

## Chapter 2: Strategy

### Introduction

This chapter describes how we plan to move the Forest toward the desired conditions. It includes the following four sections:

**Program Emphases:** General approach to management in each program area.

**Objectives Component:** Objectives are measurable and time-specific accomplishments.

**Suitability of Areas Component:** This section describes general land use suitability for each management area.

**Special Areas Component:** This includes areas whose physical, biological, or social circumstances warrant placing them under special management, with unique management guidance that is consistent with this Plan.

### Program Emphases

Program emphases are not plan components and can be revised without further analysis or public involvement. Their purpose is to set the general context and framework for project-level planning. They will help determine how and where projects and activities will be proposed. Details of design and implementation will be largely determined by application of science and professional experience at the project level. Our management strategy is built around three broad elements:

- Achieving Ecosystem Health and Sustainability.
- Providing Multiple Benefits to People.
- Understanding and Incorporating American Indian Rights and Interests.

There is one strategy that is applied across all program areas. To be realistic about what can be accomplished, the outcomes identified in our objectives are based on anticipated budgets for the foreseeable future. If funding levels are significantly higher than expected, we would revise our objectives upward; however, at this time we do not want to set objectives that we are not reasonably certain we can meet.

## **Soils, Watersheds, and Aquatic Ecosystems**

*Purpose of Program: To maintain or restore watersheds and productive soils that provide clean water, sustainable populations of native aquatic species, and multiple benefits to people.*

For soils, our strategy is to manage soil properties and site characteristics in ways that provide for long term soil productivity, hydrologic function, and ground cover (litter and woody debris). Where soils have been damaged by fire or management activities, we plan to restore its productivity through appropriate treatments. In addition, we plan to monitor soil disturbances associated with ground-disturbing activities to ensure we maintain soil productivity.

Our strategy for aquatic ecosystem diversity and species diversity involves a two-tiered approach. First, in a coarse filter approach, aquatic ecosystems are managed toward reference conditions, which are approximated by conditions found in watersheds that have experienced minimal human disturbances. The assumption is that managing toward reference conditions would provide the necessary habitats to support the native aquatic species that have evolved here. Due to cultural and ecological changes, the Lolo National Forest cannot be managed to exactly mimic reference conditions, but managing aquatic ecosystems within this context would provide suitable aquatic habitats for native species. A primary mechanism of the coarse filter is the designation of “riparian conservation areas” (RCAs). These are areas along streams, lakes, ponds, and other wet areas that have specific protections in the form of guidelines and suitability of areas. In addition, “Montana Best Management Practices” and “Soil and Water Conservation Practices” are implemented to protect or restore water quality under the Clean Water Act. These practices are also considered a key element of the coarse filter.

Second, using a fine filter assessment, rare species are evaluated to determine limiting habitats, population influences, and whether they have special habitat needs that may not be provided through ecosystem-level management. Fine filter species are listed in one of the following categories: threatened and endangered species, species of concern, and species of interest. Species identified through the fine filter may need additional protection as specified in conservation strategies for individual species or groups of species. An example of a conservation strategy would be to survey for potential habitats during project planning in order to protect known populations of a fine filter species through project-specific measures.

Bull trout is currently listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. This species would trend toward recovery and delisting through designed plan components of desired conditions, suitability, objectives, and guidelines.

In aquatic resource planning, we use a multi-scale assessment process to evaluate the needs of fine filter species. On the Lolo National Forest, the focus is on bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout. This process begins at the broadest scale and works down to smaller watershed and sub-watershed scales. This planning tool identifies existing population and habitat conditions, risks, threats, and restoration needs.

One of the key elements of multi-scale assessment is the identification of the highest priority areas for restoration. These priority areas, called “active restoration watersheds,” are places watershed analysis may help us assess site-specific conditions and further prioritize restoration needs. Using this “step-down” approach, we plan to emphasize the following elements in active restoration watersheds:

- a. Improving habitat for bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout.
- b. Improving water quality by implementing “Montana Best Management Practices (BMPs)” and “Soil and Water Conservation Practices.”
- c. Restoring water quality and stream habitats by improving watershed scale processes and through direct riparian and in-channel treatments.
- d. Reducing aquatic habitat fragmentation through the removal of native fish migration barriers.
- e. Closing, obliterating, or improving roads that pose a high risk to water quality and aquatic habitats.
- f. Working toward the delisting of impaired water bodies in cooperation with the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through water quality assessment, total maximum daily loads (TMDLs), restoration plans, BMP implementation, and monitoring.
- g. Pursuing land acquisitions, exchanges, and conservation easements that favor aquatic restoration and management.
- h. Cooperating with private landowners and other land management agencies to improve water quality and restore aquatic ecosystems across multiple ownerships.

We will continually update our restoration priorities as conditions change and new information becomes available. We will take advantage of convenient opportunities to do restoration work in lower priority areas if they arise.

We will rely on plan monitoring and on the effectiveness of plan guidance to move toward the desired conditions. This will be an evaluation of our coarse filter/fine filter approach and will help us identify needs for possible plan amendments or other changes in management practices.

### **Vegetative Composition, Size Class, and Structure**

*Purpose of Program: To maintain or restore vegetative conditions that are resilient to disturbance.*

In terrestrial ecosystems, we employed multi-scale assessments which began at the broadest scale, such as a Bailey's Ecological Section or an entire river basin, and worked down to smaller subsections or watershed and sub-watershed scales. Using this approach, we identified historic conditions, existing conditions, risks, and threats. This analysis shows species and size class components that are within, and that have departed from, the historic range of variation.

Our overall strategy is to use vegetation management as a tool to move toward the historic range of variation to the extent possible within social values, acceptance and resource limitations. There are many opportunities for vegetation management; however, the degree to which we can take advantage of those opportunities depends on our future program levels. The amount of time, money, and uncertainty involved in achieving the desired conditions requires that we have a strategy for deciding where and how we implement vegetation treatments. Accordingly, our emphasis will be on:

- a. Landscapes within the wildland urban interface (WUI) that have experienced altered fire regimes and/or have areas with high fuel loadings.
- b. Landscapes that are at high risk for developing epidemic levels of insect and disease infestation.
- c. Areas where we can most effectively help shift the amount and distribution of age classes, size classes, density and species, including old growth, closer to their historic range of variation.
- d. Areas treated previously to maintain healthy conditions and to improve scenic integrity.

- e. Within these emphasis areas, the strategy would be:
- Outside the WUI, silvicultural prescriptions would be designed so they are compatible with natural disturbance processes, contribute to the historic range of variability (HRV), encourage regeneration of shade intolerant species, and minimize the potential for epidemic outbreaks of insects and disease.
  - Inside the WUI and within priority areas identified in community fire plans, silvicultural prescriptions would be designed to reduce fuel hazard, address human safety, and big game winter range.

### **Old Growth**

- f. Vegetation management in old growth stands would encourage old growth characteristics or habitat function that meet Green et al.
- g. Silvicultural prescriptions would be designed to increase the resilience of late successional and old growth stands from disturbances that threaten their composition and structure.

### **Fire**

Fire management priorities on all fires are first, ensure firefighter and public safety; and second, protect property and natural and cultural resources based on the relative values to be protected.

Our management will include both planned application of proven methods and opportunistic use of naturally occurring events, such as fires. We plan to make greater use of both naturally- and management-ignited fires where fuels, weather conditions, and proximity to high-value resources and structures make it safe to do so. In designated wilderness and backcountry areas, disturbance processes are the primary tool that can help us move toward the desired conditions. In areas where timber harvesting is allowed, both mechanical methods and disturbance processes will help us move toward the desired conditions.

Fire planning would be designed to create conditions that emulate the natural range of variation on the landscape. In this context, management prescriptions would provide for the protection and enhancement of big game winter range habitat, ponderosa pine and whitebark pine restoration, and western larch regeneration; and would allow fire to play a natural role where appropriate.

### **Invasive Plants**

We use an integrated pest management approach to controlling invasive plants, prioritizing areas based on weed categories, weed ecology of a species, its potential to displace native vegetation within that community, potential for offsite movement of seeds, ecological importance or rarity of a site, and the effectiveness of the control methods for that site. Our priorities are:

- h. Areas with new invaders.
- i. Infested areas categorized as having high risk to alter native plant communities or spread into adjacent sensitive or rare habitats.
- j. Areas relatively free of weeds, such as designated wilderness and backcountry areas.
- k. Trailheads, trails, and roads that lead to relatively weed-free areas.
- l. Invasive plants on National Forest System lands that adjoin or are close to other land ownerships that have active weed control programs.
- m. Invasive plants on administrative sites, developed recreation sites, and pastures.
- n. Bunchgrass big game winter range.
- o. Areas where natural or man-caused events have disturbed the soil and vegetation.

### **Air Quality**

*Purpose of Program: To contribute to maintaining air quality within state parameters.*

The Lolo National Forest will participate with the State of Montana in the air quality regulatory process. Air quality related values (AQRV) will be identified in Class I areas and AQRV inventory and monitoring plans integrated into wilderness implementation plans.

## Wildlife and Plant Species Diversity

*Purpose of Program: To provide ecological conditions that support a diversity of native plant and animal species over the long term and that promote recovery of federally listed species.*

Our overall strategy is to provide conditions that support the full complement of native wildlife and plant species on the Forest. This strategy involves a two-tiered approach. First, in a coarse filter approach to wildlife and plant conservation, the structure, composition, and disturbance processes of ecosystems that maintain habitat are managed within or toward historic conditions found in the early 1800s. Historic conditions are estimated using computer modeling and reviews of historic records. Due to cultural and ecological changes, the Lolo National Forest cannot be managed to exactly mimic overall conditions found in the 1800s, but managing key ecosystem elements within historic conditions would provide suitable habitat to sustain most species found on the forest. Specifically, we would strive to conserve or restore representative, resilient, and redundant ecosystems as displayed in the vegetative desired condition of Chapter 1.

Second, using a fine filter assessment, rare species are evaluated to determine limiting habitats, population influences, and whether they have special habitat needs that may not be provided through coarse filter ecosystem-level management. Species identified through the fine filter may need additional protection as specified in conservation strategies for individual species or groups of species. An example of a conservation strategy would be to survey for potential habitats during project planning to protect known populations of a fine filter species through project-specific measures.

Here are some examples of plan items that have resulted from our coarse filter/fine filter findings:

- a. Road management or removal emphasis would be on roads that affect big game security, native fish habitat, or water quality.
- b. Important habitat connectivity areas would be identified and considered during project design and travel management decision making.
- c. Food storage orders would be phased-in gradually to allow time for public acceptance and to increase voluntary compliance.

Fine filter species are listed in one of the following categories: threatened and endangered species, species of concern, or species of interest.

The following table shows those species on the Lolo National Forest which are listed under the Endangered Species Act:

Table 5: Species listed under the Endangered Species Act.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status
bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Threatened
Canada lynx	<i>Lynx canadensis</i>	Threatened
gray wolf	<i>Canis lupus</i>	Endangered
grizzly bear	<i>Ursus arctos horribilis</i>	Threatened
Spalding's campion	<i>Silene spaldingii</i>	Threatened
water howellia	<i>Howellia aquatalis</i>	Threatened

Guidance provided in the plan components of desired conditions, objectives, and guidelines will help assure that the above listed threatened or endangered species will trend toward recovery and delisting. Those species of concern and species of interest that fine filter analysis has indicated may need additional protection are listed in the guidelines component of this Plan. All species of concern and species of interest are addressed in the plan set of documents.

As we implement this Plan, we will coordinate with Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks and Idaho Fish and Game. We intend to incorporate their plans and multi-agency strategies into our projects and activities. We will work jointly to meet habitat and population goals for a variety of species.

We will rely on plan guidance and monitoring to move toward the desired conditions. Monitoring will provide an evaluation of our coarse filter/fine filter approach and will help us identify needs for possible plan amendments or other changes in management practices.

## Forest Products

*Purpose of Program: To provide diverse and sustainable outputs of forest products and uses from National Forest System lands, while protecting environmental, historic, cultural, and other social resources.*

We use timber harvesting as both a tool for helping achieve a variety of resource desired conditions and management objectives and a source of products that contribute to the regional economy. Applications of this tool include:

- a. Fire, wind-thrown trees, insects, and disease are common and expected events on the Lolo National Forest; although the frequency and amount of these natural events are highly variable and not predictable in any given year. We expect to salvage or sanitation harvest about five percent of the trees that have been, or are in imminent danger of being, killed or damaged by fire, wind, insects or disease (especially large scale events), in a timely manner.
- b. Meet current and future demands for non-timber forest products for personal, commercial, and Tribal use.
- c. Using a combination of legal authorities and partnership arrangements for making forest products available to forest users (for example, procurement contracts, stewardship contracts, or forest products permits).
- d. Appropriate technologies will be utilized for cost effectiveness and resource protection.
- e. Providing small diameter trees from thinning, fuels reduction, and other vegetation management projects for emerging biomass markets such as the “Fuels for Schools” program. Work with industry to increase utilization standards and reduce diameter limits considered to be suitable for commercial applications.

### **National Forest System Lands**

*Purpose of Program: To provide diverse and sustainable outputs of forest products and uses from National Forest System lands, while protecting environmental, historic, cultural, and other social resources.*

Our primary strategic tools will be:

- a. Adjusting land ownership through purchase, exchange or other authority, to improve efficiency of resource protection and management.
- b. Giving highest priority to national forest boundary location in areas where trespass is most likely.
- c. Identifying areas generally suitable for utility corridors and communication sites
- d. Authorizing and administering appropriate occupancy and use of National Forest System land.

- e. Integrated vegetation management is used in utility corridors as a method to attain the desired vegetation conditions while providing secondary benefits such as travel corridors, forage, or hiding cover. Trees which pose a hazard to utility or communication structures are removed before they cause damage to facilities.

## **Livestock Grazing**

*Purpose of Program: To provide diverse and sustainable outputs of forest products and uses from National Forest System lands, while protecting environmental, historic, cultural, and other social resources.*

Our general approach to grazing management implements good resource management practices to maintain the health of all occupied livestock grazing allotments, special use pastures, and rangelands. We will do this by:

- a. Assessing and updating the allotment management plans to ensure that sustainable stocking levels, forage utilization standards, mitigation measures, and appropriate grazing systems are used and that lands are still suitable for livestock grazing.
- b. Eliminate grazing allotments and special use pastures as they become vacant if there is no demand for livestock forage or desired vegetation conditions cannot be met.

## **Minerals and Geology**

*Purpose of Program: To provide diverse and sustainable outputs of forest products and uses from National Forest System lands, while protecting environmental, historic, cultural, and other social resources.*

The primary elements of our strategy are:

- a. Provide mineral materials such as gravel, rip-rap, and landscape rock for Forest Service, personal, and limited commercial use.
- b. Managing mineral claims, including exploration, development, production, and reclamation.
- c. Identifying, evaluating and nominating as significant known cave resources not previously designated as significant.
- d. Evaluating and mitigating geologic hazards associated with the location and construction of new facilities before they are approved, designed, and constructed.

## Heritage Resources

*Purpose of Program: To provide diverse and sustainable outputs of forest products and uses from National Forest System lands, while protecting environmental, historic, cultural, and other social resources.*

The primary elements of our strategy are:

- a. Guiding project planning and heritage preservation/interpretation efforts using knowledge and information gained through inventories, site evaluations, Tribal consultation and historic records.
- b. Using partnership arrangements, volunteers, and the “Passport In Time” program to help preserve and interpret significant heritage resources.
- c. Relying on a strong heritage program to fulfill the Forest’s legal obligation for public outreach and education about heritage resources.
- d. Following the programmatic agreements with State Historic Preservation Officers.

## Developed and Dispersed Recreation

*Purpose of Program: To provide a wide range of recreation opportunities; these include a range of outdoor experiences and services in less-developed settings that complement more highly developed recreation opportunities offered by the private sector.*

As recreation demand continues to grow and change, there may be situations when we must limit or control site impacts or use in order to sustain a desirable recreation setting and experience. For example, as the demand for backcountry camping opportunities grows, the increasing number of campers can diminish the setting qualities and the experience of solitude and remoteness that users value most. In order to maintain that experience, our strategy is to maintain the desired recreation setting and experience by early detection of overuse and implementation of corrective actions. The following are some examples of the tools we may use for directing, limiting, or restricting user impacts. They are listed in increasing order of restriction.

1. Improving educational and informational messages to accurately describe area amenities and provide visitors with realistic expectations.
2. Informing and educating users about “Leave No Trace” techniques for responsible, non-motorized outdoor activities with minimal impact on public recreational areas.
3. Implementing subtle site hardening techniques to direct use and control impacts.
4. Considering alternatives for managing visitor impacts rather than building or maintaining facilities such as toilets, trailheads, parking areas, access roads, trails, and campsites.
5. Issuing legal orders that restrict certain activities and/or numbers of users.
6. Prohibiting recreational use in an area, until the area is rehabilitated and restored.

We expect to accommodate increased demand for developed site recreation through the limited expansion of existing areas and consideration of potential development of new sites.

Dispersed, trail-based recreation would remain a core strength of recreation use.

We will pay particular attention to dispersed backcountry sites to prevent over-development that could diminish our ability to provide recreation settings and associated experiences at the primitive end of the recreation opportunity spectrum (ROS).

The key component of the ROS framework is the recreation setting. Management of the setting can only influence the likelihood of a particular experience being achieved or maintained. Changing the nature of the ROS indicators (access, remoteness, visual quality, social encounters, visitor management, visitor impacts, and facilities) can greatly affect the type and level of use an area receives.

As we design projects, we plan to evaluate any potential changes on recreation settings and experience in a consistent manner by using ROS. We plan to integrate recreation values into project designs and management decisions, by evaluating potential effects on indicators that make up the recreation desired condition. Evaluation of these indicators provides a consistent way to measure project effects that may enhance or degrade

For scenic integrity, we plan to take advantage of vegetation management and other landscape-altering activities, including natural disturbance processes, as a means for improving the scenery wherever possible. We will design projects to meet appropriate scenery integrity levels.

### **Designated Wilderness and Recommended Wilderness**

*Purpose of Program: To manage our wilderness resources by offering a full range of very primitive recreation experiences while also maintaining the high integrity of this resource for future generations.*

Our strategy for designated wilderness is to use the concepts of wilderness “opportunity class” and “limits of acceptable change” as guidance in meeting the intent of the Wilderness Act. In cases where a wilderness jurisdiction is shared by more than one national forest or other agency, we will coordinate management activities, usually through a jointly-supported wilderness management plan.

Within recommended wilderness areas, our approach is to protect wilderness values and resources, until such time as Congress either designates the area as a part of the National Wilderness Preservation System or releases the area from consideration. Land managers will use a variety of visitor management strategies to maintain recommended wilderness values and protect the wilderness resources.

Most of the recommended wilderness areas are additions to existing wilderness areas.

### **Access and Travel Management**

*Purpose of Program: To provide a road and trail system that is safe, responsive to public and Forest Service needs, and efficiently managed to minimize adverse ecological effects and aligned with available funding.*

Our access and travel management strategy is to focus on road and trail management, road and trail maintenance, and efforts to secure public access to National Forest System lands. We will:

- a. Continue to allow cross-country over-snow vehicle use in areas generally suitable for motorized use, while restricting all motorized, wheeled or tracked vehicles to designated routes.
- b. Continue to work with willing partners to secure rights-of-way and complete land exchanges that improve public access to national forest lands.

- c. Conduct site-specific travel management analyses to determine what management actions will ensure consistency of the forest travel plan with this Plan.
- d. Provide opportunities for OHV use in destination and loop trail configurations where possible.
- e. Reducing the total miles of roads on the forest to meet resource objectives while still providing access.
- f. Provide opportunities for motorized entry into the national forest from adjacent communities and transportation systems.
- g. Provide a wide range of motorized opportunities and experiences from difficult OHV and four-wheel drive routes to luxury sedan sightseeing.
- h. Not nominate any additional forest highway routes in the next ten years.

Our maintenance strategy is to efficiently use our resources (financial and otherwise) to maintain the highest priority roads and trails and to begin reducing a significant backlog of deferred maintenance. Specific emphases could include:

- a. Storing of infrequently used roads for the long-term.
- b. Shifting roads with high residential access needs to non-Forest Service jurisdictions.
- c. Closing or obliterating roads that receive the least amount of public use and have the most adverse impacts on watersheds, aquatics, and wildlife.
- d. Focusing new trail development on loop trails, using existing routes wherever feasible.
- e. User-created trails would be minimized on the landscape unless they have been evaluated and added to the transportation system.

## **Partnerships**

*Purpose of Program: Promote partnerships with local communities, Tribal governments, and other government and non-government entities to improve overall resource management.*

We use partnerships to more effectively and efficiently meet our mutual goals in all resource areas. These partnerships can include local, state,

federal, and Tribal governments, communities, organizations, individuals, and/or research institutions.

### **American Indian Rights and Interests**

*Purpose of Program: To identify and protect traditional cultural properties, and to recognize and support treaty rights and Tribal values when planning and implementing forest management activities.*

Our overall strategy is to be proactive in building relationships and mutual understanding between the Forest Service and Tribal governments. We want to address potential problems before they become serious and find opportunities for cooperation to the mutual benefit of Federal and Tribal governments.

To ensure the identification and protection of traditional cultural properties and other sensitive sites, the Forest Service will work in cooperation with Tribes to take a systematic approach to identifying areas, rather than relying solely on project-by-project site surveys.

We will ensure the consideration of treaty rights and Tribal values in the planning and implementation of forest management activities. Strategies include:

- a. Forest Service-Tribal Memoranda of Understanding should address issues of Tribal member access to National Forest System lands for purposes of exercising treaty rights or practicing activities consistent with religious or other ceremonial activities.
- b. Memoranda of Understanding should address the proper procedures to follow when working with a particular Tribe, to ensure the protection of traditional cultural properties and other sensitive sites.
- c. Areas should be identified in which Tribal members could sustainably practice traditional gathering and harvesting activities and/or where culturally sensitive animal and plant species could receive special protection.

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## Objectives Component

The following objectives are stepping stones of accomplishment that will move us toward the desired conditions described in Chapter 1. They are strongly influenced by expected near-term budgets; however, actual long-term accomplishments will also be influenced by factors such as:

- Shifts in management priorities brought about by such things as weather events or large natural disturbances that may change resource conditions.
- Delays in project-level planning and decision making that may be beyond Forest control.

Some objectives are marked with a double asterisk (\*\*). These things are highly desirable, but can only be accomplished if we receive additional funding beyond the level that is anticipated.

### Plan Components

Desired Conditions

**Objectives**

Suitability of Areas

Special Areas

Guidelines

### Soils, Watersheds, and Aquatic Ecosystems

Objectives Plan Component

- a. Restore seven to ten additional watersheds to conservation status within ten years of Plan implementation.
- b. Close or obliterate 10 to 20 miles of road within riparian conservation areas (RCAs) in active restoration watersheds within ten years of Plan implementation.
- c. Remove at least 40 native fish passage barriers in active restoration watersheds within ten years of Plan implementation.
- d. Make improvements such as bank stabilization, riparian planting, or placement of woody material on at least 30 miles of stream and riparian habitat in active restoration watersheds within ten years of Plan implementation.

## Vegetative Composition, Size Class, and Structure

### Vegetation and Fire

- a. Improve species composition and size class distribution on 80,000 acres of shade-intolerant mixed cover types<sup>1</sup> within ten years of Forest Plan implementation.
- b. Outside the wildland urban interface (WUI), reduce fuel loadings to at least the next lower fire regime condition class on 25,500 acres within ten years of Plan implementation. Within the WUI, reduce fuel loadings and crown fire risk on 60,000 acres within ten years of Plan implementation.
- c. \*\* In areas where wildfires have recently occurred, maintain the historic fire regime by applying prescribed burning, mechanical treatment, or wildland fire use on 30,000 to 40,000 acres within ten years of Plan implementation.

### Invasive Plants

- d. Maintain zero incidence on the Forest of new invasive species invaders by preventing and eradicating such plants as yellow starthistle, common crupina, rush skeletonweed, yellow flag iris, and Eurasian milfoil.
- e. Achieve 10 to 70 percent reductions in the amount and coverage of invasive plant species on 40,000 acres of Lolo National Forest lands within ten years of Plan implementation.

### Threatened and Endangered Plants, Plant Species of Concern and Species of Interest

- f. \*\*Designate three to five botanical interest areas within ten years of Plan implementation.

<sup>1</sup> Such as western white pine, western larch, ponderosa pine, whitebark pine, aspen and Douglas-fir on subalpine fir potential vegetation types

**Wildlife and Plant Species Diversity**

**Big Game**

- a. Accomplish 10 to 20 habitat improvement projects, such as weed control, access control, or vegetative treatments that improve winter range conditions for big game within ten years of Plan implementation.

**Food Storage**

- a. To minimize conflicts with wildlife and to reduce bear mortality, enact food storage orders covering all Lolo National Forest lands within ten years of Plan implementation.
- b. Ensure that all Lolo National Forest campgrounds, rural administrative facilities, and permitted developments are either equipped with wildlife resistant garbage facilities or subject to a “pack it in-pack it out” policy within ten years of Plan implementation.

**Grizzly Bear**

- a. In the Cabinet-Yaak Recovery Ecosystem, within ten years of Plan implementation, bear management unit 22 (BMU 22) will have the access and habitat parameters indicated in the following table.

Table 6: Access and habitat objectives for Cabinet Yaak Recovery Ecosystem BMU 22.

<b>Open Motorized Route Density &gt;1 mi/mi<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Total Motorized Route Density &gt;2 mi/mi<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Grizzly Core Habitat</b>
Proposed Maximum	Proposed Maximum	Proposed Minimum
33 Percent	35 Percent	55 Percent

- b. In the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem, bear management units (BMUs) will maintain or improve the access and habitat parameters as shown in table 7.

Table 7: Access and habitat objectives for Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem BMUs.

Subunit	Open Motorized Route Density >1 mi/mi <sup>2</sup> (percent)			Total Motorized Route Density >1 mi/mi <sup>2</sup> (%)	Grizzly Core Habitat (percent)
	Spring	Summer	Fall		
Rattlesnake	5	5	5	14	75
Mission <sup>a</sup>	22	18	18	59	low
Swan	29	32	32	21	50
Morrell-Dunham	19	15	11	<19	68
Monture	4	4	4	4	91
N Scapegoat	0	0	0	0	100
S Scapegoat	7	7	7	15	71

<sup>a</sup> Due to high road densities on private lands, roads on National Forest System Lands in the Mission subunit are managed as “no net loss” of habitat (i.e., no increase in road densities).

### Forest Products

- a. Plan, prepare and offer for sale a Total Sale Program Quantity (TSPQ) consisting of the following:
  - 26 to 33 MMCF<sup>1</sup> (126 to 162 MMBF<sup>2</sup>) per decade from regularly scheduled timber harvests on lands suitable for timber production.
  - Approximately 21 MMCF (105 MMBF) per decade from timber harvests on lands not suitable for timber production, but where timber harvesting may occur for other multiple-use purposes (other lands).
  - Approximately 2 MMCF (8 MMBF) per decade of biomass and other small diameter roundwood available for commercial use (volume is included in the estimates above).
- b. Annually prepare and offer for sale 1,100 to 1,600 permits for personal or commercial use of non-timber forest products.

<sup>1</sup> MMCF = Million Cubic Feet

<sup>2</sup> MMBF = Million Board Feet

- c. Establish within ten years of Plan implementation and in consultation with Tribes with treaty rights, a minimum of two areas that are closed to commercial or mechanized harvest of non-timber forest products that are important to the Tribes.

### **National Forest System Lands**

- a. Annually, throughout the planning period, survey, mark, and post ten miles of boundary lines to keep them visible, protect the investment, and deter encroachment.
- b. \*\* Complete two easement cases annually throughout the planning period.

### **Livestock Grazing**

- a. \*\* Within ten years of Plan implementation, 50 percent of grazing allotments are meeting or trending toward desired riparian and upland biophysical conditions.
- b. \*\* Revise allotment management plans for 80 percent of those allotments with conditions below the desired condition, and where changes in livestock management are necessary to restore an upward trend within ten years of Plan implementation.

### **Minerals and Geology**

- a. \*\* Re-evaluate areas withdrawn from mineral entry and recommend additions, deletions, or changes to withdrawn areas within ten years of Plan implementation.
- b. \*\* Reclaim two abandoned mines within ten years of Plan implementation.

### **Heritage Resources**

- a. \*\* Evaluate and determine eligibility of ten heritage sites for the National Register of Historic Places within ten years of Plan implementation.
- b. \*\* Nominate two heritage sites for the National Register of Historic Places within ten years of Plan implementation.

- c. \*\* Complete 5,000 acres of Section 110 (non-project) heritage surveys, National Historic Preservation Act, on previously unsurveyed National Forest System land with a high potential for heritage resources within ten years of Plan implementation.
- d. \*\* Restore and stabilize three historic buildings within ten years of Plan implementation.

### **Developed and Dispersed Recreation**

- a. Maintain 100 percent of open developed recreation sites to national standards, as per recommendations in the Lolo Recreation Sites Facility Master Plan within ten years of Plan implementation.
- b. \*\* Take corrective actions to prevent degradation of the desired recreation experience at 15 dispersed sites within ten years of Plan implementation.
- c. Complete at least two visual enhancement projects within ten years of Plan implementation.

### **Designated Wilderness**

- a. \*\* Bring an additional two to five percent of sites impacted by livestock grazing or other activities into alignment with LAC guidelines within ten years of Plan implementation.

### **Access and Travel Management**

- a. Close or obliterate 100 to 200 miles of unneeded roads within ten years of Plan implementation.
- b. Reconstruct 100 to 200 miles of road to improve road conditions and reduce adverse impacts on other resources within ten years of Plan implementation.
- c. Transfer five to seven miles of road easements and maintenance responsibilities to local jurisdictions within ten years of Plan implementation.
- d. \*\* Maintain 400 to 500 miles of road at their maintenance level standard; 60 miles of which should be at maintenance levels 3, 4 or 5 within ten years of Plan implementation.

- e. \*\* Reduce the current deferred road maintenance backlog by at least two to five percent within ten years of Plan implementation.
- f. \*\*Develop and implement a travel management plan for all districts prior to January 1, 2010.

**American Indian Rights and Interests**

Enter into Memoranda of Understanding on key Tribal-Forest Service issues with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai, Nez Perce, and other interested Tribes with treaty rights on the Lolo National Forest within ten years of Plan implementation.

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## Suitability of Areas Component

### Introduction

For the most part, management areas are used in the Plan to identify the general suitability of lands for different uses and management activities. However, suitability for some uses and activities is better identified in terms of the entire forest, rather than a particular management area. While both forest-wide and management area descriptions are used to identify areas that are generally suitable for different types of management and use, they do not determine what uses and management activities will actually take place at any given time or location. Those decisions will be made later, and they will be subject to site-specific analysis of proposed projects and activities.

#### Plan Components

Desired Conditions

Objectives

**Suitability of Areas**

Special Areas

Guidelines

It is important to understand that the term “generally” means “for the most part” and “what is usually the case” for a particular management area. This is a general prediction of suitability, based upon very broad levels of information and analysis. We incorporated this flexibility because past experiences has taught us that situations arise where rigid interpretation of forest plan guidance is in conflict with good science and professional judgment no matter how carefully we try to anticipate future circumstances.

So, “generally suitable” or “generally not suitable” is applied with the understanding that site-specific project analysis will make the final determination of suitability and will include the appropriate documentation. For example, most management areas are generally suitable for wildland fire use, but each ignition would be assessed using criteria such as predicted weather, fuel moisture, values at risk, and fire behavior before the fire would be allowed as wildland fire use.

### General Suitability—Forest-Wide

National Forest System lands are generally suitable for a variety of uses, such as outdoor recreation, range, timber, watershed, and enjoyment of wildlife and fish habitat. Topics discussed in this section do not apply to specifically mapped management areas on the Forest, but they do apply anywhere their respective suitability criteria are met. The section following this one, “General Suitability—by Management Areas,” helps identify which particular mapped locations within the Forest are best suited for which types of uses. Final determinations on project implementation will be subject to site-specific analysis.

### **Off-Highway Vehicles**

- Lolo National Forest lands are generally suitable for motorized travel on designated routes.
- Lolo National Forest lands are not suitable for summer cross-country motorized travel.

### **Livestock Grazing**

- Rangelands within existing commercial grazing allotments have been identified as capable and generally suitable for commercial livestock grazing by cattle or horses. The Lolo National Forest has 65,738 acres classified as capable rangeland. Of this total, about 4,613 acres in grazing allotments have been classified as suitable for livestock grazing. There is an un-estimated area of transitory range within these allotments. A map of the rangeland classification is available in the Plan Set of Documents.

### **National Historic Trails**

The Lewis and Clark and the Nez Perce national historic trails are long, narrow, linear features that overlay other mapped management areas. Their location is shown on the Special Areas Map located in the Plan Set of Documents. These historic trails are generally:

- Suitable for preservation and interpretation of their historic character.
- Suitable for hiking, mountain biking, or horseback riding.
- Suitable for vegetation treatments which protect the historic character or provide public safety.
- Not suitable for motorized travel.
- Not suitable for ground disturbing activities such as roads, facilities, or structures.

### **Winter Range**

Areas designated on the winter range map in the Plan Set of Documents are:

- Suitable for the management of vegetation to improve habitat conditions.
- Suitable for the use of access control to help meet big game management objectives.

### Utility Corridors and Commercial Communication Sites

- Existing communication sites and major utility corridors have been identified as generally suitable for such uses. A map of these sites and corridors is available in the Plan Set of Documents.

### Riparian Conservation Areas

- Riparian conservation areas (RCAs) are generally suitable for activities that improve, restore, or maintain aquatic and riparian ecosystems desired conditions (see guidelines).

### Timber Suitability

The timber suitability map on the following page displays areas where timber harvest could occur. These lands are designated as:

- Lands generally suitable for timber production. These are lands where timber production is compatible with desired condition and objectives. Timber harvest will occur on a regulated, scheduled basis.
- Other lands where timber harvest is an appropriate tool to achieve desired conditions. These lands are not suitable for timber production. Timber harvest may occur, but is not scheduled or regulated. Timber harvest is compatible with desired conditions and may occur for purposes other than timber production.

The following table summarizes the timber suitability classification.

Table 8: Timber suitability classification

Classification	Acres
Suitable for Timber Production	737,231
Other Lands	770,294
Responsible Official determines harvest is not appropriate as a tool to achieve desired condition (Plan guideline)	159,498
Responsible Official determines harvest is appropriate as a tool to achieve desired condition	610,796

The Forest has 1,348,027 acres where timber harvest could be used as a tool to achieve desired conditions. This represents approximately 65 percent of the Lolo National Forest. Of those lands, approximately 737,231 acres are generally suitable for timber production. This represents 35 percent of the Lolo National Forest. Biological and physical aspects of timber suitability will be reviewed at a smaller, site-specific scale during project implementation and may deviate from this analysis without a plan amendment.

Figure 12: Timber Suitability Map for the Lolo National Forest.

See the attached [Timber Suitability map](#).  
(Map Size : 5.38mb)

## General Suitability—by Management Areas

General suitability of areas is identified for each management area (MA). The degree of human influence on the landscape tends to increase from the level of least impact (MA 1.1, Designated Wilderness) to the level of greatest impact (MA 6.1, High Use Areas).

Each management area is characterized by:

- Desired conditions that give a sense of the type and extent of human influence that a forest visitor could expect.
- A general idea of the kinds of uses and activities suitable in that management area.

### Plan Components

Desired Conditions  
Objectives  
**Suitability**  
Special Areas  
Guidelines

## Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS)

The ROS system is a framework that identifies opportunities and experiences that the public desires, and it provides guidance for determining if the desired recreation experiences are being maintained or changed. Most of the management areas describe ROS designations that are compatible with general suitability for the area. Refer to the Glossary for definitions of the setting and experience characteristics for each ROS class.

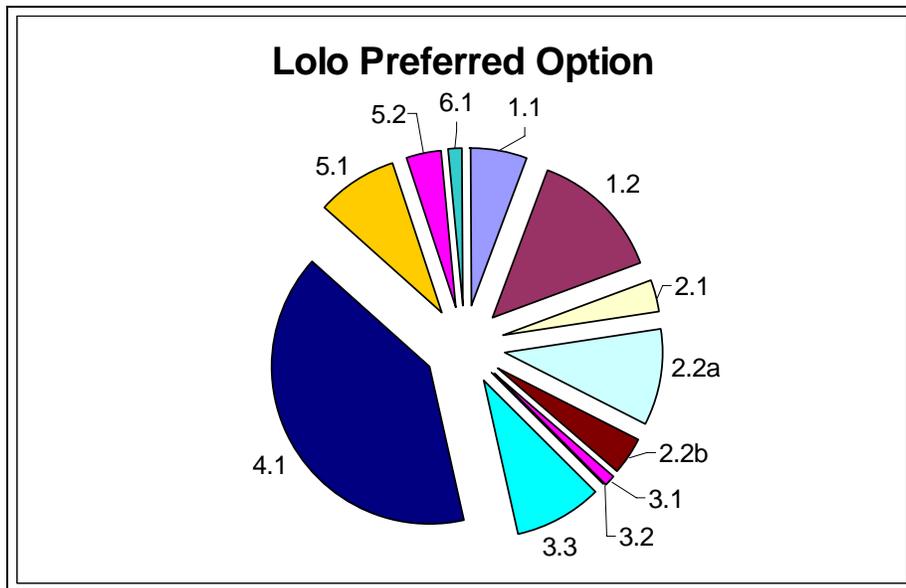
### Management Area Designations and Acreages

The following table and chart display the total number of Forest acres allocated to each management area in the Proposed Lolo National Forest Land Management Plan.

Table 9: Management area designations, acres, and percent of the Forest.

MA	Management Area Designation	Acres	Percent
1.1	Designated Wilderness	120,317 <sup>1</sup>	5.8
1.2	Recommended Wilderness	283,402	13.6
2.1	Eligible or Suitable Wild and Scenic Rivers	70,501	3.4
2.2A	Backcountry Non-motorized Travel	201,061	9.6
2.2B	Backcountry Winter Motorized Travel	85,198	4.1
3.1	Areas Under Special Management (Rattlesnake National Recreation Area)	19,026	0.9
3.2	Research Natural Areas	3,730	0.2
3.3	General Forest Low Intensity Management	186,014	8.9
4.1	General Forest Moderate Intensity Management	837,530	40.2
5.1	General Forest High Intensity Management	174,385	8.4
5.2	Residential Forest Intermix	73,276	3.5
6.1	High Use Recreation Complexes or Use Areas	29,128	1.4
<b>Total</b>		<b>2,083,569</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Figure 13: Distribution of management areas in the Lolo Preferred Option.



<sup>1</sup> The officially designated Wilderness on the Lolo National Forest totals 147,973 acres which is about 7 percent of the total Forest. This table includes some designated and suitable/eligible wild and scenic rivers which are located within designated Wilderness. In the table above, the acres of these areas are shown separately and not included in the wilderness acres to avoid double counting them.

## 1.1 Designated Wilderness

### Desired Conditions

- Designated wilderness areas would perpetuate their natural state.
- Settings for primitive and unconfined recreation would allow opportunities for solitude and self-reliance.
- Natural processes and conditions would be only minimally affected by human use, and impacts from visitation would not detract from the natural setting.
- Ecological processes such as natural succession, fire, insects, and disease would function with a minimum of human influence.

### Suitability

#### Generally:

#### Wilderness and Recreation

- Designated wilderness areas are not suitable for tethering and grazing of recreational stock within 100 feet of lakeshores.
- Designated wilderness areas are not suitable for the construction of permanent structures, except structures needed for human safety or resource protection (for example, trail bridges).
- Suitable for existing administrative sites.

#### Forest Products and Fire

- Designated wilderness areas are not suitable for regularly scheduled timber production, timber harvesting, salvage logging, or the commercial use of non-timber forest products.
- Designated wilderness areas are suitable for wildland fire use, prescribed burning, and fire suppression.

#### Other Uses and Activities

- These areas are not suitable for commercial communication sites or utility corridors, although the Forest Service may have small radio repeater sites to assist in wilderness administration.

#### Access and Travel Management

- These areas are not suitable for motorized or mechanized use and/or travel, except in emergency or other special situations, such as the exercise of valid existing rights or search and rescue, which are approved on a case-by-case basis.

## 1.2 Recommended Wilderness

### Desired Conditions

- These lands would be recommended to Congress for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System.
- These lands would retain their wilderness characteristics.
- They would offer settings for primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities for solitude and self-reliance.
- Natural processes and conditions would be only minimally affected by human use, and impacts from visitation would not detract from the natural setting.
- Ecological processes such as natural succession, fire, insects, and disease would function with a minimum of human influence.
- “Leave No Trace” would be utilized and, where applicable, follow the limits of acceptable change (LAC).

### Suitability

#### Generally:

#### Wilderness and Recreation

- Recommended wilderness areas are not suitable for motorized or mechanized use and/or travel, except in emergency or other special situations, such as the exercise of valid existing rights or search and rescue, which are approved on a case-by-case basis.
- Recommended wilderness areas are not suitable for tethering and grazing of recreational stock within 100 feet of lakeshores.
- Use of chainsaws and other mechanized equipment are suitable for trail maintenance.
- Recommended wilderness areas would be suitable for recreation uses near the primitive end of the ROS, with the most typical classification being “semi-primitive non-motorized.”

**Forest Products and Fire**

- Recommended wilderness areas are not suitable for regularly scheduled timber production or the commercial use of non-timber forest products.
- Recommended wilderness areas are suitable for wildland fire use, prescribed burning, and fire suppression.
- Chainsaws, helicopters, and other mechanized equipment are suitable for fire suppression and prescribed burning techniques.

**Other Uses and Activities**

- These areas are not suitable for commercial communication sites or utility corridors, although the Forest Service may have small radio repeater sites to assist in wilderness administration.

**Access and Travel Management**

- These areas are not suitable for motorized or mechanized use and/or travel, except in emergency or other special situations, such as the exercise of valid existing rights, which are approved on a case-by-case basis.

## 2.1 Designated, Suitable and Eligible Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers

These are river segments that Congress designated under the National Wild and Scenic River System or that the Forest Service has found to be suitable or eligible for congressional designation. Eligible rivers may be studied for possible inclusion in the national system. Wild and scenic rivers, or segments of rivers, fall within one of these categories:

- A “wild” river is free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted.
- A “scenic” river is free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads.
- A “recreational” river is accessible by road or railroad, may have some shoreline development, and may have had an impoundment or diversion in the past.

### Desired Conditions

The free-flowing condition, water quality, and outstandingly remarkable value, that made them eligible for designation or for which they were designated, are protected and perpetuated.

### Suitability

#### Generally:

#### Forest Products and Fire

- Wild river corridors are not suitable for regularly scheduled timber production or the commercial use of non-timber forest products.
- Scenic and recreational river corridors are not suitable for regularly scheduled timber production; however, timber harvesting or salvage logging for multiple-use purposes and to achieve desired vegetation conditions could occur. These corridors are suitable for the commercial use of non-timber forest products.
- Wild, scenic, and recreational river segments are suitable for wildland fire use, prescribed burning, and fire suppression.

**Communication Sites and Utility Corridors**

- Wild river segments are not suitable for commercial communication sites or utility corridors. Scenic and recreational river segments are suitable for commercial communication sites or utility corridors.

**Access and Travel Management**

- Wild river corridors are not suitable for motorized travel.
- Scenic and recreational river corridors are suitable for wheeled motorized travel on designated routes. These areas are suitable for cross-country over-snow use except in restricted areas.

**Other Uses and Activities**

- In situations in addition to those addressed immediately above, eligible Wild, Scenic and Recreational river segments are generally suitable for management according to their Potential Classifications, as shown in table 10 on the following page:

Table 10: Potential classification of eligible wild, scenic, and recreational river segments.

Suitability of Areas Plan Component

River Segment	Potential Classification	River Segment	Potential Classification
Clearwater River	Recreation	SF Lolo Creek	Wild
Morrell Creek	Wild (Falls to headwater) Scenic (trailhead to falls)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No Name Ck</li> </ul>	Wild
NF Blackfoot		Cache Creek	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Main Stem</li> </ul>	Wild	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mainstem</li> </ul>	Wild (above Montana Ck) Scenic (below Montana Ck)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dry Fork</li> </ul>	Wild	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Irish Creek</li> </ul>	Wild
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cabin Creek</li> </ul>	Wild	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>White Creek</li> </ul>	Wild
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cooney Ck</li> </ul>	Wild	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pebble Creek</li> </ul>	Wild
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dobrota Ck</li> </ul>	Wild	WF Fish Creek	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dwight Creek</li> </ul>	Wild	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mainstem</li> </ul>	Wild
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Canyon Ck</li> </ul>	Wild	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cedar Log Ck</li> </ul>	Wild
Rattlesnake Ck		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MF Indian Ck</li> </ul>	Wild
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mainstem</li> </ul>	Scenic	Clark Fork	Recreation (Slowey) Recreation (Cutoff)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wrangle Ck</li> </ul>	Wild	Rock Creek	Scenic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lake Creek</li> </ul>	Scenic		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spring Creek</li> </ul>	Scenic		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High Falls Ck</li> </ul>	Wild		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>East Fork R.S Ck.</li> </ul>	Wild		

## 2.2 Backcountry Areas

### Desired Conditions

- Backcountry areas would be natural-appearing. Activities such as low intensity timber harvest would be designed to maintain scenic integrity.
- These areas would provide opportunities for self-reliance.
- Ecological processes, such as natural succession, fire, and insect and disease activity, would function with limited human influence.

### Suitability

#### Generally:

#### Backcountry and Recreation

- Backcountry areas are suitable for recreation settings and associated opportunities that are near the primitive end of the ROS, with the most typical classification of “semi-primitive non-motorized.”

#### Forest Products and Fire

- Backcountry areas are not suitable for regularly scheduled timber production, although they are suitable for very low intensity timber harvesting (including salvage logging), for multiple-use purposes, and to achieve desired vegetation conditions.
- Backcountry areas are suitable for helicopter access.
- These areas are suitable for the commercial use of non-timber forest products.
- Backcountry areas are suitable for wildland fire use, prescribed burning, and fire suppression to protect values at risk.

**Other Uses and Activities**

- Backcountry areas are not suitable for commercial communication sites or utility corridors, although the Forest Service may have small radio repeater sites to assist in administration.

**Access and Travel Management**

Differences in suitability for motorized travel are reflected below.

- Management Area 2.2a is not suitable for motorized travel at any time, except the limited use of helicopters and in emergency situations at any time of the year.
- Management Area 2.2b is not suitable for wheeled motorized use except in emergency situations.
- Management Area 2.2b is suitable for cross-country over-snow vehicle use and emergency situations.

### 3.1 Areas Under Special Management

#### Rattlesnake National Recreation Area (RNRA)

##### Background

Congress established the Rattlesnake National Recreation Area (RNRA) on October 19, 1980 (Public Law 96-476) to promote the watershed, recreational, wildlife, and educational value of the lands. It was created in conjunction with and in the same Act as the adjacent Rattlesnake Wilderness. The RNRA includes approximately 28,000 acres and 73 miles of system trails.

##### Desired Conditions

- Water quality in the area would meet or exceed applicable standards for use as a public water supply for the City of Missoula.
- Recreation would be trail-based. Trail expansion would be limited to resource protection and public safety.
- Big game habitat would be maintained or improved, and viewing opportunities would be encouraged.
- Wildlife would continue to use key winter range.
- The RNRA would provide a setting for environmental education.
- The public would be well-informed of applicable rules and regulations for the RNRA.
- The primary developed access site would be from the main trailhead at the southwest boundary of the national recreation area. Access would also be available from the Grant Creek, Sawmill Gulch, Woods Gulch, and Sheep Mountain trailheads, or other access if needed for public safety or resource protection.

##### Suitability

###### Generally:

###### Recreation

- This area is not suitable for commercial traditional, non-traditional, educational, institutional, or other fee-for-profit outfitting.

- The RNRA is suitable for recreation settings and associated opportunities that are near the primitive end of the ROS, with the most typical classification of “semi-primitive non-motorized.”

**Forest Products and Fire**

- The RNRA is not suitable for regulated timber production or the commercial use of non-timber forest products.
- This area is suitable for timber harvesting or salvage logging for multiple-use purposes such as fuels reduction, and to achieve desired vegetation conditions.
- This area is suitable for wildland fire use, prescribed burning, and fire suppression.

**Other Uses and Activities**

- The RNRA is not suitable for commercial special use permits.
- This area is not suitable for communication sites or utility corridors.
- The RNRA is not suitable for research activities or structures, or educational buildings unless critical to RNRA management.

## 3.2 Research Natural Areas

Research natural areas (RNAs) are part of a network of representative forest shrubland, grassland, alpine, and wetland habitats; riparian systems; geologic formations; wildlife habitats; or aquatic communities where each have special characteristics of scientific importance. RNAs serve as reference areas for evaluating the range of natural variation and the impact of management in similar environments. They protect representative or key elements of biological diversity at the genetic, species, population, community or ecosystem scales. RNAs serve as areas for the study of ecosystems and ecological processes including succession and they provide a baseline for measuring ecological change. RNAs also support educational activities.

### Desired Conditions

- Each RNA has its own authorizing document. Examples of general suitability are given here; however, suitability and desired conditions for individual RNAs are specified in their respective authorizing documents.

### Suitability

#### Generally:

#### Recreation

- RNAs are suitable for recreation opportunities that are near the primitive end of the ROS, with the most typical classification of “semi-primitive non-motorized.”

#### Forest Products and Fire

- RNAs are not suitable for regularly scheduled timber production or the commercial use of non-timber forest products.
- These areas are suitable for management activities that restore or maintain conditions that the RNA was designated to represent.
- RNAs are suitable for wildland fire use, prescribed burning, and fire suppression.

**Other Uses and Activities**

- RNAs are not suitable for commercial communication sites or utility corridors.
- These areas are suitable for other uses to the extent that these uses are consistent with the purpose for which the area was designated.

**Access and Travel Management**

- RNAs are not suitable for motorized travel except in emergency situations. Existing motorized routes/areas could remain open and other existing valid access rights would be allowed to continue.

### 3.3 General Forest Low Intensity Management

#### Desired Conditions

- Low intensity, mixed-use areas would have a combination of fish and wildlife habitat, an assortment of recreational opportunities, and a variety of other goods and services.
- Predominately natural-appearing environment, landscapes appear slightly managed. Vegetation alterations tend to be small in size, widely dispersed, and visually subordinate.
- Developed and dispersed recreation facilities would not be common.
- Road densities would be low.
- Individuals would be slightly removed from sights and sounds of human activity. Remoteness would be of little relevance, but may be common, and social encounters would be less common.

#### Suitability

##### Generally:

##### Recreation

- These areas are suitable for recreation settings and associated experiences that are near the center of the ROS, with the most typical classification of “roaded natural.”

##### Forest Products and Fire

- These areas are not suitable for regularly scheduled timber production, although timber harvesting or salvage logging, for multiple-use purposes and to achieve desired vegetation conditions, could occur.
- These areas are suitable for commercial use of non-timber forest products.
- These areas are suitable for wildland fire use, prescribed burning, and fire suppression.

**Other Uses and Activities**

- These areas are suitable for commercial communication sites or utility corridors.

**Access and Travel Management**

- These areas are suitable for wheeled motorized travel on designated roads and trails.
- These areas are suitable for cross-country over-snow vehicle use except in restricted areas.

## 4.1 General Forest Moderate Intensity Management

### Desired Conditions

- The scenery would generally reflect an intensively managed landscape where human influence is evident.
- Vegetation management activities, roads and evidence of other developments are apparent.
- Developed and dispersed recreation facilities may be present for comfort and convenience.
- Concentration of users is moderate and there is often evidence of other users. Social encounters are common.
- Designated open roads and trails would provide commercial access and roaded recreational and motorized opportunities, including access to high use dispersed recreation sites.
- Closed roads would sometimes provide non-motorized and mechanized recreation opportunities.

### Suitability

#### Generally:

#### Recreation Experience

- These areas are suitable for recreation opportunities that are near the more developed end of the ROS.
- These areas are suitable for moderately dispersed recreation use and developed facilities that are designed to provide a rustic level of comfort, convenience, and interpretation.

#### Forest Products and Fire

- These areas are suitable for regularly scheduled timber production and salvage logging.
- These areas are suitable for the commercial use of non-timber forest products.
- These areas are suitable for wildland fire use, prescribed burning, and fire suppression.

**Other Uses and Activities**

- These areas are suitable for commercial communication sites or utility corridors.

**Access and Travel Management**

- These areas are suitable for wheeled motorized travel on designated roads and trails.
- These areas are suitable for cross-country over-snow vehicle use except in restricted areas.

## 5.1 General Forest High Intensity Management

### Desired Conditions

- The scenery generally reflects an intensively managed landscape where human influence is evident.
- High intensity mixed use areas would provide for a variety of forest products. This could include commercial and non-commercial forest products and uses, forage production, a diversity of fish and wildlife habitats, minerals development, and a natural visual quality setting with high evidence of human management activities.
- These areas are characterized by coniferous forests where the potential to grow timber is high and regularly scheduled harvests of commercial timber are feasible.
- Developed facilities may be present for comfort and convenience, sights and sounds of human development are very evident, social encounters are common and may act as a draw.
- Designated open roads and trails provide commercial access and roaded recreational and motorized opportunities, including access to high use dispersed recreation sites. Closed roads sometimes provide non-motorized and mechanized recreation settings and associated opportunities.

### Suitability

#### Generally:

#### Recreation

- These areas are suitable for recreation opportunities that are near the more developed end of the ROS, with the most typical classification of “roaded natural.”
- These areas are suitable for high levels of dispersed recreation use, and developed facilities that are designed to provide user comfort, convenience and interpretation.

**Forest Products and Fire**

- These areas are suitable for regularly scheduled timber production and salvage logging.
- These areas are suitable for the commercial use of non-timber forest products.
- These areas are suitable for wildland fire use, prescribed burning, and fire suppression.

**Other Uses and Activities**

- These areas are suitable for commercial communication sites or utility corridors.

**Access and Travel Management**

- These areas are suitable for wheeled motorized travel on designated roads and trails.
- These areas are suitable for cross-country over-snow vehicle use except in restricted areas.

## 5.2: Residential and Forest Intermix

These areas are characterized by public lands intermingled with private lands where private use and developed residential use adjoins National Forest System lands.

### Desired Conditions

- The scenery would reflect moderate intensity management where human influence is evident.
- Evidence of forest activities may be readily apparent up-close.
- Developed facilities may be present for comfort and convenience, sites and sounds of human development are evident, social encounters are common and may act as a draw.
- Numerous open roads provide access to private land, and to roaded recreational and motorized opportunities on designated roads and trails. Motorized transportation is common.
- Some closed roads may provide non-motorized and mechanized recreation settings and associated opportunities if access through private land is available.
- Dispersed recreation activities requiring overnight stays are not common.
- Access to existing high use areas would be available.
- Sights and sounds of people would predominate.

### Suitability

#### Generally:

#### Recreation

- These areas are suitable for recreation settings and associated opportunities that are near the more developed end of the ROS, with the most typical classification of “roaded natural.”

#### Forest Products and Fire

- Intermix areas are not suitable for regularly scheduled timber production, although timber harvesting or salvage logging for multiple-use purposes and to achieve desired vegetation conditions could occur.

- These areas are suitable for the commercial use of non-timber forest products.
- These areas are suitable for wildland fire use, prescribed burning, and fire suppression.

**Other Uses and Activities**

- These areas are suitable for commercial communication sites or utility corridors.

**Access and Travel Management**

- These areas are suitable for wheeled motorized travel on designated roads and trails.
- These areas are suitable for cross-country over-snow vehicle use as identified on the over-snow vehicle use map.

## 6.1 High Use Recreation Complexes or Use Areas

### Desired Conditions

- An array of recreational opportunities and experiences in a forested environment would exist. Examples include:
  - Four-season sports area.
  - Hiking trail system with a developed trailhead facility.
  - Developed campground.
  - Lake or reservoir with combinations of developed and dispersed recreation opportunities.
  - Groomed snowmobile trail system with associated trailhead facilities.
- Recreation experiences would be the attraction, and other natural resources would be complementary to the recreation setting and experience.
- Areas would have an attractive element, such as a reservoir, skiing terrain, campground, or trail system, that encouraged public use.
- Surrounding terrain would also be included in the management area to ensure an attractive setting for the recreational development and to provide for future expansion.
- The visual quality of the setting would reflect planned, high intensity management on the immediate site with moderate to high intensity management of surrounding areas.

### Suitability

#### Generally:

#### Recreation

- These areas are suitable for recreation settings and associated opportunities that are near the more developed end of the ROS, with the most typical classification of “rural.”
- These areas are suitable for multiple facilities designed for use by large numbers of people. Facilities may be designed for user comfort and convenience and could be highly refined.
- These areas are not suitable for recreational shooting.

**Forest Products and Fire**

- High use areas are not suitable for regularly scheduled timber production, although timber harvesting or salvage logging for multiple-use purposes and to achieve desired vegetation conditions could occur.
- These areas are not suitable for commercial use of non-timber forest products.
- These areas are not suitable for wildland fire use. They are suitable for prescribed burning and fire suppression.

**Other Uses and Activities**

- These areas are not suitable for commercial communication sites and utility corridors.

**Access and Travel Management**

- These areas are suitable for wheeled motorized travel on designated roads and trails.
- These areas are suitable for cross-country over-snow vehicle use except in restricted areas.

## Special Areas Component

The areas listed in the following table have unique or special characteristics and are formally designated either by statute or administrative action. Management direction for individual areas can be found in: Chapters 1-3 of this Plan, the Forest Service manuals and handbooks, and in individual area management plans. For example, MA 3.2 has additional guidance for research natural areas, and the Forest Service Handbook 2309.19 contains additional management guidance for National Wilderness Preservation System lands.

<p>Plan Components</p> <p><u>Desired Conditions</u></p> <p><u>Objectives</u></p> <p><u>Suitability of Areas</u></p> <p><b>Special Areas</b></p> <p><u>Guidelines</u></p>
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Special areas that do not already have explicit management guidance elsewhere in this Plan, in their underlying statute or other designation document, or in Forest Service manuals or handbooks, should be managed in accordance with plan component guidance for the lands which surround them. A “Special Areas Component” map is available in the Plan Set of Documents.

*The table which lists special areas for the Lolo National Forest begins on the next page.*

Table 11: Special Areas on the Lolo National Forest.

<b>Special Areas Plan Component</b>				
<b>Special Area</b>	<b>Designation Authority</b>	<b>Additional Guidance</b>	<b>Currently Designated</b>	<b>Recommended Designation</b>
<b>Statutorily Designated Areas</b>				
<b>National Recreation Areas</b>	Rattlesnake National Recreation Area and Wilderness Act of 1980  Responsible Official recommends, Congressional act designates	FSM 2371  MA 3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rattlesnake NRA</li> </ul>	No changes
<b>National Trails Historic Scenic</b>	National Trails System Act of October 2, 1968  Responsible Official recommends, Congressional act designates	FSM 2353.4	<b>Scenic</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continental Divide</li> </ul> <b>Historic</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lewis and Clark</li> <li>• Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo)</li> </ul>	No changes
<b>Statutorily Designated Areas</b>				
<b>Wilderness</b>	Wilderness Act of September 3, 1964  Responsible Official recommends, Congressional act designates	FSM 1923 FSM 2320 FSH 2409.19  MA 1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rattlesnake</li> <li>• Scapegoat</li> <li>• Welcome Creek</li> <li>• Selway Bitterroot</li> </ul>	<b>Recommended Wilderness</b> <sup>1</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bob Marshall Addition</li> <li>• Great Burn/Hoodoo</li> <li>• Quigg Sliderock</li> <li>• Stoney</li> <li>• Lolo Creek Selway Addition</li> <li>• Reservation Divide</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> This recommendation is a preliminary administrative recommendation that will receive further review and possible modification by the Chief of the Forest Service, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the President of the United States. The Congress has reserved the authority to make final decisions on wilderness designation.

<b>Special Areas Plan Component</b>				
<b>Special Area</b>	<b>Designation Authority</b>	<b>Additional Guidance</b>	<b>Currently Designated</b>	<b>Recommended Designation</b>
<b>Responsible Official Designated Areas</b>				
<b>Botanical Areas</b>	Responsible Official designates	FSM 2372	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elk Meadow</li> <li>• Mary's Frog Pond</li> </ul>	No changes
<b>Administratively Designated Areas</b>				
<b>National Historic Landmark</b>	National Historic Preservation Act of October 15, 1966 (as amended)  Archeological Resources Protection Act  Responsible Official and State Historic Preservation Officer recommend, Secretary of Interior designates	36 CFR 60 36 CFR 65 36 CFR 296 36 CFR 800  Secretary of Interior Standards and Guidelines for Archeological and Historical Preservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lolo Trail</li> </ul>	No Changes
<b>National Recreation Trails</b>	Responsible Official recommends, Regional Forester designates	36 CFR 290 FSM 2353.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blue Mountain Equestrian and Hiking</li> <li>• Blue Mountain Nature</li> <li>• Easthouse</li> <li>• Morrell Falls</li> <li>• Sam Braxton</li> <li>• Stateline</li> </ul>	No changes

<b>Special Areas Plan Component</b>				
<b>Special Area</b>	<b>Designation Authority</b>	<b>Additional Guidance</b>	<b>Currently Designated</b>	<b>Recommended Designation</b>
<b>National Register of Historic Places</b>	National Historic Preservation Act of October 15, 1966 (as amended)  Archeological Resources Protection Act  Responsible Official and State Historic Preservation Officer recommend, Secretary of Interior designates	36 CFR 60 36 CFR 296 36 CFR 800  Secretary of Interior Standards and Guidelines for Archeological and Historical Preservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ninemile Remount Depot and Ranger Station</li> <li>• Fort Fizzle</li> <li>• Camp Paxson</li> <li>• Rock Creek Cabin</li> <li>• Bldg 24 Fort Missoula</li> <li>• Morgan Case Homestead</li> <li>• Lolo Trail</li> <li>• Savenac Tree Nursery</li> </ul>	No changes
<b>Recreation Areas</b>	Responsible Official recommends, Secretary of Agriculture designates	36 CFR 294.1 FSM 2360  MA 6.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pattee Canyon</li> <li>• Blue Mountain</li> </ul>	No changes
<b>Research Natural Areas</b>	Responsible Official recommends, Regional Forester designates with concurrence of Station Directors	FSM 4063  MA 3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Barktable Ridge</li> <li>• Carlton Ridge</li> <li>• Council Grove</li> <li>• Ferry Landing</li> <li>• Petty Creek</li> <li>• Plant Creek</li> <li>• Pyramid Peak</li> <li>• Sheep Mountain Bog</li> <li>• Shoofly Meadows</li> </ul>	No changes
<b>Scenic Byway National</b>	Responsible Official recommends, Federal Highway Administration designates	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highway 35, St. Regis to Highway 200</li> </ul>	No changes