Proposed Action

Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests

Proposed Action for Forest Plan Revision

September 2004

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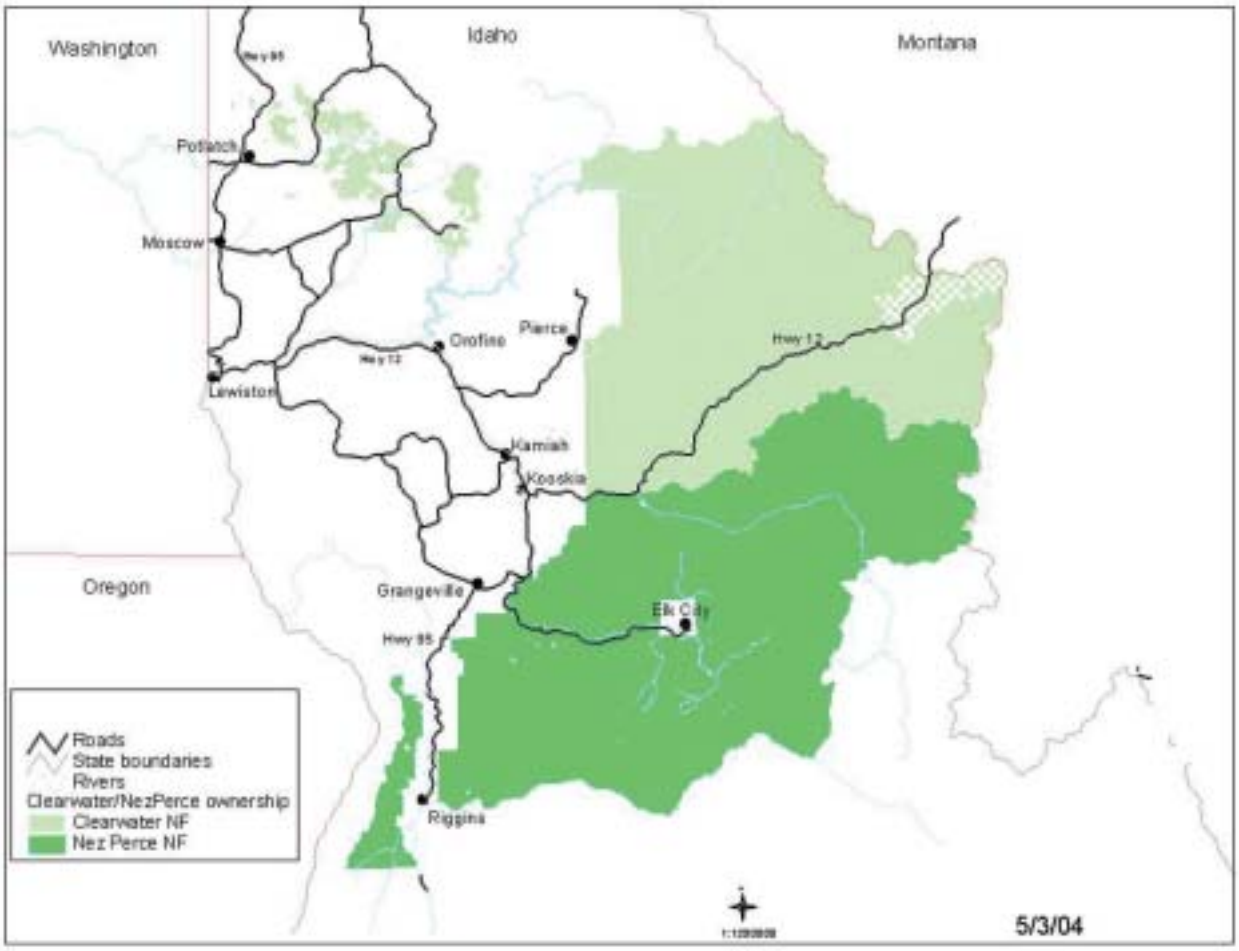
INTRODUCTION

The Clearwater and Nez Perce national forests are working together to revise and update individual land and resource management plans (forest plans). The Clearwater and Nez Perce national forest revision zone office is located in Kamiah, Idaho.



Why Revise Forest Plans

The Clearwater and Nez Perce national forests are revising direction included in forest plans These plans provide broad strategic direction for managing national forests. Existing plans were approved in 1987. The plans, subsequent amendments and 16 years of implementation and monitoring data provide the foundation for revision effort.

The agency intends to retain the part of the existing forest plans that are current and working well incorporating new information and making improvements where needed. Revised plans will reflect many scientific, social and resource changes. Several major changes are proposed.

1. Change in format. Revised plans will have less text. Geographic Information System (GIS) technology now allows managers to display information and management direction visually on maps.

2. Change in type of direction. Revised plans will be more strategic in nature. Existing plans are detail-oriented, often providing specific direction for particular areas. Revised plans will focus on creating desired future conditions and objectives for larger areas of land with fewer standards and guidelines.

3. Change in focus. Revised plans will focus on healthy ecosystems. Ecological principles will drive management actions. Outputs will be a result of ecosystem management.

4. Change in emphasis. Proposed direction includes:
• An emphasis on aquatic restoration to recover listed fish species.
• An increase in the use of fire to restore vegetation.
• Specific management direction for roadless areas.
• An emphasis on noxious weed treatment.
• Improved management of motorized and non-motorized recreation.

The basic rationale and assumptions used in the development of this proposed action were:

• Recognize and meet the requirements of existing laws and regulations. A national forest plan must meet the legal requirements outlined in several laws and regulations. The laws and regulations will not (for the most part) be restated in the proposed action. (Note: Forest plan decisions do not modify existing laws, regulations or Forest Service Manual or Forest Service Handbook direction.)

• Incorporate the principles of an integrated approach by delineating larger geographic areas. Geographic areas will provide focus to integrate direction for physical and biological resources, human activities and social needs.

• Provide proposed desired future condition and goals to maintain and restore desired ecological and social conditions at a forest-wide scale and also for place-based geographic areas (large landscape areas across the two national forests identified by name, e.g., Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness).

The purpose of the proposed action is to begin a public dialogue that will allow identification of issues and concerns leading to the development of alternative courses of action to address them. The proposed action provides enough detail to allow generation of specific issue statements but not so much as to get ahead of the analysis. Public input will be important to help identify alternatives. The potential effects of alternatives will be displayed in the draft environmental impact statement.

Forest plans are similar to county strategic (or zoning) plans where areas are mapped out and allowable uses are associated with the mapped areas. The primary decisions in forest planning are the establishment of allowable uses in geographic areas. Each geographic area is assigned goals, objectives and standards that explain what activities can occur there and what restrictions are in place. Site-specific project decisions (e.g., where timber harvest units will be located or which roads will be closed or decommissioned) are not made during forest plan revision.

The Proposed Action

One of the key decisions to be made in revising the forest plans is to define direction forest-wide and in each geographic area. Direction is defined in the desired future condition statement, goals, objectives, standards and monitoring plan. The proposed action provides potential desired future conditions and goals as one way to generate public comment and ideas concerning national forest resource management. Objectives, standards and a monitoring plan will be presented in the DEIS (draft environmental impact statement). The proposed action includes unchanged or revised management direction from the existing forest plans.

Over the past year an assessment of the management situation was completed. It summarizes the historic and current trends on each national forest. The assessment (the draft Analysis of the Management Situation, or AMS) describes the management situation now compared with the situation when the original forest plans were adopted in 1987. From the assessment five revision topics have been identified. They present significant needs for change from current forest plans:

- Access management
- Watersheds and aquatic ecosystem conditions
- Terrestrial ecosystem conditions
- Noxious weed management
- Special designations and areas

From these major revision topics alternative management strategies will be identified. Other topics will also be addressed, probably in the same manner under any action alternative. In most cases they are governed by direction at higher policy levels in the federal government (e.g., direction for management of mineral as well as heritage resources).

The proposed action is organized around the five revision topics described in more detail in the draft AMS report. The proposed action, draft AMS, other documents, maps and other information are available on the Clearwater and Nez Perce revision zone Web site at http://www.fs.fed.us/cnpz/.

The proposed action consists of five primary parts:

1. Revision topics identified in draft analysis of management situation
2. Items not identified as revision topics
3. Proposed forest-wide desired future condition and goals
4. Proposed geographic areas and proposed geographic area-specific desired future condition and goals
5. Monitoring

The draft **"Analysis of the Management Situation"** report was released in February 2004. The draft AMS describes why and what the revision zone believes needs to be revised in the Clearwater and Nez Perce national forest management plans. From the AMS the zone has identified where change or new management direction is needed.

Items not identified as revision topics were discussed in the draft AMS:

- Why some current direction in the Clearwater and Nez Perce national forest management plans does not need to be revised
- What existing direction would be incorporated into the revised forest plans

Forest-wide direction consists of desired future condition, goals, objectives, standards and monitoring plan applicable across the entire land base. In the proposed action only proposed desired future condition and proposed goals are presented. Objectives and standards will be developed in alternatives after "scoping" for public comment is completed. Where exceptions exist, site-specific direction will be provided to address the unique specific characteristics of a given location or resource.

Desired Future Condition: A portrayal of the land, resource, social and economic conditions expected to result over several decades if objectives are achieved. A vision of long-term conditions of the land.

Goals: A concise statement that describes a desired condition to be achieved some time in the future. It is normally expressed in broad general terms and is timeless.

Objectives: A concise statement of measurable planned results responding to established goals. The basis for further planning to define precise steps to be taken and resources to be used to achieve identified goals (36CFR [Code of Federal Regulations] 219.3).

Standards: A particular action, level of performance or threshold specified by a national forest plan for resource protection or accomplishment of management objectives.

Geographic area (GA) direction also consists of desired future condition, goals, objectives and standards. In the proposed action only proposed desired future conditions and proposed goals for each GA will be presented.

Geographic areas are place-based land areas (large landscape areas with distinctive features identified by name, e.g., the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness) from approximately 37,000–250,000 acres. They reflect the way national forest users and managers perceive the landscape and the way it is used. The primary purpose of a GA is to portray allowable management activities and public uses and the naturalness of each area. Future effects analyses needed to develop objectives, standards and monitoring strategies may occur at scales larger or smaller than the GA to address sustainability of ecosystem components.

Monitoring is the process of collecting information to evaluate if objectives of a management plan are being realized or if implementation is proceeding as planned. Monitoring will include a comparison (based on a sampling) of initial condition and condition at the time of monitoring to determine if relationships between resources and situations have changed. When changes occur, they will be evaluated for their significance. Appropriate amendments will be made if needed.

1. Proposed Revision Topics and Proposed Action

Discussion of the five revision topics is not intended to cover all concerns in a detailed manner. The DEIS will present the analysis and conclusions related to management concerns identified in the draft analysis of the management situation as well as additional issues generated from public input.

> ***The intent in this proposal is to generate public comment about (1) each of the revision topics; (2) issues and concerns; (3) areas of public interest concerning data, analysis procedures and conclusions.***

Access Management

Access to national forest system lands is one of the most controversial topics in national forest management today. The access management strategies in 1987 forest plans need to be updated to address new information and changes in public attitude about access. There are questions regarding Forest Service access policy in relation to tribal treaty rights. Because of the level of controversy, increases in demand for recreation opportunities, the potential for resource impacts and emphasis on providing better management of recreation use, it is appropriate to address access and recreation as part of forest plan revision.

Need for Change

What are the seasons of use and distribution of motorized and non-motorized recreational opportunities needed to allow sustainable public and tribal access and at the same time protect, conserve and restore forest resources?

Two trends — increasing recreational use and evolving technology (e.g., more powerful off-highway vehicles and snowmobiles) — have combined to change the access management situation. Both national forests are experiencing an increase in motorized recreation and increased conflicts among users. Controversy about the use of motorized vehicles and the effects on watershed and wildlife values is increasing.

The 1987 forest plans do not provide adequate or clear direction to address the changes in access demands by the public, the changes in recreation equipment technology and new management

provided interim direction to remain in effect until forest plans were amended or revised.

Since the current forest plans were approved, approximately 1,559 miles of stream segments on Clearwater and Nez Perce national forest lands have been listed as "impaired" per section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act.

Need for Change

There is a need to integrate goals and objectives of aquatic, riparian, upland forest, shrub land and grassland components to reflect and meet commitments under the Endangered Species Act.

There is a need to respond with specific management and monitoring direction to address current state of Idaho water quality impaired waters and future streams and water bodies added or removed from the 303(d) list.

Proposed Actions

• Update goals, objectives and standards to reflect continued contributions toward the recovery of threatened and endangered species and habitat conditions favorable toward designated sensitive species on national forest lands.

• Adopt the majority of the interim management direction contained in INFISH and PACFISH with minor modifications.

• Identify degraded watersheds and set priorities for restoration. Conserve watersheds which already meet physical and biological desired conditions. Management direction will address physical watershed conditions, human uses and aquatic diversity.

• Integrate state total maximum daily load (TMDL) programs with management direction. It is understood that the state 303(d) list is dynamic and subject to routine changes.

Terrestrial Ecosystem Condition

Fire exclusion and timber harvest have changed vegetative composition, structure (size and density) and patterns. In addition, recent climatic variations have tended toward warmer and drier, with the past decade characterized by frequent droughts. These four factors have affected forest resiliency and wildlife habitat. Factors beyond the national forest level have resulted in the listing of several wildlife and plant species as "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act.

Fire use is currently allowed in many areas of both national forests. Forest plan direction has limited opportunities for its use in some places, increasing fire suppression costs and risks to firefighters.

Silvicultural prescriptions and existing yield tables reflect an emphasis on timber production. Implementation often left fragmented landscape patterns and site conditions that were missing important pieces like dead wood and large old "legacy trees."

"Management indicator species" or groups need to be designated as indicators of desired forest conditions. Direction for species habitat needs to be fully integrated into national forest plans. Soil productivity should be maintained or restored.

Need for Change

Decrease the risk of extremely intense wildland fire through management of vegetation and fuels. Both national forests need the flexibility to make more extensive use of fire to benefit resources. Fire management use plans need to be expanded to allow more use of fire to restore ecosystem function, reduce risk to life and property and reduce fire-fighting costs.

Recognize the range and variability of natural habitat, and provide management flexibility to address short- and long-term threatened and endangered species recovery, sensitive species habitat management objectives to ensure that they do not become threatened or endangered.

Revise direction to maintain soil productivity to address monitoring findings. Soil restoration needs to be integrated into the management direction.

Fully integrate plans to restore vegetative composition and structure to resilient, sustainable conditions. The plans need to be fully integrated with objectives for all resources on both forests.

Revise legacy tree, standing dead and down wood direction on both national forests.

Select management indicator species that will be better indicators of management actions and desired forest conditions than the current MIS, which have proven to be inadequate to show management effects.

Silvicultural prescriptions (guides to how forest stands should be modified) and yield tables should reflect the forest composition and structure appropriate for maintenance of resilient forests that meet objectives for all resources.

Proposed Actions

• Expand the area where wildland fire use and prescribed fire (see page 16 for definitions) are allowed, including designated wilderness. Integrate management of vegetation and weeds in fire management plans.

• Use historic ranges of vegetative composition and structure, natural processes and disturbances (fire, insects and diseases, floods) to understand ecosystems and integrate that knowledge into forest goals, objectives and standards.

• Incorporate soil productivity and soil restoration goals, objectives and standards.

• Update goals, objectives and standards for vegetation to reflect the range of natural processes for composition (species representation), structure (size and density) and disturbance (primarily insects, pathogens and fire).

• Update management indicator species to reflect the effects of management more accurately.

• Update standing dead tree and down wood retention criteria for wildlife and soil productivity and restoration.

Noxious Weed Management

The spread of noxious weeds has greatly accelerated across range and forest lands. Invasive species are recognized as a serious ecological change across most of the West. Cooperative weed management areas now exist. Improved forest plan direction is needed to develop cooperative strategies. Integrated weed management programs that address prevention, education, control and restoration need to be incorporated into forest plan direction.

Need for Change

There is a need to modify current management direction to address noxious weeds and their effects on ecosystem structure, composition, function and their effects on commercial and noncommercial use of national forest resources.

There is a need to establish a contain-and-control strategy for firmly established populations that have infested large areas on both national forests. The strategy needs to consider jurisdictional boundaries, different land management objectives and the need to provide direction integrated with other resource functions. Weed management plans need to address the role of fire on landscapes and fire's potential to aid in the management of the spread of noxious weeds.

Expanded direction is needed to strengthen efforts to manage noxious weeds cooperatively with adjacent landowners and other federal, state and county agencies. Emphasis is needed on funding and technical assistance.

Direction to use integrated weed management strategies to address prevention, education, and control and restoration programs needs to be established to clarify how to deal with these components.

Proposed Actions

• Add goals, objectives and standards that establish prevention and contain-and-control strategies. The strategies will include education and restoration.

• Identify ecosystems most at risk for noxious weed invasion, and establish strategies, goals and objectives to restore native vegetation to a resilient status that will limit that invasion.

Special Designations and Areas

There is high interest in the designation and allocation of special areas because specific management direction that often precludes certain activities (e.g., road construction, timber harvest or motorized vehicle use) is required. Tribal governments are interested in areas with historic and cultural significance. There is an ongoing national controversy about the management of inventoried roadless areas and designating areas as units in the national wilderness preservation system. Similarly, Forest Service recommendations for additions to the national wild and scenic rivers system generate intense local, regional and national interest.

A significant percentage of both national forest land bases has been inventoried as roadless and needs to be evaluated for potential recommendation as designated wilderness. There are hundreds of miles of rivers and streams that need to be evaluated to determine which ones will be recommended to be part of the wild and scenic rivers system.

The 1987 forest plans provided direction to build roads and harvest timber in certain inventoried roadless areas (IRAs). This direction has proven to be controversial, and the level of timber harvest and road construction that was projected in the forest plans has not taken place. Of the 1,490,000 acres of inventoried roadless area in the planning zone, approximately 922,000 acres were allocated in 1987 as "suitable" lands, open for road construction and timber harvest. Controversy usually occurs with any proposal to harvest timber, build roads or otherwise develop inventoried roadless areas.

Need for Change

The inventoried roadless areas recommended for designation as wilderness by Congress need to be reviewed. Additions or deletions to the list of recommended areas need to be analyzed and presented to the public for comment.

Management direction for areas recommended for wilderness is not consistent for the same areas between the two national forests. Consistent direction is needed to reflect current policy and provide for similar management for the same areas.

Continuing to implement the 1987 forest plan direction is not feasible. Some of the key areas needing clarification: where road construction and timber harvests are (are not) allowed; where motorized recreation is (is not) allowed and how prescribed and wildland fires will be managed.

A review of potential eligible rivers and streams for recommendation to be included in the wild and scenic rivers system is needed to ensure that all potential waters are evaluated.

A review of established, recommended and potential research natural areas is needed so that new information and management concerns are addressed.

Proposed Actions

• Update the inventoried roadless area inventory and determine the IRAs to recommend to Congress for designation as wilderness.

• Develop consistent interim management direction for IRAs recommended for designation as wilderness. Areas recommended for addition to the national wilderness preservation system will be closed to motorized and mechanical (equipment with wheels) transportation.

• Update the direction for management of roadless areas not recommended for wilderness.

• Review and update potential eligible rivers and streams for recommendation to be included in the wild and scenic rivers system.

• Review and update recommended and potential research natural areas to address new information and management concerns.

2. Proposed Topics not Identified as Revision Topics

Some existing decisions in current forest plans are adequate. Some are in need of change or modification but are not identified as revision topics. Additional direction not listed here may be identified for revision or editing as a result of public input from the formal scoping period.

Heritage Resources

Laws and regulations provide most of the management direction for heritage resources. The analysis of the management situation identified the need to update heritage resource definitions and modify management direction to incorporate new information and changed conditions as needed.

Lands

Existing direction provides for landownership adjustments to consolidate lands and manage forest resources. Existing direction will be reviewed and updated as needed.

Air Quality

The 1990 and 1999 amendments to the Clean Air Act and the formation of the Montana-Idaho State Airshed Group have changed forest management practices. Decisions regarding wildland fire use are made within the guidelines of the airshed group's operating plan. Forest plan direction needs to be reviewed and updated to reflect the strategic intent of this plan.

Minerals

Regional and national policy and regulations provide most of the minerals resource management direction. The existing forest plan direction will be reviewed and modified as needed to improve direction related to mining laws and public need for mineral resources. Improved direction could provide for management of discretionary and non-discretionary mineral activities. It might also address the relationship between areas with mineral potential and uses and surface resources of concern where there is existing or potential conflict.

Range Management

Allotment management plans and current policy provide most needed direction. Forest plan direction needs to be reviewed and updated to reflect current policy and information.

3. Proposed Forest-wide Direction

Proposed Forest-wide Desired Future Condition

The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The desired future condition for each national forest is to care for the land and serve people through the maintenance and restoration of productive and sustainable ecosystems.

Desired future condition statements presented in the proposed action include current conditions and desired changes. In many locations across the two national forests social expectations for ecological conditions and economic outputs are currently being met. These existing conditions and associated management direction are restated as desired future conditions. Analysis of the management situation has also shown there are areas across both national forests where there is a need to change management direction (including access, watershed and vegetative condition). Desired future condition statements include the need to balance resource conditions with social expectations and economic outputs.

Each national forest features a broad array of landscapes and opportunities, from wilderness areas where natural conditions predominate, to concentrated managed areas where conditions have been altered to meet a specific resource concern as well as social needs.

Forest landscapes have ecological and watershed qualities that provide diverse elements and processes needed to sustain natural systems and function properly. The systems are dynamic, resilient and resistant to natural and man-caused disturbances.

They supply a range of vegetative composition and structure (size and density). They provide habitat for desired plant, wildlife and aquatic species to be managed in an environment of public and inter-agency trust, cultural and community support.

Both forested and non-forested ecosystems are managed to sustain native species within natural or desired ranges of variability. Conservation strategies are in place to provide beneficial uses where watersheds and habitats are in good condition. Restoration strategies exist for watersheds that are outside the range of natural conditions and processes.

Lands in the national forests sustain a way of life, social cohesion and economic well-being for American Indian tribes. The presence of diverse habitats is fundamental to achieving useable traditional resources significant to native tribes. Meaningful relationships with American Indian tribes and an understanding of cultural, historic and natural resources and treaty rights are a part of land management decisions.

The basic foundations of ecosystems (soil, water, vegetation, wildlife, aquatic species and natural processes) are present and in a condition that promotes vegetative growth, hydrologic function, long-term nutrient cycling and natural erosive processes. For example, streams and lakes provide clean water at appropriate temperatures and a variety of connected habitats to support native and desired nonnative aquatic species. Air quality also falls within acceptable standards.

Disturbance processes (fires, insects, diseases, floods, landslides) are within a range of natural variability as they contribute to functioning ecosystems. Fire plays its role where appropriate and desirable but is suppressed where necessary to protect life, resources and property. Fire is used to manage vegetation where appropriate to enhance ecosystem resiliency and lower hazardous fuel levels.

Forest, grassland, shrub land and riparian plant communities are within a desired range of natural variability for processes (disturbances: fire, insects and diseases, floods), composition (species present), structure (size and density) and vegetative patterns. Vegetation forms a diverse network of habitats and connective corridors for wildlife. There are desired numbers of snags and down woody material and desired levels of soil organic matter. Terrestrial and aquatic habitats support species diversity with emphasis on the recovery of threatened and endangered species; management actions to ensure that sensitive species do not become threatened or endangered; and maintenance of species of cultural, commercial and recreational significance. Management actions maintain and restore rare and unique plant communities. Riparian areas connect upland and aquatic habitats and promote stable and diverse stream channel conditions. Existing noxious weed populations are not expanding, and new invader species are not becoming established.

Resilient, dynamic ecosystems offer recreational settings from primitive to developed, with a wide spectrum of opportunities, uses and experiences. Modern recreational facilities are provided in the heavy use areas such as along U.S. Highway 12 and along sections of the Salmon River. More rustic facilities are provided along the Lolo Motorway and the Magruder corridor. Diverse landscapes provide a variety of settings for a wide range of activities.

Designated and recommended wilderness provides outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. The unique character of each recommended area is preserved until Congress acts on the recommendation of the Forest Service. River segments and their corridors identified as eligible or suitable and designated wild and scenic rivers are managed to retain their free-flowing status, classification and outstandingly remarkable values.

Facilities (roads, trails, campgrounds, administrative sites) are constructed, reconstructed, maintained or eliminated to provide places for safe and environmentally responsible activities. Visitors enjoy a variety of special attractions, including wilderness areas, wild and scenic rivers, scenic byways, historic landmarks and winter recreational opportunities. Opportunities for physically challenged recreationists are maintained or expanded at developed facilities and through management of dispersed activities.

Ecosystems provide a sustainable (within the land's capability and existing laws) level of products and services for current and future generations. Timber, range, recreation, minerals, fish, wildlife, water and special use programs offer opportunities for economic development and contribute to local community needs while maintaining ecological integrity. Authorized commercial developments and services meet established national standards and broaden the range of recreational opportunities and experiences provided on national forest lands.

There is a high level of cooperation and coordination among federal, state, county and tribal governments. Consultation processes are defined and followed. People with an interest in the management of the Nez Perce and Clearwater national forests are informed about project proposals. The public provides valuable information and ideas. Their contributions are used to craft creative alternatives. Both national forests clearly articulate how they use public input.

Proposed Forest-wide Goals

The following goals guide development of objectives across both national forests. These goals are neither prescriptions nor standards but endpoints toward which management will move landscape processes and functions, habitats, attributes and populations. The goals provide a broad comprehensive framework for achieving the desired future condition. Moving ecosystems toward these goals will provide a variety of goods, services and public uses and will restore and maintain the physical, chemical and biological integrity of these ecosystems.

Ecosystem Structure and Composition

Aquatic habitats support well-distributed populations of native and desired nonnative plant and animal species.

Instream flows support recreational uses, healthy riparian and aquatic habitats, the stability and effective functioning of stream channels and the ability to route flood flows.

Noxious weed invasions are contained and controlled.

Soil productivity supports vegetation, wildlife and hydrologic functions within a range of natural processes and disturbances.

Special habitats (springs, seeps, ponds, wetlands, caves) and their dependent species are sustained across the landscape.

Terrestrial wildlife habitats reflect natural processes within a range of natural conditions that provide for the viability of native and desirable nonnative species.

Vegetation in riparian conservation areas is composed of a diverse structure of native plant communities that perpetuate the distribution of woody debris, soil cover, bank stability and thermal characteristics of resilient aquatic and riparian ecosystems.

Landscape Processes

Fire plays a role in maintaining vegetative composition, size and density.

Flood plains and water tables dissipate floods and sustain the natural timing and variability of water levels in riparian, wetland, meadow and aquatic habitats.

Native forest insects and pathogens influence forest composition, structure and density at levels natural for the area.

Silvicultural systems reflect the natural disturbance regimes (frequency of fire, insect infestations, diseases, wind blowdown) for the site and maintain forest resiliency.

Stream channel attributes, sediment transport and flow regimes [1] (amounts of flow and movement) reflect conditions within a range consistent with the riparian and aquatic ecosystems in which they developed.

Plant communities reflect the **variation in intensity, scale and frequency** associated with natural disturbance regimes.

Watersheds retain resilience to disturbances with stream sediment processes and flow, reflecting natural conditions.

Cultural, Social and Economic Values

Access management provides for motorized and non-motorized uses of a distribution, type and season of use that minimizes conflicts among users and with wildlife and watershed resources.

Administrative sites and facilities provide places to serve the public and the work force effectively and safely.

Aquatic habitats support well-distributed harvestable populations of native and desired nonnative fish species.

Clear air and visual quality assure public health and regional scenic values.

Cooperation with state and federal agencies, tribes and holders of valid water rights leads to mutually beneficial programs for restoring, maintaining and utilizing water resources.

Diverse natural-appearing landscapes are what can be viewed from designated visual travel corridors, recreational sites, designated and special areas such as wild and scenic rivers, cultural sites and high recreational use areas.

Forest resources contribute to cultural, social and economic well-being of American Indian tribes and local communities.

Heritage resource values are preserved, protected and interpreted.

Invasive species contain-and-control efforts are integrated with federal, tribal, state and county management strategies.

Inventoried roadless areas contribute to potential designated wilderness areas and provide dynamic landscapes for key resources and public uses.

Lands are acquired to maximize effective and efficient national forest lands management.

Mineral exploration and development take place with protection of surface resources and environmental quality.

Recreational opportunities afford a wide spectrum of experiences from primitive settings with little or no development to more modified settings with developed facilities.

Roads, trails and trail heads meet established standards to provide for safety and security, facilities in good condition, responsiveness to users and the environmental setting.

Sustainable flow of commodities from national forest system lands results from treatments used to move the current vegetative pattern to a desired vegetative pattern.

Wild and scenic river segments and their corridors eligible, suitable or designated, retain free-flowing status, classification and outstandingly remarkable values for scenery, wildlife, history, fish, geology, hydrology and ecological and botanical resources.

Management of designated **wilderness** is coordinated through partnerships with outfitters and guides, other permittees and user groups and through interpretive and educational programs.

[1] Stream channel attirubutes include width/depth ratio, bank stability, bank angle, riffle/pool ratio, sinuosity, etc. Flow and sediment regimes include the elements of timing, volume and character of sediment input and transport.

Wilderness values and wilderness-dependent recreational experiences are maintained in those inventoried roadless areas recommended for addition to the national wilderness preservation system (motorized and mechanical transportation prohibited).

Wildlife habitats and key linkages among them are well-distributed, of adequate size and structure and secure from human disturbances.

Wildland-urban interface forests and grasslands have species and structures that limit fire risk to adjacent communities.

4. Proposed Geographic Area Direction

Why Management Area Revision

The size, design and single-resource emphasis of management areas (MAs) in current forest plans create problems for integrated management of vegetation, aquatic resources, wildlife, recreation and other resources. Changing from the use of MAs to geographic areas (GAs) will allow the public and national forest managers to understand where and what activities and uses are allowed.

Geographic areas are large placed-based areas with distinctive features recognized by the public. Forest Service managers will use the GAs to portray allowable uses, recreational opportunities and the primary management activities across locatable and identifiable landscapes. The proposed GAs range in size from approximately 37,000–260,000 acres excluding designated wilderness.

GAs are identifiable with a place name and make sense to national forest users and managers. A smaller area or unique feature may be included in the geographic area. For example, a research natural area or large heritage resource feature might be included in it, but each may have its own additional management direction.

Analysis of management direction effects may occur at various time and space scales to address sustainability of ecosystem components at scales larger or smaller than the GA. For example, large-scale (river basin and subbasin) structure and connectivity are critical to the persistence of many fish species and can be outside a GA boundary. Also, wildlife species and the composition of vegetation and its distribution across the landscape vary across habitat types more closely connected to geology, landform and local climate than to GA boundaries. In drafting the boundaries similar landscape physical and biological characteristics were considered to allow organization of ecosystem information in a way to display the integration of management activities and system functions and processes.

Proposed Geographic Area Management Direction

In this proposed action management direction for each geographic area is a combination of direction forest-wide and GA-specific direction as needed. The proposed action describes proposed desired future conditions and goals for each GA. Objectives and standards will be developed as part of the DEIS after the public responds to the proposed action.

Forest-wide direction will apply to each GA. Specific direction for part of a GA may be provided to cover special needs. For example, road construction may be permitted in a GA following forest-wide direction except in a watershed targeted for protection of critical aquatic resources. In this example GA direction would prohibit road construction in that specific watershed in the GA.

Proposed Unique Features

Unique features are distinctive cultural, ecological or designated areas located on each national forest and in a GA. These features are mapped and included in the GA. The purpose is not to identify every important resource component in a GA but to show the truly distinctive social or biological features on the landscape in a GA. Examples include research natural areas, the Pilot Knob area on the Nez Perce NF or the Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark on the Clearwater NF. Specific management direction for a unique feature may be proposed if needed.

Uses and Activities Table and Definitions

The purpose of the proposed uses and activities table is to display allowable uses, recreational opportunities and the primary management activities across each national forest. The purpose is NOT to show all allowable uses and activities — only the primary ones of interest to the public and forest managers. The intent is to describe these uses and activities in each distinctive place-based geographic area so the public and managers know exactly which primary uses and activities are allowed and where they may take place on the landscape.

The allowed uses and activities (vegetative treatments, fire management, recreational opportunities and others) may be assigned to each unique geographic area. These uses and activities will be shown as (1) allowed following forest-wide direction, (2) allowed following GA-area specific direction or (3) not allowed. The acres of each geographic area allocated for each use or activity will be displayed in the DEIS, not in the proposed action. The same acre may be allocated to several uses and activities. Table 1 shows the proposed uses and activities that could be assigned to each geographic area.

Table 1 — Uses and Activities

Uses and Activities	Allowed with Forest-wide Direction	Allowed with GA-specified Direction	Not Allowed
Permitted Grazing			
Wildland Fire Use			
Prescribed Fire			
Timber Production			
Other Commercial Forest Products			
Weed Management			
Road Management			
Recreation Facilities			
Motorized Non-winter Use			
Motorized Winter Use			
Mining Activities			
Utility Corridors and Sites			

Definitions of each use or activity:

1. Permitted Grazing: Grazing by domestic livestock under a grazing permit (cattle or sheep).

2. Wildland Fire Use: Use of fire to achieve management objectives for vegetation, wildlife habitat, protection of developments or other reasons.

3. Prescribed Fire: Management-ignited fires used to achieve specific resource objectives.

4. Timber Production: Harvest of trees for commercial use as lumber, house logs and firewood.

5. Other Commercial Forest Products: Products other than timber, such as posts and poles, firewood, wild edibles, ornamentals, small specialty woods (such as yew) and others. These may be for personal or commercial use.

6. Utility Corridors and Sites: Corridors for power lines and pipelines for utility services. Existing corridors are available for maintenance of existing services and for placement and maintenance of added services. As allowed, existing uses may continue, and permits for new uses will be considered.

7. Road Management: Activity that results in road maintenance or the addition or deletion of national forest classified or temporary road miles.

8. Recreation Facilities: Forest Service campgrounds, trails, trail heads, interpretive sites, day-use areas, rental cabins and lookouts and permitted recreation resorts. Facilities not included: roads, guard stations, small facilities installed for resource protection (e.g., toilets).

9. Motorized: Non-Winter Use**:** Areas managed for motorized use in the spring, summer and fall (generally from April 15–December 1).

10. Motorized: Winter Use: Areas managed for motorized winter use from December 1–April 15. Snowmobile use is allowed on designated routes and off designated routes generally on national forest lands. Wheeled vehicles (e.g., ATVs) may be allowed on roads not groomed for snowmobile use, depending on travel management restrictions for the road. Motorized vehicles not described must have a permit for over-snow winter use regardless of location.

11. Mining Activities: Access to and the orderly exploration, development and production of minerals and energy resources.

12. Weed Management: Preventing, containing, controlling or eliminating weeds on national forest land, including by hand, mechanical and biological means and chemical treatments.

Proposed Geographic Area Maps

A map of each geographic area is provided in the proposed action, and the desired future condition and goals for the GA are described. Table 2 shows the proposed GAs and national forest system lands in each GA.

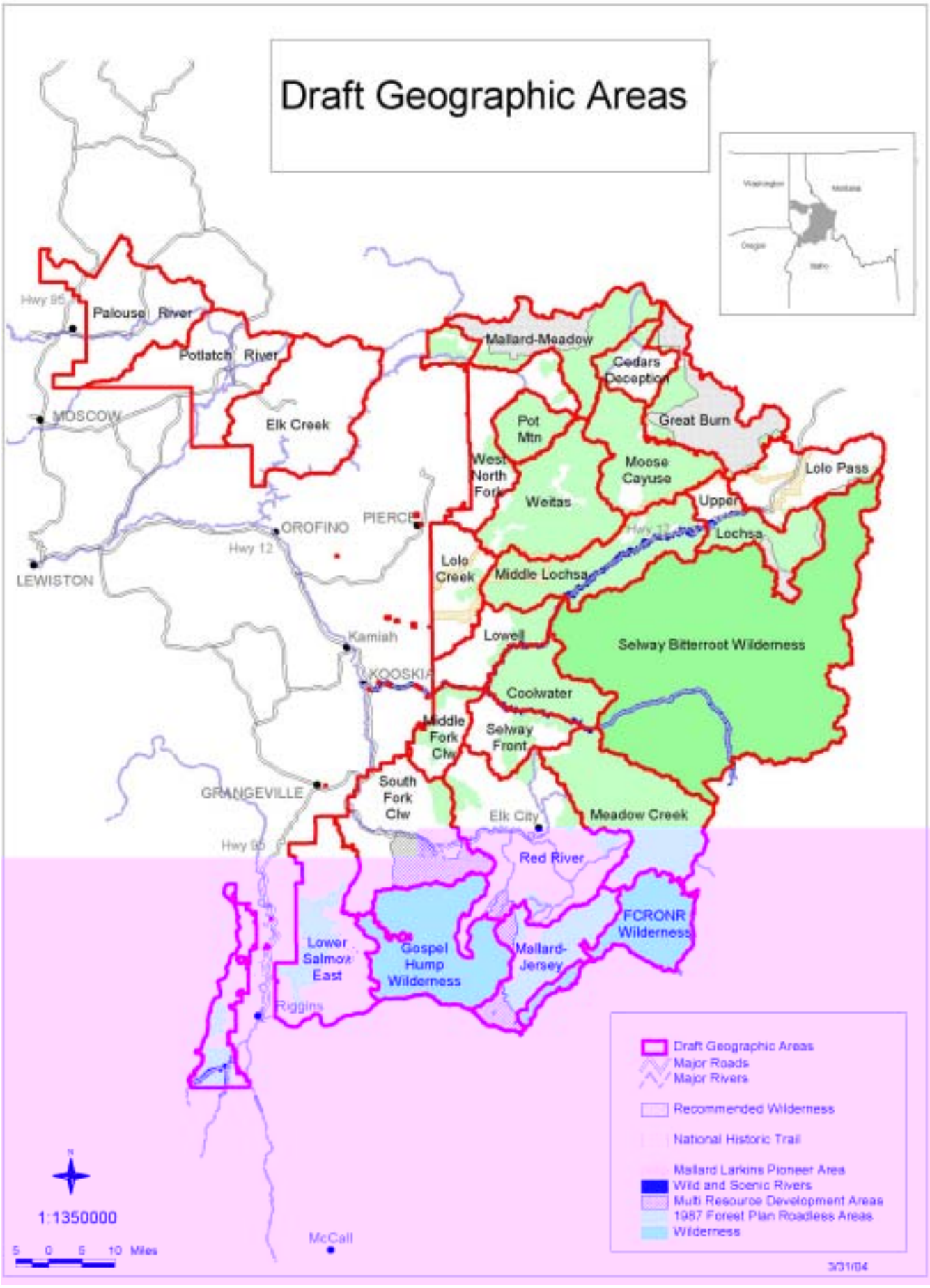

Draft Geographic Areas
Palouse River
Potlatch River
Elk Creek
MOSCOW
Hwy 95
LEWISTON
OROFINO
Hwy 12
PIERCE
Kamiah
KOOSKIA
GRANGEVILLE
Hwy 95
Mallard-Meadow
Cedars Deception
Great Burn
Pot Mtn
West North Fork
Weitas
Moose Cayuse
Lolo Pass
Upper Lochsa
Hwy 12
Lolo Creek
Middle Lochsa
Lowell
Selway Bitterroot Wilderness
Coolwater
Middle Fork Clw
Selway Front
South Fork Clw
Elk City
Meadow Creek
Red River
FCRONR Wilderness
Lower Salmon East
Gospel Hump Wilderness
Mallard-Jersey
Riggins
McCall
1:1350000
5 0 5 10 Miles
Draft Geographic Areas
Major Roads
Major Rivers
Recommended Wilderness
National Historic Trail
Mallard Larkins Pioneer Area
Wild and Scenic Rivers
Multi Resource Development Areas
1987 Forest Plan Roadless Areas
Wilderness
3/31/04

Table 2 — Proposed Geographic Areas and National Forest Acres

Clearwater National Forest	Page	Acres	Nez Perce National Forest	Page	Acres
Palouse River	20	56,449	Selway Front	48	75,462
Potlatch River	22	52,368	Meadow Creek	50	201,869
Elk Creek	24	36,860	South Fork Clearwater	52	199,145
Mallard-Meadow	26	154,395	Red River	54	259,455
West North Fork	28	146,507	Lower Salmon East	56	193,703
Cedars-Deception	30	55,982	Lower Salmon West	58	72,430
Pot Mountain	32	52,718	Gospel Hump Wilderness	60	205,568
Great Burn	34	147,937	Mallard-Jersey	62	121,443
Moose-Cayuse	36	132,079	FCRNR Wilderness	64	110,251
Weitas	38	177,504			
Upper Lochsa	40	104,144			
Lolo Pass	42	73,955			
Lolo Creek	44	89,163			
Middle Lochsa	46	167,770			

Table 3 — Geographic Areas Common to the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests

Geographic Area	Page	Acres Nez Perce NF	Acres Clearwater NF
Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness	66	561,008	262,663
Coolwater	68	54,349	36,149
Lowell	70	149	8,291
Middle Fork Clearwater	72	56,400	333

General Location and Description:

National forest lands in the Palouse River watershed. National forest lands are intermingled with state, Potlatch Corporation and privately owned lands. The Palouse Prairie-forest interface is a unique characteristic of this area. Past forest management activities include extensive timber harvest, mining and roads. Nearest communities are Potlatch, Moscow, and Lewiston, Idaho.

Unique Features:

• Mary Minerva McCroskey Memorial State Park (adjacent to Forest Service lands)
• Sampson Trail
• White Pine National Recreation Trail and campground
• White Pine Scenic Drive, State Highway 6

Proposed Desired Future Condition:

The landscape in this area appears natural as seen along White Pine Scenic Drive, White Pine National Recreation Trail and Mary Minerva McCroskey Memorial State Park.

Older and larger trees in the north central, north-eastern and southeastern parts of this area provide wildlife habitat. Younger forest habitats are home to other wildlife species. With access management these areas provide important security for wildlife. Brook and rainbow trout are abundant in the area.

Major national forest system roads are open. They are generally graveled and well-maintained with gentle grades. Some designated trails in the upper Palouse watershed are open to off-highway vehicles, motorcycles and mountain bikes. Some native surface roads are closed to all motorized travel seasonally or yearlong to protect water quality and wildlife security. Over-snow travel is open in this area with some roads closed to prevent disturbance to big game on their winter range.

Past and current timber harvest activities are evident in this area. Forest vegetation appears as a mosaic of different ages and tree sizes as a result of harvest and managed fire. Timber management focuses on restoring the landscape to maintain a range of forest conditions, including old forests. Wildland fires are generally controlled to protect young tree stands and adjacent private property.

Managers use fires each spring and fall to reduce high forest fuel accumulations and promote the establishment and growth of ponderosa pine stands.

During summer and fall, scattered livestock graze on hillsides. Sometimes they follow Forest Service roads as they move around the area.

Mining activities are present. Areas where mining claims are inactive have been rehabilitated, streams and landscapes restored and roads closed.

Proposed Goals:

• Confine noxious weed infestations to limited areas and eliminate them from meadows and along travel routes.

• Restore soil conditions to improve site productivity, water infiltration and nutrient availability where extensive logging has compacted and displaced the ash cap.

• Restore watershed to limit erosion and soil deposition in stream channels.

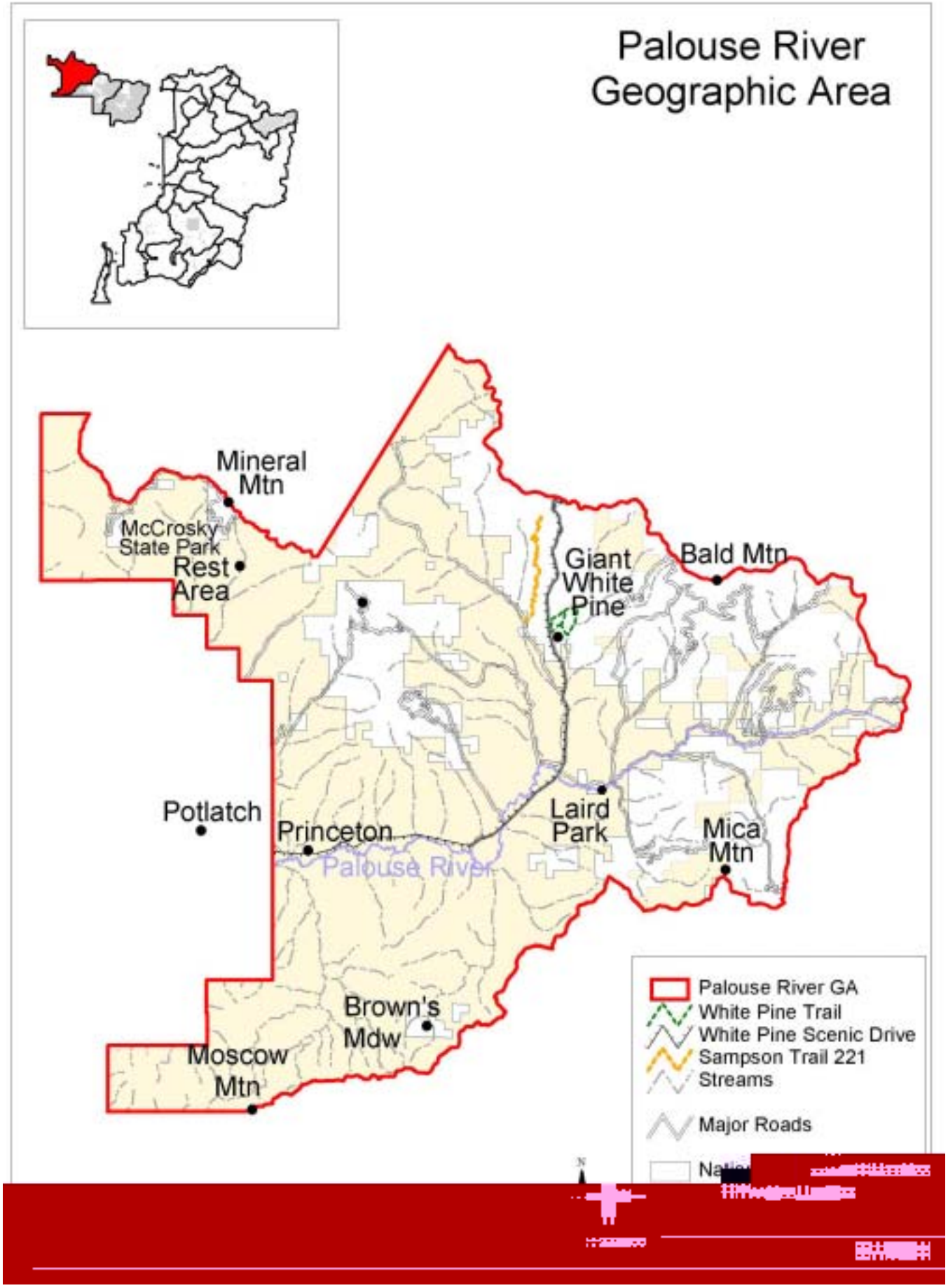
• Restore western white pine on moist forest sites.

• Restore ponderosa pine forest types on drier sites near the prairie interface.

• Restore vegetation and control fuels with timber harvest and prescribed fire.

• Confine off-highway vehicles to designated routes (non-winter season).

• Incorporate in allotment management plans the need to provide food and cover for wildlife.


Palouse River
Geographic Area
Mineral
Mtn
McCrosky
State Park
Rest
Area
Giant
White
Pine
Bald Mtn
Potlatch
Princeton
Palouse River
Laird
Park
Mica
Mtn
Brown's
Mdw
Moscow
Mtn
Palouse River GA
White Pine Trail
White Pine Scenic Drive
Sampson Trail 221
Streams
Major Roads

General Location and Description:

National forest lands in the Potlatch River watershed. National forest lands are intermingled with state, Potlatch Corporation and privately owned lands. Past forest management activities include extensive timber harvest, mining and roads. Nearest communities are Potlatch, Moscow, and Lewiston, Idaho.

Unique Features:

- Basalt landscape
- Camas Meadows
- Potlatch Canyon

Proposed Desired Future Condition:

The landscape in this area appears natural as seen in Potlatch Canyon and along important travel routes.

Older and larger trees in the north central, northeastern and southeastern parts of this area provide wildlife habitat. Younger forest habitats are home to other wildlife species. With access management these areas provide important security for wildlife. Brook trout are fewer where native steelhead trout spawning and rearing occur.

Major national forest system roads are open. They are generally graveled and well-maintained with gentle grades. Some established motorized trails are open to off-highway vehicles, motorcycles, mountain bikes — but not to cars or trucks. Some native surface roads are closed to all motorized travel seasonally or yearlong to protect water quality and wildlife security. Over-snow travel is open with some road closures to prevent disturbance to elk and deer on their winter range.

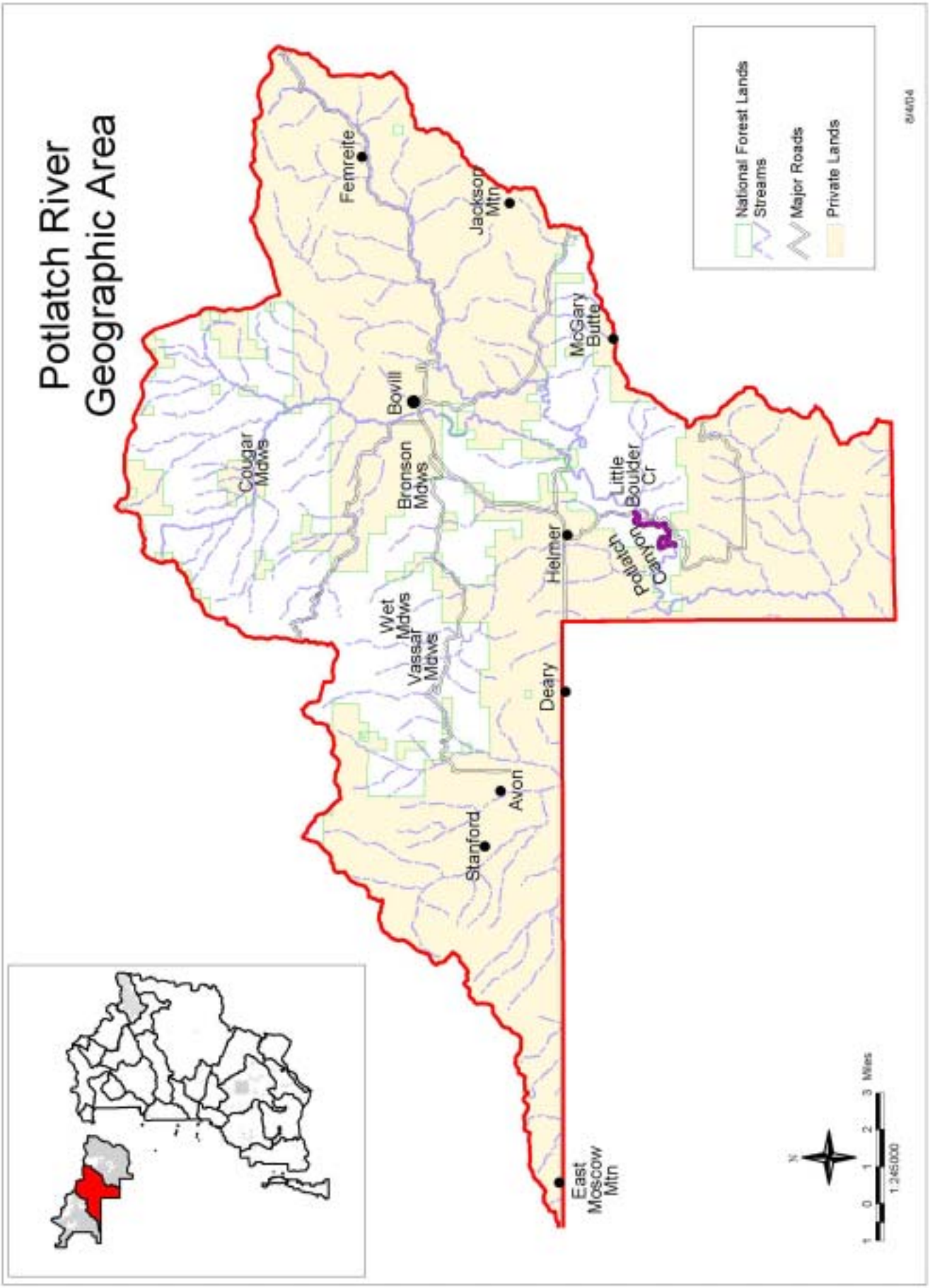
Past and current timber harvest activities are evident. Forest vegetation appears as a mosaic of different ages and tree sizes as a result of harvest and managed fire. Timber management focuses on restoring the landscape to maintain a range of forest conditions, including old forests. Wildland fires are generally controlled to protect young tree stands and adjacent private property.

Managers use fires each spring and fall to reduce high forest fuel accumulations and promote the establishment and growth of ponderosa pine stands.

During summer and fall, livestock are managed to disperse their numbers rather than have them concentrated.

Proposed Goals:

- Confine noxious weed infestations and eliminate them from meadows, travel routes and southerly aspects.
- Restore western white pine in moist forest types.
- Restore watershed processes and steelhead trout habitat by limiting erosion and soil deposits in stream channels.
- Confine off-highway vehicles to designated routes (non-winter season).
- Incorporate in allotment management plans the need to provide food and cover for wildlife.


Potlatch River
Geographic Area
Femreite
Jackson Mtn
McGary Butte
Bovill
Cougar Mdws
Bronson Mdws
Little Boulder Cr
Helmer
Potlatch Canyon
Wet Mdws
Vassar Mdws
Deary
Avon
Stanford
East Moscow Mtn
National Forest Lands
Streams
Major Roads
Private Lands
8/4/04
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General Location and Description:

National forest lands in the Elk Creek watershed and isolated parcels west of Dworshak Reservoir. National forest lands are intermingled with state, Potlatch Corporation and privately owned lands. Mixed conifer forests and remnant stands of old western redcedar characterize the area. Past forest management activities include extensive timber harvest, mining and roads. Nearest communities are Elk River, Potlatch, Orofino, and Moscow, Idaho.

Unique Features:

- Bull Run Research Natural Area
- Elk Creek Falls Recreation Area
- Elk River municipal watershed
- Giant Cedar
- Morris Creek Old Growth Cedar Grove

Proposed Desired Future Condition:

The Elk Creek municipal watershed provides a continuous supply of clean water for the community of Elk River.

Past and current timber harvest activities are evident. Forest vegetation appears as a mosaic of different ages and tree sizes as a result of harvest and managed fire. Timber management focuses on restoring the landscape to maintain a range of forest conditions, including old forests.

Old forests in the north central and central parts of the area provide habitat for wildlife. Younger forest habitats are home to other wildlife species. With access management these areas provide security for wildlife. Brook and rainbow trout are abundant. Steelhead trout and Chinook salmon are absent. Westslope cutthroat trout and bull trout are present in small numbers below Elk Creek Falls.

Major national forest system roads are open. They are generally graveled and well-maintained with gentle grades. Some established motorized trails are open to off-highway vehicles, motorcycles and mountain bikes — but not to cars or trucks. Some native surface roads are closed to all motorized travel seasonally or yearlong to protect water quality and wildlife security. Over-snow travel is open with some exceptions (closures at some recreation areas such as Elk Creek Falls and closures in some areas to prevent disturbance to big game in their winter range).

Managers use fires each spring and fall to reduce high forest fuel accumulations. Wildland fires are generally controlled to protect young tree stands, unique features and adjacent private property.

Domestic livestock grazing is dispersed and readily apparent, primarily in the Long Meadow area but not in the Elk Creek municipal watershed, Elk Creek Falls Recreation Area or the Bull Run Research Natural Area.

Proposed Goals:

- Confine noxious weed infestations and eliminate infestations from meadows, travel routes and drier southerly aspects.
- Restore watershed processes to assure a continuous supply of clean water for the community of Elk River.
- Reduce cattle grazing in the municipal watershed.
- Incorporate in allotment management plans the need to provide food and cover for wildlife.
- Provide quality recreational experiences at key sites such as the Elk Creek Falls Recreation Area and Morris Creek Old Growth Cedar Grove.

Elk Creek
Geographic Area
Giant Cedar
Yellow Jacket
Point
Morris Cr
Old Growth
Cedar Grove
Elk Butte
Grandad
Elk River
Sheriff
Posse
Kameron
Elk Cr
Falls
Little Green Mtn
Bull Run
Cr RNA
Dent
Three
Meadows
North Fork Clw
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5/27/04
Elk Creek GA
Morris Grove
Municipal Watershed
Streams
Major Roads
Research Natural Areas
National Forest Lands
Private Lands

General Location and Description:

Primarily the Mallard-Larkins Roadless Area. The Mallard-Larkins Pioneer Area is located in the northwest corner. Much of the area is high elevation, roadless land. Numerous alpine lakes offer scenic diversity and fishing opportunities. The southern boundary borders the Canyon Work Center, the North Fork Clearwater River and Kelly Forks Work Center. Main drainages are Roaring, Isabella, Collins, Skull, Quartz and Meadow creeks and the upper North Fork Clearwater River. Closest communities are Pierce, Idaho, and Superior, Montana.

Unique Features:

• Black Mountain Lookout
• Mallard Peak National Historic Site
• Mallard-Larkins Pioneer Area and recommended wilderness
• North Fork Clearwater River eligible wild and scenic river

Proposed Desired Future Condition:

Most of the area is roadless with wilderness characteristics although a minimal road system, primarily along boundary roads, provides semi-primitive motorized recreation opportunities. Fly Hill and Rawhide roads count among the few interior roads.

Wilderness opportunities (primitive and unconfined recreation amid natural processes) are inherent in the Mallard-Larkins recommended wilderness where motorized and mechanized travel are prohibited.

The roadless nature and diverse vegetation in the area provide a variety of high quality wildlife habitats. The North Fork Clearwater River is a stronghold for aquatic species because of its water quality and fish habitat. The river provides a scenic setting for camping, river rafting and fishing.

The composition and structure (size and density) of vegetation reflect natural processes — fire, insects and diseases. Whitebark pine is found at the highest elevations. Subalpine forests are made up of a variety of size and age classes and species such as subalpine fir, Engelmann spruce, lodgepole pine and western larch. The subalpine forests provide habitat for various wildlife species that prefer forest conditions with low levels of human use. Lower elevation forests along the North Fork are warmer, with tree species like western redcedar and grand fir. The lower elevation forests provide sustainable and high quality winter habitat for big game and a variety of mammals and birds in the western two-thirds of the geographic area. Lynx habitat exists at higher elevations throughout the area.

Both natural fire and prescribed fire contribute to diversity of vegetation and fuels management.

Weeds have limited distribution and have not displaced native vegetation.

Grazing is limited to recreational and commercial pack stock.

Proposed Goals:

• Restore whitebark pine on high elevation sites.

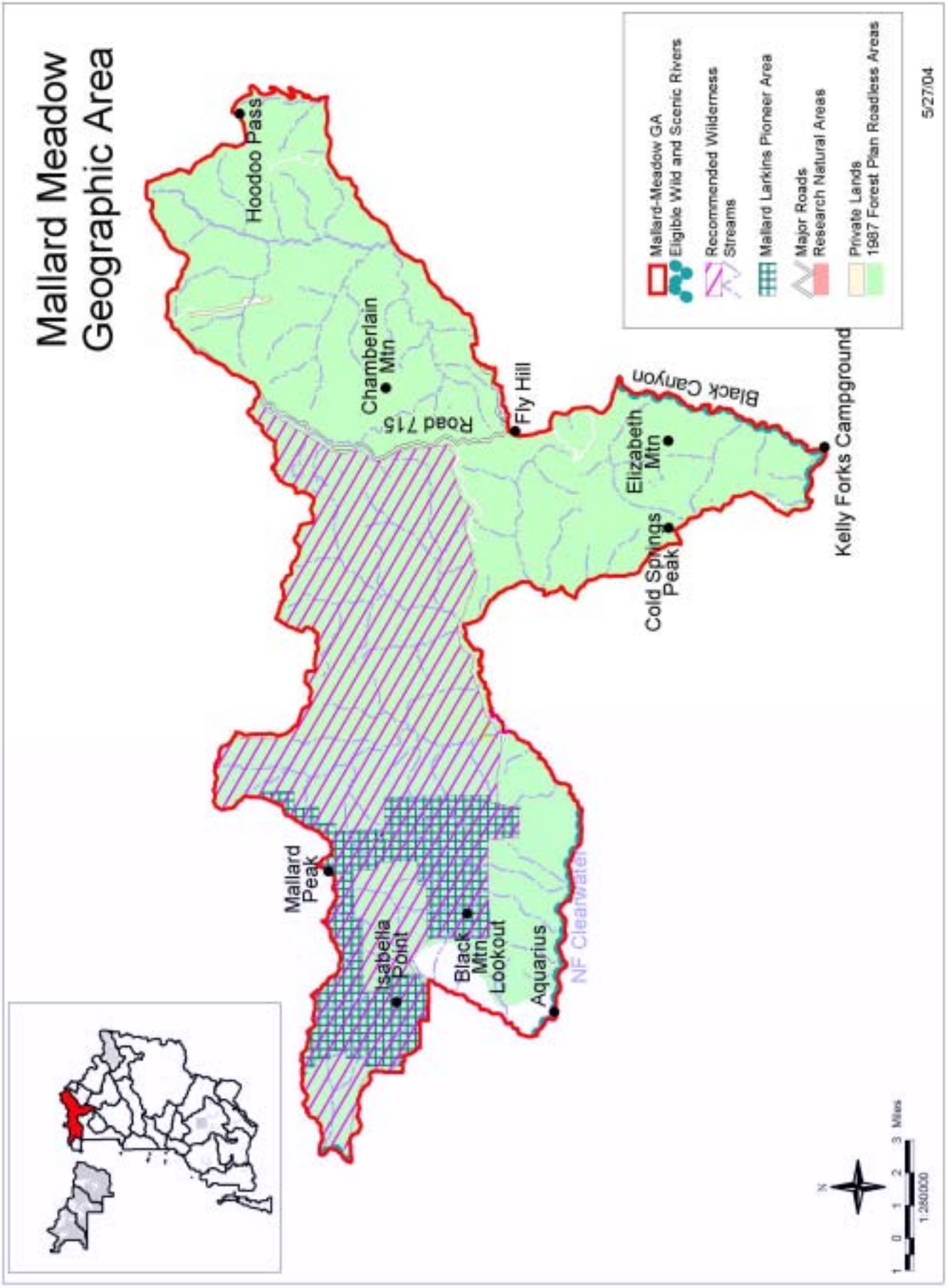
• Use prescribed fire and natural (lightning) ignitions to reduce fuels.

• Conserve aquatic processes in the Collins and upper Roaring Creek watersheds, and restore aquatic processes in Quartz Creek.

• Conserve outstandingly remarkable values in river segments of the North Fork Clearwater River determined to be eligible for addition to the wild and scenic rivers system.

• Conserve wilderness resources in the Mallard-Larkins recommended wilderness.

• Provide a recreational experience dependent on a wilderness setting in the Mallard-Larkins recommended wilderness (motorized and mechanical [equipment with wheels] transportation prohibited).


Mallard Meadow
Geographic Area
Hoodoo Pass
Chamberlain
Mtn
Road 715
Fly Hill
Black Canyon
Elizabeth
Mtn
Kelly Forks Campground
Cold Springs
Peak
Mallard
Peak
Isabella
Point
Black
Mtn
Lookout
Aquarius
NF Clearwater
Mallard-Meadow GA
Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers
Recommended Wilderness
Streams
Mallard Larkins Pioneer Area
Major Roads
Research Natural Areas
Private Lands
1987 Forest Plan Roadless Areas
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General Location and Description:

Bounded on the east by the North Fork Clearwater River and Larch Butte, on the south by Hemlock Butte and on the west by private and state land. Main drainages are Orogrande, French, Washington, Siwash, Sneak, Cold Springs, Cool and Sourdough creeks. Much of the area is highly managed (except the research natural areas and roadless areas on the north). Closest communities are Pierce and Orofino, Idaho.

Unique Features:

• Aquarius Research Natural Area
• Historic Bungalow Ranger District site
• Little North Fork and North Fork Clearwater River eligible wild and scenic river segments
• Siwash Research Natural Area
• Siwash Roadless Area

Proposed Desired Future Condition:

Major national forest system roads are open. Generally the roads are graveled and well-maintained. The area is generally open to motorized recreation, and most trails are open to motorized use (off-highway vehicles). Many native surface roads are closed to all motorized travel seasonally or yearlong for wildlife security. The Siwash and Aquarius research natural areas (RNAs) are managed as areas without roads. There is some semi-primitive motorized recreation in roadless areas, on trails in the summer and over snow in the winter. Over-snow travel is open, with some area closures to prevent disturbance in big game winter range.

Both historic and current timber harvest activities are evident throughout the area. This low elevation, moist forest supports diverse vegetation — from old, mature forests to young forests. Coastal disjunct plants, found only here and on the Pacific coast, commonly grow in the area, especially in the RNAs.

A wide variety of wildlife is found in the area. Summer and winter range for big game are sustainable and of high quality. Wildlife associated with old forests can be found in areas where these habitats occur. Older forest habitats also provide important security for some wildlife. Other wildlife species are found in younger forest habitats. Lynx habitat exists at higher elevations in the far north, south and east.

Natural fuels and fuels generated from management activities (thinning, timber harvest) have been reduced with prescribed fire to protect tree plantations, recreation developments, trails, adjacent private lands and other features.

The North Fork Clearwater River provides high water quality and fish habitat. It provides a high quality scenic setting for camping, river rafting and fishing.

Grazing is limited to recreational and commercial pack stock.

Noxious weeds populations have limited distribution and do not limit the extent of native species.

Proposed Goals:

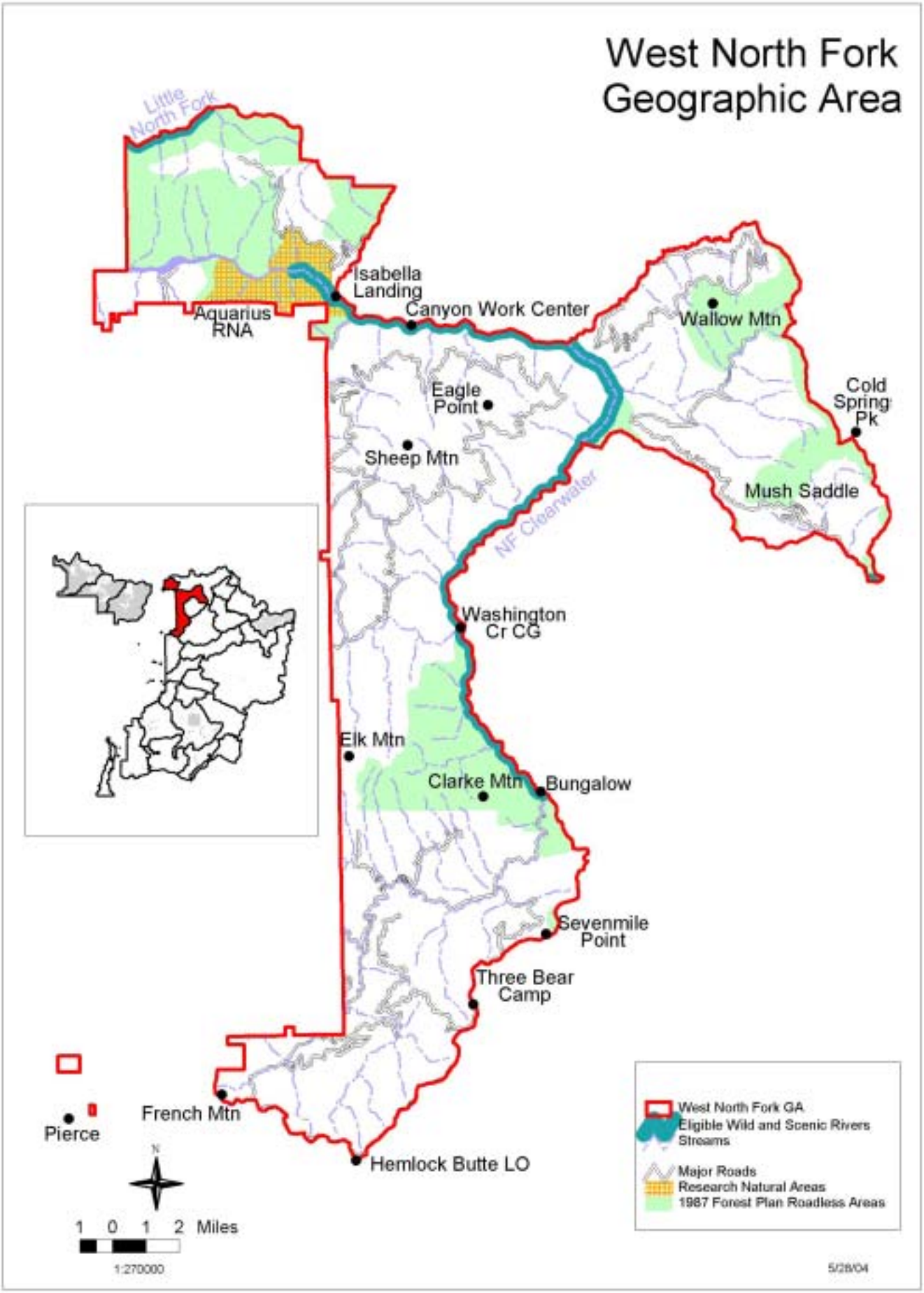
• Conserve aquatic processes in Washington Creek.

• Restore aquatic processes in Sneak, Quartz, French and Orogrande creeks.

• Manage fire to allow it to play an important role in the development of vegetation.

• Harvest timber to influence vegetative development toward a range of natural composition, sizes and densities.

• Conserve outstandingly remarkable values in river segments of the Little North Fork and North Fork Clearwater determined to be eligible for addition to the wild and scenic rivers system.


West North Fork
Geographic Area
Little North Fork
Isabella Landing
Aquarius RNA
Canyon Work Center
Wallow Mtn
Eagle Point
Cold Spring Pk
Sheep Mtn
Mush Saddle
NF Clearwater
Washington Cr CG
Elk Mtn
Clarke Mtn
Bungalow
Sevenmile Point
Three Bear Camp
French Mtn
Pierce
Hemlock Butte LO
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West North Fork GA
Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers Streams
Major Roads
Research Natural Areas
1987 Forest Plan Roadless Areas
5/28/04

General Location and Description:

Bounded by the headwaters of the North Fork Clearwater River on the north, Kelly Creek on the south and Pot Mountain Ridge on the west. Past forest management activities such as timber harvest and roads are evident throughout the area. Major drainages are Moose and Laundry creeks; Deception Gulch; Rawhide, Long and Lake creeks. Closest communities are Pierce, Idaho, and Superior, Montana.

Unique Features:

- Black Canyon
- Cedars Campground
- Deception Saddle
- Moose City
- Moose Mountain Buttes
- North Fork Clearwater River eligible wild and scenic river
- Osier Ridge Lookout

Proposed Desired Future Condition:

Both current and historic timber harvest are evident throughout the area. The forest appears as a mosaic of groups of different ages and sizes.

Timber harvest helps maintain healthy forests. Fire, primarily prescribed (ignited to meet specific objectives), helps maintain healthy forests. Occasionally natural fires play their role and reduce fuel loads.

Forest cover has been restored. Western white pine, western larch and other species are established and growing well on lands cut over when privately owned. Old forest habitats are restored and distributed.

Watershed processes are restored in areas of historic timber harvest, road construction and mining.

Major national forest system roads are open and maintained. They allow for motorized travel seasonally. Native surface roads are closed seasonally for wildlife security. Over-snow motorized winter travel is allowed throughout the area.

The North Fork Clearwater River provides high water quality and fish habitat for bull and cutthroat trout. It provides a high quality scenic setting for camping, river rafting and fishing.

Developed campgrounds are located along the North Fork Clearwater in Black Canyon and the Cedars area.

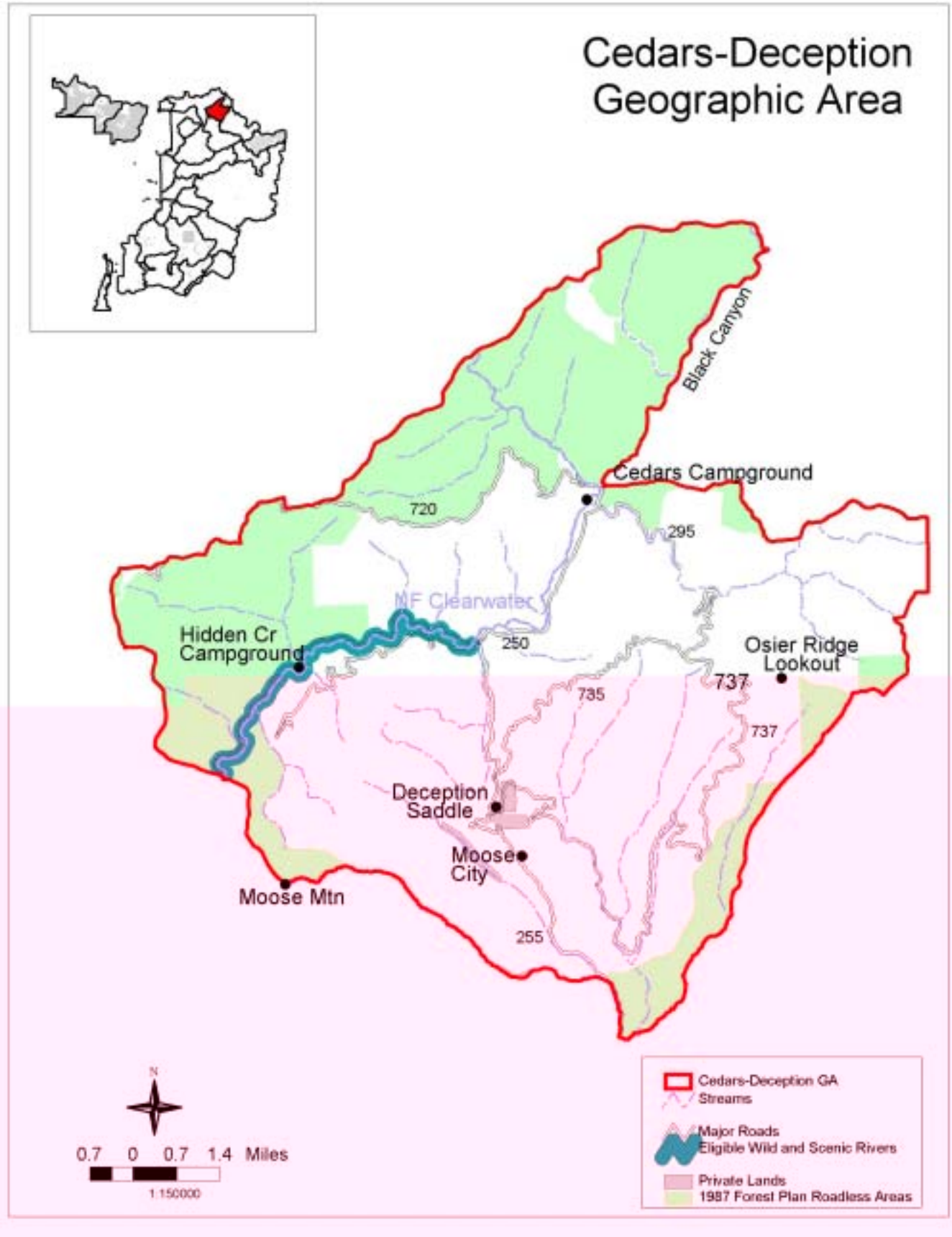
Moose winter ranges are high quality and sustainable at all elevations. Lynx habitat exists at higher elevations.

Noxious weeds populations have limited distribution and do not limit the extent of native species.

Grazing is limited to recreational and commercial pack stock.

Proposed Goals:

- Restore aquatic processes in Moose, Lake, Osier and Laundry creeks and the upper North Fork Clearwater.
- Restore cutover lands to forested condition.
- Restore wildlife security areas in the center of the geographic area.
- Conserve outstandingly remarkable values in river segments of the North Fork Clearwater determined to be eligible for addition to the wild and scenic rivers system.


Cedars-Deception
Geographic Area
Black Canyon
Cedars Campground
720
295
MF Clearwater
Hidden Cr
Campground
250
Osier Ridge
Lookout
737
735
737
Deception
Saddle
Moose
City
Moose Mtn
255
N
0.7 0 0.7 1.4 Miles
1:150000
Cedars-Deception GA
Streams
Major Roads
Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers
Private Lands
1987 Forest Plan Roadless Areas

General Location and Description:

Bounded by the North Fork Clearwater River on the west, east and south and Rock Creek on the north. Major drainages are Rock, Larson, Cave and Jack-knife creeks. The area is mostly roadless with minor access via roads around the circumference. Several rocky prominences (including Pot Mountain and Chateau Rock) are scattered across the area. Closest communities are Orofino and Pierce, Idaho.

Unique Features:

- Chateau Falls Research Natural Area
- Chateau Rock
- Irish Railroad rapids
- Larson Point
- Moscow Bar
- North Fork Clearwater River eligible wild and scenic river
- Pot Mountain

Proposed Desired Future Condition:

The area is semi-primitive and offers recreational experiences for motorized and non-motorized users.

There are few roads in the area, but historic motorized opportunities are maintained.

Limited timber harvest has maintained diversity of vegetation on the northeast boundary where there are roads. Forest health is maintained primarily by wildland fire use and prescribed fire (ignited to meet specific objectives) in the roadless area.

Lower elevation, moist forests hold a variety of age and size classes. Forests dominated by Douglas-fir since early 20th century fires have developed with western redcedar and grand fir beginning to replace the Douglas-fir. Old forest wildlife habitats are restored and well-distributed. Young stands are common on low-elevation southerly aspects and provide sustainable winter range for big game. Higher elevation forests are dominated by mountain hemlock.

The area's roadless character and limited access provide excellent security for wildlife. Vegetative diversity provides a variety of wildlife habitats to support native species. Motorized winter travel is restricted in part of the area with special restrictions in winter range. Lynx habitat exists in the central and northeastern parts of the area.

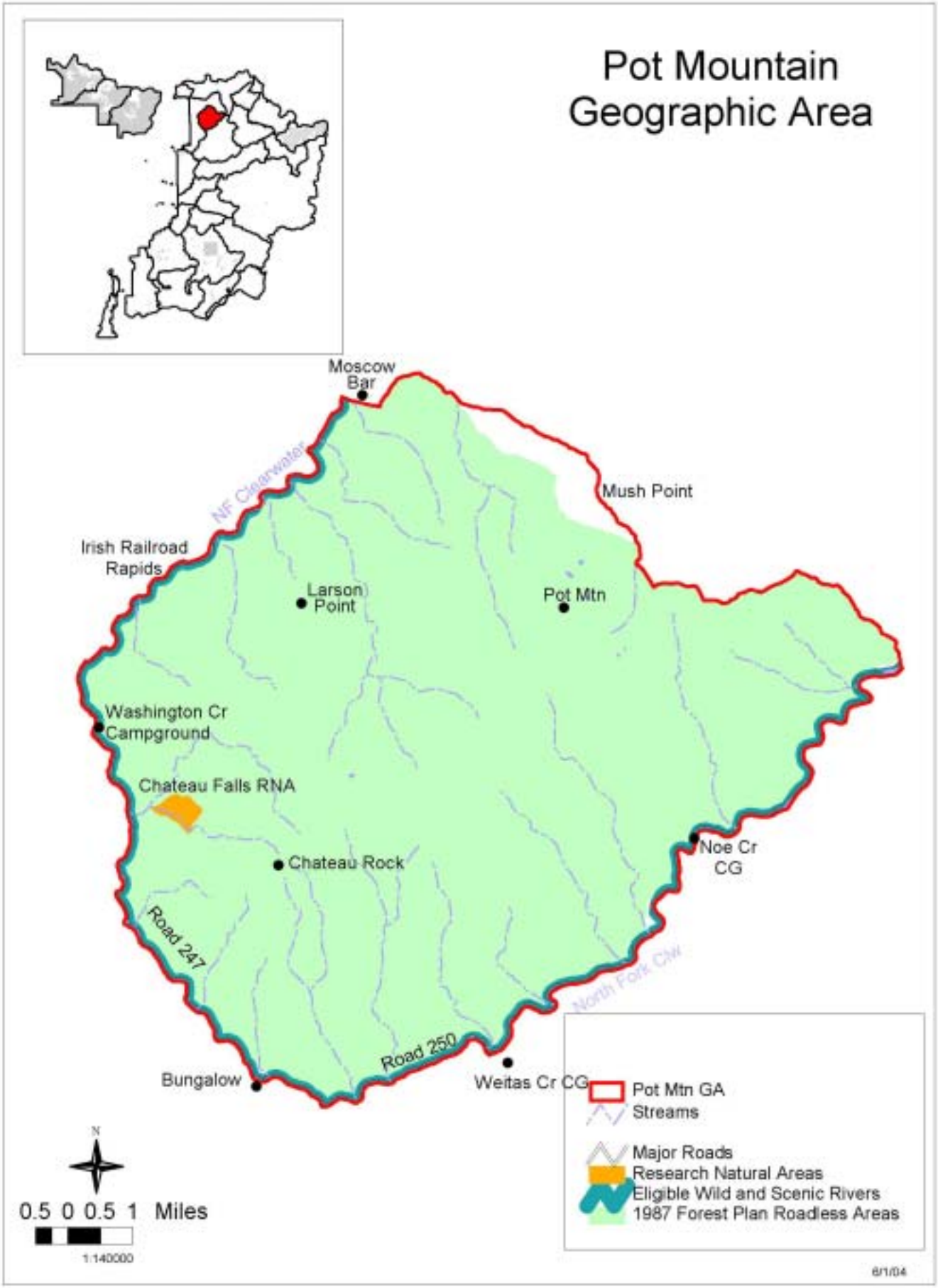
The North Fork Clearwater River provides high water quality and fish habitat. It provides a high quality scenic setting for camping, river rafting and fishing.

Noxious weed populations have limited distribution and do not limit the extent of native species.

Grazing is limited to recreational and commercial pack stock.

Proposed Goals:

- Conserve aquatic processes and fish habitat throughout the area.
- Use fire to develop and maintain diverse forest structure (size and density) and composition.
- Conserve outstandingly remarkable values in river segments of the North Fork Clearwater determined to be eligible for addition to the wild and scenic rivers system.


Pot Mountain
Geographic Area
Moscow Bar
NF Clearwater
Mush Point
Irish Railroad Rapids
Larson Point
Pot Mtn
Washington Cr Campground
Chateau Falls RNA
Chateau Rock
Noe Cr CG
Road 247
North Fork Clw
Road 250
Bungalow
Weitas Cr CG
Pot Mtn GA
Streams
Major Roads
Research Natural Areas
Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers
1987 Forest Plan Roadless Areas
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8/1/04

General Location and Description:

Located along the Bitterroot Mountain Divide southeast of Hoodoo Pass with the Idaho-Montana state line its eastern boundary, the watershed divide between Kelly Creek and Moose and Cayuse creeks its western and southern boundary. A unique resource in this geographic area is Kelly Creek, an internationally known blue ribbon trout fishery. Major drainages are Kelly, Cayuse, Little Moose and Goose creeks. The closest communities are Superior, Montana, and Pierce, Idaho.

Unique Features:

- Fish Lake
- Fish Lake OHV (off-highway vehicle) trail
- Great Burn proposed wilderness
- Hanson Meadows
- Kelly Creek and Cayuse Creek eligible wild and scenic river segments
- Rhodes Peak Research Natural Area
- Sheep Lakes Research Natural Area
- Steep Lakes Research Natural Area

Proposed Desired Future Condition:

The area provides wilderness-dependent primitive recreational opportunities in the Great Burn proposed wilderness. Access is mainly from existing trails. Motorized use is closed year-round in proposed wilderness. Motorized access to Fish Lake is on the Fish Lake off-highway vehicle trail and on designated routes outside recommended wilderness.

The outstandingly remarkable values of Kelly Creek include blue ribbon trout fishing opportunities. Wilderness resources in the Great Burn proposed wilderness support recreational use and high fishery values in part because of coordinated management and communication between adjacent national forests.

Forests reflect historic and ongoing fire influences. High elevation types have lodgepole pine, western larch and whitebark pine as well as subalpine fir and mountain hemlock.

Openings from recent fire activity are scattered across the landscape and provide excellent summer habitat for big game as well as other wildlife species.

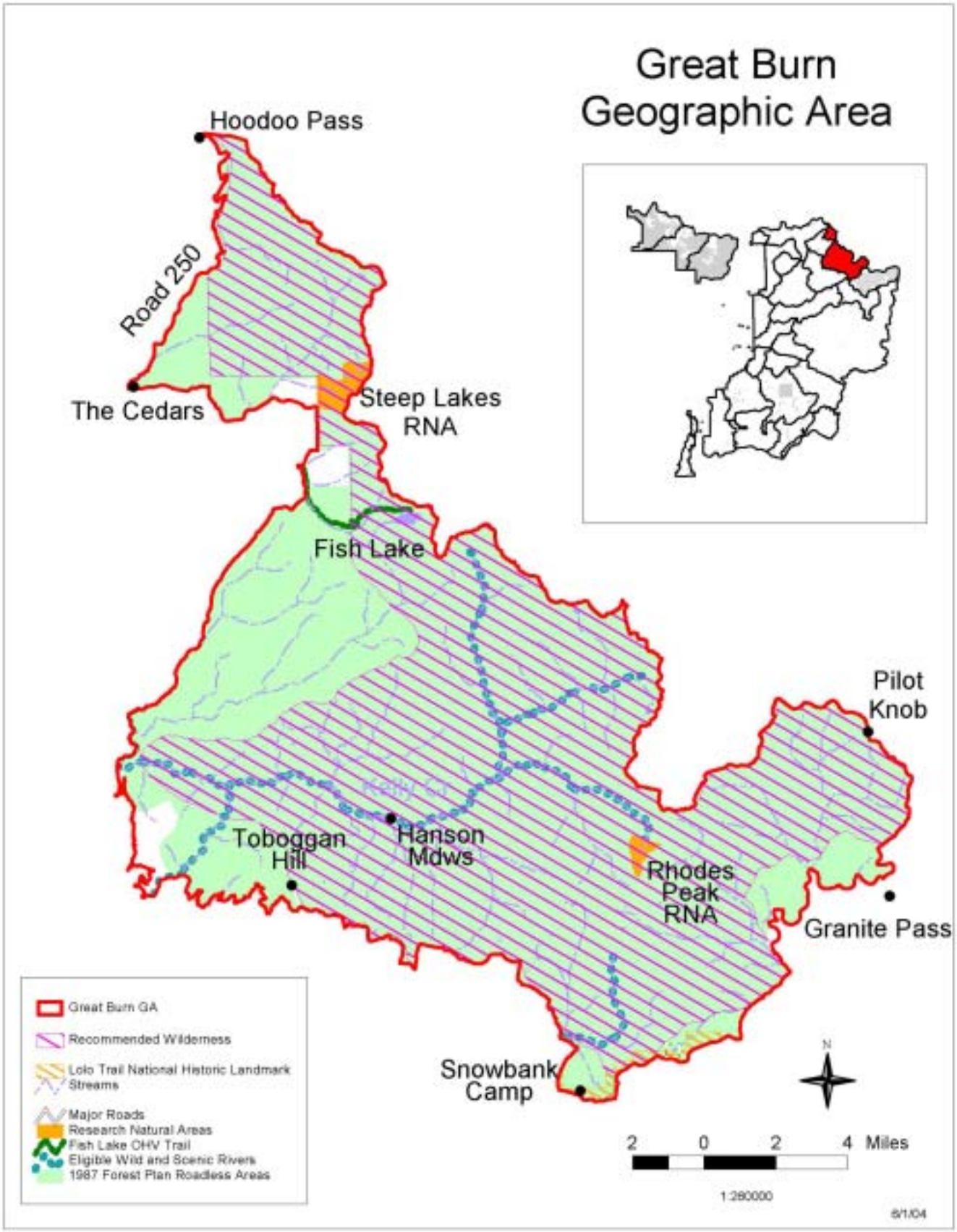
Vegetation and fuels are managed with prescribed fire (ignited to meet specific objectives) as well as natural fires allowed to play their role for resource benefit.

Old forest wildlife habitats are restored at mid- to high elevations with improved distribution of young forest habitat at mid-elevations. Wildlife security is maintained. Lynx habitat exists throughout the area at higher elevations.

Grazing is limited to recreational and commercial pack stock.

Proposed Goals:

- Conserve aquatic processes and fish habitat in the Kelly Creek watershed to maintain high quality fish habitat and water quality.
- Sustain high quality winter ranges at lower elevations of the Kelly Creek drainage.
- Provide a wilderness-dependent recreational experience in the Great Burn recommended wilderness (motorized and mechanical [equipment with wheels) transportation prohibited).
- Conserve wilderness resources in the Great Burn recommended wilderness.
- Conserve outstandingly remarkable values in segments of Cayuse and Kelly creeks determined to be eligible for addition to the wild and scenic rivers system.
- Provide a motorized recreational experience along the Fish Lake OHV trail corridor, which is outside designated wilderness.


Great Burn
Geographic Area
Hoodoo Pass
Road 250
The Cedars
Steep Lakes
RNA
Fish Lake
Pilot
Knob
Toboggan
Hill
Hanson
Mdws
Rhodes
Peak
RNA
Granite Pass
Snowbank
Camp
Great Burn GA
Recommended Wilderness
Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark
Streams
Major Roads
Research Natural Areas
Fish Lake OHV Trail
Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers
1987 Forest Plan Roadless Areas
N
2 0 2 4 Miles
1:280000
8/1/04

General Location and Description:

Lands in the Kelly Creek drainage between the North Fork Clearwater River and the Moose Creek and Cayuse Creek watershed upstream from Gorman Creek. Moose Mountains and high quality backcountry cutthroat trout fishery characterize the area. The majority of the area is inventoried roadless except for Gravey Creek, Gorman Creek and the headwaters of Clayton Creek. Moist forests characterize the area's vegetation. Nearest communities are Pierce, Idaho, and Superior, Montana.

Unique Features:

• Black Canyon
• Cayuse Creek and Kelly Creek eligible wild and scenic river segments
• Kelly Creek blue ribbon fishery
• Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail
• Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark
• Moose Mountains

Proposed Desired Future Condition:

The area provides mostly semi-primitive, non-motorized recreational experiences. Access is mainly from existing trails and the few open national forest system roads. Trail heads provide access for high quality backcountry hiking, camping, hunting and fishing.

Visitors can experience primitive recreation in the Moose Mountains and a high degree of solitude yearlong because commercial outfitters and motorized winter use are not allowed. Over-snow travel is open in the remainder of the area with some closures to prevent disturbance to wildlife in their winter range.

Subalpine forests reflect evolving development following the early 20th century fires and frequent smaller fires in the intervening years. Mature and large old tree habitats are restored at mid- to high elevations. Existing old forest habitats at lower elevations and in riparian areas are maintained. Steep slopes dominated by shrubs with scattered conifer trees provide high quality big-game habitat. The more continuous forested stands reflect a natural pattern of plant species distribution and age as seen following frequent low intensity fires. Lynx habitat exists throughout the area at higher elevations.

A variety of wildlife species is found in the forests based on habitat suitability and availability. Cut-throat trout and bull trout provide a blue ribbon trout fishery in Kelly and Cayuse creeks.

Grazing is limited to recreational and commercial pack stock.

Utility corridors and sites are present at select locations but do not detract from the natural-appearing landscape.

Annual noxious weed chemical spraying occurs along roads to limit spread and infestations.

Proposed Goals:

• Conserve high watershed conditions and aquatic habitats throughout the majority of the area.

• Improve the distribution of young forest habitat at mid- to lower elevations.

• Restore mature and old forest habitats for appropriate distribution at mid- to high elevations.

• Manage forest fuels with prescribed and wildland fire use to benefit resources.

• Conserve outstandingly remarkable values in segments of Cayuse Creek and Kelly Creek determined to be eligible for addition to the wild and scenic rivers system.

• Provide primitive non-motorized backcountry experiences and retain the roadless wilderness character.

• Conserve heritage and scenic resources within the Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark.

Moose-Cayuse
Geographic Area
Moose Mtn
Black Canyon
Old Kelly Creek
Work Center
Kelly Forks
Kelly Cr
Scurvy Mtn
Lookout
Cayuse
Landing
Field
Lookout
Peak
Cayuse Cr
Bears Oil
and Roots
Indian
Post
Office
Indian Grave
Peak
Moose-Cayuse GA
Streams
Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark
Major Roads
Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers
1987 Forest Plan Roadless Areas
N
1 0 1 2 Miles
1:240000
8/1/04

General Location and Description:

Located north of the Lolo Trail and southwest of Kelly Forks Work Center. The area is mostly semi-primitive forested with Weitas Creek providing excellent water quality and fish habitat for bull trout and cutthroat trout. Major tributaries are Weitas and Fourth of July creeks. Nearest communities are Pierce and Kamiah, Idaho.

Unique Features:

• Bald Mountain Research Natural Area
• North Fork Clearwater River eligible wild and scenic river
• Liz Creek Cabin
• Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark
• Weitas Butte Lookout
• Weitas Guard Station

Proposed Desired Future Condition:

The area provides both semi-primitive motorized and non-motorized recreational opportunities. Access is from existing roads and trails. National forest system roads are maintained, some closed seasonally to protect watersheds and big-game security.

Natural processes — fire, insects and pathogens — continue to modify vegetation according to historic norms. Prescribed fire and wildland fire use are the primary disturbances, restoring vegetation and reducing fuel.

Timber harvest may occur throughout the area but will be focused along the western edge where existing roads make harvest more economical. The roadless character of parts of the area and limited motorized access provide excellent security for wildlife. Lynx habitat exists at higher elevations in the south, east and north.

The North Fork Clearwater River offers a high quality scenic setting, camping, river rafting and fishing. The high water quality provides habitat for bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout. Weeds have not spread, and their distribution along travel ways has been reduced.

Grazing is limited to recreational and commercial pack stock.

Proposed Goals:

• Manage weed distribution and occurrence in cooperation with state and other agencies.

• Conserve high quality watershed conditions and aquatic habitats throughout the majority of the area.

• Reduce road density to restore watershed condition in Hemlock and Middle creeks.

• Retain the primitive character of the area and natural disturbance processes (e.g., fire, insects) within a range of natural variation.

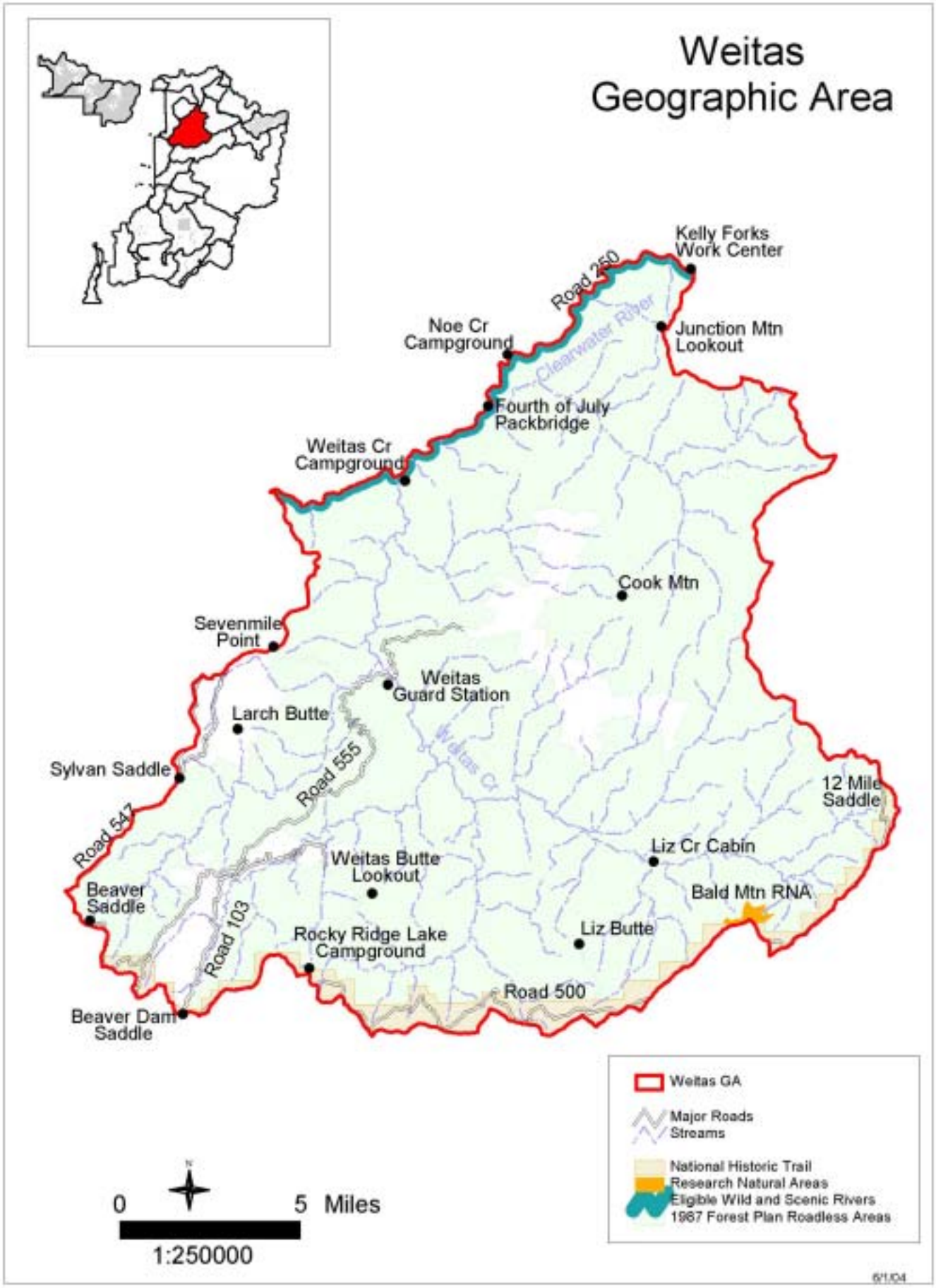
• Sustain high quality winter ranges at lower elevations.

• Restore and ensure appropriate distribution of old forest habitats, particularly in the eastern half of the geographic area.

• Restore vegetation and control fuels with timber harvest, wildland fire use and prescribed fire (ignited to meet specific objectives).

• Conserve outstandingly remarkable values in a segment of the North Fork Clearwater River determined to be eligible for addition to the wild and scenic rivers system.

• Conserve heritage and scenic resources within the Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark.


Weitas
Geographic Area
Kelly Forks
Work Center
Road 250
Clearwater River
Junction Mtn
Lookout
Noe Cr
Campground
Fourth of July
Packbridge
Weitas Cr
Campground
Cook Mtn
Sevenmile
Point
Weitas
Guard Station
Larch Butte
Weitas Cr
Road 555
Sylvan Saddle
12 Mile
Saddle
Road 547
Liz Cr Cabin
Weitas Butte
Lookout
Bald Mtn RNA
Beaver
Saddle
Road 103
Rocky Ridge Lake
Campground
Liz Butte
Road 500
Beaver Dam
Saddle
Weitas GA
Major Roads
Streams
National Historic Trail
Research Natural Areas
Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers
1967 Forest Plan Roadless Areas
0
5 Miles
1:250000
6/1/04

General Location and Description:

National forest lands south of the Lochsa River to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness boundary. North of the Lochsa River, it includes a segment of the Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark. The main tributaries include Fishing, Badger and Wendover creeks. The Lochsa River is well-known for white water rafting and fly-fishing. Western redcedar is common in the river corridor and areas of the lower tributaries. Nearest communities are Lowell and Powell, Idaho.

Unique Features:

• Elk Summit
• Jerry Johnson Hot Springs
• Sneakfoot-Elk Summit and Storm Creek proposed wilderness areas
• Sneakfoot Meadows Research Natural Area
• Colt Killed Creek eligible wild and scenic river segment

Proposed Desired Future Condition:

The area is a natural-appearing landscape intermediate between the heavily harvested industrial lands around Lolo Pass and the primitive lands of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness.

Recreational emphasis is on non-motorized use outside of designated wilderness although roads and trails (especially north of the river) provide access for motorized recreation. Elk Summit Road 360 and Hoodoo Lake Campground provide the opportunity for a motorized, developed recreation experience.

The roadless character and wilderness resources are conserved in areas recommended for addition to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. The roadless character and limited motorized access provide well-distributed security for wildlife. Motorized use in late spring and early summer is restricted to protect elk calving areas. Lynx habitat exists at higher elevations outside the Lochsa River corridor.

Natural processes — fire, insects and pathogens — continue to modify vegetation at the same levels as in the past. Prescribed fire and wildland fire use are the primary disturbances.

Timber harvest may occur throughout the area but will be focused north of the Lochsa River where existing roads make harvest more economical.

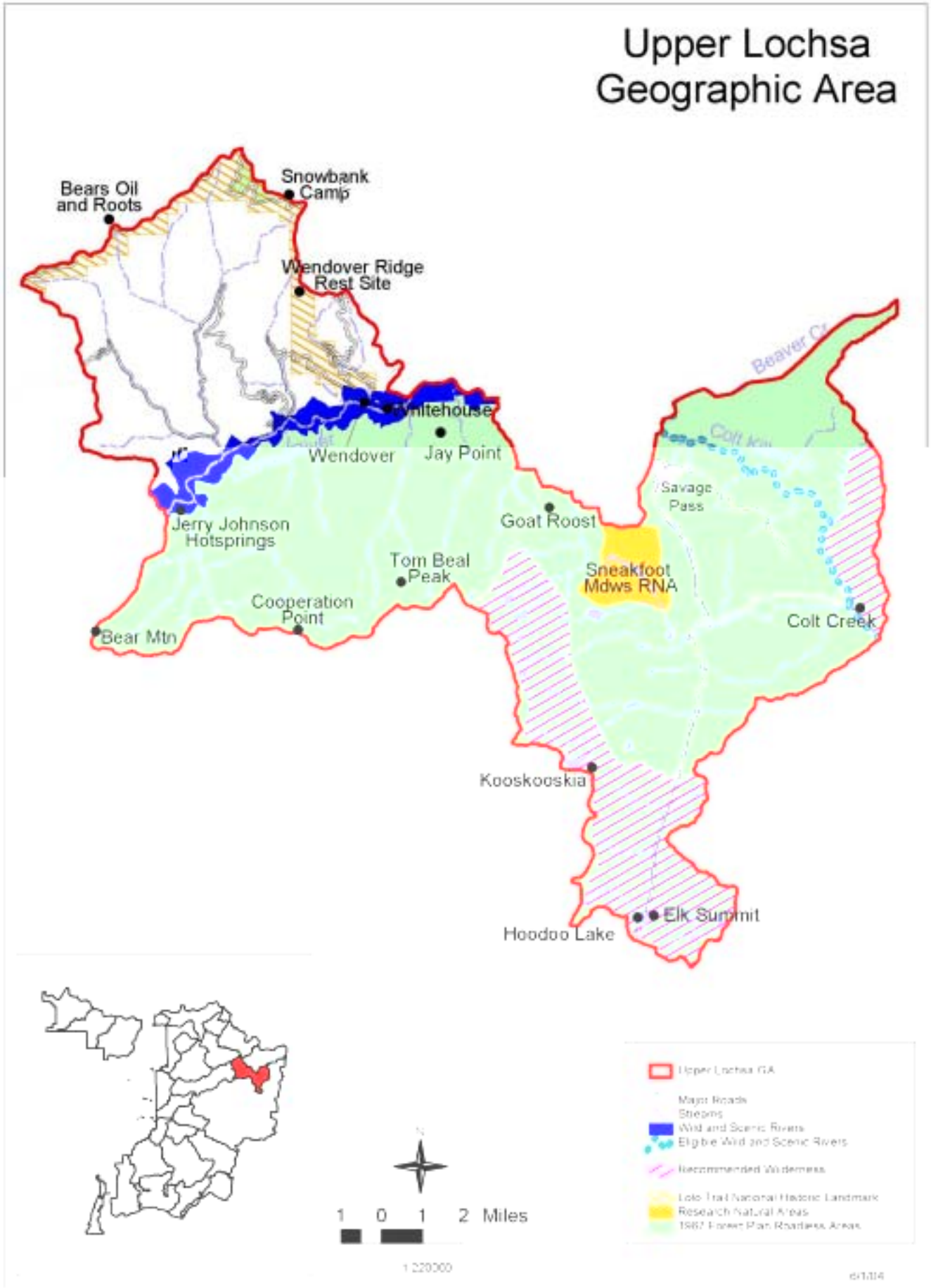
High water quality provides habitat for all native salmonids.

Weeds are cooperatively managed (with emphasis on control) in the Lochsa River corridor and at trail heads.

Grazing is limited to recreational and commercial pack stock.

Proposed Goals:

• Control invasive weeds (especially spotted knapweed) in the river corridor and at trail heads.
• Restore and ensure appropriate distribution of old forest habitats in the northwestern half of the geographic area, and maintain these habitats in the southeastern half.
• Restore watershed conditions in Badger and Fishing creeks.
• Restore whitebark pine at high elevations.
• Sustain high quality winter ranges in the Lochsa River canyon.
• Provide a wilderness-dependent recreation experience in the Sneakfoot-Elk Summit and Storm Creek recommended wilderness areas (motorized and mechanical transportation prohibited).
• Provide semi-primitive motorized and non-motorized recreational opportunities outside of designated wilderness.
• Conserve outstandingly remarkable values in a segment of Colt Killed Creek determined to be eligible for addition to the wild and scenic rivers system.
• Restore vegetation and control fuels with timber harvest, wildland fire use and prescribed fire.


Upper Lochsa
Geographic Area
Bears Oil
and Roots
Snowbank
Camp
Wendover Ridge
Rest Site
Beaver Cr
Colt Kow
Whitehouse
Wendover
Jay Point
Savage
Pass
Goat Roost
Jerry Johnson
Hotsprings
Tom Beal
Peak
Sneakfoot
Mdws RNA
Cooperation
Point
Bear Mtn
Colt Creek
Kooskooskia
Elk Summit
Hoodoo Lake
1 0 1 2 Miles
1:220000
Upper Lochsa GA
Major Roads
Streams
Wild and Scenic Rivers
Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers
Recommended Wilderness
Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark
Research Natural Areas
1987 Forest Plan Roadless Areas

General Location and Description:

National forest lands that extend from the Idaho-Montana state line on the north to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness boundary on the southeast. Major tributaries are Crooked Fork, Legendary Bear (previously known as Papoose Creek), Walton and Beaver creeks. Most of this area is in "checkerboard" ownership, with every other section of land privately owned. The area is well-known for motorized winter recreation and for motorized and non-motorized winter sports such as snowmobiling, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. The area includes part of the Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark. Nearest communities are Powell, Idaho, and Missoula, Montana.

Unique Features:

- Checkerboard ownership
- Colt Killed Creek and the upper Lochsa River eligible wild and scenic river segments
- Lochsa Lodge
- Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark
- Lolo Pass Visitor Center
- Packer Meadows
- Walton Creek State Fishery Facility
- Storm Creek proposed wilderness area

Proposed Desired Future Condition:

The recreation setting is primarily one of semi-primitive motorized. Roads are maintained with some closed seasonally to protect wildlife security or natural resources. Winter recreation features motorized and non-motorized use, such as snowmobiling, cross-country skiing and snowboarding.

Roadless character and wilderness resources are evident in the Storm Creek area recommended for addition to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness.

Landownership has been consolidated through land acquisition or exchange.

There is a range of forest age classes represented across all landownerships with older forests emphasized on national forest lands.

Wildlife habitat connectivity across the landscape and wildlife security are restored and maintained. Snow "intercept cover," where dense tree overstories minimize snow buildup, is maintained in winter range locations. Lynx habitat exists throughout the area except at the highest elevations (above tree line) and the upper Lochsa River.

Prescribed and wildland fires are used for vegetative restoration and fuel reduction. Where economics are favorable, timber harvest is also used to maintain healthy forests and promote longevity of stands.

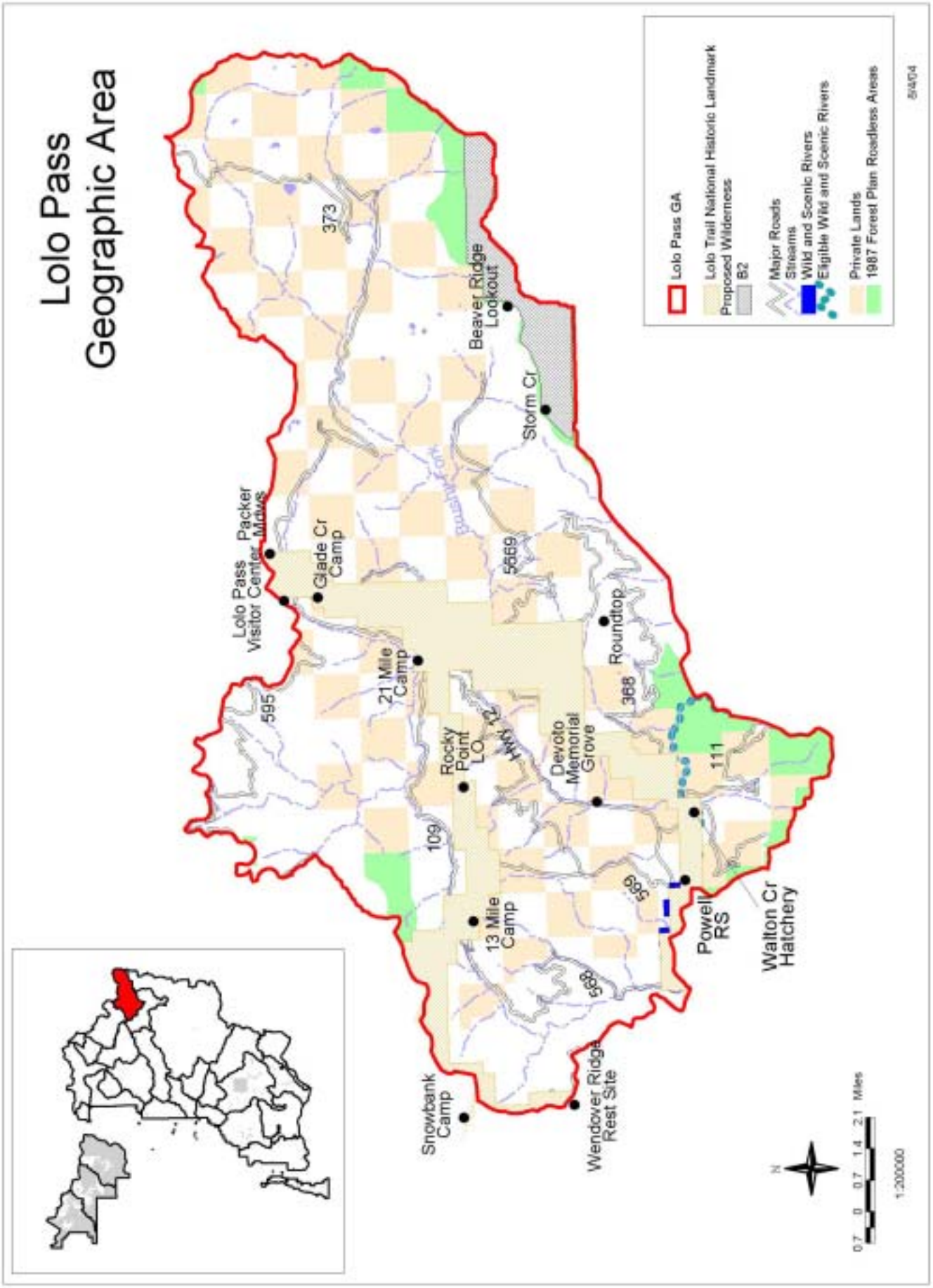
Watersheds — both the stream system and the upland forests — are functioning well with outside impacts having little effect on stream health. Native salmonid populations are healthy throughout the area.

Weeds are cooperatively managed (with emphasis on control) in the Lochsa River corridor and at trail heads.

Grazing is limited to recreational and commercial pack stock.

Proposed Goals:

- Control invasive weeds in the river corridor and at trail heads, primarily with chemical treatments.
- Restore watershed conditions and aquatic habitats in Shotgun and Haskell creeks, Brushy Fork Creek below Pack Creek, Twin and Rock creeks or in other watersheds where needed.
- Restore whitebark pine in high elevation subalpine forests.
- Use timber harvest and fire for vegetative restoration.
- Conserve outstandingly remarkable values in segments of Colt Killed Creek and the Lochsa River determined to be eligible for addition to the wild and scenic rivers system.
- Consolidate checkerboard landownership.
- Provide ample winter recreation opportunities, both motorized and non-motorized.
- Provide a wilderness-dependent recreation experience in the Storm Creek recommended wilderness area (motorized and mechanical [equipment with wheels] transportation prohibited).


Lolo Pass
Geographic Area
Lolo Pass GA
Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark
Proposed Wilderness
B2
Major Roads
Streams
Wild and Scenic Rivers
Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers
Private Lands
1987 Forest Plan Roadless Areas
5/4/04
Beaver Ridge Lookout
Storm Cr
Packer Meadows
Lolo Pass Visitor Center
Glade Cr Camp
21 Mile Camp
Roundtop
Rocky Point LO
Devoto Memorial Grove
13 Mile Camp
Powell RS
Walton Cr Hatchery
Snowbank Camp
Wendover Ridge Rest Site
373
595
109
5669
368
111
568
N
0.7 0 0.7 1.4 2.1 Miles
1:200000

General Location and Description:

All lands in the Lolo Creek watershed. The area is bordered by French Mountain on the north, Walde Mountain on the south, Smith Mountain Saddle on the southeast and private land on the west. The lower half of the Lolo Creek drainage is on private land and flows into the main Clearwater River near Greer. The area has a well-developed road system. Timber harvest has been extensive. The area is home to an important Chinook salmon fishery. Closest communities are Orofino, Kooskia, Weippe, Kamiah and Pierce, Idaho.

Unique Features:

- Austin Ridge Lookout
- 4-Bit Creek Research Natural Area
- Historic mining areas along Lolo and Alder creeks
- Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark
- Musselshell Meadows
- Musselshell Work Center
- Yoosa Creek Tribal Fish Production Facility

Proposed Desired Future Condition:

The area is easily accessible by road.

Recreational opportunities abound both in areas accessible by road and in dispersed areas.

Vegetation reflects historic species composition, including western white pine, forest structure (size and density) and patterns maintained primarily through timber harvest. There is a range of forest age classes represented across all landownerships with older grand fir and cedar types emphasized on national forest lands.

The area provides moist, productive summer range for big game. Wildlife that prefer old forests find restored and well-distributed habitat here. Lynx habitat exists in a limited area in the northeast.

Lolo Creek and Eldorado Creek watersheds are functioning well, providing high quality water conditions supporting anadromous fish.

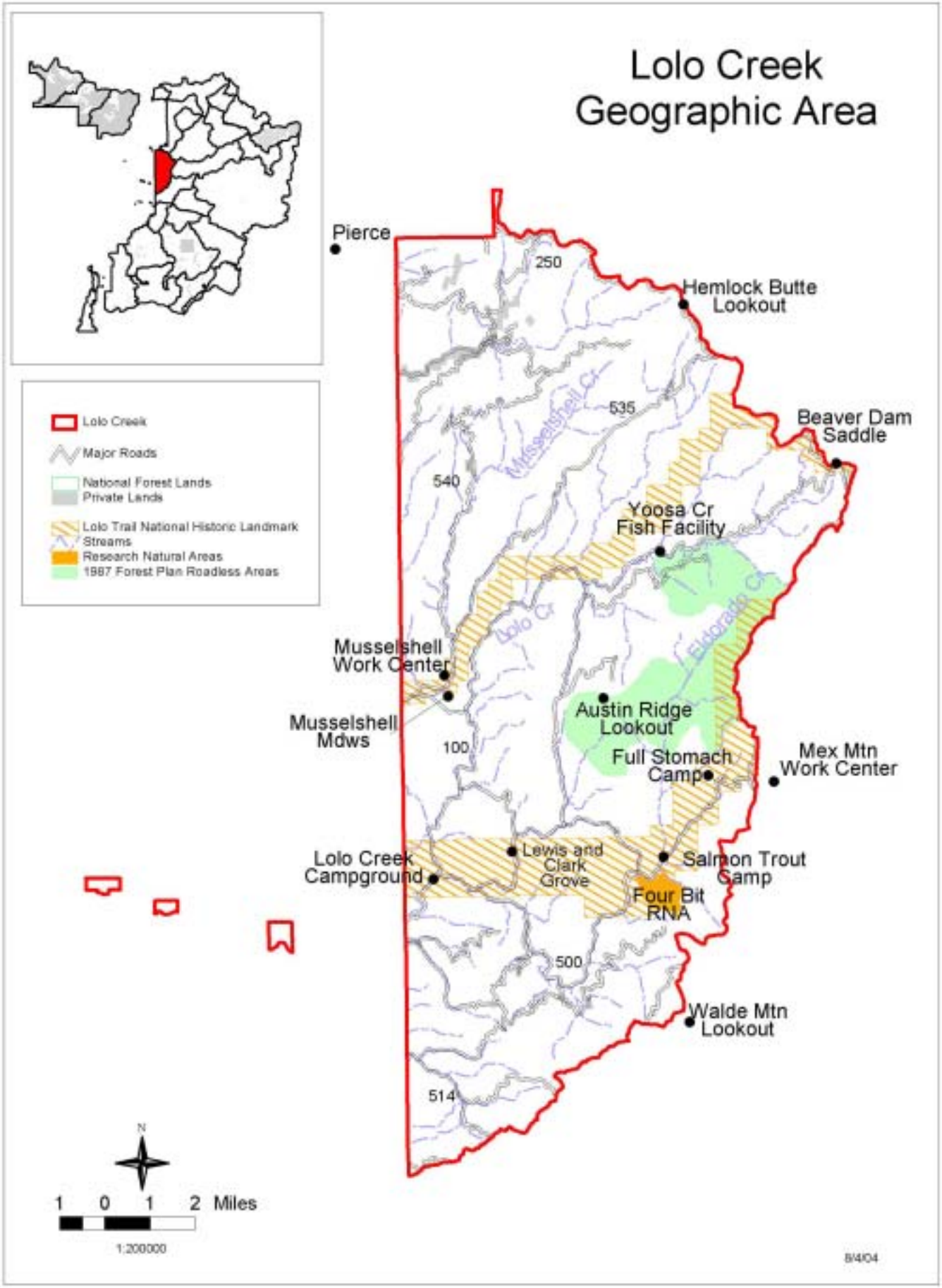
The landscape view from the Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark appears natural, with vegetative species and disturbance patterns similar to what would have existed historically.

Noxious weed populations are limited and do not restrict the extent of native species.

Livestock grazing occurs in the western two-thirds of the geographic area.

Proposed Goals:

- Maintain large old cedar and grand fir forests for wildlife use and to provide diverse structure.
- Maintain winter ranges along the western edge of the geographic area.
- Restore watershed processes throughout the area with a special focus on Lolo Creek and Eldorado Creek watersheds.
- Sustain forest composition and structure.
- Restore vegetation and control fuels with timber harvest, wildland fire use and prescribed fire.
- Provide access management for motorized and non-motorized uses.
- Conserve heritage and scenic resources within the Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark.


Lolo Creek
Geographic Area
Pierce
250
Hemlock Butte
Lookout
535
Beaver Dam
Saddle
540
Yoosa Cr
Fish Facility
Musselshell Cr
Lolo Cr
Eldorado Cr
Musselshell
Work Center
Musselshell
Mdws
Austin Ridge
Lookout
100
Full Stomach
Camp
Mex Mtn
Work Center
Lolo Creek
Campground
Lewis and
Clark
Grove
Salmon Trout
Camp
Four Bit
RNA
500
Walde Mtn
Lookout
514
Lolo Creek
Major Roads
National Forest Lands
Private Lands
Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark
Streams
Research Natural Areas
1987 Forest Plan Roadless Areas
N
1 0 1 2 Miles
1:200000
8/4/04

General Location and Description:

National forest lands including all watersheds that flow into the Lochsa River from the mouth of Fish Creek to the mouth of Warm Springs Creek. Main tributaries include Fish, Weir and Post Office creeks. The Lochsa Face Roadless Area is south of the Lochsa River. Steep breakland slopes (slopes adjacent to rivers and their tributaries) border the river on both sides with a mosaic of moist conifer and shrub fields from early 20th century burns. The north side of the river includes a part of the Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark. Nearest communities are Lowell, Powell, Syringa and Kooskia, Idaho.

Unique Features:

- Bald Mountain Research Natural Area
- Dutch Research Natural Area
- Fish Creek and Hungery Creek eligible wild and scenic river segments
- Lochsa Historical Ranger Station
- Lochsa Wild and Scenic River corridor
- Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark
- Smoking Place
- Weir Creek Hot Springs

Proposed Desired Future Condition:

Remote, natural-appearing landscape complements the Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark.

Healthy forests are primarily maintained with prescribed fire (ignited to meet specific objectives) and the use of wildland fire for resource benefit. Timber production maintains healthy forests in accessible areas, primarily in Lost Creek and the southwest corner of Fish Creek. Shrub fields from early 20th century burns have gradually become forested with fire-tolerant species.

Winter ranges in the lower Fish Creek and Lochsa River areas are high quality and sustainable. Old forest wildlife habitat is maintained in upper elevations. Existing roads are maintained, and many are closed seasonally for wildlife security. Lynx habitat exists at higher elevations outside the Lochsa River corridor.

High quality habitat for anadromous fish and other native salmonids is maintained.

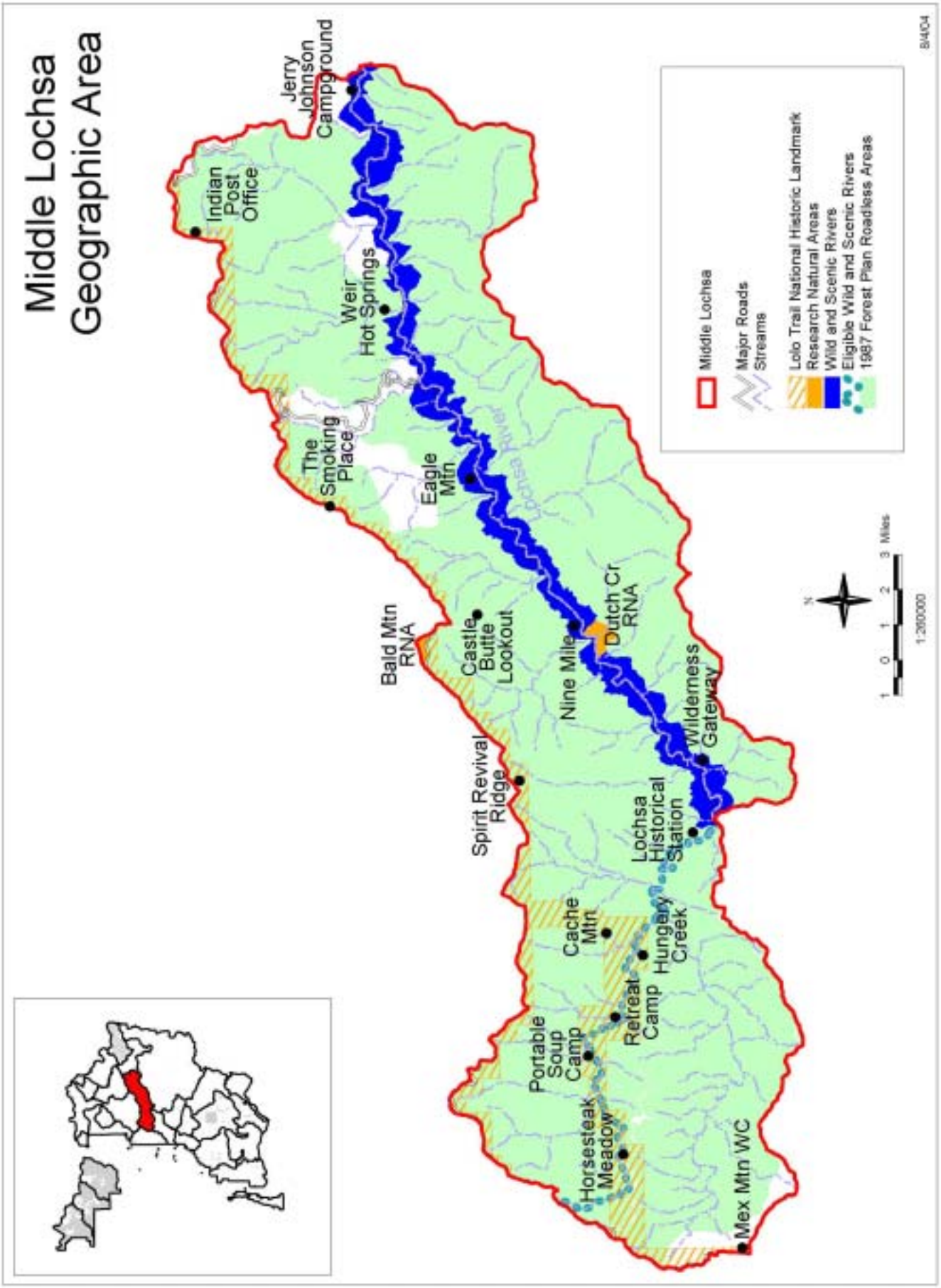
Semi-primitive motorized and non-motorized recreation experiences are plentiful along the Lochsa River and in its tributaries.

The Lochsa River provides high quality white water rafting and trout fishing opportunities.

Weeds are cooperatively managed and under control in the Lochsa River corridor and at trail heads.

Proposed Goals:

- Conserve watershed condition and aquatic habitat throughout the area, with restoration to reduce sediment from existing roads in upper Post Office Creek.
- Maintain large old forests to provide wildlife habitat and a diverse forest structure (size and density).
- Restore whitebark pine on appropriate sites at high elevations.
- Use natural or prescribed fires to encourage development of open ponderosa pine stands in shrub fields on southerly aspects.
- Offer semi-primitive motorized recreation opportunities in the Fish Creek drainage, and offer semi-primitive non-motorized opportunities in Hungery and Willow creeks.
- Provide both motorized and non-motorized direction in the access management plan for the Middle Lochsa.
- Conserve outstandingly remarkable values in segments of Fish and Hungery creeks determined to be eligible for addition to the wild and scenic rivers system and in the designated Lochsa Wild and Scenic River corridor.


Middle Lochsa
Geographic Area
Jerry Johnson Campground
Indian Post Office
Weir Hot Springs
The Smoking Place
Eagle Mtn
Bald Mtn RNA
Castle Butte Lookout
Nine Mile
Dutch Cr RNA
Wilderness Gateway
Spirit Revival Ridge
Lochsa Historical Station
Cache Mtn
Hungery Creek
Retreat Camp
Portable Soup Camp
Horsesteak Meadow
Mex Mtn WC
Middle Lochsa
Major Roads
Streams
Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark
Research Natural Areas
Wild and Scenic Rivers
Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers
1987 Forest Plan Roadless Areas
N
1 0 1 2 3 Miles
1:260000
8/4/04

General Location and Description:

National forest lands in the Selway River drainage, south of the river downstream from Meadow Creek. The Selway Wild and Scenic River corridor is a unique feature of the area. Past forest management activities such as timber harvest and roads are apparent throughout the area. O'Hara and Goddard creeks are major drainages. Closest communities are Lowell, Syringa and Kooskia, Idaho.

Unique Features:

- Fenn Ranger Station
- Lookout Butte recreation rental facility
- O'Hara Creek Research Natural Area
- Selway Wild and Scenic River

Proposed Desired Future Condition:

The landscape provides a natural-appearing background for the Selway Wild and Scenic River. High water quality supports recovery of steelhead trout and Chinook salmon runs and bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout populations.

Scenic landscapes, rafting and kayaking, native fish habitat and other wild and scenic river values are common in the Selway River corridor. The Fenn Ranger Station (on the National Register of Historic Places) is a favorite stop for visitors who travel along the Selway River Road.

Recreationists find both semi-primitive non-motorized and motorized recreation opportunities. Native surface roads are generally closed seasonally, with graveled roads remaining open for summer and winter travel.

Forests are composed of moist species such as western redcedar and grand fir, as well as ponderosa pine, western white pine, Douglas-fir, lodgepole and whitebark pine.

Landscape patterns reflect infrequent, stand-replacing disturbances (primarily fire) with large areas of even-aged forest. Southerly aspects along the Selway River are drier and represent shorter fire-return intervals with mixed severity fires.

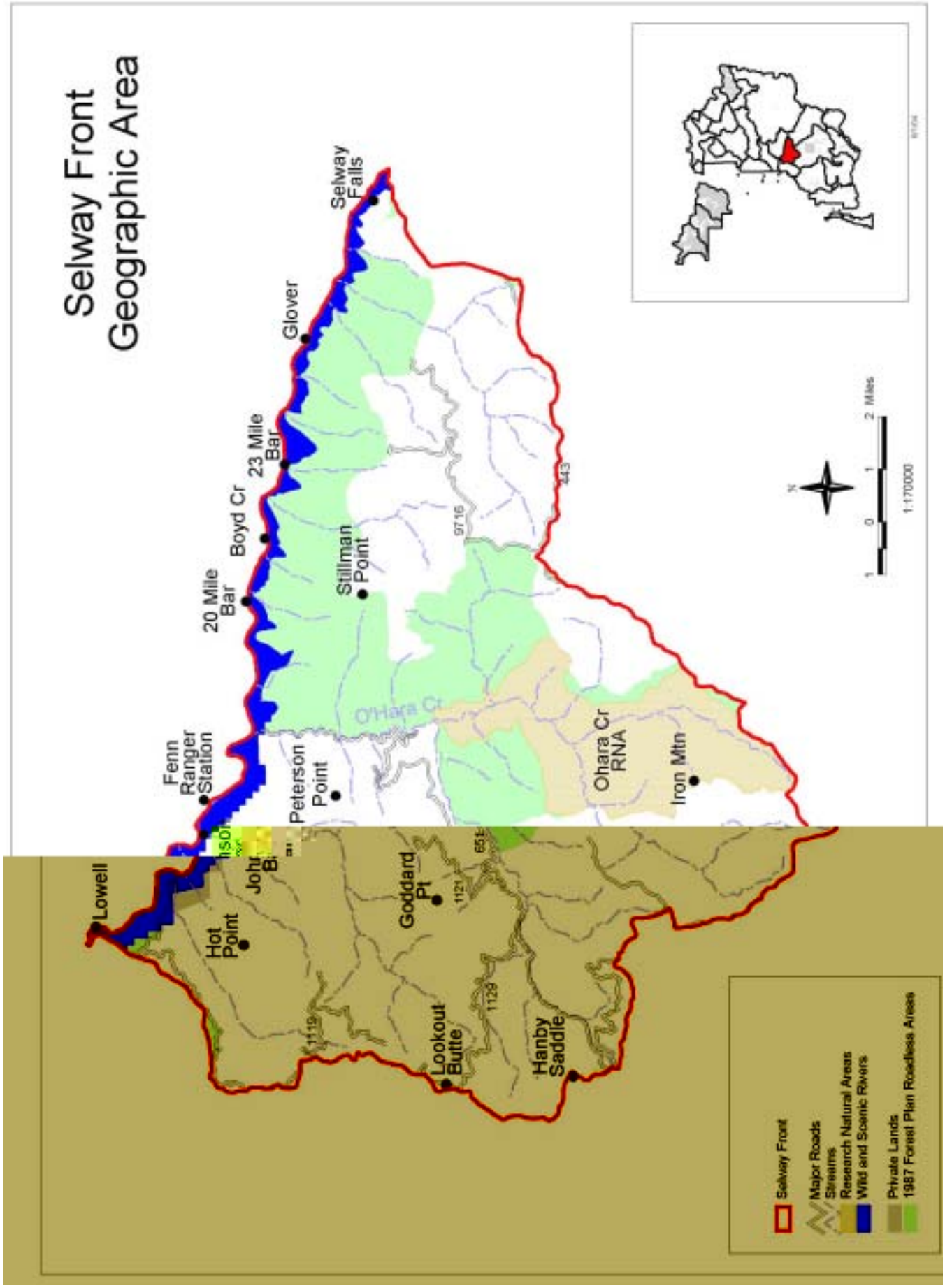
The combination of vegetative composition and structure (species, age, density) provides habitat for wildlife species of a number and distribution compatible with historic norms. These conditions are maintained with a combination of fire use and timber harvest. Lynx habitat exists in the central south part of the area.

Noxious weed populations have limited distribution and do not curb the extent of native species.

Grazing is limited to recreational and commercial pack stock.

Proposed Goals:

- Control noxious weeds, particularly spotted knapweed, in the Selway River corridor and at trail heads.
- Maintain and sustain winter range and calving habitat in the Selway River area.
- Restore watershed process and function throughout the area, focusing on O'Hara Creek.
- Restore western white pine on moist western redcedar sites.
- Restore whitebark pine on Iron Mountain.
- Restore vegetation and control fuels with wildland fire use, prescribed fire and occasional timber harvest.
- Provide excellent white water and fishing opportunities with the scenic resources and high water quality in the Selway River.
- Conserve the outstandingly remarkable values in the Selway Wild and Scenic River corridor.


Selway Front
Geographic Area
Selway Falls
Glover
23 Mile Bar
Boyd Cr
20 Mile Bar
Stillman Point
O'Hara Cr
Fenn Ranger Station
Peterson Point
Ohara Cr RNA
Iron Mtn
Lowell
Hot Point
Goddard Pt
Lookout Butte
Hanby Saddle
1119
1129
1121
9716
443
N
0
1
2 Miles
1:170000
Selway Front
Major Roads
Streams
Research Natural Areas
Wild and Scenic Rivers
Private Lands
1987 Forest Plan Roadless Areas

General Location and Description:

All national forest lands in the Meadow Creek watershed and in the upper segments of Running and Bargamin creeks. Meadow Creek is a special place for many where the roadless character is maintained while allowed uses are less restrictive than wilderness areas. Closest communities are Lowell, Syringa and Kooskia, Idaho.

Unique Features:

- Horse Creek administrative study site
- Meadow Creek Guard Station
- Meadow Creek, Running Creek and Bargamin Creek eligible wild and scenic river segments
- Steelhead trout stronghold
- Warm Springs Research Natural Area

Proposed Desired Future Condition:

The area provides opportunities for primitive recreation with little development on the landscape. The roadless character in the Meadow Creek, upper Running Creek and upper Bargamin Creek watersheds is maintained.

Road access to main trail heads is provided, and no new roads have been constructed. Recreationists can participate in motorized winter activities.

Meadow Creek continues to be a stronghold for aquatic species due to high water quality and high quality fish habitat. The Horse Creek watershed history provides insight (based on scientific findings) into long-term watershed effects from watershed restoration and forest management (e.g., timber harvest and roads).

Prescribed fire (ignited to meet specific objectives) and naturally occurring fires are used to maintain vegetation similar to historic conditions. Whitebark pine is well represented along the wilderness boundary.

The vegetative conditions provide high quality and sustainable winter range for big game at lower elevations. Wildlife habitats are similar to historic levels. Wildlife security is maintained. Lynx habitat exists in all but the northwestern part of the area.

West of Meadow Creek timber harvest is used near roads to maintain moist forest composition, structures (size and density) and patterns.

Noxious weed populations have limited distribution and do not limit the extent of native species.

Grazing is limited to recreational and commercial pack stock.

Proposed Goals:

- Conserve aquatic processes throughout the area except for the Horse Creek watershed where watershed processes will be restored.
- Maintain dry ponderosa pine forests on southerly and westerly aspects along Meadow Creek.
- Maintain roadless character east of Meadow Creek as criterion for wilderness consideration.
- Reduce and control introduced weeds.
- Restore whitebark pine, particularly at high elevations along the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness boundary.
- Conserve outstandingly remarkable values in the segments of Meadow, Bargamin and Running creeks determined to be eligible for addition to the wild and scenic rivers system.

Meadow Creek
Geographic Area
Selway Falls
Slims Camp Trailhead
Administrative Study Site
Indian Hill Lookout
Horse Point
Copper Butte
Limber Luke
Prospect Point
Elk Mtn
Anderson Butte
Meadow Cr Guard Station
Windy Saddle
Granite Peak
Warm Springs RNA
Lynx Mdws
Black Hawk Mtn
Green Mtn
Granite Springs
Post Cr
Burnt Knob
National Recreation Trail
Meadow Creek GA
Streams
Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers
Research Natural Areas
1987 Forest Plan Roadless Areas
N
1 0 1 2 Miles
1:290000
6/1/04

General Location and Description:

All national forest lands that drain into the South Fork Clearwater River watershed below the mouth of Crooked River near Elk City to the mouth of the South Fork Clearwater at Kooskia. Main drainages are Johns, Meadow, Newsome, Leggett, Silver, Peasley and Cougar creeks. Past forest activities include timber harvest, mining and roads. The South Fork Clearwater is an important watershed for steelhead trout and Chinook salmon, and several large tributaries, including Meadow and Newsome creeks, are important habitat with low-gradient meadow reaches. Nearby communities include Grangeville, Elk City, Harpster and Clearwater, Idaho.

Unique Features:

- Adam's Camp
- Clearwater municipal watershed
- Elk City Wagon Road
- Gilmore Ranch
- McComas Meadows
- Multi-Resource Development Area
- Pilot Knob
- South Fork Clearwater River and Johns Creek eligible wild and scenic river segments

Proposed Desired Future Condition:

The area has roads that open it to extensive recreational opportunities.

Effects of past large-scale fires, extensive timber harvest and widespread grazing are the focus of vegetative restoration work. Dry ponderosa pine forests are maintained with timber harvest and fire. Whitebark pine is well represented around Pilot Knob, Twentymile Butte and Sawyer Ridge.

Major stream systems provide habitat for anadromous and native resident fish. Watershed processes and fish habitat are restored in cooperation with the Nez Perce Tribe, federal and state agencies and other groups.

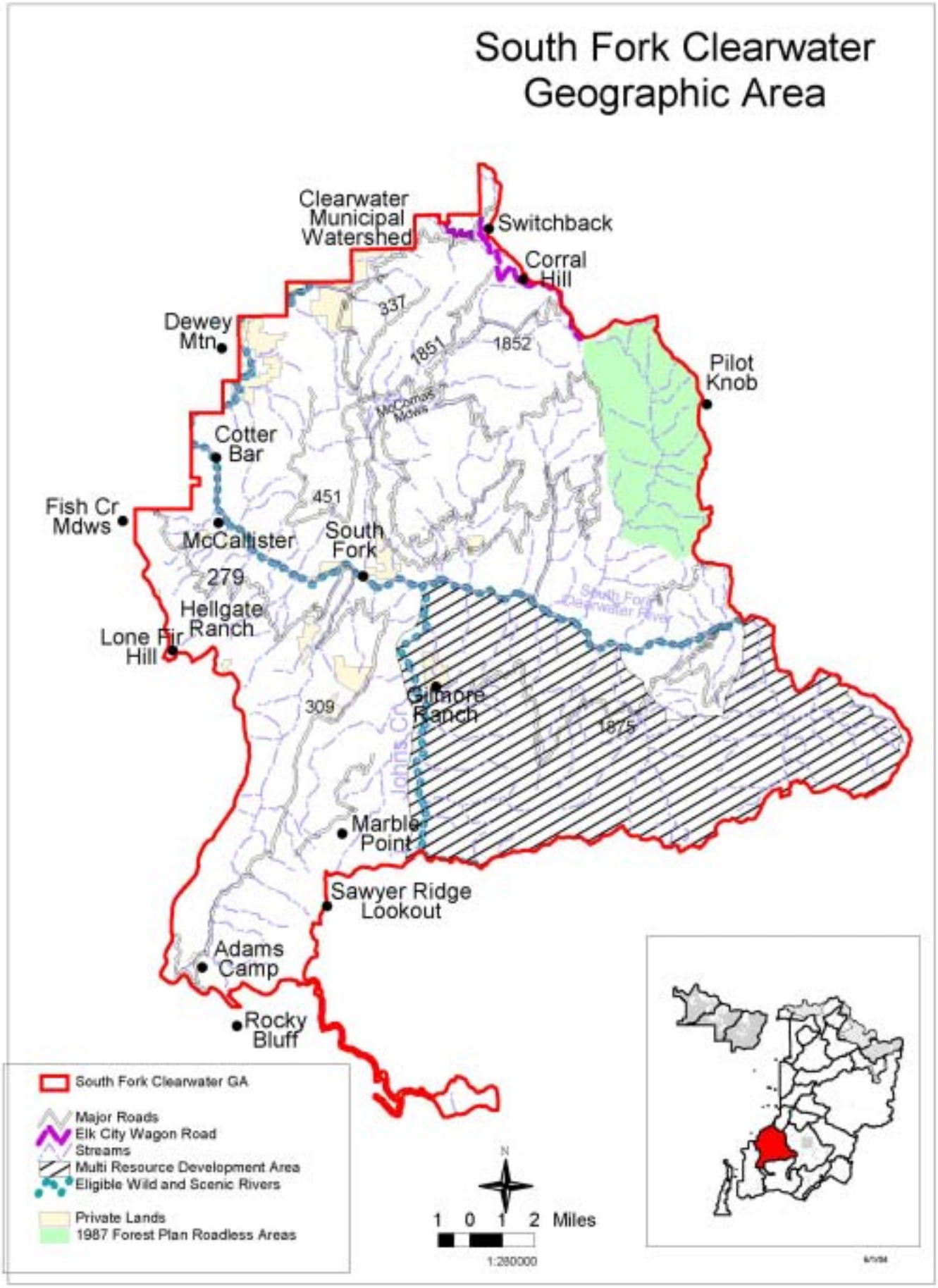
Prescribed fire (ignited to meet specific objectives) and timber harvest are used as management tools to reduce fire risk around private residence developments along the South Fork Clearwater River and the town of Clearwater.

High quality winter ranges are sustained in the central part of the geographic area adjacent to the South Fork and in the Blacktail Butte and Earthquake Basin areas. Lynx habitat exists in the south and northeast.

Weeds are cooperatively managed with emphasis on control along the South Fork Clearwater River corridor, on major national forest travel routes and at trail heads.

Proposed Goals:

- Manage and control weeds (particularly spotted knapweed) along highways and travel corridors.
- Conserve watershed processes in Johns, Silver and Twentymile creeks and the face drainages (small creeks draining the steep canyons) of the South Fork.
- Provide timber products while providing for wildlife and scenic resources in multi-resource development areas as described in the 1978 Endangered American Wilderness Act.
- Restore fish habitat and watersheds by working cooperatively with the Nez Perce Tribe, federal and state agencies and outside groups.
- Restore the health of vegetation using timber harvest and fire.
- Restore high quality fish habitat and watershed processes.
- Restore watershed processes in Mill, Meadow, Cougar and Peasley creeks and their tributaries by restoring fish habitat in channels, and restore watershed uplands.
- Reduce risk of high severity fire in the wildland-urban interface.
- Provide semi-primitive and natural setting recreational opportunities in areas with roads.
- Conserve outstandingly remarkable values in the segment of the South Fork Clearwater River and Johns Creek determined to be eligible for addition to the wild and scenic rivers system.


South Fork Clearwater
Geographic Area
Clearwater
Municipal
Watershed
Switchback
Corral
Hill
Dewey
Mtn
337
1851
1852
Pilot
Knob
McComas
Mdws
Cotter
Bar
451
Fish Cr
Mdws
McCallister
South
Fork
279
Hellgate
Ranch
Lone Fir
Hill
South Fork
Clearwater River
Gilmore
Ranch
309
1875
Marble
Point
Sawyer Ridge
Lookout
Adams
Camp
Rocky
Bluff
South Fork Clearwater GA
Major Roads
Elk City Wagon Road
Streams
Multi Resource Development Area
Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers
Private Lands
1987 Forest Plan Roadless Areas
N
1 0 1 2 Miles
1:280000

General Location and Description:

Primarily the non-roadless lands surrounding the Elk City Township. Roadless areas are located near Pilot Knob, Table Meadows, Red River Hot Springs, Moose Butte and Anderson Butte. The landscape features highly developed national forest system roads and areas with past timber management. Main drainages are the American River, Newsome Creek, Crooked River and Red River. Nearby communities include Elk City, Dixie and Orogrande, Idaho.

Unique Features:

- Crooked River fish weir
- Crooked River placer mine tailings
- Elk City Wagon Road
- Magruder Road Corridor
- Red River Hot Springs
- South Fork Clearwater eligible wild and scenic river segment

Proposed Desired Future Condition:

The area provides motorized recreation opportunities in a setting with roads as well as non-motorized recreation opportunities in areas without roads.

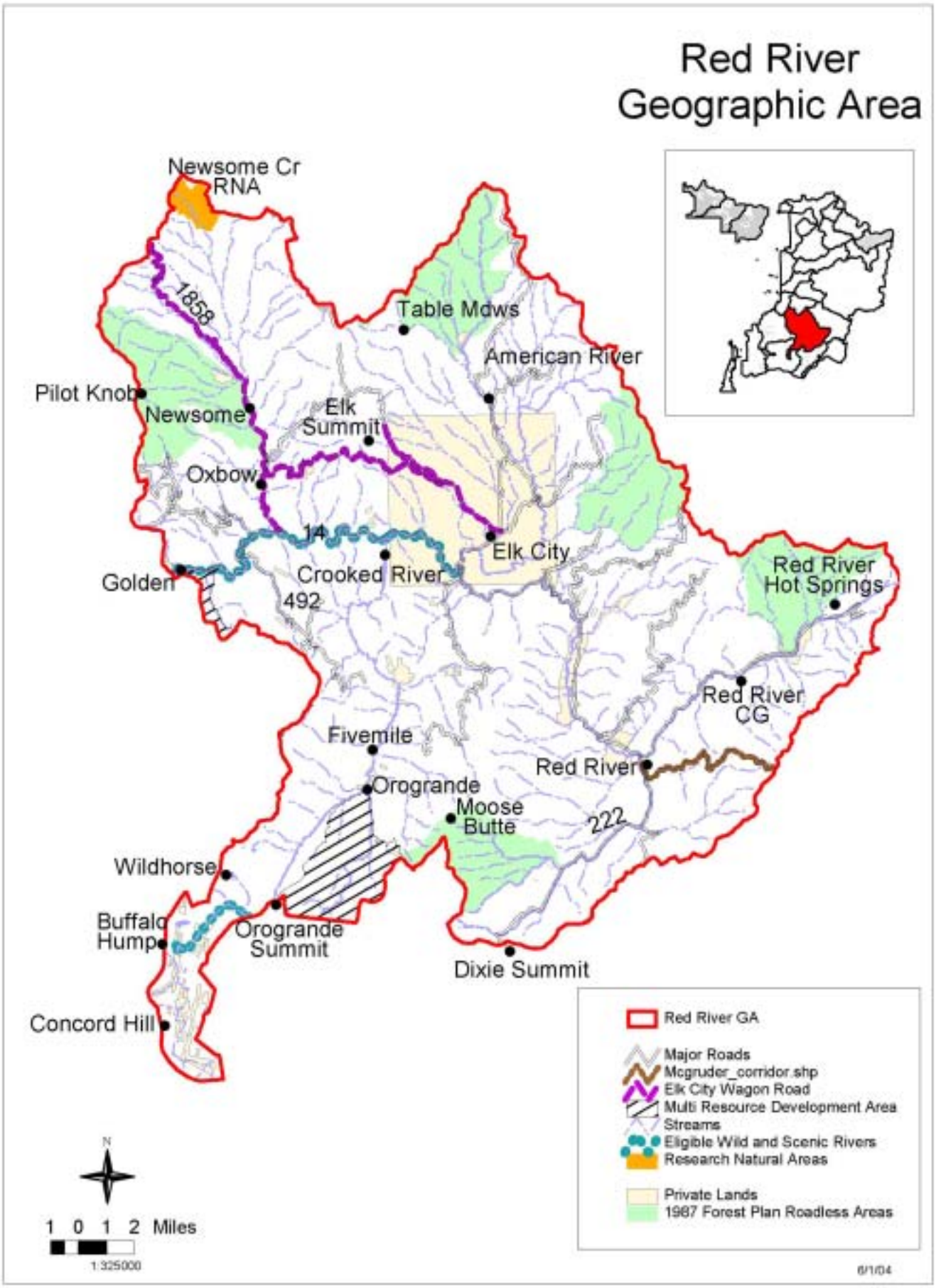
Lodgepole pine forests are a major feature in the Red River, Crooked River and American River drainages, which tend to have large-scale disturbances and a wide range of ecosystem conditions. More stable systems and older forests are common in Newsome Creek and the upper reaches of the American River. Whitebark pine is present at historic levels around Pilot Knob and Buffalo Hump. Western larch is a dominant component in cool, mixed conifer stands, particularly in Newsome Creek.

Moose winter range in Pacific yew stands is maintained and well-distributed. Elk and deer find well-distributed summer forage and security. Habitat for marten and fisher is well-distributed. Lynx habitat exists in the south with smaller areas in the northeast, north central and northwest.

Aquatic habitat for steelhead trout and Chinook salmon has been restored, especially in the unique streams meandering through meadows. Major stream systems provide high quality habitat for anadromous fish and resident native fish.

Proposed Goals:

- Provide high quality anadromous fish habitat.
- Restore aquatic processes by continuing channel and stream valley restoration and restoring riparian shade in the American River, Crooked River, Red River and Newsome Creek watersheds. Restore watershed headwaters.
- Restore western larch on cool grand fir and subalpine fir sites.
- Restore vegetation, watersheds and soils from past fires and timber harvest activities.
- Restore whitebark pine .7(well.00s)7(we4(ilot Knob ast)]TJ0


Red River
Geographic Area
Newsome Cr
RNA
1858
Table Mdws
American River
Pilot Knob
Newsome
Elk
Summit
Oxbow
14
Elk City
Golden
Crooked River
492
Red River
Hot Springs
Red River
CG
Fivemile
Red River
Orogrande
Moose
Butte
222
Wildhorse
Buffalo
Hump
Orogrande
Summit
Dixie Summit
Concord Hill
Red River GA
Major Roads
Mcgruder_corridor.shp
Elk City Wagon Road
Multi Resource Development Area
Streams
Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers
Research Natural Areas
Private Lands
1987 Forest Plan Roadless Areas
N
1 0 1 2 Miles
1:325000
6/1/04

General Location and Description:

Forest Service lands in the Lower Salmon River drainage west of Gospel Hump Wilderness and east of the Salmon River. Major streams include Slate, White Bird and Skookumchuck creeks. The area is characterized by dry forest habitats with mixed conifer stands and lodgepole pine. Lower elevations have mountain mahogany stands and open grassland communities. Past management activities include timber harvest and mining with an extensive road network accessing the area. Nearest communities are White Bird, Lucile, Riggins and Grangeville, Idaho.

Unique Features:

- Fish Creek Recreation Area
- Historic Milner Trail
- Idaho Centennial Trail
- No Business Creek Research Natural Area
- Slate Creek Ranger Station
- Slate Creek, White Bird Creek and Salmon River eligible wild and scenic river segments

Proposed Desired Future Condition:

National forest system roads are open and well-maintained. Many native surface roads are closed to all motorized travel seasonally or yearlong to protect water quality and wildlife security areas. Some motorized trails are open to off-highway vehicles, motorcycles, mountain bikes and hikers — but not to cars and trucks.

Visitors can find high quality fishing and white water recreation opportunities.

Past and current timber harvest activities are evident outside the inventoried roadless areas. Forest vegetation appears as a mosaic of different age and size classes and tree species as influenced by timber harvest and wildland fire. Lodgepole pine forests in Florence Basin have low fire and mountain pine beetle infestation risks. Parklike ponderosa pine forests feature old trees with grass and shrub understories. Old forest ponderosa pine habitat exists at lower elevations along the Salmon River breaklands. Moist old forest habitat exists in the eastern half of the geographic area at mid- and higher elevations. Whitebark pine is found in Southwest Butte and Nut Basin in numbers matching historic levels.

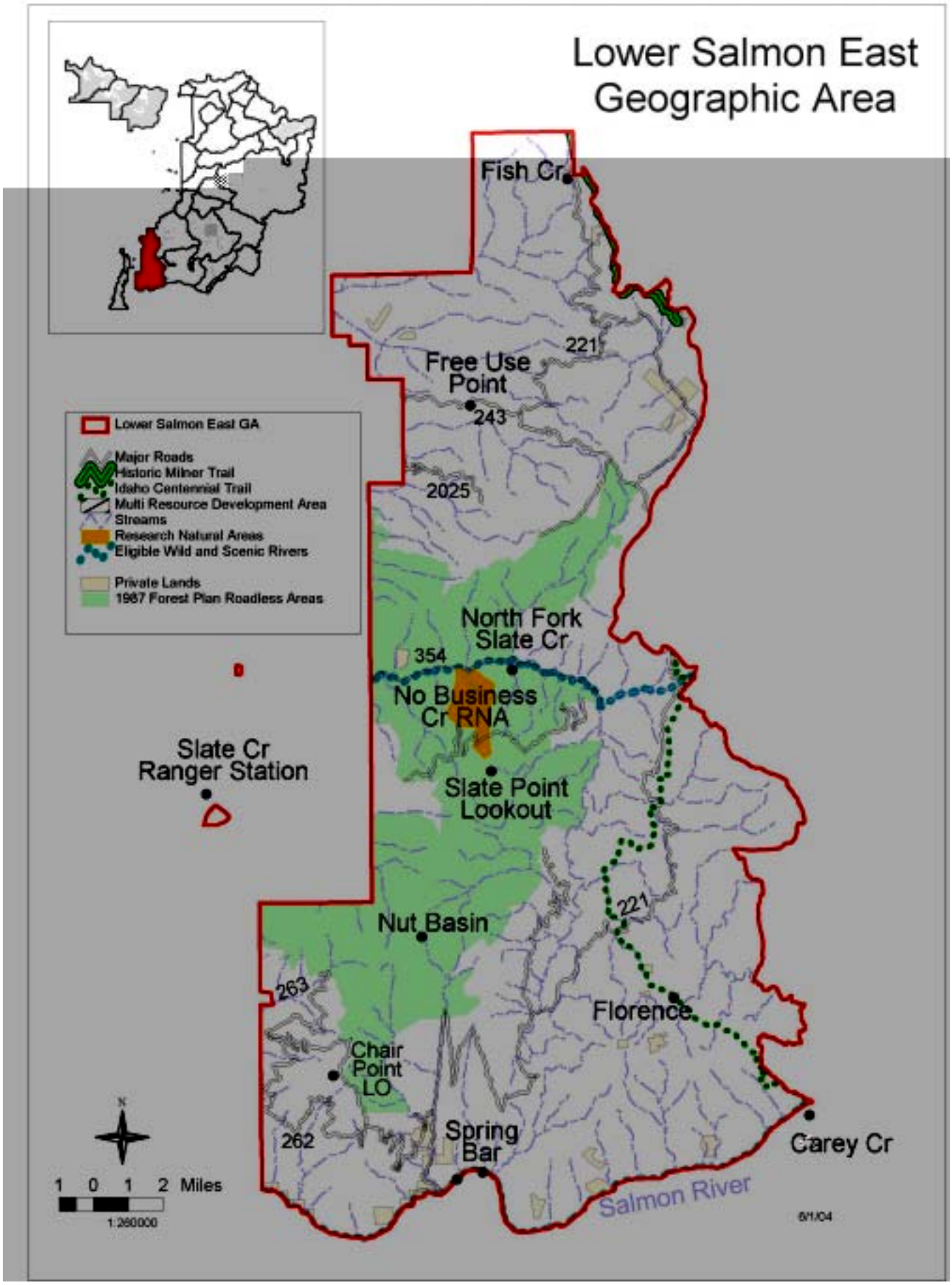
Elk and deer are present throughout the area with greater harvest success away from roads. Winter ranges provide secure and quality habitat for elk and deer, especially below 4,500 feet on southerly aspects along the Salmon River and main tributaries. Wildlife species that prefer older forested habitats can be found where the habitats exist. Lynx habitat occurs at high elevations.

Major stream systems provide high quality stream habitat for westslope cutthroat, rainbow and steelhead trout and Chinook salmon. Unique aquatic habitats such as wet sedge meadows, springs and ponds are restored.

Adits (mine passageways) and dredge tailings along streams indicate past and present mining activities. Livestock grazing occurs throughout the area and is managed to be compatible with management of goals for vegetation and other resource values and uses.

Proposed Goals

- Contain and control weeds, allowing for restoration of native grasslands.
- Sustain mountain mahogany communities.
- Restore watershed condition and fish habitat throughout the area with focus on White Bird and Slate creeks as important habitat for anadromous fish.
- Restore whitebark pine and ponderosa pine.
- Provide timber products from immediate development areas while providing for wildlife and scenic resources described in the 1978 Endangered American Wilderness Act.
- Restore the role of fire on the landscape.
- Provide sustainable livestock grazing via allotments compatible with other resource needs and values.
- Conserve outstandingly remarkable values in the segments of Slate Creek, White Bird Creek and the Salmon River determined to be eligible for addition to the wild and scenic rivers system.


Lower Salmon East Geographic Area
Fish Cr
221
Free Use Point
243
2025
Lower Salmon East GA
Major Roads
Historic Milner Trail
Idaho Centennial Trail
Multi Resource Development Area
Streams
Research Natural Areas
Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers
Private Lands
1987 Forest Plan Roadless Areas
North Fork Slate Cr
354
No Business Cr RNA
Slate Cr Ranger Station
Slate Point Lookout
221
Nut Basin
263
Florence
Chair Point LO
262
Spring Bar
Carey Cr
Salmon River
N
1 0 1 2 Miles
1:260000
6/1/04

General Location and Description:

National forest lands west of the Salmon River to the east boundary of Hells Canyon Wilderness and the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area. Major drainages include Rapid River; Race, Cow and Johnson creeks. The main attractions in the area are the Rapid River Wild and Scenic River corridor, Seven Devils and Hells Canyon National Recreation Area. Forest habitats range from dry upland ponderosa pine to high elevation habitats with subalpine fir, Engelmann spruce and whitebark pine. Caves exist where the underlying geology is limestone. Nearest communities are White Bird, Riggins, Lucile and Grangeville, Idaho.

Unique Features:

- Boise Trail
- Rapid River Fish Hatchery
- Papoose Cave
- Rapid River Wild and Scenic River corridor

Proposed Desired Future Condition:

National forest system roads are open and well-maintained. Some motorized trails are open to off-highway vehicles, motorcycles, mountain bikes and hikers — but not to cars and trucks.

Many native surface roads are closed to all motorized travel seasonally or yearlong to protect water quality and wildlife security areas.

Historic and current timber harvest activities are evident outside the inventoried roadless areas. Forest vegetation appears as a mosaic of different age and size classes of tree species as influenced by timber harvest and wildland fire. Parklike ponderosa pine forests feature large old trees with grass and shrub understories. Whitebark pine is found at historic levels along the Snake River-Salmon River divide.

Spread of noxious weeds is halted. Native grass communities on open slopes have been restored.

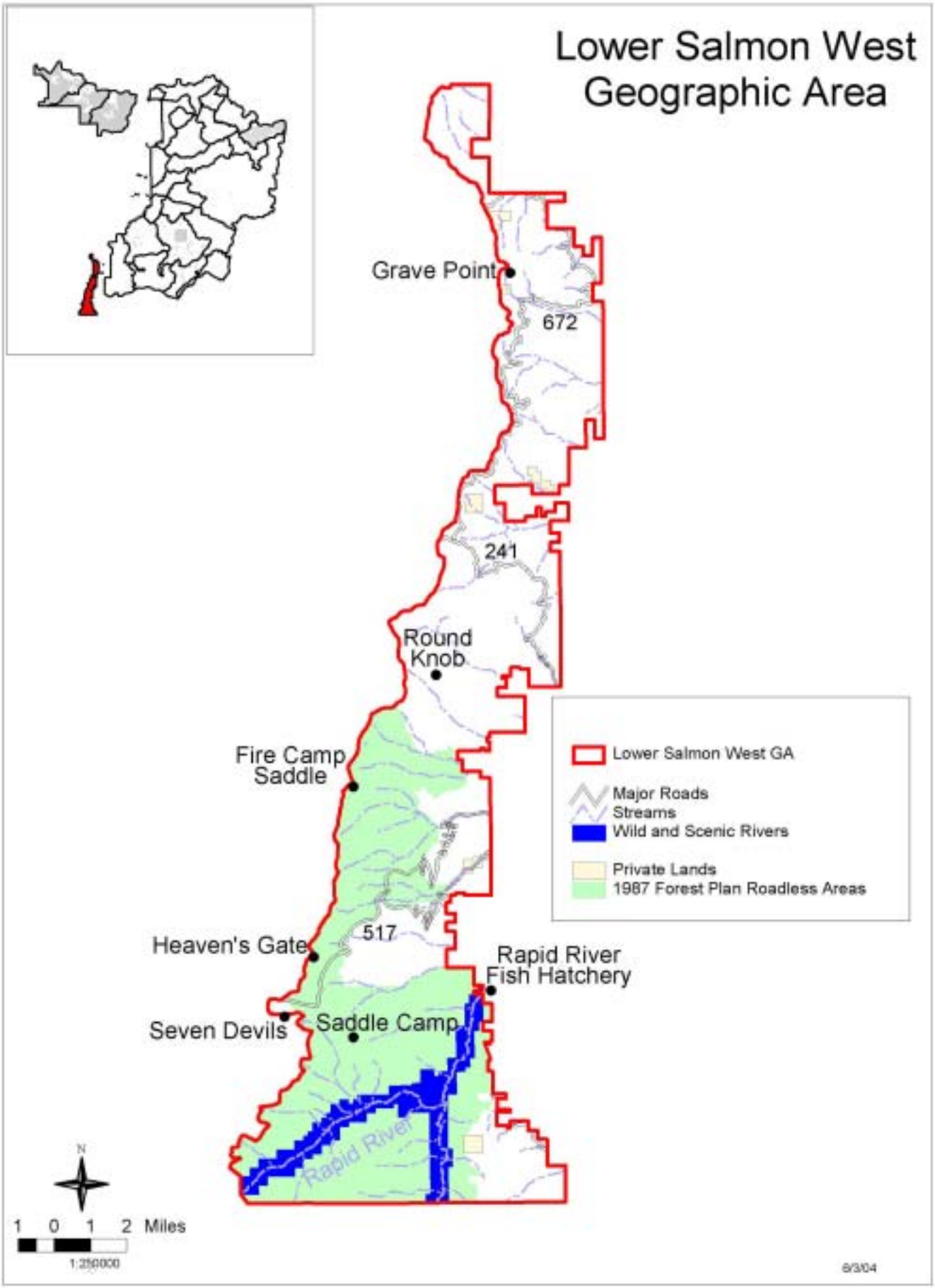
Old forest habitats exist, inhabited by the wildlife species that prefer them. Winter range is secure and provides quality habitat for big-game species. High quality winter ranges exist in the eastern one-fourth to one-third of the geographic area in all major and minor tributaries below 4,500 feet on southeastern to western aspects.

Major stream systems provide high quality habitat for cutthroat and steelhead trout and Chinook salmon.

Livestock grazing is compatible with management of goals for vegetation and other resource values and uses.

Proposed Goals:

- Contain and control weeds, allowing for restoration of native grasslands.
- Conserve aquatic processes and high quality fish habitat in Rapid River.
- Restore aquatic functions and processes in drainages of the Salmon River and north of Rapid River.
- Conserve outstandingly remarkable values in the Rapid River Wild and Scenic River corridor.
- Restore whitebark pine and ponderosa pine.
- Restore the role of fire on the landscape.
- Provide sustainable livestock grazing via allotments compatible with other resource needs and values.


Lower Salmon West
Geographic Area
Grave Point
672
241
Round
Knob
Fire Camp
Saddle
517
Heaven's Gate
Rapid River
Fish Hatchery
Seven Devils
Saddle Camp
Rapid River
Lower Salmon West GA
Major Roads
Streams
Wild and Scenic Rivers
Private Lands
1987 Forest Plan Roadless Areas
N
1 0 1 2 Miles
1:250000
6/3/04

General Location and Description:

All national forest lands inside the wilderness boundary, including a stretch of the Salmon River; Sheep, Johns and Crooked creeks; and the Wind River watersheds. Unique characteristics of this area include dry forests and upland mixed conifer forests with large trees, lodgepole pine environments, subalpine forests with whitebark pine and wetlands; and limestone geology. Nearest communities are Orogrande, Elk City and Dixie, Idaho.

Unique Features:

• Elk Creek Research Natural Area
• Fish Lake Research Natural Area
• Johns, Lake and Slate creeks and Salmon River eligible wild and scenic river segments
• Salmon Wild and Scenic River corridor
• Square Mountain

Proposed Desired Future Condition:

Visitors experience wilderness recreation opportunities in high mountain settings with numerous streams as well as low elevation dry forest slopes.

Historic and current patterns of vegetation appear as a mosaic of different age and size classes of tree species as influenced by wildland fire. Periodic fires maintain young forests — lodgepole and whitebark pines and western larch at higher elevations with open ponderosa pine forests and dry grasslands along the Salmon River.

Old forest habitat exists in the northern half of the geographic area. Big game use the higher elevation forests for summer range, along with high quality winter range adjacent to the Salmon River. High quality winter ranges exist in the southern quarter of the area below 4,500 feet on southeastern to western aspects along the Salmon River. Lynx habitat exists at higher elevations.

Major stream systems provide habitat for resident native cutthroat and rainbow trout, anadromous steelhead trout and Chinook salmon.

Limited livestock grazing is compatible with wilderness and forested and non-forested goals for management of vegetation and other resource values and uses.

Weeds have a limited spread and do not reduce native grassland function.

Proposed Goals:

• Control weeds along the river corridor and travel ways in the wilderness.

• Provide high quality habitat for big-game species with secure winter ranges.

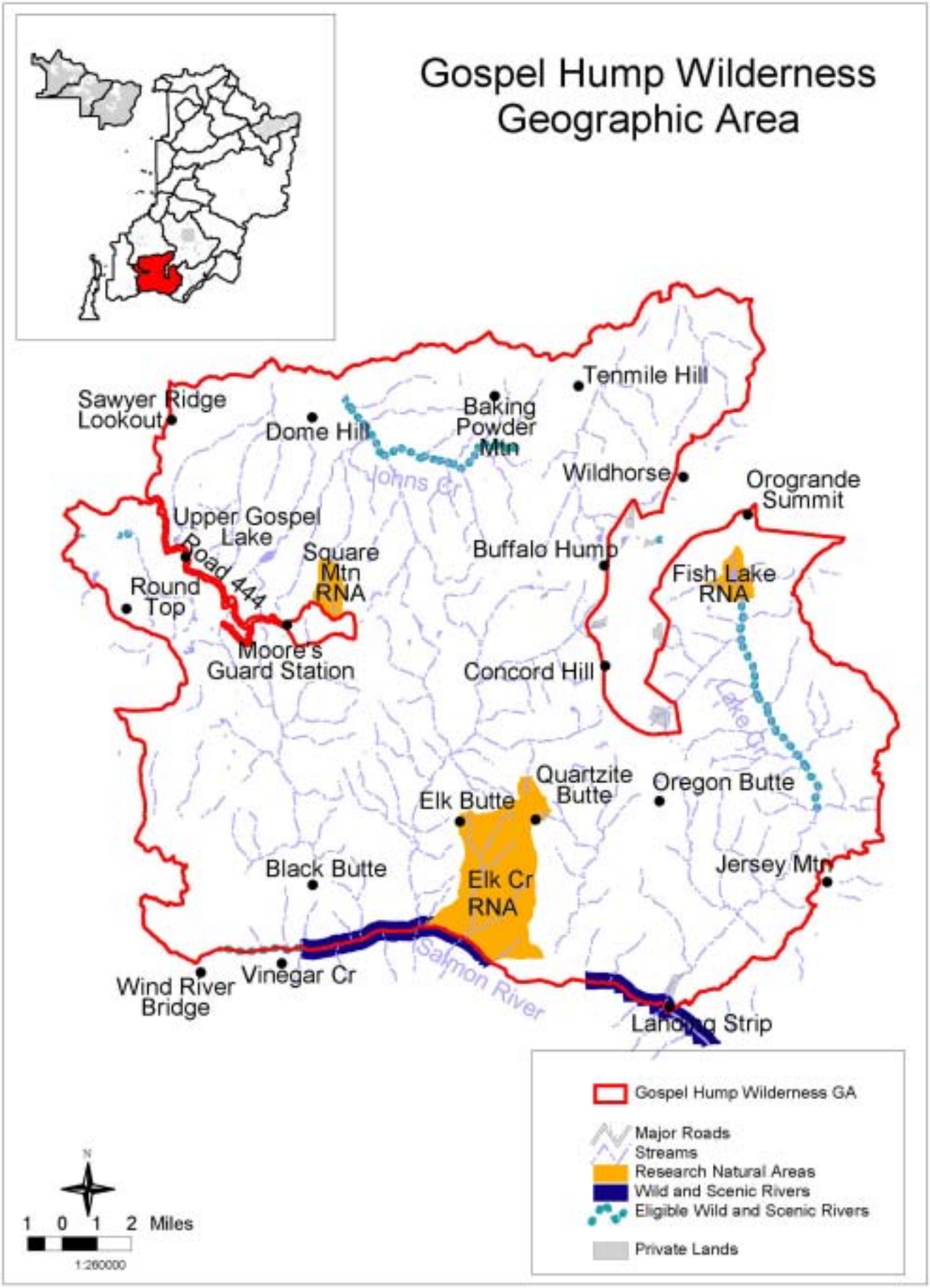
• Conserve the high quality habitat and natural occurrence of aquatic processes throughout the area.

• Restore the role of fire on the landscape through wildland fire use and prescribed fire.

• Provide outstanding recreation opportunities and experiences via wilderness resources.

• Conserve outstandingly remarkable values in the segments of the Johns, Lake and Slate creeks and the Salmon River eligible for addition to the wild and scenic rivers system.

• Provide sustainable livestock grazing via allotments compatible with wilderness values and other resource needs.


Gospel Hump Wilderness
Geographic Area
Tenmile Hill
Sawyer Ridge
Lookout
Dome Hill
Baking
Powder
Mtn
Johns Cr
Wildhorse
Orogrande
Summit
Upper Gospel
Lake
Road 444
Square
Mtn
RNA
Buffalo Hump
Fish Lake
RNA
Round
Top
Moore's
Guard Station
Concord Hill
Lake Cr
Quartzite
Butte
Oregon Butte
Elk Butte
Black Butte
Elk Cr
RNA
Jersey Mtn
Salmon River
Wind River
Bridge
Vinegar Cr
Landing Strip
Gospel Hump Wilderness GA
Major Roads
Streams
Research Natural Areas
Wild and Scenic Rivers
Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers
Private Lands
N
1 0 1 2 Miles
1:260000

General Location and Description:

National forest lands in the Middle Salmon, Big Mallard and Crooked Creek watersheds. Dry forest and upland large mixed conifer and lodgepole pine environments and the wildland-urban interface are unique characteristics of the area. Nearest communities are Elk City, Red River, Dixie, Grangeville and New Meadows, Idaho.

Unique Features:

- Dixie Historic Mining District
- Moose Meadows Creek Research Natural Area
- Multi-Resource Development Area
- Salmon Wild and Scenic River corridor

Proposed Desired Future Condition:

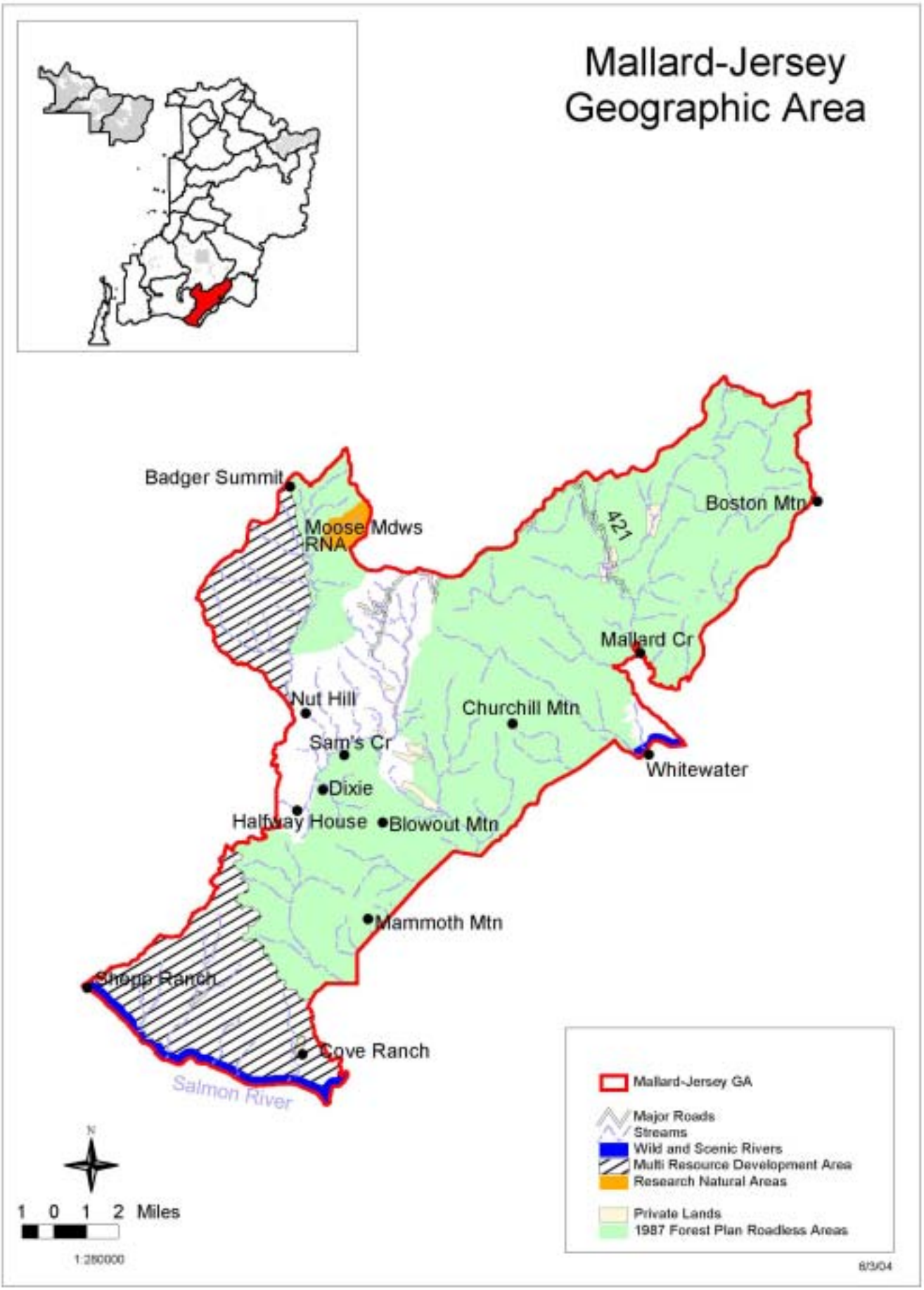
Primary national forest system roads are open and well-maintained.

Some motorized trails are open to off-highway vehicles, motorcycles, mountain bikes and hikers — but not to cars and trucks. Many native surface roads are closed to all motorized travel seasonally or yearlong to protect water quality and wildlife security areas.

Past and current timber harvest activities are evident. Forest vegetation appears as a mosaic of different ages and tree sizes as a result of past timber harvest and fires. Open ponderosa pine stands and dry grasslands along the Salmon River burn periodically at low intensities. Old forest ponderosa pine habitat and associated dry grasslands exist at the low to mid-elevations along the Salmon River. Higher elevation subalpine fir and lodgepole pine forests reflect less frequent, more severe fires with even-aged structure (size and density). Older forests are scattered along wet riparian areas.

Big game use the higher elevation forests for summer range and the Salmon River breaks in the southwestern corner of the area for wintering. High quality winter ranges exist in the southern quarter of the area below 4,500 feet on southeastern to western aspects along the Salmon River. Old forest habitats exist and provide habitat for the wildlife species that prefer them. Lynx habitat exists throughout the area.

Major stream systems provide high quality habitat


Mallard-Jersey
Geographic Area
Badger Summit
Moose Mdws
RNA
Boston Mtn
421
Mallard Cr
Nut Hill
Churchill Mtn
Sam's Cr
Whitewater
Dixie
Halfway House
Blowout Mtn
Mammoth Mtn
Shoup Ranch
Cove Ranch
Salmon River
N
1 0 1 2 Miles
1:280000
Mallard-Jersey GA
Major Roads
Streams
Wild and Scenic Rivers
Multi Resource Development Area
Research Natural Areas
Private Lands
1987 Forest Plan Roadless Areas
8/3/04

General Location and Description:

All national forest lands inside the wilderness boundary north of the main Salmon River, west of Sabe Creek and east of Boston Mountain. Dry forest, dry grassland and upland large mixed conifer and lodgepole pine environments are unique characteristics of this area. Closest communities are Dixie and Elk City, Idaho.

Unique Features:

- Bargamin Creek eligible wild and scenic river segment
- Salmon Wild and Scenic River
- Sheep Hill Lookout

Proposed Desired Future Condition:

Visitors can experience wilderness recreation opportunities.

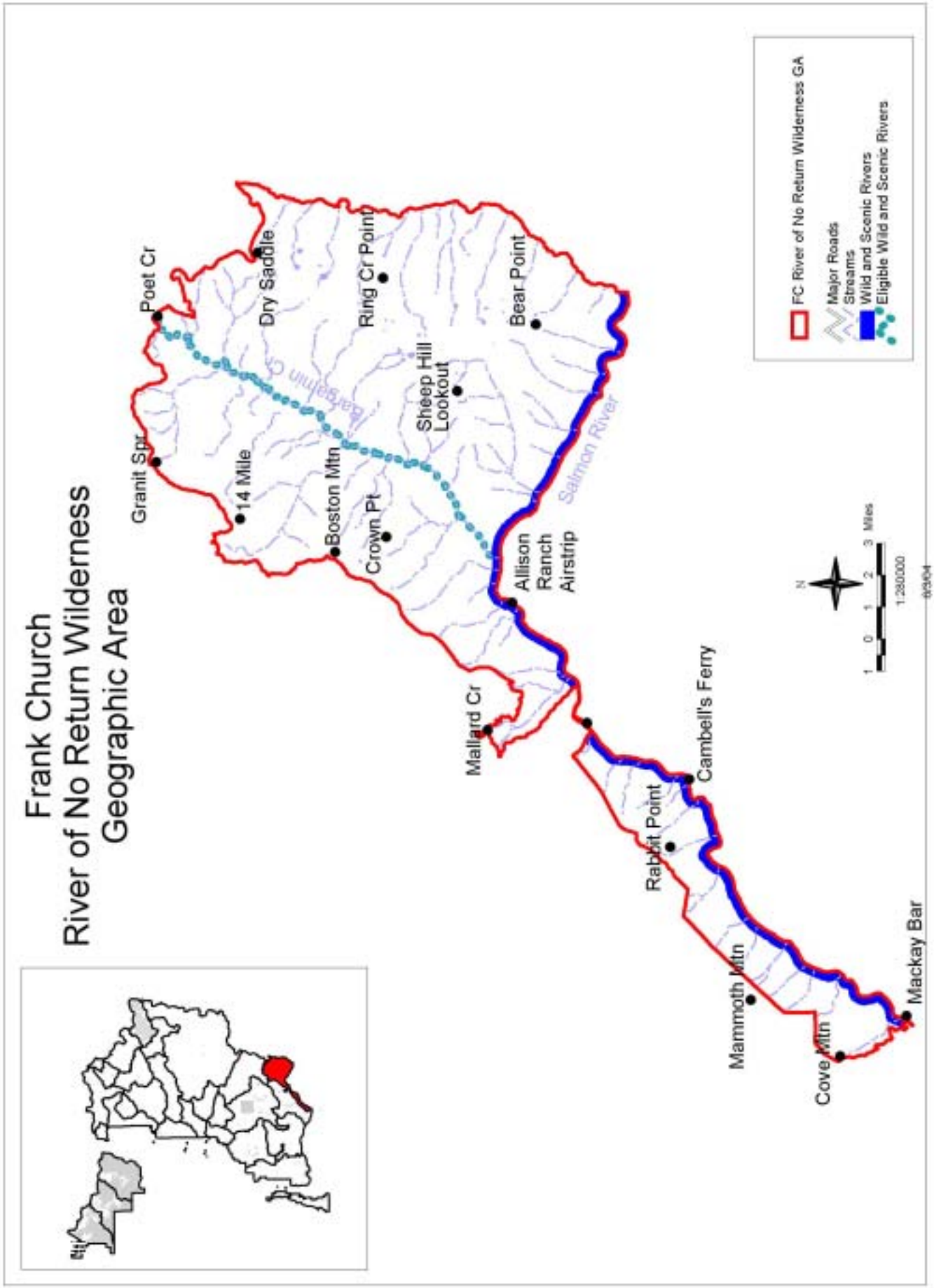
Historic and current patterns of vegetation appear as a mosaic of different age and size classes of tree species as influenced by wildland fires.

Winter ranges provide secure and quality habitat for big-game species. High quality winter ranges exist in the southern quarter of the geographic area below 4,500 feet on southeastern to western aspects along the Salmon River. Lynx habitat exists at high elevations.

Major stream systems provide habitat for nonnative brook trout, native cutthroat and rainbow trout and anadromous steelhead and Chinook salmon.

Proposed Goals:

- Control weeds along the river corridor and travel ways in the wilderness.
- Conserve the high quality habitat and natural occurrence of aquatic processes throughout the area.
- Provide secure and quality habitat for big-game species in winter ranges.
- Maintain and (or) restore whitebark pine at high elevations, open ponderosa pine at lower elevations through fire use.
- Restore the role of fire on the landscape.
- Reduce fire threat adjacent to private in holdings.
- Conserve outstandingly remarkable values in the segments of Bargamin Creek to be eligible for addition to the wild and scenic rivers system.
- Manage the entire wilderness (on lands managed by the Nez Perce, Salmon-Challis and Payette national forests) with a common understanding of wilderness values and qualities.


Frank Church
River of No Return Wilderness
Geographic Area
Poet Cr
Dry Saddle
Ring Cr Point
Bear Point
Granit Spr
14 Mile
Boston Mtn
Crown Pt
Sheep Hill
Lookout
Bargamin Cr
Salmon River
Allison
Ranch
Airstrip
Mallard Cr
Campbell's Ferry
Rabbit Point
Mammoth Mtn
Cove Mtn
Mackay Bar
FC River of No Return Wilderness GA
Major Roads
Streams
Wild and Scenic Rivers
Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers
N
1 0 1 2 3 Miles
1:280000
6/3/04

General Location and Description:

All national forest lands in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness in the Selway and Lochsa river subbasins. Closest communities are Lowell and Kooskia, Idaho; and Hamilton, Montana.

Unique Features:

• Bear Creek, Moose and Three Links complexes (eligible wild and scenic river segments)
• Bear Creek Salmon Hole
• Fish Lake
• Moose Creek Ranger Station
• Selway Crags
• Selway Wild and Scenic River corridor

Proposed Desired Future Condition:

Visitors can experience wilderness recreation opportunities.

Natural processes — fire, insects and diseases, floods — function on a broad scale to develop and maintain ecosystem conditions in both the upland and aquatic areas within a historic range of conditions. Exceptions are the facilities needed to manage the area, such as the historic Moose Creek Ranger Station, trails and bridges and lookouts and communications facilities.

Lynx habitat exists throughout the area.

Noxious weed populations are restricted in their distribution and do not limit the extent of native species.

Proposed Goals:

• Conserve high quality aquatic and riparian habitats and provide for natural ecological processes throughout the area.

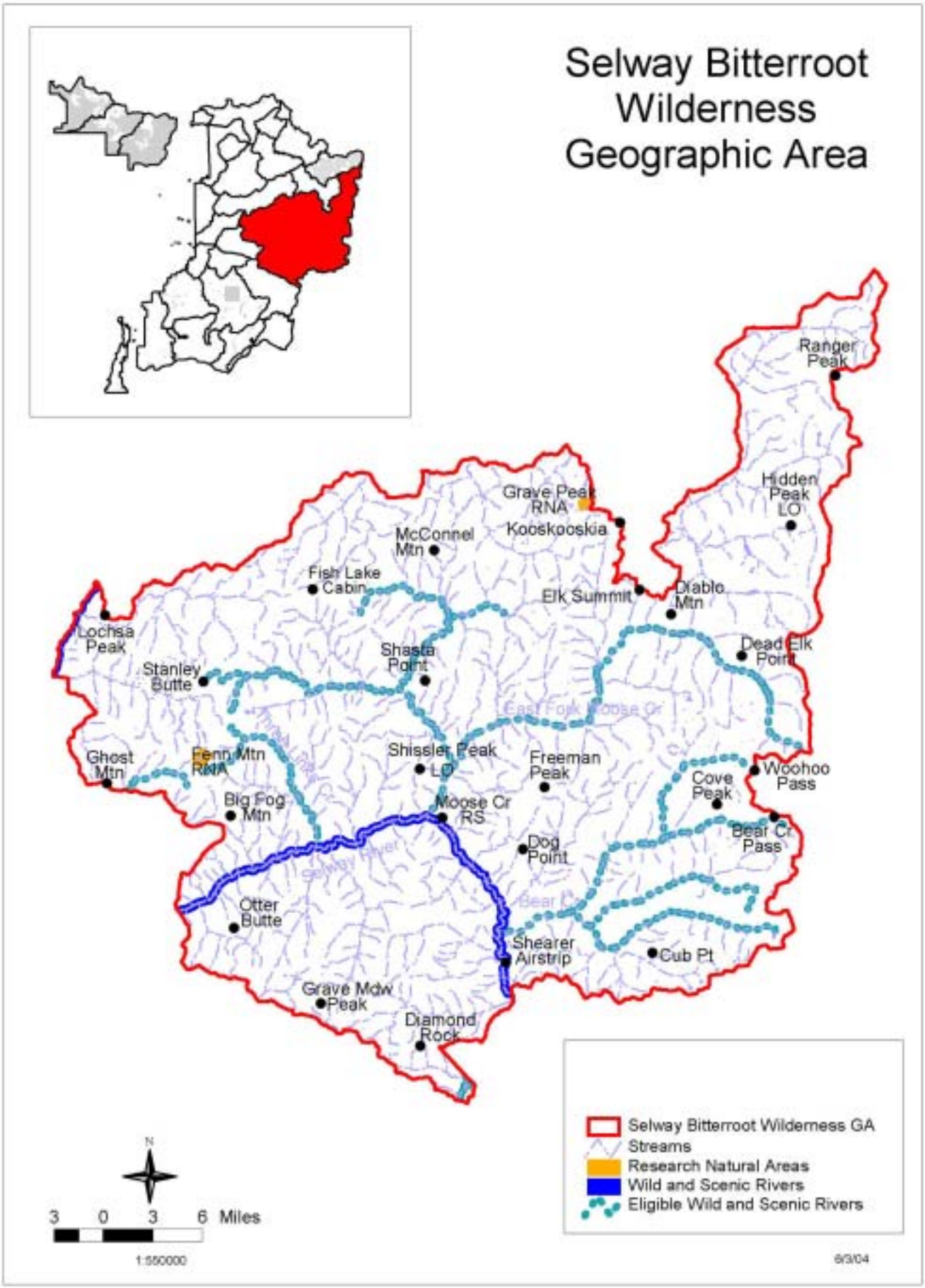
• Reduce and control introduced weeds.

• Allow natural disturbances (fire, insects and diseases, floods) to play a full role in the ecosystem.

• Conserve outstandingly remarkable values in the river segments of the Bear Creek, Moose Creek and Three Links complexes determined to be eligible for addition to the wild and scenic rivers system.

• Manage the entire wilderness (Nez Perce, Clearwater, and Bitterroot national forests) with a common understanding of wilderness values and qualities.

• Coordinate management and communication in the wilderness planning zone with management direction guided by the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness plan.


Selway Bitterroot Wilderness Geographic Area
Ranger Peak
Hidden Peak LO
Grave Peak RNA
Kooskooskia
McConnel Mtn
Fish Lake Cabin
Elk Summit
Diablo Mtn
Lochsa Peak
Dead Elk Point
Shasta Point
Stanley Butte
East Fork Moose Cr
Ghost Mtn
Fenn Mtn RNA
Shissler Peak LO
Freeman Peak
Woohoo Pass
Cove Peak
Big Fog Mtn
Moose Cr RS
Bear Cr Pass
Dog Point
Selway River
Bear Cr
Otter Butte
Shearer Airstrip
Cub Pt
Grave Mdw Peak
Diamond Rock
Selway Bitterroot Wilderness GA
Streams
Research Natural Areas
Wild and Scenic Rivers
Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers
N
3 0 3 6 Miles
1:550000
6/3/04

General Location and Description:

All lands that drain into the Selway River from the north; from the mouth of Packer Creek to the mouth of the Selway at Lowell; and all lands that drain into the Lochsa from the south below the mouth of Old Man Creek to the mouth of the Lochsa at Lowell; bounded by the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness on the north and east sides. Coolwater Ridge slopes down to the rivers to the north and south. The area is almost entirely without roads. It is remote with primitive roads providing access from the river to Coolwater Lookout and Fog Mountain at the top. The roads and trails provide access to the western edge of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. Closest communities are Lowell, Syringa, and Kooskia, Idaho.

Unique Features:

- Cedar Flats Civilian Conservation Corps camp
- CCC-built roads
- Coastal disjunct vegetation
- Coolwater Lookout
- Fenn Ranger Station
- Selway and Lochsa Wild and Scenic River corridors
- West Fork Gedney Creek eligible wild and scenic rivers segment

Proposed Desired Future Condition:

The entire area has a roadless character, which provides opportunity for primitive recreation with little development.

Access is via open road corridors along the Lochsa and Selway rivers for camping, hiking, mountain biking, off-highway vehicle riding, rafting and developed recreation experiences. The Civilian Conservation Corps-built roads that access Fog Mountain and Coolwater Ridge are open seasonally, providing primitive driving experiences and access to roadless areas and the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness.

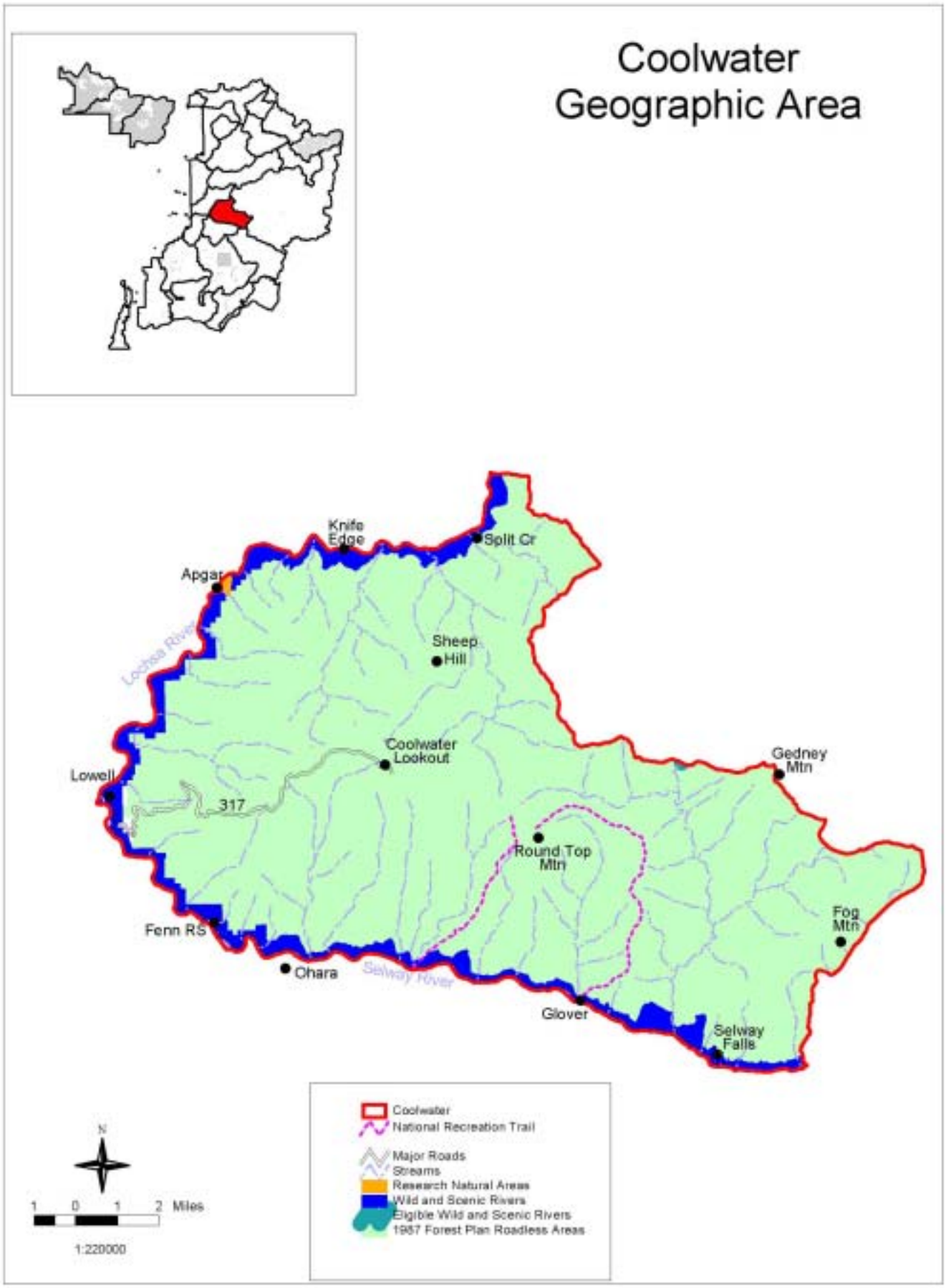
Prescribed fires (ignited to meet specific objectives) and wildland fires managed for resource benefit reflect historic fire frequency and severity, modifying vegetation, maintaining big-game winter range and wildlife habitat. Fire and timber harvest are used as tools to reduce fuels, restore ponderosa and whitebark pine and restore winter range. Wildlife security is maintained. Lynx habitat exists at higher elevations.

Weed control is concentrated along the Selway River and primitive roadways.

Grazing is limited to recreational and commercial pack stock.

Proposed Goals:

- Contain and control noxious weeds (particularly spotted knapweed) to prevent affecting watershed conditions or reducing native vegetative cover.
- Minimize weed distribution along the Selway River and along the Coolwater and Fog Mountain roads.
- Conserve high quality watershed condition throughout the area, focusing restoration on activities such as sediment reduction on roads on the north Selway face.
- Restore whitebark pine at a high elevation near Coolwater Lookout.
- Restore open stands of large ponderosa pine and associated dry grasslands on southerly aspects along the Selway River.
- Restore vegetation and manage fuels with wildland fire use, prescribed fire and occasional timber harvest.
- Restore old forest wildlife habitats on upper slopes.
- Restore and maintain high quality winter range on the lower slopes.
- Manage wildland-urban interface to keep fire hazard adjacent to private lands and national forest developed sites low.
- Maintain roadless character in the Rackliff-Gedney Roadless Area, maintaining existing roads but not building new ones.
- Provide a semi-primitive motorized experience on CCC-built roads.
- Conserve outstandingly remarkable values in the West Gedney Creek segment determined to be eligible for addition to the wild and scenic rivers system.


Coolwater
Geographic Area
Knife Edge
Split Cr
Apgar
Lochsa River
Sheep Hill
Coolwater Lookout
Lowell
317
Gedney Mtn
Round Top Mtn
Fog Mtn
Fenn RS
Chara
Selway River
Glover
Selway Falls
N
1 0 1 2 Miles
1:220000
Coolwater
National Recreation Trail
Major Roads
Streams
Research Natural Areas
Wild and Scenic Rivers
Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers
1987 Forest Plan Roadless Areas

General Location and Description:

National forest lands north of Lowell, Idaho, located near the confluence of the Selway and Lochsa rivers. Included is the wild and scenic river corridor along the Lochsa River and the north side of the Middle Fork Clearwater River. Major tributaries are Pete King, Canyon, Deadman and Bimerick creeks. The area is influenced by the Pacific maritime climate, which is reflected in types of vegetation. Western redcedar and Pacific dogwood are two species associated with the maritime climate. Lowell, Kooskia and Syringa, Idaho, are the nearest communities.

Unique Features:

• Japanese Internment Campsite
• Lochsa and Middle Fork Clearwater Wild and Scenic River corridors
• Lochsa Research Natural Area
• Sebring Grave site
• Syringa and Lowell townsites
• Coastal disjunct vegetation

Proposed Desired Future Condition:

Forest vegetation and watersheds are healthy, providing habitat for native wildlife and fish species. Timber harvest is the primary tool used to manage vegetation.

Recreation uses are a mix of motorized and non-motorized in a semi-primitive to natural setting with roads. Scenery along the wild and scenic river corridor enhances those values.

Vegetation adjacent to Syringa and Lowell is managed to minimize fire risk to those communities.

High quality big-game winter ranges are restored and maintained in breakland areas (steep slopes adjacent to rivers and their tributaries).

Old forest habitat is restored and well-distributed.

Wildlife find secure habitat throughout the area.

Exotic plant and animal species are actively managed to limit their extent.

Weed treatment minimizes the extent of weeds (particularly spotted knapweed) along major travel routes and rivers.

Proposed Goals:

• Manage and control weeds along highways and travel corridors.

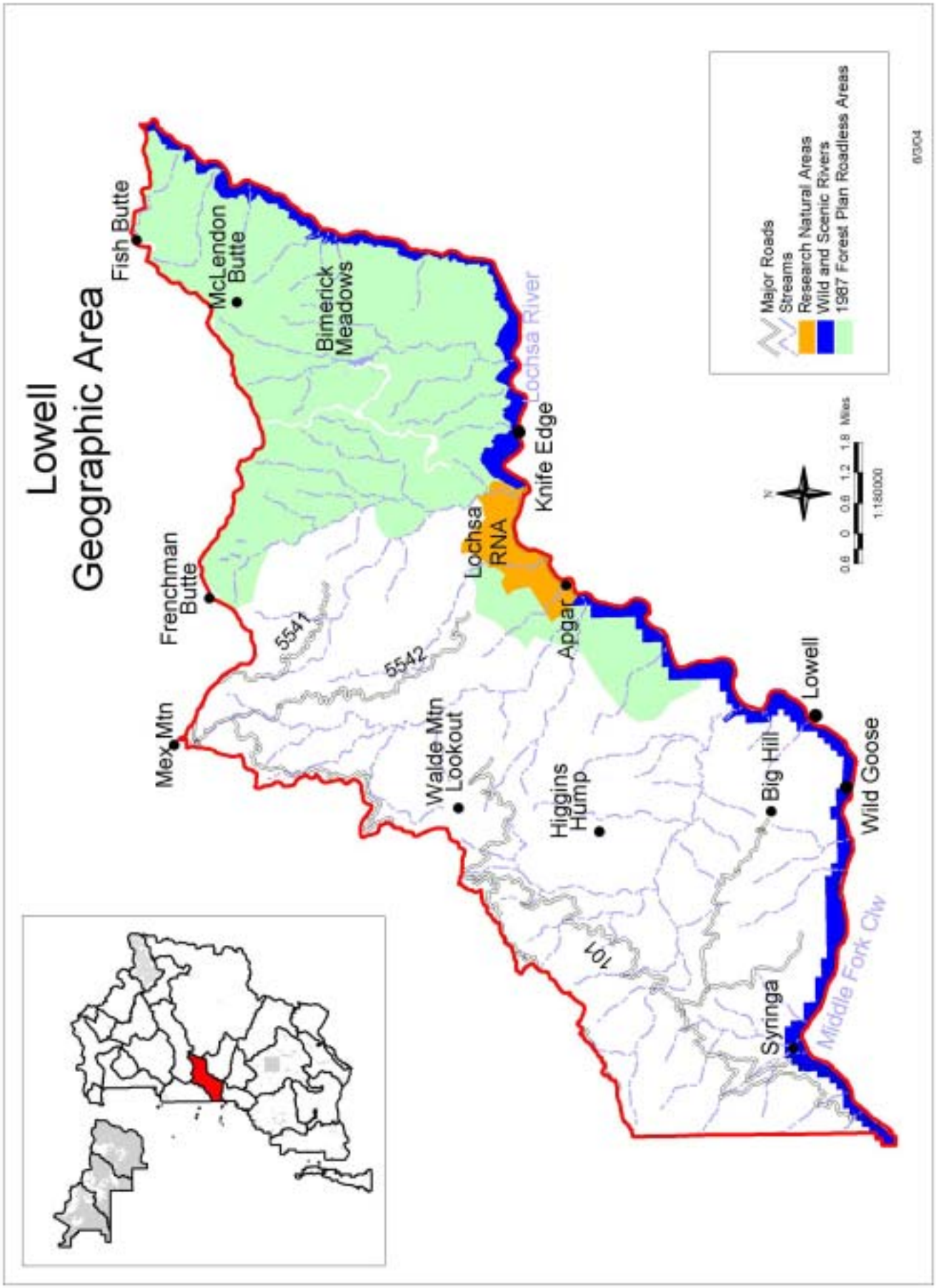
• Restore aquatic processes in Pete King, Canyon, Deadman and Glade creeks; and Middle Butte.

• Restore wildlife security at upper elevations in the northern half of the area.

• Convert off-site ponderosa pine (grown elsewhere and planted in the 1930s) in Bimerick Creek to site-adapted species and genetic stock.

• Use timber harvest and prescribed fire (ignited to meet specific objectives) as management tools to reduce risk around Syringa and Lowell and to conserve and restore elk winter range.

• Manage wild and scenic rivers to conserve scenic and recreational values.


Lowell
Geographic Area
Fish Butte
McLendon Butte
Bimerick Meadows
Lochsa River
Knife Edge
Lochsa RNA
Apgar
Frenchman Butte
5541
5542
Mex Mtn
Walde Mtn Lookout
Higgins Hump
Big Hill
Lowell
Wild Goose
Middle Fork Clw
Syringa
101
Major Roads
Streams
Research Natural Areas
Wild and Scenic Rivers
1987 Forest Plan Roadless Areas
N
0.6 0 0.6 1.2 1.8 Miles
1:180000
6/3/04

General Location and Description:

National forest lands south of the Middle Fork Clearwater from the confluence of the Lochsa and Selway rivers to the western boundary of the national forest. The largest tributary is Clear Creek. Other tributaries include Big and Little Smith creeks, Sutler and Swan creeks. The Middle Fork Wild and Scenic River corridor is a recreational and scenic destination. Clear Creek is an important tributary for Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, and the Kooskia Fish Hatchery (operated by the Department of the Interior) is located near the mouth. Unique vegetation includes large old western redcedar groves, the Idaho state record Pacific yew tree and coastal disjunct plants found only here and on the Pacific coast. Kooskia and Syringa, Idaho, are the nearest communities.

Unique Features:

• Coastal disjunct vegetation
• Middle Fork Clearwater Wild and Scenic River corridor

Proposed Desired Future Condition:

This area provides easily accessible recreation because of roads but also offers semi-primitive motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities.

Clear Creek provides habitat for steelhead, Chinook salmon and resident native fish. Smaller tributaries provide limited habitat for steelhead and cold water refuge for resident fish.

Roads are maintained. Some are closed seasonally for wildlife and watershed protection.

Winter ranges in the north and west coincident with lower elevations along the Middle Fork Clearwater River are high quality and sustainable. Some roads are closed to motorized winter travel in elk winter range. A small area of lynx habitat exists in the far south.

Effects of intensive timber harvest and grazing are the focus of work to restore watershed processes. Prescribed fire (ignited to meet specific objectives) and timber harvest are used as management tools to reduce risk around the community of Syringa and other subdivisions along the Middle Fork Clearwater River. Prescribed fire is also used to restore ponderosa pine.

Weeds are cooperatively managed with emphasis on control in the Middle Fork Clearwater River corridor and at trail heads.

Proposed Goals:

• Implement integrated weed management with emphasis on control along highways and travel corridors.

• Manage Clear Creek for high quality fish habitat.

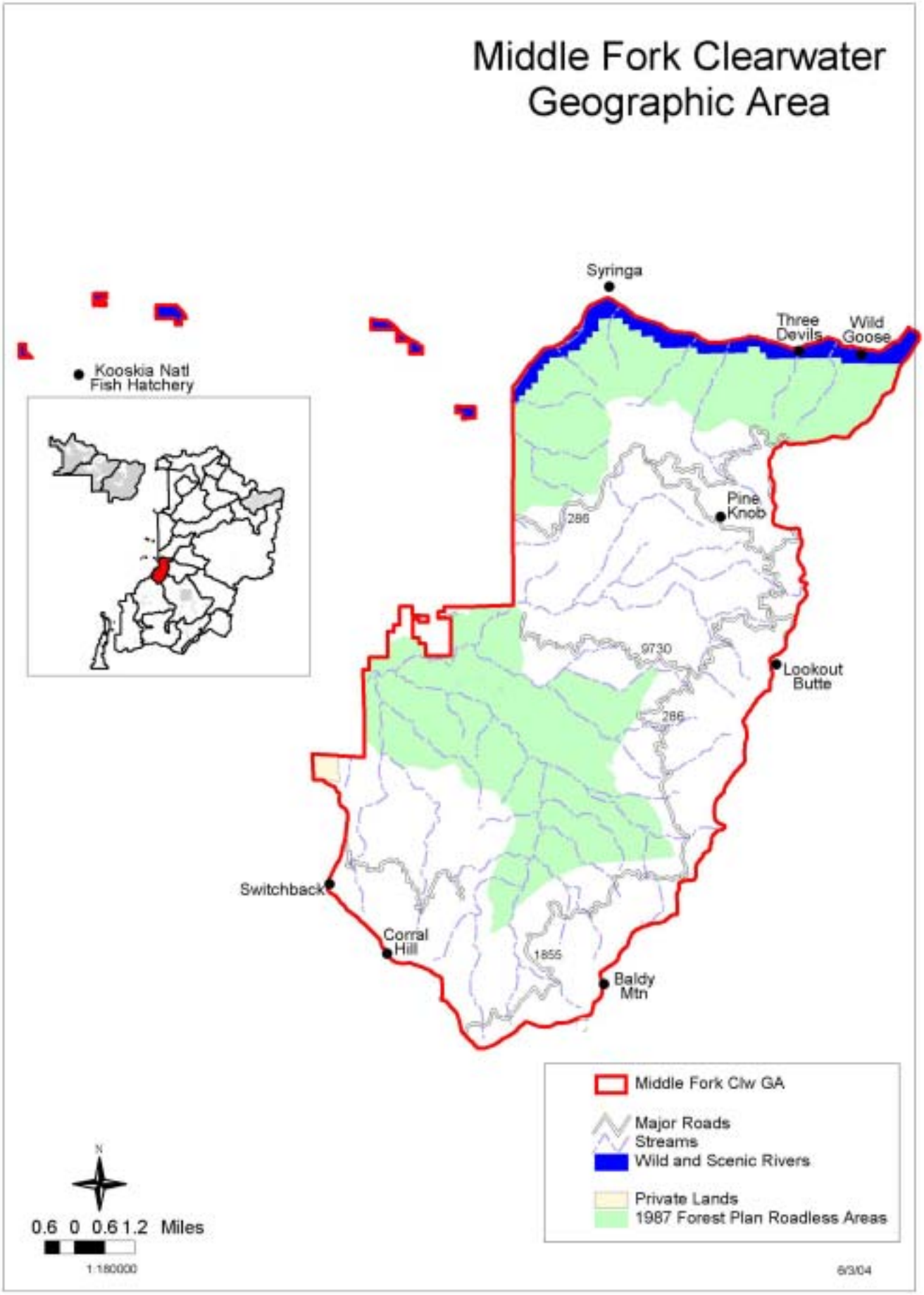
• Restore watershed processes throughout the area.

• Maintain high quality winter range for elk, moose and deer.

•Reduce wildland fire risk around Syringa and scattered subdivisions. Restore ponderosa pine, and conserve and restore elk winter range with timber harvest and fire.

• Restrict winter motorized travel to protect elk winter range.

• Manage wild and scenic river corridor to conserve scenic and recreational values along the Middle Fork Clearwater River.


Middle Fork Clearwater
Geographic Area
Syringa
Three Devils
Wild Goose
Kooskia Natl Fish Hatchery
Pine Knob
286
9730
Lookout Butte
286
Switchback
Corral Hill
1855
Baldy Mtn
Middle Fork Clw GA
Major Roads
Streams
Wild and Scenic Rivers
Private Lands
1987 Forest Plan Roadless Areas
N
0.6 0 0.6 1.2 Miles
1:180000
6/3/04

5. Proposed Monitoring

Introduction

Land managers will never have complete knowledge of highly complex and evolving ecosystems. Forest plans should be subject to continual review. Adaptive management provides an ecosystem management approach in which subsequent monitoring and evaluation of results determines how well management actions meet stated objectives and what steps are needed to modify activities to increase successes in management of natural and socioeconomic resources. Because adaptive management leads to change in direction as new information becomes available, it ideally will improve or refine objectives, standards and guidelines over time.

Monitoring is both the process of collecting information to evaluate if the forest plan desired condition, goals, objectives and outputs (anticipated to result from management action) are realized and the determination of whether or not implementation is proceeding as planned.

Appropriate selection of indicators (performance measures sensitive to changing conditions) is key to developing an efficient and meaningful monitoring strategy.

The evaluation and monitoring of forest plan goals, objectives and standards, using appropriate indicators, will determine the progress in reaching desired conditions.

If monitoring shows that desired conditions have not been achieved, it will prompt adaptations in land and resource management according to changed resource conditions. Goals, objectives and standards or monitoring methods will reflect the changes.

Types of Monitoring That Could Occur

Proposed monitoring is listed in broad categories of items that may be included in the revised forest plan. The draft forest plan will provide additional monitoring strategy details once objectives and projected outputs are developed.

Monitoring could include:

- **Implementation** — Did management actions take place as stated in the forest plan?
- **Effectiveness** — How well have land management actions achieved forest plan objectives?
- **Validation** — Were the assumptions used in the forest plan valid?

All three types of monitoring are needed to be effective.

What's Next?

Gathering Public Comment

Active public participation during the forest plan revision process is critical to successful revision. Effective collaboration with individuals, groups, agencies and governments depends on the ability of the Forest Service to provide meaningful avenues for everyone to participate. The revision team will encourage participation from the early stages of the project and provide continuous opportunities for discussion throughout the effort. Gathering and analyzing public input will be balanced with the need to move forward and revise forest plans in an efficient and timely manner.

Both the Clearwater and the Nez Perce national forests will involve the public with the goal of gaining valuable information about the national forests, how and where people use them and how people would like to see them managed. Some areas of agreement may emerge, but there will not be a formal consensus-building process. Many issues associated with forest plan revision will evoke controversy and conflict. Public discussion will help national forest managers understand issues and values. It will help them evaluate options and tradeoffs in order to make management decisions.

Content Analysis and Identification of Issues

At the end of the proposed action scoping period for public comment national forest managers will ask a team of agency personnel to read all comments and identify issues in a process called content analysis. The team will generate a report that summarizes comments, issues and concerns to be considered in the development of the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) and proposed revised forest plans. This information will be used by decision makers to refine the scope of forest plan revision and craft alternatives that will be presented in the DEIS.

It is important to note that comments are not votes, and content analysis not a vote-tallying process.

Developing Alternatives and Release of the DEIS and Draft Forest Plans

The 1982 Forest Service planning regulations require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement when a forest plan is revised. The EIS must comply with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act and display information used in making decisions.

The forest plan revision team will develop one draft EIS to encompass both the Nez Perce and the Clearwater national forests. They will revise forest plans for both national forests.

The public will have the opportunity to review and comment on the DEIS for 90 days following its release. Forest Service personnel will meet with interested individuals, groups, agencies and governments to answer questions about the DEIS and to help those who want to provide written comments.

The Forest Service revision team will specifically seek comments about how issues and concerns raised during initial scoping (prior to the environmental analysis) were considered. They will also look for comments on the adequacy of the DEIS and the merits of alternatives presented.

Content analysis will be conducted on the comments to the DEIS. Information and ideas submitted during the formal comment period will be used to modify the DEIS, resulting in a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS).

Documents that will be produced during this phase include:

- One FEIS to cover both national forests
- Two Records of Decision, one for each forest
- Two revised forest plans, one for each forest

Individuals who provide comments to the DEIS will be notified when the FEIS is completed and available.

While formal forest plan public participation will have concluded at this point, the public will have many opportunities for involvement in site-specific projects to carry out forest plan direction. It is also likely there will be opportunities to participate in monitoring activities as projects are implemented.