

## Table of Contents

CHAPTER 2: STRATEGY .....	50
2.1 Introduction .....	50
2.1.1 Prospectus .....	50
2.1.2 Performance Risks.....	51
2.2 Special Areas .....	51
2.2.1 Eligible Wild, Scenic and Recreation Rivers.....	52
2.2.2 Recommended Research Natural Areas .....	52
2.2.3 Recommended Wilderness Areas and Additions to Existing Wilderness Areas .....	53
2.2.4 Other Special Area Designations .....	53
2.3 Ecosystem Integrity and Sustainability .....	53
2.3.1 Forest Vegetation.....	53
2.3.2 Grassland and Shrubland Vegetation.....	56
2.3.3 Terrestrial Wildlife Habitat.....	57
2.3.4 Invasive Weeds .....	59
2.3.5 Soil Productivity.....	60
2.3.6 Watershed Condition and Aquatic Habitats .....	61
2.4 Cultural, Social and Economic Conditions .....	71
2.4.1 Road Management .....	71
2.4.2 Motorized and Non-Motorized Recreation Uses .....	71
2.4.3 Dispersed Recreation .....	72
2.4.4 Developed Recreation Sites.....	72
2.4.5 Recreation Special Uses.....	73
2.4.6 Scenery Resources .....	73
2.4.7 Heritage Resources .....	74
2.4.8 Economic Contribution .....	75
2.4.9 Timber Availability .....	75
2.4.10 Wildland Fire, Fuels and Air Quality .....	76
2.4.11 Livestock Management .....	77
2.4.12 Minerals .....	78
2.4.13 Lands .....	78

2.4.14 Utilities and Communications Sites.....	79
2.4.15 Administrative Facilities .....	80
2.5 Tribal Treaty Rights and Trust Responsibilities .....	80
2.6 Suitable Land Uses .....	82
2.6.1 Areas Recommended for Wilderness Designation.....	82
2.6.2 Riparian Conservation Areas .....	82
2.6.3 Water Impoundments and Diversions.....	82
2.6.4 Road Management .....	83
2.6.5 Motorized and Non-Motorized Recreation Uses .....	83
2.6.6 National Historic Trails .....	84
2.6.7 Timber .....	84
2.6.8 Livestock Management .....	85
2.6.9 Minerals .....	85
2.6.10 Utility Corridors.....	85
2.7 Geographic Areas .....	86
2.7.1 Cedars-Deception Geographic Area.....	87
2.7.2 Coolwater Geographic Area .....	88
2.7.3 Elk Creek Geographic Area.....	89
2.7.4 Great Burn Geographic Area .....	90
2.7.5 Lolo Creek Geographic Area.....	91
2.7.6 Lolo Pass Geographic Area .....	92
2.7.7 Lowell Geographic Area.....	93
2.7.8 Mallard-Meadow Geographic Area .....	94
2.7.9 Middle Lochsa Geographic Area .....	95
2.7.10 Moose-Cayuse Geographic Area.....	96
2.7.11 Palouse River Geographic Area.....	97
2.7.12 Potlatch River Geographic Area.....	98
2.7.13 Pot Mountain Geographic Area .....	99
2.7.14 Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Geographic Area .....	100
2.7.15 Upper Lochsa Geographic Area.....	101
2.7.16 Weitas Geographic Area.....	102
2.7.17 West North Fork Geographic Area.....	103

## CHAPTER 2: STRATEGY

### 2.1 Introduction

Chapter 2 describes the strategic direction that will be employed over the next 10-15 years to achieve desired conditions described in Chapter 1. Chapter 2 includes 3 plan components.

**Special Areas** – Special areas are those places with unique characteristics. They may be designated administratively, by statute or by a process in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act and other applicable laws. This section includes recommendations for additional special area designations (i.e. wilderness).

**Objectives** – These statements describe the management activities or actions that are needed to achieve desired conditions. In most instances, they are specific and measurable.

**Suitability** – An area may be defined as “generally suitable” for uses that are compatible with desired conditions and objectives for that area. Conversely, they may be identified as “generally unsuitable” if they are incompatible with desired conditions and objectives.

The chapter concludes with smaller, place-based **geographic areas**. Geographic areas provide an opportunity to clarify management intent and display it so Forest users can understand what activities are likely to occur in an area.

**As in Chapter 1, headings for plan components will be shaded in gray. Additionally, the text of plan components will be in bold type. Tables included within the text of plan components are considered to be part of the plan component.**

#### 2.1.1 Prospectus

The prospectus describes the program areas for the Clearwater National Forest. Each program area may include some or all of the following sections:

**Introduction** – The introduction is brief statement about the scope and strategy for achieving desired conditions. *This section is intended to provide context. It is not a plan component.*

**Performance History:** This section describes past management activities and trends. The past history and trends influence how objectives are defined and how the Plan will be implemented for the program area. *This section is intended to provide context. It is not a plan component.*

**Program Emphasis:** Emphases are identified by program area. These statements represent possible ways to work toward desired conditions and objectives. They are not statements of proposed actions, nor do they preclude alternative approaches. The importance of program emphases may increase or decrease due to changes in conditions. *This section is intended to provide context. It is not a plan component.*

**Objectives (Plan Component):** Objectives describe the focus of unit management over the next 15 years. Most are measurable and time specific.

**Performance Risks:** These are factors which may impede implementation of the Plan and prevent the program area from achieving its objectives. General performance risks are identified in the following section. Where there are unique performance risks, they are identified by topic. *This section is intended to provide context. It is not a plan component.*

### 2.1.2 Performance Risks

Performance risks, or circumstances beyond the Clearwater National Forest's control, may affect the Forest's attainment of program objectives. Major program risks are described below. **These risks apply to all program areas.**

Flat or declining agency budgets

Changes in, or losses of, partnership funding

National or regional initiatives that change Forest priorities

Litigation and resulting case law

New laws or regulations

Changes in designations or regulations in existing laws (e.g. listings of species as "threatened" or "endangered" under the Endangered Species Act)

Changes in elected officials or key personnel in tribal, federal, state or local agencies and/or government

Inability to control chance events, climate change and ecosystem processes (e.g. fire, landslides, floods, insects and disease, etc.)

In some cases, changes to ecosystems may be irreversible and complete restoration is not possible

Desired land management treatments may not be compatible with complex and changing social values

Additional risks specific to a program area may be described in subsequent write-ups.

## 2.2 Special Areas

### **Special Areas (PLAN COMPONENT)**

This section recommends special areas. Special areas are places within the National Forest System designated for their unique or special characteristics. Special areas are designated administratively, by statute or by local responsible officials. Statutorily designated areas include those of national importance requiring congressional action such as wilderness and wild and scenic rivers. Administratively designated areas are regionally important requiring Secretary of Interior, Forest Service Chief or Regional Forester approval. Examples of these include research natural areas, scenic byways, and

experimental forests. Responsible official designated areas include locally important areas such as botanical or geological areas.

**Special area designations are not final decisions authorizing projects and activities.** Strategic guidance is provided for both existing and recommended special areas within plan components throughout this document.

**All tables and all bolded text in sections 2.2.1, 2.2.2, 2.2.3 and 2.2.4 are considered plan components.**

## 2.2.1 Eligible Wild, Scenic and Recreation Rivers

### [Map 2.2.1](#) Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers and Potential Classification

**Table 2.2.1 Eligible River Segments and Potential Classification**

Name River Segment	Classification (miles)			
	Wild	Scenic	Recreation	Total (miles)
Cayuse Creek	29.3	2.0	2.5	33.8
Colt Killed Creek	9.6	2.9	10.8	23.3
Fish Creek	20.3		0.7	21.0
Hungry Creek	13.9			13.9
Kelly Creek	13.5		11.2	24.7
Little North Fork Clearwater River	4.3			4.3
Lochsa River			1.9	1.9
Lolo Creek			19.8	19.8
Middle Fork Kelly Creek	19.6			19.6
Musselshell Creek			7.8	7.8
North Fork Clearwater River	10.2	2.6	66.5	79.3
Total	120.7	7.5	121.2	249.4

## 2.2.2 Recommended Research Natural Areas

**Fenn Mountain Research Natural Area**

**Rhodes Peak Research Natural Area**

**Bull Run Research Natural Area expansion**

## 2.2.3 Recommended Wilderness Areas and Additions to Existing Wilderness Areas

### Map 2.2.3 Recommended Wilderness

The proposal is to recommend the same six roadless areas for wilderness as were recommended in the 1987 Forest Plan (Table 2.2.3). The proposal in the revised Plan is based on an updated inventory of roadless areas greater than 5000 acres and/or adjacent to existing wildernesses. The Great Burn recommendation includes more acres than were recommended in the 1987 Plan.

Table 2.2.3 Recommended Wilderness Areas

Roadless Areas	Acres
Mallard Larkins	68,247
Great Burn	148,454
Selway-Bitterroot: Sneakfoot	9,678
Selway-Bitterroot: Elk Summit	3,534
Selway-Bitterroot: Storm Creek	2,914
Selway-Bitterroot: Lakes	3,640
Total	236,467

## 2.2.4 Other Special Area Designations

There are no other special area designations recommended. Existing designated special areas will be managed according to existing management plans.

## 2.3 Ecosystem Integrity and Sustainability

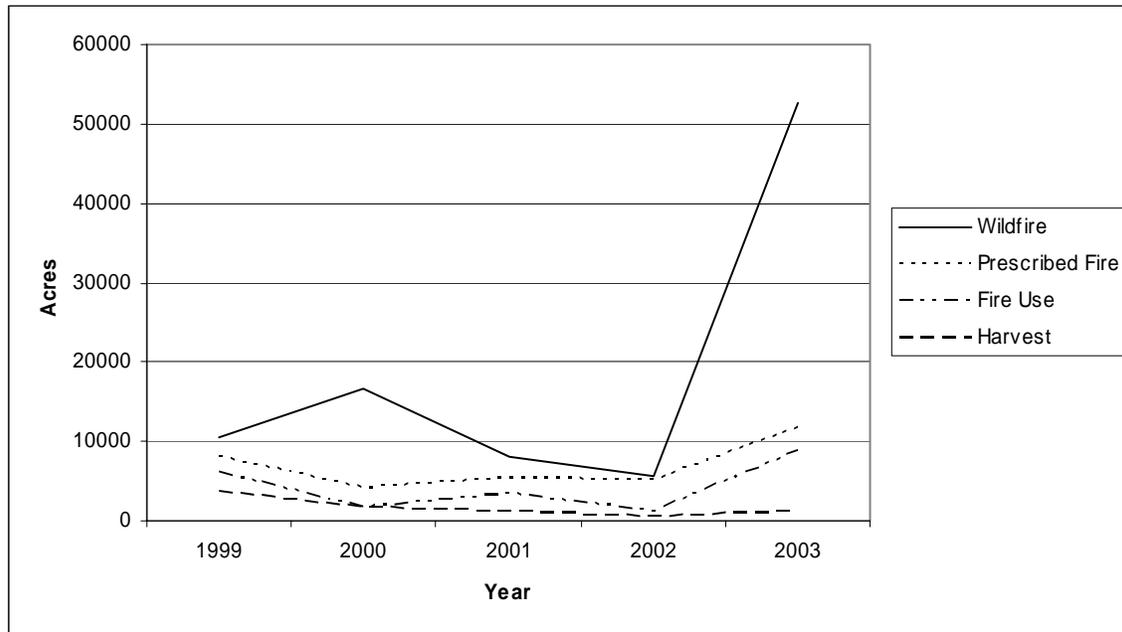
### 2.3.1 Forest Vegetation

The vegetation strategy is to manage for desired ranges of species composition and size classes with timber harvest and fire.

#### Performance History

The current vegetation management strategy focuses on restoring landscape patterns through harvest and fire use. Outside of fire use areas, fire is managed with appropriate management responses. Current harvest prescriptions are designed to follow natural disturbance patterns for size and forest structure outside of riparian conservation areas. Harvest is often followed with prescribed fire or other treatments that reduce slash loads to desired levels.

Timber harvest, prescribed fire, and fire use averages 6940 acres treated annually over the past 5 years. Including wildfires, that average increases to 18,680 acres annually.

**Figure 2.3.1 Vegetation Disturbance History: Clearwater National Forest (1999-2003)**

### Program Emphasis

#### **Bitterroot Mountains Breaklands**

Western larch, ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir should be conserved on appropriate habitat types. Conservation could include thinning or underburns on southerly aspects to encourage development of western larch, Douglas-fir or ponderosa pine forests that have large trees in single- or two-storied mosaics.

Existing large, old ponderosa pine should be conserved and the regeneration of additional ponderosa pine should be encouraged where it has been lost, especially on the Palouse District and in the Lochsa River drainage. Ponderosa pine forest structure should be restored to a fire-resistant, resilient condition.

The oldest forests, particularly very large, very old western redcedar, should be conserved.

Restoration could include planting or planning for natural regeneration of western larch, western white pine, Douglas-fir or, where appropriate, ponderosa pine. It could also include culturing with fire or mechanical methods to encourage development of large trees with single- or two-storied stand structure.

#### **Bitterroot Mountains Uplands**

Larger patches of small size classes and early- to mid-seral species, particularly western white pine and western larch, should be restored. Grand fir and cedar dominance should be lessened. Middle size classes should be decreased while small size classes are increased. The large size class should be conserved within the desired range.

Conservation measures could include reducing the number of trees per acre while favoring shade-intolerant species. Species to conserve generally include old ponderosa

pine, western larch, western redcedar and western white pine in addition to grand fir needed to meet desired conditions.

The oldest forests, particularly very large, very old western redcedar, should be conserved.

Restoration could include planting or planning for natural regeneration of western larch, western white pine, Douglas fir or, where appropriate, ponderosa pine. It could also include culturing with fire or mechanical methods to encourage development of large trees with single- or two-storied stand structure.

### **Bitterroot Mountains and Idaho Batholith Subalpine**

Seral species, particularly western larch and Douglas-fir, should be restored. Lodgepole pine that has been killed by mountain pine beetle should also be restored as should whitebark pine on appropriate sites. The dominance of subalpine fir and mountain hemlock should be lessened. The middle size class should be decreased while the small size class is increased. Large patches of even-aged lodgepole pine should be developed with a range of age classes represented across the Forest. Existing whitebark pine and western larch should be conserved.

## ***Program Objectives (PLAN COMPONENT)***

### **Bitterroot Mountains Breaklands**

- 1. Within 10 years following Plan approval, treat vegetation on about 84,000 acres (7% of the breaklands) through a combination of timber harvest, prescribed fire or wildland fire use. These treatments will initiate the restoration process. Restoration activities will be designed to favor ponderosa pine, western white pine and western larch where appropriate.**

### **Bitterroot Mountains Uplands**

- 2. Within 10 years following Plan approval, treat vegetation on about 22,000 acres (3% of the uplands) through a combination of timber harvest, prescribed fire or wildland fire use. These treatments will initiate the restoration process. Restoration activities will be designed to favor western white pine establishment on moist sites; conserving existing large, old ponderosa pine on drier sites or establishing additional ponderosa pine; and conserving large, old western larch where it occurs and while establishing additional larch on appropriate sites. This may also include favoring the desired species during thinning in young stands.**

### **Bitterroot Mountains and Idaho Batholith Subalpine**

- 3. Within 10 years following Plan approval, treat vegetation on about 89,000 acres (10% of the subalpine setting) through a combination of timber harvest, prescribed fire or wildland fire use. These treatments will initiate the restoration process. Activities will be designed to favor restoration of whitebark pine at higher elevations; western larch and Douglas-fir on more**

**moderate sites; or reestablish young lodgepole pine stands. Restoration may also be designed to encourage development of multi-storied stands.**

### Performance Risks

Weather and climate conditions, including climate changes, may not provide the required burning prescription conditions as frequently as needed to allow this level of treatment.

Coordination with watershed restoration needs may delay/defer vegetation treatments.

Without conservation treatments, ponderosa pine, western larch, and western white pine may slowly decline as surrounding trees compete with and weaken them.

Wildland fire use opportunities may not be available due to national wildfire activity that limits fire management resource availability.

Air quality concerns may limit prescribed fire opportunities.

Wildfires may burn more acres than anticipated.

### **Breaklands**

Steep breaklands have inherent slope stability risks which may limit treatments.

Using timber harvest to remove small-size trees growing under ponderosa pine may not be economically feasible on steep slopes requiring helicopter yarding or long-span skyline systems.

Prescribed fire has a narrow implementation window on north aspects, which may limit acres treated there.

### **Uplands**

Prescribed fire implementation windows often overlap the wildfire season when risk of fire escape is high.

### **Subalpine**

White pine blister rust may limit whitebark pine regeneration. Most whitebark pine is found in wilderness, where active restoration is difficult.

Prescribed fire implementation windows often overlap the wildfire season, when risk of fire escape is high.

## **2.3.2 Grassland and Shrubland Vegetation**

The strategy is to manage these vegetation types to restore or conserve native vegetation within natural ranges.

### Performance History

Prior to 1990, shrublands at lower elevations were the focus of prescribed burning to improve big game winter range. Seral shrublands are gradually reforesting, and over the past decade trees have become more dominant.

Dry grasslands at lower elevations have expanding invasive weed populations that are reducing the distribution and extent of native grasses and forbs, and affecting soil stability and wildlife population dynamics.

### Program Emphasis

The highest priority for weed management should be dry grasslands. (Priorities for weed management are in the Invasive Weeds section 2.3.4.) Periodic low-intensity burning of trees that are beginning to dominate could facilitate the development of open, park-like stands.

As invasive weeds are treated, native species should be restored.

### **Program Objectives (PLAN COMPONENT)**

- 1. Within 10 years following Plan approval, invasive weeds will be replaced by native grasses and forbs on 1000 acres of the Forest.**
- 2. Within 15 years following Plan approval, vegetation on at least 10,000 acres of south-aspect breaklands will be treated to develop open, park-like stands.**

## **2.3.3 Terrestrial Wildlife Habitat**

This strategy is designed to integrate wildlife habitat management with other Forest resource management strategies. Habitat management is based on achieving the desired conditions for vegetation management, maintaining or improving habitat security, and implementing actions needed to conserve unique habitats.

### Performance History

The Clearwater National Forest has managed wildlife habitat through active vegetation treatments such as timber harvest and prescribed fire, and by managing wildfires as they occur across the Forest. The average annual acres of funded wildlife habitat improvements were approximately 1300 acres per year during the first decade of the planning period. Over the last 5 years, the Forest has exceeded the average of the first decade for habitat improvement. In addition, the combination of timber harvest, prescribed fire and wildland fire use has improved the vegetative condition of wildlife habitat across the Forest.

There are trends in shifting habitats towards desired species composition and size class distribution; minimizing adverse impacts to and recovering riparian habitats; using disturbance processes to manage habitats; and maintaining and restoring unique habitats. There are positive trends in restoring dry ponderosa pine, white pine and whitebark pine habitats; conserving old forest habitats; and increasing the representation of western larch.

### Program Emphasis

Habitat management should be based on achieving desired conditions for vegetation, invasive weeds and watershed management. Terrestrial wildlife needs should be

integrated with other land management strategies during the early development, design and implementation phases of management actions.

Old forest and unique habitats should be conserved. Unique habitat and species needs that are not covered by broader approaches should be addressed.

Maintain or treat habitat so it trends toward desired forest and non-forest vegetative conditions. Locations and priorities will be determined through Forest and project-level analyses.

Management activities should provide ecological conditions that contribute to recovery or conservation of federally-listed species and provide habitat for species of concern and species of interest. Elk habitat should be improved.

### **2.3.3.1 Habitat Improvement**

#### ***Program Objectives (PLAN COMPONENT)***

- 1. Following Plan approval, elk habitat should be improved on at least 10,000 acres annually through timber harvest, prescribed fire or fire use.**

### **2.3.3.2 Wildlife Security**

#### ***Performance History***

The Clearwater National Forest has managed terrestrial wildlife security through a combination of seasonal timing restrictions and year-long road closures.

There is a positive trend recognizing the need for providing wildlife security for the most vulnerable species, at the most vulnerable times and in the most important places. There is a positive trend in integrating security needs with other resource management strategies, and in identifying and protecting unique habitats for species with special security needs.

#### ***Program Emphasis***

Wildlife security in developed areas of the Forest should be improved during critical time periods and in critical places. Travel management plans should address wildlife security needs, recreation needs and watershed improvement needs. Project-level planning should address additional security needs, based on local or special circumstances or situations.

Project plans should identify specific actions needed to provide security when they are not covered by the broader travel management approach. Forest personnel should collaborate with tribal governments and state agencies to identify site-specific needs for wildlife security.

#### ***Program Objective (PLAN COMPONENT)***

- 1. Within 15 years following Plan approval, wildlife habitat security should be improved in 15 subwatersheds that currently have low or very low security levels.**

### Performance Risks

Cooperative habitat improvements with the Tribe, federal and state agencies are dependent on the contribution of monetary and non-monetary resources. Appropriated Forest Service funding may be insufficient to accomplish program objectives. External funding and other support are not guaranteed.

Decisions beyond the control of the Forest could result in the listing of new species as threatened or endangered in spite of the presence of plan components to conserve habitat for all wildlife species.

Conflicts between wildlife security needs and recreation and other access management needs could affect the Forest's ability to accomplish program objectives.

### **2.3.4 Invasive Weeds**

This strategy is designed to integrate invasive weed management with other Forest resource management strategies. It also complements and supports weed management with state, tribal and county efforts within the Palouse and Clearwater River Basin Cooperative Weed Management Areas where possible.

### Performance History

The Clearwater National Forest has managed invasive weeds through the development and implementation of cooperative weed management area programs with the Nez Perce Tribe; county, state and federal agencies; and private groups. An average of 380 acres of invasive weed treatment has been accomplished during the first decade. Invasive weed treatments have averaged 1281 acres annually over the last 5 years.

### Program Emphasis

Newly-discovered weed invaders should not be allowed to become established and should be eradicated whenever possible; established infestations should be contained or controlled. Weed control efforts should be prioritized according to the potential to successfully contain, control or eradicate weed infestations. Representative and resilient native vegetation, or desired non-native vegetation, should be restored in areas infested by invasive weeds.

Weed transportation mechanisms should be managed.

Forest personnel should support the cooperative weed management area approach, coordinating with existing partners and forming new partnerships to develop improved detection and treatment tools.

Forest employees, user groups and the public should be educated about the identification of, and risks from, invasive weeds.

During the development and implementation of projects, invasive weed prevention and control should be integrated with other resource considerations.

### **Program Objectives (PLAN COMPONENT)**

- 1. Following Plan approval, 800 acres of invasive weeds are treated annually.**

### Performance Risks

Cooperative weed treatments involving tribal governments; county, federal and state agencies; and private groups are dependent on the contribution of monetary and non-monetary resources. Appropriated Forest Service funding may be insufficient to accomplish program objectives. External funding and other support are not guaranteed.

In spite of the presence of plan components to prevent, eradicate, contain or control weeds on Forest lands, the establishment of new weed species could occur from adjacent private lands.

Changes in existing and new state-designated noxious weeds could occur, requiring subsequent changes to plan components.

### **2.3.5 Soil Productivity**

The strategy is to maintain long term soil productivity through managing soil conditions to support species, communities and processes (including hydrologic functions) within the frequency and scale of natural processes and disturbances.

### Performance History

Management of existing landslides and landslide-prone lands to prevent human-caused erosion includes decommissioning of roads and appropriate vegetation management.

Prescriptions for fire management and timber harvest are designed to limit soil disturbances and maintain tree roots to hold soil in place while restoring landscape vegetation patterns.

Soil restoration has been ongoing, with soils impacted by past management restored as opportunities arise. Treatments include skid trail obliteration, soil decompaction and woody material placement.

### Program Emphasis

New projects should be designed to maintain soil productivity (physical, chemical and biological; slope stability; soil structure; and nutrients). Soil restoration projects should be considered where past disturbances have compacted or displaced soil, where erosion has been accelerated or where activities have negatively affected soil wood or soil biochemistry such that the recovery of native vegetation is retarded or weed establishment facilitated. Roads on landslide-prone lands should be stabilized or removed.

### ***Program Objectives (PLAN COMPONENT)***

- 1. Within 10 years following Plan approval, landslide prone areas should be stabilized through the rehabilitation or removal of 100 miles of existing roads.**
- 2. Within 10 years following Plan approval, soil will be improved on at least 500 acres.**

Performance Risk

Program priorities may prevent implementation.

**2.3.6 Watershed Condition and Aquatic Habitats****2.3.6.1 Watershed Restoration****Map 2.3.6.1 Highest Priority Watersheds Identified for Restoration**

This strategy is designed to assure the Clearwater National Forest improves biological integrity and physical processes in restore-designated subwatersheds. The strategy represents the compilation and integration of watershed and aquatic program objectives and management emphasis.

Performance History

Water management, habitat protection and instream restoration accomplishments over the past 10 years are described in the accompanying watershed and aquatic ecosystem prospectuses. Current assessments suggest 58% of the subwatersheds are in need of restoration (Table 2.3.6.1a).

**Table 2.3.6.1a Existing Condition of Aquatic Ecosystems: Number of Subwatersheds by Designation**

Subbasin Name	Aquatic Conservation Themes (No. Subwatersheds)	
	Conserve	Restore
North Fork Clearwater River	19	27
Palouse River	0	8
Clearwater River	0	11
Lochsa River	24	14
Middle Fork Clearwater River	0	1

Program Emphasis

Existing high quality habitats that provide for strong and resilient populations of bull trout, steelhead trout, Chinook salmon, westslope cutthroat trout and Pacific lamprey should be maintained. Watersheds and aquatic habitats that have the highest biological diversity and recovery potential should be the first considered for restoration (Table 2.3.6.1b).

**Table 2.3.6.1b Highest Priority Subwatersheds Identified for Restoration**

North Fork Clearwater River	Palouse River	Clearwater River	Lochsa River	Middle Fork Clearwater River
North Fork Clearwater-Elizabeth Creek		Lolo Creek	Deadman Creek	Big and Little Smith Creeks
Lower Skull Creek		Eldorado Creek	Post Office Creek	
Upper Elk Creek		Musselshell Creek	Fishing	
Cold Springs Creek			Wendover	

***Program Objective (PLAN COMPONENT)***

- 1. Within 10 years of Plan approval, all identified improvement projects will be completed in 7 restore-designated subwatersheds.**

***Performance Risks***

The subwatershed restoration objectives are dependent upon accomplishments as displayed in the accompanying watershed and aquatic ecosystem strategy elements. Achievement of “conserve” status may be influenced by natural processes such as landslides, catastrophic fires and floods, increased private land development, increased recreation and access demands, and mixed or conflicting resource management objectives.

**2.3.6.2 Water Quality**

This strategy is designed to assure that Clearwater National Forest management actions contribute to fully supporting existing and designated beneficial uses by providing water of appropriate quality.

***Performance History***

Approximately 594 miles of stream segments<sup>1</sup> within the Clearwater National Forest have been listed as impaired or not meeting standards by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ Integrated §303(d)/§305(b) Report 2005). Idaho Department of Environmental Quality has determined that those lakes and stream segments do not meet water quality standards for their designated and beneficial uses. Past achievements meant to improve conditions include: (1) riparian plantings to increase streamside shade; (2) erosion control through decommissioning and re-constructing streamside roads; (3) culvert replacement or removal; (4) riparian area fencing; and (5) mining reclamation (see related aquatic strategies).

The state of Idaho has the lead in total maximum daily load development and approval. Total maximum daily load assessments have been completed or are under development and are used as guidance to improve impaired conditions. The Forest Service shares the responsibility for completion of subbasin total maximum daily load implementation plans with land managers and landowners within each of the above-listed subbasins.

***Program Emphasis***

Work should be focused toward completing actions necessary to improve impaired water bodies. Water body status assessments should be completed in cooperation with Idaho Department of Environmental Quality through water quality assessments, total maximum daily loads, restoration plans, best management practice implementation and monitoring.

---

<sup>1</sup> Officially referred to as assessment units, which includes the full range of surface water categories such as rivers, creeks, lakes, reservoirs, ponds, etc.

The state's antidegradation policy requires that existing beneficial uses be maintained and protected for all water bodies.

Changes in the Forest's priority list are expected to occur routinely as areas of detrimental disturbance are improved and new projects identified, along with the biannually updated 303(d) /305(b) integrated report.

The Forest's subbasin priorities for completion of total maximum daily load implementation plans and identified potential actions should be:

2. North Fork Clearwater River above Aquarius.
3. Palouse River.
4. Lolo Creek.

#### ***Program Objective (PLAN COMPONENT)***

1. **Within 15 years of Plan approval, 90% of all total maximum daily load implementation plan action items will be completed.**

#### ***Performance Risk***

Routine changes to the list of impaired water bodies may alter progress toward meeting the objective, but will not require revisions to the Land Management Plan.

#### **2.3.6.3 Drinking Water**

This strategy is designed to assure that the Clearwater National Forest provides high quality drinking water in compliance with applicable provisions of the Safe Drinking Water Act.

#### ***Performance History***

Watersheds providing surface water for municipal use from the Clearwater National Forest include Elk Creek, which serves the community of Elk River. The downstream communities of Kamiah, Orofino, Lewiston, Julietta, Konkolville and Orofino Riverside also derive their domestic water supplies directly from the surface water originating within the Clearwater National Forest.

In addition to community surface water supply, there are groundwater drinking water sources for 25 campgrounds and ranger stations within the Forest's boundaries. More than 100 individual groundwater wells, springs and streams in or near the Forest provide domestic water to families and ranches via wells, diversions, and spring sources.

#### ***Program Emphasis***

All potential sources of drinking water contamination should have a low likelihood of releasing such contaminants at levels that could pose a concern relative to public drinking water sources. Sanitary surveys should be completed to identify safety and environmental compliance and identify corrective actions necessary to prevent contamination of public water systems.

The highest priority should be given to the protection of municipal and other potable water supplies to ensure that land management activities do not cause permanent deterioration in quality or quantity. Source water protections should assure that no public water system has to provide more drinking water treatments other than those that are necessary to address naturally occurring pollutant concentrations.

***Program Objective (PLAN COMPONENT)***

- 1. Following Plan approval, sanitary surveys will be completed on 6 ground water public supplies annually.**

***Performance Risks***

Aging water systems may require additional repair or reconstruction beyond the financial ability of user grouA12Diste anceev(entssuch haswild )Tj0.00011 Tc -0.0713 Tw 12 0 0 12 55.

s m

y rsultn instem

### Program Emphasis

State water rights records for Clearwater National Forest should be up to date and the water should be put to beneficial uses as needed for those rights.

Current consumptive and non-consumptive uses of water and water rights by the Clearwater National Forest, and others on the Forest, should be managed according to the state's allocation process.

Forest managers should coordinate with tribal, federal, state and local governments to identify and secure instream flows needed to maintain riparian resources, channel conditions and aquatic habitat.

### **Program Objectives (PLAN COMPONENT)**

- 1. Within 15 years of Plan approval, all Clearwater National Forest federal reserved and state water law claims and license applications will be processed for adjudication.**
- 2. Within 15 years of Plan approval, all special use permits and other authorizations will include instream flow and other water protection measures necessary to protect aquatic resources.**

### Performance Risks

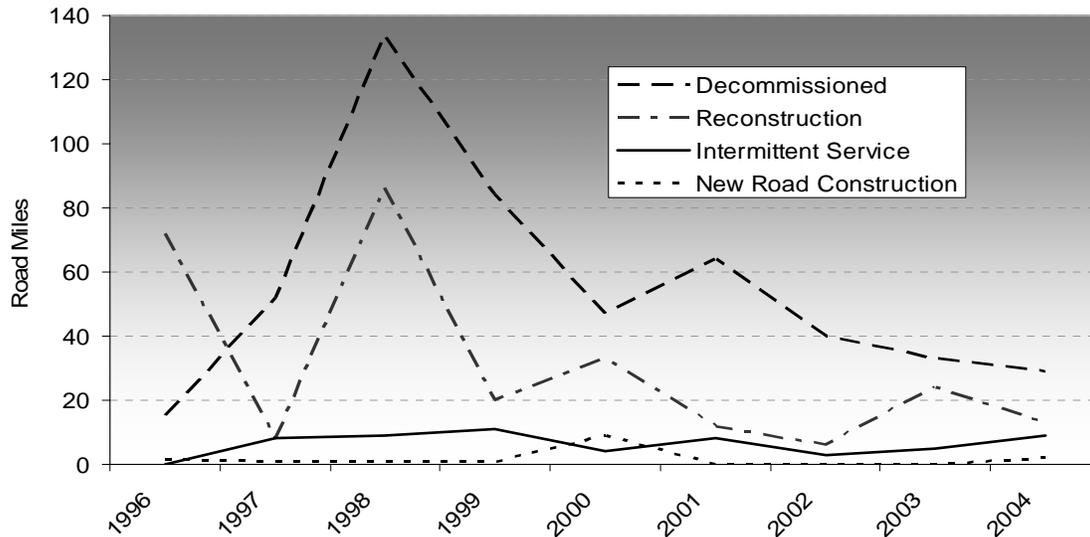
Federal water rights on the national forests are processed by the Boise Adjudication Team, and performance is based upon workload priorities. The Boise Adjudication Team is not a permanent administrative structure, and the workload would likely revert to the Regional Office and Forest within the planning horizon.

#### **2.3.6.5 Watershed Condition**

This strategy is designed to assure that Clearwater National Forest management actions continue to provide water quantity and quality that support recreational uses, healthy riparian and aquatic habitats, the stability and effective functioning of stream channels, and the ability to route flood flows.

### Performance History

Forest roads were selected as a primary indicator of watershed condition because they have the longest lasting impact and are a common feature associated with most Forest management activities. The Forest's road management emphasis over the past 10 years has been the reduction of adverse effects associated with the transportation system. This has primarily been accomplished by removing unneeded roads or reconstructing permanent roads. Between 1996 and 2005, over 500 miles of road have been decommissioned and 50 miles placed in intermittent storage status. An additional 700 miles of road have been reconstructed (Figure 2.3.6.5).

**Figure 2.3.6.5 Road Construction: Clearwater National Forest (1996-2004)**

Watershed improvement projects (e.g. soil improvements or riparian planting) have been completed through appropriated funding combined with the Nez Perce Tribe and other external parties. The Clearwater National Forest has completed an average of 30 acres per year over the past 5 years, and a total of 75 acres per year when combined with partners' efforts. The total soil and water needs and opportunities have not been estimated.

### Program Emphasis

The Clearwater National Forest should emphasize the management of road systems to improve watershed function in managed areas. Soil improvement projects can be expected to continue (see Soil Productivity strategy). Vegetation management should focus on conserving or restoring species composition, age structure and natural opening patterns that promote near natural variations in water yield.

Road decommissioning and relocation activities should be prioritized based upon landscape setting and disturbance regimes. Higher priorities for decommissioning should be assigned to local and unclassified roads in watersheds containing threatened fish species and where land types are at higher risk of slope failure.

Priorities for road maintenance should be directed toward arterial, collector and a few selected local roads. The risk of road failure and subsequent downstream impacts to aquatic habitats can be reduced by emphasizing the removal or replacement of undersized or aging road culverts

Streamside roads in high sediment hazard settings should continue to be the highest priority locations for road decommissioning and maintenance. Program priorities may change from decommissioning to reconstruction of permanent system roads as decommissioning objectives are achieved.

***Program Objectives (PLAN COMPONENT)***

- 1. Within 10 years of Plan approval, 400 miles of road will be decommissioned.**
- 2. Within 10 years of Plan approval, 200 miles of the arterial, collector and permanent local roads will be reconstructed.**
- 3. Within 10 years of Plan approval, 400 acres of soil and water improvements will be completed.**

***Performance Risk***

External partnerships are critical to achieving objectives. Past road decommissioning accomplishments are the result of substantial partnership funding, particularly with the Nez Perce Tribe.

**2.3.6.6 Special Water Features and Riparian Vegetation**

This strategy is designed to assure that Clearwater National Forest maintains or improves:

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

Special habitats (springs, seeps, ponds, lakes, bogs and wetlands) so that aquatic-dependent plant and animal species are sustained across the landscape; and

Vegetation in riparian conservation areas to assure they are 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.

***Performance History***

Disturbances have caused long-term loss of streamside vegetation with resulting accelerated surface water flows and surface soil erosion. Compacted soil surfaces from streamside roads, trails and facility developments have also slowed or intercepted subsurface water movement, effectively disconnecting the stream from its floodplain. A similar cause-and-effect relationship applies to springs, seeps and wetlands.

**Roads in riparian conservation areas:** Over 100 miles of local and unclassified roads within riparian conservation areas have been permanently removed between 1996 and 2005 for an estimated 400 acres of riparian conservation area improvements.

**Facilities in riparian conservation areas:** Past actions to correct these impacts include erosion control, plantings, closure of dispersed campsite improvements and trail surface water bars. Hazard tree removal has been addressed on a site-by-site basis.

**Streamside timber harvest in riparian conservation areas:** An unknown amount of streamside vegetation planting to improve stream shade and potential large wood has been completed. In most cases tree species planted or naturally regenerating would be expected.

**Invasive plant species in riparian conservation areas:** Invasive plant species in riparian habitats are present especially along roads and on disturbed soil surfaces. (See Invasive Weeds strategy.)

### Program Emphasis

Riparian conservation areas containing federally threatened species and concern species should have the highest priority for protection and improvement<sup>2</sup>.

### **Program Objective (PLAN COMPONENT)**

- 1. Within 10 years of Plan approval, 250 acres of flood plains, wetlands and riparian vegetation will be improved.**

### Performance Risk

Past stream and riparian improvements are the result of substantial partnership funding, particularly with the Nez Perce Tribe. Appropriated Forest Service funding alone has been, and is expected to continue to be, insufficient to accomplish target objectives.

### **2.3.6.7 Aquatic Habitats**

This strategy is designed to assure the Clearwater National Forest maintains or improves aquatic habitats and water quality.

### Performance History

The conditions of stream habitats within the Clearwater National Forest are good to excellent in the conserve-designated subwatersheds. Within the restore-designated subwatersheds the streams downstream of roads and managed forest landscapes generally exhibit habitat features that are less than desired. These stream segments have been the focus of stream improvement projects and monitoring.

The aquatic management strategy has been to improve degraded stream conditions through direct stream habitat improvement projects and provide protection measures to minimize impacts from forest resource management actions. Between 2000 and 2005, 96 stream miles and 2 lake acres were improved. Examples of improvement activities include reconstructing streams, providing fish passage at road stream crossings and fencing riparian areas.

### Program Emphasis

Intact and functioning stream reaches should be conserved; stream reaches that do not meet, or are trending away from, desired stream features should be restored. Natural

---

<sup>2</sup> Additional information regarding Threatened and Endangered species, species of concern and species of interest can be found in Supporting Documentation:

[http://www.fs.fed.us/cnpz/forest/documents/sup\\_docs/index\\_water\\_clw.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/cnpz/forest/documents/sup_docs/index_water_clw.shtml),

[http://www.fs.fed.us/cnpz/forest/documents/sup\\_docs/index\\_wildlife\\_clw.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/cnpz/forest/documents/sup_docs/index_wildlife_clw.shtml), and

[http://www.fs.fed.us/cnpz/forest/documents/sup\\_docs/index\\_rare\\_plants\\_clw.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/cnpz/forest/documents/sup_docs/index_rare_plants_clw.shtml).

disturbance processes should be the primary factor shaping aquatic habitats in identified “conserve” subwatersheds.

Forest personnel should cooperate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game invasive fish species control projects in high mountain lakes to reduce risks to native fishes.

### ***Program Objectives (PLAN COMPONENT)***

- 1. Within 10 years of Plan approval, 150 miles of streams and 50 lake acres will be improved.**

#### ***Performance Risks***

Substantial partnership involvement provides support for stream and lake habitat improvement programs, especially those contributions from the Nez Perce Tribe and Idaho Department of Fish and Game. External partnerships are critical to achieving objectives.

#### **2.3.6.8 Fish Passage**

This strategy is designed to assure that the Clearwater National Forest aquatic habitats support well-distributed populations of native and desired nonnative animal species.

#### ***Performance History***

Native fish species currently have unrestricted access to 84% of suitable stream habitat (2016 miles). However, over 400 stream crossings impede fish migration or movement affecting 300 stream miles. The Clearwater National Forest has improved fish access to 66 miles of suitable stream habitat by the replacement of 23, and removal of 2, road crossing structures from 2000 to 2005. It is estimated that at least 12 additional fish barriers (road culverts) have been removed during road decommissioning.

#### ***Program Emphasis***

Federal law requires that design, construction and maintenance of road crossings not disrupt the migration or other movement of aquatic life inhabiting the water body.

Stream crossings restricting passage of endangered, threatened and concern species should be considered the highest priority for removal or replacement.

### ***Program Objective (PLAN COMPONENT)***

- 1. Within 10 years of Plan approval, 50 stream crossings which impede migration or movement of native fish species will be improved.**

#### ***Performance Risk***

External partnerships are critical to achieving objectives. Partnership funding for stream crossing replacements is determined year to year. Current sources of funding include Forest Service, Nez Perce Tribe and Bonneville Power Association. Opportunities for measurable increases in habitat decreases as high priority crossing removal and replacements are completed.

### **2.3.6.9 Partnerships**

This strategy is designed to address Clearwater National Forest fisheries and watershed program coordination with tribal, federal, state and county management actions. Types of coordinated program elements include annual monitoring actions, ongoing research projects and fish habitat and watershed improvement projects. Issues, such as the threats invasive aquatic species pose to native aquatic animal populations, are also addressed cooperatively.

#### Performance History

Biannual meetings with the Nez Perce Tribe and federal and state agencies have occurred to facilitate data transfer and to coordinate project planning, project implementation, and monitoring. This coordination is designed to facilitate efficient data collection and share human and financial resources in accomplishment of mutual program goals. In addition to annual meetings, individual project coordination with interagency and tribal partners has facilitated project implementation. These projects include habitat improvements such as fish migration barrier removals, road decommissioning, riparian planting and invasive species eradication. Another part of the program of work includes interagency planning and monitoring reviews (such as development of total maximum daily load plans), best management practices audits and compliance monitoring.

#### Program Emphasis

Watershed, wildlife and aquatic resource improvement projects should be completed cooperatively with tribal, state and external partners. Although not directly responsible for fisheries population management, the Clearwater National Forest considers providing quality habitats a high priority that will contribute toward recovery of native species.

Highest priority watershed improvements should be coordinated with state of Idaho total maximum daily load implementation planned actions.

#### **Program Objectives (PLAN COMPONENT)**

- 1. Following plan approval, watershed, wildlife and aquatic resource management actions will be coordinated with tribal governments and federal and state agencies through an annual meeting.**

#### Performance Risks

The Forest Service participates with the Nez Perce Tribe and federal and state agencies through the contribution of resources (partial funding, materials and labor). Internal and external funding sources are not guaranteed.

## **2.4 Cultural, Social and Economic Conditions**

### **2.4.1 Road Management**

#### Performance History

Road construction and maintenance contribute to completing Forest resource management activities, law enforcement and public access. Road construction has declined substantially in the past years. This decline has coincided with the reduction in the volume of timber harvested annually. Funding from Congress has been insufficient to complete annual road maintenance to meet road management objectives for the entire classified road system of 4080 miles.

#### Program Emphasis

The Forest road system should provide for public safety, minimize impacts to other resources and meet Forest Plan goals and objectives for other resources. The Forest should develop a program that supports implementation of Forest Plan desired conditions for resource management and public access and that is cost-efficient. Roads contributing unwanted environmental effects should be a top priority for analysis. Site-specific project analysis and available funding will determine which roads can be eliminated.

#### **Program Objective (PLAN COMPONENT)**

- 1. Following Plan approval, 1300 miles of system roads will be maintained annually.**

### **2.4.2 Motorized and Non-Motorized Recreation Uses**

#### Performance History

Outside of designated wilderness, the 1987 Forest Plan authorized motorized use across the majority of lands, roads and trails on the Forest. As motorized use increased dramatically in the past 5-10 years and restrictions were implemented to protect fish and wildlife habitat and road facilities, selected areas and routes have been restricted to seasonal motorized use or closed yearlong. Technological advances in motorized equipment, particularly off-highway vehicles and snowmobiles, have made it possible for users to travel over terrain and in conditions that in the past were too rough and difficult for motorized uses. Non-motorized uses such as cross-country skiing and snowshoeing are growing in popularity and experiencing advances in equipment technology.

In the past 5 years, an average of 300 miles of snowmobile trails and 34 miles of cross-country ski trails are groomed annually.

#### Program Emphasis

The Forest should provide opportunities for motorized and non-motorized uses. Diverse motorized recreation opportunities should be available in both the non-winter and winter seasons on designated routes and in areas suitable for winter motorized uses off

designated routes as directed in travel management regulations. Non-motorized uses should be provided for on roads and trails.

Roads that are also part of the trail system are included in the Road Management, section 2.4.1.

### ***Program Objectives (PLAN COMPONENT)***

- 1. Following Plan approval, motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities will be provided annually through the maintenance of: 1) approximately 275 miles of designated non-wilderness system trails or areas and 2) the maintenance of 75 miles of trails in designated wilderness.**

## **2.4.3 Dispersed Recreation**

### ***Performance History***

Dispersed recreation is an increasing use across the Forest. Increasing numbers of visitors enjoy day use and overnight camping at locations outside of developed sites. This dispersed use in areas with minimal development allows more options in location and types of activities available to users, is free of charge and provides a more primitive recreation experience. It also allows for minimal development.

### ***Program Emphasis***

A wide range of recreation opportunities should be offered by the Clearwater National Forest including a range of outdoor experiences and services in less-developed settings that complement the more highly-developed recreation opportunities provided by Forest Service fee sites and the private sector.

Visitors should be educated about low-impact techniques associated with off-highway vehicle use, dispersed camping and recreation in fragile areas.

### ***Program Objective (PLAN COMPONENT)***

- 1. Following Plan approval, natural and social resource conditions at 50 dispersed, concentrated-use recreation sites will be improved annually through: 1) minimal facility improvements needed to address resource, safety and sanitation concerns; 2) information and education efforts; and 3) law enforcement activities.**

## **2.4.4 Developed Recreation Sites**

### ***Performance History***

Over the past 10 years deferred maintenance projects in developed sites, particularly along the Lochsa River, have addressed a significant portion of maintenance needs. There are a few existing sites needing improvement.

### Program Emphasis

Remaining deferred maintenance items focusing on health and safety (e.g. water system upgrades, sanitation improvements and achieving riparian conservation area desired conditions) should be addressed. Sites should be managed to standard.

### **Program Objectives (PLAN COMPONENT)**

1. **Within 10 years of Plan approval, deferred maintenance health and safety improvements will be completed at 33 developed recreation sites.**
2. **Within 10 years of Plan approval, all recreation fee sites will be managed according to site facility master plans.**

## 2.4.5 Recreation Special Uses

### Performance History

Outfitters and guides provide visitors seeking additional services a quality experience as an extension of the agency's mission. Outfitters and guides help the Forest Service assure that the public has reasonable access to recreation opportunities, that the use is of the highest quality and that resources are protected. The outfitter and guide program on the Clearwater National Forest offers world class land-based and river-based recreation opportunities to the public. Recreation events are permitted annually for organized motorized and non-motorized trail events and group events.

### Performance Emphasis

Forest personnel should provide timely feedback when processing applications for new proposals and when administering existing permits. They should coordinate with the Idaho Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board and new and existing permittees when processing changes in ownership of outfitting and guiding businesses. Permits should be administered to assure compliance with permit requirements.

### **Program Objective (PLAN COMPONENT)**

1. **Following Plan approval, 38 recreation special use permits will be administered annually according to terms and conditions of the permit. Results will be documented.**

## 2.4.6 Scenery Resources

### Map 2.4.6 Scenic Integrity Levels

### Performance History

Scenery is managed following processes in the Scenery Management System. Landscapes are managed to generally portray the natural range of variation of vegetation and landscape character diversity. Disturbance processes - fire, insects and disease, and management projects - alter landscapes. Natural disturbance process effects and

management actions are integrated to trend the landscape settings toward desired conditions.

### Program Emphasis

Disturbance is a major natural process across forest landscapes, particularly from fire and insect and disease events. Projects should meet or exceed scenery integrity levels. High priority should be assigned to developed sites, in designated areas (e.g. wild and scenic rivers and the Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark), and along high-use travel corridors.

### ***Program Objective (PLAN COMPONENT)***

- 1. Within 10 years of Plan approval, 95% of landscape-disturbing projects will meet or exceed scenic integrity levels.**

## **2.4.7 Heritage Resources**

### Performance History

Heritage resources have been managed with the goal of protecting and sustaining these resources and providing an appropriate level of interpretation to the public. There are several specific laws and treaties that direct how this is to be accomplished.

Examining and conducting inventories in areas of proposed projects and providing direction for project implementation to ensure compliance with federal regulations is one of the primary management activities. Stewardship of heritage resources which are not affected by specific federal actions, increasing public awareness of heritage resources and assessing heritage sites for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places are also important activities.

### Program Emphasis

Heritage resources should be protected and sustained. Project level inventories, site evaluations, effects determinations and mitigation are legally-mandated programs that should continue. These activities contribute to other Forest resource programs. Public understanding about heritage resources should be enhanced through interpretation efforts. Sites should be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. Significant historic facilities should be listed in the Forest's facility inventory database and inspected periodically. Maintenance priorities will be determined by historic value, potential reutilization, and economic considerations.

### ***Program Objectives (PLAN COMPONENT)***

- 1. Following Plan approval, 100% of project activities will comply with approved heritage plans and agreements on an annual basis.**

## 2.4.8 Economic Contribution

The strategy is to continue to contribute goods and services to local economic systems.

### Performance History

The Clearwater National Forest contributes to economic systems by employing people, contracting for services and providing products (e.g., timber, minerals, etc.). The Forest provides a setting and services that facilitate use (e.g., recreation visits, etc.) of the area.

The economic health and well-being of north-central Idaho is a topic of ongoing interest. Changes in national forest management, particularly declining levels of timber harvest in the late 1990s, are of concern to local communities because of resulting impacts to local economies.

### Program Emphasis

The Forest should provide sustainable levels of products, services, uses and benefits to local economic systems. Forest personnel should support local economic development efforts and communicate with local elected officials about accomplishments and expected changes in Forest employment levels and programs.

### **Program Objectives (PLAN COMPONENT)**

No program objectives are identified. Refer to desired conditions for program guidance.

### Performance Risks

Forest programs constantly evolve, with changes impacting local communities and economies. Unique factors that could influence the Forest's contribution to employment and labor income include:

- Changes in community infrastructure,
- Changes in technology, including changes in industry technology (e.g., automation), and
- Influences of a global marketplace.

## 2.4.9 Timber Availability

The strategy is that timber harvest will be considered where practical and economical for vegetation management on lands suitable for timber production, though other types of treatment may also be used. Timber harvest may be used on other lands suitable for harvest. Volumes removed will be produced by managing for desired conditions for species composition, size classes, disturbance scale and stand structure. (Additional information regarding the possible types of harvest activities can be found in Supporting Documentation [http://www.fs.fed.us/cnpz/forest/documents/sup\\_docs/index\\_other\\_clw.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/cnpz/forest/documents/sup_docs/index_other_clw.shtml).)

### Performance History

The Clearwater National Forest has annually sold an average of 16.4 million board feet from 6900 acres (1999 through 2003 Forest Plan monitoring reports). Timber sales were not planned for riparian conservation areas or inventoried roadless lands.

### Program Emphasis

Timber volume should be made available from lands suitable for timber production or from lands managed for other resource objectives using silvicultural prescriptions that are designed to achieve desired forest conditions. Timber harvest is a management tool that can be used to reduce fuels and fire risk in wildland-urban interface settings.

When resource objectives can be met, Forest managers should consider opportunities to use commercial timber sales to remove dead trees.

### **Program Objectives (PLAN COMPONENT)**

- 1. Following Plan approval, a timber sale program quantity (TSPQ) of 22.2 million board feet, or approximately 4.2 million cubic feet, of commercial timber may be offered for sale from the total suitable land base on an annual basis.**
- 2. Within 10 years of Plan approval, fire risk should be reduced on 1000 to 2000 acres in the wildland-urban interface.**

### Performance Risks

Economic viability of individual timber sales may vary due to lumber market fluctuations and logging costs, so that some sales may not be purchased when offered.

## **2.4.10 Wildland Fire, Fuels and Air Quality**

### Performance History

The current fire management strategy has made increasing use of fire – both prescribed fire and wildland fire use – to reduce fuel loads and restore landscape patterns. The highest priority lands for fuels reduction have been the wildland-urban interface areas and dry forest types. Several projects have been planned and completed on the Forest.

Wildfires have been managed with appropriate suppression strategies. Harvest is often followed with prescribed fire or other treatments that reduce slash loads to desired levels.

The Forest, in collaboration with the Montana-Idaho Airshed Group, has self-regulated activities to mitigate smoke impacts in Idaho and Montana.

### Program Emphasis

Forest managers should safely use fire and mechanical fuels treatments to manage vegetation to meet desired conditions. Fuel reduction resulting in reduced fire risk in the wildland-urban interface should be the highest priority. Other priorities include meeting elk habitat improvement objectives stemming from Senator Crapo's Elk Collaborative. Use of fire – both prescribed fire and wildland fire use – to introduce natural fire

processes and modify or maintain forest stand structure and composition should also be a high priority.

County and community wildland fire mitigation plans and Fire Regime Condition Class should be considered when prioritizing hazardous fuels reduction projects.

Forest personnel should coordinate smoke management through the Montana/Idaho Airshed Group; and, when smoke is expected to impact reservation lands, the Nez Perce Tribe.

Collaboration with federal, state and local partners should increase the fire management organization's efficiency.

### ***Program Objectives (PLAN COMPONENT)***

- 1. Following Plan approval, fire risk in the wildland-urban interface will be reduced through the mechanical treatment of at least 500 acres annually.**
- 2. Within 10 years of Plan approval, vegetation on 40,000 acres or more will be restored through the use of prescribed fire.**
- 3. Within 10 years of Plan approval, landscape patterns and processes will be maintained on at least 50,000 acres through wildland fire use.**

### ***Performance Risks***

Climatic conditions may not result in burning conditions within the prescribed parameters.

Fire activity locally, regionally or nationally may prevent implementation of burning plans.

Atmospheric conditions may reduce smoke dispersion and delay prescribed burning.

Agricultural burning is not coordinated through the Montana/Idaho Airshed Group, and may impact the agency's ability to implement management activities.

## **2.4.11 Livestock Management**

This strategy is designed to permit livestock grazing on a sustainable basis while ensuring the ecological health and diversity of forested and non-forested ecosystems.

### ***Performance History***

The Clearwater National Forest has managed livestock through the authorization and administration of grazing permits, structural rangeland improvements and management of rangeland vegetation resources across the Forest. The Forest has administered grazing permits on 15-17 active allotments since 2000, with an animal unit month average of 8493. Monitoring indicates that the majority of riparian areas were within forage utilization and stream bank disturbance standards over the past 5 years.

### Program Emphasis

Livestock grazing should occur on a sustainable basis, maintaining or restoring native and desired non-native vegetation, productive soils and water quality, and limiting the spread and establishment of invasive weeds. Impacts to recreation and aquatic and wildlife habitats should be minimal.

Forest personnel should complete long-term trend monitoring; plan, implement, and maintain structural and non-structural improvements; and prepare, update and adjust allotment management plans and annual operating instructions.

### **Program Objective (PLAN COMPONENT)**

No program objectives are identified. Guidance is integrated into plan components for other resource areas.

## **2.4.12 Minerals**

### Performance History

Mineral activity has been fairly stable and has averaged 15 active plans of operation over the past 5 years. There are more placer mineral operations than hard rock operations on the Forest. Levels of activity increase when the value of gold, silver and precious metals increases. Placer operations occur annually in the Palouse and North Fork of the Clearwater River drainages and in Lolo Creek.

### Program Emphasis

Process all plans of operations and exploration permits in a timely manner and maintain close coordination with local mining groups, applicable state and federal agencies and the Nez Perce Tribe. Meet the demand for minerals materials while meeting Forest Plan desired conditions and objectives for other resources.

### **Program Objective (PLAN COMPONENT)**

- 1. Following Plan approval, 15 plans of operation and exploration permits will be processed and administered annually.**

## **2.4.13 Lands**

### Performance History

Right-of-way acquisitions, land purchases, land exchanges, issuance of non-recreation special use permits and acquisition/management of scenic easements are principal land activities on the Forest.

### Program Emphasis

The Forest should consider land consolidation actions that will increase the protection of watersheds and improve the effectiveness of forest management. The Powell and Palouse Ranger Districts are high priority areas where consolidation would facilitate

meeting Forest Plan desired conditions for watershed, heritage and recreation resources. The Forest should consider disposing of lands that do not contribute to meeting Forest Plan desired conditions. Existing scenic easements should be managed and new easements should be acquired from willing sellers.

### ***Program Objectives (PLAN COMPONENT)***

- 1. Within 5 years of Plan approval, at least 1 land exchange is completed on a willing-participant basis in order to: 1) restore important aquatic and terrestrial habitats, 2) address community watershed management issues, 3) improve management of the Lolo National Historic Landmark and/or 4) enhance other recreation resources.**
- 2. Following Plan approval, 4 miles of national forest boundary will be maintained annually.**
- 3. Following Plan approval, 10 scenic easement inspections will be completed annually.**
- 4. Following Plan approval, 200 non-recreation special use permits will be administered (issued, re-issued or managed) annually.**

## **2.4.14 Utilities and Communications Sites**

### ***Performance History***

There are 14 communication sites on the Clearwater National Forest. Verizon has phone lines on the Forest. Clearwater Power, Bonneville Power Association and Clearwater Potlatch Timber Protective Association all have electric utility corridors on the Forest, mainly on the Palouse Ranger District. Avista Utilities has a natural gas pipeline and power line on the Palouse District. Over the past few years existing communication sites have been upgraded with new technology to improve administrative communication capabilities and public safety.

The July 3, 2003, Western Utility Group Priority Corridor Map does not identify any future needs for additional utility corridors on the Clearwater National Forest.

### ***Program Emphasis***

Existing utility and communication sites should be maintained and protected from disturbance events such as fire. Desired conditions for other resources should be considered when determining the locations of new utility corridors or communication sites.

### ***Program Objectives (PLAN COMPONENT)***

- 1. Following Plan approval, 100% of communication sites will be maintained according site management plans on an annual basis.**

## 2.4.15 Administrative Facilities

### Performance History

The 22 administrative facilities are currently being evaluated to identify those that are needed to accomplish the Forest's mission and facilitate implementation of the Forest Plan. Once the analysis is completed, an implementation plan will be developed and put into effect.

### Program Emphasis

Administrative site improvements should result in safe, adequate facilities to serve the public and Forest employees. Current facility master plans should be implemented to ensure the agency retains administrative buildings that are cost-effective.

### **Program Objective (PLAN COMPONENT)**

- 1. Within 10 years of Plan approval, health and safety improvements will be completed at 100% of administrative facilities.**

## 2.5 Tribal Treaty Rights and Trust Responsibilities

The strategy is to manage national forest system lands while recognizing the rights of Tribes and fulfilling legally-mandated trust responsibilities. This includes providing sustainable levels of fish, wildlife and non-timber forest products for traditional uses.

### Performance History

Over the years the Forest has gained a better understanding of tribal interests, treaty rights and the Forest's obligation to consult on a government-to-government basis. Line officers (the Forest Supervisor and rangers) routinely communicate with elected Nez Perce tribal leaders and staff regarding management projects and related issues. Forest resource specialists often coordinate with tribal counterparts. Together, in partnership, they accomplish many positive resource projects on the Forest. A Forest Service tribal liaison serves as a communications conduit with the Nez Perce Tribe and provides advice to Forest Service employees. The Tribe is supportive of many Forest projects.

While communication and coordination are occurring, improvement is needed. The Forest Service and Nez Perce Tribe do not always understand or accept each other's overall philosophies and processes. Tribal officials desire involvement earlier in the development of projects. The Forest and the Tribe have not agreed to a formal consultation process. Tribal concerns continue regarding several issues (i.e. tribal treaty rights, the availability of traditional plants and the protection of cultural resources).

Communication and coordination with the Coeur d'Alene Tribe is minimal. The Coeur d'Alene Tribe appears to focus the majority of its consultation efforts on management activities in the adjacent Idaho Panhandle National Forests.

### Program Emphasis

Forest personnel should coordinate and consult with the Nez Perce and Coeur d'Alene Tribes. Resources associated with tribal treaty rights should be protected. Partnership and contract opportunities should be actively pursued. Wild edibles/medicinals, decorative materials and other products should be available for tribal use consistent with treaty rights. Non-timber forest products should be available for tribal personal use to the general public. Law enforcement actions should prevent illegal commercial uses.

### **Program Objective (PLAN COMPONENT)**

- 1. Following Plan approval, government-to-government relations will be maintained and improved through an open discussion of issues at an annual meeting between the Forest Supervisor and leaders of the Nez Perce Tribe.**

### Performance Risks

Unique performance risks include:

Disagreements regarding the agency's consultation process,

Fluctuations in tribal budgets and limited resources may affect tribal participation in agency projects and partnerships, and

Illegal commercial uses of Forest products and resources may affect exercise of tribal treaty rights.

## 2.6 Suitable Land Uses

### **Suitable Uses (PLAN COMPONENT)**

National Forest System lands within this Plan area are “generally suitable” for a variety of multiple uses. **The actual suitability for a particular use will not be determined until site-specific analysis is completed and a project or activity is authorized.**

**Table 2.6 is a plan component.**

**Table 2.6 Suitable Land Use Summary**

Suitable Use Category	Acres	Percent of Forest
Total National Forest System Lands	1,827,800	100%
Generally Suitable for Timber Harvest ( <a href="#">Map 2.6.7</a> )	1,180,700	65%
Generally Suitable for Timber Production	324,700	18%
Generally Not Suitable for Timber Production	1,503,100	82%
Generally Suitable for Timber Harvest - Harvest is Appropriate Tool to Achieve Desired Conditions	712,500	39%
Generally Suitable for Motorized Travel on Designated Routes ( <a href="#">Map 2.6.5</a> )	491,800	27%
Generally Suitable for Multiple Recreation Access Opportunities - Mix of Motorized and Non-motorized Uses	532,300	29%
Generally Suitable for Non-motorized Uses	803,700	44%
Generally Suitable for Domestic Livestock Grazing ( <a href="#">Map 2.6.8</a> )	152,000	8%

### 2.6.1 Areas Recommended for Wilderness Designation

Lands recommended for wilderness designation are generally suitable for a variety of uses including integrated weed management (mechanical, biological and chemical).

Lands recommended for wilderness designation are generally suitable for a variety of uses except: (1) motorized and mechanized uses or travel (including such devices as hang gliders, carts or bicycles), except in emergencies or with special authorization and (2) timber harvest.

### 2.6.2 Riparian Conservation Areas

Riparian conservation areas are generally suitable for activities that improve, restore, or maintain aquatic and riparian ecosystems desired conditions. (See Watersheds and Aquatic Ecosystems guidelines.)

### 2.6.3 Water Impoundments and Diversions

New, permanent water impoundments and diversions are generally suitable outside of: (1) eligible or designated wild and scenic rivers, (2) municipal watersheds, (3) Idaho state protected waters, and (4) designated and recommended wilderness.

## 2.6.4 Road Management

Activities necessary to maintain and manage roads are generally suitable where roads currently exist, including inventoried roadless areas.

The construction of new, permanent roads is generally suitable outside of: (1) research natural areas, (2) historic trails, (3) recommended wilderness, (4) designated wilderness and (5) inventoried roadless areas<sup>3</sup>

The construction of temporary roads is generally suitable outside of research natural areas, national historic trails, recommended wilderness and designated wilderness.

## 2.6.5 Motorized and Non-Motorized Recreation Uses

### Map 2.6.5 – Motorized and Non-Motorized Recreation Uses

The Clearwater National Forest is generally suitable for a variety of motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities. These opportunities have been stratified into three suitability categories: (1) generally suitable for motorized uses, (2) generally suitable for multiple (motorized and non-motorized) uses, and (3) generally suitable for non-motorized uses. In accordance with this suitability scheme, motorized recreation opportunities are provided on approximately 56% of the Clearwater National Forest's land base. Specifically,

**Motorized uses are generally suitable on 27% of the Clearwater National Forest. In these areas the mode of travel is motorized, or non-motorized, with an emphasis on motorized travel. Non-motorized users can expect to encounter motorized traffic. There may be seasonal or yearlong restrictions<sup>4</sup> to motorized travel to meet resource needs, but the roads involved are expected to serve motorized travel at some point.**

**Multiple opportunities are generally suitable on 29% of the Clearwater National Forest. In these areas there should be similar opportunities for both motorized and non-motorized users to experience attractions like ridges, vistas, streams, etc. Motorized use is not desired on some routes to minimize the interaction between motorized and non-motorized traffic.**

**Non-motorized uses are generally suitable on 44% of the Clearwater National Forest. (This includes 259,000 acres of designated wilderness.) These areas should be available only to non-motorized uses, both summer and winter, without exception.**

---

<sup>3</sup> The Forest's proposed guidance regarding the construction of new, permanent roads in Inventoried Roadless Areas is consistent with testimony given by Idaho Governor Jim Risch regarding Idaho's petition to protect roadless areas. It is also believed to be consistent with the intent of an alternative petition being drafted by the Nez Perce Tribe.

<sup>4</sup> This includes both existing restrictions and those authorized in separate public National Environmental Policy Act planning processes following Land Management Plan approval.

## 2.6.6 National Historic Trails

National historic trails are generally suitable for a variety of uses except motorized travel.

## 2.6.7 Timber

Additional information regarding timber suitability can be found in Supporting Documentation ([http://www.fs.fed.us/cnpz/forest/documents/sup\\_docs/index\\_timber\\_clw.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/cnpz/forest/documents/sup_docs/index_timber_clw.shtml)).

### Map 2.6.7 - Timber Suitability

**Table 2.6.7 Suitability of Areas for Timber**

Suitable Use Category	Acres	Acres	Acres
Lands Generally Not Suitable for Timber Harvest (62.1) <sup>5</sup>	647,100		
Lands Generally Suitable for Timber Harvest (62.2)	1,180,700		
Timber Production Compatible with Desired Conditions & Objectives (62.21)		324,700	
Timber Production Incompatible with Desired Conditions & Objectives (62.22)		856,000	
Total National Forest Lands	1,827,800		
Lands Not Suitable for Timber Production (62.3)			1,503,100

**Laws and policies require the Forest Service to display more details pertaining to timber suitability than suitability for other resources.**

**The timber suitability map displays areas that are considered generally suitable for timber harvest or timber production on the Forest (Map 2.6.7). These are broad, forest-scale estimates that should be refined during project analyses.**

**Lands generally not suitable for timber harvest are those where harvest is prohibited by law or those that have been administratively withdrawn from harvest; those lands where soil or watershed conditions will be irreversibly damaged by timber harvest; those that cannot be adequately restocked within 5 years after harvest; or those lands that cannot support trees. Lands not suitable for harvest on the Clearwater National Forest include wilderness, research natural areas, wild river corridors, active landslides, non-forest lands and a few landtypes that have reforestation limitations.**

**Lands generally suitable for timber harvest for multiple-use objectives include landslide prone areas, riparian conservation areas, scenic and recreation river corridors, most inventoried roadless lands, municipal watersheds and lands adjacent to Mary Minerva McCroskey State Park.**

**Lands not in one of the previous two categories are generally suitable for timber production.**

**The Forest has about 1,180,800 acres that are considered generally suitable for timber harvest. That represents about 65% of the Clearwater National Forest**

---

<sup>5</sup> The number is a reference to a section in Forest Service Handbook 1909.12, Land Management Planning.

**(1,827,800 acres, Table 2.6). The site specific details of timber suitability should be reviewed at a site-specific scale. This will provide a more accurate determination that should be more useful for project planning.**

**The actual suitability for a particular use will not be determined until site-specific analysis is completed and a project or activity is authorized.**

## **2.6.8 Livestock Management**

### **Map 2.6.8 - Domestic Livestock Grazing Suitability**

**Livestock grazing is generally suitable outside of: (1) municipal watersheds, (2) administrative sites, (3) developed recreation sites and (4) research natural areas.**

**Recreational livestock grazing and permitted grazing associated with outfitter and guide use is generally suitable across most of the Forest. Grazing within the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness is generally suitable in accordance with existing wilderness legislation and current wilderness management plans.**

## **2.6.9 Minerals**

**Location of locatable minerals claims is generally suitable throughout the Forest outside of: (1) withdrawn areas where valid existing minerals rights do not exist, (2) designated wild and scenic rivers, (3) developed recreation sites, and (4) designated wilderness.**

## **2.6.10 Utility Corridors**

**The location of utility lines, such as electric power lines and telephone lines, is generally suitable on Clearwater National Forest lands outside of: (1) research natural areas, (2) designated wilderness, (3) recommended wilderness, (4) inventoried roadless areas, and (5) developed recreation sites.**

## 2.7 Geographic Areas

### Map 2.7 - Clearwater National Forest Geographic Areas

Prior to this section, guidance described in this Proposed Land Management Plan applied to the entire Forest. This section describes guidance at a smaller “geographic-area” scale. Geographic areas are land units that were defined using a combination of physical land features and social identification with an area. Each write-up regarding a geographic area lists unique features, describes management emphases and displays suitable uses at a smaller scale.

Unique features are distinctive cultural, ecological or designated areas. Specific management emphasis for a unique feature may be described if needed. Examples include research natural areas and the Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark. **It should be noted that unique features and management emphases described for geographic areas are not plan components.**

A suitable uses table and maps are displayed for each geographic area. These tables and maps display suitable uses at a finer spatial scale than is shown in the forest-wide summary. Only primary land uses are displayed.

**Table 2.7 Geographic Areas and Acreages**

Geographic Areas	National Forest Acres	Non-National Forest Acres
Cedars-Deception	46,100	300
Coolwater	36,100 <sup>6</sup>	50
Elk Creek	36,900	177,000
Great Burn	154,600	0
Lolo Creek	89,500	600
Lolo Pass	72,500	39,900
Lowell	81,600	200
Mallard-Meadow	158,700	200
Middle Lochsa	167,800	0
Moose-Cayuse	132,000	0
Palouse River	56,500	124,400
Potlatch River	52,400	111,440
Pot Mountain	51,100	0
Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness	262,500	0
Upper Lochsa	103,800	0
Weitas	177,800	0
West North Fork	147,900	12

<sup>6</sup> These geographic areas are shared by the Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests. Acres in this table represent only those acres on the Clearwater National Forest.

### 2.7.1 Cedars-Deception Geographic Area [\(Map 2.7.1\)](#)

<b>Acres</b> 46,100	<b>North Fork Ranger District</b>	<b>Nearest Communities</b> Pierce, Orofino and Superior (Montana)
<b>Location</b> National forest lands on both sides of the North Fork Clearwater River from Fix Creek to, and including, Lake Creek. Main streams are the North fork Clearwater River; Hidden and Lake Creeks; and the headwaters of Independence, Osier and China Creeks.		

**Landmarks and Unique Features**

Black Canyon

Deception Saddle

Moose Mountain

North Fork Clearwater eligible Wild and Scenic River

Cedars Campground

Moose Cit6 6k 573.6595m(Mo.1TT2 1 Tf0 Tc 0a)Tj9 0 0 9 131Mo.1TT2

**2.7.2 Coolwater Geographic Area** ([Map 2.7.2](#))

<b>Acres</b> 36,100	<b>Lochsa Ranger District</b>	<b>Nearest Communities</b> Lowell, Syringa and Kooskia
<b>Location</b> National forest lands outside the wilderness north of the Selway River from Packer Creek and south of the Lochsa River from Old Man Creek.		
<b>Landmarks and Unique Features</b> Coastal disjunct vegetation Selway and Lochsa Wild and Scenic Rivers		
		Coolwater Lookout

**General Description**

The forest area is characterized by moist species such as western redcedar and grand fir, western white pine, Douglas-fir and lodgepole. Landscape patterns reflect infrequent, stand-replacing disturbances - primarily fire. Scenic landscapes, rafting, native fish habitat and other wild and scenic river values are common in the Selway and Lochsa River corridors. The roads and trails provide access to the western edge of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness.

**Management Emphasis**

Fire hazards adjacent to private lands and Clearwater National Forest developed sites should be managed to lessen fire risks.

Fire use and prescribed fire should be the preferred management methods for achieving vegetation desired conditions. Timber harvest should be considered where practical and economical for achieving vegetation desired conditions.

**Table 2.7.2 Generally Suitable Uses: Coolwater Geographic Area**

Suitable Use Category	Acres Generally Suitable	Percent of Geographic Area
Timber Harvest ( <a href="#">Map 2.7.2a</a> )	25,100	69%
Timber Production	100	0%
Timber Harvest for Multiple Resource Objectives (Harvest is Appropriate Tool to Achieve Desired Conditions)	25,000	69%
Domestic Livestock Grazing	0	0%
Motorized Travel on Designated Routes	0	0%
Multiple Recreation Access Opportunities (Mix of Motorized and Non-Motorized Uses)	0	0%
Non-motorized Uses ( <a href="#">Map 2.7.2b</a> )	36,100	100%

The actual suitability for a particular use will not be determined until site-specific analysis is completed and a project or activity is authorized.

### 2.7.3 Elk Creek Geographic Area ([Map 2.7.3](#))

<b>Acres</b> 36,900	<b>Palouse Ranger District</b>	<b>Nearest Communities</b> Elk River, Potlatch, Moscow and Orofino
<b>Location</b> National forest lands in the Elk Creek watershed and isolated parcels west of Dworshak Reservoir		
<b>Landmarks and Unique Features</b>		
Bull Run Research Natural Area		Elk Creek Falls Recreation Area
Elk River municipal watershed		Giant Redcedar
Morris Creek Old Growth Cedar Grove		

#### **General Description**

National forest lands are intermingled with state of Idaho, Potlatch Corporation and privately-owned lands. Mixed conifer forests and remnant stands of old western redcedar characterize the area. This area is a part of the “white pine country” that supported vast stands of large white pine prior to the introduction of white pine blister rust and extensive harvest. Past forest management activities include timber harvest, mining and roads.

#### **Management Emphasis**

The Elk Creek municipal watershed should be managed to ensure a continuous supply of clean water for the community of Elk River.

Domestic livestock grazing should not be evident in the Elk Creek municipal watershed.

Timber harvest should be considered where practical and economical for achieving vegetation desired conditions.

**Table 2.7.3 Generally Suitable Uses: Elk Creek Geographic Area**

Suitable Use Category	Acres Generally Suitable	Percent of Geographic Area
Timber Harvest ( <a href="#">Map 2.7.3a</a> )	34,500	93%
Timber Production	10,500	28%
Timber Harvest for Multiple Resources Objectives (Harvest is Appropriate Tool to Achieve Desired Conditions)	24,000	65%
Domestic Livestock Grazing ( <a href="#">Map 2.7.3b</a> )	30,900	84%
Motorized Travel on Designated Routes	0	0%
Multiple Recreation Access Opportunities ( <a href="#">Map 2.7.3c</a> ) (Mix of Motorized and Non-Motorized Uses)	34,900	95%
Generally Suitable for Non-motorized Uses	2,000	6%

The actual suitability for a particular use will not be determined until site-specific analysis is completed and a project or activity is authorized.

## 2.7.4 Great Burn Geographic Area ([Map 2.7.4](#))

<b>Acres</b> 154,600	<b>North Fork and Powell Ranger Districts</b>	<b>Nearest Communities</b> Pierce and Superior (Montana)
-------------------------	---	---

### Location

National forest lands along the Bitterroot Divide southeast of Hoodoo Pass with the Idaho-Montana state line as eastern boundary and the watershed divide between Kelly, Moose and Cayuse Creeks as western and southern boundary. Main streams are Kelly, Cayuse, Little Moose an

### 2.7.5 Lolo Creek Geographic Area ([Map 2.7.5](#))

<b>Acres</b> 89,500	<b>Lochsa Ranger District</b>	<b>Nearest Communities</b> Kooskia, Kamiah, Weippe and Pierce
<b>Location</b> National forest lands within the Lolo Creek watershed. Main streams include Orofino, Lolo, and Yakus Creeks.		

#### Landmarks and Unique Features

Austin Ridge Lookout

Yoosa Creek tribal fish production facilityesef296.7599829 /P <</MCID 8 BDC BT2K 221 Tm96.7599829 /Pj9 Mussel6 588.66031

## 2.7.6 Lolo Pass Geographic Area ([Map 2.7.6](#))

<b>Acres</b> 72,500	<b>Powell Ranger District</b>	<b>Nearest Communities</b> Powell and Missoula (Montana)
<p><b>Location</b> National forest lands south of the Idaho-Montana state line to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. Main streams include Crooked Fork and Brushy Fork Creeks.</p> <p><b>Landmarks and Unique Features</b> “Checkerboard” land ownership Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark</p>		

**2.7.7 Lowell Geographic Area** ([Map 2.7.7](#))

<b>Acres</b> 81,600	<b>Lochsa Ranger District</b>	<b>Nearest Communities</b> Lowell, Kooskia and Syringa
<b>Location</b> National forest lands north and west of the Lochsa River and the Middle Fork Clearwater River. Major tributaries are Pete King, Canyon, Deadman and Bimerick Creeks.		
<b>Landmarks and Unique Features</b>		
Japanese Internment Camp		Sebring Grave Site
Lochsa Research Natural Area		Coastal Disjunct Vegetation
Syringa and Lowell town sites		Lochsa and Middle Fork Clearwater Wild and Scenic River Corridor

**General Description**

Ponderosa pine is common on southerly aspects. It is usually mixed with Douglas-fir and grand fir. Coastal disjunct understories are found at low elevations. North aspects, upper elevations and streamside draws are forested with cedar, grand fir and Douglas-fir. The area has Pacific maritime influence supporting a mosaic of forested moist conifer species.

**Management Emphasis**

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

Off-site ponderosa pine (grown elsewhere and planted in the 1930s) in Bimerick Creek should be converted to site-adapted species and genetic stock.

Timber harvest should be considered where practical and economical for achieving vegetation desired conditions.

**Table 2.7.7 Generally Suitable Uses: Lowell Geographic Area**

Suitable Use Category	Acres Generally Suitable	Percent of Geographic Area
Timber Harvest ( <a href="#">Map 2.7.7a</a> )	66,600	81%
Timber Production	33,300	41%
Timber Harvest for Multiple Resource Objectives (Harvest is Appropriate Tool to Achieve Desired Conditions)	33,300	41%
Domestic Livestock Grazing ( <a href="#">Map 2.7.7b</a> )	5,500	7%
Motorized Travel on Designated Routes ( <a href="#">Map 2.7.7c</a> )	64,700	79%
Multiple Recreation Access Opportunities (Mix of Motorized and Non-Motorized Uses)	16,900	21%
Suitable for Non-motorized Uses	0	0%

The actual suitability for a particular use will not be determined until site-specific analysis is completed and a project or activity is authorized.

### 2.7.8 Mallard-Meadow Geographic Area ([Map 2.7.8](#))

<b>Acres</b> 158,700	<b>North Fork Ranger District</b>	<b>Nearest Communities</b> Pierce and Superior (Montana)
<b>Location</b> National forest lands in the Mallard-Larkins roadless area. Main streams are the upper North Fork Clearwater River; Collins, Skull and Meadow Creeks; and the headwaters of Isabella and Quartz Creeks.		
<b>Landmarks and Unique Features</b> Black Mountain Lookout Mallard-Larkins Pioneer Area		Coastal disjunct vegetation Mallard Peak National Historic Site North Fork Clearwater eligible Wild and Scenic River

#### **General Description**

Much of the area is high elevation, roadless land. Numerous alpine lakes offer scenic diversity and fishing opportunities. The vegetation reflects natural processes associated with forest growth, fire, insects and diseases. Forests are made up of species such as western white pine, Douglas-fir, western larch, grand fir, western redcedar, subalpine fir, Engelmann spruce, lodgepole pine and mountain hemlock.

#### **Management Emphasis**

Trails accessing the recommended wilderness and in the upper North Fork of the Clearwater area should provide non-motorized recreation opportunities.

Motorized access should be provided on some roads leading to the recommended wilderness and along the southern and western portions of the geographic area, including the Elizabeth Lakes and Pot Mountain Ridge areas.

Fire use and prescribed fire should be the preferred management methods for achieving vegetation desired conditions. Timber harvest should be considered where practical and economical for achieving vegetation desired conditions.

**Table 2.7.8 Generally Suitable Uses: Mallard-Meadow Geographic Area**

Suitable Use Category	Acres Generally Suitable	Percent of Geographic Area
Timber Harvest ( <a href="#">Map 2.7.8a</a> )	102,000	64%
Timber Production	0	0%
Timber Harvest for Multiple Resource Objectives (Harvest is Appropriate Tool to Achieve Desired Conditions)	62,100	39%
Domestic Livestock Grazing	0	0%
Motorized Travel on Designated Routes ( <a href="#">Map 2.7.8b</a> )	32,300	20%
Multiple Recreation Access Opportunities (Mix of Motorized and Non-Motorized Uses)	0	0%
Non-motorized Uses	126,400	80%

The actual suitability for a particular use will not be determined until site-specific analysis is completed and a project or activity is authorized.

### 2.7.9 Middle Lochsa Geographic Area ([Map 2.7.9](#))

<b>Acres</b> 167,800	<b>Lochsa and Powell Ranger Districts</b>	<b>Nearest Communities</b> Lowell, Syringa, Powell and Kooskia
<b>Location</b> 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 streams include Fish, Weir, and Post Office Creeks.		
<b>Landmarks and Unique Features</b> Dutch Research Natural Area Lochsa Historical Ranger Station Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark		Bald Mountain Research Natural Area Lochsa Wild and Scenic River Fish Creek and Hungery Creek eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers

#### **General Description**

Steep breakland slopes, adjacent to rivers and their tributaries, are covered with a mosaic of Douglas-fir, grand fir, cedar, ponderosa pine and other conifers mixed with shrub fields. This pattern resulted from early 20th century burns. The Lochsa River offers a high quality scenic setting, camping, fishing and whitewater river recreation.

#### **Management Emphasis**

A variety of recreation opportunities should be provided (e.g. whitewater recreation on the Lochsa River, hiking and hunting in a scenic roadless area, and visiting the historic Nez Perce and Lewis and Clark Trails along the Lolo Motorway).

Fire use and prescribed fire should be the preferred management methods to achieve vegetation desired conditions on most lands. Timber harvest should be considered where practical and economical for achieving vegetation desired conditions.

**Table 2.7.9 Generally Suitable Uses: Middle Lochsa Geographic Area**

Suitable Use Category	Acres Generally Suitable	Percent of Geographic Area
Timber Harvest ( <a href="#">Map 2.7.9a</a> )	122,400	73%
Timber Production	4,000	2%
Timber Harvest for Multiple Resource Objectives (Harvest is Appropriate Tool to Achieve Desired Conditions)	118,400	71%
Domestic Livestock Grazing	0	0%
Motorized Travel on Designated Routes	0	0%
Multiple Recreation Access Opportunities ( <a href="#">Map 2.7.9b</a> ) (Mix of Motorized and Non-Motorized Uses)	93,100	55%
Non-motorized Uses	74,700	45%

The actual suitability

### 2.7.10 Moose-Cayuse Geographic Area ([Map 2.7.10](#))

<b>Acres</b> 132,000	<b>North Fork and Powell Ranger District</b>	<b>Nearest Communities</b> Pierce and Superior (Montana)
<b>Location</b> National forest lands in the Kelly Creek drainage between the North Fork Clearwater River, Moose Creek and Cayuse Creek upstream from Gorman Creek. Main streams are Kelly, Cayuse, Gravey, and Gorman Creeks and the headwaters of Clayton Creek.		
<b>Landmarks and Unique Features</b>		
Black Canyon		Kelly Creek blue ribbon fishery
Shoecraft/Gorman Grave		Cayuse airstrip
Scurvy Mountain Lookout		Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark
Moose Buttes and Moose Mountains		Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail
Kelly Creek & Cayuse Creek eligible Wild & Scenic Rivers		Nez Perce National Historic Trail

#### **General Description**

Moist, mixed-conifer forests characterize the area's vegetation. Subalpine forests reflect gradual reforestation following early 20th century fires and frequent smaller fires in the intervening years. South-facing, steep slopes are dominated by shrubs with scattered conifer trees.

#### **Management Emphasis**

Non-motorized recreation opportunities should be provided in the northern (Moose Mountain) and southern parts of the geographic area. Areas in the central part of the geographic area should provide separate motorized and non-motorized opportunities that complement the adjacent geographic areas.

Fire use and prescribed fire should be the preferred management methods for achieving vegetation desired conditions. Timber harvest should be considered where practical and economical for achieving vegetation desired conditions.

**Table 2.7.10 Generally Suitable Uses: Moose-Cayuse Geographic Area**

Suitable Use Category	Acres Generally Suitable	Percent of Geographic Area
Timber Harvest ( <a href="#">Map 2.7.10a</a> )	89,000	67%
Timber Production	0	0%
Timber Harvest for Multiple Resource Objectives (Harvest is Appropriate Tool to Achieve Desired Conditions)	89,000	67%
Domestic Livestock Grazing	0	0%
Motorized Travel on Designated Routes ( <a href="#">Map 2.7.10b</a> )	13,100	10%
Multiple Recreation Access Opportunities (Mix of Motorized and Non-Motorized Uses)	53,700	41%
Non-motorized Uses	65,200	49%

The actual suitability for a particular use will not be determined until site-specific analysis is completed and a project or activity is authorized.

### 2.7.11 Palouse River Geographic Area ([Map 2.7.11](#))

<b>Acres</b> 56,500	<b>Palouse Ranger District</b>	<b>Nearest Communities</b> Potlatch, Harvard, Moscow and Lewiston
<b>Location</b> National forest lands in the Palouse River watershed		
<b>Landmarks and Unique Features</b> White Pine Scenic Drive, State Highway 6 White Pine National Recreation Trail		Sampson Trail Mary Minerva McCroskey Memorial State Park (adjacent to Forest Service lands)

#### **General Description**

Forest vegetation appears as a mosaic of different ages and tree sizes as a result of decades of harvest. Forests are a diverse mix of western redcedar, grand fir, Douglas-fir, western white pine and other species. The Palouse prairie-forest interface is a unique characteristic of this area. National Forest lands are intermingled with state of Idaho, Potlatch Corporation and privately-owned lands.

#### **Management Emphasis**

Soil conditions should be improved to increase site productivity, water infiltration and nutrient availability where logging has compacted and displaced the ash cap.

Western white pine should be reestablished on moist forest sites.

Timber harvest should be considered where practical and economical for achieving vegetation desired conditions.

**Table 2.7.11 Generally Suitable Uses: Palouse River Geographic Area**

Suitable Use Category	Acres Generally Suitable	Percent of Geographic Area
Timber Harvest ( <a href="#">Map 2.7.11a</a> )	54,400	96%
Timber Production	44,600	79%
Timber Harvest for Multiple Resource Objectives (Harvest is Appropriate Tool to Achieve Desired Conditions)	9,800	17%
Domestic Livestock Grazing ( <a href="#">Map 2.7.11b</a> )	29,700	53%
Motorized Travel on Designated Routes	0	0%
Multiple Recreation Access Opportunities (Mix of Motorized and Non-Motorized Uses)	56,500	100%
Non-motorized Uses	0	0%

The actual suitability for a particular use will not be determined until site-specific analysis is completed and a project or activity is authorized.

### 2.7.12 Potlatch River Geographic Area ([Map 2.7.12](#))

<b>Acres</b> 52,400	<b>Palouse Ranger District</b>	<b>Nearest Communities</b> Potlatch, Deary, Bovill, Clarkia, Moscow and Lewiston
<b>Location</b> National forest lands in the Potlatch River watershed		
<b>Landmarks and Unique Features</b> Basalt geology Camas Meadows		
Potlatch Canyon		

#### **General Description**

Forest vegetation appears as a mosaic of different ages and tree sizes as a result of decades of harvest. Forests are a diverse mix of western redcedar, grand fir, Douglas-fir, western white pine and other species. National forest lands are intermingled with state of Idaho, Potlatch Corporation and privately-owned lands. Past forest management activities include extensive timber harvest, mining and roads.

#### **Management Emphasis**

Soil conditions should be improved to increase site productivity, water infiltration and nutrient availability where logging has compacted and displaced the ash cap.

Western white pine should be reestablished on moist forest sites.

Timber harvest should be considered where practical and economical for achieving vegetation desired conditions.

**Table 2.7.12 Generally Suitable Uses: Potlatch River Geographic Area**

Suitable Use Category	Acres Generally Suitable	Percent of Geographic Area
Timber Harvest ( <a href="#">Map 2.7.12a</a> )	49,900	95%
Timber Production	39,800	76%
Timber Harvest for Multiple Resource Objectives (Harvest is Appropriate Tool to Achieve Desired Conditions)	10,000	19%
Domestic Livestock Grazing ( <a href="#">Map 2.7.12b</a> )	50,900	97%
Motorized Travel on Designated Routes	0	0%
Multiple Recreation Access Opportunities (Mix of Motorized and Non-Motorized Uses)	52,400	100%
Non-motorized Uses	0	0%

The actual suitability for a particular use will not be determined until site-specific analysis is completed and a project or activity is authorized.

### 2.7.13 Pot Mountain Geographic Area ([Map 2.7.13](#))

<b>Acres</b> 51,100	<b>North Fork Ranger District</b>	<b>Nearest Communities</b> Pierce and Superior (Montana)
<b>Location</b> National forest lands east of the North Fork Clearwater River from Moscow Bar to Cold Springs Creek. Main streams are Fisher, Larson, Cave and Squaw Creeks.		
<b>Landmarks and Unique Features</b>		
Chateau Falls Research Natural Area		Chateau Rock
Irish Railroad Rapids		Larson Point
Moscow Bar		Pot Mountain
North Fork Clearwater eligible Wild and Scenic River		Mush Saddle

#### **General Description**

The forested vegetation reflects natural processes associated with fire, insects and diseases. Douglas-fir, grand fir and western redcedar, with smaller amounts of western larch and western white pine, have dominated the Forest since early 20th century fires. Western redcedar and grand fir are beginning to replace the Douglas-fir. Large brushfields also remain from earlier fires.

The area offers semi-primitive and recreational experiences for motorized and non-motorized users. Several rocky prominences including Pot Mountain and Chateau Rock are scattered across the area.

#### **Management Emphasis**

Motorized and non-motorized recreation uses should be provided on separate routes that offer similar access to attractions (e.g. scenic viewpoints, meadows, etc.).

Fire use and prescribed fire should be the preferred methods for achieving vegetation desired conditions. Timber harvest should be considered where practical and economical for achieving vegetation desired conditions.

**Table 2.7.13 Generally Suitable Uses for the Pot Mountain Geographic Area**

Suitable Use Category	Acres Generally Suitable	Percent of Geographic Area
Timber Harvest ( <a href="#">Map 2.7.13a</a> )	36,500	70%
Timber Production	0	0%
Timber Harvest for Multiple Resource Objectives (Harvest is Appropriate Tool to Achieve Desired Conditions)	35,600	70%
Domestic Livestock Grazing	0	0%
Motorized Travel on Designated Routes	0	0%
Multiple Recreation Access Opportunities (Mix of Motorized and Non-Motorized Uses)	51,100	100%
Non-motorized Uses	0	0%

The actual suitability for a particular use will not be determined until site-specific analysis is completed and a project or activity is authorized.

### 2.7.14 Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Geographic Area ([Map 2.7.14](#))

<b>Acres</b> 262,500	<b>Powell and Lochsa Ranger Districts</b>	<b>Nearest Communities</b> Lowell, Kooskia and Hamilton (Montana)
<b>Location</b> National forest lands within wilderness boundary in the Lochsa and Selway subbasins.		
<b>Landmarks and Unique Features</b> Fish Lake Bear Creek, Moose Creek and Three Links eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers		

#### **General Description**

Forests range from dry ponderosa pine mixed with grasslands to moist, ancient cedar groves. Grand fir, subalpine fir, lodgepole pine and Douglas-fir forests are most common, with whitebark pine and subalpine larch at the highest elevations.

#### **Management Emphasis**

The management emphasis should be the protection and management of wilderness resources according to current wilderness management plans.

**Table 2.7.14 Generally Suitable Uses: Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness**

<b>Suitable Use Category</b>	<b>Acres Generally Suitable</b>	<b>Percent of Geographic Area</b>
Timber Harvest	0	0%
Timber Production	0	0%
Timber Harvest for Multiple Resource Objectives (Harvest is Appropriate Tool to Achieve Desired Conditions)	0	0%
Domestic Livestock Grazing	0	0%
Motorized Travel on Designated Routes	0	0%
Multiple Recreation Access Opportunities (Mix of Motorized and Non-Motorized Uses)	0	0%
Non-motorized Uses	262,500	100%

The actual suitability for a particular use will not be determined until site-specific analysis is completed and a project or activity is authorized.

### 2.7.15 Upper Lochsa Geographic Area ([Map 2.7.15](#))

<b>Acres</b> 103,800	<b>Powell Ranger District</b>	<b>Nearest Communities</b> Lowell and Powell
<b>Location</b> National forest lands south of the Lochsa River to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness boundary. North of the Lochsa River, from Doe to Wendover Creek. Main streams include Badger, Colt, Warm Springs and Swamp Creeks.		
<b>Landmarks and Unique Features</b>		
Sneakfoot Meadows Research Natural Area	Lochsa Wild and Scenic River	
Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail	Elk Summit	
Colt Killed Camp	Sneakfoot-Elk Summit and Storm Creek	
Colt Killed Creek eligible Wild and Scenic River	recommended additions to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness	

#### **General Description**

The forested vegetation reflects natural processes associated with fire, insects and diseases south of the Lochsa River. Timber harvest has influenced vegetation north of the river. Lower elevations have western redcedar forests, while uplands are mixes of Douglas-fir, grand fir, subalpine fir, lodgepole pine, and other species. Highest elevations support whitebark pine. The area is mostly semi-primitive providing both motorized and non-motorized recreational opportunities. The Lochsa River offers a high quality scenic setting, camping, river rafting and fishing.

#### **Management Emphasis**

Timber harvest, wildland fire use and prescribed fire can be used to achieve vegetation desired conditions. Timber harvest should be considered where practical and economical for achieving vegetation desired conditions.

**Table 2.7.15 Generally Suitable Uses: Upper Lochsa Geographic Area**

Suitable Use Category	Acres Generally Suitable	Percent of Geographic Area
Timber Harvest ( <a href="#">Map 2.7.15a</a> )	77,600	75%
Timber Production	8,700	8%
Timber Harvest for Multiple Resource Objectives (Harvest is Appropriate Tool to Achieve Desired Conditions)	57,700	56%
Domestic Livestock Grazing	0	0%
Motorized Travel on Designated Routes ( <a href="#">Map 2.6.15b</a> )	25,500	25%
Multiple Recreation Access Opportunities (Mix of Motorized and Non-Motorized Uses)	0	0%
Non-motorized Uses	78,300	75%

The actual suitability for a particular use will not be determined until site-specific analysis is completed and a project or activity is authorized.

### 2.7.16 Weitas Geographic Area ([Map 2.7.16](#))

<b>Acres</b> 177,800	<b>North Fork Ranger District</b>	<b>Nearest Communities</b> Pierce and Kamiah
<b>Location</b> National forest lands along the Bitterroot Mountain Divide southeast of Hoodoo Pass. The Idaho-Montana state line is the eastern boundary and the watershed divide between Kelly Creek and Moose and Cayuse creeks as western and southern boundary. Main streams are Weitas and Fourth of July Creeks.		
<b>Landmarks and Unique Features</b>		
Bald Mountain Research Natural Area		Liz Creek Cabin
Cook Mountain		Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark
Weitas Butte Lookout		Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail
North Fork Clearwater eligible Wild and Scenic River		Nez Perce National Historic Trail

#### **General Description**

The forested vegetation reflects natural processes associated with fire, insects and diseases. Forests are mostly younger mature stands of Douglas-fir, grand fir, western larch and western redcedar. Higher elevation stands are subalpine fire, Engelmann spruce and lodgepole pine. The area is mostly semi-primitive, providing both motorized and non-motorized recreational opportunities. The North Fork Clearwater River on the northwestern boundary offers a high quality scenic setting, camping, fishing and whitewater recreation. Weitas and Fourth of July Creek provide excellent water quality and trout habitat.

#### **Management Emphasis**

Motorized and non-motorized recreation uses should be provided on separate routes to areas that offer similar access to attractions (e.g. scenic viewpoints, meadows, etc.).

Timber harvest, wildland fire use and prescribed fire can be used to achieve vegetation desired conditions. Timber harvest should be considered where practical and economical for achieving vegetation desired conditions.

**Table 2.7.16 Generally Suitable Uses: Weitas Geographic Area**

Suitable Use Category	Acres Generally Suitable	Percent of Geographic Area
Timber Harvest ( <a href="#">Map 2.7.16a</a> ) Timber Production	139,800	79%

**2.7.17 West North Fork Geographic Area** ([Map 2.7.17](#))

<b>Acres</b> 147,900	<b>North Fork Ranger District</b>	<b>Nearest Communities</b> Pierce and Orofino				
<b>Location</b> National forest lands bordered 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 streams are Orogrande, French, Washington, Siwash, Sneak, Cold Springs, Cool and Sourdough Creeks.						
<b>Landmarks &amp; Unique Features</b> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Aquarius Research Natural Area</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Bungalow Ranger District historic site</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Coastal disjunct vegetation</td> <td>Little North Fork and North Fork Clearwater eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers</td> </tr> </table>			Aquarius Research Natural Area	Bungalow Ranger District historic site	Coastal disjunct vegetation	Little North Fork and North Fork Clearwater eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers
Aquarius Research Natural Area	Bungalow Ranger District historic site					
Coastal disjunct vegetation	Little North Fork and North Fork Clearwater eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers					

**General Description**

Forests are made up of Douglas-fir, western redcedar, grand fir, western larch, western white pine, mountain hemlock and Engelmann spruce. Both historic and current timber harvest activities are evident throughout the area. This low elevation, moist forest supports diverse vegetation including plant communities generally found only on the Pacific coast. This area is a part of the “white pine country” that supported vast stands of large white pine prior to the introduction of white pine blister rust and extensive harvest. Much of the area is highly managed except for the research natural areas and roadless areas to the north.

**Management Emphasis**

Motorized routes should include a mix of roads and trails that provide opportunities for off-highway vehicles and single-track vehicles (motorcycles). Very few non-motorized routes should be provided.

Timber harvest, wildland fire use, and prescribed fire can be used for achieving vegetation desired conditions. Timber harvest should be considered where practical and economical for achieving vegetation desired conditions.

**Table 2.7.17 Generally Suitable Uses: West North Fork Geographic Area**

Suitable Use Category	Acres Generally Suitable	Percent of Geographic Area
Timber Harvest ( <a href="#">Map 2.7.17a</a> )	112,000	76%
Timber Production	59,000	40%
Timber Harvest for Multiple Resource Objectives (Harvest is Appropriate Tool to Achieve Desired Conditions)	52,900	36%
Domestic Livestock Grazing	0	0%
Motorized Travel on Designated Routes	147,800	100%
Multiple Recreation Access Opportunities (Mix of Motorized and Non-Motorized Uses)	0	0%
Non-motorized Uses	100	0%

The actual suitability for a particular use will not be determined until site-specific analysis is completed and a project or activity is authorized.

# Clearwater and Nez Perce Forest Plan Revision

- ▶ [Home](#)
- ▶ [Background](#)
- ▶ [Documents](#)
- ▶ [Maps](#)
- ▶ [Timeline and Process](#)
- ▶ [Revision Team](#)
- ▶ [Get Involved](#)
- ▶ [Contact Us](#)
- ▶ [Links](#)
- ▶ [Newsroom](#)

- ▶ [Clearwater Forest](#)
- ▶ [Nez Perce Forest](#)
- ▶ [Region 1](#)

## Clearwater and Nez Perce Forest Plan Revision Team

Route 2 Box 191  
Kamiah, ID 83536

(208) 935-4286



[top](#)

## National Forest Land Management Plans - Supporting Documentation

These postings are in draft form and will likely evolve between now and the time draft forest plans are released later this year. Please share any feedback with your local ranger or staff officer or any member of the forest plan revision team.

### Other Supporting Documents

- [Analysis of the Management Situation](#) Feb 2004 (809 kb pdf)
- [Analysis of the Management Situation- Corrections and Additions](#) March 2004 (124 kb pdf)
- [Forest Plan Issues](#) Jan 2007
- [Proposed and Possible Actions](#) Jan 2007 (90 kb pdf)

[Disclaimers](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Print This Page](#)

02 1533