhance roadless characteristics. It's expected, however, that temporary roads would be favored since the purpose of any road would be to facilitate restoration. Since roads are only permitted for restoration purposes, no new leasable mineral activity is expected since it would require roaded access. For the 6,100 acres under Challis prescription 3, 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 leasable mineral activity is expected for the 4,500 acres under Boise prescription 3.1 because roads are only permitted for restoration activities or for reserved and outstanding rights. There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases for the 6,100 acres managed under the Challis forest plan. 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 11,000 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 10,600 acres would be in the Backcountry theme and 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 10,600 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 throughout all 10,600 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. 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.

Borah Peak #012

130,500 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Borah Peak Roadless Area lies 34 miles south of Challis, east of Highway 93, on the Challis and Lost River Ranger District. Its boundaries can be easily reached by the Double Springs Pass Road, Pass Creek road, and other roads and trails leading off Highway 93 and the Pahsimeroi Road. This is a sizeable roadless area and includes approximately 130,500 acres of National Forest System lands.

The area includes roughly 108,500 acres of Recommended Wilderness and therefore holds a high level of roadless characteristics.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Intrusions into the area include Coal Creek, Warren Mountain, Mahogany Gulch, Lower Cedar Creek, Pete Creek, East and West Forks of the Pahsimeroi, Cedar Creek, Crow's Nest Canyon, Double Springs Pass, Lone Cedar, and Sawmill Gulch. Most intrusions into Borah Peak do not detract from the natural integrity of the area. Boundaries could be modified to exclude these intrusions with little impact to overall wilderness values.

Centrally located in the Lost River Range, this roadless area of land is characterized by high peaks, large cirque basins, steep slopes and generally narrow canyon bottoms below cirque basins, leading to alluvial fans. The area is very rugged, with outstanding geologic features due to repeated glaciation. One of the most outstanding features is Borah Peak, the highest mountain in Idaho, reaching 12,655 feet in elevation.

The steep slopes and high mountain tops and ridges provide a scenic backdrop to the valley ranches and communities. The surrounding valleys include irrigated hayfields and pastures, and riparian willow/cottonwood plant communities.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunity for primitive recreation and solitude is excellent. Challenging experience include technical and non-technical climbing and cross-country travel.

Special Features: The major scenic attractions of national significance include Mount Borah, seen from the Big Lost River Valley, and "Little Switzerland" in the upper reaches of the Pahsimeroi. The area contains several unique features such as Idaho's highest peak, true alpine vegetation, geologic formations, and a glacier.

Other special features include two Research Natural Areas, totaling 4,200 acres. The Mahogany Creek Research Natural Area includes approximately 3,600 acres. Its special features are examples of mountain mahogany, Douglas-fir, subalpine fir, whitebark and limber pine and high mountain and alpine grasslands. The Merriam Lake Basin Research Natural Area covers 800 acres. Its special features are various alpine plants, including vegetation typical of tundra 2,400 miles to the north, true alpine lakes, and numerous rare plant species.

A large exposed earthquake fault and other earthquake damage from the October 1983 Idaho earthquake are contained in this roadless area.

Two eligible river segments for classification in the Wild and Scenic River System, Lower Cedar Creek and East Fork Pahsimeroi River are within the borders of this roadless area.

Manageability: The roadless area boundaries generally follow the forest boundary and roads. They do not coincide with topographical features. There is opportunity to change the boundaries to eliminate these intrusions without losing large acreages of the roadless area. However, the boundary would not follow topographic features and would be difficult to manage. The Bureau of Land Management Burnt Creek Wilderness Study Area adjoins the north border and the Bureau of Land Management Borah Peak Wilderness Study Areas adjoins the south border of this roadless area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: There are several small high mountain lakes, most of which contain fisheries. Bull trout habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: The back country nature and diversity of vegetation types provide habitat for elk, mule deer, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, pronghorn antelope, and a multitude of other game and non-game animal species. Historically, mountain goat occupied the range, but today, none exist. Pygmy rabbit, a Region 4 sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

Water: The roadless area produces high quality water for agriculture and fishery purposes.

Botanical: The diversity of vegetation produces a broad spectrum of life zones ranging from semi-arid shrublands to alpine rock/scree. Several vegetation types are present, including sagebrush/grass, mountain mahogany, spruce, subalpine fir, whitebark pine, and Douglas-fir. Lost River milkvetch (*Astragalus amnis-amissi*), Douglas' wavewing (*Cymopterus douglasii*) and Marsh's bluegrass (*Poa abbreviate ssp. marshii*) are three sensitive plant species occur in this roadless area.

Recreation: The Borah Peak Roadless Area is currently producing 13,000 recreation visitor days annually. Most of this use is associated with fishing, hunting, camping, and cross-country skiing. Current big game populations are below the carrying capacity of the habitat, but are increasing under current habitat management and harvest practices.

Timber: There are approximately 103.1 million board feet of growing stock and a harvestable annual sustained yield of 200 million board feet. The primary value of the timber lies in watershed, wildlife, and scenic qualities. Most of the timber is old growth and there is a potential for insect and disease infestations.

Range: The current grazing use is approximately 6,800 animal unit months (AUMs) annually. The potential of increase is limited largely by other resource considerations, and is estimated to be 700 AUMs. Less than 25 percent of the sheep and cattle range is extensively developed. Limited fences and water developments are in the roadless area.

Minerals and Energy: The roadless area is on the western edge of the overthrust belt. Oil and gas potential is low. Barite has recently been discovered on the west side of Leatherman Peak. This roadless area contains 115,300 acres of high and 15,200 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: Preliminary studies by Bonneville Power Administration have identified the possibility of future requests for a utility corridor.

Heritage: Cultural resources are largely unknown. Inventories have not been conducted largely because most of the area is recommended for wilderness. There is a potential for discovery of prehistoric sites.

Disturbances: From 1970 to 1979, there were two lightning-caused fires and one man-caused fire (average size less than one-half acre). The fuels of this area are generally sparse, and with the numerous fuel breaks caused by the broken topography, the chance of having large fires is small. There is great potential for improving range and wildlife habitat through the use of prescribed fire.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Borah 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 Borah Peak-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| Borah Peak Management Theme | Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule | Alternative 2 Existing Plan | Alternative 3 Proposed Rule | Alternative 4 Modified Rule | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------|
| Wild Land Recreation | 0 | 108,500 | 109,200 | 109,200 | |
| Primitive | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Similar to Backcountry | 130,500 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Backcountry | 0 | 17,600 | 16,900 | CPZ | 1,500 |
| | | | | NonCPZ | 15,400 |
| GFRG | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 4,400* | 4,400* | 4,400* | |
| Total Acres | 130,500 | 130,500 | 130,500 | 130,500 | |

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

Table Borah Peak-2. Potential activities

| Borah 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 | 17,600 | 16,900 | 1,500* |
| Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 130,500 | 17,600 | 16,900 | 16,900 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 130,500 | 17,600 | 16,900 | 16,900 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 17,600 | 16,900 | 1,500* |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 17,600 | 0 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 130,500 | 17,600 | 16,900 | 16,900 |

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 15,400 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 about 17,600 acres would be managed under prescription 16 (Borah Peak, non-recommended wilderness) and about 108,500 acres would be managed as Recommended Wilderness.

The 108,500 acres of Recommended Wilderness are managed to maintain wilderness attributes and to allow ecological processes to prevail. Road construction is prohibited except for reserved and outstanding rights and no timber harvest or leasable mineral activities are allowed. Under this prescription the 108,500 acres are expected to maintain their wilderness attributes and roadless area characteristics.

Timber harvest and associated road building are generally permitted in the 17,600 acres under prescription 16. If these activities occur they would likely alter roadless characteristics in the short and long term. There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases under this prescription. No phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the area has

little to no potential for these minerals. The overall Borah Peak area does contain 115,300 acres of high and 15,200 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 around 16,900 acres would fall under the Backcountry theme and 109,200 under the Wild Land Recreation theme. The 109,200 acres managed under the Wild Land Recreation theme would experience the same protections they had as Recommended Wilderness under the Forest Plans. Road building, timber harvest and all new mineral leases would be prohibited. These acres would therefore maintain both their roadless and wilderness characteristics. The Wild Land Recreation acreage includes 700 acres that did not receive that same level of protections under the Forest Plans.

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.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 109,200 acres under the Wild Land Recreation theme, and 16,900 acres under the Backcountry theme, 1,500 of which are in the CPZ. The 109,200 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.

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 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 15,400 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 16,900 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 to access new mineral leases is prohibited.

Challis Creek #004

44,300 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Challis Creek Roadless Area lies 10 miles west of Challis, Idaho. It is contiguous with the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness on the north, and runs from Estes Mountain northeast to Twin Peaks. The Challis Creek Road and Custer Motorway access the roadless area. Both of these roads are adjacent to the area. They are well traveled and maintained for two-wheel drive use. Access to the interior of the area is by four-wheel drive and Forest trails.

Steep slopes, bench lands, high rocky peaks and ledges, V-shaped valleys and glacial cirque basins characterize this roadless area. Elevation ranges from 6,000 to over 10,000 feet. Vegetation varies by elevation and aspect with open sagebrush and grass areas, heavy stands of Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, sub-alpine meadows and riparian communities around lakes, springs, and streams. Timber productivity is relatively low. The area is classified in the western spruce-fir forest ecosystem. Uses in the area include mineral exploration, timber harvest, grazing, roaded and primitive recreation, hunting and fishing. The area has a natural appearance and is surrounded by forest areas, which generally contribute to a feeling of being in the backcountry.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Uses in the area include mineral exploration, timber harvest, grazing, roaded and primitive recreation, hunting and fishing. The area has a natural appearance and is surrounded by forest areas that also generally contribute to a feeling of being in the backcountry.

Forest management activities have been conducted which created intrusions on the roadless nature of the area. These include the Twin Creek firewood harvest area with roads, and a timber sale near Mosquito Flat Reservoir. There are two existing intrusions. These include the Estes Mountain road, built for mineral exploration and development, as well as the Challis Creek Lakes Reservoir and road. The existing Challis Creek Lakes were raised through construction of a retention dam and inter-connecting channel.

Water from the reservoir is used for irrigation of private land near Mosquito Flat Reservoir. A special use permit to the irrigation user regulates the dam. The road was constructed to allow development and maintenance of the dam. It is accessible by four-wheel drive vehicles. The road effectively divided the roadless area. Most of the intrusions are in the northeast part of the area.

There are a few four-wheel drive roads outside of the exclusions shown.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunity for primitive recreation and solitude is good. Challenging experience include cross-country travel.

Special Features: Mountain lakes and peaks. The eligible segment for classification into the Wild and Scenic River System, Yankee Fork, originates within the middle of this roadless area runs west along the southern boarder. Mill Creek, another eligible river segment runs east along the southern boarder.

Manageability: The roadless area boundaries follow drainage divides and roaded areas. It could be managed with the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness. It would be difficult to manage the areas adjacent to the Challis Creek Road and Custer Motorway because of the amount of traffic and traditional recreation, firewood harvest, trail bike uses, etc., presently occurring.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Challis Creek Lakes, Twin Creek Lakes, and several streams provide a popular cold-water resident fishery resource. Bull trout, Chinook summer salmon and steelhead have been identified as present in this roadless area. This roadless area overlaps steelhead, Chinook and bull trout priority watersheds.

Wildlife: The area receives heavy hunting use due to its good summer habitat for deer and elk. Herds have moderate potential for increasing and are expected to do so under present management and harvest activities. Bighorn sheep, mountain goat, and black bear also inhabit the area.

The endangered gray wolf may use this area, and the area has potential for recovery of this species. This area could serve as a buffer zone or travel corridor for colonizing wolves inhabiting the adjacent Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness. Three toed woodpecker, a Region 4 sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

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

Timber: There are approximately 25,000 acres of potentially harvestable timber with a standing volume estimated at 125 million board feet. This would support a sustained yield of 890 thousand board feet annually, if all stands were accessed and managed for maximum production. Actual harvest would be significantly less because of other resource management objectives and management costs.

Range: The area includes portions of two cattle grazing allotments.

Minerals and Energy: Part of the area has been identified as having good or high mineral potential. Exploration and mining activities in adjacent area support this analysis. There are no known oil or gas values. This roadless area contains 42,200 acres of high and 2,100 of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: Outfitters and guides use a large portion of the area, specifically during big game hunting season. The dam and road at Challis Lakes are authorized by special use permit for irrigation storage.

Roads and Trails: This area contains both authorized and unauthorized roads and motorized trails. Many of these need better maintenance. A large portion of the area is used by outfitters and guides, specifically during the big game hunting season.

Heritage: The cultural resources of the area are largely unknown. It is an area of historic mining, trapping and grazing activity. Prehistoric sites probably exist. More information is needed to determine the value and significance of the archeological resource in the area.

Disturbances: There have been few man-caused fires or lightning-caused fires during the last decade. The fuels and large acreages of overmature timber provide potential for large wildfires. There is potential for using prescribed fire to improve livestock range and wildlife habitat.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Challis 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 Challis Creek-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| Challis 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 | 44,300 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Backcountry | 0 | 44,300 | 44,300 | CPZ | 1,100 |
| | | | | NonCPZ | 43,200 |
| GFRG | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Total Acres | 44,300 | 44,300 | 44,300 | 44,300 | |

Table Challis Creek-2. Potential activities

| Challis 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 | 44,300 | 44,300 | 1,100* |
| Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 44,300 | 44,300 | 44,300 | 44,300 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 44,300 | 44,300 | 44,300 | 44,300 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 44,300 | 44,300 | 1,100* |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 44,300 | 0 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 44,300 | 44,300 | 44,300 | 44,300 |

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 43,200 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 plan, around 22,000 acres would be managed under prescription 6 (Yankee Fork) and 22,000 acres under prescription 21 (Challs Creek). Timber harvest and associated road building are generally permitted under both forest plan prescriptions. 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 road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Challis 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 42,200 acres of high and 2,100 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 44,300 acres would be in the Backcountry theme and 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 44,300 acres under the Backcountry theme, 1,100 of which are in the CPZ.

Within the 1,100 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 43,200 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 44,300 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.

Cold Springs #026

8,900 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Cold Springs Roadless Area is located approximately 35 road miles south of Mackay, 20 road miles west of Arco and is on the Lost River Ranger District. The area is bordered by roads, some of which parallel the roadless area boundary or provide access into the roadless area.

The one intrusion since 1979 is some extension of activity by one of the mining operations in the area.

The area is characterized by rolling ridges, benches, and deep rocky canyons. Sagebrush-grass is the predominant vegetation community, interspersed with timber stands of Douglas-fir and Engelmann spruce. The spruce occurs on north slopes, flat benches, and stream bottoms. The area is classified as a sagebrush steppe ecosystem. The moderate vegetation diversity supports habitat for mule deer, elk, and pronghorn antelope.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Natural integrity is low because of mining, range, improvements, and roading.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunity for primitive recreation is limited and solitude is also limited because of motorized recreation. Challenging experience includes winter sports.

Manageability: This relatively small roadless area can be reached on all sides by dirt and gravel roads. Along with this easy means of access to the area by vehicle, the area is defined by a boundary that doesn't follow any natural topographical features. These two conditions would make management of this area as a wilderness difficult.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: There are no threatened, endangered, or sensitive fish in this area.

Wildlife: There are no threatened, endangered, or sensitive animals in this area. There are deer and elk populations in the roadless area and a current habitat capability that exceeds existing use.

Botanical: There are no threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants in this area.

Recreation: Recreation use in this roadless area consists mainly of late fall hunting and snowmobiling in the winter.

Timber: There is commercial timber in the area, some of which is overmature. Access would be difficult and costly.

Range: Cattle and sheep graze the roadless area, but there isn't much potential for increase.

Minerals and Energy: The area has one active mine and has a history of hardrock mineral exploration. This roadless area contains 4,200 acres of high and 4,700 of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: There are no special land use authorizations in the area. There are no private lands in the roadless area.

Roads and Trails: This area contains both authorized and unauthorized roads.

Heritage: No formal archeological surveys have been conducted, making it difficult to determine the cultural resource significance of the roadless area.

Disturbances: The incidence of wildfire in the area has been very light and the roadless area is not expected to be a significant fire hazard area in the future. Timber stands have infestations of dwarf mistletoe, spruce budworm, and mountain pine beetle. The degree of infestation varies from year to year.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Cold Springs-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 Cold Springs-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Cold Springs-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

| Cold Springs 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 | 8,900 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Backcountry | 0 | 8,900 | 8,900 | 8,900 |
| GFRG | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Acres | 8,900 | 8,900 | 8,900 | 8,900 |

Table Cold Springs-2. Potential activities

| Cold Springs 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 | 8,900 | 8,900 | 0 |
| Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 8,900 | 8,900 | 8,900 | 8,900 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 8,900 | 8,900 | 8,900 | 8,900 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 8,900 | 8,900 | 0 |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 8,900 | 0 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 8,900 | 8,900 | 8,900 | 8,900 |

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 plan, around 8,900 acres are managed under prescription 25 (Antelope Creek). Timber harvest and associated road building are generally permitted under this forest plan prescription. 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 road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Antelope 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

4,200 acres of high and 4,700 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 8,900 acres would be in the Backcountry theme and 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 8,900 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 8,900 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.

Copper Basin #019

10,900 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Copper Basin Roadless Area is located on the Lost River Ranger District, 15 miles southwest of Mackay, Idaho. It is surrounded by seasonal roads. Although none enter the roadless area, there are several vehicle tracks that cut across.

The topography of the area is characterized by rolling sagebrush grasslands with some small, scattered patches of Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine along the western and southwestern edge.

This area is a sagebrush steppe ecosystem. The vegetative diversity supports habitat for pronghorn antelope and sage grouse. There are some glacial potholes in the area.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Natural integrity of the area is low due to grazing and proximity of roads.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunity for primitive recreation and solitude is very limited. Challenging experience includes winter sports.

Special Features: Special features include glacial potholes. Three segments of eligible Wild and Scenic River Segments are within the boundaries of this area. They include Star Hope Creek, Muldoon Creek, and Lake Creek.

Manageability: None of the area boundary coincides with topographic features; instead, it is defined by three roads intersecting to form a loop. The small size and easy accessibility simplifies traversing the area for management purposes.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: There are no threatened, endangered, or sensitive fish in this area.

Wildlife: The vegetative diversity of the roadless area supports habitat for populations of sage grouse and pronghorn antelope. The pot holes in this roadless area also provide habitat for waterfowl breeding, although there are some conflicts with livestock grazing.

Botanical: There are no threatened, endangered or sensitive plants or animals in this roadless area.

Recreation: Recreation use in this roadless area consists primarily of game bird and pronghorn antelope hunting, and snowmobiling.

Timber: There is no commercial timber in this roadless area.

Range: The Copper Basin cattle allotment occurs in the roadless area. The area has been intensively developed with range improvements and is being grazed at capacity.

Minerals and Energy: This roadless area has some claims filed in the Copper Basin Flat area. There is also a small area of activity in the southeastern corner, but the balance of the area has no known potential for either hardrock related minerals. This roadless area contains 10,900 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no special land use authorizations in the area. There are no private lands in the roadless area.

Roads and Trails: This area contains both authorized and unauthorized roads.

Heritage: There are some prehistoric archeological sites in the roadless area, but no formal surveys have been conducted, making cultural resource significance hard to determine.

Disturbances: There have been very few man-caused wildfires in this roadless area. The roadless area is not expected to be a fire hazard area in the future. No intrusions are planned in this area.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Copper Basin-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 Copper Basin-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Copper Basin-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

| Copper Basin 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 | 10,900 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Backcountry | 0 | 10,900 | 10,900 | 10,900 |
| GFRG | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Acres | 10,900 | 10,900 | 10,900 | 10,900 |

Table Copper Basin-2. Potential activities

| Copper Basin 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 | 10,900 | 10,900 | 0 |
| Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 10,900 | 10,900 | 10,900 | 10,900 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 10,900 | 10,900 | 10,900 | 10,900 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 10,900 | 10,900 | 0 |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 10,900 | 0 | 10,900 | 10,900 |

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 plan, around 10,900 acres are managed under prescription 11 (Pioneer Mountains). Timber harvest and associated road building are generally permitted this forest plan prescription. 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 road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescription for the Copper Basin 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

10,900 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 10,900 acres would be in the Backcountry theme and 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 10,900 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 10,900 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.

Diamond Peak #601

78,700 Acres Challis

88,400 Acres Targhee

167,100 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Diamond Peak Roadless Area is located on the Challis portion of the Salmon-Challis National Forest and on the Targhee portion of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. The area on the Challis portion consists of the west slope of the south half of the Lemhi Range. It extends from the Warm Springs Road to East Canyon. Access to the area is via numerous low standard dirt roads originating from Idaho Highway 22, a paved road. Several of these roads extend into the roadless area. The Targhee portion of this roadless area consists of the east slope of the south half of the Lemhi Mountains. Access to this eastern portion is via Idaho State Highway 28 and several low standard roads. The Bureau of Land Management Black Canyon Wilderness Study Area adjoins the south border of the roadless area.

There are six intrusions along the western boundary. They are very short sections of roads which are part of the Forest transportation system. They are located at "Y" Springs, Black Creek, Cedar Run Canyon, Fowler Springs, Camp Creek, and South Creek. Primitive roads extend for short distances into the roadless area in many of the major drainages along the eastern boundary. Davis Canyon, Mammoth Canyon, Bell Mountain Canyon Meadow Canyon, North Fork of Pass Creek, Surrent Canyon, Tyler Canyon, Bartel Canyon, Deer Canyon, Cedar Canyon, and the South Fork of Kyle Canyon all contain primitive roads which penetrate a short distance into the roadless area. Trails are limited. Non-motorized trails are in Bell Mountain Canyon, Rocky Canyon, and Meadow Canyon. The only established motorized trail extends from Birch Creek to the Little Lost River through Pass Creek. A primitive trail also exists in Rocky Canyon.

The Lemhi Range is a long narrow range of mountains that are much more typical of the Great Basin Ranges than they are of the Northern Rocky Mountains with which they are associated. Elevation of the area ranges from about 6,000 feet to 12,197 feet at the summit of Diamond Peak, which is the third highest peak in Idaho. Eastern slopes rise sharply from the Birch Creek Valley, eventually giving away to barren rock and talus slopes. Numerous canyons with rugged, steep rocky slopes dissect the mountain range. The western half drains into the Little Lost River. Some of the outstanding geologic features include a large cave at the head of Bunting Canyon, a well developed rock glacier on Diamond Peak, and several small arches in East and Middle Canyon.

The area has much barren rock and is sparsely vegetated. The lower south-facing slopes are covered with mountain mahogany, sagebrush, and patches or stringers of Douglas-fir and limber pine, with scattered lodgepole pine. Vegetation is very sparse in the higher elevations. The two major ecosystems on the area are the sagebrush-steppe and the Douglas fir, limber pine forest.

The area includes roughly 29,500 acres of Recommended Wilderness and therefore holds a high level of roadless characteristics.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: There are opportunities to improve both the natural integrity and apparent naturalness through boundary modification to remove evidence of vegetative manipulation and range improvement. Influences on natural integrity by physical developments are low; influences on apparent naturalness is very low. Few developments exist. Primitive roads penetrate only short distances into the area, maintaining natural integrity and naturalness.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunity for primitive recreation and solitude is very good. Challenging experience include technical and non-technical climbing and cross-country travel. The high country is barren; canyons and associated vegetation help screen Idaho Highway 28. Many peaks (especially Bell, Tyler, Diamond and Saddle) require technical climbing skills during fall, winter and spring. Cover and water are absent.

Special Features: Special features include high peaks, rock glacier caves, arches, and rock formations. The Meadow Creek Research Natural Area (300 acres) and the Middle Canyon Research Natural Area (2,300 acres) can be found in this roadless area. About 300 acres of the Bloomington Lake Special Area may also be found here.

Manageability: Management needs to be coordinated with the Bureau of Land Management. Boundaries are fairly well defined. The large size of the area enhances wilderness characteristics. Continuity with the Lemhi Roadless area on the Salmon-Challis National Forest increases its size.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Fish are present in Squaw Creek and Pass Lake and the Southfork of Pass Creek. Bull trout habitat overlaps this roadless area on the Westside of the Lemhi Range.

Wildlife: This area is considered occupied habitat for Canada lynx, a threatened species. Mule deer populations declined in the late 1970's and early 1980's. Previously, they were plentiful along this slope. Elk have increased significantly since the 1980's. Antelope are the most numerous wild ungulate, but they are usually on the valley floor. Bighorn sheep were released in the area in 1983 in cooperation with the Idaho Fish and Game Department. Mountain goats are present. Black bear and elk prefer the wetter west side of the range. The area provides habitat for numerous small birds and mammals. Peregrine falcon, a Region 4 sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

Water: The only perennial stream on the east side of this roadless area is Pass Creek. On the west slope Squaw, Warm Meadow, Bell Mountain, Deep Badger, Uncle Ike, North, and South Creeks drain into the Little Lost River. Several springs and small streams exist in other canyons, but none flow much beyond the immediate source or the forest boundary. A dam at the outlet of Pass Creek Lake impounds a lake of about four acres. Stock watering troughs are scattered throughout the roadless area.

Botanical: Lost River milkvetch (*Astragalus amnis-amissi*), Lemhi milkvetch (*Astragalus aquilonius*) and Marsh's bluegrass (*Poa abbreviate spp. marshii*) are three sensitive plant species occur in this roadless area. There is a fairly high ecological diversity in the area due to elevation and moisture variations.

Recreation: Recreation use is connected with big game hunting; rock hounding, backpacking, horseback riding, trail biking, rock climbing, and use of four-wheel drive vehicles. Most use occurs during the big game hunting seasons. This area is one of the first high mountains to lose snowpack in the spring and provide early season recreation opportunities. The Targhee portion of this roadless area has 53 miles of road and 14 miles of trail open to summer motorized use, primarily in the Eight Mile Canyon area. The area is open to snowmobiles in the winter; however, snowmobile use is light due to steep terrain and poor snow conditions on most years.

Timber: The timber types consist of Douglas-fir, with small amounts of subalpine fir and limber pine at the higher elevations. A minor amount of lodgepole pine can be found in the northern end of the roadless area. The timber occurs primarily in patches and narrow stringers and has a low site quality. It is removed from the timber base because of steepness of slope, low site quality and economics. The 9,000 acres of timber lands in the western half have a potential to yield one-half million board feet annually.

Wildland Fire Use: Much of this area is managed for Wildland Fire Use: The application of the appropriate management response to naturally-ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific resource management objectives in predefined, designated areas outlined in Fire Management Plans.

Range: The eastern side contains seven allotments (four cattle and one sheep). Sheep allotments are useable only when snow is available as a water source. The western side contains seven allotments (6 cattle and 1 sheep). (The allotments are, from north to south: Meadow Creek, Bell Mountain, Williams Creek, Horse Creek, Eastside, Uncle Ike, and South Creek.) The foothill ranges grazed by cattle have been combined with Bureau of Land Management allotments and put under extensive management systems. There is little or no potential to increase cattle grazing. Small increases in sheep grazing could be allowed

if more water could be developed. The area provides about 2,400 AUMs of grazing; use is almost evenly divided between cattle and sheep. There are 20 stock troughs and 15 miles of fence.

Minerals and Energy: There are no active mines or drilling activities. Oil and gas potential is low. There are no producing mines or fields. About 2,200 acres have existing claims for silver, lead and copper. This roadless area contains 167,100 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: There are less than 100 acres of private land within this roadless area.

Roads and Trails: This area contains both authorized and unauthorized roads and motorized trails.

Heritage: There are some fossils found in the limestone formations and some limestone caves on the south end. There is evidence of prehistoric man's use of the area. Cultural resources consist of remnants of prehistoric man and early mining activities. Remnants of mining activity include the Birch Creek charcoal kilns which are on the National Register of Historic Places. The Kyle Springs archaeological complex is recommended for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

Disturbances: The potential for large fires is low due to the sparse sage-grass cover, scattered patches of timber, and a very low occurrence of ignitions. Nearly 57,000 acres are within the High Country fire Management Plan, which allows for some wildfires to burn under certain prescribed conditions on the Westside. A significant portion of the Targhee portion of the area is managed for Wildland Fire Use. The application of the appropriate management response to naturally-ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific resource management objectives in predefined, designated areas outlined in Fire Management Plans.

The timber stands have generally light infestations of dwarf mistletoe, spruce budworm, and mountain pine beetle. The degree of infestation varies from year to year. The situation is aggravated by the large amount of over mature timber in this roadless area.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

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

Table Diamond Peak-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 Diamond Peak-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Diamond Peak-1a. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative (Challis only)

| Diamond Peak Management Theme Challis | 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 | 78,700 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Backcountry | 0 | 76,100 | 76,100 | 76,100 |
| GFRG | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 2,600* | 2,600* | 2,600* |
| Total Acres | 78,700 | 78,700 | 78,700 | 78,700 |

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the Challis portion of the Diamond Peak Roadless Area is RNA. For further information on this designation, see the Challis National Forest LRMP.

Table Diamond Peak-1b. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative (Targhee only)

| Diamond Peak Management Theme Targhee | Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule | Alternative 2 Existing Plan | Alternative 3 Proposed Rule | Alternative 4 Modified Rule |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Wild Land Recreation | 0 | 29,500 | 29,500 | 29,500 |
| Primitive | 0 | 8,900 | 8,900 | 8,900 |
| Similar to Backcountry | 88,400 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Backcountry | 0 | 19,000 | 19,000 | 29,900 |
| GFRG | 0 | 27,000 | 27,000 | 16,100 |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 4000* | 4000* | 4000* |
| Total Acres | 88,400 | 88,400 | 88,400 | 88,400 |

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the Targhee portion of the Diamond Peak Roadless Area is 300 acres as Bloomington Lake Special Emphasis Area and 3700 acres as a RNA. For further information on this designation, see the Targhee National Forest LRMP.

Table Diamond Peak-1c. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative (Total)

| Diamond Peak Management Theme Total | Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule | Alternative 2 Existing Plan | Alternative 3 Proposed Rule | Alternative 4 Modified Rule |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Wild Land Recreation | 0 | 29,500 | 29,500 | 29,500 |
| Primitive | 0 | 8,900 | 8,900 | 8,900 |
| Similar to Backcountry | 167,100 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Backcountry | 0 | 95,100 | 95,100 | 106,000 |
| GFRG | 0 | 27,000 | 27,000 | 16,100 |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 6,600* | 6,600* | 6,600* |
| Total Acres | 167,100 | 167,100 | 167,100 | 167,100 |

Table Diamond Peak-2. Potential activities (Challis and Targhee combined)

| Diamond Peak 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 | 122,100 | 122,100 | 0 |
| Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 167,100 | 131,000 | 131,000 | 131,000 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 167,100 | 131,000 | 131,000 | 122,100 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 131,000 | 131,000 | 16,100 |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 122,100 | 27,000 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 167,100 | 122,100 | 122,100 | 122,100 |

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): The 76,100 acres in the Challis National Forest are all managed under prescription 14 (South Lemhi). For the areas in the Targhee National Forest, around 29,500 acres are managed under prescription 1.3 (recommended wilderness), 8,900 under prescription 3.1.1 (non-motorized), 13,600 acres under prescription 2.7 (deer and elk winter range), 5,400 acres under prescription 3.2 (semi-primitive motorized), and 27,000 under prescription 6.1 (rangeland management).

All mineral activities are prohibited on the 29,500 acres under Recommended Wilderness and the 8,900 acres under Targhee prescription 3.1.1. Mineral activities and associated road building are allowed in the 122,100 acres under the other prescriptions. No oil and gas activity is expected, however, because a forest-wide decision in 2000 made most of the Targhee unavailable for oil and gas leasing and the Challis has little potential for oil and gas leasing. There are no known phosphate deposits in the area, so no phosphate activity is expected either. The Diamond Peak Roadless Area contains 167,200 acres of medium geothermal potential. If any geothermal leasing occurred, it would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

Timber activity is only permitted in the 29,500 acres under prescription 1.3 if there are emergency conditions that threaten public safety, and no road building is permitted. These acres therefore expect little to no timber activity and would therefore maintain both their roadless and wilderness characteristics. Timber harvest and road building to access the timber harvest is allowed under prescription 2.7 if these activities improve or maintain additional habitat values, e.g. improvements in winter elk range habitat. While the immediate impact of any timber harvest would likely alter roadless characteristics in the short run, the dual objective of habitat protection would limit the long term impact. Prescriptions 3.1.1 and 3.2 allow limited timber activities such as harvest for firewood and posts and poles for fencing, but little activity is expected since the forest plan prohibits road building under 3.1.1 and discourages road building in 3.2. The rangeland management prescription 6.1 allows timber harvest to improve wildlife habitat. However, these lands are generally non-forested so little to no timber harvest (or road building to access timber harvest) is expected. As such, it is unlikely that roadless characteristics would be altered. Timber harvest and associated road building are generally permitted for the 76,100 acres under Challis prescription 14. Any timber activities and road building that occur could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule about 29,500 acres would be managed under the Wild Land Recreation Theme, 8,900 acres under the Primitive theme, 95,100 acres under the Backcountry theme and 27,000 acres under the General Forest, Rangeland and Grassland theme (GFRG). For the 27,000 acres under the GFRG theme roads would generally be permitted and timber harvest could occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. However, these lands are generally non-forested so little to no timber harvest (or road building to access timber harvest) is expected. As such, it is unlikely that roadless characteristics would be altered. Leasable mineral activities and road building to access mineral leases are permitted; if any leasable mineral activities occurred they would alter roadless characteristics in both the short and long-term.

For the 95,100 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 8,900 acres under the primitive theme because roads could not be constructed.

The 29,500 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.

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 29,500 acres under the Wild Land Recreation theme, 8,900 acres under the Primitive theme, and 106,000 acres under the Backcountry theme, none of which are in the CPZ, and 16,100 acres under the GFRG theme.

The 29,500 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 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 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 106,000 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. 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.

For the 16,100 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; however most of the GFRG is rangeland. No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Primitive, Backcountry or GFRG theme since either surface occupancy is prohibited or 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.

Greylock #007

11,800 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Greylock Roadless Area is on the Yankee Fork Ranger District, approximately 48 miles southwest of Challis, Idaho, and just north of the old mining town of Custer. It can be easily reached off Highway 93 from maintained Forest roads in Yankee Fork and Mill Creek.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: This roadless area in the Yankee Fork drainage is characterized by 9,800 foot peaks, steep slopes, and narrow canyon bottoms below small cirque basins. The area is very rugged, with outstanding geologic features created by past volcanic activity. The lower portions of the roadless area provide a panoramic view from the Yankee Fork and Jordan Creek Roads, and the Bonanza-Custer recreation complex.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunity for primitive recreation and solitude is fairly good. Challenging experience include non-technical climbing.

Special Features: The eligible segment for classification into the Wild and Scenic River System, Yankee Fork, west along the southern boarder.

Manageability: The roadless area boundary follows roads on all sides. Management and enforcement as wilderness would not be difficult. There is little opportunity to change borders without eliminating large acreages of an already small area. The intrusions are the result of recent mining activities, or were overlooked in previous inventory processes.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: There are no fisheries within the roadless area, but bull trout, Chinook summer salmon, and steelhead habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: The backcountry nature and diversity of vegetation types provide habitat for small populations of elk, mule deer, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, black bear, and other game and non-game animal species. There are no threatened or endangered species of animals in the area.

Water: The watershed is contributing some sediment to anadromous stream reaches in the Yankee Fork. The volcanic soils are highly erosive and very sensitive to mechanical disturbance.

Botanical: There is a diversity of vegetation, ranging from scattered timberlands to subalpine. Several vegetative types are present, including sagebrush/grass, whitebark pine, and dense Douglas-fir forests. Volcanic tuffs and slumps are common throughout the area. The area is a grand fir/Douglas-fir forest ecosystem. No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants have been identified in the area.

Recreation: Current primary uses include hunting. The Greylock Roadless Area currently receives approximately 300 dispersed recreation visitor days annually, mostly as fall hunting. Existing big game populations are below the current carrying capacity, and are expected to continue to increase under current habitat management practices. Although big game populations and hunting opportunities may increase, dispersed recreation is not expected to increase substantially because of the extreme ruggedness and access limitations.

Timber: Approximately 20 percent of the timber stands are classified as commercial timber. Low volume per acre, poor quality, and the steep terrain limits the economical harvest to a few acres. There are approximately 30,000 board feet of growing stock timber scattered throughout this area. Because of the natural topographical features, the possibility of chronic insect and disease attack is minimal.

Range: Livestock graze on a small part of the area. Approximately 22 AUMs of livestock grazing occurs in the northern canyons, but the majority of use is recreation livestock.

Minerals and Energy: Current primary uses include minerals exploration. The potential for hardrock mining is high because the area is highly mineralized. Within the periphery of the area, mining and exploration activities have occurred in the past and continue today. Most of the human impacts on the surrounding area result from hardrock mining activity. The potential for oil and gas discovery is low. This roadless area contains 11,800 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: Preliminary studies by Bonneville Power Administration have identified the possibility of future requests for a utility corridor that may be proposed to cross part of this roadless area.

Roads and Trails: This area contains both authorized and unauthorized roads.

Heritage: Cultural resources are largely unknown. Sites identified in adjacent areas have been related to early mining activities. With current information, it is not possible to determine the archaeological significance of this roadless area.

Disturbances: Intrusions into the area include a jeep road in Swift Creek and a mining road in the northwest corner. From 1970 to 1979, only one man-caused fire was reported. The potential for large fires is minimal because of the scattered fuels and topographical fuel breaks found throughout this roadless area.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Greylock-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 Greylock-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| Greylock 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 | 11,800 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Backcountry | 0 | 11,800 | 11,800 | CPZ | 1,500 |
| | | | | NonCPZ | 10,300 |
| GFRG | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Total Acres | 11,800 | 11,800 | 11,800 | 11,800 | |

Table Greylock-2. Potential activities

| Greylock 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 | 11,800 | 11,800 | 1,500* |
| Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 11,800 | 11,800 | 11,800 | 11,800 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 11,800 | 11,800 | 11,800 | 11,800 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 11,800 | 11,800 | 1,500* |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 11,800 | 0 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 11,800 | 11,800 | 11,800 | 11,800 |

*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 roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing plan, around 11,800 acres would be managed under prescription 6 (Yankee Fork). Timber harvest and associated road building are generally permitted under this forest plan prescription. 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 road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Greylock 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 11,800 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 11,800 acres would be in the Backcountry theme and 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 11,800 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 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 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 could be done throughout all 11,800 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 to access new mineral leases is prohibited.

Grouse Peak #010

9,000 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Grouse Peak Roadless Area is located five miles northeast of Challis, Idaho, on the Challis Ranger District. It is accessed by jeep roads and moderately maintained forest roads along the Salmon River and county roads in the Pahsimeroi River Valley. Current uses include hunting, rock collecting, grazing, and mineral exploration.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The area is characterized by gentle rolling hills with steep canyons covered with sagebrush/ grass, mountain mahogany, and scattered patches of Douglas-fir. Elevations vary between 5,500 and 8,500 feet. The primary ecosystem represented is the western spruce-fir type. The surrounding area includes Bureau of Land Management sagebrush/ grasslands, private pastures, and irrigated fields. The Grouse Peak Unit provides a scenic backdrop to the Valley ranches and the community of Challis.

There are several intrusions into the Grouse Peak Roadless Area. Most of these occur off the Leaton Gulch jeep trail, Dodge Basin, and Grouse Peak.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunity for primitive recreation and solitude is very low due to motorized recreation. Challenging experiences are few, if any.

Special Features: There are no major scenic attractions, at least of national significance, in the roadless area.

Manageability: This area is relatively small. The roadless area boundaries generally follow the forest boundary and do not follow natural topographical features. Management and enforcement as wilderness would be difficult. There is little opportunity to change the boundaries to coincide with topographical features without eliminating large acreages within the roadless area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: There are no fisheries in this roadless area.

Wildlife: The area provides summer range for mule deer and pronghorn antelope, and key winter range for elk and mule deer. A wide variety of other game and non-game species are indigenous to this spruce-fir ecosystem. Gray wolves are not known to occur in this roadless area. Records indicate the existence of historical peregrine falcon eyries near McNabb's Point on Bureau of Land Management land below Grouse Peak.

Water: There are no perennial streams, and few springs or seeps.

Botanical: The primary ecosystem represented is the western spruce-fir type. No threatened, endangered or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: One of the primary uses of this area is recreation. Recreation is currently producing 300 recreation visitor days annually. Most of this activity is tied to motorized use. Recreation outputs are expected to increase as the community of Challis grows, and big game populations increase.

Timber: Approximately 21,000 board feet of commercial timber grow within the roadless area. The harvestable annual sustained yield is estimated at less than 300 board feet. Topography and roading costs make accessing and logging this timber uneconomical; therefore, no logging has been scheduled. The probability of insect and disease infestations is low because of stand isolation.

Range: The area is part of an extensive grazing system, providing approximately 1,200 AUMs annually. There is a potential for increasing the grazing capacity by approximately 200 additional AUMs, depending upon other resource considerations.

Minerals and Energy: The potential for locating hardrock minerals is low; low probability of oil and gas discovery exists. This roadless area contains 9,000 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Roads and Trails: This area contains both authorized and unauthorized roads.

Heritage: Cultural resources are largely unknown. Prehistoric hunting pits have been found in the north fork of Lawson Creek, and there is a high potential for other prehistoric sites throughout the area.

Disturbances: Fire occurrence is extremely low. Between 1970 and 1979, only one man-caused fire was reported. Because of the low occurrence and sparse fuel loading, the probability of large fires is minimal.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Grouse 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 Grouse Peak-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| Grouse 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 | 9,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Backcountry | 0 | 9,000 | 9,000 | 9,000 |
| GFRG | 0 | 0 | 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 Grouse Peak-2. Potential activities

| Grouse 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 | 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 plan, around 9,000 acres would be managed under prescription 19 (North Pashimeroi). Timber harvest and associated road building are generally permitted under this forest plan prescription. 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 road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Grouse 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 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 in the Backcountry theme and 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 9,000 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 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. 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.

Jumpoff Mountain #014

14,400 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Jumpoff Mountain Roadless Area is located about 10 air miles northeast of Arco, Idaho and is on the Lost River Ranger District.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The topography of the area is generally steep and rough. It has deeply etched canyons and numerous limestone formations. Most canyon bottoms are relatively flat with mild gradients at the lower elevations, but rise abruptly a short distance above the mouth as a result of past faulting. The higher elevations are characterized by gentler sagebrush/ grass slopes interspersed with stringers of Douglas-fir and whitebark pine. This area is classified as a sagebrush steppe ecosystem.

Opportunities for Experience: There are numerous old wagon roads, now used by 4-wheel drives, which originated as wood roads for firewood and cabin logs. These roads access the area from the Little Lost and Big Lost River Valleys. Opportunity for primitive recreation and solitude is limited. Challenging experience include few, if any.

Special Features: The area is generally dry and does not have significant scenic attractions.

Manageability: The Jumpoff Peak Road intrudes into the area. Only a small part of the area boundary coincides with topographic features. Most of it follows the forest boundary and would be difficult to manage as a wilderness boundary. There is little opportunity to change the boundaries to improve manageability.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: There are no fisheries in the area, but bull trout habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: The area has moderate diversity of wildlife habitat that supports small populations of mule deer and good populations of sage grouse and pronghorn antelope. There is potential for increasing populations of mule deer, pronghorn antelope, and sage grouse. Structural development of watering sources for wildlife use is needed to assist this growth. There are no sensitive, threatened, or endangered animal species known in the area.

Water: The area receives a heavy snowpack. Runoff is very light due to the porosity of the limestone soils.

Botanical: There are no sensitive, threatened, or endangered plant species known in the area.

Recreation: The area and adjacent lands are arid in appearance and do not attract much recreation use. Recreation use is light, consisting primarily of big game and bird hunting, and off-road vehicle use. The area does not attract significant recreation use outside of hunting.

Timber: The area has no significant timber resource except for minor amounts of firewood, if stands were made accessible to the public. Some of the timber in the area is infected with dwarf mistletoe and spruce budworm. The scattered nature and small size of the timber stands reduce potential for contributing to epidemic populations of disease or pests.

Range: There are approximately 600 AUMs of grazing use permitted in the area. The north half is currently undergoing intensive development for cattle grazing, fence, water, and revegetation projects, which would detract from wilderness values.

Minerals and Energy: The potential for mineral development is believed to be very low. Oil and gas potential is low. This roadless area contains 14,400 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: There are no private lands in this roadless area.

Roads and Trails: There are numerous old wagon roads, now used by 4-wheel drives which originated as wood roads for firewood and cabin logs. These roads access the area from the Little Lost and Big Lost River Valleys. This area also contains both authorized and motorized trails.

Heritage: There are no sites identified for historic or scientific study. The area was believed to have had a high concentration of prehistoric hunting camps. There is good potential for identifying these sites, rock shelters, pictographs, etc. There is insufficient information, at present, available to evaluate and determine the overall significance of the historical and archaeological resources of this area.

Disturbances: The area has had a low incidence of fire, either man-caused or lightning-caused. Fuels are such that there is little potential for large wildfires. There is potential for using prescribed fire for improving range forage and wildlife habitat. Preliminary studies by Bonneville Power Administration have identified the possibility of future requests for a utility corridor that may be proposed to cross part of this roadless area.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Jumpoff 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 Jumpoff Mountain-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| Jumpoff 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 | 14,400 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Backcountry | 0 | 14,400 | 14,400 | 14,400 |
| GFRG | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Acres | 14,400 | 14,400 | 14,400 | 14,400 |

Table Jumpoff Mountain-2. Potential activities

| Jumpoff 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 | 14,400 | 14,400 | 0 |
| Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 14,400 | 14,400 | 14,400 | 14,400 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 14,400 | 14,400 | 14,400 | 14,400 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 14,400 | 14,400 | 0 |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 14,400 | 14,400 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 14,400 | 14,400 | 14,400 | 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 plan, around 14,400 acres would be managed under prescription 12 (Arco Hills). Road building is generally allowed under this prescription, but must maintain other resource values (wildlife habitat, range health, etc.) Timber harvest is also permitted, but should only occur as support to other resource activities. As such, little to no timber harvest and associated road building is expected, and any that does occur would have minimal impacts due to the 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 Grouse 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 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 9,000 acres would be in the Backcountry theme and 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 14,400 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 14,400 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.

King Mountain #013

87,200 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The King Mountain Roadless Area is 11 miles east of Mackay, Idaho, on the Lost River Ranger District. It covers 87,200 acres of National Forest System lands. The area is accessed by roads and trails from the Little Lost and Big Lost River Valleys. The terrain is very rough in the central portions of the area, but grades into mild slopes on the northwestern and southwestern ends. Long, winding canyons are lined with limestone ledges with numerous caves. The area is rich in past Indian cultures and activities.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The area is classified as part of the western spruce-fir ecosystem in the Rocky Mountain Region. There are several roads which intrude into the area. These are in Elbow Canyon, North Fork of Deer Creek, Briggs Canyon, Cedarville Canyon, and Buck and Bird Canyons. There is an electronic site near Sunset Peak and private and state-owned inholdings near Ramshorn Canyon.

Opportunities for Experience: There are large acreages of rugged back country. This may appeal to individuals favoring large wildernesses.

Special Features: The second largest natural bridge in Idaho is in this roadless area. Along the western boundary the roadless area contains portions of Pass Creek, which is eligible for classification in the Wild and Scenic River System.

Manageability: This large area is delineated mostly by the forest boundary which does not follow topographic features. The intrusions could be eliminated by modifying the roadless area boundary. Some of these could be delineated along topographic features if areas larger than the impacted sites were excluded. Present roadless area boundaries would be difficult to manage as wilderness.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: There are no fisheries resources or water-oriented recreational potential. There is no potential for developing a fisheries resource.

Wildlife: The roadless area provides habitat for mule deer, elk, pronghorn antelope, bighorn sheep, sage grouse and numerous other species of birds and mammals. There are no known sensitive, threatened or endangered animals inhabiting the area. There is good potential for increases in populations of deer, elk, and bighorn sheep. There is habitat for mountain goats if populations were introduced.

Water: Although the area receives a heavy annual snowpack, the canyons are extremely dry and hold very few perennial water sources due to the high porosity of the limestone soils. There is a demand on adjacent private lands for additional irrigation water.

Botanical: Vegetative types include sagebrush-grass and mountain mahogany at the lower elevations with an abrupt transition from Douglas-fir to whitebark pine at high elevations. A few drainages hold minor amounts of commercial timber, but quality is poor. There are no known threatened or endangered plants in the area.

Recreation: Recreation use is light and consists mainly of hunting use. Recreation use amounts to about 1,400 recreation visitor days annually. There are about 4,000 recreation visitor days in the area, mostly hunting. Current use is well below potential.

Timber: Timber in the area has infestations of spruce budworm, dwarf mistletoe, and pine beetle. The overmature nature of the stands foster spread of the pests.

Range: Over 4,000 AUMs of grazing use is permitted in this area annually. Some of the range resource has been highly developed. There is potential for small increases through additional development (i.e., stock water sources). The major use in the area is sheep and cattle grazing.

Minerals and Energy: The area is believed to have little or no mineral potential. The geology of the area indicates moderate potential for oil and gas exploration. Lease applications were filed on the majority of the roadless area, but have since expired. This roadless area contains 87,200 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are about 120 acres of private land in the roadless area. Preliminary studies by Bonneville Power Administration have identified the possibility of future requests for a utility corridor that may be proposed to cross part of this roadless area. There are a few special use permits in the area for Bureau of Land Management livestock management fences, roads, etc.

Roads and Trails: This area contains both authorized and unauthorized roads and motorized trails.

Heritage: The area contains old sawmill sites and pictographs. Several prehistoric archeological sites have been identified in the roadless area. These include pictographs and hunting camps. Historic use of the area was limited to grazing, wood harvest and hunting. No specific sites with historical value have been evaluated. Generally, the historic and cultural values in this roadless area have not been identified.

Disturbances: Between 1970 and 1979 there were three man-caused fires and six lightning-caused fires. These were small in size. The timber stands are mostly overmature with fuels sufficient to carry fire. The location and size of the stands do not promote large fires. Prescribed fire could be used to improve fuel conditions, improve big game habitat, and improve livestock forage conditions.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table King 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 King Mountain-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| King 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 | 87,200 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Backcountry | 0 | 87,200 | 87,200 | CPZ | 1,400 |
| | | | | NonCPZ | 85,800 |
| GFRG | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Total Acres | 87,200 | 87,200 | 87,200 | 87,200 | |

Table King Mountain-2. Potential activities

| King 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 | 87,200 | 87,200 | 1,400* |
| Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 87,200 | 87,200 | 87,200 | 87,200 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 87,200 | 87,200 | 87,200 | 87,200 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 87,200 | 87,200 | 1,400* |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 87,200 | 0 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 87,200 | 87,200 | 87,200 | 87,200 |

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 85,800 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 plan, around 87,200 acres would be managed under prescription 15 (South Lost River). Timber harvest and associated road building are generally permitted under this forest plan prescription. Any timber activities and road building that occur could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

Mineral leases and associated road building are generally permitted under prescription 15, but there are stipulations to prevent negative impacts to wildlife habitat. These stipulations may limit new mineral leases, but activity could still occur. 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 87,200 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 87,200 acres would be in the Backcountry theme and 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 87,200 acres under the Backcountry theme, 1,400 of which are in the CPZ.

Within the 1,400 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 85,800 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 87,200 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 since road construction for new mineral leases is prohibited.

Loon Creek #908**106,400 Acres Challis****3,200 Acres Sawtooth****109,600 Acres Total****OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION**

The Loon Creek Roadless Area is located southwest of Challis on the Challis and Yankee Fork Ranger Districts, and is bordered on the east by the Yankee Fork road, on the south by the Salmon River and Sawtooth National Recreation Area (NRA), and on the west by Cape Horn Lakes. The portion within the Sawtooth NRA is located eight miles northwest of Stanley along the northern boundary of the NRA. The area can be accessed to its periphery on the east, south and west sides, but cannot be reached on the northern end by road. With the exception of access into its interior on the west by the Basin Butte and Asher Creek Roads, the interior of this area is unroaded.

The area varies from flat meadow lands in upper Stanley to steep, rocky breaks along the west side of Yankee Fork to scenic alpine lakes in the central portion. Elevations vary from 6,200 feet to 10,000 feet with many lakes and streams scattered through the area. The major vegetation components are rock scree, lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir, spruce, and sagebrush-grass communities. The area belongs in the Rocky Mountain Province made up of two ecosystems: grand fir/Douglas-fir forest and western spruce-fir forest. The vegetative diversity of this area supports many resource uses.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Natural integrity of this area is moderate.

Opportunities for Experience: There is some opportunity for primitive recreation and solitude. Challenging experiences includes non-technical climbing, cross-country travel.

Special Features: Special features include rock formations, mountain lakes, and peaks. Two eligible river segments for classification in the Wild and Scenic River System, West Fork Yankee Fork and Yankee Fork within the borders and east of this roadless area.

Manageability: The manageability of the area is not only affected by limited access, but also by boundaries that do not follow topographical features.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: A significant portion of the forest's anadromous fish habitat occurs in this roadless area. The current fishery generates 5,300 recreation visitor days with good potential for large increases. This area supports an anadromous as well as a resident fishery, and has potential for growth. This roadless area overlaps steelhead, Chinook and bull trout priority watersheds.

Wildlife: The area is a principal summer range for elk, black bear, mule deer, mountain lion, mountain goats, and bighorn sheep. The gray wolf, a federally listed endangered species, may use this area. The vegetation diversity of the area supports wildlife habitat for elk, black bear, mountain lion, mule deer, mountain goat, and bighorn sheep. Wolverine, a Region 4 sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

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

Recreation: A National Recreation Trail runs from Loon Creek Guard Station to Knapp Creek Road. Recreation activity includes hiking, motorcycle riding, snowmobiling, hunting, and fishing. The current recreation visitor use is 12,200 recreation visitor days with potential to increase to 28,000 recreation visitor days with greater management emphasis and investment. Current recreation use associated with wildlife in the area totals 3,100 user days with potential to increase significantly.

Timber: There are commercial timber stands throughout the area with the exception of the higher lake basins. The majority of the proposed timber activity is in the southeast portion of the area with the exception of commercial firewood, post and pole, and some small timber sales in the Cape Horn area. The

area has a standing timber volume of approximately 215 million board feet. The area could potentially produce an annual sustained yield of 1.5 million board feet, if not modified by the management objectives of other resource needs, such as visual, wildlife habitat, watershed, etc. This potential output would be further reduced because of the cost of harvesting timber on steep slopes, the marginal quality of the sawtimber, and the high cost of access.

Range: Livestock operations in the area produce 600 AUMs with little potential for increase. The area is currently used by sheep and cattle, but only a small portion of the area is considered suitable range. The majority of the range forage is only suitable for pack and saddle stock. There has been limited improvement work done in fencing, water developments, and revegetation projects.

Minerals and Energy: The mineral potential of the area runs from none to very high. The National Recreation Area portion has been withdrawn from mineral entry. The area has always generated interest and varying levels of activity. There is no known potential for production of energy minerals. This roadless area contains 109,600 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are a few minor special use permits in the area. There are no private lands in the area. Preliminary studies by Bonneville Power Administration have identified the possibility of future requests for a utility corridor that may be proposed to cross part of this roadless area.

Roads and Trails: This area contains both authorized and unauthorized roads and motorized trails.

Heritage: There are some areas of cultural significance associated with mining and Native Americans. There are four prehistoric sites in the area and potential for further site discovery related to early day prospecting and trapping. No formal archaeological studies have been conducted, making it difficult to determine the cultural resource significance of this area.

Disturbances: The area experienced three man-caused and eleven lightning-caused fires between 1970 and 1975. Understory fuels and decadent stands of lodgepole pine are sufficient to provide the potential for large wildfires. Timber stands have infestations of dwarf mistletoe, spruce budworm, and mountain pine beetle. The degree of infestation varies from year to year, and is aggravated by overmature timber in the area.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

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

Table Loon Creek-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 Loon Creek-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Loon Creek-1a. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative (Challis only)

| Loon Creek Management Theme Challis | 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 | 106,400 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Backcountry | 0 | 106,400 | 106,400 | CPZ | 7,000 |
| | | | | NonCPZ | 99,400 |
| GFRG | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Total Acres | 106,400 | 106,400 | 106,400 | 106,400 | |

Table Loon Creek-1b. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative (Sawtooth only)

| Loon Creek Management Theme Sawtooth | 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 | 3,200 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Backcountry | 0 | 3,200 | 3,200 | CPZ | 500 |
| | | | | NonCPZ | 2,700 |
| GFRG | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Total Acres | 3,200 | 3,200 | 3,200 | 3,200 | |

Table Loon Creek-1c. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative (Total)

| Loon Creek 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 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Similar to Backcountry | 109,600 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Backcountry | 0 | 109,600 | 109,600 | CPZ | 7,500 |
| | | | | NonCPZ | 102,100 |
| GFRG | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Total Acres | 109,600 | 109,600 | 109,600 | 109,600 | |

Table Loon Creek-2. Potential activities (Challis and Sawtooth combined)

| Loon Creek 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 | 109,600 | 109,600 | 7,500* |
| Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 109,600 | 109,600 | 109,600 | 109,600 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 109,600 | 109,600 | 109,600 | 109,600 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 109,600 | 109,600 | 7,500* |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 106,400 | 0 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 109,600 | 109,600 | 109,600 | 0 |

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 102,100 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): For the portions of the roadless area in the Challis National Forest, around 29,400 acres would be managed under prescription 3 (Marsh Creek), acres 12,600 acres under prescription 4 (Valley Creek), around 20,600 acres under prescription 5 (Basin Creek, and around 43,800 acres under prescription 6 (Yankee Fork). For the portions of the Loon Creek Roadless Area in the Sawtooth National Forest, around 3,200 acres are managed under prescription 3.2 (active restoration and maintenance).

Road construction or reconstruction and timber harvest are permitted under Sawtooth prescription 3.2 if action is needed to prevent unacceptable impacts to aquatic, terrestrial or hydrology resource values could occur. The Forest Plan prescription does not require that the road be temporary. If temporary roads were 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 purposes, roadless characteristics would be maintained or enhanced in the long-run. 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 to maintain or enhance roadless characteristics. It's expected, however, that temporary roads would be favored since the purpose of any road would be to facilitate restoration. Since roads are only permitted for restoration purposes, no new leasable mineral activity is expected since it would require roaded access.

Roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes under all four of the Challis prescriptions. Any timber activities and road building that occur under these four prescriptions could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected for the 3,200 acres under Sawtooth prescription 3.2 because roads are only permitted for restoration activities or for reserved and outstanding rights. There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases for the 106,400 Loon Creek acres in the Challis National Forest. No phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the area has little to no potential for these minerals. The Loon Creek Roadless Area does contain 109,600 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 109,600 acres would be in the Backcountry theme and 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 109,600 acres under the Backcountry theme, 7,500 of which are in the CPZ.

Within the 7,500 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 102,100 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, including those constructed for fuel reduction projects, or using aerial systems could be done throughout all 109,600 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 since road construction for new mineral leases is prohibited.

Pahsimeroi Mountain #011

73,400 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Pahsimeroi Mountains Roadless Area lies 11 miles southeast of Challis, Idaho, on the Challis and Lost River Ranger District. It is reached by jeep roads and moderately maintained forest roads along U.S. Highway 93 and county roads in the Pahsimeroi River Valley. Red Hill (027) and the Pahsimeroi Mountains (011) were originally considered to be one roadless area -- RARE II No. 4-209. Upon review, it was determined that the road from Lime Creek to Table Mountain has been, and would be, maintained for public use and administration. This road now separates the two roadless areas.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: This sizeable roadless area includes 73,400 acres of National Forest System lands. The borders on the east and west generally follow the old Challis National Forest boundary. There are several intrusions into the Pahsimeroi Mountain area, such as the Rock Spring Canyon road, Grouse Creek Lake/Wino Basin Road, Grouse Creek/Mill Creek Road, Christian Gulch Road, and Crane Basin Road. Also, there are several livestock developments within these intrusions.

Located in the Lost River Range, this roadless area of land varies from rolling sagebrush-grass hills on the north end to high peaks, large cirque basins, steep slopes, generally narrow canyon bottoms below cirque basins, and alluvial fans on the south end. Some of the area is very rugged, with outstanding geologic features caused by repeated glaciation. The rugged slopes and 10,000 foot mountain tops and ridges provide a scenic backdrop to the valley ranches in the Lost River, Pahsimeroi Valley, and the community of Challis. The surrounding valleys contain irrigated hay fields, pasture lands, and a mosaic of willow/cottonwood riparian, and sagebrush communities.

The diversity of vegetation produces a broad spectrum of life zones, ranging from semi-arid shrublands to alpine rock and scree. Numerous vegetative types are present including sagebrush-grass, mountain mahogany, spruce, subalpine fir, Douglas-fir, whitebark pine, and lodgepole pine. The area belongs to the western spruce-fir forest ecosystem in the Rocky Mountain Forest ecoregion.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunity for primitive recreation and solitude is good. Challenging experiences include technical and non-technical climbing and cross-country travel.

Special Features: A large exposed fault scarp and other earthquake effects from the October 1983 Idaho earthquake are contained in this roadless area.

Manageability: The area boundaries on the east and west do not follow natural topographical features, and would be difficult to manage and enforce as wilderness boundaries. The border on the north follows the Table Mountain/Wino Basin Road and Lime Creek/Grouse Lake Road. The southern boundary primarily follows the Double Springs Pass Road. Because of the intrusions, the boundaries are not geographically distinct, and manageability would be difficult. There is very little opportunity to change boundary lines to coincide with topographical features without eliminating large portions from the roadless area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The area includes three small lakes, one containing a fishery. Bull trout, inland redband trout, and western cutthroat trout habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: The back country nature, in combination with the diversity of vegetation, provides habitat for elk, mule deer, bighorn sheep, pronghorn antelope, and small game and non-game species. There are no known threatened species in the area. Big game populations are well below the existing habitat capacity.

Water: The watersheds located within the roadless area are contributing to gravity fed irrigation systems in Mill Creek in the Pahsimeroi.

Botanical: The boundaries of this roadless area intersect an area that is being considered for a botanical area. It is an area that has a known concentration of lower elevation endemic and disjunct plant species.

Recreation: Currently this roadless area produces 400 recreation visitor days annually of dispersed recreation. Most of this use takes place in the form of hunting and fishing. The area has the capability of handling much higher levels of recreation use. As big game populations increase, and if the community of Challis grows, recreation use would undoubtedly increase.

Timber: There are approximately 4,700 acres of marginal commercial timber that could potentially produce 150,000 board feet of timber annually if not constrained by other resource needs. However, the majority of the timber is located in inaccessible areas, where its value is greater for wildlife, watershed, and scenic than it is for commercial timber. Over ninety percent of the timber stands are considered old growth, with the potential for insect and disease infestations.

Range: Currently, livestock grazing is the primary use of this roadless area, providing 1,200 AUMs annually. There is a potential for increasing the AUMs by approximately 150 units, depending upon other resource considerations. Lime Creek and Crane Basin are part of an extensive grazing system, and the recently adopted "Stewardship Ranch Plan."

Minerals and Energy: The roadless area low potential for oil and gas. There is also low potential for locatable hardrock minerals. This roadless area contains 29,800 acres of high and 43,600 of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: Preliminary studies by Bonneville Power Administration have identified the possibility of future requests for a utility corridor.

Roads and Trails: This area contains both authorized and unauthorized roads and motorized trails.

Heritage: Cultural resource values are relatively unknown, but it is highly probable that prehistoric sites exist.

Disturbances: Fire occurrence in the Pahsimeroi Mountains Roadless area is low. Between the 1970 and 1979, only one man-caused fire and two lightning-caused ignited fires were reported. Historical fire patterns depict that small fires (300-500 acres) burned frequently before the turn of the century, igniting in the sagebrush and grass of the lower valley floors and spreading up to the mountain slopes.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Pahsimeroi 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 Pahsimeroi Mountain-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| Pahsimeroi 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 | 73,400 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Backcountry | 0 | 73,400 | 73,400 | 73,400 |
| GFRG | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Acres | 73,400 | 73,400 | 73,400 | 73,400 |

Table Pahsimeroi Mountain-2. Potential activities

| Pahsimeroi 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 | 73,400 | 73,400 | 0 |
| Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 73,400 | 73,400 | 73,400 | 73,400 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 73,400 | 73,400 | 73,400 | 73,400 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 73,400 | 73,400 | 0 |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 73,400 | 0 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 73,400 | 73,400 | 73,400 | 73,400 |

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 plan, around 46,900 acres would be managed under prescription 17 (Pahsimeroi Mountains) and 26,500 acres under prescription 19 (North Pashimeroi). Timber harvest and associated road building are generally permitted under this forest plan prescription. Any timber activities and road building that occur could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

Mineral leases and associated road building are generally permitted under prescription 17, but there are stipulations to prevent negative impacts to wildlife habitat. These stipulations may limit new mineral leases, but activity could still occur. There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases under prescription 19. 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 29,800 acres of high and 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 73,400 acres would be in the Backcountry theme and 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 73,400 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 73,400 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.

Porphyry Peak #017

46,600 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Porphyry Peak Roadless Area is approximately 16 air miles west of Mackay, Idaho on the Lost River Ranger District. It can be reached from U.S. Highway 93 by using the Trail Creek and East Fork of the Big Lost River roads, and also via the Burma Road over Corral Creek Summit. Access to the interior is by Forest Service trails or cross-country travel.

In the original roadless area evaluation, the Porphyry Peak and Lehman Peak Roadless Areas were treated as separate roadless areas. They were determined to be managed as non-wilderness through the Pioneer Land Use Plan and were not considered in RARE II. In the roadless area review for the Challis Forest Plan, the intrusions that separated these two areas (the intrusions are in the East Fork of Big Boone Creek) were not considered significant. The two areas have been combined and are treated as one roadless area.

There are numerous intrusions into this roadless area. There are two electronic sites in this area. One is located at the head of Wildcat Canyon in the western portion and the second is located at the head of Rock Creek near Porphyry Peak. Other intrusions include jeep roads, stock ponds, pipelines, fences, and tractor trails. Most of these are found in the West Fork of Lehman Creek and tributaries to Big Boone Creek and Horse Wallow Creek.

Topographic characteristics vary from rolling ridges and benches to deep rocky canyons. The area features 7,100 to 9,400 foot rolling hills and peaks, covered with sagebrush and grass with scattered patches of Douglas-fir, aspen and willow along riparian corridors. This roadless area is part of White Knob Mountain Range. It has been classified as a sagebrush-steppe ecosystem (Kuchler 1966).

Volcanic tuffs and slumps are common. Soils are volcanic in origin. The climate is semi-arid; precipitation averages fifteen inches a year. Current uses include grazing, hunting, off-highway vehicle recreation and mineral exploration. Hunting for mule deer and elk is heavy in the fall.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Natural integrity of the roadless area is low.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunity for primitive recreation and solitude is low due to motorized recreation. Challenging experiences include off-highway vehicle travel.

Special Features: The area provides the background view as seen from the main travel roads; U.S. Highway 93, the Trail Creek Road, and the East Fork of the Big Lost River Road. There are few major scenic landmark attractions in the roadless area. The East Fork of the Big Lost River that runs along the southern boundary is eligible for designation into the Wild and Scenic River System, and Star Hope Creek which is also eligible is located in the southern portion of this area.

Manageability: The roadless area boundaries do not follow topographic features. Altering the boundaries to coincide with the topography would be difficult and would eliminate a large part of the roadless area from potential wilderness classification. Since the borders do not follow distinct geographic or topographic features, it would be difficult to manage as an isolated unit of wilderness. The area is of sufficient size to be suitable for wilderness classification. Its relative location to the Lost River Ranger District office and accessibility would make it easy to administer if good boundary delineation were possible.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: There are no threatened, endangered, or sensitive fish in this area.

Wildlife: The diversity of vegetation and topographic landforms produce a broad spectrum of wildlife habitats. The area supports mule deer, elk, pronghorn antelope, black bear, sage grouse, a wide variety of

small game and non-game wildlife species. The area has good wildlife habitat diversity. The area currently sustains moderate mule deer and high elk populations. No threatened or endangered animals are known in this area. Peregrine falcon, a Region 4 sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

Botanical: There are no known sensitive, threatened, or endangered plants in this roadless area.

Recreation: Recreation activities include big game and upland bird hunting. It also includes off-road vehicle activities. Total recreation in the roadless area is approximately 500 recreation visitor days annually. Motorized vehicles are often used in the area during the hunting season.

Timber: There is very little timber in the area. The timber stands are very small and of poor quality. This roadless area has approximately 100 acres of commercial timber, producing less than 100 thousand board feet of timber. It is doubtful that timber would ever be harvested in this roadless area, using current logging techniques. Because of the low volume of timber, and the scattered nature of the stands, the probability of insect and disease infestations is minimal.

Range: A large part of the area is suitable livestock range and is part of extensively developed livestock allotments. Fences, water developments and revegetation projects are scattered through the area. The structural improvements are generally visible and detract from a wilderness scene.

Minerals and Energy: The locatable mineral potential of the area is very low. There are no known deposits of mineralized prospects. If there are mineral deposits, they are hidden beneath a thick volcanic and alluvial cover. Oil and gas potential is low. This roadless area contains 46,600 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are two existing electronic sites in the area. There are no other significant land use authorizations. There are no private lands in this roadless area.

Roads and Trails: This area contains both authorized and unauthorized roads and motorized trails.

Heritage: Prehistoric archeological sites have been identified and more are likely to be found in the area. More information is needed to determine the areas archeological and historical resource values.

Disturbances: There was one small lightning-caused fire in the area between 1970 and 1979. The sagebrush/grass fuels are not conducive to large fires. Prescribed fires can be successfully used to improve wildlife habitat and livestock forage.

Insects and disease in the area's timber stands are not significant, largely due to the minor amount of timber, small patches, and isolated nature of the stands.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Prophecy 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 Prophecy Peak-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| Prophyry 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 | 46,600 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Backcountry | 0 | 46,600 | 46,600 | CPZ | 5,700 |
| | | | | NonCPZ | 40,900 |
| GFRG | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Total Acres | 46,600 | 46,600 | 46,600 | 46,600 | |

Table Prophyry Peak-2. Potential activities

| Prophyry 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 | 46,600 | 46,600 | 5,700* |
| Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 46,600 | 46,600 | 46,600 | 46,600 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 46,600 | 46,600 | 46,600 | 46,600 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 46,600 | 46,600 | 5,700* |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 46,600 | 0 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 46,600 | 46,600 | 46,600 | 46,600 |

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 40,900 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 plan, around 29,400 acres would be managed under prescription 11 (Pioneer Mountains) and 17,200 acres under prescription 18 (Mackay Front). Timber harvest and associated road building are generally permitted under this forest plan prescription. 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 road building to access mineral leases under these two prescriptions. 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 46,600 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 46,600 acres would be in the Backcountry theme and 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 46,600 acres under the Backcountry theme, 5,700 of which are in the CPZ

Within the 5,700 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 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 40,900 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 46,600 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 to access new mineral leases is prohibited.

Red Hill #027

15,000 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Red Hill Roadless Area lies five miles east of Challis off Highway 93. Its boundaries can be easily reached through numerous jeep trails off the Table Mountain, Leaton Gulch, Camp Creek, Hole-in-the-Rock Creek, and Lime Creek Roads. Most of these intrusions were missed in the initial RARE II process. The Pahsimeroi Mountains and Red Hill were originally considered one roadless area. Upon review, it was determined that the road from Lime Creek to Table Mountain has been, and would be, maintained for public use and administration. This road now separates the two roadless areas. There are many range developments and associated vehicular tracks.

Located in the Lost River Range, this roadless area is characterized by rocky, sagebrush-grass covered slopes, scattered patches of mahogany, and steep hillsides with narrow canyon bottoms. There are numerous volcanic tuffs exposed on the hillsides, lending to its name "Red Hill". There are a few scattered trees in the upper reaches of some of the drainages, mainly from conifer invasion on the east slopes of Trail Creek and White Hill. The elevation of this roadless area ranges between 6,000 - 8,200 feet. The potential natural vegetation type is western spruce-fir forest. The surrounding area includes Bureau of Land Management sagebrush and grasslands, private pastures, and irrigated fields. The Red Hill Roadless Area provides a scenic backdrop to the valley ranches and the community of Challis.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Special Features: There are no major scenic attractions of national significance in the roadless area. A ridge between Table Mountain and Hole-in-the-Rock Creek characteristically displays a snow-covered "7" in the spring. Local residents use this landmark as the "time to plant the garden".

Manageability: This area is relatively small, totaling 15,000 acres of National Forest System Lands. The roadless area border generally follows the forest boundary on the south side from Leaton Gulch to Lime Creek. The northern boundary follows the Leaton Gulch and Table Mountain Roads. The south boundary follows Lime Creek to the Table Mountain Road. Because the forest boundary does not follow topographical features, management and enforcement as wilderness would be somewhat difficult. There is little opportunity to change the boundaries to coincide with topographical features and intrusions without eliminating large acreages within the roadless area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Bull trout, Chinook summer salmon, and steelhead habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: The habitat of the area is currently producing winter range for mule deer and elk, and pronghorn antelope summer range. Historically, bighorn sheep wintered in the area. As the elk herds increase in the Lost River Range and the East Fork of the Salmon, elk use within the winter range would increase. There is a wide variety of other game and non-game species in the Red Hill Roadless Area which are indigenous to the components of the sagebrush/grass community.

Botanical: Lemhi milkvetch (*Astragalus aquilonius*), Challis crazyweed (*Oxytropis besseyi* var. *salmonensis*) and wavy-leaf thelypody (*Thelypodium repandum*), three sensitive plant species occur in this roadless area.

Recreation: Dispersed recreation produces approximately 400 recreation visitor days annually. Most of this use is hunting and off-road vehicle travel. As big game populations increase, dispersed motorized recreation would probably also increase. Approximately 100 recreation visitor days are generated through rock hunting activities.

Timber: There are no commercial timber stands within the roadless area.

Range: The primary use of this area is grazing. Currently the range is providing approximately 2,000 AUMs annually. The area is part of an extensive grazing system and a Stewardship Ranch Plan.

Minerals and Energy: The potential for locatable hardrock minerals is low. Oil and gas potential is low. This roadless area contains 1,100 acres of high and 13,900 of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: A communication site is under special use permit.

Roads and Trails: The area has many vehicular tracks across the sagebrush which lowers the natural integrity of the roadless area. Continued use of these tracks could result in the area being considered roaded in the future. This area also contains authorized roads and motorized trails.

Heritage: Several cultural resource sites have been discovered in the area. Most sites identified have not been inventoried to determine their significance.

Disturbances: Fire occurrence is extremely low. Only one small lightning caused fire was reported between 1970 and 1979. Because of the low ignition occurrence and sparse fuel loading, the probability of large fires is minimal.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Red Hill Roadless Area. Table Red 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 Red Hill-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Red Hill-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

| Red 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 | 15,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Backcountry | 0 | 15,000 | 15,000 | 15,000 |
| GFRG | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Acres | 15,000 | 15,000 | 15,000 | 15,000 |

Table Red Hill-2. Potential activities

| Red 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 | 15,000 | 15,000 | 0 |
| Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 15,000 | 15,000 | 15,000 | 15,000 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 15,000 | 15,000 | 15,000 | 15,000 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 15,000 | 15,000 | 0 |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 15,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 15,000 | 15,000 | 15,000 | 15,000 |

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 plan, around 15,000 acres would be managed under prescription 19 (North Pashimeroi). Timber harvest and associated road building are generally permitted under this forest plan prescription. 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 road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Red Hill 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 1,100 acres of high and 13,900 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 15,000 acres would be in the Backcountry theme and 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 15,000 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 15,000 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. 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.

Seafoam #009**31,100 Acres****OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION**

The Seafoam Roadless Area is located approximately 26 road miles northwest of Stanley, on the Yankee Fork Ranger District. The area is accessed by roads constructed for mining exploration and development activities. The area is surrounded by the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness, but was left out primarily because of the mineral potential and evidence of man's past activities. Several road intrusions have occurred since or were not identified in the 1979 RARE II EISs: Vanity Creek, Bear Creek, and Baldwin Creek.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Elevations range from 6,000 to 9,300 feet with steep slopes, high rocky peaks, deep valleys, and glaciated cirque basins characterizing the area. Vegetative cover ranges from grass slopes to heavy timber. The western border fringes on high mountain lakes that offer good scenic quality. The area belongs in the Rocky Mountain Province in a grand fir/Douglas-fir forest ecosystem.

Special Features: The Rapid River runs along the southern boundary and is eligible for designation into the Wild and Scenic River System

Manageability: The relatively easy access provided by the roads in the area aids management. However, illegal entry by motorized vehicles would also be easy due to the large number of roads around the area. The eastern boundary is defined by a road and the rest follows the boundary of the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: There is an anadromous fishery in the Rapid River drainage portion of this area. Although this area does not have the highest production potential of the anadromous fisheries on the forest, it does contribute to downstream anadromous fisheries that are of higher quality. The area is currently below potential capacity and is not being adversely impacted by other resource activities in the area. Bull trout, Chinook summer salmon, and steelhead habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: The vegetative diversity of the area is considered low and doesn't lend itself to any unusual or large populations of wildlife. Wildlife values are moderate. There are many species of wildlife occupying the area: deer, elk, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, bear, and cougar. Sightings of the gray wolf have been documented for this roadless area.

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

Recreation: Recreation use of the area is all dispersed, accounting for 2,400 recreation visitor days of hunting, fishing, and backpacking. The Josephus Lake trailhead is located on the western border of the area and is one of the primary access routes into the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness.

Timber: This roadless area does have commercial timber stands.

Range: There are no livestock allotments in the area. Recreation stock associated with outfitter hunting parties graze the roadless area.

Minerals and Energy: The hardrock minerals potential of this area ranges from low to very high. This roadless area contains 31,100 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: There are no private lands within the roadless area, but there are some significant patented mining claims in the corridor areas.

Roads and Trails: This area contains both authorized and unauthorized roads and motorized trails.

Heritage: In 1978 there was a formal archaeological survey along the road corridors, but there have not been any formal studies conducted on the balance of the roadless area, making it difficult to determine the cultural resource significance of the roadless area.

Disturbances: The area experienced two man-caused and six lightning-caused fires between 1970 and 1979, and has the potential for large fires in the future. Understory fuels and decadent stands of timber are sufficient to provide the potential for large wildfires.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Seafoam Roadless Area. Table Seafoam-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 Seafoam-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| Seafoam 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 | 31,100 | 0 | 0 | | 0 |
| Backcountry | 0 | 31,100 | 31,100 | 10,600 | 20,500 |
| GFRG | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 0 |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 0 |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 0 |
| Total Acres | 31,100 | 31,100 | 31,100 | | 31,100 |

Table Seafoam-2. Potential activities

| Seafoam 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 | 31,100 | 31,100 | 10,600* |
| Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 31,100 | 31,100 | 31,100 | 31,100 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 31,100 | 31,100 | 31,100 | 31,100 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 31,100 | 31,100 | 10,600* |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 31,100 | 0 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 31,100 | 31,100 | 31,100 | 31,100 |

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 20,500 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 plan, around 31,100 acres would be managed under prescription 2 (Seafoam). Timber harvest and associated road building are generally permitted under this forest plan prescription. Any timber activities and road building that occur could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

Mineral leases and associated road building are generally permitted under prescription 17, but there are stipulations to prevent negative impacts to the gray wolf. These stipulations may limit new mineral leases, but activity could still occur. 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 31,100 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 31,100 acres would be in the Backcountry theme and 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 31,100 acres under the Backcountry theme, 10,600 of which are in the CPZ.

Within the 10,600 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 20,500 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 31,100 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.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since road construction is prohibited to access to mineral leases.

Spring Basin #006

5,200 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Spring Basin Roadless Area is on the Yankee Fork Ranger District, 25 miles southwest of Challis, Idaho. It is easily accessed via a few jeep roads and moderately maintained forest roads along U.S. Highway 93. Primary uses include grazing, dispersed recreation (hunting), and mineral exploration.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Located in the Salmon River Range, this roadless area is composed of steep, narrow canyons, and sagebrush-covered benches and ridges. The elevation varies between 6,000 and 7,000 feet. The vegetation is primarily semi-arid shrublands. Community types present are sagebrush/grass, mountain mahogany, aspen and willow stringers, and small riparian areas, and scattered Douglas-fir. The area is a grand fir/Douglas-fir forest ecosystem, located on a steep canyon hillside, dissected by small creeks.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunity for primitive recreation and solitude is very limited. No challenging experiences exist.

Special Features: There are no major attractions.

Manageability: The roadless area boundary does not follow distinct topographical features. The boundary primarily follows intrusions within the watershed. Management and enforcement as wilderness boundaries would be difficult. There is little opportunity to change borders without eliminating large acreages of an already small roadless area.

There have been several intrusions in the Spring Basin Roadless Area. There has been mineral exploration in First Creek, timber sales in Cabin and Coal Creek, a jeep road in Cash Creek, and a mining road in Transfer Creek. There are numerous fences and several watering ponds, troughs, and pipelines. Cattle and motorbike trails are evident throughout, which detract from the natural integrity of the area. Most of these intrusions are either a result of recent mining activity, or were overlooked in the original RARE II process.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: There are no fisheries within the roadless area, but the watershed contributes to a small fishery in Squaw Creek and Kinnikinic Creek. The watershed is currently contributing sediment to critical stream reaches in Squaw Creek.

Wildlife: Habitat within this roadless area supports a fair population of antelope, elk, mule deer, and bighorn sheep. Mountain goats occasionally frequent the area, which may serve as winter range as populations increase. There are no threatened, endangered, or sensitive terrestrial species in this roadless area.

Botanical: There are no threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species in this roadless area.

Recreation: The Spring Basin Roadless Area receives approximately 100 recreation visitor days of dispersed recreation use annually. The majority of the activity occurs during the hunting season. The estimated potential is 600 recreation visitor days per year. As big game populations increase and hunting opportunities are enhanced, dispersed recreation is also expected to increase.

Timber: There are approximately 10 million board feet of commercial timber which would produce an annual sustained yield of 71 thousand board feet annually. Annual timber production would be reduced by management objectives of other resource needs, such as visuals, wildlife habitat, watershed, etc. Topography and roading costs make logging most of the timber in this area difficult and uneconomical using current techniques. Logging has been done in Kinnikinic and Squaw Creek outside of the roadless area. Most of the timber is considered overmature, and there is potential for insect and disease problems.

Much of the Douglas-fir stands have mistletoe infestations, and the spruce budworm infestations vary from year to year.

Range: Livestock graze on a small part of the area. Current grazing is approximately 600 AUMs annually. There is little potential for increase. The area is currently under an extensive grazing system.

Minerals and Energy: Some of this area has high mineral potential. Within the fringes of the area, mining and exploration activities have occurred in the past and continue today. Most of the human impacts on the surrounding area result from hardrock mining activity. The potential for oil and gas discovery is low. This roadless area contains 5,200 acres of high geothermal potential.

Roads and Trails: This area contains both authorized and unauthorized roads.

Heritage: Cultural resources are largely unknown. Within the past few years, most of the cultural resource that has been discovered has been related to early mining activity during the early 1900s. With the current available data, it is not possible to determine the archeological significance of this roadless area.

Disturbance: From 1970-1979, there was one lightning-caused fire and no man-caused fires within the roadless area. Understory fuels are generally light and the potential for large fires is minimal. There is some potential for improving livestock range and wildlife habitat through the use of prescribed fire.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Spring Basin-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 Spring Basin-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Spring Basin-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

| Spring Basin 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 | 5,200 | 5,200 | CPZ | 400 |
| | | | | NonCPZ | 4,800 |
| GFRG | 0 | 0 | 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 Spring Basin-2. Potential activities

| Spring Basin 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 | 5,200 | 400* |
| Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 5,200 | 5,200 | 5,200 | 5,200 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 5,200 | 5,200 | 5,200 | 5,200 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 5,200 | 5,200 | 400* |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 5,200 | 0 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 5,200 | 5,200 | 5,200 | 5,200 |

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 4,800 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 plan, around 500 acres would be managed under prescription 10 (Bayhorse) and 4,700 acres under prescription 21 (Challs Creek). Timber harvest and associated road building are generally permitted under both forest plan prescriptions. 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 road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Spring Basin 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 5,200 acres of 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 5,200 acres would be in the Backcountry theme and 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, 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 4,800 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 5,200 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 prohibited to access to mineral leases.

Squaw Creek #005

99,600 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Squaw Creek Roadless Area is 10 miles southwest of Challis on the Challis and Yankee Fork Ranger Districts. The area is bordered on the west and northwest by the Yankee Fork drainage, on the north by Mill Creek, and on the east and south by Bureau of Land Management lands and the Salmon River. It is readily accessible by trails, jeep roads, and numerous constructed and maintained roads. These roads can be reached from Highway 93 along the Salmon River and forest roads in the Garden Creek drainage.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The area contains 10,000 foot peaks, cirque basins, steep rocky slopes, and generally narrow canyon bottoms and broad benches. The scattered timber slopes have many openings of sage/grass and wet meadows. The major vegetation components are lodgepole, Douglas-fir, spruce, and sagebrush communities. The area has western spruce-fir forest and grand fir/Douglas-fir ecosystems.

The area is not visible from U.S. Highway 93 except for the southernmost portion from Thompson Creek west to Sunbeam and Yankee Fork. The surrounding areas include irrigated pastures and riparian/willow plant communities. Due to the topographical boundaries of this roadless area, it provides little scenic backdrop to the valley ranches and communities, because of the steepness of the main Salmon River drainage.

Special Features: Mill Creek that runs along the northern boundary is eligible for designation into the Wild and Scenic River System.

Manageability: This is a large area of approximately 99,600 acres of National Forest System lands. The roadless area boundary does not follow distinct natural topographic features, and it would be difficult to manage and enforce as a wilderness boundary. There is very little opportunity to change the boundaries to coincide with distinctive landmarks without eliminating large acreages of the roadless area.

There are numerous intrusions in the Squaw Creek Roadless Area. Mining roads exist in Buckskin/Pat Hughes Creek, Bruno Creek, Bayhorse/Juliette Creek, Crealy Creek, Silver Creek, and timber roads in Thompson/Basin Creek, Cinnabar Creek, Transfer Creek and Big Hill Gulch. These intrusions detract from the natural integrity of the area. Most are a result of recent mining activity, or were not identified in the original RARE II process.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Most streams and lakes capable of producing a fishery are stocked or are self-sustaining under natural reproduction.

Wildlife: Existing big game populations are 50 percent below current carrying capacity. Populations are presently viewed as increasing under current habitat management and harvest practices. A good population of elk, mountain goat, bighorn sheep and mule deer graze the area during the summer months. The area also provides habitat for a multitude of small game and non-game species. There are no threatened or endangered Species in the area. Wolverine, a Region 4 sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

Water: The watersheds within this roadless area are contributing sediment to critical anadromous stream reaches in Squaw Creek and the Yankee Fork of the Salmon River. This roadless area contains 4,900 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

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

Recreation: The Squaw Creek Roadless Area receives approximately 3,000 recreation visitor days of dispersed recreation use annually. The area has the capacity for more than double this amount, depending on future development of trails and campsites. The greatest portion of dispersed use occurs

with hunting and fishing. As big game population's increase and hunting opportunities are enhanced, dispersed recreation is expected to increase substantially.

Timber: There are approximately 200 million board feet of commercial timber volume in the roadless area. A harvestable annual sustained yield is estimated at less than 1.1 million board feet. Topography and roading costs make harvesting most of the timber in this area difficult and uneconomical using current techniques. Actual timber available for harvest would be modified by the management objectives of other resource needs, such as visuals, wildlife habitat, watershed, recreation, etc.

Range: Current grazing use is approximately 2,100 AUMs with the potential to increase an estimated 100 AUMs.

Minerals and Energy: Part of this roadless area has high mineral potential. Within the fringes of the area, mining and exploration activities have occurred in the past and continue today. Most of the human impacts already inflicted upon the area are a result of hardrock mining activity. The potential for oil and gas development is low. This roadless area contains 99,600 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: Preliminary studies by Bonneville Power Administration have identified the possibility of future requests for a utility corridor that may be proposed to cross part of this roadless area.

Roads and Trails: This area contains both authorized and unauthorized roads and motorized trails.

Heritage: Cultural resources are largely unknown. Within the past few years, most of the cultural resources that have been discovered have been related to mining activities during the early 1900's. With current available data, it is not possible to determine the archaeological significance of this roadless area.

Disturbances: Between 1970 and 1979, there were 25 fires in the Squaw Creek roadless area. Fifteen were lightning-caused and 10 were man-caused (average size about one-half acre). Understory fuels were generally light to medium, and there is a potential for large fires. There are some possibilities for improving livestock and wildlife habitat through the use of prescribed fires. Most of the timber is overmature and there is potential for insect and disease problems. Many of the Douglas-fir stands have mistletoe infestations, and the spruce budworm infestations vary from year to year.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Squaw 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 Squaw Creek-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| Squaw 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 | 99,600 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Backcountry | 0 | 99,600 | 99,600 | CPZ | 15,700 |
| | | | | NonCPZ | 83,900 |
| GFRG | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Total Acres | 99,600 | 99,600 | 99,600 | 99,600 | |

Table Squaw Creek-2. Potential activities

| Squaw 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 | 99,600 | 99,600 | 15,700* |
| Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 99,600 | 99,600 | 99,600 | 99,600 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 99,600 | 99,600 | 99,600 | 99,600 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 99,600 | 99,600 | 15,700* |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 99,600 | 0 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 99,600 | 99,600 | 99,600 | 99,600 |

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 83,900 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 plan, around 29,200 acres would be managed under prescription 6 (Yankee Fork), 24,600 under prescription 8 (Thompson Creek), 25,500 under prescription 9 (Squaw Creek), 9,300 under prescription 10 (Bayhorse), 4,900 under prescription 13 (Garden Creek) and 6,100 under the prescription 21 (Challs Creek). Timber harvest and associated road building are generally permitted under all of these forest plan prescriptions. 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 road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Squaw 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 99,600 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 99,600 acres would be in the Backcountry theme and 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 99,600 acres under the Backcountry theme, 15,700 of which are in the CPZ.

Within the 15,700 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 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 83,900 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 99,600 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 prohibited to access to mineral leases.

Warm Creek #024

6,600 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Warm Creek Roadless Area lies about 66 air miles southeast of Challis, Idaho, on the Lost River Ranger District. It is located on the west slope of the Lemhi Mountain Range in the Little Lost River drainage, and is accessible via dirt roads and jeep trails from State Highway 22.

This roadless area is separated from the Diamond Peak Roadless Area 601 by mining access roads and areas of mineral exploration. Slopes are relatively gentle in the lower elevations and become steeper at higher elevations. Upper reaches are very rocky with small pockets of vegetation. Soils in the lower elevations are derived from quartzite parent materials. At higher elevations, the parent materials are dolomites and limestones. The predominant vegetation is sagebrush-grass. On mid-to upper-slopes, this is mixed with stands of curl-leaf mountain mahogany, mountain brush, and small patches and stringers of timber, mainly Douglas-fir. Two major ecosystems represented are the sagebrush/steppe and western spruce-fir forest. The major uses in this area are livestock grazing, mineral exploration, and hunting.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Impacts on natural integrity and appearance result from mineral exploration and assessment work on the numerous claims in the area and livestock grazing.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunity for primitive recreation and solitude is very little. Challenging experiences include few, if any.

Special Features: There are no significant scenic landmarks in the area.

Manageability: The roadless area boundaries do not follow topographic features. There is little opportunity to relocate boundaries to do so. The access from roads around the area as well as boundary definition would make enforcement of wilderness restrictions very difficult.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Bull trout and steelhead habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: There is a diversity of vegetation and topography that provides good wildlife habitat for mule deer, elk, black bear, and small game and non-game birds and mammals.

Water: The area has a generally arid appearance. There are few springs and no significant streams.

Botanical: There are no known sensitive, threatened or endangered species in this roadless area.

Recreation: Total recreation use is about 100 recreation visitor days annually, which is well below the present capacity.

Timber: The area could potentially produce an annual sustained yield of seven thousand board feet if not constrained by other resource needs, such as visuals, wildlife habitat, watershed, etc.

Range: The area is part of a large livestock grazing allotment. It is partially developed, and has the potential to produce increased livestock forage and red meat yield, if development is continued.

Minerals and Energy: There are numerous mineral lode claims in the area and ground-disturbing activities are very evident on many of these claims. The area has numerous lode mineral claims which indicate potential for continued mineral exploration and future development. Activities associated with mining exploration, claim assessment work and claim development, are authorized through current Notice of Intent and Operating Plans. Oil and gas potential is low. This roadless area contains 6,600 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: There are no private lands within this roadless area. Preliminary studies by Bonneville Power Administration have identified the possibility of future requests for a utility corridor that may be proposed to cross part of this roadless area.

Roads and Trails: This area contains both authorized and unauthorized roads and motorized trails.

Heritage: Several prehistoric archeological sites and historic sites associated with mining have been identified and more are likely to be found in the roadless area. More information is needed to determine the significance of the archeological resource in the area.

Disturbances: The potential for large fires is low due to the sparse sagebrush cover, scattered patches of timber, and a very low occurrence of ignitions. The timber stands have generally light infestations of dwarf mistletoe, spruce budworm, and mountain pine beetle. The degree of infestation varies from year to year.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Warm 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 Warm Creek-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| Warm 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 | 6,600 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Backcountry | 0 | 6,600 | 6,600 | 6,600 |
| GFRG | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Acres | 6,600 | 6,600 | 6,600 | 6,600 |

Table Warm Creek-2. Potential activities

| Warm 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 | 6,600 | 6,600 | 0 |
| Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 6,600 | 6,600 | 6,600 | 6,600 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 6,600 | 6,600 | 6,600 | 6,600 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 6,600 | 6,600 | 0 |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 6,600 | 0 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 6,600 | 6,600 | 6,600 | 6,600 |

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 plan, around 6,600 acres would be managed under prescription 22 (Sawmill Canyon). Timber harvest and associated road building are generally permitted under all of these forest plan prescriptions. Any timber activities and road building that occur could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

Mineral leases and associated road building are generally permitted under prescription 22, but there are stipulations to prevent negative impacts to wildlife habitat. These stipulations may limit new mineral leasing activities, but activity could still occur. 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 6,600 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 6,600 acres would be in the Backcountry theme and 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 6,600 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 6,600 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. 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.

White Knob #025

65,700 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The White Knob Roadless Area is located on the Lost River Ranger District. The boundary of this roadless area can be reached by several local roads, but few reach into the interior. On the east side, the boundary is approximately seven miles southwest of Mackay. The Bureau of Land Management White Knob Wilderness Study Area adjoins the southeast border of this roadless area.

This area includes the White Knob Mountain range which has elevations reaching 11,280 feet. The topography includes narrow mountain canyons with steep walls, to broad expanses of sagebrush flats at lower elevations. At higher elevations, there are cirque headwalls with vertical rock cliffs and large talus slopes, and under some of the granite peaks, there are cirque basins with small lakes and meadows. Sagebrush/grass with scattered stands of Douglas-fir and Engelmann spruce occupy the lower elevations, while vegetation occurs mostly in and around the cirque basins at higher elevations. Trees are generally subalpine fir or whitebark pine. This roadless area is located in the Rocky Mountain Forest ecosystem and the western spruce-fir forest ecosystem. The vegetation diversity of the area is good.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: There are several intrusions into the area from roads. Most of the intrusions are in the northern portion of the area on the east side of the White Knobs, and are not visible from the western side of the mountain range.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunity for primitive recreation is fairly good and solitude is available at higher elevations. Challenging experiences include non-technical climbing and winter sports.

Special Features: There are no scenic landmarks within the area. The White Knob Mountains provide scenic beauty to this roadless area. East Fork Big Lost River runs along the western boundary and is eligible for designation into the Wild and Scenic River System.

Manageability: Although the size of the roadless area is large enough to provide good wilderness experiences, the boundaries do not follow topographical features, making administrative management difficult.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The resident fisheries habitat has moderate to high potential for providing good fishing in the area.

Wildlife: Wildlife in the area includes elk, mule deer, and pronghorn antelope. The vegetation diversity of this roadless area provides habitat for elk, mule deer, and pronghorn antelope. There is good potential to increase elk and mule deer populations. There are also four head of wild horses that use the southern and eastern portions of the area for grazing.

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

Recreation: Recreation is primarily limited to hunting and some snowmobiling.

Timber: Small amounts of timber harvesting exist. There is commercial timber in the roadless area scattered throughout the canyons. The cost of access and low harvest volumes would keep use of this area at a very low level.

Range: Livestock use of the area is limited to cattle. There has been extensive work done in fencing, revegetation, and water development projects that have created the potential for increased distribution.

Minerals and Energy: Mineral exploration and mining. Parts of this roadless area have experienced high mineral activity, particularly in the northern section. Hardrock mineral interest would continue. This roadless area contains 65,700 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: There are no special land use authorizations. There is one section of State land in the eastern part of the roadless area.

Roads and Trails: Intrusions into the area include the following roads: West Fork Navarre Creek, Mammoth Canyon, Stewart Canyon, Sawmill Canyon, Cabin Creek, Burnt Hollow, Middle Fork Cherry Creek, and Richardson Canyon. These intrusions include both authorized and unauthorized roads and motorized trails.

Heritage: Because of the mining activity in parts of this roadless area, archaeological surveys to identify historic significance need to be conducted. There is also some potential for the existence of prehistoric hunting camps.

Disturbances: There has been no recent history of man-caused fires and only four lightning-caused fires. The area is not expected to be a major fire concern in the future. Timber stands have infestations of dwarf mistletoe, spruce budworm, and mountain pine beetle. The degree of infestation varies from year to year.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table White 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 White Knob-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table White Knob-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

| White 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 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Similar to Backcountry | 65,700 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Backcountry | 0 | 65,700 | 65,700 | 65,700 |
| GFRG | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Acres | 65,700 | 65,700 | 65,700 | 65,700 |

Table White Knob. Potential activities

| White 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 | 65,700 | 65,700 | 0 |
| Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 65,700 | 65,700 | 65,700 | 65,700 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 65,700 | 65,700 | 65,700 | 65,700 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 65,700 | 65,700 | 0 |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 65,700 | 0 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 65,700 | 65,700 | 65,700 | 65,700 |

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 plan, around 17,600 acres would be managed under prescription 11 (Pioneer Mountains), 23,100 acres under prescription 18 (Mackay Front) and 25,000 under prescription 25 (Antelope Creek). Timber harvest and associated road building are generally permitted under these forest plan prescriptions. Any timber activities and road building that occur could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

Mineral leases and associated road building are generally permitted under prescription 25, but there are stipulations to prevent negative impacts to wildlife habitat. These stipulations may limit new mineral leases, but activity could still occur. There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases under prescriptions 11 and 19. 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 65,700 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 65,700 acres would be in the Backcountry theme and 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 65,700 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 could be done throughout all 65,700 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. 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.

Wood Canyon #028

7,800 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Wood Canyon Roadless Area located on the Lost River Ranger District and is 7,800 acres in size. It is located about nine air miles northeast of Arco, Idaho. The area was reviewed as part of Jumpoff Mountain Roadless Area during the RARE II process. The proposed deletion of the Wood Canyon Road, not included in the 1979 RARE II analysis, separates the current area. This road now separates the Wood Canyon Roadless Area from the Jumpoff Peak Roadless Area.

The topography of the area is generally steep and rough. It has deeply etched canyons and numerous limestone formations. Most canyon bottoms are relatively flat with mild gradients at the lower elevations, but they rise abruptly a short distance above the mount as a result of past faulting. The higher elevations are characterized by gentler sagebrush/grass slopes interspersed with stringers of Douglas-fir and whitebark pine. The area is classified as a sagebrush-steppe ecosystem.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Natural integrity of the roadless area is low because of jeep tracks and grazing.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunity for primitive recreation and solitude is little due to the proximity of roads. There are no challenging experiences.

Special Features: The area has an arid appearance and does not have significant scenic attractions.

Manageability: Only a small part of the area boundary coincides with topographic features. Most of it follows the forest boundary and would be difficult to manage as wilderness boundary. There is little opportunity to change the boundaries to improve manageability. The area is over 5,000 acres in size, but is relatively small compared to other areas on the forest.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: There are no fisheries in the area.

Wildlife: A moderate diversity of wildlife habitat supports small populations of mule deer and good populations of sage grouse and pronghorn antelope. Populations of deer, antelope, and sage grouse could be increased with structural development of watering sources for wildlife use.

Water: The area receives a heavy snowpack. Runoff is very light due to the porosity of the limestone soils; there is no potential for increasing water yield.

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

Recreation: Recreation use is light, consisting primarily of big game hunting and off-road vehicle use. There are numerous old wagon roads, now used by 4-wheel drive vehicles, which originated as wood roads for firewood and cabin logs. These roads access the area from the Little Lost and Big Lost River Valleys, and the Arco Desert. Current recreation use is less than 600 recreation visitor days annually. The area does not attract significant recreation use outside of hunting.

Timber: The area has no significant timber resources, except for a few accessible firewood stands. There is no potential for commercial timber harvest in the area. Some of the timber in the area is infected with dwarf mistletoe and spruce budworm. The scattered nature and small size of the timber stands reduce potential for contributing to epidemic populations of disease or pests.

Range: The major current use is livestock grazing, both sheep and cattle. There are approximately 300 AUMs of grazing use permitted in the area. Water is a limiting factor.

Minerals and Energy: The potential for mineral development is believed to be very low. Oil and gas potential is low This roadless area contains 7,800 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no land use authorizations which would detract from wilderness values. There are no private lands in this roadless area.

Roads and Trails: This area contains both authorized and unauthorized roads and motorized trails.

Heritage: The area was believed to have had a high concentration of prehistoric hunting camps. There is good potential for identifying these sites, rock shelters, pictographs, etc. There is insufficient information, at present, available to evaluate and determine the overall significance of the historic and archeological resources of this area.

Disturbances: This area has had a low incidence of fire, either man-caused or lightning caused. Fuels are such that there is little potential for large wildfires. There is potential for using prescribed fire for improving range forage and wildlife habitat.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Wood 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 Wood Canyon-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Wood Canyon-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

| Wood 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 | 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 Wood Canyon-2. Potential activities

| Wood 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 | 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 | 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 plan, around 7,800 acres would be managed under prescription 12 (Arco Hills). Road building is generally allowed under this prescription, but must maintain other resource values (wildlife habitat, range health, etc.) Timber harvest is also permitted, but should only occur as support to other resource activities. As such, little to no timber harvest and associated road building is expected, and any that does occur would have minimal impacts due to the 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 Wood Canyon 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 7,800 acres would be in the Backcountry theme and 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 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. 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

Agency Creek #512

6,400 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

Agency Creek Roadless Area is approximately 15 air miles southeast of Salmon on the Leadore Ranger District. Access to the area is via roads along Warm Springs Creek, Pattee Creek, Agency Creek, and a road that traverses the Continental Divide between Agency Creek and Warm Springs Creek.

The area is bounded on the east by the road along the Continental Divide, on the south by the Forest boundary, on the west by a timber sale and associated roads, and on the north by the Warm Springs Creek road. Dissected by the headwaters of Pattee and Flume Creeks, sideslopes in the roadless area range from 20 percent to over 70 percent. The Challis volcanic bedrock forms a smooth and subdued topography, and results in clay loam textured soils. Vegetation on much of the area is sagebrush and grass, with Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine found on the higher elevational slopes. The area receives from 15 to 20 inches of moisture, mostly in the form of snow. The western spruce-fir, and the alpine meadows and barren ecosystems are found here.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The northern portion of the area is essentially natural appearing, with the exception of road construction activities. The central and southern portions appear modified, primarily through timber harvest activities. The area is surrounded by other areas of similar road and harvest densities. Past and current activities have influenced the area's natural integrity; these impacts would last for many years and are readily apparent to visitors. The scenery in this roadless area is generally considered common for the Salmon National Forest.

Undeveloped Character: Small intrusions on the east side of the area resulted from portions of cutting units of a 1976 timber sale. An intrusion through the center of the area is a result of a 2.7 million board feet timber sale in 1980. The area with these intrusions no longer meets roadless area criteria and would not be considered further for wilderness. Also, the 1980 sale separated the area into two parcels. The western portion is less than 5,000 acres and would not be considered further for wilderness.

Opportunities for Experience: This roadless area has a low opportunity for solitude due to size, distance from perimeter to core, lack of topographical screening, and permanent intrusions. Agency Creek Roadless Area has a low opportunity for primitive recreation due to the lack of diversity and the lack of opportunity for challenging experiences.

Special Features: The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, and Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail pass through this roadless area.

Manageability: Recent roading into the center of the roadless area has resulted in a difficult situation for the development of logical and manageable boundaries. The boundary could not be expanded in any direction due to existing roads, and deleting impacted areas would barely leave sufficient acres to meet minimum size requirements.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Several streams within the area have habitat suitable for fish, including bull trout, but fish densities are expected to be low because the streams have predominantly high gradient channels with minimal holding areas for fish. Fishing use of the area streams is light and quality would be fair.

Wildlife: The mid to lower elevation portions of this area provide good mule deer summer range and excellent big game winter range in the form of open sagebrush slopes and small stringers of Douglas-fir timber. Several hundred mule deer and elk winter in this area in the vicinity of Pasture Mountain. Antelope also summer and winter on the lower slopes within this area. The higher elevations (along the Continental Divide) consist primarily of large expanses of dense lodgepole pine timber. Mule deer and

elk migrate through this portion of the area to reach their winter range. Elk calve within this area during heavy snow years when their return towards summer range areas is delayed.

Water: This moderate water producing area is an important source of excellent quality irrigation water to ranchers in the Lemhi Valley. Hydrologic conditions vary throughout the area, showing impacts of previous grazing activities. However, the streams currently provide good fish habitat and water sources for wildlife and livestock.

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

Recreation: Recreation use at present is primarily related to hunting and firewood gathering. There were approximately 4,700 recreation visitor days in 1982.

Timber: An estimated 12.8 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated annual potential yield of .3 million board feet. Mountain pine beetle exists in endemic levels in the lodgepole pine in this roadless area. The most susceptible stands have been harvested, or would be harvested, under existing timber sale contracts.

Range: The Agency Creek Allotment and a portion of the Pattee Creek Allotment and provides approximately 700 animal unit months (AUM) of livestock use each grazing season. The majority of the suitable range is in fair to good condition. There are four existing water developments and approximately four miles of existing fence.

Minerals and Energy: The hardrock mineral potential of this area was rated moderate and there is no new data to modify the original rating. There has been no mineral production from this area; however, mining claim owners continue to do assessment work. The southern portion of the area includes part of the Lemhi Pass thorium rare-earths belt. Copper occurs in the southeastern portion of the roadless area. Oil and gas potential is low. This roadless area contains 6,400 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no private lands within the perimeter of the area.

Roads and Trails: This area contains both authorized and unauthorized roads.

Heritage: The potential for cultural resources in this roadless area is unknown. Part of the Lewis and Clark Trail are located in this area.

Disturbances: The area includes 4.7 miles of trail and there are 8.0 miles of road within the intrusion area. Segments of two permitted 69KV aerial powerlines cross a part of the area near Flume Creek and at Pattee Creek. Fire occurrence is very light in the area.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Agency 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 Agency Creek-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| Agency 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 | 6,400 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Backcountry | 0 | 0 | 6,400 | 5,200 |
| GFRG | 0 | 6,400 | 0 | 1,200 |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Acres | 6,400 | 6,400 | 6,400 | 6,400 |

Table Agency Creek-2. Potential activities

| Agency 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 | 6,400 | 6,400 | 1,200 |
| Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 6,400 | 6,400 | 6,400 | 6,400 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 6,400 | 6,400 | 6,400 | 6,400 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 6,400 | 6,400 | 1,200 |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 6,400 | 0 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 6,400 | 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 road access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan, around 6,400 acres would be managed under prescription 5B (Long-term timber with moderate investment). Under this prescription 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 phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the Agency Creek Roadless Area has little to no potential for these minerals. The area does contain 6,400 acres of medium geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities and associated road building 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 5,900 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 5,200 acres under the Backcountry theme, none of which are in the community protection zone (CPZ), and 1,200 acres under the GFRG theme.

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 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. 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.

For the 1,200 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. However the GFRG theme is located in an area which has already been roaded and harvested; therefore there would be little additional effect because the area has already been modified.

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.

Allan Mountain #946
46,500 Acres Salmon (Idaho)
102,300 Acres Bitterroot (Montana)
148,800 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

About two-thirds of the Allan Mountain Roadless Area is in Montana and about one-third is in Idaho. Resource values are identified for the whole area, and state and Forest portions. The Salmon National Forest portion of this roadless area is located on the North Fork Ranger District.

The Allan Mountain Roadless Area is located in the southern end of Ravalli County in western Montana and the northern portion of Lemhi County in east central Idaho. It lies approximately 45 miles south of Hamilton, Montana, and 40 miles north of Salmon, Idaho. Primary access is via U.S. Highway 93 which parallels the east side of the area and by the West Fork Road on the west. Various Forest roads leading from these roads serve as trailheads to provide access to the interior. Thirty trails totaling about 150 miles provide for travel within the area. Four mining roads totaling 17 miles intrude into the area. The area extends 28 miles from north to south, with a width of up to 13 miles east to west. The area is shaped like a comma with a consolidated core area containing Overwhich Falls (Montana) at the north end and a tail running to the southwest. There are several appendages, and the northern and southern portion is almost bisected by mining roads.

Elevations range from about 4,800 feet to 9,154 feet at Allan Mountain in Idaho. Approximately 60 percent of the area is above 7,000 feet. The Idaho portion drains into the Salmon River, while the Montana portion drains into the Bitterroot River. Topography is steep and generally rocky, with shallow, sandy-loam soils. Drainage bottoms are narrow, with steepened slopes rising to relatively narrow ridges in the Montana portion and wider, rounder ridges in the Idaho portion.

The area is mostly forested except for bare peaks in the Allan and Piquet Mountain areas (Montana) and at spots along the Montana-Idaho border. Lodgepole pine, subalpine fir, and whitebark pine are the major tree species above 7,000 feet. At lower elevations, Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine, and Engelmann spruce prevail. Topography, aspect, elevation, and precipitation create ecosystems that are characteristic of local mountainous areas.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Man-caused impacts occur on less than one percent of the roadless area, with most near the center in the vicinity of Overwhich Falls. These would be evident to users when onsite. Overall, the area appears natural.

Opportunities for Experience: Solitude opportunities are also excellent on the Idaho side in the vicinity of Allan Mountain. Here the mountainous region and steep drainages allow for escape from the timber harvest and roads on adjacent lands. Most of the appendages offer few opportunities for solitude. The size of the core area and topography around Overwhich Falls offer excellent opportunities for solitude. This opportunity decreases in the southern portion along the state border, due to its long, narrow configuration, and the greater opportunity to view man's activities because of mid-slope boundaries. Lower slopes leading away from this portion are roaded and timber has been harvested.

Special Features: Overwhich Falls, while carrying a relatively small volume of water, is spectacular. The geologic processes which led to Overwhich Creek cutting back through erosive materials and capturing the upper reaches of Fault Creek are significant. High scenic values exist in the area around Allan and Piquet Mountains. The 1,700 acre Allan Mountain Research Natural Area occurs in this roadless area.

Manageability: Separate wilderness boundaries could be identified for each state's portion. On the Montana side, an area around Overwhich Falls is possible, and on the Idaho side, a smaller portion around Allan Mountain is possible. Most of the current boundary is not on readily identifiable

topographic features, but is defined by the upper limits of development in individual drainages. There are opportunities to move boundaries to topographic features to enhance wilderness attributes.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The Idaho portion contains tributaries for five important anadromous fish streams, which are directly influenced by habitat conditions in these headwaters. Streams are small, cold, and fast-flowing, with gravelly, rocky bottoms, and support a native fishery. Bull trout, Chinook summer salmon, and steelhead habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Wildlife includes elk, mountain goat, black bear, mule deer, moose, mountain lion, wolverine, marten, pileated woodpecker, lynx, golden eagle, hawks, ravens, blue and Franklin grouse, cutthroat and brook trout, and smaller animals and birds that are typical of moderate to high elevation land. The area also provides security areas for game during the hunting season.

Water: This is a relatively high water-producing area. Annual precipitation ranges from 40 to 50 inches. Watershed conditions are generally excellent and water quality is high. Headwater streams are tributary to the North Fork and main Salmon Rivers and the East and West Forks of the Bitterroot River.

Botanical: The subalpine larch stands on Allan Mountain represent the southernmost limit of this species. No threatened, endangered or sensitive plant species are known to occur. Ground cover varies with elevation and aspect, but grouse whortleberry, pinegrass, beargrass, and elk sedge are common, with bunchgrasses on south-facing slopes at lower elevations. Large areas east of Piquet Mountain, and in the Straight Creek drainages (Montana) burned in 1917 and 1919, and some fairly large, grassy opening favored by wildlife were created.

Recreation: Current use is light, consisting of big game hunting, and including hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, fishing, camping, and ski touring. Major attractions include trails and campsites along the major streams and lakes and Overwhich Falls, and geologic attractions in that vicinity. The State Line, Saddle to Piquett Mountain, Allan Mountain, and Butcherknife Ridge trails provide varied subalpine scenery. Use is concentrated in these areas. The area is well-suited to primitive types of recreation. The existing trail system is well-maintained and suitable for foot, horse, and trailbike travel. Some opportunities exist for cross-country travel and water is available throughout this area. Opportunities for high-risk activities such as rock climbing are rare.

Timber: About 65 percent of the area is tentatively suitable for timber production. Unsuitable lands are concentrated at the highest elevations along the state line and prominent lateral ridges, in the vicinity of Allan Mountain and Piquett/Rombo Mountains (Montana), and on south to west-facing slopes dispersed throughout the area. Potential productivity ranges from 20 to 84 cubic feet per acre per year. Lands of higher site quality and those most suitable for development, due to favorable topography, are generally found at the lower/warmer elevations.

Range: A moderate amount of recreational horse use occurs during the fall big game hunting season. Although the Indian Ridge Cattle Allotment (Idaho) extends into the roadless area, practically all use occurs outside. The remaining allotments are in Montana with use confined primarily to meadows bordering Warm Springs Creek and grassy ridgetops to the north of Saddle Mountain and Medicine Point. On the Montana side, evidence of range activities includes fences, stock water tanks, and a cabin in Warm Springs Creek. Cattle have created bare spots around salting grounds and watering areas. Removal of cattle and facilities would allow these areas to heal.

Minerals and Energy: Mineral potential is high or very high on about 55 percent of the area. The very high rating is near Overwhich Falls where some 400 claims have been located and core drilling of low grade copper has occurred. High ratings are also concentrated in Overwhich Creek and in the Idaho portion. Minerals recorded include copper, iron, barite, gold, thorium, and rare earths. The oil and gas potential is considered low. This roadless area contains 46,500 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are five outfitter permits in the Montana portion and three in Idaho. There are about 100 acres of privately-owned land along the exterior boundary in a tributary of Hughes Creek in Montana.

Roads and Trails: This area contains both authorized and unauthorized roads and motorized trails, which include snowmobile use.

Heritage: A branch of the Southern Nez Perce Trail is believed to have traversed the southern portion near the state line. Sites are assumed to be near the trail; however, little is known about cultural sites within the roadless area. Important cultural resources include a portion of the historic Southern Nez Perce Trail and remnants of Forest Service, miner, and trapper cabins scattered throughout the area.

Disturbances: Fire occurrence is low to moderate. The potential for large, intense fires is moderate, due to heavy accumulations of downed fuels, particularly in lodgepole pine stands decimated by mountain pine beetles in the 1930's. Insects and diseases are generally endemic; however, dwarf mistletoe reduces annual growth in some areas, as does spruce budworm, a recurrent pest. There are areas of high-risk lodgepole pine that would become increasingly susceptible to mountain pine beetle attack.

The most evident fire control impacts are the helispots which have been cut along ridgetops. In most cases, a gradual return of tree cover would heal these areas.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Allan 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 Allan Mountain-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| Allan Mountain 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 | 0 |
| Primitive | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Similar to Backcountry | 46,500 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Backcountry | 0 | 33,700 | 44,400 | CPZ | 1,000 |
| | | | | NonCPZ | 43,400 |
| GFRG | 0 | 10,700 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 2,100* | 2,100* | 2,100* | 2,100* |
| Total Acres | 46,500 | 46,500 | 46,500 | 46,500 | 46,500 |

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the Allan Mountain Roadless Area is 1,700 acre as RNA and 400 acres as Special Area - Winter Sports Site. For further information on this designation, see the Salmon National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP).

Table Allan Mountain-2. Potential activities

| Allan 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 | 44,400 | 44,400 | 1,000* |
| Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 46,500 | 44,400 | 44,400 | 44,400 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 46,500 | 44,400 | 44,400 | 44,400 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 44,400 | 44,400 | 1,000* |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 44,400 | 0 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 46,500 | 44,400 | 44,400 | 44,400 |

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 43,400 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 33,700 acres are managed under prescription 2A (dispersed recreation (motorized)), 9,500 acres under prescription 3A-5A (aquatic habitat and high investment long-term timber), and 1,200 acres under prescription 3A-5B (aquatic habitat and medium investment long-term timber).

Under prescription 2A, timber harvest and associated road building is only permitted when timber is substantially damaged by fire, windthrow or other catastrophe. If temporary roads were 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 restoration objective, 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 restoration objective.

For the 10,700 acres under prescriptions 3A-5A and 3A-5B, 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 four prescriptions 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 Allan 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 46,500 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 44,400 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 44,400 acres under the Backcountry theme, 1,000 of which are in the CPZ.

Within the 1,000 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 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 43,400 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 44,400 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.

Anderson Mountain #942
18,500 Acres Salmon (Idaho)
31,100 Acres Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest (Montana)
49,600 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Anderson Mountain Roadless Area is approximately 30 air miles north of Salmon, Idaho. The Salmon portion of the Salmon-Challis National Forest portion is located on the North Fork Ranger District. The area is bounded on the east by the Continental Divide, which is the Idaho-Montana state boundary; on the south by a road along Dahlenega Creek (079) and by a road along Threemile Creek; on the west by the ridge between Anderson Creek and Crone Gulch, by the ridge between Crone Gulch and Pierce Creek, and Highway 93. Access to the area can be gained from Highway 93, from the ridge road to Anderson Mountain, and from the road along Dahlenega Creek.

The southern portion is separated by Anderson Creek, Nez Perce Creek and Threemile Creek. Pierce Creek drains the northern portion. Elevations range from about 4,600 feet near Gibbonsville, to over 8,000 feet at Anderson Mountain. Slopes are between 30 and 70 percent throughout most of the area. This area contains neither cirque basins nor lakes. Average annual precipitation of 30 to 35 inches occurs mostly as snow, spring rains, and fall rains. Summer highs of 80 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit at the low elevations contrast with winter lows of 35 to 40 degrees below zero at the higher elevations. Quartzite bedrock forms the sandy loam to loamy sand textured soils.

Much of the area is timbered with Douglas-fir, with ponderosa pine occurring on the hotter/drier sites and lodgepole pine and subalpine fir occurring at the higher elevations. Engelmann spruce is found in creek bottoms and on wet sites. Open, grassy, dry-land meadows are scattered throughout the higher elevations. The ecosystems found in the area are western spruce-fir and grand fir/Douglas-fir.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The roadless area is essentially natural appearing. Human influence on the area's natural integrity has been very low. The impacts that exist are long term in nature, but are limited to a small percentage of the land and could easily be separated by boundary modification. Most visitors would find this area to be natural and free from disturbance.

Opportunities for Experience: The area provides only moderate opportunities for solitude. The vegetative screening is dense, but the topographic screening is moderate. The distance from the perimeter to the area core rates as moderate and there are some permanent off-site intrusions. The size of the roadless area rates as low potential, contributing to the overall rating for solitude as moderate.

The opportunity for primitive recreation is high due to vegetation, diversity, and lack of recreation facilities. Opportunities would include hiking, hunting, camping, cross-country skiing and horseback riding. The opportunity for challenging experiences or encountering serious hazards is rare.

Special Features: The scenery in this roadless area is considered common for the Salmon portion of the Salmon-Challis National Forest. The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail corridor passes through this roadless area.

Manageability: Logical and manageable boundaries could be developed for this area; minor boundary changes would be necessary to eliminate an intrusion on the southwest corner. Size is not a factor with this area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Four streams within this area are known to have trout. Habitat characteristics are representative of small, moderate-to-high gradient streams. Habitat condition would be rated as good to excellent. Game fish species present include rainbow, cutthroat, and bull trout. Fishing use of the streams

is rated as light, with fishing quality fair. Bull trout, Chinook summer salmon, and steelhead habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: This large area of key elk summer range includes a significant portion of the migration corridor that is used by elk and mule deer herds that primarily summer in Montana and winter in Idaho. Wet meadows in the heads of Anderson, Smithy and Threemile Creeks, and abundant dry meadows in Pierce and Nez Perce Creeks contribute to a near-optimum cover/forage ratio for big game, as well as overall wildlife habitat diversity. The normal complement of small birds and mammals are present, and black bear, mountain lion, wolverine, and lynx are known to occur.

Water: The headwaters of two major streams tributary to the North Fork of the Salmon River are located below the Continental Divide in this area. The headwaters of Pierce Creek and Dahlenega Creek produce excellent quality water.

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

Recreation: Current recreational uses include backpacking, trail bike riding, horseback riding, cross country skiing, and hunting. Use was estimated at approximately 1,200 recreation visitor days in 1982. Recreation use associated with the Continental Divide Scenic Trail is expected to increase as implementation of the trail proceeds. Hunting use would likely increase as access to and through the roadless area improves.

Timber: Timber sale activities have occurred on 300 acres in the southwest corner. The area impacted by these activities no longer meet roadless area criteria and this portion of the roadless area would not be considered further for wilderness.

Approximately 95 percent of the area is potentially suitable timberland. The estimated standing volume is approximately 94.9 million board feet, with an estimated potential annual yield of .9 million board feet. The volume is composed of ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, and lodgepole pine. One existing intrusion results from a trespass timber harvest in 1979.

Range: Except for a small amount of recreational horse use, the area is not grazed by livestock.

Minerals and Energy: The hardrock mineral potential of the area was rated as unknown. Gold and copper occur within this area. Mining claim owners continue to do assessment work, with some expanding their claim activity. The roadless area currently contains no active mining operations. This roadless area contains 18,500 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: Part of the Keating outfitter and guide permit area is within the roadless area. There are private lands within the intrusion in Anderson Creek, and at the forks of Dahlenega Creek and Nez Perce Creek. These areas total 100 acres, and 61 acres, respectively.

Roads and Trails: This area contains both authorized and unauthorized roads and motorized trails.

Heritage: The potential for prehistoric cultural resources is considered moderate. Historic structures are known to exist, but their significance has not been evaluated.

Disturbances: Fire occurrence is moderate. As the lodgepole pine increase in diameter there is an increasing hazard of a major mountain pine beetle epidemic. However, many lodgepole stands have slow growth due to dwarf mistletoe or overstocking. Western spruce budworm periodically kills some of the understory Douglas-fir, especially on the drier sites. Occasionally, the tops of the larger trees are killed. The Douglas-fir beetle periodically kills small groups of the older, larger Douglas-fir. Dwarf mistletoe causes serious deterioration in some Douglas-fir stands.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Anderson 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 Anderson Mountain-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| Anderson 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 | 18,500 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Backcountry | 0 | 12,100 | 18,500 | CPZ | 5,300 |
| | | | | NonCPZ | 13,200 |
| GFRG | 0 | 6,400 | 0 | 0 | |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Total Acres | 18,500 | 18,500 | 18,500 | 18,500 | |

Table Anderson Mountain-2. Potential activities

| Anderson 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 | 18,500 | 18,500 | 5,300* |
| Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 18,500 | 18,500 | 18,500 | 18,500 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 18,500 | 18,500 | 18,500 | 18,500 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 18,500 | 18,500 | 5,300* |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 18,500 | 0 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 18,500 | 18,500 | 18,500 | 18,500 |

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 13,200 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 12,100 acres are managed under prescription 2A (Dispersed recreation (motorized)) and 9,500 acres under prescription 3A-5A (Aquatic habitat and high investment long-term timber).

Under prescription 2A, timber harvest and associated road building is only permitted when timber is substantially damaged by fire, windthrow or other catastrophe. If temporary roads were 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 restoration objective, 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 restoration objective.

For the 6,400 acres under prescriptions 3A-5A, 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 road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Anderson 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 18,500 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 44,400 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 18,500 acres under the Backcountry theme, 5,300 of which are in the CPZ.

Within the 5,300 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 13,200 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 18,500 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.

Blue Joint Mountain #941
500 Acres Salmon (Idaho)
65,400 Acres Bitterroot (Montana)
65,900 Total Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Blue Joint Mountain Roadless Area has a small portion in Lemhi County, Idaho and the rest in the Bitterroot Mountains in southwestern Ravalli County in western Montana. The Blue Joint Mountain Roadless Area is approximately 40 air miles north of Salmon, Idaho and 45 air miles south of Hamilton, Montana. Access is provided at many points along the boundary by forest roads which tie in with U.S. Highway 93, some 23 miles to the northeast.

The roadless area is a triangular-shaped area running 13 miles north and south and ranging in width from 4 to 13 miles. The west side borders the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness in Idaho for about 17 miles. The rest of the area is defined by roads; primarily the West Fork Road and extensions from it. The Nez Perce Road defines the northern boundary separating this area from the adjacent Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness and continuous roadless lands. Likewise, the Reynolds Lake road defines the southern boundary, separating the area from that portion of the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness in the headwaters of Reynolds Creek. Seventy-five percent of the boundary is well-defined by topographic features such as ridgetops or streams, and the remainder is at midslope above roads and/or timber harvest.

Elevations range from 4,900 to 8,600 feet. The area is generally a high, mountainous region with 50 percent of the area over 7,000 feet. Razorback Ridge and Razorback Mountain, dominant features, divide the area into northwest and southeast portions. Blue Joint Creek, by far the largest stream, drains the northwestern segment; and Chicken, Deer, and West Creeks drain the southeast. Stream bottoms are generally narrow with sideslopes rising steeply to narrow ridges. Slopes on more than one-half of the area are in excess of 60 percent, thereby confining most use to stream bottoms or ridgetops.

The area is forested except for the unique large meadows in the headwaters of Deer and Blue Joints Creeks and dry, south-facing slopes. At higher elevations rock rubble and grassy balds are common. Tree species are predominantly Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine on the warmer, lower elevation sites and lodgepole pine on cooler sites at midslope. Near the top of the higher ridges, whitebark pine is a dominant species. Ground cover is primarily pine grass, snowberry, and ninebark at lower elevations and beargrass or grouse whortleberry on higher, cooler sites.

In the Blue Joint drainage, forest fires in the late 1800 are burned over most of the area. Today, small lodgepole pine stands cover this portion contrasting with the rest of the area.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Activities that have significantly altered natural processes are minimal and just inside the eastern and southeastern boundaries. These include all or portions of seven timber sale cutting units totaling 170 acres and three miles of associated access roads. The boundary could be defined to exclude these impacts. There is a three-quarter mile fire road in the extreme headwaters of Blue Joint Creek, and about one mile of dozer trail in lower Blue Joint Creek.

These impacts are readily apparent to any visitor when onsite; however the remainder of the area appears natural. The roads have permanently altered natural processes, but cutting units would recover to nearly natural conditions in 20-30 years.

Opportunities for Experience: The northwest portion of the area is entirely enclosed by high ridges and provides outstanding solitude. This feeling is enhanced by many miles of wilderness to the west and south. No development can be seen or heard.

Solitude is somewhat lower in the southeast portion. About two miles of road in Deer Creek, outside the area, form a roaded intrusion into the headwaters of that drainage. Distant views include roads and timber sale activity just outside the area.

Civilization appears close at hand along the northern and eastern boundaries and from that portion within Woods Creek. About 40 percent of the area provides outstanding opportunities for solitude, another 40 percent provides high to moderate opportunities, and 20 percent provides low opportunities.

Special Features: Significant scenic attractions include two prominent landmarks, meadows in the upper reaches of Blue Joint and Deer Creeks, and wide panoramas viewed from the major divides. The landmarks are Castle Rock, the remnant of a volcanic plug, and a natural rock arch east of the confluence of Jack the Ripper and Blue Joint Creeks. Parts of the Southern Nez Perce Indian Trail traverse the Idaho/Montana ridge and Bare Cone lookout is in the northern portion of the area. Several archeological sites are associated with the trail.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Fish in the area include cutthroat, Dolly Varden, and brook trout. Steelhead habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Wildlife includes elk, mule deer, bighorn sheep, moose, black bears, mountain lions, wolverines, pileated woodpeckers, golden eagles, hawks, ravens, blue ruffed and Franklin grouse, and a host of smaller animals and birds.

Water: This is a relatively high water producing area. Stream runoff is estimated at 85,000 acre-feet/year, much of which is stored behind Painted Rocks Dam for irrigation and to maintain instream flows on the lower Bitterroot River. There are no structures, diversions, or ditches in the area.

Botanical: **Lemhi** penstemon (*Penstemon lemhiensis*) a Region 4 sensitive species may be present.

Recreation: Current use is very light consisting primarily of big-game hunting but also includes day hiking, wildlife viewing, horseback riding, camping and fishing. Major attractions include trails and campsites along the several larger streams and meadows. The State Line and Razorback Ridge trails provide varied alpine scenery near the crests.

Timber: About 44,000 acres, 65 percent of the area, is tentatively suitable for timber production. Unsuitable lands are concentrated at the highest elevations along the state line, Razorback Ridge, and south to west facing slopes dispersed through the area. Lower elevations, warmer sites are the most productive. Potential productivity on the 40 percent of the suitable land is low, and the remainder is moderate. The standing timber volume is 420 million board feet. Currently the area is not in the timber base nor does it contribute to the sales program.

Range: Approximately 130 AUMs of grazing occur in meadows bordering the upper reaches of Deer and Blue Joint Creeks.

Minerals and Energy: The U.S. Geological Survey and Bureau of Mines have conducted a mineral survey and prepared a report for the area (Lund and others, 1984). Hardrock mineral potential is rated high for about 40 percent of the area in the vicinity of Bare Cone Lookout, Jack the Ripper Creek, Steep Hill, Deer Creek Point, and Lower Deer Creek. Forty claims have been located, of which 15 are lode and 25 are placer. Examination of claims revealed only a few prospect pits and trenches with little or no evidence of production. Oil and gas potential as low. This roadless area contains 500 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are two outfitter guide permits for this roadless area.

Roads and Trails: Within the area, a network of eight trails provides access along major drainages and ridgetops.

Heritage: A portion of the Southern Nez Perce Indian Trail traverses the ridge crest forming the divide between Blue Joint Creek and the Nez Perce Fork of the Bitterroot River. Several archeological sites are associated with the trail. Little else is known about cultural remains.

Disturbances: Fire occurrence is low and the potential for large, intense fires is moderate due to heavy accumulation of down fuels, particularly in lodgepole pine stands that were decimated by mountain pine beetles in the 1930's. Heavy fuels are concentrated in the reaches of Chicken and Deer Creeks.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Blue Joint 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 Blue Joint Mountain-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| Blue Joint 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 | 500 | 500 |
| Similar to Backcountry | 500 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Backcountry | 0 | 500 | 0 | 0 |
| GFRG | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Acres | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 |

Table Blue Joint Mountain-2. Potential activities

| Blue Joint 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 | 500 | 0 | 0 |
| Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 500 | 500 | 500 | 0 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 500 | 500 | 0 |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 500 | 0 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 500 | 500 | 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 road access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan, around 500 acres are managed under prescription 2A (Dispersed recreation (motorized)). Timber harvest and associated road building is only permitted when timber is substantially damaged by fire, windthrow or other catastrophe. If temporary roads were 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 restoration objective, 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 restoration objective.

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescription for the Blue Joint 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 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 these 500 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 500 acres 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 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 would occur because the Primitive theme prohibits surface occupancy and the construction of new roads to access new mineral leases.

Camas Creek #901**35,400 Acres Salmon****68,500 Acres Challis****103,900 Acres Total****OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION**

The Camas Creek Roadless Area is approximately 35 air miles southwest of Salmon, Idaho and seven air miles northwest of Challis, Idaho, on the Cobalt Ranger District. The area is bounded on the west by the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness, on the northwest by the Silver Creek Road (108), on the northeast by the Panther Creek Road (055), and on the north by a roaded area. Access to the area is via roads along Silver Creek, Panther Creek, Morgan Creek, Challis Creek and Camas Creek.

The area is dissected by numerous drainages flowing into Panther Creek, Silver Creek, Camas Creek, Morgan Creek and Challis Creek. Elevations range from approximately 5,200 feet on Silver Creek to 10,196 feet on East Twin Peak. The topography ranges from gentle slopes of benches and bottomlands to near vertical headwalls in cirque basins. Much of the high country above 7,000 feet has been glaciated, with lakes formed in the glacial cirque basins. This high country is typical of alpine glaciated country. Average annual precipitation is in the 15 to 20 inch range. The majority of the precipitation occurs as snow, and spring and fall rains. Temperatures range from summer highs of 80 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit at the lower elevations to winter lows of 35 degrees below zero at the higher elevations. Acidic volcanic rocks form the bedrock for much of the area. Soils derived from this bedrock have a loamy sand to sandy texture. Quartzite is the parent material for some of the loamy sand textured soil.

Much of the area is covered by lodgepole pine and Douglas-fir. Subalpine fir occurs in the higher elevations. Ponderosa pine occurs on some of the warmer sites. Scattered throughout the lower elevations are patches of sage and grass. The area's ecosystem is western spruce-fir and grand fir-Douglas-fir.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Natural integrity for this area is fairly high.

Opportunities for Experience: There is good opportunity for solitude and winter sports such as cross-country travel could be a challenging experience.

Special Features: Some portions of the roadless area lack visual features which could be used for orientation.

Two eligible river segments for classification in the Wild and Scenic River System, Camas Creek and Panther Creek, both border this roadless area.

Manageability: The area is separated by road corridors from the Callis Creek, Taylor Mountain, and Duck Peak Roadless Areas. It is bordered by a roaded area on the north and is contiguous with the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness on the west.

The area's east side is bordered by improved roads and timber sales, some of which penetrate the roadless area; the west side follows the wilderness boundary. Several four-wheel drive roads exist in the roadless area. In much of the roadless area, steep terrain makes access difficult. Logical and manageable boundaries could be developed for the northern part of the roadless area. A boundary change could be made along the north edge to delete intrusions related to mining.

Intrusions which might alter the roadless area boundary include logging and roads near Van Horn Creek, Annie Rooney Creek, Lick Creek, White Valley Creek, and Panther Creek, and roads in the Pats Creek, Alder Creek, and Spruce Gulch Lake areas.

Two intrusions totaling 800 acres were identified within the inventoried boundaries. One is a mining-related access road which provides access to mining claims north of Arrastra Creek; the other is a logging road in the northeast corner of the area. The areas directly affected no longer meet roadless area criteria and would not be considered further for wilderness.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The area contains anadromous fish spawning streams. Several lakes provide excellent habitat for resident trout, and others have the potential to support fish but have not been stocked. Most streams are characterized as small, high gradient headwaters. The lower reaches most likely support small numbers of fish. Streams in the Castle Creek, Furnace Creek, and Silver Creek drainages influence anadromous fish production in Camas and Silver Creeks. Most of the fishing opportunity in the area is provided by high mountain lakes. Bull trout, Chinook summer salmon, and steelhead habitat overlaps this roadless area. This roadless area overlaps steelhead, Chinook summer salmon and bull trout priority watershed.

Wildlife: Wildlife present includes elk, deer, bear, bighorn sheep, goats, and cougar. A large portion of the area has good vegetative diversity, providing classic high elevation big game summer habitat. Elk, bighorn sheep, and mule deer are found in this area, as are black bear and many species of small birds and mammals. Spruce grouse are particularly abundant. The area also contains important big game winter habitat. There is good potential for big game population increases within existing habitat.

Water: The area is located within tributaries of the Middle Fork and main Salmon Rivers. The predominant geology of the area is volcanic and highly erosive. This results in high sedimentation rates in streams during spring runoff. The area produces a moderate water yield due to precipitation levels as high as 40 inches a year.

Botanical: Flexible alpine collomia (*Collomia debilis var. camporum*) a sensitive plant species occurs in this roadless area.

Recreation: Current recreation uses include hunting, fishing, backpacking, and horseback riding. Use is estimated at approximately 6,700 recreation visitor days. Extended back country trips by foot or horse are possible.

Recreation activities consist of hunting, fishing, backpacking, trail riding, and trailbike use. Most recreation use occurs during the fall hunting season. Patterns, types, and amounts of recreation use are not expected to significantly change in the near future. The area's greatest recreation potential is for primitive recreation activities. Current use is significantly below present capacity. There are several trails in the area.

Timber: There are an estimated 370 million board feet of sawtimber within the roadless area, with an estimated annual potential yield of 3.9 million board feet. Extensive and expensive road construction in steep terrain would be needed to support such a harvest level. Other resource constraints would reduce this level.

Range: A portion of the area is currently grazed by livestock with use of approximately 2,800 AUMs per year. Portions of the Camas Creek, Eddy Creek, and Morgan Creek-Prairie Basin cattle and horse allotments are within the roadless area. About 2,800 AUMs of use are permitted on this roadless area. With the exception of a few heavy use sites, much of the suitable range is in good condition. There are numerous structural range improvements within the roadless area portion of the allotment.

Minerals and Energy: The hardrock mineral potential of the northern part of the area has been rated high, which has been affirmed by the U.S. Geological Survey. Past mineral production from the area includes gold and silver. In addition, there is a high potential for gold, silver, and fluorspar associated with volcanic rocks of the Twin Peak and Van Horn Peak Cauldron Complexes. There are three patented mining claims in the area. There is little potential for leasable minerals such as oil and gas. This roadless area contains 103,900 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: A large portion of the area is used by outfitters and guides, specifically during the big game hunting season.

This area includes 79.8 acres of private land (patented mining claims) in Arrastra Creek and 60 acres of private land near the mouth of Eddy Creek. The Eddy Creek property could be excluded by a slight boundary modification.

Roads and Trails: This area contains both authorized and unauthorized roads and motorized trails.

Heritage: Several prehistoric archeological sites have been identified and more are likely to be found in the roadless area. There are some mine structures located at the north edge of the roadless area that may have historical interest.

Disturbances: There have been several man-caused and lightning fires during the last decade. Most of these were very small; however, fuels and large acreages of old growth timber provide potential for large wildfires. There is potential for using prescribed fire to improve livestock range and wildlife habitat.

In some parts of the area, Douglas-fir has been repeatedly defoliated by western spruce budworm, which reduces growth and kills understory seedlings and saplings. Mountain pine beetle and Douglas-fir beetle are endemic in the area. Mountain pine beetle appears to be increasing in lodgepole pine.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Camas Creek-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 Camas Creek-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Camas Creek-1a. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative (Salmon only)

| Camas Creek Management Theme Salmon | 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 | 35,400 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Backcountry | 0 | 27,800 | 35,400 | 35,400 |
| GFRG | 0 | 7,600 | 0 | 0 |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Acres | 35,400 | 35,400 | 35,400 | 35,400 |

Table Camas Creek-1b. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative (Challis only)

| Camas Creek Management Theme Challis | 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 | 68,500 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Backcountry | 0 | 68,500 | 68,500 | CPZ | 10,500 |
| | | | | NonCPZ | 58,000 |
| GFRG | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Total Acres | 68,500 | 68,500 | 68,500 | 68,500 | |

Table Camas Creek-1c. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative (Total)

| Camas Creek 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 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Similar to Backcountry | 103,900 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Backcountry | 0 | 96,300 | 103,900 | CPZ | 10,500 |
| | | | | NonCPZ | 93,400 |
| GFRG | 0 | 7,600 | 0 | 0 | |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Total Acres | 103,900 | 103,900 | 103,900 | 103,900 | |

Table Camas Creek-2. Potential activities (Salmon and Challis combined)

| Camas Creek 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 | 103,900 | 103,900 | 10,500* |
| Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 103,900 | 103,900 | 103,900 | 103,900 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 103,900 | 103,900 | 103,900 | 103,900 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 103,900 | 103,900 | 10,500* |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 103,900 | 0 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 103,900 | 103,900 | 103,900 | 103,900 |

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 93,400 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 Camas Creek Roadless Area in the Salmon National Forest, around 27,800 acres would be managed under prescription 2A-1 (Dispersed recreation (motorized on designated routes)), 4,600 acres under prescription 3A-5B (Aquatic habitat and moderate investment long-term timber), 3,000 acres under prescription 3A-5C (Aquatic habitat and low investment long-term timber). For the portions of the roadless area in the Challis National Forest, around 54,000 acres would be managed under prescription 21 (Challis Creek) and 14,500 acres under prescription 23 (Furnace Creek).

Under prescription 2A, timber harvest and associated road building is only permitted when timber is substantially damaged by fire, windthrow or other catastrophe. If temporary roads were 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 restoration objective, 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 restoration objective.

For the 76,100 acres under prescriptions 3A-5B, 3A-5C, 21 and 23 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 four prescriptions 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 Camas 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 35,400 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 103,900 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 103,900 acres under the Backcountry theme, 10,500 of which are in the CPZ.

Within the 10,500 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 93,400 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 103,900 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 since road construction for new mineral leases is prohibited.

Deep Creek #509

7,100 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

Deep Creek Roadless Area is 10 air miles southwest of Salmon, Idaho, on the Salmon/Cobalt Ranger District. It is bounded on the south by a timber sale and associated roads, on the west by Forest Roads 099, 100, on the northwest by Forest Road 055 along Panther Creek, and on the north by Forest Road 101 and timber harvest activities. Access to this area can be gained from the Forest roads.

Deep Creek and Little Deep Creek dissect the roadless area, which has slopes ranging from relatively gentle (15 to 30 percent) at the higher elevations, to steep (60 to 70 percent) along Panther Creek and Deep Creek. Elevations range from 5,000 feet to 8,000 feet. Summer highs of 80 to 90 degrees contrast with winter lows of 40 below zero. Annual precipitation of 15 to 30 inches occurs mostly as snow. Soils are formed from quartzite bedrock and have loamy sand to sandy loam textures. Lodgepole pine and Douglas-fir cover most of the area, with sagebrush and grass meadows occurring throughout the area. Western spruce-fir and grand fir/Douglas-fir are the ecosystem types represented in the Deep Creek Roadless Area.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Much of this area appears modified, primarily through timber harvest activities and road building. Timber has significantly alter the natural appearance of almost half the area. The area is surrounded by other areas of similar road and harvest densities. Past and current activities have a high influence on the area's natural integrity, and impacts would last for many years and are readily apparent to visitors.

Opportunities for Experience: This area has dense vegetative screening, but because of the small size, small distance from core to perimeter, and gentle topography, the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation experiences are only low to moderate. Opportunities for challenging experiences or encountering serious hazards are rare.

Special Features: There are no special attractions or features in this area.

Manageability: Road corridors separate Deep Creek from three other roadless areas on the northwest, northeast, and southwest. It is bordered by developed lands on the west, north, east, and southeast. Recent roading into the center of this area has made development of logical and manageable boundaries difficult. The boundary could not be expanded in any direction due to existing roads, and deleting impacted areas would leave an area for which logical boundaries would be impossible.

One timber sale intrusion occurred in the middle portion of the area. This sale extended across the entire width of the roadless area and split the Deep Creek Roadless Area into two separate roadless areas; #509 Deep Creek and #509A South Deep Creek. The South Deep Creek Roadless Area is addressed in a separate write-up. The timber sale covered 10,900 acres. The area impacted by these timber sale activities no longer meets roadless area criteria and would not be considered further for wilderness.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Bull trout, Chinook summer salmon, and steelhead habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Big game summer habitat potential is high, but existing low numbers of mule deer and elk reflect an unbalanced cover/forage ratio. Deep Creek Roadless Area is also characterized by old growth Douglas-fir stands along the ridge tops, and thus provides excellent habitat for pileated woodpecker and other species. Pine marten are abundant along drainages.

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

Recreation: Recreation use was estimated at 3,600 recreation visitor days in 1982 and includes hunting and firewood gathering. Hunting use is not expected to change significantly in the foreseeable future.

Minerals and Energy: This roadless area contains 7,100 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are 52 acres of private land at the Blackpine Mine.

Roads and Trails: This area contains both authorized and unauthorized roads and motorized trails.

Disturbances: Douglas-fir beetle periodically kills small groups of the older, larger Douglas-fir.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Deep 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 Deep Creek-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| Deep 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 | 7,100 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Backcountry | 0 | 1,000 | 7,100 | 0 |
| GFRG | 0 | 6,100 | 0 | 7,100 |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Acres | 7,100 | 7,100 | 7,100 | 7,100 |

Table Deep Creek-2. Potential activities

| Deep 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 | 7,100 | 7,100 | 7,100 |
| Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 7,100 | 7,100 | 7,100 | 7,100 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 7,100 | 7,100 | 7,100 | 7,100 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 7,100 | 7,100 | 7,100 |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 7,100 | 0 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 7,100 | 7,100 | 7,100 | 7,100 |

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 6,100 acres would be managed under prescription 5A (Long-term timber with high investment) and 1,000 acres under prescription 4A (Big game winter range for forage and cover).

Roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes for the 6,100 acres under prescription 5A. For the 1000 acres under prescription 4A, timber harvest and associated road building are permitted as long as they don't conflict with standards to protect big game winter range. Any timber activities and road building that occur could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term, although the impacts under prescription 4A would be limited by the requirement to protect big game winter range.

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Deep 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 7,100 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 7,100 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 7,100 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 the GFRG theme is located in an area which has already been roaded and harvested; therefore there would be little additional effect because the area has already been modified.

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.

Duck Peak #518

48,700 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Duck Peak Roadless Area is approximately 25 miles southwest of Salmon, Idaho, on the Salmon/Cobalt Ranger District. It is bounded on the east by Forest Road 055 along Panther Creek, on the southeast by Forest Road 108 along Silver Creek, on the southwest by a fluorspar mine and the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness, on the northwest by Forest Road 112 along Yellowjacket Creek, and on the north by Forest Road 112 along Porphyry Creek.

Panther, Silver, Camas, and Yellowjacket Creeks dissect the area with slopes ranging between 20 and 60 percent. Duck Peak is the highest point at 8,900 feet the low point is 4,800 feet. Summer highs of 90 degrees Fahrenheit contrast with winter lows of 40 below zero. Annual precipitation of 20 to 35 inches falls mostly as snow. Quartzite and volcanic bedrock form sand to loamy sand textured soils. Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine, interspersed with sagebrush and grass meadows, cover much of the area. Some ponderosa pine occurs along Silver Creek. Western spruce-fir, and grand fir/ Douglas-fir are the ecosystems represented.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The area is essentially natural appearing, with outstanding scenery along Camas Creek, Cabin Creek, and other scattered areas. Road corridors separate Duck Peak from three other roadless areas McEleny, Musgrove, and Camas Creek on the northwest, northeast, and southeast. Adjacent to the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness on the south and west, it is bordered by developed lands on the east. Visitors would find this roadless area to be natural appearing.

Opportunities for Experience: Due to its large size, good diversity, good topographic and vegetative screening, good distance from core to perimeter and lack of developed recreation facilities, this area provides a high opportunity for solitude and primitive recreation experiences. Opportunities for challenging experiences or encountering serious hazards are rare.

Special Features: The Dry Gulch-Forge Creek Research National Area (1,400 acres) is partially within the roadless area, containing rare plants, water falls and hot springs of ecological significance.

Two eligible river segments for classification in the Wild and Scenic River System, Camas Creek and Panther Creek, both boarder this roadless area.

Manageability: Boundary adjustments would be necessary to delete existing intrusions before this area would be capable of being designated wilderness. Logical and manageable boundaries could be developed for this roadless area without its size being a critical factor. Man's influence on the natural integrity of this roadless area has been very low, and intrusions could be deleted by boundary adjustment.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Numerous small streams drain into the significant anadromous fish habitat of the Middle Fork drainage. Several of these streams provide habitat for small populations of resident trout. Fishing use of the area streams is rated as light, with quality rated as fair to good. Bull trout, Chinook summer salmon, steelhead, inland redband trout, pacific lamprey, and westslope cutthroat habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: This large area is extremely diverse in terms of vegetative are topographic features, containing a wide variety of wildlife habitats over almost a mile of vertical relief. Key big game winter ranges occur along Camas and lower Yellowjacket Creeks. The area is used by summering mule deer and elk, but the northern half has particularly high quality big game summer range and elk calving areas. Mountain goats, black bear, mountain lion, and a wide variety of small mammals and birds occur in this area.

Water: The area includes a wide range of water producing zones, as precipitation rates vary from 20 to 45 inches. Watershed conditions are generally good throughout; however, naturally erosive volcanic soils in much of the area results in high stream sedimentation rates. Streamflow from the area contributes to tributaries of the Middle Fork of the Salmon River, as well as Panther Creek.

Botanical: Lemhi penstemon (*Penstemon lemhiensis*) a sensitive plant species occurs in this roadless area.

Recreation: Recreation use, estimated at 2,300 recreation visitor days during 1982, includes hunting, fishing, horseback riding, and backpacking. Current patterns, types, and amounts of recreation use are not expected to change significantly in the near future. This area includes eight trails totaling 29.3 miles, and nine roads totaling 11.4 miles within the intrusion area.

Timber: An estimated 199.3 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated annual potential yield of 2.9 million board feet. As the lodgepole pine increase in diameter there is an increasing hazard of a major mountain pine beetle epidemic, especially in the lower elevation lodgepole stands. However, many lodgepole stands have slow growth due to dwarf mistletoe or over stocking. The western spruce budworm is periodically killing some of the understory Douglas-fir, especially on the drier sites. Occasionally, the tops of the larger trees are being killed. The Douglas-fir beetle periodically kills small groups of the older, larger, Douglas-fir.

Range: Livestock graze on a small part of the area. Much of the Camas Creek cattle and horse allotment is within the roadless area; however, due to the rugged topography and small amounts of suitable range in the roadless area portion, only a small percentage of the 900 permitted AUMs on the allotment occur within the roadless area. There are no structural range improvements.

Minerals and Energy: The southwestern half of the area has a high hardrock mineral potential for gold, silver, and fluorspar associated with the volcanics of the Van Horn Cauldron complex, and portions have been classified as prospectively valuable for geothermal resources. The hardrock mineral potential of the northeastern half of the area is unknown, but it has produced minor amounts of lead, zinc, and silver in the past. There are currently no active mining operations within the area. Mining claim owners continue to do assessment work, with some expanding their claim activity. There is no known potential for other currently leasable minerals. This roadless area contains 48,700 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no private lands within the area.

Roads and Trails: This area contains both authorized and unauthorized roads and motorized trails.

Heritage: The potential for prehistoric cultural resources is considered high along Camas Creek and low throughout the remainder of the roadless area. Historic cultural resource potential is considered low.

Disturbances: Fire occurrence is light.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Duck 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 Duck Peak-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| Duck 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 | 3,500 | 0 | 0 |
| Similar to Backcountry | 48,700 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Backcountry | 0 | 11,900 | 47,300 | 47,300 |
| GFRG | 0 | 31,900 | 0 | 0 |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 1,400* | 1,400* | 1,400* |
| Total Acres | 48,700 | 48,700 | 48,700 | 48,700 |

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

Table Duck Peak-2. Potential activities

| Duck 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 | 48,700 | 48,700 | 0 |
| Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 48,700 | 48,700 | 48,700 | 47,300 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 48,700 | 48,700 | 48,700 | 47,300 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 48,700 | 48,700 | 0 |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 48,700 | 0 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 48,700 | 48,700 | 48,700 | 47,300 |

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 2B (Dispersed recreation with semi-primitive non-motorized) , 1,000 acres under prescription 3A-4A (Anadromous fish and key big game winter range), 2,400 acres under prescription 3A-5A (Aquatic habitat and high investment long-term timber), 7,200 acres under prescription 3A-5B (Aquatic habitat and moderate investment long-term timber), 22,300 acres under prescription 3A-5C (Aquatic habitat and low investment long-term timber), and 10,900 acres under prescription 4B-1 (Key elk summer range).

Under prescription 2B and 4B-1, timber harvest and associated road building is only permitted when timber is substantially damaged by fire, windthrow or other catastrophe. If temporary roads were 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 restoration objective, 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 restoration objective.

For the 31,900 acres under prescriptions 3A-5A, 3A-5B, 3A-5C, roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes. For the 1,000 acres under 3A-4A roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes as long as they don't conflict with standards to protect big game winter range. Any timber activities and road building that occur under these four prescriptions could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term, although the impacts would be limited by the requirement to protect big game winter range.

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Duck 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 48,700 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 47,300 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 47,300 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. 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 47,300 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. 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.

Goat Mountain #944
35,700 Acres Salmon (Idaho)
9,600 Acres Beaverhead-Deerlodge (Montana)
45,300 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

For a complete description of the entire roadless area, refer to the Beaverhead National Forest Plan Draft EIS. The Goat Mountain Roadless Area is located on the North Fork Ranger District. The Goat Mountain Roadless Area is approximately 30 air miles southeast of Salmon, Idaho, and three air miles north of Leadore. The area is bounded on the south and east by the forest boundary, on the north by the Idaho-Montana border and by the Grizzly Hill Road (012) along the border, on the east by State Highway 29. Access to the area can be gained from these roads.

The area is dissected by one major stream, Little Eightmile Creek, and numerous smaller streams. The highest point in the roadless area is 9,900 feet at Goat Mountain; the low point is 6,200 feet above sea level. The topography of the area is broad rounded ridges with slopes ranging from 20 to 50 percent. The headlands of Little Eightmile Creek are rugged alpine glaciated topography. Average annual precipitation of 15 to 20 inches occurs mostly as snow. Temperatures vary from summer highs of 80 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit, to 40 below zero in the winter. Sedimentary limestone bedrock forms the loamy textured soils of this area, much of which is covered with sagebrush and grass. Lodgepole pine occurs at the higher elevations and Douglas-fir patches are scattered throughout the area. The ecosystems that occur in the area are western spruce-fir and sagebrush.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The majority of the area is essentially natural appearing. Man's influence on the natural integrity of this roadless area has been very low except in some areas near Grizzly Hill, where mining exploration has scarred the landscape. The impacts that exist are long term in nature, but are limited to a small percentage of the roadless area and can be separated by boundary modification. This roadless area would be apparently natural to most visitors, but there are impacts that would be apparent to some visitors.

Opportunities for Experience: The area provides moderate opportunity for solitude due to moderate size, little topographic or vegetative screening, moderate distance from core to perimeter and the existence of some permanent off-site intrusions. Due to these factors and the lack of diversity, the area has a low opportunity for primitive recreation. Opportunities for challenging experiences or encountering serious hazards are rare.

Special Features: The roadless area contains some outstanding scenery, particularly in the vicinity of Goat Mountain, and East and West Peak. The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail corridor passes through this roadless area.

Manageability: The roadless area is contiguous with roadless lands on the Beaverhead National Forest along its northeast side. Logical and manageable boundaries could be developed for the area, but boundary changes would be necessary to delete existing intrusions. Size is not a factor with this area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Only one small stream within the area contains habitat presently supporting fish, and it has moderate to high channel gradients. Cutthroat trout are found in the stream. There is also one water storage pond located within the Little Eightmile drainage that provides habitat for fish. Present fishing use is very light.

Wildlife: The gray wolf may frequent this area, although its presence has not been confirmed. Evidence is strong enough that this roadless area was included in a "Wolf Coordination Area" with the Beaverhead National Forest.

The lower elevations of this area comprise a large block of key big game winter range, particularly in the Little Eightmile drainage. The drainage is also important to waterfowl in that the numerous basin potholes are used for nesting and brood-rearing. Approximately 400-450 antelope migrate through the Railroad Canyon portion each spring and fall, and mule deer migrate through the Little Eightmile - Grizzly Hill country. Sage grouse, chukars and blue grouse are found in this area. Prairie falcons and golden eagles commonly nest in this area, and moose are occasionally observed. A small herd (8-10 animals) of mountain goats inhabits Goat Mountain. Pygmy rabbit, a Region 4 sensitive species also occurs in this roadless area

Water: The area includes several small drainages with headwaters along the Continental Divide. Many of the streams are intermittent. Water which does leave the forest is used for irrigation of ranch lands. Watershed quality is generally good; however, a few localized disturbances have been identified which resulted from past management practices. All streams are within the Lemhi River drainage.

Botanical: There are no known areas of ecological significance.

Recreation: Recreation use was estimated at 2,800 recreation visitor days in 1982 and is primarily related to hunting and off road vehicles. Recreation use associated with the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail would increase as implementation of the trail proceeds. Hunting use could be expected to decline somewhat should motorized use of the area be prohibited.

Timber: Approximately 8 percent of the area is potentially suitable timberland. The estimated standing volume is approximately 15 million board feet having an estimated annual potential yield of .5 million board feet. The volume is composed primarily of Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine. A 1.074 million board feet timber sale was sold in this roadless area in 1980.

Range: Three grazing allotments are entirely within the roadless area, and the Grizzly Hill Allotment is partially in the area. The Peterson Creek, Little Eightmile, and Grizzly Hill cattle and horse allotments provide about 2,650 AUM's of cattle use each year. The Mollie Gulch sheep and goat allotment was formerly grazed by 1,200 sheep for 400 AUMs of permitted use. Within the roadless area boundary are 15 water developments and 32.9 miles of fence. Although a small amount of excellent and poor condition range exists, the majority of the suitable range is rated as good or fair.

Minerals and Energy: The hardrock mineral potential of this area is rated as high. Past mineral production from this area includes silver, gold, copper, lead and zinc. There is one patented mining claim within the area. Mining claim owners continue to do assessment work, with some expanding activities on their claims. There are no active mining operations at this time within the roadless area. Oil and gas potential for this area is considered low. This roadless area contains 35,700 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There is one tract of private land at the Commodore Mine totaling 19.5 acres. This roadless area includes six separate special use permits for mining access roads totaling about 10.5 miles. There is an Electronic Communications Site permitted adjacent to the intrusion area and the State of Idaho has requested an additional electronic site inside the area. Four-tenths of a mile of a forest road and .6 mile of permitted power line (12.5 KV) are also within the intrusion. About 4.3 miles of the power line are outside the intrusion. The area has been used in the past for outfitter and guiding.

Roads and Trails: This area contains both authorized and unauthorized roads and motorized trails. Approximately 6.2 miles of the Continental Divide Trail are within the northeast perimeter of the area.

Heritage: Prehistoric and historic cultural resources are known to exist within this roadless area, but their significance has not been determined.

Disturbances: Fire occurrence is light. Since most of the area contains high elevation non-timber types and sagebrush grass types, disease considerations are minimal.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Goat 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 Goat Mountain-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| Goat 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 | 35,700 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Backcountry | 0 | 34,700 | 35,700 | CPZ | 400 |
| | | | | NonCPZ | 35,300 |
| GFRG | 0 | 1,000 | 0 | 0 | |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Total Acres | 35,700 | 35,700 | 35,700 | 35,700 | |

Table Goat Mountain-2. Potential activities

| Goat 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 | 35,700 | 35,700 | 400* |
| Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 35,700 | 35,700 | 35,700 | 35,700 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 35,700 | 35,700 | 35,700 | 35,700 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 35,700 | 35,700 | 400* |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 35,700 | 0 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 35,700 | 35,700 | 35,700 | 35,700 |

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 35,300 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 34,700 acres are managed under prescription 2A (Dispersed recreation with semi-primitive motorized), 800 acres under 5B (Long-term timber with high investment) and 200 acres under prescription 8A (Rangeland management).

Under prescription 2A, timber harvest and associated road building is only permitted when timber is substantially damaged by fire, windthrow or other catastrophe. If temporary roads were 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 restoration objective, 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 restoration objective. For the 1,000 acres under prescriptions 5B and 8A, 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 four prescriptions could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term. However, the 200 acres under prescription 8A are generally non-forested so little to no timber harvest (or road building to access timber harvest) is expected.

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Goat 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 35,700 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 35,700 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 35,700 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 35,300 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 35,700 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 since road construction for new mineral leases is prohibited.

Goldbug Ridge #903A

12,800 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Goldbug Ridge Roadless Area is approximately 15 air miles south of Salmon, Idaho, and 20 air miles east of Challis, Idaho, on the Salmon/Cobalt Ranger District. The western boundary follows the Forest boundary. The eastern boundary follows the ridge between Twelvemile Creek and the main Salmon River tributaries of Dummy, Briney, and Second Creeks, crosses the head of Meadow Creek, and then crosses the upper Warm Spring Creek drainage to the Forest boundary. The southern boundary follows Long Ridge in the Phantom Creek area. Access to the Goldbug Ridge Roadless Area can be gained via roads and trails in Twelvemile, Warm Spring, Poison, and Phantom Creeks.

The roadless area is dissected by numerous small streams that drain into the Salmon River. Elevations range from 5,000 feet to over 9,300 feet at Poison Peak. The area is the northern extension of the basin and range topography found in Utah and Nevada. The high country does not have the evidence of alpine glaciation that is typical of the area to the south. The topography is more subdued with broad rounded ridges. Annual precipitation ranges from 15 to 25 inches, most of which occurs as snow. Temperatures range from summer highs of 80 to 90 degrees to wintertime lows of -40 degrees Fahrenheit. Quartzites, limestones, and volcanic rocks form the bedrock. Soil textures range from loamy sands to loamy clays. Lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir, and subalpine fir are the tree species. Sagebrush and grass are interspersed throughout the area. The ecosystems are western spruce-fir and sagebrush.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The area is essentially natural appearing. Human activity has not greatly affected the natural integrity of most of the area. Visitors would find this roadless area to be apparently natural.

Undeveloped Character: Three intrusions were identified within the inventory boundary. One is timber related and located along Goldbug Ridge on the north end of the roadless area. The other two are mining and off-highway vehicle related road corridors up Poison Creek and Phantom Creek on the southwest, southern and southeastern portion of the area. The area directly impacted by these activities totals 3,791 acres which no longer meet roadless area criteria and would not be considered further for wilderness.

Opportunities for Experience: Due to moderate size, very good topographic screening, good vegetative screening, good diversity, and lack of developed recreation facilities, the area offers a high opportunity for solitude and for primitive recreation experiences. The area offers few opportunities for challenging experiences or encountering serious hazards.

Special Features: The hot spring pools located in Warm Spring Creek are a significant special attraction.

Manageability: Logical and manageable boundaries could easily be developed for this roadless area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: This area contains two streams supporting populations of resident trout. Fish production is very high because of the limestone parent materials in the drainage. Habitats have been influenced by grazing and off-highway vehicle use of the area. Fishing use is light to moderate with quality being good to excellent.

Wildlife: The Goldbug Ridge Roadless Area is a large area with excellent vegetative and topographic diversity. Low timber productivity and ruggedness have combined to keep the area roadless, and big game numbers reflect this condition. Key summer elk and mule deer habitat in the form of abundant meadows and large blocks of dense lodgepole pine - subalpine fir timber exists throughout this area. Elk numbers are particularly high. Mountain goats are found along the crest of the area and bighorn sheep are occasionally observed throughout. Excellent black bear habitat and populations exist in the major canyons and fringes of lower elevation timber. Antelope inhabit the lower elevation sagebrush slopes in

the area, and key big game winter range is present in the lower elevations of several major drainages. A wide variety of small birds and mammals ranging from sage grouse to snowshoe hares inhabit the area.

Water: The area contains headwaters of several moderate sized drainages which are tributary to the main Salmon River. Much of the water yield is used for irrigation on ranches in the Salmon River valley. Watershed conditions are generally excellent as is the quality of water produced. This roadless area contains 2,900 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 related to big game hunting, fishing, backpacking, horseback riding, trailbike riding, and use of natural hot springs. Use was estimated at 1,200 recreation visitor days in 1982. Current high use of the hot springs would continue.

Timber: The productivity rating is low. An estimated 37 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated potential annual yield of approximately 0.25 million board feet per year.

Range: Portions of two cattle and horse allotments are within the roadless area. The two allotments are grazed by 633 cattle for approximately 2,214 AUMs of livestock use. Range conditions are mostly good and fair with small areas of poor condition range. Range improvements within the roadless area boundary amount to six water developments, 10.3 miles of fence, and one stock bridge.

Minerals and Energy: The area has moderate to high potential for silver. Oil and gas potential of the area is low. This roadless area contains 12,800 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Roads and Trails: A few trails dissect the area, which include snowmobile use.

Landownership and Special Uses: There is one Bonneville Power Administration-identified potential power corridor through the area.

Heritage: Little is known about the existence of prehistoric or historic cultural resources in the area. The potential for prehistoric sites is moderate in the vicinity of the hot springs pools.

Disturbances: Western spruce budworm periodically kills understory Douglas-fir seedlings and saplings, and occasionally kills the tops of larger trees in portions of the area. The stands of large diameter lodgepole at lower elevations run the risk of a mountain pine beetle epidemic. Dwarf mistletoe is common in lodgepole pine.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Goldbug 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 Goldbug Ridge-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| Goldbug 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 | 7,200 | 0 | 0 | |
| Similar to Backcountry | 12,800 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Backcountry | 0 | 4,500 | 12,800 | CPZ | 2,300 |
| | | | | NonCPZ | 10,500 |
| GFRG | 0 | 1,100 | 0 | 0 | |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Total Acres | 12,800 | 12,800 | 12,800 | 12,800 | |

Table Goldbug Ridge-2. Potential activities

| Goldbug 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 | 12,800 | 12,800 | 2,300* |
| Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 12,800 | 12,800 | 12,800 | 12,800 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 12,800 | 12,800 | 12,800 | 12,800 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 12,800 | 12,800 | 2,300* |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 12,800 | 0 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 12,800 | 12,800 | 12,800 | 12,800 |

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 10,500 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 7,200 acres are managed under prescription 2B (Dispersed recreation with semi-primitive non-motorized), 700 acres under prescription 5B (Long-term timber with moderate investment), 400 acres under prescription 5C (Long-term timber with low investment), and 4,500 acres under prescription 4B-1 (Key elk summer range).

Under prescription 2B and 4B-1, timber harvest and associated road building is only permitted when timber is substantially damaged by fire, windthrow or other catastrophe. If temporary roads were 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 restoration objective, 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 restoration objective.

For the 1,100 acres under prescriptions 5B and 5C, 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 four prescriptions 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 Goldbug Ridge 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 12,800 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 47,300 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 12,800 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 10,500 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 12,800 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 since road construction for new mineral leases is prohibited.

Haystack Mountain #507

12,100 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Haystack Mountain Roadless Area is located 10 air miles west of Salmon, Idaho, on the Salmon/Cobalt Ranger District, and is bounded entirely by the Moose Creek Road (061), the Leesburg Road (242), and the Arnett Creek Road (0601), all of which provide access to the area.

The area forms a part of the Leesburg Basin and is dissected by tributaries of Arnett Creek and the headwaters of Napias Creek. Slopes vary from 30 to 60 percent. The high point is at 8,700 feet, the low is at 6,500 feet. Summer highs of 80 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit contrast with winter lows of 40 below zero. Soils are formed from granite, quartzite, and volcanic bedrock, and have textures from loamy clay to sand. Lodgepole pine and Douglas-fir cover much of the area. Wet, grassy meadows occur along some of the drainages. The ecosystem is grand fir/Douglas-fir.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The northern portion of the roadless area is natural appearing. Human influence on the area's natural integrity is almost is low, The south eastern portion of the area appears modified, primarily through timber harvest activities. The area is surrounded by other areas of similar road and harvest densities. Past and current activities have influenced the area's natural integrity; these impacts would last for many years and are readily apparent to visitors.

Undeveloped Character: One mining related intrusion was identified along the southwest boundary during public and management review. This area does not meet roadless area criteria and has been removed from the inventory.

Opportunities for Experience: Although this area is not large and the relatively gentle topography does not provide good screening, there is dense vegetative screening to help provide a high opportunity for solitude. A lack of diversity, as well as the above factors, contributes to only a moderate opportunity for primitive recreation experience. Opportunities for challenging experiences or encountering serious hazards are rare.

Special Features: The roadless area contains no special attractions or features.

Manageability: Road corridors separate Haystack Mountain Roadless Area from four other roadless areas on the west, north, and east. It is bordered by developed lands on the south. Logical and manageable boundaries could be developed for this roadless area. Size is not a factor.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Many of the streams have been influenced by past placer mining activity. A small amount of fish habitat might be present in the lower reaches of Camp and Rapps Creeks. It is not likely that any appreciable amount of fishing occurs within this area. Inland redband trout, pacific lamprey, and westslope cutthroat habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: This relatively small area is predominantly covered by dense lodgepole and mixed conifer timber. Forage for mule deer and elk is limited, and the habitat potential for these species could be improved through timber management activities. Pine marten are abundant in this area, and snowshoe hares are commonly observed.

Water: The roadless area is located in the headwaters of several small drainages in the Napias Creek watershed. Watershed conditions are generally good, but the lower portions of the watersheds have had historic mining activities which caused some damage to stream channels. Water yield from moderate precipitation levels of up to 35 inches a year results in generally good to excellent water quality.

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

Recreation: Recreation use estimated at 1,100 recreation visitor days in 1982 is primarily related to hunting. Current recreation use is related almost entirely to hunting. Due to the lack of attractions in the area, types and amounts of use are not expected to significantly change.

Timber: An estimated 42.8 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated annual potential yield of 4 million board feet.

Range: The majority of the roadless area is within the Williams Basin/Napias Creek Cattle and Horse Allotment. However, due to limited suitable range, actual grazing use is insignificant. There are no structural improvements within the roadless area.

Minerals and Energy: The hardrock mineral potential of this area is high. Past mineral production includes substantial amounts of gold. There are numerous patented mining claims within the roadless area, and owners of non-patented mining claim are continuing to do assessment work. Some claim owners are expanding their claim activity. There are four past producing mines within the area, but there are currently no active mining operations. This roadless area contains 12,100 acres of medium geothermal potential. Potential resources include lode and placer gold.

Landownership and Special Uses: The area includes 0.5 mile of non-system trail and 1.5 miles of unauthorized road within the intrusion. Haystack Mountain Roadless Area is not used for outfitter and guide purposes. The area includes three tracts of private land totaling 132 acres.

Roads and Trails: This area contains both authorized and unauthorized roads, which include snowmobile use.

Heritage: Prehistoric and historic cultural resource potential is unknown.

Disturbances: Fire occurrence is moderate. As the lodgepole pine increase in diameter there is an increasing hazard of a major mountain pine beetle epidemic. However, many lodgepole stands have slow growth due to dwarf mistletoe or over stocking.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Haystack 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 Haystack Mountain-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| Haystack 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 | 12,100 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Backcountry | 0 | 0 | 12,100 | 9,700 |
| GFRG | 0 | 12,100 | 0 | 2,400 |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Acres | 12,100 | 12,100 | 12,100 | 12,100 |

Table Haystack Mountain-2. Potential activities

| Haystack 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 | 12,100 | 12,100 | 2,400 |
| Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 12,100 | 12,100 | 12,100 | 12,100 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 12,100 | 12,100 | 12,100 | 12,100 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 12,100 | 12,100 | 2,400 |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 12,100 | 0 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 12,100 | 12,100 | 12,100 | 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 12,000 acres would be managed under prescription 5B (Long-term timber with moderate investment) and 100 acres under prescription 5C (Long-term timber with low investment). Under both of these prescriptions 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 phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the Haystack Mountain Roadless Area has little to no potential for these minerals. The area does contain 12,100 acres of medium geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities and associated road building 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 12,100 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 9,700 acres under the Backcountry theme, none of which are in the CPZ, and 2,400 acres under the GFRG theme.

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 9,700 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. 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.

For the 2,400 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. However the GFRG theme is located in an area which has already been roaded and harvested; therefore there would be little additional effect because the area has already been modified.

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.

Italian Peak #945

50,100 Acres Salmon (Idaho)
 141,200 Acres Targhee (Idaho)
 91,300 Acres Beaverhead-Deerlodge (Montana)
 191,300 Acres Total – Idaho
 282,600 Acres Total – Idaho and Montana

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Italian Peak Roadless Area overlaps the Continental Divide and is located on the Salmon portion of the Salmon-Challis National Forest, Targhee portion of the Caribou-Targhee and Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forests. The Italian Peak Roadless Area is approximately 25 air miles west of Dubois, Idaho, and five air miles east of Leadore. The area is bounded on the northeast by State Highway 29, and by the Salmon portion of the Salmon-Challis forest boundary on the rest of the area. A Bureau of Land Management wilderness study area abuts the southern portion of the area. Access to the Italian Peak Roadless Area from the Salmon National Forest can be gained from the State highway and from Road 130 along Cruikshank Creek, Forest Road 177 along Hawley Creek, and Forest Road 188 in Dry Canyon. Access to the Targhee portion occurs in several locations including, Willow Cr., Viola Gulch, Scott Canyon, Mahogany Canyon, Long Canyon, Crooked Cr., Nicholia and Chandler Canyons, Webber Cr., and Divide Cr.

Several drainages occur in the area: Cruikshank Creek, Hawley Creek, Willow Creek, Crooked Creek, Webber Creek, Divide Creek and Deadman Creek. Elevations range from 6,800 feet to over 11,393 feet at Scott Peak. The area forms the western slope of the Continental Divide and is the northern extension of the basin and range topography found in Utah and Nevada. Glaciation has formed rocky ridges and high peaks with broad U-shaped canyons in the headlands of the drainages. Steep canyon walls with rock outcroppings are typical of the lower elevation topography. Precipitation, mostly in the form of snow, ranges from 15 to 20 inches annually. Summer high temperatures of 80 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit contrast with winter lows of 40 below zero. A mixture of limestone, quartzite, and volcanic rocks forms the bedrock, producing soils with textures ranging from loamy clays to loamy sands. Much of the country is covered with sagebrush and grass. Douglas-fir and limber pine occurs throughout the lower elevations, with lodgepole pine and some whitebark pine occurring on the higher elevations. The ecosystems that occur in the area are Douglas fir-limber pine and mountain mahogany and sage-grass.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The majority of the area is essentially natural appearing. Man's influence on the natural integrity of this roadless area has been low, with the exception of the mining that occurred in the late 1880's at the Viola Mine. The long term impacts that exist can be deleted by boundary modification, or have a moderate feasibility of correction. This roadless area would be apparently natural to most visitors.

Undeveloped Character: On the Salmon, three intrusions were identified within the inventory boundary. Two are mining related and are located in the vicinity of Big Bear Creek and Bull Creek, and total 5,100 acres. One is timber related and is located between Frank Hall Creek and Wildcat Creek for a total of 2,000 acres. The area directly impacted by these activities no longer meets roadless area criteria and would not be considered further for wilderness. On the Targhee, the Viola Mine area would not be consistent with wilderness consideration, however, the remainder of the IRA on the Targhee is undeveloped and a significant portion of this area including a portion on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge has been recommended for wilderness.

Opportunities for Experience: The area has significant size and good distance from core to perimeter, significant amounts of topographic and vegetative screening and there are some permanent off-site intrusions, all of which result in a high opportunity for solitude. Due to these factors and moderate amounts of diversity, the opportunity for primitive recreation is high. Opportunities for challenging experiences or encountering serious hazards are high.

Special Features: This area contains some outstanding scenery, particularly in the high divide country. The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail passes through this roadless area. The Targhee portion includes the Webber Creek Research Natural Area which is included in the portion of the area recommended for wilderness in the Targhee Revised Forest Plan (1997). The Italian Peaks offer challenging technical climbing and contain many of the highest peaks in Idaho.

Manageability: The Italian Peak Roadless Area is contiguous with another roadless area on the east; the Bureau of Land Management Eighteen mile Wilderness Study Area on the southwest; Bureau of Land Management administered lands on the west and north; and is separated by a road corridor from another roadless area on the north. Logical and manageable boundaries could be developed for this roadless area, with boundary changes to delete existing intrusions. Size is not a factor with this roadless area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The area contains four streams with significant resident fisheries. Several other streams support populations of resident rainbow, cutthroat and rainbow-cutthroat hybrid trout. Divide Lake provides excellent trout habitat. Fishing use of the streams ranges from light to heavy.

Wildlife: Inherent vegetative diversity and a wide range of elevation make this area important to many wildlife species. Elk calving and mule deer fawning areas are located in the upper portion of the Cruikshank and Hawley Creek drainages, as are important riparian areas for small birds and mammals. This area contains both key big game winter and summer range. Moose are occasionally observed.

The Targhee portion, contains significant elk and deer winter and summer range. The Italian Peaks support a significant population of mountain goats and the southern end of the area includes habitat for a small population of bighorn sheep. Some of the Targhee portion is considered occupied habitat for Canada lynx, a threatened species.

Water: The majority of use, in the Salmon portion, is within the Hawley Creek drainage. General fishing quality would be rated as good to excellent. The area is located in the headwaters of the Lemhi River and includes portions of the Canyon Creek drainage, Hawley Creek drainage and several small intermittent streams which contribute directly to the Lemhi River. Generally, water yield is low to moderate and is used extensively for irrigation.

Streams on the Targhee portion, include Willow Creek that is used for irrigation and during normal flows does not connect to Birch Creek. Webber Creek is also used for irrigation and is a tributary to Medicine Lodge Creek.

Botanical: Lemhi penstemon (*Penstemon lemhiensis*) a sensitive plant species occurs in this roadless area.

Recreation: On the Salmon, recreation use, estimated at 9,400 recreation visitor days in 1982, includes hunting, fishing, backpacking, horseback riding, trail bike riding, snowmobiling, and off-highway vehicle use. Recreation use of this roadless area is expected to increase as implementation of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail proceeds. The Targhee portion of the roadless area includes 60 miles of road and 36 miles of trail open to summer motorized use. The area is open to snowmobiling in the winter, however, due to steep terrain and snow conditions, snowmobile use is generally light.

Timber: Timber is primarily Douglas-fir and limber pine with some lodgepole pine and whitebark pine also occurring.

Wildland Fire Use (WFU): Most of the Targhee portion of this area is managed for Wildland Fire Use. The application of the appropriate management response to naturally-ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific resource management objectives in predefined, designated areas outlined in Fire Management Plans.

Range: On the Salmon, three cattle and horse allotments are permitted within the roadless area. Grizzly Hill, Hawley Creek and Powderhorn cattle allotments account for nearly 7,000 AUMs of permitted use annually. The Chamberlain Sheep Allotment was formerly grazed by 1,200 sheep for approximately 360

AUMs of permitted use. Most of the suitable range is in either good or fair condition, with small amounts of poor and excellent condition range present. There are 47 water developments and 61.1 miles of fence within the roadless area.

On the Targhee, there are nine cattle allotments and three sheep allotments. These areas are characterized primarily by mountain big sagebrush-Idaho fescue, with inclusions of mountain big sagebrush-bluebunch wheatgrass. Low sagebrush communities also are common within the area.

Minerals and Energy: The hardrock mineral potential of this area was rated high. There has been no mineral production from this area however; mining claim owners continue to do assessment work. Gold, copper, and thorium occur in the area. There are no known phosphate deposits in the area. Oil and gas potential for the area is considered low. This roadless area contains 191,300 acres of medium geothermal potential (Idaho portion). The area is considered to have low potential for oil and gas.

Landownership and Special Uses: The Salmon portion of this area includes five special use permits for access roads totaling about 10.4 miles. Also included are 21.4 miles of trails (1-1/2 miles within the intrusion), and 13.7 miles of non-system trails. The Continental Divide Trail runs along the east perimeter for 10.4 miles. This area has previously been used for outfitter and guide purposes. The area contains one tract of private land (HES #659) totaling 148.2 acres.

Roads and Trails: This area contains both authorized and unauthorized roads and motorized trails.

Heritage: Prehistoric and historic cultural resources are known to exist in this roadless area, but their significance has not been determined.

Disturbances: Fire occurrence is light. Although western spruce budworm has not caused severe defoliation, the insect does reduce Douglas-fir cone crops and kills some understory Douglas-fir. The Douglas-fir beetle periodically kills small groups of the older, larger Douglas-fir.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Italian Peak-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 Italian Peak-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Italian Peak-1a. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative (Salmon only)

| Italian Peak Management Theme Salmon | 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 | 2,500 | 0 | 0 |
| Similar to Backcountry | 50,100 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Backcountry | 0 | 20,600 | 50,100 | 50,100 |
| GFRG | 0 | 27,000 | 0 | 0 |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Acres | 50,100 | 50,100 | 50,100 | 50,100 |

Table Italian Peak-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative (Targhee only)

| Italian Peak Management Theme Targhee | Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule | Alternative 2 Existing Plan | Alternative 3 Proposed Rule | Alternative 4 Modified Rule |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Wild Land Recreation | 0 | 48,700 | 48,700 | 48,700 |
| Primitive | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Similar to Backcountry | 141,200 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Backcountry | 0 | 49,700 | 49,700 | 89,400 |
| GFRG | 0 | 39,700 | 39,700 | 0 |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 3,100* | 3,100* | 3,100* |
| Total Acres | 141,200 | 141,200 | 141,200 | 141,200 |

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the Italian Peak Roadless Area is 100 acres as a Concentrated Development Area and 3000 acres as a RNA. For further information on this designation, see the Targhee National Forest LRMF.

Table Italian Peak-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative (Total)

| Italian Peak Management Theme Total | Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule | Alternative 2 Existing Plan | Alternative 3 Proposed Rule | Alternative 4 Modified Rule |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Wild Land Recreation | 0 | 48,700 | 48,700 | 48,700 |
| Primitive | 0 | 2,500 | 0 | 0 |
| Similar to Backcountry | 191,300 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Backcountry | 0 | 70,300 | 99,800 | 139,500 |
| GFRG | 0 | 66,700 | 39,700 | 0 |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 3,100 | 3,100 | 3,100 |
| Total Acres | 191,300 | 191,300 | 191,300 | 191,300 |

Table Italian Peak-2. Potential activities (Salmon and Targhee combined)

| Italian Peak 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 | 139,500 | 139,500 | 0 |
| Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 191,300 | 139,500 | 139,500 | 139,500 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 191,300 | 139,500 | 139,500 | 139,500 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 139,500 | 139,500 | 0 |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 139,500 | 39,700 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 191,300 | 139,500 | 139,500 | 139,500 |

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): For the portions of the Italian Peaks Roadless Area in the Salmon National Forest, around 2,500 acres would be managed under prescription 2B (dispersed recreation with semi-primitive non-motorized), 2,900 acres under prescription 4A (big game winter range for forage and cover), 17,700 acres under prescription 4B-1 (key elk summer range), 700 acres under prescription 5B (long-term timber with moderate investment), and 26,300 acres under prescription 8a (rangeland management). For the portions of the roadless area in the Targhee national forest, around 48,700 acres would be managed under prescription 1.3 (recommended wilderness), 15,600 acres under prescription 2.7 (deer and elk winter range), 34,100 acres under prescription 3.2 (g) (semi-primitive motorized), and 39,700 acres under prescription 6.1 (range management).

Under prescription 2B and 4B-1, timber harvest and associated road building is only permitted when timber is substantially damaged by fire, windthrow or other catastrophe. If temporary roads were 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 restoration objective, 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 restoration objective.

For the 2,900 acres under prescription 4A, timber harvest and associated road building are permitted as long as they don't conflict with standards to protect big game winter range. Any timber activities and road building that occur could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term, although the impacts under prescription 4A would be limited by the requirement to protect big game winter range.

Roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes under prescription 5B and 8A. Any timber activities and road building that occur under these two prescriptions could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term. However, the 1,700 acres under prescription 8A are generally non-forested so little to no timber harvest (or road building to access timber harvest) is expected.

For portions on the Targhee National Forest, timber activity is only permitted in the 48,700 acres under prescription 1.3 if emergency conditions arise for protecting public safety, and no road building is permitted. These acres therefore expect little to no timber activity and would therefore maintain both their roadless and wilderness characteristics.

Timber harvest and road building to access the timber harvest is allowed under prescription 2.7 if these activities improve or maintain additional habitat values, e.g. improvements in winter elk range habitat. While the immediate impact of any timber harvest would likely alter roadless characteristics in the short run, the dual objective of habitat protection would limit the long term impact.

Prescription 3.2 allows limited timber activities such as harvest for firewood and posts and poles for fencing, but little activity is expected here either since the forest plan guideline for this area discourages road development.

The rangeland management prescription 6.1 allows timber harvest to improve wildlife habitat. However, these lands are generally non-forested so little to no timber harvest (or road building to access timber harvest) is expected. As such, it is unlikely that roadless characteristics would be altered.

For the Targhee National portion of the roadless area, all mineral activities are prohibited on the 48,700 acres under Recommended Wilderness. While the remaining Targhee forest plan prescriptions do not have any prohibitions against mineral activities, no oil and gas activity is expected because of forest-wide decision in 2000 that made most of the Targhee unavailable for oil and gas leasing. There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Salmon National Forest portion of the Italian Peaks Roadless Area. The Italian Peaks Roadless Area contains 191,300 acres of medium geothermal potential, and if any geothermal leasing occurred, it would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term. There are no known phosphate deposits in the area, so no phosphate activity is expected either.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule 39,700 acres would fall under the GFRG theme, 99,800 acres would fall under the Backcountry theme, and 48,700 acres under the Wild Land Recreation theme.

The 48,700 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.

Under the Proposed Rule 99,800 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.

For the 39,700 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. However, most this area is rangeland, so little to no timber cutting is likely. 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 Italian Peaks Mountain Roadless Area, the area does contain 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 theme since roads are not permitted for mineral leases. The Backcountry and GFRG 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 139,500 acres under the Backcountry theme, none of which are in the CPZ, and 48,700 acres under the Wild Land Recreation theme.

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 139,500 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. 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 since road construction for new mineral leases is prohibited.

No timber cutting, road building or mineral activities would occur in the 48,700 acres in the Wild land Recreation theme because these activities are prohibited. These acres would therefore maintain both their roadless and wilderness characteristics.

Jesse Creek #510

14,000 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Jesse Creek Roadless Area is one air mile west of Salmon, Idaho on the Salmon/Cobalt Ranger District. The area is bounded on the east by the Forest boundary, on the north by the powerline from Salmon to the Cobalt Mine, on the west and south by the Salmon River Mountain Road (020) and the Spring Creek Road (026). This area can be accessed from the forest road system.

The area is dissected by one major drainage, Jesse Creek, and several smaller drainages. Slopes range from 30 to 70 percent. Baldy Mountain is the highest point at over 9,100 feet; the low point is 4,400 feet. Summer highs of 85-95 degrees Fahrenheit contrast with winter lows of 40 below zero. Annual precipitation, mostly in the form of snow, ranges from 15 to 25 inches. Quartzite and volcanic bedrock form loamy clay to loamy sand textured soils. The lower elevational slopes are covered with sagebrush and grass, with lodgepole pine and Douglas-fir at the higher elevations.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Approximately three-fourths of the roadless area is essentially natural appearing, with the remainder affected by road construction and timber harvest activities. Man's influence on the natural integrity of this area has been very low in the southern three-fourths, and high in the remainder of the area. The southern three-fourths of the roadless area would be apparently natural to most visitors; but the remainder is obviously affected in many sections, with the impacts readily apparent to all visitors.

Undeveloped Character: Five intrusions have been identified in the roadless area. The Cobalt Townsite powerline crosses the northern portion of the area and the area north of the powerline has been impacted by a 2.9 million board feet timber sale sold in 1983. Three other intrusions occur along the southeastern edge. One is the Jesse Creek Administrative Site and storage area and the other two are water transmission and storage facilities which were constructed and are periodically maintained by heavy equipment. The areas impacted by these activities total 4,400 acres which no longer meet roadless area criteria and would not be considered further for wilderness.

Opportunities for Experience: Due to the area's size and sparse to moderate vegetative and topographic screening, it offers only low opportunity for solitude. In addition, it has little diversity and offers only low opportunity for primitive recreation experiences. Opportunities for challenging experiences or encountering serious hazards are rare.

Special Features: Outstanding scenery exists in some of the mayor canyons, with the remainder of the area considered common for the Salmon portion of the Salmon-Challis National Forest.

Manageability: The area is separated by road corridors from three other roadless areas on the west and south. It is bordered by developed National Forest System lands on the north, and developed Bureau of Land Management and private lands on the east. Logical and manageable boundaries could be developed for this area. Size would not be a factor when making necessary boundary modifications to delete logging intrusions in the north.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Jesse Creek has a minor amount of suitable fish habitat, with lower reaches supporting a small number of fish. U-P Lake provides habitat for cutthroat trout, which is stocked on a three-year cycle. No fishing pressure is expected on the streams. U-P Lake receives moderate to heavy use because of its close proximity to Salmon.

Wildlife: This entire area provides good summer range for mule deer, but contains more cover than needed at the upper elevations and less cover than needed at the lower elevations. These lower slopes do, however, constitute key winter range for mule deer. Elk are present on the southern portion of the area in small numbers, but do not presently occur throughout. Some opportunities for big game habitat

improvement exist in the dense lodgepole stands in the higher elevations. Abundant, large, rock outcrops provide good nesting habitat for several species of raptors.

Water: 13,700 of this area have been recognized as the Salmon City municipal watershed, and is the source of much of Salmon's domestic water supply. Watershed conditions are generally excellent, as is the water quality. Minimal disturbance has occurred in the southern three-fourths of the roadless area; the remainder, which includes Bob Moore Creek, has had recent road and timber entries. All area streams are irrigation sources.

Botanical: Lemhi penstemon (*Penstemon lemhiensis*) a sensitive plant species occurs in this roadless area.

Recreation: Recreation use, estimated at 300 recreation visitor days in 1982, is related primarily to hunting. This area is generally not considered available for recreation use because it contains the Salmon municipal watershed. Recreation use is not prohibited, but it also is not encouraged.

Timber: An estimated 38.4 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated annual potential yield of .2 million board feet.

Range: The area is not grazed by livestock.

Minerals and Energy: The hardrock mineral potential of this area is rated as moderate. There are no active mining operations, but past mineral production includes minor amounts of gold, silver, copper, lead, and zinc. Minor occurrences of tungsten have also been recorded within the area. There is about 14,000 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: The Chipps Creek-Pollard Creek-Jesse Creek area is the watershed for the Salmon City municipal water supply and is managed under a Co-op Agreement signed on June 8, 1939, by the Secretary of Agriculture. In addition, the City has several permits for related water facilities, and there are two water impoundment permits for use on adjacent private land. The intrusion area includes 40 acres of private land at U-P Lake.

Roads and Trails: This area contains both authorized and unauthorized roads and motorized trails.

Heritage: The potential for prehistoric cultural resources is considered moderate, and the potential for historic cultural resources is considered low.

Disturbances: As the lodgepole pine increase in diameter there is an increasing hazard of a major mountain pine beetle epidemic. However, many lodgepole stands have slow growth due to dwarf mistletoe or over stocking. Western spruce budworm is periodically killing some of the understory Douglas-fir. The Douglas-fir beetle periodically kills small groups of the older, larger Douglas-fir.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Jesse 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 Jesse Creek-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| Jesse 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 | 9,500 | 0 | 0 | |
| Similar to Backcountry | 14,000 | 0 | 14,000 | 0 | |
| Backcountry | 0 | 4,500 | 0 | CPZ | 2,600 |
| | | | | NonCPZ | 11,400 |
| GFRG | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Total Acres | 14,000 | 14,000 | 14,000 | 14,000 | |

Table Jesse Creek-2. Potential activities

| Jesse 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 | 14,000 | 14,000 | 2,600* |
| Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 14,000 | 14,000 | 14,000 | 14,000 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 14,000 | 14,000 | 14,000 | 14,000 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 14,000 | 14,000 | 2,600* |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 14,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 14,000 | 14,000 | 14,000 | 14,000 |

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 11,400 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 9,500 acres are managed under prescription 2B (dispersed recreation with semi-primitive non-motorized), 3,200 acres under 5B (long-term timber with high investment) and 1,300 acres under prescription 8a (rangeland management).

Under prescription 2B, timber harvest and associated road building is only permitted when timber is substantially damaged by fire, windthrow or other catastrophe. If temporary roads were 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 restoration objective, 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 restoration objective.

For the 4,500 acres under prescriptions 5B and 8A, 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 four prescriptions could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term. However, the 1,300 acres under prescription 8A are generally non-forested so little to no timber harvest or road building to access timber harvest) is expected.

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Jesse 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 14,000 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 14,000 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 14,000 acres under the Backcountry theme, 2,600 of which are in the CPZ.

Within the 2,600 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 11,400 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 14,000 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 since road construction for new mineral leases is prohibited.

Jureano #506

25,400 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Jureano Roadless Area is located on the Salmon/Cobalt Ranger District. The Jureano Roadless Area is 15 air miles west of Salmon, Idaho. The area is bounded on the east by road 061 along Moose Creek, on the southeast by the powerline from Salmon to the Cobalt Mine, on the west by the Panther Creek Road 055, and on the north by a developed area in Hot Springs Creek. Access can be gained from these forest roads.

The area is dissected by Trail Creek, Beaver Creek, and smaller drainages that flow into Panther Creek. The slopes along Panther Creek are steep (greater than 70 percent) and rocky. Elevations range from 3,500 feet to over 8,300 feet at Jureano Lookout. Summer highs of 80 and 90 degrees Fahrenheit contrast with winter lows of 40 degrees below zero. Soils are derived from granite of the Idaho Batholith and quartzite bedrock. Textures range from sandy loam to sand. Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine cover much of the area, with openings of sagebrush and grass. Much of the Panther Creek face is rock outcrop and talus slopes. The ecosystem is western spruce-fir and grand fir/Douglas-fir.

Three intrusions totaling 300 acres were identified during the review of the roadless area inventory. One is a road corridor up Beaver Creek, one resulted from a 1968 timber sale in the northeast corner of the area near the headwaters of Beaver Creek, and one on the south end resulted from the Cobalt Townsite powerline. Two portions of the inventoried area are now separated from the main roadless area. The first on the northwest corner was separated by the Beaver Creek Road. The second on the southern edge was separated by the Cobalt Townsite powerline. Both of these separated parcels are less than 5,000 acres in size.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The northern portion of the area is essentially natural appearing, and would appear so to most visitors. The southern area appears modified, primarily through timber harvest activities, including roads. Past and current activities have influenced the southern portion's natural integrity; these impacts would last for many years and are readily apparent to visitors.

Opportunities for Experience: Due to large size, good topographic screening, and moderate vegetative screening, the area offers a high opportunity for solitude. In addition, the lack of developed recreation facilities results in a high opportunity for primitive recreation experiences. Opportunities for challenging experiences or encountering serious hazards are few.

Special Features: The area contains limited amounts of outstanding scenery in the Panther Creek canyon. Panther Creek is recommended for eligibility into the Wild and Scenic Classification system. The scenery in the remainder of the roadless area is considered common for the Salmon portion of the Salmon-Challis National Forest.

Manageability: Road corridors separate Jureano from three other roadless areas on the west, southwest and northeast. Developed lands border it on the north and southeast. Logical and manageable boundaries could be developed for this area with minor boundary changes to delete existing intrusions. Size is not a factor. Man's influence on the area's natural integrity has been very low. The primary existing impacts are a primitive road with moderate feasibility of correction, and a powerline corridor. A portion of the area is segregated from the rest of the area by the powerline. This segregated area does not meet the minimum size standards.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: These are only minor amounts of fish habitat, primarily in Beaver Creek and to a lesser degree Trail Creek. Habitat conditions would be rated as fair and population densities would be low. Fishing use is very light and quality would be fair.

Wildlife: The extremely rough, rocky nature of the area's lower two-thirds provide ideal bighorn sheep habitat. Elevational differences make it possible for sheep to summer and winter. Mule deer and elk summer throughout, and winter primarily on the Panther Creek face. Mountain lion are particularly abundant, and bobcats are commonly encountered. The great gray owl, a Region 4 sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

Water: Located in several small drainages which are tributary to Panther Creek, the area receives from 20 to 35 inches of precipitation a year. Generally, water quality is good, but some mining activities have caused damaged stream channel and watershed conditions in a few locations.

Botanical: Lemhi penstemon (*Penstemon lemhiensis*) a sensitive plant species occurs in this roadless area.

Recreation: Recreation use estimated at 2,700 recreation visitor days in 1982, mostly related to hunting. Due to the lack of attractions in the area, types and amounts of use are not expected to change significantly.

Timber: An estimated 101.6 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated annual potential yield of 0.8 million board feet per year.

Range: Portions of the Williams Basin-Napias Creek Cattle and Horse Allotment are within the roadless area; however, very little suitable range and only a small number of grazing AUM's actually occur within the roadless area portion of the allotment. Few, if any, structural improvements are located in the roadless area.

Minerals and Energy: The hardrock mineral potential of this area is rated as high. Past mineral production includes silver, and lode and placer gold. There are several patented mining claims within the area, and non-patented mining claim owners continue assessment work. Some non-patented mining claim owners are expanding their claim activity. Hardrock mineral potential includes gold, silver, copper, cobalt, and molybdenum. This roadless area contains 25,400 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: The area was previously used for outfitter and guide purposes. The area includes a patented homestead and a patented mining claim, both tracts totaling 53.9 acres.

Roads and Trails: This area contains both authorized and unauthorized roads and motorized trails., and 1.9 miles of 69KV powerline within the intrusion.

Heritage: Prehistoric cultural resource potential is considered moderate in the Panther Creek canyon and low throughout the remainder of the area. Several historic structures are known to exist, but their significance has not been determined.

Disturbances: Fire occurrence is moderate. As the lodgepole pine stands age, the chances of a major mountain pine beetle epidemic increase. Western spruce budworm periodically kills some understory Douglas-fir, and the tops of larger trees, especially on the drier sites. The Douglas-fir beetle periodically kills small groups of the older, larger trees. Dwarf mistletoe is causing serious deterioration in a few Douglas-fir stands along Trail Creek.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Jureano-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 Jureano-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| Jureano 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 | 25,400 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Backcountry | 0 | 6,900 | 25,400 | CPZ | 4,000 |
| | | | | NonCPZ | 17,100 |
| GFRG | 0 | 18,500 | 0 | 4,300 | |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Total Acres | 25,400 | 25,400 | 25,400 | 25,400 | |

Table Jureano-2. Potential activities

| Jureano 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 | 25,400 | 25,400 | 8,300* |
| Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 25,400 | 25,400 | 25,400 | 25,400 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 25,400 | 25,400 | 25,400 | 25,400 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 25,400 | 25,400 | 8,300* |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 25,400 | 0 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 25,400 | 25,400 | 25,400 | 25,400 |

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 17,100 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 13,200 acres would be managed under prescription 5B (long-term timber with moderate investment), 5,300 acres under prescription 5C (long-term timber with low investment), and 6,900 acres under prescription 4A (big game winter range for forage and cover).

Roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes for the 18,500 acres under prescription 5B and 5C. For the 6,900 acres under prescription 4A, timber harvest and associated road building are permitted as long as they don't conflict with standards to protect big game winter range. Any timber activities and road building that occur could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term, although the impacts under prescription 4A would be limited by the requirement to protect big game winter range.

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Jureano 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 25,400 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 25,400 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 21,100 acres under the Backcountry theme, 4,000 of which are in the CPZ and 4,300 acres under the GFRG theme.

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 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 17,400 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 21,100 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 4,300 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. However the GFRG theme is located in an area which has already been roaded and harvested; therefore there would be little additional effect because the area has already been modified.

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.

Lemhi Range #903**153,500 Acres Salmon****155,000 Acres Challis****308,500 Acres Total****OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION**

The Lemhi Range Roadless Area is located on the Challis, Lost River and Leadore Ranger Districts. The northern portion of the area is approximately 15 air miles south of Salmon, Idaho, and 20 air miles east of Challis, Idaho. The area continues in a southeasterly direction for a distance of 45 miles. The area extends approximately 50 miles along the Lemhi Mountain Range and ranges from three to ten miles in width. Except for a large area in Hayden Creek-Mill Creek, and smaller areas in Big Eightmile Creek and Little Timber Creek, the east boundary generally follows the old Salmon Forest boundary. The west boundary generally follows the old Challis Forest boundary. Access to the area can be gained via Forest roads originating in the Lemhi and Pahsimeroi Valleys.

The area is dissected by numerous small streams that drain into the Lemhi and Pahsimeroi Rivers. The streams in the northern portion drain into the main Salmon River. Elevations range from 5,000 feet to 11,300 feet. The area is a northern extension of the basin and range topography found in Utah and Nevada. The range trends northwest-southeast. Much of the high country has been glaciated and lakes have formed in the glacial cirque basins at the heads of many of the major drainages. The high country is typical of alpine glaciated country. Barren, rocky peaks and ridges occur throughout the area. Annual precipitation ranges from 15 to 25 inches, most of which occurs as snow. Temperatures range from summer highs of 80 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit to winter lows of 45 degrees below zero. Granites, quartzites, limestones, and volcanic rocks form the bedrock from which the soils are formed. The soil textures range from loamy sands to loamy clays. Lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir, and subalpine fir are the tree species that occur in the area. Sage-grass communities are interspersed throughout the area. This area is classified as a western spruce-fir ecosystem type.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The roadless area is substantially natural appearing.

Opportunities for Experience: The area has high natural integrity, and good opportunities for solitude, primitive recreation, and challenging experiences.

Special Features: Practically the entire area is a special attraction due to the outstanding scenery provided by the Lemhi Range. Two Research Natural Areas, Mill Lake (2,000 acres) and Bear Valley (2,400 acres), are within the roadless area and a third Research Natural Area, Sheep Mountain (200 acres), is partially within the roadless area. Due to the large size and diversity of the roadless area, it is likely there are other areas of ecological significance.

Two eligible river segments for classification in the Wild and Scenic River System, Bear Valley Creek and Hayden Creek originate within the borders of this roadless area.

Manageability: The roadless area boundary generally follows the forest boundaries. These boundaries do not follow natural topographical features. Logical and manageable boundaries could be developed, and the effects of existing intrusions could be mitigated by boundary changes. Size is not a factor, as this roadless area as it is over 300,000 acres.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Numerous lakes and streams provide habitat for fish. Habitat conditions within the lake are excellent. One lake provides habitat for Arctic grayling which is found in only one other area on the Forest. Many of the streams support fish populations. Fishing use on the lakes is moderate to light with Basin, Bear Valley, and Buck Lakes receiving the most use. Fishing quality in the lakes is excellent. Fishing use of the streams is generally light. Big Timber Creek receives the heaviest use and supports the

highest quality fishing. Fishing quality ranges from fair to excellent. This roadless area overlaps steelhead, Chinook summer salmon, and bull trout priority watersheds.

Wildlife: Several unconfirmed sightings in 1976-78 indicated the probable presence of the gray wolf, although howling surveys in the late 1980's found none. Since wolf reintroduction, wolves have been seen in this area. Mountain goat and bighorn sheep are also found in the area. This portion of the Lemhi Range is large, with excellent vegetative and topographic diversity. Low timber productivity and ruggedness have combined to keep the area roadless and big game numbers reflect this condition. Key summer big game habitat in the form of abundant meadows and large blocks of dense lodgepole pine-subalpine fir timber exists throughout this area. Elk numbers are particularly high. Goats are common along the crest of the area. Excellent black bear habitat and populations exist in the major canyons and lower timber fringe areas. Antelope inhabit the lower elevation sagebrush slopes in the area and key big game winter range is present in the lower elevations of several major drainages. A wide variety of small birds and mammals ranging from sage grouse to snowshoe hares inhabit the area.

Water: The area contains headwaters of many moderate sized parallel drainages, which are tributary to the Lemhi River along the east, the Pahsimeroi River along the west, and to the Salmon River on the north. Precipitation is low to moderate throughout the area. Much of the water yield is used for irrigation on downstream ranches. Many of the headwaters are in glaciated basins and contain small basin lakes. Watershed conditions and quality of water produced are generally excellent.

Botanical: Pink agoseris (*Agoseris lackschewitzii*) a sensitive plant species occurs in this roadless area.

Recreation: Recreation uses include hunting, fishing, backpacking, horseback riding, and trailbike riding. Use was estimated at 20,100 recreation visitor days in 1982. The area contains outstanding scenery and excellent opportunities for hunting and fishing.

Timber: There is an estimated 526 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the roadless area with an estimated potential annual yield of approximately 3.3 thousand board feet per year. This potential annual timber yield would be reduced due to the cost of roads and constraints of other resource needs such as visuals, wildlife habitat, recreation, watershed, etc.

One intrusion in the extreme north roadless area resulted from a 1978 timber sale which logged a million board feet within the roadless area. Intrusions in the Hayden Creek area resulted from logging between 1960 and 1970. These were erroneously included in the original roadless area review. An additional 1 million board feet was logged in two timber sales in 1974 and 1977. Approximately 1 million board feet were harvested from a 1971 timber sale in the Big Timber Creek drainage. There has been a significant amount of post, pole, and firewood harvest along the Allison Creek Road.

Range: Portions of two sheep and goat allotments and 15 cattle and horse allotments are within the roadless area. Sheep and goat allotments included Flat Iron and Gilmore. The two sheep allotments are currently grazed by 2,000 sheep and contribute approximately 800 AUM's of livestock use. The majority of the suitable sheep range is classified as fair. The Gilmore sheep allotment was converted to cattle use in 1984, resulting in a decrease of 1,200 sheep contributing 687 AUM's of use on the sheep allotments. Upon conversion, all sheep use would be within the roadless area. The fifteen cattle allotments are grazed by approximately 4,370 cattle and contributed approximately 9,920 AUM's of livestock use within the roadless area. Cattle use was increased by about 300 AUMs with the conversion of the Gilmore allotment from sheep use. Range improvements within the roadless area boundary amount to 31 water developments, 82.4 miles of fence, and one stock bridge on McKim Creek.

Minerals and Energy: The hardrock mineral potential of this area is rated as high. Mineral production of record includes gold, silver, copper, lead, zinc, and molybdenum. There is one producing mine within the roadless area boundaries. There are also a number of patented mining claims. Mining claim owners continue to do assessment work in this roadless area, with some expanding their claim activity. The area currently contains no active mining operations. Roads in Ennis Gulch, Fred and Mary Draw, and Allison

Creek access mining claims and mineral exploration activity. Oil and gas potential for the area is low. This roadless area contains 308,500 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: The area includes 12 tracts of private land totaling 2,088 acres.

Roads and Trails: This area contains both authorized and unauthorized roads and motorized trails, including snowmobile routes. Dairy Lake, Mill Creek, and Basin Lake are under special use permit for irrigation water storage purposes. Parts of the area are used by four outfitter and guide permittees.

Heritage: Numerous prehistoric and historic cultural resources are known to exist in this roadless area. It is likely that several of the historic sites would warrant further investigation for their suitability for inclusion on the National Register.

Disturbances: Known fire occurrence is light in the area. Understory fuels are generally sparse and there is little potential for large fires. Western spruce budworm periodically kills understory Douglas-fir seedlings and saplings and occasionally kills the tops of larger trees in portions of the area. Larger diameter stands of lodgepole at lower elevations may be killed in the next mountain pine beetle epidemic. Dwarf mistletoe is common in lodgepole pine.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Lemhi Range-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 Lemhi Range-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Lemhi Range-1a. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative (Salmon only)

| Lemhi Range Management Theme Salmon | 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 | 9,300 | 0 | 0 | |
| Similar to Backcountry | 153,500 | 0 | 150,700 | 0 | |
| Backcountry | 0 | 92,300 | 0 | CPZ | 200 |
| | | | | NonCPZ | 150,500 |
| GFRG | 0 | 49,100 | 0 | 0 | |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 2,800* | 2,800* | 2,800* | |
| Total Acres | 153,500 | 153,500 | 153,500 | 153,500 | |

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the Salmon portion of the Lemhi Range Roadless Area is RNA. For further information on this designation, see the Salmon National Forest LRMP.

Table Lemhi Range-1b. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative (Challis only)

| Lemhi Range Management Theme Challis | 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 | 155,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Backcountry | 0 | 154,500 | 154,500 | CPZ | 300 |
| | | | | NonCPZ | 154,200 |
| GFRG | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 500* | 500* | 500* | |
| Total Acres | 155,000 | 155,000 | 155,000 | 155,000 | |

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the Challis portion of the Lemhi Range Roadless Area is RNA. For further information on this designation, see the Challis National Forest LRM).

Table Lemhi Range-1c. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative (Total)

| Lemhi Range 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 | 9,300 | 0 | 0 | |
| Similar to Backcountry | 308,500 | 0 | 305,200 | 0 | |
| Backcountry | 0 | 246,800 | 0 | CPZ | 500 |
| | | | | NonCPZ | 304,700 |
| GFRG | 0 | 49,100 | 0 | 0 | |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 3,300 | 3,300 | 3,300 | |
| Total Acres | 308,500 | 308,500 | 308,500 | 308,500 | |

Table Lemhi Range-2. Potential activities (Salmon and Challis combined)

| Lemhi Range 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 | 305,200 | 305,200 | 500* |
| Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 308,500 | 305,200 | 305,200 | 305,200 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 308,500 | 305,200 | 305,200 | 305,200 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 305,200 | 305,200 | 500* |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 305,200 | 0 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 308,500 | 305,200 | 305,200 | 305,200 |

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 304,700 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 road access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): For the portions of the Lemhi Range Roadless Area in the Salmon National Forest, around 21,900 acres would be managed under prescription 2a (dispersed recreation, semi-primitive motorized), 67,300 acres under prescription 2a-1 (dispersed recreation, motorized on designated routes), 9,300 acres under prescription 2b (dispersed recreation, non-motorized), 3,200 acres under prescription 3A-5B (aquatic habitat and moderate investment long-term timber), 3,000 acres under prescription 4B-3 (key big game summer range, strategy iii), 22,400 acres under prescription 5B (long-term timber with moderate investment), and 18,400 acres under prescription 5C (long-term timber with low investment). For the portions of the roadless area in the Challis National Forest, around 127,300 acres would be managed under prescription 20 (North Lemhi) and 27,200 acres under prescription 22 (Sawmill Canyon).

Timber harvest and associated road building is only permitted on the 98,500 acres under prescriptions 2A, 2A-1 and 2B when timber is substantially damaged by fire, windthrow or other catastrophe. If temporary roads were 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 restoration objective, 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 restoration objective.

For the 206,700 acres under the remaining prescriptions 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. However, the 5,200 acres under prescription 8A are generally non-forested so little to no timber harvest (or road building to access timber harvest) is expected in this area.

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Lemhi Range 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 308,500 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 305,200 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 305,200 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 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 304,700 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 305,200 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 since road construction for new mineral leases is prohibited.

Little Horse #514

7,600 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Little Horse Roadless Area is 35 air miles northwest of Salmon, Idaho on the North Fork Ranger District. The area is bounded on the north by the Oreana Ridge Road (067), on the west and south by the Long Tom Ridge Road (123) and on the east by the Frank Church -- River of No Return Wilderness. Access can be gained from the forest roads.

The area is dissected by Little Horse Creek drainage, which includes several small drainages. The topography is a result of the dendritic pattern that Little Horse Creek has developed. Side slopes range from 30 to 60 percent. Horse Creek Butte is the highest point in the roadless area at over 8,300 feet; the lowest point is located at 6,000 feet. Summer highs of 80 to 90 degrees are contrasted by winter lows of 40 degrees below zero. Granite of the Idaho Batholith and the Metamorphosed Border Zone bedrock forms the soils. The soil textures range from sandy loams to sand. Most of the area is timbered with Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine. The ecosystem represented in this roadless area is the western spruce/fir.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: This area is natural appearing. Human influence on the natural integrity of this area is nonexistent. Visitors would find this area to be apparently natural.

Undeveloped Character: No intrusions were identified in this area.

Opportunities for Experience: Due to size, proximity to the Frank Church - River of No Return Wilderness, good topographic screening, very good vegetative screening, and lack of off-site intrusions, this area offers a high opportunity for solitude. The existence of some diversity and the lack of developed recreation facilities combine with the previous factors to provide a high opportunity for primitive recreation experiences. Opportunities for challenging experiences or encountering serious hazards are rare.

Special Features: The scenery in this roadless area is considered common for the Salmon portion of the Salmon-Challis National Forest. There are no special features.

Manageability: Separated by road corridors from two other roadless areas, Oreana and Sheepeater, on the north and east, and contiguous with the Frank Church - River of No Return Wilderness on the west, Little Horse Roadless Area is bordered by developed lands on the south. Logical and manageable boundaries could be developed for this area. Size is not an important factor.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Minor resident fishery may exist in Little Horse Creek. The lower reach may also provide rearing habitat for anadromous fish. Fishing use is expected to be very light and quality would be fair.

Wildlife: This area is currently below its habitat potential for big game because of the excessively high cover component and corresponding lack of forage. Mule deer and elk use the entire area during the summer, but use is centered on the few natural meadow complexes. Mountain goats occur in the lower portions of this area on sparsely timbered rocky outcrops and ridge points. Elk rutting activity occurs on the flatter, densely timbered benches along the south side of Oreana Ridge.

Water: Little Horse Creek watershed produces a high amount of water, as the area receives over 40 inches of precipitation a year. Erosive granitic soils dominate the area, and streams carry a naturally high amount of sediment. Water quality is considered excellent throughout the area. All water produced in this area enters Horse Creek, and eventually the Salmon River.

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

Recreation: Current limited recreation use, estimated at less than 100 recreation visitor days in 1982, is related mostly to hunting. Current low recreation use is not expected to significantly change, due to rugged terrain and lack of attractions in the area

Timber: An estimated 38.6 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated annual potential yield of .6 million board feet.

Range: With the exception of a small amount of recreational horse use, the area is not grazed by livestock.

Minerals and Energy: Hardrock mineral potential is unknown. There is no known potential for currently leasable minerals. The area contains no active mining operations. Mining claim owners continue to do assessment work in this roadless area. This roadless area contains 7,600 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There is no private land within the area.

Roads and Trails: The area contains no trails, but includes both authorized and unauthorized routes.

Heritage: The potential for prehistoric cultural resources is unknown.

Disturbances: Fire occurrence is light. As the lodgepole pine and whitebark pine increase in diameter there is an increasing hazard of a major mountain pine beetle epidemic. However, many lodgepole stands have slow growth due to dwarf mistletoe or overstocking.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Little Horse-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 Horse-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Little Horse-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

| Little Horse 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 | 0 | 7,600 | 7,600 |
| GFRG | 0 | 7,600 | 0 | 0 |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Acres | 7,600 | 7,600 | 7,600 | 7,600 |

Table Little Horse-2. Potential activities

| Little Horse 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 | 7,600 | 7,600 | 0 |
| Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 7,600 | 7,600 | 7,600 | 7,600 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 7,600 | 7,600 | 7,600 | 7,600 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 7,600 | 7,600 | 0 |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 7,600 | 0 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 7,600 | 7,600 | 7,600 | 7,600 |

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 7,600 acres would be managed under prescription 3A-5B (aquatic habitat and medium investment long-term timber).

Roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes under this prescription. 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 road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Little Horse 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 7,600 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 7,600 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 7,600 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 7,600 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. 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.

Long Tom #521

20,400 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Long Tom Roadless Area is approximately 35 air miles northwest of Salmon, Idaho on the North Fork Ranger District. Access to the area can be gained along the Salmon River road, from the road along Long Tom ridge, and from the road along the ridge to Corn Lake.

The area is bounded on the south and southwest by the Salmon River road, on the north by the Corn Lake road, on the east by the Long Tom ridge road, and is adjacent to the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness on the northwest. The area is dissected by small drainages that flow directly into the Salmon River. Wheat Creek, Corn Creek, and Bear Basin Creek are the major drainages. The slopes along the Salmon River are steep (more than 70 percent) and form a portion of the Wild and Scenic River corridor. The higher country consists of moderately dissected mountain slopes (20 percent to 60 percent). Elevations range from 3,000 feet to over 8,000 feet. The steep slopes adjacent to the Salmon River have numerous rock outcroppings and near surface bedrock. The Border Zone rocks that have been altered by the intrusion of the Idaho Batholith form the bedrock from which the sandy loam textured soils have been formed. The vegetation on the steep canyon slopes is a sagebrush and grass community. The higher elevations are timbered with ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, and subalpine fir. Western ponderosa and grand fir/Douglas- fir are the two ecosystems found in this area.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The area is essentially natural appearing. Man's activities have had no overall influence on the area's natural integrity. The specific sites that have been impacted are on the perimeter, and could easily be deleted. Most visitors would find this roadless area to be apparently natural.

Undeveloped Character: There is a small amount of mining activity and logging along the edge of the roadless area. Three intrusions were identified in the area during the inventory process. These total 300 acres and are located near Corn Lake in the northeast corner of the roadless area at the head of Corn Creek and in the southeast part of the roadless area below Long Tom Lookout. These are all road corridors (loops on existing roads) that were erroneously included in original inventories. Also, a timber sale was made in the southeast corner of the roadless area in 1983 covering approximately 1,200 acres. These areas no longer meet roadless area criteria and would not be considered further for wilderness.

Opportunities for Experience: Due to size, proximity to existing wilderness, very good topographic screening, good vegetative screening, high diversity, good distance from core to perimeter, and lack of developed recreation facilities, this area provides a very high opportunity for solitude and for primitive recreation experiences. Opportunities for challenging experiences or encountering serious hazards are few and are related to the rugged terrain.

Special Features: This roadless area contains outstanding scenery, particularly along the Salmon River Breaks. About 1,900 acres are within the designated Wild and Scenic River corridor along the Salmon River.

Manageability: The roadless area is bordered by the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness on the west and north, the Salmon Wild and Scenic River on the south, and a road corridor on the east. Logical and manageable boundaries could be developed for this roadless area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Only a minor amount of fish habitat is found within the area. Most streams are small, with high channel gradients and boulder cobble substrates. Corn Creek provides habitat for resident trout and a minor amount of steelhead habitat in the extreme lower end. Fishing pressure is very light, and quality fair. Inland redband trout, pacific lamprey, and westslope cutthroat habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: This extremely rough, rocky area contains approximately one mile of vertical relief from the Salmon River up to Long Tom Mountain. High quality summer and winter range areas for bighorn sheep and mountain goats are present throughout the area. Elk and mule deer are present yearlong. Black bear and mountain lion are abundant. A wide variety of small birds and mammals ranging from blue grouse to pike inhabit the area.

Water: The area contains several small stream drainages directly tributary to the main Salmon River. Water yield in the area is generally fair, as annual precipitation averages 25 inches or less. Soils in the area are dominated by granitics, resulting in generally high natural sedimentation rates; however, water quality is usually excellent throughout the entire area.

Botanical: Lemhi penstemon (*Penstemon lemhiensis*) a sensitive plant species occurs in this roadless area.

Recreation: Current use is primarily related to hunting (100 recreation visitor days in 1982). Recreation use is very light. Patterns of use or numbers of users are not likely to be affected by designation or non-designation of the area as wilderness.

Timber: An estimated 59.2 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated annual potential yield of .9 million board feet.

Range: With the exception of a moderate amount of recreational horse use, the area is not grazed by domestic livestock. Most of the use by horses occurs during the big game hunting seasons and is largely confined to scattered riparian meadows and open parks.

Minerals and Energy: This area has an undefined potential for cobalt and copper. The Salmon Canyon Copper Mine (minor production) is located in the extreme southeastern portion of the roadless area. This area would require further study to adequately assess hardrock mineral potential. This roadless area contains 20,400 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no private lands within the area.

Roads and Trails: This area contains both authorized and unauthorized roads and motorized trails. Part of the area is used for outfitter and guide purposes.

Heritage: There is a high potential for cultural resources and related research in a band adjacent to the Salmon River. The remainder of the roadless area has low potential.

Disturbances: Fire occurrence is high, with potential for large fires. Mountain Pine Beetle is present in some of the lodgepole pine. A major outbreak could occur in the roadless area because of the age, size, and location of the lodgepole pine. Endemic levels of Douglas-fir beetle are present in the Douglas-fir, and endemic levels of western pine beetle in the ponderosa pine. Dwarf mistletoe is present in some widely scattered stands of lodgepole pine and Douglas-fir.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Long Tom-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 Long Tom-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Long Tom-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

| Long Tom 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 | 13,400 | 0 | 0 | |
| Similar to Backcountry | 20,400 | 0 | 18,500 | 0 | |
| Backcountry | 0 | 800 | 0 | CPZ | 300 |
| | | | | NonCPZ | 18,200 |
| GFRG | 0 | 4,300 | 0 | 0 | |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 1,900* | 1,900* | 1,900* | |
| Total Acres | 20,400 | 20,400 | 20,400 | 20,400 | |

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the Long Tom Roadless Area is WSR. For further information on this designation, see the Salmon National Forest LRMP.

Table Long Tom-2. Potential activities

| Long Tom 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 | 18,500 | 18,500 | 300* |
| Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 20,400 | 18,500 | 18,500 | 18,500 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 20,400 | 18,500 | 18,500 | 18,500 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 18,500 | 18,500 | 300* |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 18,500 | 0 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 20,400 | 18,500 | 18,500 | 18,500 |

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 18,200 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 4,300 acres would be managed under prescription 3A-5B (aquatic habitat and moderate investment long-term timber), 1,000 acres under prescription 4A (big game winter range for forage and cover), and 13,400 acres under prescription 2B (dispersed recreation, semi-primitive non-motorized).

Timber harvest and associated road building is only permitted on the 13,400 acres under prescription 2B when timber is substantially damaged by fire, windthrow or other catastrophe. If temporary roads were 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 restoration objective, 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 restoration objective.

Roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes for the 4,300 acres under prescription 3A-5B. For the 800 acres under prescription 4A, timber harvest and associated road building are permitted as long as they don't conflict with standards to protect big game winter range. Any timber activities and road building that occur could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term, although the impacts under prescription 4A would be limited by the requirement to protect big game winter range.

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Long Tom 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 20,400 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 18,500 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 18,500 acres under the Backcountry theme, 300 of which are in the CPZ.

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 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 18,200 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 18,500 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 since road construction for new mineral leases is prohibited.

McEleny #505**3,500 Acres****OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION**

The McEleny Roadless Area is located on the Salmon/Cobalt Ranger District and is 35 air miles southwest of Salmon, Idaho. It is bounded by the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness on the north, east, and west, and on the south by the Yellowjacket Creek, Forest Road 112, and an area of mining activity.

Dissected by small drainages tributary to Yellowjacket and Hoodoo Creeks, the area's topography is a result of the dendritic drainage pattern that these small streams developed. The slopes are between 50 and 70 percent along Hoodoo Creek and Yellowjacket Creek, and 30 to 50 percent along and near the ridges. Elevations range from 5,500 feet to over 8,900 feet. Glaciation has developed a small cirque pocket at the head of Black Eagle Creek. Summer highs of 80 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit contrast with winter lows of 40 below zero. Annual precipitation of 15 to 25 inches falls mostly as snow. Soils are derived from quartzite bedrock; textures range from sandy loams to loamy sand. Most of the area is covered with Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine, with talus and rock outcroppings at the higher elevations. The western spruce-fir and grand fir/Douglas-fir ecosystems are represented.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Man's influence on the natural integrity of this roadless area is high, with numerous mines and associated roads throughout the area.

Undeveloped Character: Several intrusions were identified in this roadless area during inventory review. A 900 thousand board foot timber sale was sold in 1982. Numerous roads associated with mining activities, and a water line/spring development is also present. These intrusions, totaling 2,100 acres, no longer meet roadless area criteria and would not be further considered for wilderness.

Opportunities for Experience: Human impacts are obvious in many sections. Although dense vegetative screening exists, the area's small size offers little opportunity for solitude and primitive recreation. Opportunities for challenging experiences are rare.

Special Features: The scenery and features in this area are considered common for the Salmon National Forest.

Manageability: The roadless area is adjacent to the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness on the west, north, and east, and separated from Duck Peak Roadless Area by a road corridor on the south. Logical and manageable boundaries would be difficult to develop for this area, the remnant of a much larger roadless area that was included in the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness. This portion was deleted in order to develop a manageable boundary for the wilderness. Size is not a factor, as it is contiguous with existing wilderness.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: There are no known fisheries or fish habitat in this area.

Wildlife: This small area provides some summer big game habitat, but is most important as transitional spring-fall range for mule deer and elk. The lower elevations are primarily occupied by sagebrush communities, and opportunities to manage habitat by logging are very limited.

Water: The area is located in a moderate precipitation zone in drainages tributary to Yellowjacket Creek. Watershed conditions are generally good, but small areas in and adjacent to the roadless area have been mined. The area contributes generally excellent quality water to the Middle Fork of the Salmon River

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

Recreation: Recreation use, estimated as inconsequential in 1982, is limited to an occasional hunter. Current low recreation use is not expected to change.

Timber: An estimated 13 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated annual potential yield of 0.1 million board feet per year.

Range: With the exception of a small amount of recreational horse use, the area is not grazed by livestock.

Minerals and Energy: Portions of the area have been significantly altered by mining activity. The hardrock mineral potential of this area is rated high. Past mineral production includes gold, silver, copper, and zinc. The area contains five past producing mines; several patented mining claims, and associated low standard access roads. Non-patented mining claim owners continue assessment work, with some expanding their claim activity. This roadless area contains 3,500 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: The area includes two tracts of private land, one at Black Eagle Mine and one in lower Hoodoo Creek, totaling 54 acres. Outfitter and guide permittees do not currently use the McEleny Roadless Area.

Roads and Trails: This area contains both authorized and unauthorized roads and motorized trails.

Heritage: The potential for prehistoric cultural resources is unknown. The area's numerous mining-related structures have not been evaluated for historic significance.

Disturbances: Fire occurrence is light. As the lodgepole and whitebark pine increase in diameter there is an increasing hazard of a major mountain pine beetle epidemic in the lodgepole stands in the upper part of the area. The Douglas-fir in the lower elevations has been repeatedly attacked by western spruce budworm, which kills much of the understory Douglas-fir. Occasionally, the tops of the larger trees are killed. The Douglas-fir beetle periodically kills small groups of the older, larger trees.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table McEleny-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 McEleny-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| McEleny 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 | 3,500 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Backcountry | 0 | 0 | 3,500 | 3,500 |
| GFRG | 0 | 3,500 | 0 | 0 |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Acres | 3,500 | 3,500 | 3,500 | 3,500 |

Table McEleny-2. Potential activities

| McEleny 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 | 3,500 | 0 |
| Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 3,500 | 3,500 | 3,500 | 3,500 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 3,500 | 3,500 | 3,500 | 3,500 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 3,500 | 3,500 | 0 |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 3,500 | 0 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 3,500 | 3,500 | 3,500 | 3,500 |

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 would be managed under prescription 3A-5B (aquatic habitat and medium investment long-term timber).

Roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes under this prescription. 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 road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the McEleny 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 3,500 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 3,500 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 3,500 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 could be done throughout all 3,500 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. 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.

Musgrove #517

8,200 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Musgrove Roadless Area is approximately 20 miles southwest of Salmon, Idaho on the Salmon/Cobalt Ranger District. It is bounded on the north by a road to the Blackbird Mine and by logged areas, on the east by a timber sale and associated roads, on the south by Forest Road 012 along Porphyry Creek, and on the east by Forest Road 059 along Musgrove Creek. The forest roads provide access to the roadless area.

Musgrove Creek's headwaters dissect this land, which has slopes ranging from 20 to 60 percent. Blackbird Mountain, at 9,000 feet, is the highest point in the area; the lowest point is at 6,000 feet. Temperatures range from summer highs of 90 degrees Fahrenheit to winter lows of 40 below zero. Annual precipitation of 20 to 35 inches falls mostly as snow. Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine cover much of the area, with sagebrush and grass common on south aspects. Western spruce/fir and grand fir/Douglas-fir are the ecosystems represented. Soils are formed from quartzite bedrock, and textures vary from sandy loam to loamy sand.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The area has a modified forested appearance. Man's influence on the natural integrity of this roadless area has been high, and is readily apparent. The majority of the roadless area has been affected, with little feasibility of correction.

Opportunities for Experience: The roadless area offers a moderate opportunity for solitude and primitive recreation, but opportunities for challenging experiences are rare.

Special Features: The scenery in this roadless area is considered common for the Salmon-Challis National Forest and there are no special features or attractions. There are no known special attractions or features in the area.

Manageability: Road corridors separate Musgrove from the South Panther and Duck Peak Roadless Areas on the northwest and southeast. It is adjacent to the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness on the southwest and west, and is bordered by developed lands on the northeast, east and south. Due to past road construction activities, the roadless area has been split into several areas. Logical and manageable boundaries cannot be developed for this roadless area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Only a minor amount of fish habitat is found in the headwaters of the Musgrove Creek drainage. Habitat is similar to that of other high gradient streams. Fishing pressure is very light and quality is fair. Bull trout, Chinook salmon and steelhead habitat are present in limited amounts.

Wildlife: The big game cover/forage ratio, in the upper portion of the Musgrove Creek drainage, is nearly optimum on the north side, and almost entirely covers on the south (north facing slopes). This area is key elk summer range and is also an elk calving area. The heavy cover in the area is utilized by big game during hunting season. Mule deer, black bear and mountain lion occur in the area in normal densities. Blue grouse are particularly abundant on the north side of the area.

Water: The roadless area includes the headwaters of the West Fork of Blackbird Creek and Musgrove Creek, within the Panther Creek drainage. Watershed conditions are generally excellent, and precipitation of about 30 inches a year results in excellent quality water. Downstream uses have included mining activities in the Blackbird drainage.

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

Recreation: Recreation use, less than 100 recreation visitor days in 1982, is limited almost entirely to hunting. Current low recreational use is not expected to change significantly, due to the lack of attractions in the area.

Timber: An estimated 28.6 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated annual potential yield of .4 million board feet.

Range: A small portion of the Forney cattle and horse allotment extends into the roadless area. Due to topographic features and the small amount of suitable range, grazing use within the roadless area is insignificant. There are no structural range improvements.

Minerals and Energy: Hardrock mineral potential is unknown. Mining claim owners continue to do assessment work, with some expanding their claim activity. The area currently contains no active mining operations. This roadless area contains 8,200 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There is no private land within the area.

Roads and Trails: There are no trails within the area. This area contains authorized roads.

Heritage: The potential for prehistoric cultural resources is considered low, and for historic cultural resources is considered moderate due to past mining activity.

Disturbances: The area may receive some outfitter and guide use by permittees from adjoining areas. Fire occurrence is light. As the lodgepole pine increase in diameter there is an increasing hazard of a major mountain pine beetle epidemic. However, many lodgepole stands have slow growth due to dwarf mistletoe or over stocking. Western spruce budworm is periodically killing some of the understory Douglas-fir, especially on the drier sites. Occasionally the tops of the larger trees are being killed. The Douglas-fir beetle periodically kills small groups of the older, larger Douglas-fir; however, many of the higher hazard stands are being logged.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Musgrove-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 Musgrove-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| Musgrove 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 | 0 | 8,200 | 7,200 |
| GFRG | 0 | 8,200 | 0 | 1,000 |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Acres | 8,200 | 8,200 | 8,200 | 8,200 |

Table Musgrove-2. Potential activities

| Musgrove 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 | 1,000 |
| 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 | 1,000 |
| 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 |

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 1,200 acres would be managed under prescription 3A-5B (Aquatic habitat and medium investment long-term timber), 700 acres under prescription 5B (Long-term timber with moderate investment), and 6,300 acres under prescription 5C (Long-term timber with low investment).

Roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes under all three of these prescriptions. 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 road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Musgrove 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 7,200 acres under the Backcountry theme, none of which are in the CPZ, and 1,000 acres under the GFRG theme.

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 7,200 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. 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.

For the 1,000 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. However the GFRG theme is located in an area which has already been roaded and harvested; therefore there would be little additional effect because the area has already been modified.

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.

Napias #515

9,300 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Napias Roadless Area is seven air miles northwest of Salmon, Idaho, on the Salmon/Cobalt Ranger District. The area is bounded on the east by Forest Road 023, on the south by a powerline and the old Leesburg Road, and on the west by the Salmon Mountain Road (020) and logging activity. Access to the area can be gained from the forest roads.

The area is dissected by the headwaters of Moose Creek and Napias Creek, and lies in the basins of both creeks at elevations between 7,000 and 8,000 feet. Slopes range from 15 to 50 percent. Summer highs of 80 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit contrast with winter lows of 40 below zero. Annual precipitation of 20 to 35 inches falls mostly as snow. Soils are formed from granite and quartzite bedrock. Textures range from sand to sandy loams. Lodgepole pine is the major tree species, with some Douglas-fir. Grassy, wet meadows occur throughout the area. The ecosystems are grand fir/Douglas-fir and western spruce-fir.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The area is essentially natural appearing. Man's influence on the natural integrity of this area has been low. The area would be apparently natural to most visitors. However, there are mining related impacts that would be apparent to some visitors.

Undeveloped Character: One mineral related intrusion (access road) was identified in the southwest corner of the area. This road corridor does not meet roadless area criteria and has been removed from the inventory. One harvest related intrusion was identified on the eastern side of the area.

Opportunities for Experience: Due to size, surroundings, lack of topographic screening, small distance from core to perimeter and lack of diversity, this roadless area provides only low opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation experiences. Opportunities for challenging experiences or encountering serious hazards are rare.

Special Features: The scenery in this roadless area is considered common for the Salmon portion of the Salmon-Challis National Forest. There are no special attractions or features.

Manageability: Road corridors separate Napias from four other roadless areas on the north, west, south, and southeast. Napias is bordered by developed lands on the east. Size would not be a factor in developing logical boundaries for this area. However, manageable boundaries would be extremely difficult due to terrain and the surrounding roads.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: This area contains a small amount of fish habitat, primarily confined to upper Napias Creek. Past placer mining has adversely influenced certain sections of Napias Creek and several of its tributaries. Fishing use is light and quality would be rated as fair. Bull trout, Chinook salmon, steelhead, Inland redband trout, pacific lamprey, and westslope cutthroat habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: The dense, homogeneous lodgepole pine and mixed conifer timber on this area provides good security cover for mule deer and elk. However, the area is currently below habitat potential for both species due to the scarcity of natural openings or forage areas. Some wet areas with old growth spruce and/or mixed conifer timber are present, but overall wildlife habitat diversity is low for small birds and mammals. Pine marten and snowshoe hares are present in moderate numbers.

Water: The area is located in the headwaters of the Napias Creek drainage to the south, and the Moose Creek drainage to the north. Water yield is moderate. Watershed conditions are generally good in the area, but several areas have been significantly impacted by mining and other land management activities. Especially impacted have been the stream channel bottoms. These areas are continuing to stabilize with time.

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

Recreation: Recreation use, estimated at less than 100 recreation visitor days in 1982, is considered extremely light and is related to hunting. Current low recreation use is not expected to change, due to the lack of attractions in the area.

Timber: An estimated 46.3 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated annual potential yield of .7 million board feet.

Range: Approximately 300 AUM's of grazing use in the area result from portions of the Diamond-Moose and Williams Basin-Napias Creek Cattle and Horse Allotments. The majority of the suitable range is in fair condition. There is one water development.

Minerals and Energy: Hardrock mineral potential is high. Mining claim owners continue to do assessment work, with some expanding their claim activity. The area has been a past producer of lode and placer gold, but there are currently no active mining operations. This roadless area contains 9,300 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no private lands in this area. The area was previously used, but is not now used, for outfitter and guide purposes. The area may include additional trails used for prospecting access.

Roads and Trails: This area contains both authorized and unauthorized roads and motorized trails, including snowmobile use.

Heritage: The potential for prehistoric cultural resources is considered low, but the potential for historic cultural resources is considered high.

Disturbances: Fire occurrence is very light in this area. As the lodgepole pine and whitebark pine increase in diameter there is an increasing hazard of a major mountain pine beetle epidemic, especially in the lower elevation lodgepole stands. However, many lodgepole stands have slow growth due to dwarf mistletoe or over stocking.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Napias-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 Napias-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| Napias 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 | 9,300 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Backcountry | 0 | 0 | 9,300 | 0 |
| GFRG | 0 | 9,300 | 0 | 9,300 |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Acres | 9,300 | 9,300 | 9,300 | 9,300 |

Table Napias-2. Potential activities

| Napias 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 | 9,300 | 9,300 | 9,300 |
| Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 9,300 | 9,300 | 9,300 | 9,300 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 9,300 | 9,300 | 9,300 | 9,300 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 9,300 | 9,300 | 9,300 |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 9,300 | 0 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 9,300 | 9,300 | 9,300 | 9,300 |

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 9,300 acres would be managed under prescription 5B (long-term timber with moderate investment). Under this prescription 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 phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the Napias Roadless Area has little to no potential for these minerals. The area does contain 9,300 acres of medium geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities and associated road building 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 9,300 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 9,300 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. 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.

Napoleon Ridge #501

51,400 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Napoleon Ridge Roadless Area is located approximately 10 air miles north of Salmon, Idaho. The area is bounded on the north by a portion of the Salmon Wild and Scenic River, on the east by Forest road 020 along Napoleon Ridge; on the south by Forest Road 023, on the west by Forest Road 032 along Pine Creek. The Pine Creek Road also separates the roadless area to the west, which was included as a part of the Stormy Peak-Dump Creek Roadless Area. Access to this area can be gained from the forest roads adjacent to the area.

The area is dissected by four major drainages, Pine Creek, Moose Creek, East Boulder Creek, and Dump Creek. The topography is steep, 70 percent or greater slopes, along the Salmon River. Above 6800 feet the topography is relatively flat, forming a large basin. Elevations range from about 4,000 feet to over 8,300 feet at Point of Rocks. Granite from the Idaho Batholith is the bedrock from which the soils are derived, resulting in loamy sand to sand textured soils. Summer highs of 80 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit contrast with winter lows of 35 degrees below zero. The vegetation along the Salmon River Breaks is Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine, with openings of sagebrush and grass. The vegetation at higher elevations is lodgepole pine, with large grassy meadows along the streams. The ecosystems are western spruce-fir, grand fir/Douglas-fir, and western ponderosa pine.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The northern portion of this area is substantially natural appearing, but is bordered by lands that have been intensively logged on the east, west, and south. It is separated from three other roadless areas by road corridors on the south. The southern area has some modified, primarily through timber harvest activities, which have fragmented this area. Pockets remain where this modification is not noticeable. The area is surrounded by other areas of similar road and harvest densities. Past and current activities have influenced the area's natural integrity; these impacts would last for many years and are readily apparent to visitors. The mining-related impacts that exist are long term in nature, with little feasibility of correction; however, they comprise a small percentage of the area.

Undeveloped Character: Intrusions were identified within the inventoried boundaries. These intrusions resulted from timber sales and road corridors.

Opportunities for Experience: Due to small size, small distance from perimeter to core, only moderate topographic and vegetative screening and lack of diversity, the area provides little opportunity for solitude and primitive recreation. Opportunities for challenging experiences are rare.

Special Features: Although there is outstanding scenery along the Salmon River Breaks, the scenery in the remainder of the area is considered common for the Salmon portion of the Salmon-Challis National Forest. About 3,100 acres are within the designated Wild and Scenic River corridor along the Salmon River.

Manageability: Due to the area's shape, the existing intrusions and fingers caused by road corridors and the terrain in the southern two-thirds of the roadless area, it would be virtually impossible to develop logical and manageable boundaries for this area. Mitigation by boundary change would be difficult at best. Size is a factor with this roadless area, as portions no longer meeting minimum size requirements for wilderness designation have been isolated by intrusions and portions remaining are in long, narrow bands.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Pine Creek has anadromous fish habitat. Several streams contain populations of resident trout. Stream habitats are generally characterized by moderate to high channel gradients with associated plunge pool holding areas. Habitat condition is good to excellent. Anadromous fish production potential

is moderate. Fishing use in most streams is very light. Bull trout, Chinook salmon, steelhead, Inland redband trout, pacific lamprey, and westslope cutthroat habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Wildlife habitat diversity in this area ranges from the harsh river breaks along the main Salmon River and lower Pine Creek, to the homogeneous lodgepole pine stands on Upper East Boulder Creek. The lower elevations of this area provide key big game winter range, particularly on the east side of the Pine Creek drainage. Forage is limiting on the higher summer range areas, and logging these sites could increase big game habitat potential by creating a more favorable cover/forage ratio. Old growth timber in the mid-elevational zone provides abundant habitat for cavity nesters and other species such as pileated woodpeckers and pine marten. Bighorn sheep are common in the northwestern portion, where mountain goats are occasionally observed. The western portion provides high quality mountain lion habitat. The upper portion of the Virginia Gulch drainage currently offers near optimum summer habitat for elk and mule deer. Bald eagles also occur in this roadless area.

Water: The area has small and moderate size drainages directly tributary to the Salmon River and Panther Creek. Hot Springs Creek has a natural hot spring used extensively for recreational bathing. Most of area is in good to excellent hydrologic condition; however, past mining has had an extensive impact in this area. In the late 19th century, the upper Moose Creek watershed was diverted into the smaller Dump Creek channel. The resulting erosion and channel cutting in Dump Creek formed an enormous chasm. Other impacts from mining are seen in Boulder Creek. Water yield from this area is generally low to moderate, as annual precipitation is usually less than 20 inches.

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

Recreation: Recreation use estimated at 200 recreation visitor days in 1982 includes hunting and firewood gathering. Current low recreation use related to hunting is not expected to significantly change in the future. Firewood gathering would be prohibited should the area be classified wilderness.

Timber: An estimated 170.6 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated annual potential yield of 1.9 million board feet.

Range: Portions of Napoleon Gulch, Pine Creek and Diamond-Moose cattle and horse grazing allotments are within the roadless area. Napoleon Gulch grazing allotment has not been used for several years. Pine Creek is grazed by domestic horses and contributes approximately 150 AUM's of use each year. Diamond/Moose C&H allotment contributes approximately 1,000 AUM's. There are no structural improvements on either allotment.

Minerals and Energy: A small eastern portion of this area was rated as high hardrock mineral potential. Past mineral production from the eastern area includes gold and silver. There are six patented mining claims within the eastern area. Mineral potential in the eastern area includes gold, silver, copper, and molybdenum. Large portions of the additional area have an unknown hard rock mineral potential. Past mineral production from this additional area includes lode and placer gold. Known mineral potential for portions of this additional area include gold, thorium, rare earths, and uranium. Mining claim owners continue to do assessment work. Some claimants are currently expanding their claim activity. This roadless area contains 51,400 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There is one special use permit within the area for irrigation water purposes in lower Maxwell Gulch. The area previously has been, but is not now, used for outfitter and guide purposes. The area includes 152 acres of private land situated in five separate tracts.

Roads and Trails: This area contains both authorized and unauthorized roads and motorized trails, including snowmobile uses.

Heritage: The potential for prehistoric cultural resources is considered high along the Salmon River, moderate to low throughout the remainder of the roadless area.

Disturbances: Fire occurrence is moderate. As the lodgepole pine increase in diameter, there is an increasing hazard of a major mountain pine beetle epidemic. However, many lodgepole stands have slow growth due to dwarf mistletoe or overstocking. Western spruce budworm periodically kills some understory Douglas-fir, especially on the drier sites. Occasionally the tops of the larger trees are killed. The Douglas-fir beetle periodically kills small groups of the older, larger Douglas-fir. Similar mortality occurs in the old ponderosa pine due to the western pine beetle. Dwarf mistletoe is causing serious deterioration in many Douglas-fir stands.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Napoleon 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 Napoleon Ridge-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| Napoleon Ridge 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 | 51,400 | 0 | 0 | | 0 |
| Backcountry | 0 | 9,900 | 0 | CPZ | 6,600 |
| | | | | NonCPZ | 10,300 |
| GFRG | 0 | 38,400 | 48,300 | 31,400 | |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 3,100 | 3,100 | 3,100 | |
| Total Acres | 51,400 | 51,400 | 51,400 | 51,400 | |

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the Napoleon Ridge Roadless Area is WSR. For further information on this designation, see the Salmon National Forest LRMP.

Table Napoleon Ridge-2. Potential activities

| Napoleon 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 | 51,400 | 51,400 | 38,000* |
| Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 51,400 | 51,400 | 51,400 | 48,300 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 51,400 | 51,400 | 51,400 | 48,300 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 51,400 | 51,400 | 38,000* |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 51,400 | 51,400 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 51,400 | 51,400 | 51,400 | 48,300 |

*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 roaded access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan, around 36,800 acres would be managed under prescription 5B (long-term timber with moderate investment), 1,600 acres under prescription 5C (long-term timber with low investment), and 9,900 acres under prescription 4B-1 (key elk summer range).

Under prescription 4B-1, timber harvest and associated road building is only permitted when timber is substantially damaged by fire, windthrow or other catastrophe. If temporary roads were 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 restoration objective, 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 restoration objective.

For the 38,400 acres under prescriptions 5B and 5C, 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 four prescriptions 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 Napoleon Ridge 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 51,400 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, 48,300 acres would be managed under the GFRG theme. These 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. 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 under the GFRG theme. While there is little to no potential for oil and gas development or phosphate mining in the Napoleon Ridge Roadless Area, the area does contain 51,400 acres of medium geothermal potential. If any geothermal activities occurred they would likely alter roadless characteristics over both the short and long-term.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 16,900 acres under the Backcountry theme, 6,600 of which are in the CPZ, and 31,400 acres under the GFRG theme.

Within the 6,600 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 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 could be done throughout all 16,900 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.

For the 31,400 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.

Oreana #516**7,600 Acres****OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION**

The Oreana Roadless Area is 32 air miles northwest of Salmon, Idaho, on the North Fork Ranger District. The area is bounded on the north by a Forest Road (065) along Horse Creek and mining road in Horse Creek, on the east by the Horse Creek Pass Road (044), on the south by past timber activities near Tincup Hill and the Oreana Ridge Road (067), and on the west by the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness. Access to the area can be gained from the three bordering roads.

The area is dissected by the small drainages that flow into Horse Creek. The side slopes range from 30 to 60 percent. The topography is a result of the dendritic drainage pattern that Horse Creek has developed. Oreana Lookout, at over 8,000 feet, is the highest point in the area; the low point is at 6,000 feet. Summer highs of 80 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit contrast with winter lows of 40 below zero. Idaho Batholith granite bedrock has resulted in loamy sand to sand textured soils. Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine cover the area. The ecosystem represented is western spruce-fir.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The area is substantially natural appearing. The area would appear natural to most visitors. Man's influence on the natural integrity of the area has been very low. The existing timber related impact could be mitigated by deletion.

Opportunities for Experience: Due to size, proximity to existing wilderness, good topographic screening, very good vegetative screening and lack of off-site intrusions, this area offers a high opportunity for solitude. The existence of some diversity and the lack of-developed recreation facilities combine with the previous factors to provide a high opportunity for primitive recreation experiences. Opportunities for challenging experiences or serious hazards are rare.

Special Features: The scenery is considered common for the Salmon portion of the Salmon-Challis National Forest, and the area has no special features or attractions.

Manageability: The Oreana Roadless Area is separated by a road corridor from the Little Horse and Sheepeater Roadless Areas on the south; is adjacent to the Frank Church -- River of No Return Wilderness on the west and northwest; and is bordered by developed lands on the northeast and east. Logical and manageable boundaries could be developed for this area. Boundary modification would be necessary to delete a timber related intrusion on the east. Size is not a factor.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Only minimal fisheries are found within the area. Upper Horse Creek provides the most significant amount of fish habitat, where rainbow trout and bull trout are found. The lower portions of the drainage provide a substantial amount of anadromous fish habitat. Fishing use is moderate, and quality would be good to excellent. Bull trout, Chinook salmon, steelhead habitat is present.

Wildlife: The steep, moist slopes along Oreana Ridge provide good summer habitat for big game. However, the lower elevations are covered by dense lodgepole pine steeds, with some Douglas-fir on the drier ridge tops and south slopes, and thus offer limited summer forage. Mule deer and elk use the entire area, but current habitat conditions for these species is below site potential. With the exception of a few natural meadows and old burns, habitat diversity for all wildlife species is fairly low and could be improved by timber harvesting activities.

Water: Located in the headwaters of Horse Creek, the area's high water yield results from an average annual precipitation greater than 40 inches. Geology in the area is dominated by granitic rock, and the soils are quite erosive and subject to movement. Previous logging activities in the area have demonstrated that this area is highly sensitive to disturbance. While streams carry a high natural level of sediment, water quality is generally excellent.

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

Recreation: Current recreation use is considered extremely light and is related to hunting. Use was estimated at less than 100 recreation visitor days in 1982. Current low recreation use is not expected to significantly change, due to terrain and the lack of attractions in the area.

Timber: An estimated 36.9 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated annual potential yield of .5 million board feet.

Range: With the exception of a small amount of recreational horse use, the area is not grazed by livestock.

Minerals and Energy: Hardrock mineral potential is unknown, but there are documented occurrences of gold, silver, and molybdenum within the area. There is no current mineral activity in this roadless area. This roadless area contains 7,600 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no private lands within the area.

Roads and Trails: This area contains both authorized and unauthorized roads and motorized trails. Part of the area is used for outfitter and guide purposes.

Heritage: The potential for prehistoric cultural resources is unknown. Historic cultural resource potential is low.

Disturbances: Fire occurrence is very light. As the lodgepole pine increase in diameter there is an increasing hazard of a major mountain pine beetle epidemic, especially in the lower elevation lodgepole stands. However, many lodgepole stands have slow growth due to dwarf mistletoe or over stocking.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Oreana-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 Oreana-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| Oreana 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 | 0 | 7,600 | CPZ | 400 |
| | | | | NonCPZ | 7,200 |
| GFRG | 0 | 7,600 | 0 | 0 | |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Total Acres | 7,600 | 7,600 | 7,600 | 7,600 | |

Table Oreana-2. Potential activities

| Oreana 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 | 7,600 | 7,600 | 400* |
| Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 7,600 | 7,600 | 7,600 | 7,600 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 7,600 | 7,600 | 7,600 | 7,600 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 7,600 | 7,600 | 400* |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 7,600 | 0 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 7,600 | 7,600 | 7,600 | 7,600 |

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 7,200 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 7,600 acres would be managed under prescription 3A-5B (aquatic habitat and medium investment long-term timber).

Roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes under this prescription. 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 road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Oreana 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 7,600 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 7,600 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 7,600 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 7,200 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 7,600 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.

Perreau Creek #511

8,200 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Perreau Creek Roadless Area lies approximately six air miles and nine road miles southwest of Salmon, Idaho, on the Salmon/Cobalt Ranger District. Roads bounding and providing access to the area are the Baldy Mountain Road on the north, the Williams Creek Road on the south, and the Salmon River Mountain Road on the west. Access also can be gained by an old mining road that penetrates the area and follows along Perreau Creek.

Perreau Creek is the primary drainage for the area, but a portion of the southern part drains into Williams Creek. Elevations range from 4,500 to 8,800 feet. Topography varies from very steep side slopes at the lower end of the drainage, to moderately gentle slopes at the head of the drainage. Large areas of quartzite talus rock are found in parts of the area south of Baldy Mountain. Sandy loam soils are derived from the quartzite bedrock. The clay loam soils found on the area's south half are formed from Challis volcanic bedrock. The climate is typical of high mountain locations, with extreme temperature variations from winter to summer. Annual precipitation varies from 15 inches in the lower elevations to 25 inches in the higher elevations. Much of the precipitation is in the form of snow.

Much of the area is timbered with Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine, with the south facing slopes at the lower elevations being covered by sagebrush and grass. The area is in the grand fir/Douglas-fir Forest section of the Rocky Mountain Forest province.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The northern and western portions of the area appear modified, primarily through timber harvest activities. The area to the south is surrounded by other areas of similar road and harvest densities. Past and current activities have influenced the area's natural integrity; these impacts would last for many years and are readily apparent to visitors.

Undeveloped Character: One mining access special use road intrusion was identified in the eastern portion of the area. The road goes up Perreau Creek entering the roadless area near the Forest boundary and exits near Baldy Mountain.

Opportunities for Experience: Due to size, low topographic screening, moderate vegetative screening, and lack of diversity, the area offers moderate opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation experiences. Opportunities for challenging experiences or encountering serious hazards are rare.

Special Features: The area contains limited amounts of outstanding scenery in the canyon bottoms. The remainder of the area would be considered common for the Salmon portion of the Salmon-Challis National Forest.

Manageability: The roadless area is bordered on the south by a road corridor and lands that have been intensively managed for timber harvest; on the west by a road corridor and lands proposed for intensive timber management; on the north by a road corridor that leads to an electronics site (outside the roadless area), and on the east by Bureau of Land Management administered lands. Logical and manageable boundaries could be developed for this roadless area. Sufficient size would remain after deletion of intrusion.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Perreau Creek contains habitat suitable for maintaining a substantial cutthroat trout population, but habitat condition is currently below optimum because of high sedimentation. Fishing use is light to moderate, with the majority of users being area youth. Fishing is classed as good. Bull trout, Chinook salmon, steelhead habitat is present.

Wildlife: Lynx (T) occur in this roadless area. This small area is characterized by rough, steep slopes, with patches of Douglas-fir interspersed with sagebrush covered openings. Mule deer and elk occur in

this area during all seasons of the year, but habitat potential for deer exceeds that for elk due primarily to the vegetative capability of the land.

Water: The Perreau Creek watershed is an important source of surface and ground water irrigation supplies to downstream landowners and ranchers. Channel conditions are fair to good in lower Perreau Creek, while in the upper reaches of the watershed hydrologic conditions are excellent. This roadless area contains 8,200 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

Botanical: Lemhi penstemon (*Penstemon lemhiensis*) a sensitive plant species occurs in this roadless area.

Recreation: Recreation uses estimated at 400 recreation visitor days in 1982 include hunting, fishing, hiking, cross country skiing, snowmobiling, horseback riding, and trailbike riding. Recreation use is expected to rise due to the proximity of the area to Salmon, Idaho.

Timber: An estimated 17.6 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated potential annual yield of .3 million board feet.

Range: Much of the area is within the Williams Basin/Napias Creek Grazing allotment. Three permittees are allowed approximately 1,500 AUM's of livestock use. Most of the suitable range is in fair to good condition. There are a number of existing water developments and fences.

Minerals and Energy: The hardrock mineral potential of this area is rated as high. Past mineral production includes gold and copper, and tungsten occurrences have been reported in the northwestern portion. Mining claim owners continue to do assessment work, but there are no active mineral operations. This roadless area contains 8,200 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There is a private tract of approximately 87 acres within the area, part of which has potential for recreation subdivision development.

Roads and Trails: This area contains both authorized and unauthorized roads and motorized trails, including snowmobile use.

Heritage: Little is known about the existence of prehistoric cultural resources in the area. The potential for such is considered moderate, with little likelihood of historic resources.

Disturbances: Fire occurrence is very light. Mountain pine beetle is present in some of the lodgepole pine stands. Although not a problem at this time, there is potential for a major outbreak of mountain pine beetle due to the age, size, condition, and location of the lodgepole pine in the roadless area.

There are endemic levels of Douglas-fir beetle present in the Douglas-fir. Some stands of Douglas-fir are infected with dwarf mistletoe, which would continue to spread to uninfected trees.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Perreau 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 Perreau Creek-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| Perreau 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 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GFRG | 0 | 8,200 | 8,200 | 8,200 |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Acres | 8,200 | 8,200 | 8,200 | 8,200 |

Table Perreau Creek-2. Potential activities

| Perreau 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 | 8,200 |
| 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 | 8,200 |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 8,200 | 8,200 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 8,200 | 8,200 | 8,200 | 8,200 |

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 6,500 acres would be managed under 5B (long-term timber with high investment) and 1,700 acres under prescription 8A (rangeland management).

Roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes under both these prescriptions. Any timber activities and road building that occur under these four prescriptions could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term. However, the 1,700 acres under prescription 8A are generally non-forested so little to no timber harvest (or road building to access timber harvest) is expected.

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Perreau 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 managed under the GFRG theme. These 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. 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 under the GFRG theme. While there is little to no potential for oil and gas development or phosphate mining in the Perreau Creek Roadless Area, the area does contain 8,200 acres of medium geothermal potential. If any geothermal activities occurred they would likely alter roadless characteristics over both the short and long-term.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule 8,200 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.

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.

Phelan #508**13,000 Acres****OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION**

The Phelan Roadless Area is eight air miles west of Salmon, Idaho, on the Salmon/Cobalt Ranger District. It is bounded on the east by Forest Road 020, on the north by the old Leesburg road, on the west by logging roads and logging, and on the south by Forest Road 021 along Moccasin Creek. Access to the area can be gained via forest roads.

The area is in the Leesburg Basin and is dissected by Sharkey Creek, Rabbit Creek, Pony Creek, and Phelan Creek. Slopes are relatively gentle, between 15 and 50 percent. Elevations range from 6,500 feet to over 8,800 feet at Phelan Mountain. Summer highs of 80 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit contrast with winter lows of 40 degrees below zero. Soils are formed from quartzite and volcanic bedrock. Lodgepole pine and Douglas-fir cover most of the area, although some grassy meadows occur throughout. The ecosystem is western spruce-fir.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The area is essentially natural appearing. Man's influence on the natural integrity of this area has been very low, with the existing affected area a result of logging. The affected portion could be deleted by a boundary change. Most visitors would find this roadless area apparently natural.

Opportunities for Experience: Although this area has relatively gentle topography and is not large in size, its very dense screening contributes to a high opportunity for solitude. Lack of diversity and the above factors result in a low opportunity for primitive recreation experiences. Opportunities for challenging experiences or encountering serious hazards are rare.

Special Features: This area contains no special attractions or features.

Manageability: This roadless area is separated by road corridors from five other roadless areas, Napias, Jesse Creek, Perreau Creek, South Deep Creek, and Haystack Mountain on the north, east, and south, and is bordered by developed lands on the west. Logical and manageable boundaries could be developed for this area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Many of the streams within this area have been influenced by past placer mining. Only a very minor amount of fish habitat is present within this area, which provides no appreciable amount of fishing. Bull trout, Chinook salmon, steelhead habitat is present in small amounts.

Wildlife: Mule deer and elk occur throughout, but limited forage keeps their numbers below potential. Phelan Ridge serves as a rutting area for elk. The entire area provides dense lodgepole-mixed conifer timber needed for security cover during hunting seasons.

Water: The area extends across several tributaries of Napias Creek and receives moderate precipitation of up to 30 inches a year. Watershed conditions are generally excellent, as is water quality. Towards the south end of the area, roads in volcanic soils have resulted in some unstable watershed conditions. To the north, small mining and exploration activities have caused soil disturbance in the past, but have stabilized. This roadless area contains 100 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

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

Recreation: Recreation use estimated at 5,400 recreation visitor days in 1982 includes hunting, firewood gathering, snowmobiling, and cross country skiing.

Timber: An estimated 47 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated annual potential yield of 0.67 million board feet.

Range: The area contributes 150 grazing AUM's annually to the Williams Basin-Napias Creek Cattle and Horse Allotment. Condition of the suitable range is mostly good. There are no structural improvements.

Minerals and Energy: The hardrock mineral potential of this area is rated as unknown. The area formerly produced placer gold, but there are now no active mining operations. Mining claim owners do continue their assessment work. This roadless area contains 13,000 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There is no private land within the area, and no authorized special use permits have been issued.

Roads and Trails: This area contains both authorized and unauthorized roads and motorized trails, including snowmobile use.

Heritage: The potential for prehistoric and historic cultural resources is unknown.

Disturbances: Fire occurrence is very light. As the lodgepole pine increase in diameter there is an increasing hazard of a major mountain pine beetle epidemic. However, many lodgepole stands have slow growth due to dwarf mistletoe or over stocking.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Phelan Roadless Area. Table Phelan-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 Phelan-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| Phelan 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 | 0 | 13,000 | 0 |
| GFRG | 0 | 13,000 | 0 | 13,000 |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Acres | 13,000 | 13,000 | 13,000 | 13,000 |

Table Phelan-2. Potential activities

| Phelan 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 | 13,000 | 13,000 | 13,000 |
| Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 13,000 | 13,000 | 13,000 | 13,000 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 13,000 | 13,000 | 13,000 | 13,000 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 13,000 | 13,000 | 13,000 |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 13,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 13,000 | 13,000 | 13,000 | 13,000 |

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 13,000 acres would be managed under prescription 5B (Long-term timber with moderate investment). Under this prescription 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 phosphate mining or oil and gas activities are expected since the Phelan Roadless Area has little to no potential for these minerals. The area does contain 13,000 acres of medium geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities and associated road building 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 13,000 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 8,200 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.

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.

Sal Mountain #513

14,000 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Sal Mountain Roadless Area is seven air miles south of Salmon, Idaho on the Salmon-Cobalt Ranger District. The area is bounded primarily by the Forest boundary on the north, east and west. On the southwest, the divide between Haynes Creek and Withington Creek form the boundary. Forest Road 014 along Twelvemile Creek forms the southwest boundary. Access to the area can be gained from the Twelvemile, Withington Creek, and Haynes Creek roads.

The area is dissected by Withington Creek, Haynes Creek and Twelvemile Creek. Slopes are from 30 to 70 percent; elevations range from 4,600 feet, to over 9,500 feet at Sal Mountain. Summer highs of 80 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit contrast with winter lows of 40 below zero. Annual precipitation, mostly in the form of snow, is from 15 to 30 inches. Quartzite and volcanic bedrock forms the loamy sand to loamy clay textured soils. Lodgepole pine and Douglas-fir cover much of the area. Sagebrush and grass meadows occur throughout the area. The ecosystems represented are sagebrush and western spruce-fir.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The majority of the acres in this roadless area are in a natural condition. However, numerous intrusions are scattered throughout. Man's influence on the natural integrity of this roadless area has been high. Intrusions are scattered throughout the roadless area and there is little feasibility of correction.

Undeveloped Character: Seven intrusions totaling 3,500 acres were identified within the inventoried boundaries. Three of these are mining-related road corridors located near the forest boundary in Tenmile and Twelvemile Creeks, and the Harmony Mine access road in Withington Creek, Kadletz Creek and Twelvemile Creek.

Opportunities for Experience: The roadless area is impacted in many sections, with the impacts readily apparent to visitors. The area offers only moderate opportunities for solitude due to moderate size, little topographic or vegetative screening, moderate distance from core to perimeter, and the existence of permanent intrusions. Due to these factors and lack of diversity, the area has a moderate opportunity for primitive recreation experiences. Opportunities for challenging experiences or encountering serious hazards are rare.

Special Features: There is a limited amount of outstanding scenery in the vicinity of Sal Mountain and in the Haynes Creek Canyon. The remainder of the roadless area is considered common for the Salmon National Forest.

Manageability: The roadless area is bordered by lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management on the west, north, and east. It is bordered by developed National Forest System lands on the south. Due to existing intrusions, it would be extremely difficult to develop logical and manageable boundaries for this roadless area. Size is a factor, as portions of the roadless area have been isolated by intrusions and no longer meet minimum size requirements.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: No known fisheries occur in this area.

Wildlife: This area contains high quality summer range for mule deer and elk. Some areas of excess cover exist in the upper portion of the area, but topography and presence of surface rock precludes most habitat management opportunities. The lower elevations provide key winter range areas for mule deer, elk, and antelope. Antelope summer range is also present at the lower elevations. The area around Tule Lake is an elk calving ground. A small bighorn sheep herd occupies Sal Mountain, and a few mountain goats may still be present in Haynes Creek. Mountain lions are present, and black bear are common throughout the area.

Water: The area contains several small tributaries of the Salmon and Lemhi Rivers. Water yields are relatively low in this area, and much of the streamflow is used by irrigators. Watershed conditions are generally good; however, historic mining and roading activities have resulted in some localized watershed instability and water quality problems. Stream channel projects have been completed to stabilize these problem areas. This roadless area contains 8,100 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

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

Recreation: Current recreation uses include backpacking, trailbike riding, and hunting. Use was estimated at approximately 200 recreation visitor days in 1982. Current low recreation use is not expected to change significantly, due to the lack of attractions in the area.

Timber: An estimated 23.6 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated annual potential yield of .3 million board feet.

Range: Much of the roadless area is within the Twelvemile Cattle and Horse Allotment. Approximately 400 AUM's of use occur on the roadless area. The majority of the suitable range is in fair condition. Approximately three miles of fence and two water developments are located within the roadless area.

Minerals and Energy: The area has moderate to high potential for gold and copper. Mining claim owners continue to do assessment work. The area currently contains no active mining operations. This roadless area contains 14,000 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: The area includes two tracts of private land totaling 131.2 acres. Part of the area is used under an Outfitter and Guide permit.

Roads and Trails: The area includes 5.9 miles of trails, and the intrusion areas include 14.8 miles of roads.

Heritage: The potential for prehistoric cultural resources is considered moderate. Several historic structures are known to exist in the area, but their significance has not been determined.

Disturbances: Fire occurrence is light. Much of the area contains non-commercial Douglas-fir or brush growing in talus rock. Dwarf mistletoe is a serious problem in the few commercial stands of Douglas-fir.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Sal Mountain Roadless Area. Table Sal 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. Sal Mountain-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| Sal 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 | 14,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Backcountry | 0 | 0 | 14,000 | CPZ | 2,200 |
| | | | | NonCPZ | 11,800 |
| GFRG | 0 | 14,000 | 0 | 0 | |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Total Acres | 14,000 | 14,000 | 14,000 | 14,000 | |

Table Sal Mountain-2. Potential activities

| Sal 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 | 14,000 | 14,000 | 2,200* |
| Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 14,000 | 14,000 | 14,000 | 14,000 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 14,000 | 14,000 | 14,000 | 14,000 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 14,000 | 14,000 | 2,200* |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 14,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 14,000 | 14,000 | 14,000 | 14,000 |

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 11,800 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 13,600 acres would be managed under 5B (long-term timber with high investment) and 400 acres under prescription 8A (rangeland management).

Roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes under both these prescriptions. Any timber activities and road building that occur under these four prescriptions could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term. However, the 400 acres under prescription 8A are generally non-forested so little to no timber harvest (or road building to access timber harvest) is expected.

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Sal 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 14,000 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 14,000 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 14,000 acres under the Backcountry theme, 2,200 of which are in the CPZ.

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 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 11,800 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 14,000 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.

Sheepeater #520

35,400 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Sheepeater Roadless Area lies approximately 30 air miles northwest of Salmon, Idaho, on the North Fork Ranger District. The area is accessed by trails at the mouths of Owl Creek and Cove Creek, and near the Pine Creek Bridge on the Salmon River. Roads on Beartrap Ridge, Tincup Hill, and below Blue Nose Lookout lead to the area.

The area is bounded on the north and northwest by a road along Long Tom Ridge, Tincup Hill, and Blue Nose; on the northeast by Forest Road 043 and a timber sale and associated roads; on the south and southeast by the Salmon River road; on the west by the ridge between East Butte Creek and Swamp Creek; and on the southwest by the ridge between Ebenezer Creek and Owl Creek. The slopes along the Salmon River and the lower reach of Owl Creek are steep (more than 70 percent) with many rock outcroppings. The higher elevations have broad rounded ridges with slopes of 30 to 40 percent. The slopes into the major drainages are from 40 to 60 percent. Owl Creek and the East Fork of Owl Creek, along with their tributaries, form the major drainages. Elevations are from 3,000 feet at the mouth of Owl Creek, to over 8,000 feet at Beartrap Lookout. The bedrock is the granite of the Idaho Batholith and the altered sediments of the Border Zone. Soils formed from these bedrocks range in texture from loamy sands to sandy loams. The vegetation on the south slopes is sagebrush and grass, with scattered stands of ponderosa pine. The higher elevations and cooler slopes have Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine. The ecosystems represented are western ponderosa, western spruce-fir, and grand fir/Douglas-fir.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: From high vantage points the area appears modified, primarily through timber harvest activities. Pockets remain where this modification is not noticeable. The area is surrounded by other areas of similar road and harvest densities. Past and current activities have influenced the area's natural integrity; these impacts would last for many years and are readily apparent to visitors.

Undeveloped Character: Seven intrusions were identified within the area during the inventory process. Five of the impact areas are in the Owl Creek drainage, one in Cover Creek, and one in Boulder Creek.

Opportunities for Experience: Intrusions have reduced opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

Manageability: Past timber activities and associated roading have complicated the development of logical and manageable boundaries, but sufficient acres are left to meet minimum size requirements.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Boulder Creek and Owl Creek drainages provide the only fish habitat within the area. Boulder Creek contains a resident population of cutthroat trout. Past mining activity has adversely influenced habitat in the upper portion of the drainage. Owl Creek contains both resident trout and anadromous steelhead trout. Habitat condition is good to excellent. Only a minor amount of fishing occurs in Boulder Creek and quality would be rated as fair. Owl Creek provides a moderate amount of good to excellent fishing. The anadromous fish production potential is substantial. Bull trout, Chinook salmon, steelhead, Inland redband trout, pacific lamprey, and westslope cutthroat habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: This extremely rugged area contains high quality mountain goat and bighorn sheep habitat in the lower, or river breaks, zone. This portion of the area also serves as winter range for those two species plus mule deer and elk. Limited numbers of mule deer summer throughout the entire area, and the upper elevations provide summer elk habitat. Habitat potential for mule deer and elk could be improved in the northern portion by breaking up the homogeneous lodgepole stands and creating quality forage openings. The lower portion of the area is very near habitat potential for big game, and cover reduction would not be desirable.

Water: The area is located within several drainages tributary to the main Salmon River. Precipitation ranges from highs of 45 to 50 inches in the headwaters along the forest boundary, to approximately 15 inches adjacent to the Salmon River. The area is dominated by granitic soils, resulting in relatively high natural sediment rates. Generally, watershed conditions are excellent, as is water quality. Small scale mining activities have occurred in several parts of the roadless area; however, watershed conditions are stabilizing in most of these areas.

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

Recreation: Recreation use at present is considered light (200 recreation visitor days in 1982) and is primarily related to hunting. Designation as wilderness would neither restrict current use nor significantly increase use, due to the lack of features or attractions in the area.

Timber: An estimated 128.2 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume have an estimated potential yield of 2.9 million board feet. A sale was sold in the East Fork of Owl Creek in 1983.

Range: With the exception of a small amount of recreational horse use, the area is not grazed by domestic livestock. Portions of one horse allotment receive minimal use.

Minerals and Energy: Sheepwater Roadless Area has an undefined potential for gold and molybdenum associated with Tertiary intrusive activity. There has been minor past gold production and extensive exploration for molybdenum. This area would require further study to adequately assess hardrock mineral potential. There is about 35,400 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are private lands in lower and upper Owl Creek and Upper Spring Creek. The area includes four separate tracts of private lands (patented mining claims) totaling 246 acres.

Roads and Trails: The roadless area includes five trails totaling 32.1 miles, 11 roads totaling 19.0 miles, and 10 roads within the intrusion totaling 27.4 miles. The area also includes several miles of prospecting/mining access roads.

Heritage: The greatest potential for cultural resources occurs in a relatively narrow band adjacent to the Salmon River and in major drainages. The bulk of the roadless area has moderate potential.

Disturbances: Fire occurrence is high in the area, with some fires of over 100 acres. Mountain pine beetle is endemic in some of the lodgepole pine. Age and size conditions and proximity to other lodgepole pine areas increases the potential for a major outbreak of the mountain pine beetle. There are endemic levels of Douglas-fir beetles present in the Douglas-fir and western pine beetles in the ponderosa pine. Dwarf mistletoe is present in some widely scattered stands of lodgepole pine and Douglas-fir.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Sheepwater-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 Sheepwater-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| Sheepeater 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 | 35,400 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Backcountry | 0 | 6,500 | 33,500 | CPZ | 7,900 |
| | | | | NonCPZ | 16,500 |
| GFRG | 0 | 27,000 | 0 | 9,100 | |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 1,900* | 1,900* | 1,900* | |
| Total Acres | 35,400 | 35,400 | 35,400 | 35,400 | |

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the Sheepeater Roadless Area is WSR. For further information on this designation, see the Salmon National Forest LRMP.

Table Sheepeater-2. Potential activities

| Sheepeater 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 | 33,500 | 33,500 | 17,000* |
| Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 35,400 | 33,500 | 33,500 | 33,500 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 35,400 | 33,500 | 33,500 | 33,500 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 33,500 | 33,500 | 17,000* |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 33,500 | 0 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 35,400 | 33,500 | 33,500 | 33,500 |

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 16,500 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 6,500 acres are managed under prescription 4A (key big game winter range), 20,300 acres under prescription 3A-5B (aquatic habitat and moderate investment long-term timber), and 6,700 acres under 5B (long-term timber with moderate investment)

Roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes under all three prescriptions. For the 6,500 acres under 4A roads there is the additional requirement that any road building or timber harvest must be consistent with standards to protect big game winter range. Any timber activities and road building that occur under these prescriptions could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term, although the impacts in the areas under 4A would be limited by the requirement to protect big game winter range.

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Sheepwater 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 35,400 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 33,500 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 24,400 acres under the Backcountry theme, 7,900 of which are in the CPZ, and 9,100 acres under the GFRG theme.

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 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 16,500 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 33,500 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.

For the 9,100 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. However the GFRG theme is located in an area which has already been roaded and harvested; therefore there would be little additional effect because the area has already been modified.

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.

South Deep Creek #509A

12,600 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

This southern part of the initial inventoried Deep Creek Roadless Area was separated from the northern portion by a timber sale and associated roads. This southern part is now a separate roadless area, South Deep Creek #509A.

The South Deep Creek Roadless Area is 10 air miles southwest of Salmon, Idaho on the Salmon/Cobalt Ranger District. It is bounded on the north by a timber sale and associated roads, on the east and south by Forest Road #020, on the southwest by Forest Road #099. The area can be accessed by forest roads.

Little Deep Creek is the major drainage. Slopes range from relatively gentle (15 to 30 percent) at the higher elevations, to steep slopes adjacent to Little Deep Creek. Elevations range from 5,000 feet to over 8,000 feet near Swan Peak. Summer high temperatures of 80 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit contrast with winter low temperatures of 40 degrees below zero. The 15 to 30 inches of annual precipitation occurs mainly as snow. Soils textures are loamy sand and sandy loam. Quartzite forms the bedrock. Lodgepole pine and Douglas-fir cover much of the area. Sagebrush and grass meadows are scattered throughout the area. Western spruce fir, grand fir/Douglas-fir are the ecosystems.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The central and southern portions of the area appear modified, primarily through timber harvest activities. The area to the west is surrounded by other areas of similar road and harvest densities. Past and current activities have influenced the area's natural integrity; these impacts would last for many years and are readily apparent to visitors.

Opportunities for Experience: This area has dense vegetative screening, but because of the small size, small distance from core to perimeter, and gentle topography, the opportunities for solitude and for primitive recreation experiences are only low. Opportunities for challenging experiences or encountering serious hazards are fair.

Special Features: There are no special features or attractions.

Manageability: Recent roading into and around this area has made development of logical and manageable boundaries difficult. The boundary could not be expanded in any direction due to existing roads, and deleting impacted areas would leave an area for which logical boundaries would be impossible to delineate.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: This area contains the headwater reaches of Deep, Little Deep, and Pepper creeks. All three streams contain resident trout populations. The streams are small with moderate to high gradients. Fishing use is light. Lower Deep Creek was historical anadromous fish habitat. Bull trout, Chinook salmon, steelhead habitat is present.

Wildlife: Big game summer habitat potential is high, but existing low numbers of mule deer and elk reflect an unbalanced cover/forage ratio. South Deep Creek Roadless Area is also characterized by old growth Douglas-fir stands along the ridge tops, and thus provides excellent habitat for pileated woodpecker and other species. Pine marten are abundant along drainages. The upper elevations of this area are very rocky, non-productive areas occupied primarily by sparse whitebark pine stands.

Water: The area is located predominantly in the Deep Creek drainage, a major tributary of Panther Creek. Generally, the upper watersheds are in excellent condition and produce excellent quality water. The lower reaches of these streams are adjacent to roads, which have historically caused stream sedimentation. However, most streams are in generally good condition.

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

Recreation: Recreation use was estimated at 400 recreation visitor days in 1982 and is related to big game hunting. Hunting use is not expected to change significantly.

Timber: An estimated 23.2 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated annual potential yield of 0.21 million board feet.

Range: The entire roadless area is within the Williams Basin - Napias Creek Cattle and Horse Allotment, contributing 245 AUM's annually to the allotment. Condition of the suitable range is mostly good, although small areas of fair and poor condition range do exist. Structural improvements are limited to one water development.

Minerals and Energy: The area's hardrock mineral potential is rated high. Past mineral production includes gold, cobalt, and copper from the nearby Blackpine Mine. No active mining operations currently exist. This roadless area contains 12,600 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Roads and Trails: This area contains both authorized and unauthorized roads and motorized trails, including snowmobile use.

Heritage: The potential for prehistoric or historic cultural resources is low.

Landownership and Special Uses: An electronic site is located about one-half mile west of the private land at the Blackpine Mine.

Disturbances: Fire occurrence is light. As the lodgepole pine increase in diameter there is an increasing hazard of a major mountain pine beetle epidemic. However, many lodgepole stands have slow growth due to dwarf mistletoe or over stocking. Western spruce budworm is periodically killing some of the understory Douglas-fir, especially on the drier sites. Occasionally the tops of the larger trees are being killed. The Douglas-fir beetle periodically kills small groups of the older larger Douglas-fir.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table South Deep 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 South Deep Creek-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| South Deep 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 | 12,600 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Backcountry | 0 | 0 | 12,600 | CPZ | 1,600 |
| | | | | NonCPZ | 6,200 |
| GFRG | 0 | 12,600 | 0 | 4,800 | |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Total Acres | 12,600 | 12,600 | 12,600 | 12,600 | |

Table South Deep Creek-2. Potential activities

| South Deep 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 | 12,600 | 12,600 | 6,400* |
| Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 12,600 | 12,600 | 12,600 | 12,600 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 12,600 | 12,600 | 12,600 | 12,600 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 12,600 | 12,600 | 6,400* |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 12,600 | 0 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 12,600 | 12,600 | 12,600 | 12,600 |

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 6,200 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 100 acres would be managed under prescription 3A-5A (aquatic habitat and high investment long-term timber), 400 acres would be managed under prescription 3A-5B (aquatic habitat and medium investment long-term timber), 100 acres under 3A-5C (aquatic habitat and low investment long-term timber), 100 acres under prescription 5A (long-term timber with high investment), 8,100 acres under prescription 5B (long-term timber with moderate investment), and 3,800 acres under prescription 5C (long-term timber with low investment).

Roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes under all of these prescriptions. 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 road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the South Deep 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 12,600 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 12,600 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 7,800 acres under the Backcountry theme, 1,600 of which are in the CPZ, and 4,800 acres under the GFRG theme.

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 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 6,200 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 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.

For the 4,800 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. However the GFRG theme is located in an area which has already been roaded and harvested; therefore there would be little additional effect because the area has already been modified.

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.

South Panther #504A

6,300 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The South Panther Roadless Area is located on the Salmon/Cobalt Ranger District. During the initial review of inventoried roadless areas, the South Panther Roadless Area was considered part of the West Panther Roadless Area. Construction of the powerline from Salmon to the Blackbird Mine divided this area from the West Panther Roadless Area.

The South Panther Roadless Area is approximately 23 air miles due west of the City of Salmon. The area is bounded on the northwest and southwest by the Blackbird powerline and on the north and east by Panther Creek. The topography consists of broad rounded ridges and a dendritic drainage pattern formed by Quartz Gulch. Elevations range from 4,000 feet at Panther Creek to 8,000 feet. Quartzite forms the bedrock and soil textures are loamy sand. Most of the area is timbered with Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine. The ecosystem is grand fir/Douglas-fir.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The South Panther Creek Roadless Area contains no intrusions, and none are planned. The area is essentially natural appearing. Human influence on the natural integrity of the roadless area has been moderate. Visitors would find the interior of the roadless area to be apparently natural.

Opportunities for Experience: The area's small size, short distances from core to perimeter, lack of topographic screening and diversity limit the opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation experiences. Opportunities for challenging experiences or encountering serious hazards are rare.

Special Features: There are no special features or attractions. It is not known if the area represents any unique ecosystems. An eligible river segment for classification in the Wild and Scenic River System, Panther Creek, runs along the eastern boundary of this roadless area.

Manageability: Logical and manageable boundaries exist for this roadless area. Size is a factor as the roadless area is near the minimum size required. The powerline corridor forms two boundaries. The South Panther Roadless Area is directly north of the Cobalt Townsite. The roadless area receives light use which is primarily hunting related.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Bull trout, Chinook salmon, steelhead habitat is present.

Wildlife: Mule deer, elk, and bighorn sheep are year-round residents here, where they spend winters along the Panther Creek face. Black bear and mountain lion are also abundant. Mixed stands of old growth ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir provide high quality habitat for cavity nesting birds and mammals.

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

Recreation: Recreation uses are extremely light and are related to big game hunting. Use was estimated as insignificant in 1982. Current inconsequential recreation use is not expected to change.

Timber: An estimated 36 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated annual potential yield of 0.40 million board feet.

Minerals and Energy: The area's hardrock mineral potential is rated high. No mineral production has occurred from this area. Mining claim owners are continuing to do assessment work. Cobalt-copper deposits occur throughout the south half of the roadless area. This roadless area contains 6,300 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Heritage: There are no known prehistoric or historic cultural resources in the area. Prehistoric cultural resources potential is considered low throughout the roadless area. Historic structures exist within the roadless area, but have not been evaluated for their significance.

Roads and Trails: This area contains both authorized and unauthorized roads.

Disturbances: Fire occurrence is moderate. Endemic levels of mountain pine beetle and Douglas-fir beetle occur within the roadless area.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table South Panther-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 South Panther-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table South Panther-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

| South Panther 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 | 6,300 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Backcountry | 0 | 2,600 | 6,300 | CPZ | 1,500 |
| | | | | NonCPZ | 4,800 |
| GFRG | 0 | 3,700 | 0 | 0 | |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Total Acres | 6,300 | 6,300 | 6,300 | 6,300 | |

Table South Panther-2. Potential activities

| South Panther 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 | 6,300 | 6,300 | 1,500* |
| Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 6,300 | 6,300 | 6,300 | 6,300 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 6,300 | 6,300 | 6,300 | 6,300 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 6,300 | 6,300 | 1,500* |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 6,300 | 0 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 6,300 | 6,300 | 6,300 | 6,300 |

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 4,800 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 road access.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan, around 3,700 acres would be managed under prescription 5B (long-term timber with moderate investment) and 2,600 acres under prescription 4A (big game winter range for forage and cover). Roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes for the 3,700 acres under prescription 5B. For the 2,600 acres under prescription 4A, timber harvest and associated road building are permitted as long as they don't conflict with standards to protect big game winter range. Any timber activities and road building that occur could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term, although the impacts under prescription 4A would be limited by the requirement to protect big game winter range.

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the South Panther 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 6,300 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 6,300 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 6,300 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 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 4,800 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 6,300 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.

Taylor Mountain #902

46,600 Acres Salmon

16,800 Acres Challis

63,400 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Taylor Mountain Roadless Area is approximately 16 air miles southwest of Salmon, Idaho, on the Challis and Salmon/Cobalt Ranger Districts. The area is bounded on the southwest by the Panther Creek Road (055) and on the northeast by the Copper Creek-Swan Peak Road (099). The east boundary cuts across the Iron Creek and Hat Creek drainages. The west boundary cuts across the Iron Creek and Hat Creek drainages. The west boundary cuts across the drainages of Opal Creek, Moyer Creek, Salt Creek, and Woodtick Creek. Access to the area can be gained from roads along Panther Creek, Moyer Creek, and Copper Creek, from the Salmon River Mountain road to Iron Lake, and from roads in the Hat Creek and Iron Creek drainages.

Dissected by the headwaters of Moyer Creek, Woodtick Creek, Hat Creek, and Iron Creek, elevations of the area range from 5,500 feet along Panther Creek to over 9,000 feet at Taylor Mountain. Low elevation slopes are between 20 and 50 percent. Mid-elevation slopes are from 50 to 70 percent, and the upper elevation slopes are up to and over 70 percent. Much of the country above 7,000 feet is typical of alpine glaciated topography, with lakes formed in the cirque basins. Rains occurring in the spring and fall, together with winter snows, bring average annual precipitation to 40 inches. Summer highs of 80 to 90 degrees are contrasted by winter lows of 35 degrees below zero. Challis volcanic bedrock on the lower elevations forms loamy clay to clay-like loam textured soils. Higher elevation quartzite bedrock forms the loamy sand textured soils.

Much of the mid to high elevational country is covered with stands of Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, with some subalpine fir at the higher elevations. The vegetation on the lower slopes is sagebrush and grass, with scattered stands of Douglas-fir. The ecosystems occurring in this area are sagebrush steppe, grand fir/Douglas-fir, and western spruce/fir.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The area contains man-made elements such as fences, water developments, and terracing. Visitors would find the interior of the roadless area to be apparently natural.

Opportunities for Experience: There is little or no opportunity for challenging experiences, some opportunity for primitive recreation, and good opportunity for solitude due to the size of the roadless area.

Special Features: The roadless area's scenery is considered common for the Salmon-Challis National Forest.

Manageability: Taylor Mountain is separated from the Camas Creek Roadless Area on its western boundary by the Morgan Creek/Panther Creek Road corridor and is bordered on the north and east boundaries by lands of the Salmon-Challis National Forest. On the south, the area is bordered by Bureau of Land Management administered lands. Logical and manageable boundaries could be developed for this roadless area. Size is not a factor; existing and proposed intrusions related to timber harvest could easily be deleted by boundary changes.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: There are several lakes within this area that provide suitable habitat for resident trout. One lake contains a population of Arctic grayling which are found in only one other area on the Salmon-Challis National Forest. Several streams within the area provide habitat for trout. Habitat conditions within the lakes and streams are generally excellent. Fishing use in the lakes is moderate to light. Opal Lake and the Hat Creek Lakes receive the major portion of recreational use. The quality of lake fishing is

excellent. Stream use is light and fishing quality is fair. This roadless area overlaps steelhead, Chinook summer salmon, and bull trout priority watersheds.

Wildlife: This area contains both key elk summer and winter range for the 200-250 animals in the Moyer Creek elk herd. Mule deer and black bear are commonly observed, and mountain goats are present within the area. The cover forage ratio on the upper portion of the Moyer Creek drainage is heavy to cover, thus big game habitat quality is below optimum. Wolverine and lynx may also occur in this roadless area.

Water: The area lies within the headwaters of several streams tributary to Panther Creek, as well as the headwaters of two large drainages which are directly tributary to the Main Salmon River. Landforms in much of the area are typical of glaciated terrain and several small glacial lakes are found in the area. Water yield is moderate in the area. Watershed conditions in the area are generally excellent, as is water quality.

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

Recreation: Recreation uses estimated at 2,700 recreation visitor days in 1982 include hunting, fishing, backpacking, and horseback riding. The highly scenic Hat Creek Lakes area in the southern portion of the area receives the heaviest use. Patterns, types, and amounts of recreation use are not expected to change. The greatest potential for recreation opportunities occurs in the vicinity of the Hat Creek Lakes.

Timber: An estimated 122 million board feet of sawtimber within the area have an estimated potential annual yield of 1.6 million board feet per year. This potential would be reduced by other resource needs, such as wildlife habitat, watershed, recreation, etc., and the cost of logging on steep slopes, the marginal quality of the sawtimber, and the high cost of building roads.

Range: Portions of five cattle and horse grazing allotments fall within the boundary of the roadless area, including Deer-Iron, Hat Creek, Morgan Creek-Prairie Basin, Forney, and Williams Basin-Napias Creek. Approximately 3,000 AUMs of use are permitted within the boundary of the roadless area, which includes fifteen water developments and 18.4 miles of fence. The majority of the suitable range is rated as good, with small amounts of excellent, fair, and poor condition range.

Minerals and Energy: The hardrock mineral potential of this area is rated as high. There has been no mineral production from this area; however, mining claim owners are continuing assessment work. A high potential for gold and silver deposits is associated with the volcanics of the Van Horn Peak cauldron complex. The Blackbird cobalt-copper trend passes through the northernmost portion of the area. This roadless area contains 63,400 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no private lands within the area. Part of the area has previously been (but is not now) under permit for outfitter and guide purposes.

Roads and Trails: This area includes seven trails for a total of 18.9 miles, and two forest roads within intrusion areas for a total of 5.3 miles. There also is 0.6 mile of unauthorized road, and a special use ditch permit of 0.5 mile within the intrusion area.

Heritage: Little is known about the existence of prehistoric cultural resources. Potential is considered moderate in major drainage bottoms and along the Salmon River Mountain road, and low elsewhere. The potential for the existence of historic cultural resources is unknown, though the Thunder Mountain Trail (mining related) passes along the north edge of this roadless area.

Disturbances: Fire occurrence is light in the area.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Taylor Mountain-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 Taylor Mountain-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Taylor Mountain-1a. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative (Salmon only)

| Taylor Mountain Management Theme Salmon | 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 | 46,600 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Backcountry | 0 | 21,600 | 46,600 | 46,600 |
| GFRG | 0 | 25,000 | 0 | 0 |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Acres | 46,600 | 46,600 | 46,600 | 46,600 |

Table Taylor Mountain-1b. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative (Challis only)

| Taylor Mountain Management Theme Challis | Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule | Alternative 2 Existing Plan | Alternative 3 Proposed Rule | Alternative 4 Modified Rule | |
|--|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Wild Land Recreation | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Primitive | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Similar to Backcountry | 16,800 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Backcountry | 0 | 16,800 | 16,800 | CPZ | 3,300 |
| | | | | NonCPZ | 13,500 |
| GFRG | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Acres | 16,800 | 16,800 | 16,800 | 16,800 | 16,800 |

Table Taylor Mountain-1c. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative (Total)

| Taylor Mountain 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 | 0 |
| Primitive | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Similar to Backcountry | 63,400 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Backcountry | 0 | 38,400 | 63,400 | CPZ | 3,300 |
| | | | | NonCPZ | 60,100 |
| GFRG | 0 | 25,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Acres | 63,400 | 63,400 | 63,400 | 63,400 | 63,400 |

Table Taylor Mountain-2. Potential activities (Salmon and Challis combined)

| Taylor Mountain 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 | 63,400 | 63,400 | 3,300* |
| Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 63,400 | 63,400 | 63,400 | 63,400 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 63,400 | 63,400 | 63,400 | 63,400 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 63,400 | 63,400 | 3,300* |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 63,400 | 0 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 63,400 | 63,400 | 63,400 | 63,400 |

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 60,100 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): For the portion of the Taylor Mountain Roadless Area in the Salmon National Forest, the existing forest plan manages around 18,400 acres under prescription 2A (dispersed recreation, semi-primitive motorized), 300 acres under prescription 3A-4A (anadromous fish and key big game winter range), 1,500 acres under prescription 3A-5A (aquatic habitat and high investment long-term timber), 12,600 acres under prescription 3A-5B (aquatic habitat and moderate investment long-term timber), 6,000 acres under prescription 3A-5C (aquatic habitat and low investment long-term timber), 3,000 acres under prescription 4B-1 (key elk summer range), 1,600 acres under prescription 5B (long-term timber with moderate investment) and 3,500 acres under prescription 8A (rangeland management.) For the portion of Taylor Mountain in the Challis National Forest, around 16,800 acres are managed under prescription 21 (Challis Creek).

Timber harvest and associated road building is only permitted in the 21,400 acres under prescription 2A and 4B-1 when timber is substantially damaged by fire, windthrow or other catastrophe. If temporary roads were 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 restoration objective, 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 restoration objective.

Roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes on the 42,300 acres under all of the remaining forest plan prescriptions. Any timber activities and road building that occur under these prescriptions could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term. However, the 3,500 acres under prescription 8A are generally non-forested so little to no timber harvest (or road building to access timber harvest) is expected. Additionally, there is the requirement under prescription 3A-4A that any road building must be consistent with standards to protect big game winter range, which would limit the impact of activities under 3A-3A on roadless characteristics.

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the Taylor 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 63,400 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 63,400 acres would be in the Backcountry theme and 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 63,400 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 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 60,100 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, including those constructed for fuel reduction projects, or using aerial systems could be done throughout all 63,400 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.

West Big Hole #943

84,400 Acres Salmon (Idaho)
132,900 Acres Beaverhead-Deerlodge (Montana)
217,300 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The West Big Hole Roadless Area is approximately 10 air miles northeast of Salmon, Idaho. The entire area is bounded on the east by the Continental Divide. The Divide is the boundary between Idaho and Montana and also the boundary between the Salmon-Challis National Forest and the Beaverhead National Forest. The area is divided into two parts where the Forest boundary is separated by lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management. The Salmon-Challis portion of this roadless area is located on the North Fork Ranger District.

The southern portion of the area is bounded on the east by the forest boundary and on the south by the Kenney Creek road. The western portion of the area is bounded by the forest boundary, the ridge between Tower Creek and Fourth of July Creek, Fourth of July Creek from Fourth of July to Stein Mountain and back to Magpie Canyon, then northwesterly around the slope to Wagonhammer Creek, the Wagonhammer Creek road to Highway 93, northwest and northerly across the slope above Highway 93, the ridge south at Bill's Canyon east to the head of Silverleads Creek, north along Stein Gulch to Sheep Creek. The north boundary is a ridge between Little Sheep Creek and Lick Creek. Access to the area can be gained from the roads up the several drainages that have their headwaters in the area.

The area is dissected by many streams that drain into the Lemhi, the Salmon, and the North Fork of the Salmon Rivers. Elevations range from approximately 5,600 feet to over 10,200 feet at Freeman Peak. Glaciation has formed broad U-shaped valleys at the heads of the major drainages; however, there was very little cirque development. Many high rocky peaks and rocky ridges occur throughout the area. This high country is typical of alpine glaciated country. Average annual precipitation is between 15 and 35 inches, falling mostly as spring and fall rains or winter snow. Summer high temperatures of 80 and 90 degrees at the lower elevations are contrasted by high elevation winter lows of 40 degrees below zero. Quartzite bedrock forms the area's loamy sand to sandy loam textured soils.

Ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir at the lower elevations are replaced by lodgepole pine, subalpine fir, Engelmann spruce and some whitebark pine at the higher elevations. Grassy openings and wet meadows are scattered throughout the area. Rock outcroppings and talus slopes occur on the high peaks and ridges. The three ecosystem types represented in the area are western spruce-fir, grand fir/Douglas-fir, and alpine meadows and barren.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The area is essentially natural appearing. There has been virtually no influence by man on the natural integrity of this roadless area, with the exception of a timber sale in the Carmen Creek drainage and near the head of Little Silverleads Creek and a few scattered mining related impacts.

Existing roads up Carmen, Freeman, Pratt and Wimpey Creeks effectively provide access to the interior of the roadless area. Mining impacts are very apparent in the head of Wimpey Creek and especially Pratt Creek where there remain numerous buildings and other structures from past activities. Visitors would find this roadless area to be natural appearing, except in areas of past extensive mining.

Undeveloped Character: Several intrusions were identified in the area through public and in-service input. There are seven road corridors: 1) Pratt Creek, 2) Wimpey Creek, 3) Freeman Creek, 4) Eagle Mountain, 5) Bradley Gulch, 6) Sandy Creek, and 7) Kenney Creek associated with mineral and timber activities and private land access. These roads have been and would continue to be periodically maintained. There are six intrusions associated with timber sale activity: Two of these are in the Carmen Creek drainage, one is in the Black Tail Creek drainage, one in Silverleads, one in Dry Gulch, and one in Sheep Creek. These intrusions total 2,000 acres. The areas directly impacted by these activities no longer

meet roadless area criteria and those portions of the roadless area would not be considered further for wilderness.

Opportunities for Experience: This area provides a very high opportunity for solitude based on its large size, distance from core to perimeter, topographic and vegetative screening. Only the existence of some permanent offsite intrusions prevents it from being rated as outstanding. The area also provides very high opportunities for primitive recreation due to the above factors and a high degree of diversity and minimal developed recreation facilities. The area offers many opportunities for challenging experiences due primarily to terrain features.

Special Features: The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail Corridor passes through this roadless area. The area contains significant amounts of outstanding scenery. Two Research Natural Areas, Kenney Creek (1,600 acres) and Davis Canyon (1,100 acres) are within the roadless area boundaries. The Davis canyon site contains an excellent representation of an elk sedge meadow. About 2,000 acres are within the Salmon River Wild and Scenic River corridor.

Manageability: During public involvement, input was received that the "jeep road" separating the West Big Hole and the Silverleads Roadless Areas was not a road, but a trail along the old phone line. This was verified and the inventory was adjusted by combining the Silverleads Roadless Area with West Big Hole. The entire area is now identified as West Big Hole. The area is contiguous with the West Big Hole Roadless Area on the Beaverhead National Forest on the east, and lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management on the south. It is bordered by developed National Forest System lands on the west and north.

Logical and manageable boundaries could be developed for this roadless area. Boundary changes would be necessary, as the existing roadless area has been virtually cut in two by a timber related intrusion. Size is not a factor with this roadless area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: This area contains significant anadromous fish habitat in Sheep Creek, which is in essentially pristine condition. In addition, numerous other streams provide habitat for resident trout. Present habitat condition in these other streams is excellent. Three mountain lakes within the area have the potential to support fish. Fishing use of most area streams is light, with quality rated as fair to good. The anadromous production potential is substantial. Bull trout, Chinook salmon, steelhead habitat is present.

Wildlife: This large area is bounded on the east by the Continental Divide and consists primarily of rugged high-elevation lands, with numerous peaks in excess of 9,500 feet high. Mountain goats are found in much of the area, as are wolverines, fishers, marmots and pikas. This area contains the entire upper portion of the Sheep Creek drainage and the Goldstone Pass-Kenney Creek area, both of which are considered "core" areas of paramount importance to the migration corridor for interstate mule deer and elk herds. It also contains areas of key big game range in Little Sheep Creek, Stein Culch, and Kenney Creek. Black bear and mountain lion are particularly numerous in the Sheep Creek portion of this area, but are found throughout. Resident elk are present in small numbers in most drainages and resident mule deer occur throughout the area. Bighorn sheep are occasionally observed, but actual status of this species is not known. Wildlife habitat diversity is very good, primarily due to the broad range of elevations and habitat types inherent to this area. The Silverleads-Wagonhammer portion of the area is key big game winter range for mule deer and elk. Very few elk or deer summer in this area. Peregrine falcon and flammulated owl also occur in this roadless area.

Water: The southern portion of the roadless area produces essential irrigation supplies for numerous ranchers and residences. Stream conditions are generally good, and the area produces excellent quality water. A pipeline has been constructed for transporting water in the Wimpey Creek area.

Botanical: Flexible alpine collomia (*Collomia debilis* var. *camporum*) and Lemhi penstemon (*Penstemon lemhiensis*) two sensitive plant species occurs in this roadless area. The elk sedge meadow in Davis Canyon represents a unique vegetative community.

Recreation: Recreation use was estimated at 3,100 recreation visitor days in 1982 and is primarily related to hunting and backpacking with limited trail bike riding. Recreation use in this roadless area is expected to increase significantly in the future as implementation of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail proceeds. Increases would be primarily in backpacking, hiking, and horseback riding, with some increase in hunting as access is improved.

Timber: Approximately 28 percent of the area is potentially suitable timberland. An estimated 139.4 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated annual potential yield of 1.5 million board feet. The volume is composed primarily of Douglas-fir at lower elevations and lodgepole pine at higher elevations. Alpine fir and Engelmann spruce also occur as minor components.

One sale of approximately two million board feet was sold in the center of the roadless area in Carmen Creek in 1981. A small intrusion on the northwest border resulted from part of a cutting unit from a 1968 timber sale that was erroneously included in the original roadless evaluation. Several cutting units of a 5.3 million board feet sale in 1975 intrude at the head of little Silverleads Creek. A 3.9 million board feet sale which was sold in 1981 in the head of Wagonhammer Creek has had no activities started to date.

Range: Six cattle and horse grazing allotments extend into the roadless area along the western and southern boundaries. The six allotments are Sheep Creek, Burns Basin, Fourth of July Creek, Carmen Creek, Pattee Creek, and Sandy Creek. Very little suitable range is actually within the boundary of the roadless area. In total, the roadless area contributes fewer than 750 AUM's of permitted use each year. There are approximately 4.5 miles of fence and 13 water developments within the roadless area boundary.

Minerals and Energy: The hardrock mineral potential of this area is rated as high. Past mineral production from this area includes silver, gold, lead, zinc, and copper. There are numerous patented mining claims and associated low standard access roads within the area. Mining claim owners are continuing assessment work in this roadless area. This roadless area contains 84,400 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: Parts of the area have been, but are not now, under permit for outfitter and guide purposes. There are two tracts of private land in upper Fourth of July Creek and two tracts in Gold Star Gulch, totaling 36.7 acres and 13.6 acres, respectively.

Roads and Trails: Roadless area lands in the North Fork of the East Fork of Tower Creek, for a length of 0.6 mile, are under permit to Thomas Conrad for culinary and irrigation water purposes. The roadless area also includes 31.6 miles of trail, 3.8 miles of which are within the upper Carmen Creek intrusion. There are also 3.3 miles of the historic Lewis and Clark Trail in the Silverleads-Wagonhammer portion of the area.

Heritage: Little is known of the existence of prehistoric cultural resources. The potential would be considered moderate in major drainage bottoms and low elsewhere. There are known historic resources scattered throughout the roadless area, but none have been evaluated for significance.

Disturbances: Much of the area contains high elevation (non-commercial) timber types, which are less susceptible to insect attack. However, there is an increasing hazard of a mountain pine beetle epidemic in the lower elevation lodgepole stands. Many lodgepole stands have slow growth due to dwarf mistletoe or overstocking. Western spruce budworm periodically kills some understory Douglas-fir, especially on drier sites. Occasionally, tops of larger trees are killed. The Douglas-fir beetle periodically kills small groups of the older, larger Douglas-fir. Dwarf mistletoe is causing serious deterioration in many Douglas-fir stands north of Kirtley Creek.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table West Big Hole-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 Big Hole-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| West Big Hole 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 | 26,000 | 20,500 | 20,500 | |
| Similar to Backcountry | 84,400 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Backcountry | 0 | 43,900 | 61,000 | CPZ | 8,900 |
| | | | | NonCPZ | 42,500 |
| GFRG | 0 | 11,600 | 0 | 9,600 | |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 2,900* | 2,900* | 2,900* | |
| Total Acres | 84,400 | 84,400 | 84,400 | 84,400 | |

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the West Big Hole Roadless Area is 2,700 acres as RNA and 200 acres as WSR. For further information on this designation, see the Salmon National Forest LRMP.

Table West Big Hole-2. Potential activities

| West Big Hole 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 | 81,500 | 61,000 | 18,500* |
| Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 84,400 | 81,500 | 81,500 | 81,500 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 84,400 | 81,500 | 81,500 | 61,000 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 81,500 | 81,500 | 18,500* |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 81,500 | 0 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 84,400 | 81,500 | 61,000 | 61,000 |

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 42,500 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 14,500 acres would be managed under prescription 2A (dispersed recreation, semi-primitive motorized), 18,900 acres would be managed under prescription 2A-1 (dispersed recreation, with semi-primitive non-motorized on designated routes only), 26,000 acres under prescription 2B (dispersed recreation, with semi-primitive non-motorized), 200

acres under prescription 3A-4A (anadromous fish and key big game winter range), 900 acres under prescription 3A-5A (aquatic habitat and high investment long-term timber), 10,300 acres under prescription 4A (key big game winter range), 9,600 acres under prescription 5B (long-term timber with moderate investment) and 1,100 acres under prescription 5C (long-term timber with low investment).

Timber harvest and associated road building is only permitted in the 59,400 acres under prescription 2A, 2A-1 and 2B when timber is substantially damaged by fire, windthrow or other catastrophe. If temporary roads were 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 restoration objective, 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 restoration objective.

Roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes on the 22,100 acres under all of the remaining forest plan prescriptions. Any timber activities and road building that occur under these prescriptions could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term. However, the 3,500 acres under prescription 8A are generally non-forested so little to no timber harvest (or road building to access timber harvest) is expected. Additionally, there is the requirement under prescription 3A-4A that any road building must be consistent with standards to protect big game winter range, which would limit the impact of activities under 3A-3A on roadless characteristics.

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the West Big Hole 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 84,400 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 61,000 acres would fall under the Backcountry theme and 20,500 acres would fall under the Primitive theme. 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 acres, but little to no timber cutting would be anticipated for the 20,500 acres under the primitive theme because roads could not be constructed.

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 either management theme since it is not allowed under the Primitive theme and roads are not permitted for mineral leases under the Backcountry theme. 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 20,500 acres under the Primitive theme 51,400 acres under the Backcountry theme, 8,900 of which are in the CPZ, and 9,600 under the GFRG theme. 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 42,500 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 51,400 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.

Timber cutting is prohibited in the 20,500 acres of 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 the Primitive theme portions of the Deadwood 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 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.

For the 9,600 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. However the GFRG theme is located in an area which has already been roaded and harvested; therefore there would be little additional effect because the area has already been modified.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Primitive, Backcountry or GFRG themes since these themes either prohibit surface occupancy or roads 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.

West Panther Creek #504

32,500 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The West Panther Creek Roadless Area is approximately 23 air miles due west of the City of Salmon on the Salmon/Cobalt Ranger District. It is bounded on the northwest and west by the Frank Church -- River of No Return Wilderness, on the south by Blackbird Ridge and the lower one from Salmon to Blackbird Mine, and on the east by Panther Creek. Access can be gained to the area at the mouths of Clear Creek and Big Deer Creek along the Panther Creek Road, and from a mining road near the Blackbird Mine.

During the Forest Planning review of inventoried roadless areas, the powerline was considered as an intrusion into the West Panther Creek Roadless Area that separated a portion of the area in the southeast corner from the rest of the roadless area. This non-contiguous area is now being evaluated as a separate roadless area, South Panther #504A. Another non-contiguous area to the southwest is separated by the powerline and does not meet the 5,000 acre wilderness criteria. This area is no longer considered for wilderness potential.

The area is dissected by one major stream, Big Deer Creek, and two smaller drainages, Little Deer Creek and Quartz Gulch. Several small drainages feed directly into Big Deer Creek and Panther Creek. The sideslopes along Panther Creek and the lower reach of Big Deer Creek are steep (+70 percent) with many rock outcrops and near surface rock, and talus slopes. Remaining slopes are from 20 to 60 percent. The lowest point in the roadless area is along Panther Creek, which is 3,500 feet; the highest point is located along Blackbird Ridge, and is over 9,000 feet. Big Deer Creek forms a boundary between the granite bedrock to the north and the quartzite bedrock to the south. Granitic bedrock forms loamy sand textured soils; quartzite forms sandy loam textured soils. Much of the area is timbered with lodgepole pine, subalpine fir, Douglas-fir, and ponderosa pine. Sage and grass occupy the open hillsides. Western ponderosa, the western spruce-fir, and grand fir/Douglas-fir are the ecosystem types represented in the area.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The area is essentially natural appearing. The overall influence of man's past activities or natural integrity has been low to moderate. The primary existing impacts are a mining impact in the Big Deer Creek Drainage and a powerline corridor in the southern tip which cannot be corrected. The powerline corridor could easily be deleted from any proposed wilderness by a boundary modification. One portion of the area is "split" by the powerline and no longer meets size qualifications for consideration as wilderness. Most visitors would find the majority of this roadless area to be apparently natural.

Undeveloped Character: Mining related access road intrusions totaling 886 acres were identified within the southern portion of the roadless area from the Blackbird Mine properties to Big Deer Creek and approximately one mile up Indian Creek. The Cobalt Townsite and Blackbird Mine powerline corridors cross the southeastern end of the roadless area and split it into three separate parcels. The southwestern parcel is less than 5,000 acres. This isolated portion of the roadless area and the road intrusion portion no longer meet roadless area criteria and would not be considered further for wilderness. The southeastern tip split off by the powerline is greater than 5,000 acres and is a new roadless area #504A South Panther Creek.

Opportunities for Experience: Due to large size, good topographic and vegetative screening, proximity to existing wilderness, high diversity and lack of developed recreation facilities, there is a very high opportunity for solitude and primitive recreation. Few opportunities for challenging experiences exist.

Special Features: The roadless area's scenery is considered common for the Salmon portion of the Salmon-Challis National Forest. An eligible river segment for classification in the Wild and Scenic River System, Panther Creek, runs along the eastern boundary of this roadless area.

Manageability: The roadless area is bordered on the west and north by the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness; by mining activities and lands managed intensively for timber harvest on the south; and separated by a road corridor from the Jureano Roadless Area on the east. Logical and manageable boundaries could be developed for a large portion of this roadless area. Size does not affect consideration of this area for wilderness, as it is adjacent to the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Fish habitat is limited to the upper reaches of Panther Creek and Big Deer Creek because of mining induced pollution further downstream. Conditions previously were considered good to excellent. Fishing use in Upper Big Deer Creek is light and quality would be high.

Wildlife: Mule deer, elk, and bighorn sheep are year-round residents, wintering along the Panther Creek face. Natural mineral licks which occur in the Lick Creek and Mud Lick Creek areas are frequented by these big game species. Black bear and mountain lion are also abundant. Mixed stands of old growth ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir between Lick Creek and Indian Creek provide high quality habitat for cavity nesting birds and mammals.

Water: The small drainages in this area are in an excellent hydrologic condition and produce moderate to large volumes of excellent quality water. Several streams have been significantly impacted by historic mining activities. Acid mine drainage has severely damaged the water quality of Blackbird Creek, lower Big Deer Creek, and lower Panther Creek, making these streams no longer favorable fish habitat.

Botanical: Lemhi penstemon (*Penstemon lemhiensis*) a sensitive plant species occurs in this roadless area.

Recreation: During 1982 an estimated 6,200 recreation visitor days of recreation use occurred in the Panther Creek Roadless Area, primarily related to hunting, backpacking, and horseback riding. Recreation use at present is considered moderate and is primarily related to hunting and wilderness access. There would likely be a slight increase should this area become designated as wilderness, as it provides early and late season access to the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness.

Timber: An estimated 194 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated annual potential yield of 2.1 million board feet.

Range: With the exception of a small amount of recreational horse use, the area is not grazed by livestock.

Minerals and Energy: The area's hardrock mineral potential is rated high. No mineral production has occurred from this area, which lies immediately adjacent to the Blackbird Mine, a major past producer of cobalt, copper and gold. Mining claim owners are continuing to do assessment work. Numerous cobalt-copper occurrences lie throughout the south half of this roadless area. This roadless area contains 32,500 acres of medium geothermal potential. Currently, a lease application has been submitted for geothermal development on 33 acres within this roadless area.

Landownership and Special Uses: The area includes two tracts of private land totaling 51 acres in Birch Creek and Little Deer Creek.

Roads and Trails: This area contains both authorized and unauthorized roads and motorized trails. There are 5.6 miles of 69 KV powerline within the intrusion and guide permits are issued for the area.

Heritage: The potential for prehistoric cultural resources is considered high adjacent to Panther Creek, and moderate to low throughout the remainder of the roadless area. Historic structures exist within the roadless area, but they have not been evaluated for their significance.

Disturbances: Fire occurrence is moderate. Some Douglas-fir stands in the lower portions of Big Deer Creek are infested with dwarf mistletoe, and there are endemic levels of Mountain Pine Beetle and Douglas-fir Beetle within the roadless area.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the West Panther Creek Roadless Area. Table West Panther 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 Panther Creek-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| West Panther 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 | 32,500 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Backcountry | 0 | 4,600 | 32,500 | CPZ | 3,400 |
| | | | | NonCPZ | 29,100 |
| GFRG | 0 | 27,900 | 0 | 0 | |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Total Acres | 32,500 | 32,500 | 32,500 | 32,500 | |

Table West Panther Creek-2. Potential activities

| West Panther 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 | 32,500 | 32,500 | 3,400* |
| Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 32,500 | 32,500 | 32,500 | 32,500 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 32,500 | 32,500 | 32,500 | 32,500 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 32,500 | 32,500 | 3,400* |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 32,500 | 0 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 32,500 | 32,500 | 32,500 | 32,500 |

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 29,100 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. Currently, a lease application has been submitted for geothermal development on 33 acres within the West Panther Creek Roadless Area. However, given the prohibitions on road building under the 2001 Roadless Rule, it's not expected that the lease would be approved or become active.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under the existing forest plan, around 23,600 acres would be managed under prescription 5B (long-term timber with high investment), 4,300 acres under prescription 5C (long-term timber with high investment), and 4,600 acres under prescription 4A (big game winter range for

forage and cover). Roads are generally permitted and timber harvest can occur for both restoration and commodity production purposes for the 32,500 acres under all three prescriptions. For the 4,600 acres under prescription 4A, timber harvest and associated road building are permitted as long as they don't conflict with standards to protect big game winter range. Any timber activities and road building that occur could alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term, although the impacts under prescription 4A would be limited by the requirement to protect big game winter range.

There are no prohibitions against new mineral leases or road building to access mineral leases in the existing forest plan prescriptions for the West Panther 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 32,500 acres of medium geothermal potential. Currently, a lease application has been submitted for geothermal development on 33 acres within this roadless area. 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 32,500 acres would be in the Backcountry theme and 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. Currently, a lease application has been submitted for geothermal development on 33 acres within the West Panther Creek Roadless Area. However, given the prohibitions on surface occupancy and road building in the Proposed Rule, it's not expected that the lease would be approved or become active.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 32,500 acres under the Backcountry theme, 3,400 of which are in the CPZ. Within the 3,400 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 29,100 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, including those constructed for fuel reduction projects, or using aerial systems could be done throughout all 32,500 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. Currently, a lease application has been submitted for geothermal development on 33 acres within the West Panther Creek Roadless Area. However, given the prohibitions on road building in the Modified Rule, it's not expected that the lease would be approved or become active.

Bald Mountain #614

17,000 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Bald Mountain Roadless Area is located approximately four miles directly west of Swan Valley. It is separated from other roadless areas to the south by Fall Creek Road. It includes the northern portion of the Caribou Range.

A motorized trail system provides access for recreational use, including off-highway vehicles and motorcycles.

The area is within the Rocky Mountain Province and is a part of the Caribou Range. Elevation ranges from about 5,500 to approximately 7,700 feet. Slopes are fairly steep and the terrain is broken and dissected by numerous drainages. Vegetative type varies from large open areas of grass, brush and aspen to scattered patches of conifer (mostly Douglas fir). Continuous stands of Douglas fir are located on the north facing slopes and heads of Garden Creek and Pritchard Creek. The entire area is within the sagebrush steppe ecosystem and the Douglas-fir ecosystem.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Influence on natural integrity by physical developments is moderate; influence on apparent naturalness is moderate. Although mineral related development, fences, and primitive roads have affected the area, many of the developments are separable.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunity for solitude is low and opportunity for primitive recreation is low. Vegetative and topographic screening exists over much of the area but the area is small, adjacent to a major gravel road. Opportunities for challenging experiences are rare.

Special Features: No special features exist.

Manageability: Boundaries are fairly-well defined. Range improvements that were constructed using bulldozers have altered wilderness character in some areas. Boundary modification would improve wilderness qualities. There are no adjacent contiguous roadless areas.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: A population of Yellowstone cutthroat trout occurs in the area.

Wildlife: This area is considered occupied habitat for Canada lynx, a threatened species. The area is important summer and winter range for elk and deer and contains elk calving areas. Other sensitive and management indicator species occur in this area.

Water: The area receives a fair snow pack which largely drains into dry farm areas. The southern portion drains into Fall Creek. There are no unusual features about the water potential in this area.

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

Recreation: The area receives a moderate amount of dispersed recreation use, mainly associated with hunting in the fall and includes 2 miles of road and 14 miles of trail open to motorized summer travel. Snowmobile use occurs in the winter.

Timber: The timber stands in the roadless area are mostly on the north and east facing slopes. The southern and western slopes are mostly sagebrush, grass, aspen, and other brush types. The timbered slopes vary from aspen areas to lodgepole pine with some Douglas-fir stands.

Range: This area provides summer range for five sheep allotments. The area being largely a brush vegetative type is well suited to this use. Each allotment supports about 1,000 head, usually from June 16 or July 1 to August 31.

Wildland Fire Use: This area is not managed for Wildland Fire Use. The Fire Management Plan has identified the entire roadless area for suppression.

Minerals and Energy: This roadless area contains 17,000 acres of medium geothermal potential, has had geothermal leases in the past but has no valid leases at this time. Bald Mountain is considerate to have moderate potential for oil and gas occurrence, has had oil and gas leases in the past but currently has no valid leases. Since natural gas would be the most likely carbon reserve discovered, and the cost of developing infrastructure to develop natural gas is very high (i.e., roads and pipelines), the area is unlikely to ever support any producing wells or full-field developments. There is a known phosphate deposit on the northeast edge of the area of 1,400 acres, but it is not yet under lease.

Heritage: Significant cultural resources have not been identified.

Disturbances: Physical developments such as primitive roads, fences and evidences of mining exploration have affected only about 25 acres.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Bald 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 Bald Mountain-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| Bald Mountain 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 | 17,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Backcountry | 0 | 15,400 | 15,400 | CPZ | 400 |
| | | | | NonCPZ | 15,000 |
| GFRG | 0 | 1,600 | 1,600 | 1,600 | |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Total Acres | 17,000 | 17,000 | 17,000 | 17,000 | |

Table Bald Mountain-2. Potential activities

| Bald Mountain 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 | 17,000 | 17,000 | 2,000 ² |
| Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 17,000 | 17,000 | 17,000 | 17,000 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 17,000 | 17,000 | 17,000 | 17,000 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 17,000 | 17,000 | 2,000 ² |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 17,000 | 17,000 ¹ | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 17,000 | 17,000 | 17,000 | 17,000 |

¹Road building in Backcountry areas under Alternative 3 would be permitted for phosphate leases only.

²Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 15,000 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 existing forest plan direction, around 15,400 acres would be managed under prescription 2.7 (deer and elk winter range) and 1,600 acres under prescription 6.1 (range management).

While the forest plan prescriptions don't have any prohibitions against mineral activities, no oil and gas activity is expected because of forest-wide decision in 2000 that made most of the Targhee unavailable for oil and gas leasing. The Bald Mountain Roadless Area contains 17,000 acres of medium geothermal potential, and if any geothermal leasing occurred, it would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term. Bald Mountain also contains 1,430 acres with unleased phosphate deposits. It is expected that these areas would be developed at some point over the next 50 years; if this occurs then the roadless characteristics of the Bald Mountain Roadless Area would be altered over the short and long term.

With regards to timber harvest, prescription 2.7 only allows timber harvest and road building to access the timber harvest if they produce some additional habitat values, e.g. improvements in winter elk range habitat. While the immediate impact of any timber harvest would likely alter roadless characteristics in the short run, the dual objective of habitat protection would limit the long term impact. The rangeland management prescription 6.1 allows timber harvest to improve wildlife habitat. However, these lands are generally non-forested so little to no timber harvest (or road building to access timber harvest) is expected. As such, it is unlikely that roadless characteristics would be altered.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule about 1,600 acres would be managed under the General Forest, Rangeland and Grassland theme (GFRG) and 15,400 acres would be managed under the Backcountry theme.

For the 1,400 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. Since this section

of the Bald Mountain Roadless Area is primarily rangeland, however, little to no timber activity is expected.

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.

There are 1,430 acres of known phosphate deposits not yet under lease in the Bald Mountain Roadless Area. These acres are all located in the Backcountry theme where surface occupancy and new road construction to access new phosphate leases would be allowed. It's expected that these areas would be developed at some point over the next 50 years; if this occurs then the roadless characteristics of the Bald Mountain Roadless Area would be altered over the short and long term. There is little to no potential for oil and gas activities due to a 2000 forest wide decision that prohibited these activities on most of the Targhee. The area does contain 17,000 acres of medium geothermal potential. If any geothermal activities occurred in Bald Mountain, then they would alter roadless characteristics in both the short and long-term.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 15,400 acres under the Backcountry theme, 400 of which are in the community protection zone (CPZ), and 1,600 acres under the GFRG theme.

Within the 400 Backcountry acres that are in 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 15,000 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 15,400 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.

For the 1,600 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.

There are 1,400 acres of known phosphate deposits not yet under lease in the Bald Mountain Roadless Area, all of which would be located under the Backcountry theme. Since the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule prohibits road construction to access new mineral leases under the Backcountry theme, no development of phosphate deposits is expected in Bald Mountain Roadless Area. No mineral activity is expected in the GFRG areas because the GFRG exception for road building for phosphate leases does not apply to this area and there is no known phosphate present in the GFRG portion of this roadless area.

Garfield Mountain #961
43,300 Acres Targhee (Idaho)
48,900 Acres Beaverhead-Deerlodge (Montana)
92,200 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Garfield Mountain Roadless Area is situated 22 air miles north of Dubois, Idaho. It extends along the Continental Divide from Medicine Lodge Pass on the west to Headquarter Creek, just west of Monida Pass. Approximately 43,300 acres are located on the Targhee portion of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest, and 48,900 acres are located in Montana, on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest. Some primitive roads lie within the roadless area, primarily as short extensions on the existing road system. Few designated trails exist. One trail follows the Continental Divide through the roadless area; another links the headwaters of Middle Creek with the east and west forks of Indian Creek to the east.

The area is within the Rocky Mountain Forest Province. It is part of the Beaverhead Mountains. Elevation ranges from about 7,500 to 10,100 feet. Relief is moderately rugged. The entire area is within the Douglas-fir forest and the western spruce-fir forest ecosystems.

Vegetation on the higher areas is sparse. Below the slide rocks are alpine types of vegetation consisting of fingers of limber and lodgepole pine. Some aspen is abundant in the Modoc - Pleasant Valley area. The bulk of lower areas are open grass-sage with fingers of Douglas-fir and mountain mahogany up the canyons and on northern slopes.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Wilderness characteristics are enhanced by the presence of a contiguous area to the north on the Beaverhead National Forest. Influences on natural integrity by physical developments are moderate; influences on apparent naturalness is moderate. Natural integrity is broken by fences and off-road vehicle trails. Ponds, stock watering troughs, physical developments for mining and off-road vehicle use have a moderate influence on naturalness.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunity for a challenging, remote, backcountry experience is low to moderate. Opportunity for solitude is moderate; opportunity for primitive recreation is low. The lack of topographic and vegetative screening reduces the opportunity for solitude. Permanent off-site intrusions are visible but distance obscures effect.

Special Features: There are no special scenic landmarks. High mountain lake and wild resident trout fisheries are present.

Manageability: The area is linear and narrow in shape and almost divided by two roads. Boundaries are fairly well defined. Management would be compatible with adjacent lands. Coordination with Beaverhead National Forest for their portion of Garfield Mountain Roadless Area and Bureau of Land Management would be necessary. The area is adjacent to Targhee National Forest lands to the east and west. Beaverhead National Forest lands are adjacent to the north and land administered by the Bureau of Land Management form the southern boundary. There are adjacent private lands on the northeast boundary and several State of Idaho lands are contiguous to the south.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: A population of Yellowstone cutthroat trout occurs in this area.

Wildlife: This area is considered occupied habitat for Canada lynx, a threatened species. Deer, elk, and moose use the higher elevations for summer range and lower reaches for winter range. Mountain goats inhabit the area. Antelope also use the area for summer range. Numerous species of small mammals and birds also inhabit the area. Rocky Mountain wolf are believed to pass through the area, none are verified

sightings. Sage grouse are abundant at lower elevations. Other sensitive and management indicator species occur in this area.

Water: Watershed values are high. Streams that run year long are an important source of irrigation water for farms and ranches below the forest boundary.

Botanical: Centennial rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus parryi* spp. *montanus*) a sensitive plant species occurs in the roadless area. Ecological diversity is low to moderate as there are no extreme variations between elevation, temperature, or moisture.

Recreation: Recreational use is increasing, consisting mainly of hunting, camping, and snowmobiling. Some hiking, horseback riding, and off-road vehicle use also occurs. There are 11 miles of road and 8 miles of trail open to motorized summer use. The area is open to snowmobiling in the winter.

Timber: The area is not a heavy timber producer.

Wildland Fire Use: Much of this area is managed for Wildland Fire Use: The application of the appropriate management response to naturally-ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific resource management objectives in predefined, designated areas outlined in Fire Management Plans.

Range: There are parts of five sheep and four cattle allotments within the area. Some sagebrush spray and burning projects have been carried out to improve range conditions. Currently the area provides about 3,900 animal unit months (AUM's) of grazing. There is a potential to increase grazing by about 400 AUM's. Permittees have over \$80,000 invested in range improvement.

Minerals and Energy: There are commercial deposits of travertine, a building stone presently being mined on the roadless area. The area has been entirely covered by leases or applications for oil and gas leases, but those leases have expired. The area is considered to have low potential for natural gas. One exploration well was drilled in the head of West Indian Creek with negative results. There are no utility corridors in the area. This roadless area contains 43,300 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no special uses that are incompatible with wilderness.

Heritage: Significant cultural resources are not known to exist.

Disturbances: Part of the area is within the High Country Fire Management Area where some wildfire would be allowed to burn under certain prescribed conditions.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Garfield 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 Garfield Mountain-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| Garfield Mountain 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 | 8,500 | 8,500 | 8,500 |
| Similar to Backcountry | 43,300 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Backcountry | 0 | 14,500 | 14,500 | 32,000 |
| GFRG | 0 | 19,800 | 19,800 | 2,300 |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 500* | 500* | 500* |
| Total Acres | 43,300 | 43,300 | 43,300 | 43,300 |

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the Garfield Mountain Roadless Area is Visual Quality Maintenance. For further information on this designation, see the Targhee National Forest LRMP.

Table Garfield Mountain-2. Potential activities

| Garfield Mountain 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 | 34,300 | 34,300 | 2,300 |
| Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 43,300 | 34,000 ¹ | 42,800 | 42,800 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 43,300 | 34,000 ¹ | 42,800 | 34,300 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 34,000 ¹ | 42,800 | 2,300 |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 19,800 | 19,800 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 43,300 | 34,300 | 34,300 | 34,300 |

¹Timber cutting is not expressly permissible for these purposes under prescription 3.1.1, however this prescription permits timber cutting for 'minor' forest products such as camp firewood, posts and poles for fencing on Forest only, administrative use.

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 existing forest plan direction, around 8,500 acres would be managed under prescription 3.1.1 (non-motorized), 1,000 acres under prescription 2.7 (deer and elk winter range), 100 acres under prescription 3.2 (semi-primitive motorized), 500 acres under prescription 5.1.4 (timber management - big game security emphasis), 12,900 acres under prescription 5.4 (elk summer range), and 19,800 acres under prescription 6.1 (range management).

Mineral activities are not permitted in the 8,500 acres under prescription 3.1.1. While the remaining the forest plan prescriptions don't have any prohibitions against mineral activities, no oil and gas activity is expected because of forest-wide decision in 2000 that made most of the Targhee unavailable for oil and gas leasing. There are no known phosphate deposits in the area, so no phosphate activity is expected either. The Garfield Mountain Roadless Area contains 43,300 acres of medium geothermal potential. If any geothermal leasing occurred, it would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

Little to no timber activity is expected in the 8,500 acres under prescription 3.1.1 because no new road construction is permitted. Prescription 3.2 allows limited timber activities such as harvest for firewood and posts and poles for fencing, but little activity is expected here either since the forest plan guideline for this area discourages road development.

Timber harvest and road building to access the timber harvest is allowed under prescriptions 2.7, 5.1.4 and 5.4 if these activities improve or maintain additional habitat values, e.g. improvements in winter elk range habitat. While the immediate impact of any timber harvest would likely alter roadless characteristics in the short run, the dual objective of habitat protection would limit the long term impact.

The rangeland management prescription 6.1 allows timber harvest to improve wildlife habitat. However, these lands are generally non-forested so little to no timber harvest (or road building to access timber harvest) is expected. As such, it is unlikely that roadless characteristics would be altered.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule about 19,800 acres would be managed under the GFRG theme, 14,500 acres would be managed under the Backcountry theme, and 8,500 acres under the Primitive theme.

For the 19,800 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. Since this section of the Garfield Mountain Roadless Area is primarily rangeland, however, little to no timber activity is expected.

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.

Little to no timber cutting would be anticipated for the 8,500 acres under the Primitive theme because roads are prohibited except for reserved and outstanding rights.

Leasable mineral activities and road building to access mineral leases are permitted under the GFRG theme. There is little to no potential for oil and gas activities due to a 2000 forest wide decision that prohibited these activities on most of the Targhee. The area does contain 43,300 acres of high geothermal potential. If any geothermal activities occurred under the General Forest 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 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 8,500 acres under the Primitive theme, 32,000 acres under the Backcountry theme, none of which are in the CPZ, and 2,300 acres under the GFRG 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 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 32,000 acres of Backcountry to improve TEPS habitat or ecosystem composition and function, provided that these activities maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. 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.

For the 2,300 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. However, the lands within the GFRG are primarily rangeland, so little or no timber harvest is anticipated.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Primitive, Backcountry or GFRG theme since either surface occupancy is prohibited or roads are not permitted to access new mineral leases. The GFRG exception for road building for phosphate leases does not apply to this area and there is no known phosphate present in this roadless area.

Garns Mountain #611

95,600 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Garns Mountain Roadless Area includes most of the area known as the Big Hole Mountains. The southeast boundary is Idaho Highway 31, Pine Creek Pass. All other boundaries generally follow the forest boundaries. It is located approximately 17 air miles east of Idaho Falls and about 7 miles west of Driggs, Idaho.

The area is within the Rocky Mountain Forest Province, and the sagebrush steppe ecosystem and the Douglas-fir ecosystem. Elevation ranges from about 6,500 feet to 8,999 feet at Garns Mountain. Slopes are relatively gentle on the north in the Grand View Point area. Toward the southern part of the area, slopes are steep and the terrain is pronounced and rugged.

Vegetation varies with elevation, lower slopes have scattered aspen and lodgepole pine interspersed with some sagebrush and grass on southwest slopes. Middle elevations are primarily covered with lodgepole pine. Douglas and alpine fir are more prevalent at higher elevations. Pine grass and huckleberry are the principal grass and shrub species.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The area retains its natural integrity and natural appearance due to the relative lack of people and location to a population center and has a variety of outdoor opportunities in spring and fall when other areas are inaccessible. However, rapid population growth combined with recent improvements to trails has resulted in increased recreation use.

Opportunities for Experience: The area is heavily used by motorized recreation as over 90 percent of the trails are managed for ATV or motorcycle use. Opportunity for solitude could be high because of the area's large size but due to the proximity to communities and heavy motorized use forest users often meet. Opportunity for primitive recreation is medium on the six non-motorized trails in the entire roadless area, which are primarily used for mountain biking.

Special Features: The area contains Burns Creek (an eligible scenic river), the 500-acre Burns Canyon Research Natural Area and is bounded by the eligible Wild and Scenic River corridor along the South Fork of the Snake River.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: This area includes important habitat for the Yellowstone cutthroat trout.

Wildlife: This area is considered occupied habitat for Canada lynx, a threatened species. Deer, elk, and moose use the higher elevations for summer range and lower reaches for winter range. Other sensitive and management indicator species occur in this area.

Water: The north and west forks of Pine Creek as well as Burns Creek are major water suppliers to the South Fork of the Snake River. Otherwise, the area is a fair water producer from normal winters snow pack. Very little water drains to the east into Teton Basin. The area has an abundance of small springs.

Botanical: Ute ladies'-tresses (*Spiranthes diluvialis*) a threatened species occurs in this roadless area. Ecological diversity is high due to elevation, moisture, and temperature variations. Numerous open meadows are in the area.

Recreation: The area provides a moderate amount of recreation use. Hiking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, cross country skiing, snowmobiling, and motorbike and OHV riding are the main activities. Recreational gold-panning occurs in Burns Creek and several other smaller drainages in this roadless area. Many people from communities in the Teton Basin, Idaho Falls and Rexburg use the area. There are several potential developed recreation sites where facilities could be constructed.

Timber: Douglas-fir occurs in the roadless area; however, this timber is usually of poor form, short, and is in scattered patches. Slopes are generally over 40 percent. Lodgepole pine is also available. Much of it is dead and dying due to a heavy infestation of the mountain pine beetle.

Wildland Fire Use: Much of this area is managed for Wildland Fire Use: The application of the appropriate management response to naturally-ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific resource management objectives in predefined, designated areas outlined in Fire Management Plans.

Range: Currently the area provides about 4,800 AUMs of grazing. There is potential to increase the use by about 600 AUMs. Permittees have about \$62,000 invested in range improvements.

Minerals and Energy: Several gold and silver claims along the Snake River on the western edge of the roadless area have been worked, but none are of commercial importance. The area is considered to have moderate potential for oil and gas occurrence, has had oil and gas leases in the past but currently has no valid leases. Since natural gas would be the most likely carbon reserve discovered, and the cost of developing infrastructure to develop natural gas is very high (i.e., roads and pipelines), the area is unlikely to ever support any producing wells or full-field developments. The area is considered to have medium potential for geothermal. Coal deposits are present but there are no valid claims for coal at this time. This roadless area contains 95,600 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: A major power transmission line corridor crosses the area along the southern boundary (Idaho Highway 31, Pine Creek Pass).

Roads and Trails: The area has 8 miles of road and 140 miles of trails open to summer motorized use. The area is open to snowmobiling in the winter and has a network of groomed snowmobile trails. Eight miles of primitive roads extend into the roadless area for short distances at many points along the boundary. Roads in Fleming Canyon on the south and Mahogany Creek, Grove, and Twin on the east and Hinckley Creek on the west penetrate the area the farthest. 140 miles of motorized trail are maintained and provide access to the entire area.

Heritage: Petroglyphs have been found along the South Fork of the Snake River and in Black Canyon.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Garns 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 Garns Mountain-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| Garns Mountain 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 | 95,600 | 0 | 0 | | 0 |
| Backcountry | 0 | 90,600 | 90,600 | CPZ | 8,300 |
| | | | | NonCPZ | 79,700 |
| GFRG | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 2,600 |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 0 |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 5,000* | 5,000* | | 5,000* |
| Total Acres | 95,600 | 95,600 | 95,600 | | 95,600 |

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the Garns Mountain Roadless Area is 3,400 acres as WSR, 100 acres as Concentrated Development Area, 1000 acres as Visual Quality Maintenance and 500 acres as RNA. For further information on this designation, see the Targhee National Forest LRMP.

Table Garns Mountain-2. Potential activities

| Garns 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 | 90,800 | 90,800 | 10,900* |
| Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 95,600 | 90,800 | 90,800 | 90,600 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 95,600 | 90,800 | 90,800 | 90,600 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 90,800 | 90,800 | 10,900* |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 90,800 | 0 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 95,600 | 90,800 | 90,800 | 90,600 |

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 79,700 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 existing forest plan direction, 10,800 acres under prescription 2.7 (deer and elk winter range), 70,500 acres under prescription 3.2 (semi-primitive motorized), 100 acres under prescription 4.3 (special area - dispersed camping management), 7,000 acres under prescription 5.1.3 (timber mgmt - no clear cutting, urban interface fuels management) and 2,400 acres under prescription 5.1.4 (timber management - big game security emphasis).

Mineral activities and associated road building are discouraged under prescription 4.3, so little to no activity is expected there. All of the other prescriptions in the roadless area allow mineral activities and associated road building. No oil and gas activity is expected, however, because of forest-wide decision in 2000 that made most of the Targhee unavailable for oil and gas leasing. There are no known phosphate deposits in the area, so no phosphate activity is expected either. The Garns Mountain Roadless Area contains 95,600 acres of medium geothermal potential. If any geothermal leasing occurred, it would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

Timber harvest and road building to access the timber harvest is allowed under prescriptions 2.7 and 5.1.4 if these activities improve or maintain additional habitat values, e.g. improvements in winter elk range habitat. While the immediate impact of any timber harvest would likely alter roadless characteristics in the short run, the dual objective of habitat protection would limit the long term impact. Prescription 3.2 allows limited timber activities such as harvest for firewood and posts and poles for fencing, but little activity is expected here either since the forest plan guideline for this area discourages road development.

For the 2,500 acres under prescriptions 4.3 and 5.1.3, both road building and timber harvest are permitted. If any timber activities or road building occurred, they would likely alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule about 90,800 acres would be managed under the Backcountry theme.

The Backcountry theme allows 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 allowed for new 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 88,000 acres under the Backcountry theme, 8,300 of which are in the CPZ, and 2,600 acres under the GFRG theme.

Within the 8,300 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 79,700 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 88,000 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 2,600 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; however this area has already been roaded and harvested.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry or GFRG themes since these themes prohibit construction of roads to access new mineral leases. The GFRG exception for road building for phosphate leases does not apply to this area and there is no known phosphate present in this roadless area.

Lionhead #963

16,900 Acres Targhee (Idaho)
32,800 Acres Gallatin (Montana)
49,700 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Lionhead Roadless Area straddles the Continental Divide where it forms the boundary between Montana and Idaho, and between the Gallatin National Forest (Montana) and Targhee portion of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest (Idaho). Approximately 32,800 acres are located in Montana on the Gallatin National Forest. The 16,900 acres in Idaho are located within Fremont County, Idaho, on the Targhee portion of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest.

The area is within the Rocky Mountain Forest Province. It is part of Henry's Lake Mountains. Elevation ranges from about 6,500 to 10,240 feet. Terrain is fairly steep and rugged with the mountains rising abruptly from Henry's Lake Flat. The area is within the Douglas-fir forest and the western spruce-fir forest ecosystem.

At lower elevations tree species are generally Douglas-fir, with some subalpine fir and Englemann spruce. Pine grass, low huckleberry, and sage are also prevalent. As elevation increases, subalpine fir increases and Douglas-fir and spruce decrease. At higher elevations limber pine is the major tree species. Small open meadows are common in canyon bottoms.

The 1997 Targhee Revised Forest Plan prescribed roughly 11,200 acres of the roadless area as recommended wilderness and therefore holds a high level of roadless characteristics. The area also includes the East and West Forks of Targhee Creek, an eligible wild river as well as the Targhee Creek Research Natural Area.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Influence on natural integrity by physical developments is low; influence of apparent naturalness is very low. The area has been little influenced by physical developments.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunity for solitude is high; opportunity for primitive recreation is high. Topographic screening enhances the opportunity for solitude. Diverse primitive recreation opportunities exist.

Special Features: There are no special scenic landmarks. A 2,700 Research Natural Area occurs in this roadless area and 2,500 acres are within an eligible Wild River corridor.

Manageability: The area is adjacent to the Targhee National Forest lands on the southeast and southwest, the Gallatin National Forest on the north and private, State of Idaho and lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management to the south. The area is contiguous to the Lionhead Roadless Area on the Gallatin National Forest. Boundaries are fairly well defined. Wilderness characteristics are enhanced by the presence of Lionhead Roadless Area on the Gallatin National Forest.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Targhee Creek, an important Yellowstone cutthroat spawning stream, provides 50 percent of the wild cutthroat production of Henry's Lake.

Wildlife: This area is included in the Primary Conservation Area for the grizzly bear, a Forest Service sensitive species. It is also considered occupied habitat for Canada lynx, a threatened species. Elk, moose, and deer are summer residents here, but only the moose attempt to winter in the high elevation alpine fir stands. The area also supports a band of bighorn sheep. Other sensitive and management indicator species occur in this area.

Water: Because of the extremely high elevations, this area is a heavy water producer for the Madison and Henry's Fork rivers. Part of this area adjacent to the Continental Divide has been contour trenched by a watershed rehabilitation project; however, the trenches do not preclude wilderness consideration.

Botanical: Pink agoseris (*Agoseris lackschewitzii*) a sensitive plant species occurs in the roadless area. Elevation extremes contribute to a moderate ecological diversity.

Recreation: Recreation use is undeveloped and of a backcountry nature. Hiking and horseback riding occurs during the summer. Snowmobile use is very popular in the winter. There are few opportunities for developed recreation facilities.

Timber: This roadless area contains Douglas-fir, subalpine fir, Englemann spruce, and some lodgepole pine timber. All of the area is classed as non-forest or unsuitable forest land. Timber is scattered; of poor quality; and generally located on steep, high elevation slopes. The area has not been managed for timber.

Wildland Fire Use: Some of this area is managed for Wildland Fire Use: The application of the appropriate management response to naturally-ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific resource management objectives in predefined, designated areas outlined in Fire Management Plans.

Range: No allotments occur in the area.

Minerals and Energy: No known mineral activity has occurred in the area and it has low potential for oil and gas. There are no utility corridors within the area. This roadless area contains 16,900 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no non-compatible special uses.

Roads and Trails: A mile-long spur road off of U.S. Highway 20 leads to the Targhee Creek Trailhead. Low standard nonmotorized trails follow both Dry Fork and Targhee Creek to their headwaters. The trail on Targhee Creek provides loop access to many lakes lying south of the Continental Divide. The nonmotorized Continental Divide trail crosses this area on both the Gallatin and Targhee National Forests.

Heritage: No significant cultural resources are known to exist.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Lionhead Roadless Area. Table Lionhead-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 Lionhead-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| Lionhead Management Theme | Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule | Alternative 2 Existing Plan | Alternative 3 Proposed Rule | Alternative 4 Modified Rule |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Wild Land Recreation | 0 | 11,200 | 11,200 | 11,200 |
| Primitive | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Similar to Backcountry | 16,900 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Backcountry | 0 | 500 | 500 | 500 |
| GFRG | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 5,200* | 5,200* | 5,200* |
| Total Acres | 16,900 | 16,900 | 16,900 | 16,900 |

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the Lionhead Roadless Area is 2,700 acres as RNA and 2,500 acres as WSR. For further information on this designation, see the Targhee National Forest LRMP.

Table Lionhead-2. Potential activities

| Lionhead 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 | 500 | 500 | 0 |
| Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 16,900 | 500 | 500 | 500 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 16,900 | 500 | 500 | 500 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 500 | 500 | 0 |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 16,900 | 500 | 500 | 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 11,200 acres are managed under prescription 1.3 (Recommended Wilderness) and 500 acres under prescription 3.2 (semi-primitive motorized).

All mineral activities are prohibited on the 11,200 acres under Recommended Wilderness. While mineral activities are allowed in the 500 acres under prescription 3.2, no oil and gas activities are expected since the Lionhead Roadless Area has little to no potential for oil and gas leasing. There are no known phosphate deposits in the area, so no phosphate activity is expected either. The area does contain 16,900 acres of high geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the roadless area over both the short and long term.

Timber activity is only permitted in the 11,200 acres under prescription 1.3 if emergency conditions arise for protecting public safety, and no road building is permitted. These acres therefore expect little to no timber activity and would therefore maintain both their roadless and wilderness characteristics.

Prescription 3.2 allows limited timber activities such as harvest for firewood and posts and poles for fencing, but little activity is expected here either since the forest plan guideline for this area discourages road development.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule about 11,200 acres would be managed under the Wild Land Recreation theme and around 500 acres under the Backcountry 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 timber cutting, road building or mineral activities would occur in the 11,200 acres in the Wild Land Recreation theme because these activities are prohibited. These acres would therefore maintain both their roadless and wilderness characteristics.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected in the Backcountry theme because new roads to access leases are prohibited. The Backcountry exception for road building for phosphate leases is not relevant since there is no potential phosphate present in this roadless area. Leasable mineral activity is prohibited in the Wild Land Recreation theme.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 11,200 acres under the Wild Land Recreation theme and 500 acres under the Backcountry theme, none of which are in the CPZ.

The 11,200 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.

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 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. 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 prohibited to access new mineral leases.

Mount Jefferson #962
61,000 Acres Targhee (Idaho)
4,400 Acres Beaverhead-Deerlodge (Montana)
65,400 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Mount Jefferson Roadless Area is south and west of Henry's Lake and extends westward along the Continental Divide to the West Camas Creek area. The eastern end of the area is approximately eighteen air miles from West Yellowstone, Montana and the western end is approximately twenty-five air miles from Dubois, Idaho. Approximately 4,400 acres are located in Montana on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest.

This area is situated at the top of the Centennial Mountain Range within the Rocky Mountain Forest Province. Elevations range from 7,000 feet to in excess of 10,000 feet at several peaks along the east-west trending Centennial Range. Relief is moderate. Slope gradients range from gentle to moderately steep. The entire area is within the Douglas-fir forest ecosystem and the western spruce-fir forest ecosystem. Primary vegetative habitat types include alpine turf, which occurs in upper elevations and consists of short growing season grass and forbs, sagebrush/grass, Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine, which occupies the lower slopes. Aspen is abundant.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Influences on natural integrity by physical developments are high; influence on apparent naturalness is moderate. Physical developments tend to divide the area. With the exception of the phosphate prospects and watershed projects, most developments have left little effect on the naturalness. Even though roads and developments have segmented the area, the segments are contiguous to the Bureau of Land Management primitive area in Montana. When considered in combination with adjacent primitive area lands, the individual segments meet minimum wilderness qualifications.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunity for solitude is moderate. Topographic and vegetative screening does not contribute to the opportunity for solitude. The opportunity for primitive recreation is enhanced by the nonmotorized Continental Divide Trail. Opportunities for challenging experiences are rare.

Special Features: Slide Mountain is a special scenic landmark, and the Continental Divide Trail is a special feature situated in this roadless area. Approximately 6,800 acres are located in the Bloomington Lake Special Area.

Manageability: This area is bounded to the north by the Bureau of Land Management Centennial Mountain Primitive area, the Sheep Experiment Station and Mount Jefferson Roadless Area on the Beaverhead National Forest. The northern boundary is common with the Continental Divide. The southern boundary generally adjoins Targhee National Forest except south of Mickey's Lake where the area adjoins public and private lands. The existing southern boundary would be difficult to manage because it falls at mid-slope and is difficult to locate on the ground. The northern boundary adjoins primitive uses. These lands are administered by three different Federal agencies. Boundary adjustments which might improve wilderness management would reduce wilderness opportunities.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: A population of Yellowstone cutthroat trout occurs in this area.

Wildlife: The eastern half of this area is included in the Primary Conservation Area for the grizzly bear, a Forest Service sensitive species. It is also considered occupied habitat for Canada lynx, a threatened species. Elk, moose, and deer are summer residents here, but only an occasional moose attempts to winter in the high elevation alpine fir stands. Other sensitive and management indicator species occur in this area.

Water: As the roadless area includes some higher elevations, this is a water producing area. Sawtell and Mount Jefferson reach the 10,000 foot level and normally the snow pack is very heavy. The water from the melting snow filters down to Camas Creek, the Henry's Fork of the Snake River and Mud Lake. A watershed rehabilitation project, consisting of contour trenches, was constructed in the head of Rock Creek in the early 1960's. This roadless area contains 2,500 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

Botanical: Pink agoseris (*Agoseris lackschewitzii*) a sensitive plant species occurs in the roadless area. The ecological diversity is moderate due primarily to change in elevation and associated climatic changes.

Recreation: All trails in this roadless area are managed for nonmotorized use. Recreation facilities in the area include a trailhead in Chin Creek which accesses Aldus and Hancock Lakes and the Continental Divide Trail (east and west). The Cottonwood Creek trailhead, at the mouth of Trail Creek, accesses Salamander Lake, the Trail Creek trail, Salamander trail, Trail Creek-Chin Creek trail and Continental Divide Trail. Other trails within this area include Spruce Creek, Coal Mine, Table Mountain and Bear Gulch-Table Mountain. Dispersed recreation is increasing yearly. With the designation and signing of the Continental Divide Trail there has been increased use of all the trails in the area. Use and visits to the three lakes (Salamander, Aldus and Hancock) has also increased. Numerous youth groups visit these sites each year. Other dispersed use activity include hunting, hiking, camping, over night trips, horse back riding, and bird and animal watching. Snowmobile use in the winter months is increasing as the area provides good cross country snowmobiling in areas where no groomed trails currently exist.

Timber: The roadless area is covered with lodgepole stands on about one-half of the area. These stands occur at the lower elevations of the roadless area. The upper one-half of the roadless area varies from some lodgepole stands to some Douglas-fir stands on steeper slopes. At the higher elevations these stands include alpine fir and Engelmann spruce; finally ending in pure limber pine stands. The highest ranges in this roadless area are above timber line. The Ching Creek drainage contains large concentrations of lodgepole pine stands that are over mature and dead or dying. Recreation use is heavy in this drainage making safety of the visitors a concern as the dead trees are constantly falling to the ground. Fire hazard is also a concern because if a fire should get started the likely hood of losing the whole drainage is very high.

Wildland Fire Use: Some of this area is managed for Wildland Fire Use: The application of the appropriate management response to naturally-ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific resource management objectives in predefined, designated areas outlined in Fire Management Plans.

Range: This area contains portions of three sheep and one cattle allotments. The allotments are grazed through the summer with livestock coming off the forest in the fall. This area presently has a potential to increase livestock use.

Minerals and Energy: The area contains phosphate deposits of known commercial quality with 1,090 acres under an existing lease, and 380 acres unleased. Phosphate mining has occurred within the area but is not active at this time due to the transportation costs to the Simplot plant west of Pocatello. The company doesn't expect to renew the operation until their supply of phosphate in the Soda Springs area is exhausted (50-100 years from now). Some building stone is removed from the area and marketed locally. Several old mines exist which are thought to have been dug for coal and gold; however, no activity has been observed for the past 30 years. No records exist which indicates the presence of any valuable metallic ores in this roadless area and it is considered to have low potential for oil and gas. This roadless area contains 38,500 acres of high and 22,500 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no incompatible special uses.

Roads and Trails: 2.5 miles of road are open to summer motorized travel. The Keg Springs and the East Dry Creek roads cross the area and access lands administered by the Sheep Experiment Station. The Sawtell Peak road penetrates the east end of the area accessing a site maintained by the Federal Aviation Administration. The Continental Divide trail (nonmotorized) follows the divide across the area.

Heritage: Major cultural resource sites are within the area. Table Mountain cultural complex is thousands of acres in size and has numerous sites ranging from obsidian quarry sites to permanent camp and rendezvous sites. Other smaller sites have been located as areas have been surveyed for clearance for other resource activities.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Mount Jefferson Roadless Area. Table Mount Jefferson-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 Mount Jefferson-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Mount Jefferson-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

| Mount Jefferson 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 | 41,000 | 41,000 | 41,300 | |
| Similar to Backcountry | 61,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Backcountry | 0 | 13,200 | 13,200 | CPZ | 1,800 |
| | | | | NonCPZ | 8,400 |
| GFRG | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2,700 | |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 6,800* | 6,800* | 6,800* | |
| Total Acres | 61,000 | 61,000 | 61,000 | 61,000 | |

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the Mount Jefferson Roadless Area is Bloomington Lake Special Emphasis Area. For further information on this designation, see the Targhee National Forest LRMP.

Table Mount Jefferson-2. Potential activities

| Mount Jefferson 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 | 13,200 | 13,200 | 4,500 ² |
| Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 61,000 | 13,200 ⁵ | 54,200 | 54,200 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 61,000 | 13,200 ⁵ | 54,200 | 16,500 ³ |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 13,200 ⁵ | 54,200 | 4,500 ² |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 13,200 | 0 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 61,000 | 39,400 | 13,200 | 12,900 |

²Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 8,400 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.

³Timber cutting is prohibited in Primitive 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 are expected to occur in the 3,600 acres of the Primitive theme within 1 ½ miles of a community and/or contain a municipal water supply system.

⁵Timber cutting is not expressly permissible for these purposes under prescriptions 3.1.1 and 3.1.2, however these prescriptions permit timber cutting for 'minor' forest products such as camp firewood, posts and poles for fencing on Forest only, administrative use.

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. There are currently around 1,090 acres of phosphate deposits under lease in the Mount Jefferson Roadless Area. The mining area is currently inactive, but is expected to become active at some point in the long-term future (50 or more years). The 2001 Roadless Rule would permit the reactivation of the mining area, and this activity would likely alter roadless characteristic over the short and long term. No new mining leases would be expected, however, since road building for any new leases in the area would be prohibited.

Alternative 2 (Existing Plans): Under existing forest plan direction, around 14,800 acres would be managed under prescription 3.1.1 (non-motorized), 26,200 acres under prescription 3.1.2 (non-motorized), 800 acres under prescription 3.2 (semi-primitive motorized), 6,800 acres under prescription 5.1.4 (timber management - big game security emphasis), and 5,600 acres under prescription 5.3.5 (grizzly bear habitat).

Mineral activities are not permitted in the 14,800 acres under prescription 3.1.1. No new mineral activities are expected in the 26,200 acres under prescription 3.1.2 since new road construction is prohibited. While the remaining forest plan prescriptions don't have any prohibitions against mineral activities, no oil and gas activity is expected because of forest-wide decision in 2000 that made most of the Targhee unavailable for oil and gas leasing. The Mount Jefferson Roadless Area contains 1,090 acres under phosphate lease that are currently inactive. The mining area is expected to become active at some point in the long-term future (50 or more years), and if this occurs the roadless characteristics of the area would be altered. There are about 380 acres of unleased deposits within this roadless area too. The Mount Jefferson Roadless Area also contains 38,500 acres of high and 22,500 acres of medium geothermal potential. Any geothermal that occurs would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

Little to no timber activity is expect in the 41,000 acres under prescriptions 3.1.1 and 3.1.2 because no new road construction is permitted. Prescription 3.2 allows limited timber activities such as harvest for firewood and posts and poles for fencing, but little activity is expected here either since the forest plan guideline for this area discourages road development.

Timber harvest and road building to access the timber harvest is allowed under prescription 5.1.4 and 5.3.5 if these activities improve or maintain winter elk or grizzly bear habitat, respectively. While the immediate impact of any timber harvest would likely alter roadless characteristics in the short run, the dual objective of habitat protection would limit the long term impact.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule about 13,200 acres would be managed under the Backcountry theme and 41,000 acres under the Primitive 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.

Little to no timber cutting would be anticipated for the 41,000 acres under the Primitive theme because roads are prohibited except for reserved and outstanding rights.

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. Mining activities under the existing phosphate lease (1,090 acres) could occur in both the Primitive and Backcountry areas.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, there are 41,300 acres under the Primitive theme, 10,200 acres under the Backcountry theme, 1,800 of which are in the CPZ and 2,700 under the GFRG theme.

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 8,400 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 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 on 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.

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 3,600 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 road access. In addition these activities 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.

For the 2,700 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.

The Mt. Jefferson Roadless Area contains around 1,090 acres of known phosphate deposits under lease and 380 acres that are unleased within the Primitive theme. These existing lease areas would still be available for development because of prior existing rights; however the road construction would not be permitted to access the other 380 acres of unleased phosphate deposits. The mining area is currently inactive, but may become active at some point in the long-term future (50 or more years). Any phosphate mining activity that occurs would alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Primitive, Backcountry or GFRG themes since these themes either prohibit surface occupancy or roads to access new mineral leases of any kind. The GFRG exception for road building for phosphate leases does not apply to this area.

Palisades #613

122,000 Acres Targhee (Idaho)
 53,100 Acres Targhee (Wyoming)
 76,900 Acres Bridger-Teton (Wyoming)
 251,900 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Palisades Roadless Area on the Targhee portion of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest is contiguous to the Palisades Roadless Area on the Bridger-Teton National Forest. The portion of the area in Wyoming (approximately 135,300 acres) was designated as a Wilderness Study area by the Wyoming Wilderness Act of 1984.

The Palisades Roadless Area includes most of the Snake River Range. The southern boundary is U.S. Highway 26/39 between Alpine and Jackson, Wyoming. It is separate from the West Slope Tetons Roadless Area by State Highway 33/22 between Victor, Idaho and Jackson and from the Garns Mountain Roadless Area by State Highway 31 between Victor and Swan Valley. It is approximately 10 air miles southwest of Jackson, Wyoming.

Geographically, the area drains to the east, west, and south into the Snake River. Drainages in this area are, for the most part, well defined with deep canyons. There are some major faults located in this area. Observation Peak (9,972 feet) and Mud Peak (9,503 feet) are located on the boundary between the Targhee and Teton National Forests. The vegetation types exhibit considerable variety. At the lower elevations, lodgepole pine predominates, with mixtures of subalpine fir, Engelmann spruce, and Douglas-fir. In the higher elevations a spruce-fir mixture is dominant, with some scattered lodgepole pine. Ground vegetation varies from a dense grass-brush type to sparse grass on the steeper slopes. Plant communities represented in the area are Douglas-fir forest, western spruce-fir forest, lodgepole pine, and sagebrush steppe.

The 1997 Targhee Revised Forest Plan prescribed roughly 60,200 acres of the Idaho portion of this roadless area as recommended wilderness. The combination of Wilderness Study Area (Wyoming) and recommended wilderness (Idaho) creates a high level of roadless characteristics in much of this roadless area.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Opportunities for Experience: The Palisades Roadless Area provides very high potential for solitude by virtue of its size, topographical screening, and vegetative screening. The more remote, essentially unmodified, areas of the Palisades provide exceptional opportunities to experience isolation from the sight and sound of human, independence and closeness to nature. Interaction between users is low. The element of risk and opportunity for application of outdoor skills can be experienced to varying degrees throughout the Palisades. Fairly large areas with no trails can be found to challenge the map and compass skills of the more intrepid adventures.

Special Features: The Palisades Roadless Area offers spectacular views of mountain peaks interspersed with alpine meadows. A blue pool fed by a cold water spring near the head of Coburn Creek is a local attraction. Upper and lower Palisades Lakes and 800 foot waterfall canyon are also attractions. Approximately 5,500 acres including Palisades Creek, Waterfall Creek and Big Elk Creek were prescribed for Wild River eligibility in the 1997 Targhee Revised Forest Plan.

Manageability: The area is large enough for a viable wilderness if it were combined with both the contiguous Palisades Wilderness Study Area on both the Bridger-Teton and Targhee National Forests. Although the exterior boundaries are quite well defined, timber sales areas in the vicinity of Mosquito Creek, Fall Creek and Murphy Creek and the presence of a major power line would likely result in some boundary modification to aid manageability. This would be particularly true to accommodate approximately 8 miles of existing road that is closed to the public, but maintained to allow access to the BPA power line that runs from Swan Valley, ID to Jackson, WY.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: A population of Yellowstone cutthroat trout occurs in this area.

Wildlife: This area is considered occupied habitat for Canada lynx, a threatened species. Elk, moose, and deer are summer residents here and winter on the south-facing slopes above Palisades Reservoir. Harlequin duck occur in McCoy Creek, bald eagle nest on the Snake River and other sensitive and management indicator species occur in this area.

Water: All water originating from here is pure and free-flowing. All streams flow into the Snake River.

Botanical: Payson's bladderpod (*Lesquerella paysonii*) a sensitive plant species occurs in the roadless area.

Wildland Fire Use: Much of this area is managed for Wildland Fire Use: The application of the appropriate management response to naturally-ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific resource management objectives in predefined, designated areas outlined in Fire Management Plans.

Recreation: Most recreational activities associated with an undeveloped setting can be enjoyed in the Palisades. The area contains approximately 180 miles of trail between both forests. 36 miles of trail on the Targhee portion is open to summer motorized use. Big game hunting, fishing, horseback riding, backpacking, cross-country skiing, commercial heliskiing, snowmobiling, snow shoeing, and camping are experienced in the area.

Minerals and Energy: The Palisades is considered to have moderate potential for oil and gas. However, natural gas would be the most likely carbon reserve discovered, and since the cost of developing infrastructure to develop natural gas is very high (i.e., roads and pipelines), the area is unlikely to ever support any producing wells or full-field developments. Power line corridors on the north and south boundaries along Wyoming Highway 22 (Teton Pass) and Idaho Highway 31 (Pine Creek Pass) intermittently cross this area. This roadless area contains 122,000 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Heritage: There are no known historical features within the area.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Palisades Roadless Area. Table Palisades-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 Palisades-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| Palisades 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 | 60,200 | 60,200 | 60,200 | |
| Primitive | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Similar to Backcountry | 122,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Backcountry | 0 | 53,100 | 53,100 | CPZ | 5,900 |
| | | | | NonCPZ | 47,200 |
| GFRG | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 8,700* | 8,700* | 8,700* | |
| Total Acres | 122,000 | 122,000 | 122,000 | 122,000 | |

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the Palisades Roadless Area is 3000 acres as Visual Quality Maintenance, 5,500 acres as WSR and 200 acres as Concentrated Development Area. For further information on this designation, see the Targhee National Forest LRMP.

Table Palisades-2. Potential activities

| Palisades 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 | 53,100 | 53,100 | 5,900* |
| Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 122,000 | 53,100 | 53,100 | 53,100 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 122,000 | 53,100 | 53,100 | 53,100 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 53,100 | 53,100 | 5,900* |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 122,000 | 53,100 | 53,100 | 53,100 |

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 47,200 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 existing forest plan direction, around 60,200 acres are under prescription 1.3 (recommended wilderness), 17,900 acres under prescription 2.7 (deer and elk winter range), 34,000 acres under prescription 3.2 (semi-primitive motorized), 100 acres under prescription 4.3 (special area - dispersed camping management), and 1,100 acres under prescription 5.1.3 (timber mgmt - no clear cutting, urban interface fuels management).

All mineral activities are prohibited on the 60,200 acres under Recommended Wilderness. Mineral activities and associated road building are discouraged under prescription 4.3, so little to no activity is expected there. All of the other prescriptions in the roadless area allow mineral activities and associated road building. No oil and gas activity is expected, however, because of forest-wide decision in 2000 that made most of the Targhee unavailable for oil and gas leasing. There are no known phosphate deposits in the area, so no phosphate activity is expected either. The Palisades Roadless Area contains 122,000 acres of medium geothermal potential. If any geothermal leasing occurred, it would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

Timber activity is only permitted in the 60,200 acres under prescription 1.3 if there are emergency conditions that threaten public safety, and no road building is permitted. These acres therefore expect little to no timber activity and would therefore maintain both their roadless and wilderness characteristics.

Timber harvest and road building to access the timber harvest is allowed under prescription 2.7 if these activities improve or maintain additional habitat values, e.g. improvements in winter elk range habitat. Seasonal closures on activities and roads would be expected. While the immediate impact of any timber harvest would likely alter roadless characteristics in the short run, the dual objective of habitat protection would limit the long term impact. Prescription 3.2 allows limited timber activities such as harvest for firewood and posts and poles for fencing, but little activity is expected here either since the forest plan guideline for this area discourages road development. For the 1,200 acres under prescriptions 4.3 and

5.1.3, both road building and timber harvest are permitted. If any timber activities or road building occurred, they would likely alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule about 53,100 acres would be managed under the Backcountry theme and 60,200 acres under the Wild Land Recreation theme.

The Backcountry theme allows 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 timber cutting, road building or mineral activities would occur in the 60,200 acres in the Wild Land Recreation theme because these activities are prohibited. These acres would therefore maintain both their roadless and wilderness characteristics.

No new leasable mineral activity is expected under the Backcountry theme since roads are not allowed for new 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 60,200 acres under the Wild Land Recreation theme, and 47,200 acres under the Backcountry theme, 5,900 of which are in the CPZ.

The 60,200 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.

Within the 5,900 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 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 47,200 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 53,100 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 precommercial thinning, 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 to access new mineral leases is prohibited.

Poker Peak #616

19,600 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Poker Peak Roadless Area is located adjacent to the southwest shore of Palisades Reservoir. The Bear Creek-Jensen Creek road forms the other boundary. The roadless area is about four air miles southeast of Palisade's town site. Except for primitive game and stock trails, little access exists.

The area is situated in the Caribou Mountain Range within the Rocky Mountain Forest Province. Elevation ranges from 5,600 feet along the shore of Palisades Reservoir to in excess of 8,400 feet at Poker Peak. The area consists of a single dominant northwesterly-southwesterly trending ridge, draining to the northeast and southwest. Slopes are moderately steep.

Vegetative types range from continuous stands of conifer (a combination of lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir, and aspen) in drainages draining into Palisades Reservoir and Elk Creek to large areas of grass-brush in the Poker Peak area and on south slopes draining into Jensen and McCoy Creek. The entire area is within the Douglas-fir forest ecosystem.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Influence on natural integrity by physical developments is low; influence on apparent naturalness is moderate. Physical developments such as unimproved roads can often be separated, thereby maintaining the integrity of the area. Developments related to grazing and off-site influence such as boats on the reservoir reduce naturalness.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunity for solitude is low; opportunity for primitive recreation is low. Solitude is reduced by the small size of the area, poor topographic screening and off-site influences. Vegetative diversity is the single factor positively contributing to the opportunity for primitive recreation. Opportunity for challenging experiences is rare.

Special Features: There are no special scenic landmarks.

Manageability: Area boundaries are well defined. Adjacent landownership and uses would be compatible with wilderness management. This area is bounded by Palisades Reservoir to the northeast. A small parcel of private land is proximal to the boundary in the south. The entire remaining boundary adjoins Targhee National Forest. This area is not contiguous to other roadless areas.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: A population of Yellowstone cutthroat trout occurs in this area.

Wildlife: This area is considered occupied habitat for Canada lynx, a threatened species. The area is summer range for elk, moose, and deer. Many non-game birds and animals reside in this area as well as those adapted to the shoreline of the reservoir, which includes a dense population of osprey nests. Bald eagles also occur in this roadless area. At least two grouse species are residents. The game animals generally vacate this north and east sloping roadless area during the winter because of heavy snow. The area is good black bear habitat and hunters occasionally report grizzly sightings. A very small amount of big game winter range exists on the south facing slopes along Palisades Reservoir along with essential bald eagle habitat. Wolverine and other sensitive and management indicator species occur in this area.

Water: The area is a fair water producer because of snow pack. All overland flow eventually reaches Palisades Reservoir.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur. The ecological diversity is high. Because the area has strong northeasterly and southwesterly aspects and a considerable range in elevation, numerous plant communities exist.

Recreation: Dispersed recreation use includes horseback riding, hiking and at a moderate level. Dispersed camping occurs from lake-oriented visitors. The area is closed to motorized use in the summer

but open to snowmobiles in the winter. There are no roads or trails open to motorized use in the roadless area.

Timber: The roadless area consists of timbered slopes on the east and north faces. The south and west slopes are generally not timbered or contain areas of aspen and minor areas of conifers. The timbered eastern and northern slopes contain lodgepole pine and Douglas-fir. Lodgepole is predominant.

Wildland Fire Use: Much of this area is managed for Wildland Fire Use. The application of the appropriate management response to naturally-ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific resource management objectives in predefined, designated areas outlined in Fire Management Plans.

Range: Parts of three sheep allotments are in the areas. All run about a thousand head for two months during July and August. The value of existing range improvements is estimated to be \$52,000 with a potential to increase to \$60,000.

Minerals and Energy: The area is considered to have moderate potential for oil and gas but has no current leases. Since natural gas would be the most likely carbon reserve discovered, and the cost of developing infrastructure to develop natural gas is very high (i.e., roads and pipelines), the area is unlikely to ever support any producing wells or full-field development. Prospecting here for gold is more recreational than economical. This activity occurs in all live streams in the area. Placer rather than lode claims are active in this roadless area. No claims of commercial value are known to exist. This roadless area contains 19,600 acres of medium geothermal potential. 380 acres of known phosphate deposits exist on the northeast edge of the area that are not yet under lease and is not likely to be developed until Soda Springs area no longer produces. This should not occur for another 50-100 years.

Heritage: Significant cultural resources are not known to exist.

Disturbances: A small portion of this area is within the high country fire management area where some wildfire would be allowed to burn under certain prescribed conditions.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Poker 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 Poker Peak-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

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

| Poker 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 | 19,500 | 19,500 | 19,500 |
| Similar to Backcountry | 19,600 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Backcountry | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GFRG | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 100* | 100* | 100* |
| Total Acres | 19,600 | 19,600 | 19,600 | 19,600 |

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas of the Poker Peak Roadless Area is Designated Dispersed Recreation Area. For further information on this designation, see the Targhee LRMP..

Table Poker Peak-2. Potential activities

| Poker 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 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 19,600 | 19,500** | 19,500 | 19,500 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 19,600 | 19,500** | 19,500 | 400* |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 19,500** | 19,500 | 0 |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 19,600 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Timber cutting is prohibited in Primitive 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 are expected to occur in the 400 acres of the Primitive theme within 1 ½ miles of a community and/or contain a municipal water supply system.

**Timber cutting is not expressly permissible for these purposes under prescriptions 3.1.1, however this prescription permits timber cutting for 'minor' forest products such as camp firewood, posts and poles for fencing on Forest only, administrative use.

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 existing forest plan direction, around 19,500 acres would be managed under prescription 3.1.1 (non-motorized), and 100 acres under 4.3 (dispersed camping management).

Mineral activities are not permitted in the 19,500 acres under prescription 3.1.1. In the remaining 100 acres of the Poker Peak Roadless Area, no oil and gas activity is expected because of forest-wide decision in 2000 that made most of the Targhee unavailable for oil and gas leasing. The area does have areas with medium geothermal potential and 380 acres of known phosphate deposits not yet under lease. Development is unlikely, however, because prescription 4.3 discourages mineral activities and associated road building.

Little to no timber activity is expected in the 19,500 acres under prescription 3.1.1 because there are no existing roads within the area and no new road construction is permitted. For the 100 acres under prescriptions 4.3, both road building and timber harvest are permitted but unlikely since the area is accessible only by boat. If any timber activities or road building occurred, they would likely alter roadless characteristics over the short and long-term.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule about 19,500 acres would be managed under the Primitive theme.

Little to no timber cutting would be anticipated for the 19,500 acres under the Primitive theme because roads are prohibited except for reserved and outstanding rights. The Poker Peak Roadless Area contains 400 acres of known phosphate deposits not under lease. The Primitive theme prohibits surface occupancy and road building to access new mineral leases. Given these prohibitions no development of the phosphate deposits is expected in this roadless area under the Proposed Rule.

Alternative 4 (Modified Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Modified Idaho Roadless Rule, all 19,500 acres of the roadless area are managed under the Primitive theme. 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 400 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 road access. In addition these activities must maintain or improve at least one roadless characteristic. Activities away from roads would likely be in the form of precommercial thinning, prescribed fire or wildland fire use. Any such projects would be designed to maintain or improve roadless characteristics over the long-term.

The Poker Peak Roadless Area contains around 380 acres of unleased phosphate deposits. Under the Modified Rule all 380 acres would be unavailable for development because the Primitive theme prohibits surface occupancy and road building to access new mineral leases. These prohibitions extend to all leasable minerals so no mineral leasing of any kind is expected in this roadless area.

Raynolds Pass #603

7,700 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Raynolds Pass Roadless Area is located directly west of Henry's Lake and is approximately eighteen air miles due west of West Yellowstone, Montana. Much of the northwest boundary is the Continental Divide and the Montana-Idaho State line. About one mile of the Divide Road extends within this roadless area, but it is otherwise managed for nonmotorized use. Numerous sheep and cattle trails cross the area. The Continental Divide Trail also passes through the area.

The area is within the Rocky Mountain Forest Province and is part of Henry's Lake Mountains. Elevation of the area ranges up to 7,500 feet. Slope rise fairly gently from Henry's Lake Flat to the Continental Divide. The entire ecosystem is within the Douglas-fir forest ecosystem.

Sage-grass is the major vegetative habitat type – comprising about one-half of the total area. This type is found along bottom lands of most drainages and intermediate ridges and open parks along the upper portion of the area. Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, and aspen are the tree species most common to the area.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Influence on natural integrity by physical developments is very high; influence on apparent naturalness is low. Primitive roads reduce the integrity but have only a low impact on naturalness.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunity for solitude is low; opportunity for primitive recreation is low. Off-site intrusions and a small core area reduce the opportunity for solitude. Few attractions exist. Opportunities for challenging experiences are rare.

Special Features: There are no special scenic landmarks.

Manageability: The area is bordered by Targhee National Forest land to the north and south, by the Beaverhead National Forest on the west, and by private lands on the east. This adjacent federal land is roaded. Boundaries are fairly well defined, except for removing the limited mining activity; there are few opportunities to improve wilderness characteristics by boundary modification.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: North Fork Deer Creek and Kelly Creek are Yellowstone cutthroat trout spawning and rearing areas for Henry's Lake and support high densities of cutthroat fry. Duck Creek supports 20 percent of wild cutthroat production to Henry's Lake.

Wildlife: This area is included in the Primary Conservation Area for the grizzly bear, a Forest Service sensitive species. It is also considered occupied habitat for Canada lynx, a threatened species. Deer and elk summer here and moose utilize the area as winter range as well. Elk move back and forth across the Continental Divide, especially during the hunting season. Wolverine and other sensitive and management indicator species occur in this area.

Water: The roadless area does not support continuous creeks of importance. Should an overland flow develop, it would contribute to Henry's Lake. Snow pack is heavy and provides the major amount of the annual prescription.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur. Ecological diversity is limited, due to relatively minor variation in moisture, elevation, and temperature.

Recreation: Recreational use is light consisting of only about 2,000 visitor days. There are few opportunities for increases in use. Use consists mostly of snowmobiling, hunting, and hiking use is concentrated along the Continental Divide Historical Scenic Trail. The area has 1 mile of road open to motorized travel and no motorized summer trails.

Timber: Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine are the timber species with commercial value. Volumes of Douglas-fir are quite large. Commercial stands of lodgepole pine are primarily located in the Kelly Creek area. Aspen within the roadless area has no commercial value at this time.

Range: Two livestock allotments are delineated in this area, one cattle and one sheep. Cattle are on the range from June 16 through September 30 and sheep use their area for two months during July and August. Permittees have invested about \$23,000 in range improvements.

Wildland Fire Use: This area is not managed for Wildland Fire Use. The Fire Management Plan has identified the entire roadless area for suppression.

Minerals and Energy: A building stone - Idaho driftwood is mined adjacent to the area. Claims have been filed within the area for Idaho driftwood. There are no identified utility corridors and the area is considered to have low potential for oil and gas. This roadless area contains 7,700 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no incompatible special uses.

Heritage: Significant cultural resources have not been identified.

Disturbances: Spruce budworm has infected Douglas-fir stands, especially in the central part of the area.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Reynolds Pass-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 Reynolds Pass-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Reynolds Pass-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

| Reynolds Pass 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 | 7,700 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Backcountry | 0 | 7,700 | 7,700 | CPZ | 4,800 |
| | | | | NonCPZ | 2,900 |
| GFRG | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Total Acres | 7,700 | 7,700 | 7,700 | 7,700 | |

Table Reynolds Pass-2. Potential activities

| Raynolds Pass 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 | 7,700 | 7,700 | 4,800* |
| Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 7,700 | 7,700 | 7,700 | 7,700 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 7,700 | 7,700 | 7,700 | 7,700 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 7,700 | 7,700 | 4,800* |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 7,700 | 0 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 7,700 | 7,700 | 7,700 | 7,700 |

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 2,900 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 7,700 acres are managed under prescription 3.2 (semi-primitive motorized).

While prescription 3.2 doesn't have any prohibitions against mineral activities, no oil and gas activity is expected because of forest-wide decision in 2000 that made most of the Targhee unavailable for oil and gas leasing. There are no known phosphate deposits in the area, so no phosphate activity is expected either. The area does contain 7,700 acres of high geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the roadless area over both the short and long term.

Prescription 3.2 allows limited timber activities such as harvest for firewood and posts and poles for fencing, but little activity is expected here either since the forest plan guideline for this area discourages road development.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule about 7,700 acres would be managed under the Backcountry theme.

The Backcountry theme permits 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 7,700 acres under the Backcountry theme, 4,800 of which are in the CPZ.

Within the 4,800 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 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 2,900 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 7,700 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 to access new mineral leases is prohibited.

Two Top #604**7,000 Acres****OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION**

The Two Top Roadless Area is located about six air miles southwest of West Yellowstone, Montana. The eastern boundary is the Continental Divide between Idaho and Montana. The southern boundary is the Union Pacific Railroad right-of-way. This area is within the Rocky Mountain Forest Province and is part of the Henry's Lake Mountains. Elevation ranges from about 7,000 to 8,000 feet. Slopes rise fairly rapidly from Henry's Lake Flat. The entire area is within in Douglas-fir forest ecosystem.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Influence on natural integrity by physical developments are high, influence on apparent naturalness is moderate. Natural integrity is broken by a primitive road which divides the area in half. Primitive roads and mineral related development moderately influence apparent naturalness.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunity for solitude is moderate; opportunity for primitive recreation is moderate. Distance from perimeters to the core of the area, access, and off-site intrusions provide only a moderate opportunity for solitude. An opportunity for primitive recreation exists but few attractions exist to enhance it. Opportunities for challenging experiences are rare.

Manageability: The area is bounded on the north and south by Targhee National Forest Lands; on the east by the Gallatin National Forest and by private lands on the west. Adjacent National Forest lands are not roadless. Boundaries are fairly well defined. There are limited opportunities to improve natural integrity and apparent naturalness through boundary modification to remove evidence of vegetation manipulation and range improvement.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Creeks in this roadless area are small and not significant fisheries.

Wildlife: This area is included in the Primary Conservation Area for the grizzly bear, a Forest Service sensitive species. It is also considered occupied habitat for Canada lynx, a threatened species. The area provides summer range for elk, some deer, and moose. Moose winter on the south and west slopes and in alpine fir stands. Deer and elk summer here and moose utilize the area as winter range as well. Wolverine and other sensitive and management indicator species occur in this.

Water: The area is a good water producer because of its heavy snow pack. Most drainages are free flowing streams to the meadows of Henry's Lake Flat and the Henry's Fork of the Snake River.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur. Ecological diversity is moderate. Most mid elevation range plant communities occur.

Recreation: Recreation use is heavy – about 60,000 visitor days per year. Primary use is snowmobiling but a small motorized section of the Continental Divide trail crosses the roadless area and is open to motorized vehicles under 50" from July 1 to October 14 each year .

Timber: The area contains significant volumes of lodgepole pine and Douglas-fir sawtimber.

Range: The area has been divided into three sheep allotments and one cattle allotment.

Wildland Fire Use: This area is not managed for Wildland Fire Use. The Fire Management Plan has identified the entire roadless area for suppression.

Minerals and Energy: There are placer and lode claims in this roadless area for the mineral varacite, a substitute turquoise gem material. Production volume is not known; however, on-site activity is occurring. The area is considered to have no potential for oil and gas. There are no utility corridors within the area, but the Reas Pass corridor is adjacent to the roadless area. This roadless area contains 7,000 acres of high geothermal potential. However, the 1988 amendment to the 1970 Geothermal Steam Act

"Prohibits the Secretary from issuing a lease for land within the Island Park Geothermal Area." Assuming that the boundary to the Island Park Geothermal Area referenced in the 1988 amendment is the same as the boundary in the 1980 EIS for the Island Park Geothermal Area, then the Winegar Hole and Two Top Roadless Areas are within the Island Park geothermal area.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no incompatible special uses.

Roads and Trails: A low standard road extends into the roadless areas about 1/3 mile on the west at Garner Canyon. The Two Top National Recreation Trail and the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail pass through the area. 2 miles of trail is open to motorized summer travel. The area is open to snowmobiling in the winter.

Heritage: Cultural resources are unverified, but may be present.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the Two Top Roadless Area. Table Two Top-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 Two Top-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Two Top-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

| Two Top 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 | 7,000 | 7,000 | 7,000 |
| Similar to Backcountry | 7,000 | 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 | 7,000 | 7,000 | 7,000 | 7,000 |

Table Two Top-2. Potential activities

| Two Top 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 | 7,000 | 7,000 | 7,000 | 7,000 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 7,000 | 7,000 | 7,000 | 1,900* |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 7,000 | 7,000 | 0 |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 7,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Timber cutting is prohibited in Primitive 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 are expected to occur in the 1,900 acres of the Primitive theme within 1 ½ 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 existing forest plan direction, around 7,000 acres would be managed under prescription 2.6.1 (grizzly bear habitat).

While mineral activities and road building are allowed under prescription 2.6.1, no oil and gas activity is expected because of forest-wide decision in 2000 that made most of the Targhee unavailable for oil and gas leasing. No phosphate activity is expected since there are no known phosphate deposits in the area. The Two Top Roadless Area does contain 7,000 acres of high geothermal potential. Any geothermal that occurs would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

Timber harvest and road building to access the timber harvest is allowed as long as grizzly bear management goals and objectives are still met. While the immediate impact of any timber harvest would likely alter roadless characteristics in the short run, the dual objective of habitat protection would limit the long term impact.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule there are 7,000 acres in the Primitive theme which 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 7,000 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 1,900 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 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.

There would be no new leasable mineral activities since new surface occupancy and road building for mineral access are both prohibited.

West Slope Tetons #610

800 Acres (Idaho)

123,451 Acres (Wyoming – Jedediah Smith Wilderness since 1984)

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The original West Slope Tetons Roadless Area is generally the west slope of the Teton Range. The Wyoming Wilderness Act of 1984 designated 123,451 acres of this roadless area as the Jedediah Smith Wilderness. The remaining portion in Wyoming was released for multiple use management in the 1984 Act. 800-acres of the roadless area remain in Idaho. It is located about three miles southeast of Victor, Idaho on both sides of the Moose Creek Road.

The portion of the roadless area that was not designated wilderness is comprised of the foothills of the west slope of the Teton Range within the Rocky Mountain Forest Province. Elevations range from 6500 to 7000 feet. The west slope of the Tetons is characterized by broad westward sloping ridges separated by westerly flowing canyons. The entire area is within the Douglas-fir ecosystem and the western spruce-fir forest ecosystem.

Vegetation varies depending on elevation. At lower elevations stands of Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, alpine fir, and spruce predominate. At higher elevations scattered patches of limber pine, subalpine fir and white bark pine are more common. Ground vegetation varies from heavy grass-brush types at lower elevations to sparse grass-forb types at higher elevations.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: For the 800 acres in Idaho, influence on natural integrity by physical developments is high due to the presence of the BPA power line and associated roads; influence on apparent naturalness is high because the parcel is bisected by the Moose Creek Road corridor which includes the Moose Creek Ranch and a large domestic sheep transfer facility, both on private property.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunity for solitude is low; opportunity for primitive recreation is low.

Manageability: Because the Wyoming portion of this roadless area was released for multiple use management in the 1984 Wyoming Wilderness Act, management of the remaining 800-acre Idaho portion as wilderness would be unlikely. The parcel is connected to the Jedediah Smith Wilderness, but because it is bisected by the Moose Creek Road and private land and includes a section of the BPA power line, it is unlikely to be nominated for wilderness designation.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive fish species occur in this roadless area.

Wildlife: This area is considered occupied habitat for Canada lynx, a threatened species. The area provides summer and winter range for elk, deer, and moose and may support elk calving. Other sensitive and management indicator species occur in this.

Water: The original area is a heavy water producer feeding substantial flows into Fall River and Teton River. Snow generally accumulates to great depths and is metered into the creeks according to summer temperatures. Small lakes are not uncommon and small creeks are common at very high elevations.

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

Recreation: The area has limited opportunities for developed recreation. The 800-acre Idaho piece does not include any system trails but is marked by user-created trails used by adjacent land owners for horseback riding and hiking.

Wildland Fire Use: This area is not managed for Wildland Fire Use. The Fire Management Plan has identified the entire roadless area for suppression.

Range: The private land that bisects the 800-acres includes a domestic sheep shipping facility used by the permit holder of the Burbank allotment. There is a sheep trail along the powerline to get to the corrals.

Minerals and Energy: The 800-acres of this roadless area in Idaho is considered to have medium geothermal potential. Within the Jedediah Smith Wilderness, a talc claim near Rammel Mountain contains high quality material but is not developed. Limestone of good quality is located over a large portion of the Teton Creek, Darby Creek and Fox Creek drainages. A commercial limestone operation near the mouth of Fox Creek adjacent to the boundary has been in production for 40 years.

Landownership and Special Uses: The BPA power line corridor with associated roads crosses the area.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

This section discusses the general effects of each alternative on the West Slope Tetons Roadless Area. Table West Slope Tetons-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 Slope Tetons-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table West Slope Tetons-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

| West Slope Tetons 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 | |
| Similar to Backcountry | 800 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Backcountry | 0 | 500 | 700 | CPZ | 500 |
| | | | | NonCPZ | 200 |
| GFRG | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 100* | 100* | 100* | |
| Total Acres | 800 | 800 | 800 | 800 | |

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the West Slope Tetons Roadless Area is Visual Quality Maintenance. For further information on this designation, see the Targhee National Forest LRMP.

Table West Slope Tetons-2. Potential activities

| West Slope Tetons 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 | 500 | 500 | 500* |
| Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 800 | 700 | 700 | 700 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 800 | 700 | 700 | 700 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 700 | 700 | 500* |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 800 | 500 | 500 | 700 |

*Temporary road construction and timber cutting may be allowed in the 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 existing forest plan direction, around 200 acres would be managed under prescription 2.6.5 (grizzly bear security area), 200 acres under prescription 2.7 (elk and deer winter range), 200 acres under prescription 3.2 (semi-primitive motorized), and 100 acres under prescription 5.3.5 (grizzly bear habitat).

Mineral activities are not permitted in the 200 acres under prescription 2.6.5. While the remaining the forest plan prescriptions don't have any prohibitions against mineral activities, no oil and gas activity is expected because of forest-wide decision in 2000 that made most of the Targhee unavailable for oil and gas leasing. The West Slope Tetons Roadless Area also contains 800 acres of medium geothermal potential. Any geothermal that occurs would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the area over both the short and long term.

Limited timber activity is allowed under prescription 2.6.5 to improve grizzly bear habitat, but little to no timber harvest is expected because no roads can be constructed. Prescription 3.2 allows limited timber activities such as harvest for firewood and posts and poles for fencing, but little activity is expected here either since the forest plan guideline for this area discourages road development.

Timber harvest and road building to access the timber harvest is allowed under prescription 2.7 and 5.3.5 if these activities improve or maintain winter elk or grizzly bear habitat, respectively. While the immediate impact of any timber harvest would likely alter roadless characteristics in the short run, the dual objective of habitat protection would limit the long term impact.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule about 700 acres would be managed under the Backcountry 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 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 700 acres under the Backcountry theme, 500 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 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 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 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 700 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 roads are not permitted to access new mineral leases of any kind.

Winegar Hole #347**3,800 Acres (Idaho)****10,715 (Wyoming – Winegar Hole Wilderness designated in 1984)****OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION**

The original Winegar Hole Roadless Area is located immediately south of and adjacent to Yellowstone National Park; north of Squirrel Meadows between the Fall River and Middle Boone Creek. The area is accessed via the Ashton-Flagg Ranch road, primarily from the Fish Lake Trailhead which also accesses the Bechler area of Yellowstone National Park.

The area is within the Rocky Mountain Province. Elevation of most of the area is about 6,350 feet. Terrain is relatively gentle with few major changes in elevation. Landforms are glacial in origin. The entire area is within the Douglas-fir Forest ecosystem.

Vegetation is diverse with riparian types (sedges, willows, and meadow grasses) associated with the many lakes and streams. These habitats are surrounded by extensive stands of lodgepole pine. Aspen, Douglas-fir and alpine fir are also present.

The area includes roughly 2,600 acres of Recommended Wilderness and therefore holds a high level of roadless characteristics.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Influence on natural integrity by physical developments is moderate; influence on apparent naturalness is moderate. A small timber sale and associated road and a portion of a larger sale have occurred in the western-most portion of the area.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunity for solitude is moderate; opportunity for primitive recreation is moderate. Vegetation screening and diversity, lakes, ponds and streams contribute.

Special Features: Grizzly bear frequently inhabit the area; the area has been classified as grizzly Situation 1 habitat. The area has no special landmarks.

Manageability: The 3,800-acre area is surrounded by the Targhee National Forest adjacent to the Winegar Hole Wilderness. Because the area is relatively flat with no system trails and few well defined landmarks, boundaries are not well defined.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Ponds, seeps, meadows, shallow lakes and streams furnish habitat for trumpeter swans, sandhill cranes and loons. Some of the larger lakes and streams support populations of Yellowstone cutthroat trout.

Wildlife: This area is included in the Primary Conservation Area for the grizzly bear, a Forest Service sensitive species. It is also considered occupied habitat for Canada lynx, a threatened species. The area is important elk summer range and a small part is used as an elk calving area. Trumpeter swan, common loon and other sensitive and management indicator species occur in this area.

Water: There is fairly high ecological diversity due to the many ponds and lakes.

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

Recreation: The area receives light dispersed recreation use mainly associated with hunting, and there is limited potential for developed recreation facilities. There are no motorized trails in the area. Thompson Hole Road (FR 361) is within the roadless area, north of the Fall River at Sheep Falls. The non-wilderness portion of this roadless area is open to snowmobiling in the winter.

Timber: Approximately 1,100 acres have been affected by timber management activity in the western-most portion of the area.

Wildland Fire Use: Some of this area is managed for Wildland Fire Use: The application of the appropriate management response to naturally-ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific resource management objectives in predefined, designated areas outlined in Fire Management Plans.

Range: There are portions of two grazing allotments. A small segment of the Fall River Ridge Allotment occurs north of Fall River. Approximately 3,000 AUMs occur on this allotment. South of Fall River is a portion of the squirrel meadows sheep and goat allotment that was closed in 1990 due to grizzly bear/sheep conflicts.

Minerals and Energy: The area has no potential for oil and gas but is considered to have 3,500 acres of high and 300 acres of medium geothermal potential. However, the 1988 amendment to the 1970 Geothermal Steam Act "Prohibits the Secretary from issuing a lease for land within the Island Park Geothermal Area." Assuming that the boundary to the Island Park Geothermal Area referenced in the 1988 amendment is the same as the boundary in the 1980 EIS for the Island Park Geothermal Area, then the Winegar Hole and Two Top Roadless Areas are within the Island Park geothermal area.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no incompatible special uses.

Heritage: No known cultural resources are known to exist.

ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

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

Table Winegar Hole-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 Winegar Hole-2 describes the potential acreage available for each regulated activity under each alternative.

Table Winegar Hole-1. Acres by theme or theme equivalent, by alternative

| Winegar Hole Management Theme | Alternative 1 2001 Roadless Rule | Alternative 2 Existing Plan | Alternative 3 Proposed Rule | Alternative 4 Modified Rule |
|----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Wild Land Recreation | 0 | 2,600 | 0 | 0 |
| Primitive | 0 | 100 | 2,700 | 2,700 |
| Similar to Backcountry | 3,800 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Backcountry | 0 | 400 | 400 | 400 |
| GFRG | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| SAHTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forest Plan Special Areas | 0 | 700* | 700* | 700* |
| Total Acres | 3,800 | 3,800 | 3,800 | 3,800 |

*The Management Prescription for the Forest Plan Special Areas in the Winegar Hole Roadless Area is WSR. For further information on this designation, see the Targhee National Forest LRMP.

Table Winegar Hole-2. Potential activities

| Winegar Hole 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 | 400 | 400 | 0 |
| Timber cutting to improve TEPS species habitat or to restore ecosystem composition and structure | 3,800 | 500 | 500 | 400 |
| Timber cutting to reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire effects | 3,800 | 500 | 500 | 400 |
| Timber cutting to reduce significant risk of wildland fire | 0 | 500 | 500 | 0 |
| Road construction or reconstruction to access new mineral leases | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Surface use and occupancy for new leases | 3,800 | 400 | 400 | 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 2,600 acres are managed under prescription 1.3 (recommended wilderness), 100 acres would be managed under prescription 2.6.5 (grizzly bear security area), and 400 acres under prescription 5.3.5 (grizzly bear habitat).

All mineral activities are prohibited on the 2,600 acres under Recommended Wilderness and the 100 acres managed under prescription 2.6.5. While mineral activities are allowed in the 400 acres under prescription 5.3.5, no oil and gas activities are expected since the Winegar Hole Roadless Area has little to no potential for oil and gas leasing. There are no known phosphate deposits in the area, so no phosphate activity is expected either. The area does contain 3,500 acres of high and 300 acres of medium geothermal potential. Any geothermal activities that occur would likely alter the roadless characteristics of the roadless area over both the short and long term.

Timber activity is only permitted in the 2,600 acres under prescription 1.3 if emergency conditions arise for protecting public safety, and no road building is permitted. These acres therefore expect little to no timber activity and would therefore maintain both their roadless and wilderness characteristics.

Limited timber activity is allowed under prescription 2.6.5 to improve grizzly bear habitat, but little to no timber harvest is expected because no roads can be constructed. Timber harvest and road building to access the timber harvest is allowed under prescription 5.3.5 if these activities improve or maintain grizzly bear habitat. While the immediate impact of any timber harvest would likely alter roadless characteristics in the short run, the dual objective of habitat protection would limit the long term impact.

Alternative 3 (Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule): Under the Proposed Rule about 2,700 acres would be managed under the Primitive theme, and around 400 acres under the Backcountry 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. 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.

Little to no timber cutting would be anticipated for the 2,700 acres under the Primitive theme because roads are prohibited except for reserved and outstanding rights.

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 2,700 acres under the Primitive theme and 400 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 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 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 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 Primitive and Backcountry themes since road construction is prohibited to access new mineral leases.

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