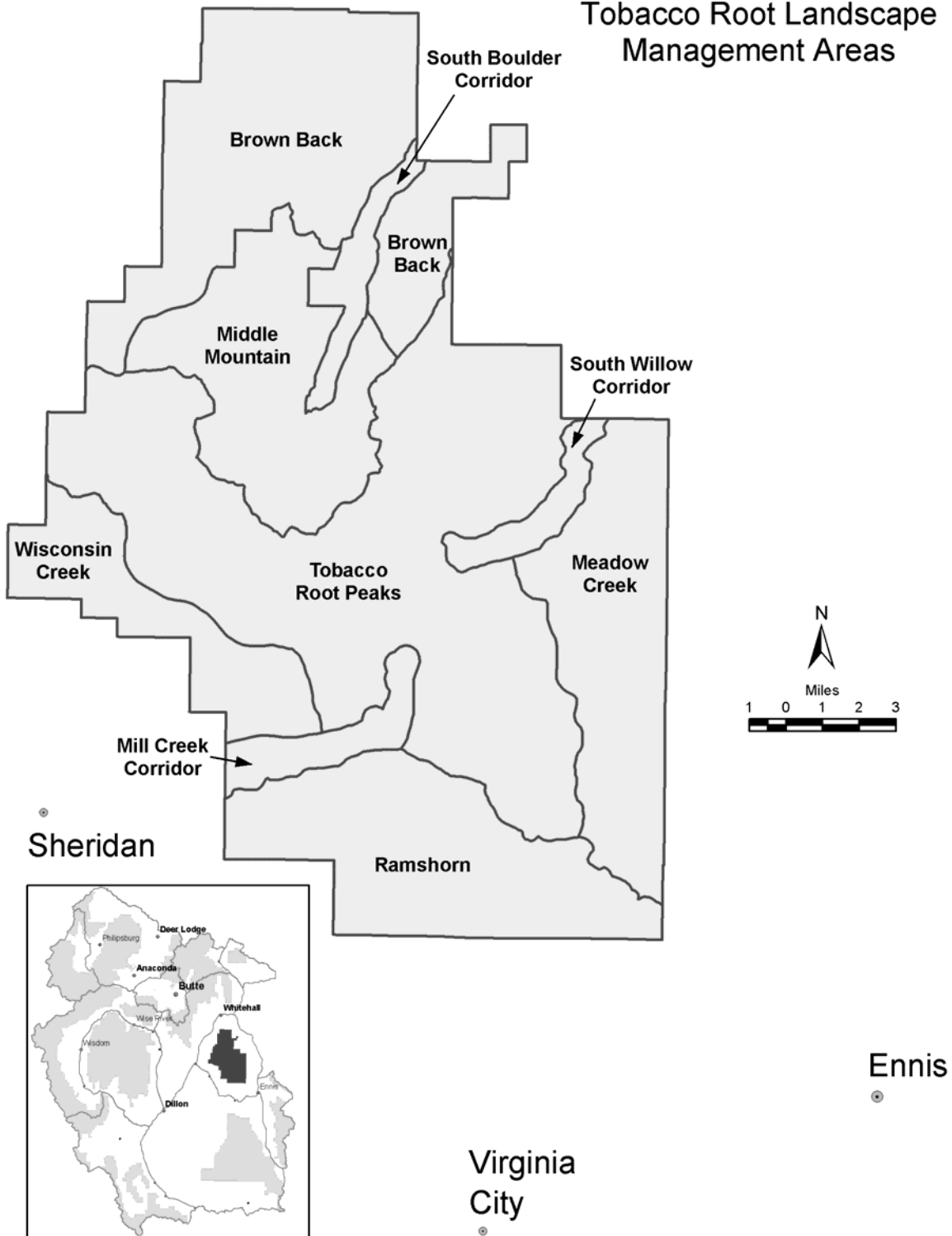


Tobacco Root Landscape Management Areas



TOBACCO ROOT LANDSCAPE

The Tobacco Root Mountains are an island of high peaks, snowy basins, alpine lakes, accessible forested slopes and open rolling foothills. These mountains separate the rivers that form the Headwaters of the Missouri just miles away.

The complex geology of the Tobacco Root Mountains is dominated by granite and gneiss, is highly mineralized, and is favorable for metallic vein deposits. As a result of this same geology, most stream channels are well armored by rocks, steep gradient, and vegetation.


















Vegetation is a mix of grasslands and conifer forests modified due to the discovery of gold in Alder Gulch in 1863 and fire suppression. Timber harvest related to early mining and the subsequent population boom affected most forest stands in the Tobacco Root Mountains. Forested stands occupy more foothill sites at lower elevations than they have in many decades. Dry rocky slopes on the northwest end support mountain mahogany, a unique habitat on this forest. The largest number of mountain goats in any southwest Montana mountain range inhabits the higher elevations.

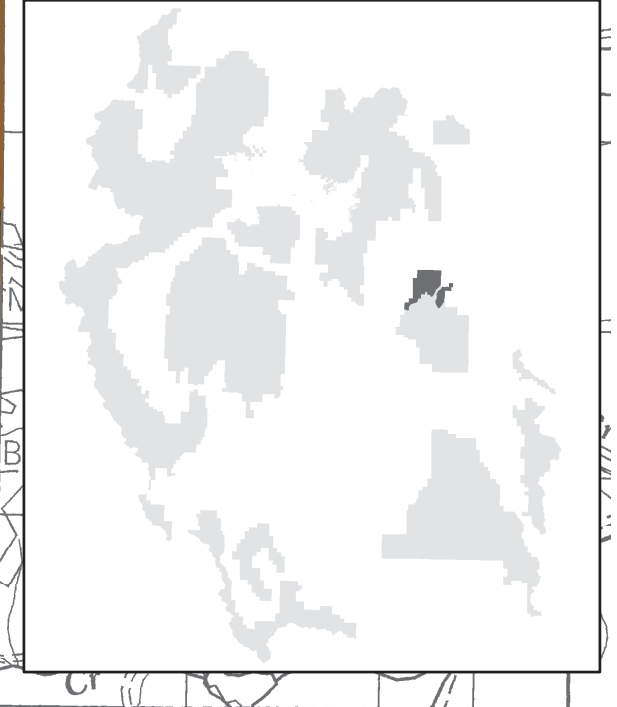
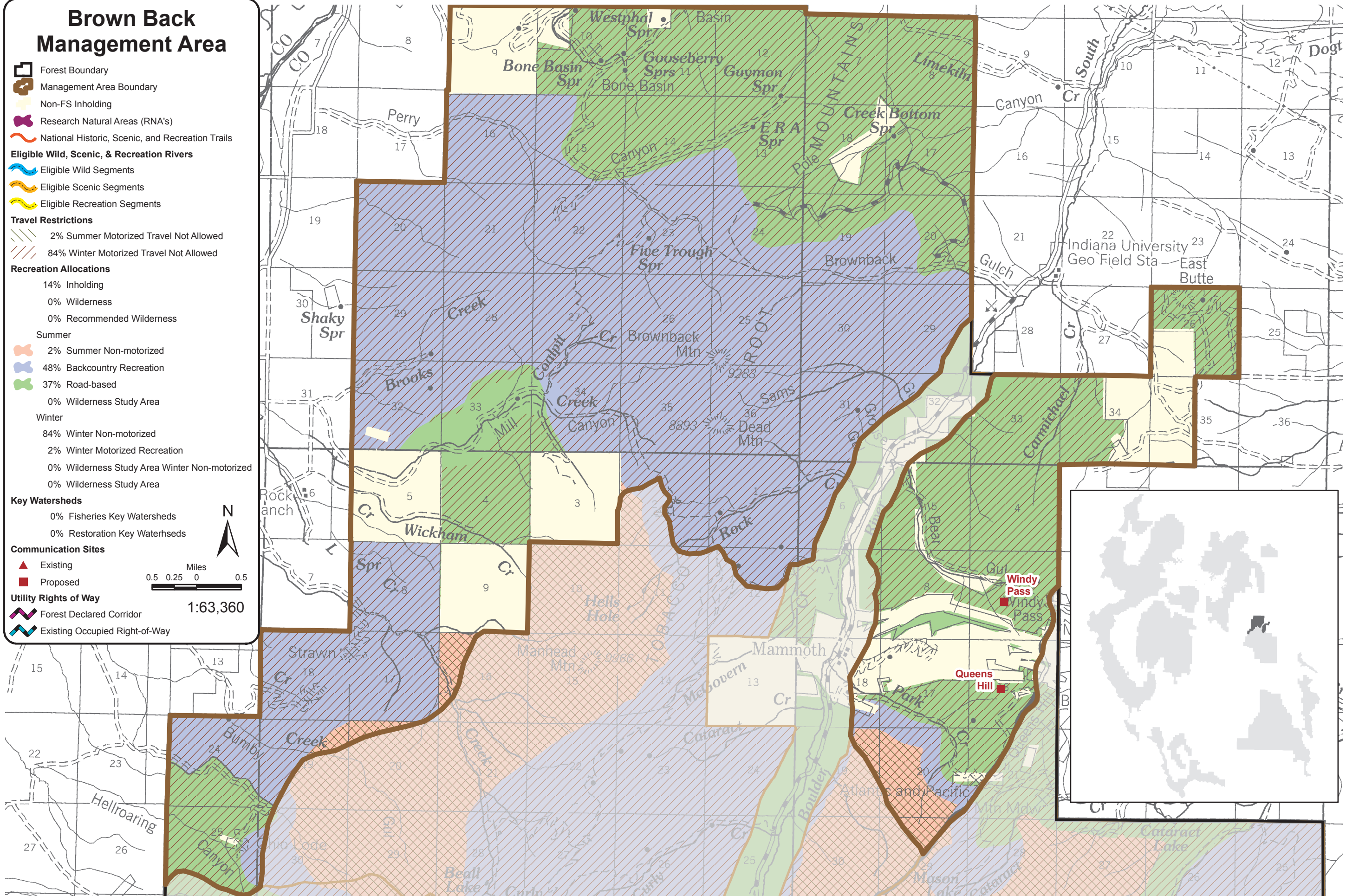
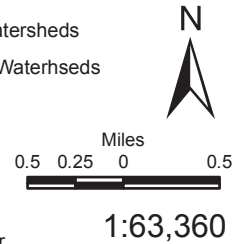
In spite of steep terrain, signs of ambitious gold miners from as long ago as the 1860's and as recently as this decade are found in roads, trails, cabins and adits scattered throughout the range. Some sites may be historically significant and eligible for listing as historic places. Many mining claims were patented, resulting in scattered private in-holdings throughout the mountain range. Some claims are being sold as summer home property.

The south half of Tobacco Root Landscape lies within the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Even so, the landscape is far enough from Yellowstone Park to be outside its sphere of influence on tourism or wildlife movement.

The Tobacco Roots serve as the back yard for communities like Bozeman, Sheridan, Ennis, McAllister, Pony, and Mammoth. Local use is common and demand for activities like firewood cutting, dispersed camping, and a variety of trail opportunities is high. Alpine lakes attract both motorized and non-motorized recreationists. Campers find dispersed sites along streams and at trailheads and developed campgrounds. In spite of terrain, the Tobacco Roots are well served by roads, many of dating back to historic mining. In winter snow depths and plowed road access to snow often limit snowmobile and cross-country ski opportunities.

Brown Back Management Area

-  Forest Boundary
-  Management Area Boundary
-  Non-FS Inholding
-  Research Natural Areas (RNA's)
-  National Historic, Scenic, and Recreation Trails
- Eligible Wild, Scenic, & Recreation Rivers**
-  Eligible Wild Segments
-  Eligible Scenic Segments
-  Eligible Recreation Segments
- Travel Restrictions**
-  2% Summer Motorized Travel Not Allowed
-  84% Winter Motorized Travel Not Allowed
- Recreation Allocations**
- 14% Inholding
- 0% Wilderness
- 0% Recommended Wilderness
- Summer
-  2% Summer Non-motorized
-  48% Backcountry Recreation
-  37% Road-based
- 0% Wilderness Study Area
- Winter
- 84% Winter Non-motorized
- 2% Winter Motorized Recreation
- 0% Wilderness Study Area Winter Non-motorized
- 0% Wilderness Study Area
- Key Watersheds**
- 0% Fisheries Key Watersheds
- 0% Restoration Key Watersheds
- Communication Sites**
-  Existing
-  Proposed
- Utility Rights of Way**
-  Forest Declared Corridor
-  Existing Occupied Right-of-Way



Brown Back Management Area

This area is managed for dispersed recreation, wintering wildlife, and livestock grazing.

The recreation setting is semi-primitive and roaded with low density summer motorized access in a mostly natural appearing area. Access to the area is limited by the terrain. Visitors are mostly local and regional residents. Recreation use occurs mostly in hunting season and is related to roads and trails. Brown Back is non-motorized in winter for wildlife security and occasional non-motorized recreation.

Historic mining has less influence here than in the rest of the mountain range. Some interior homesteads and patented claims are being sold as recreational properties.

Visitors may encounter

Changes in the vegetation from timber harvest or fire

Motor vehicle riders on roads and trails in summer

Hikers or skiers on trails in winter

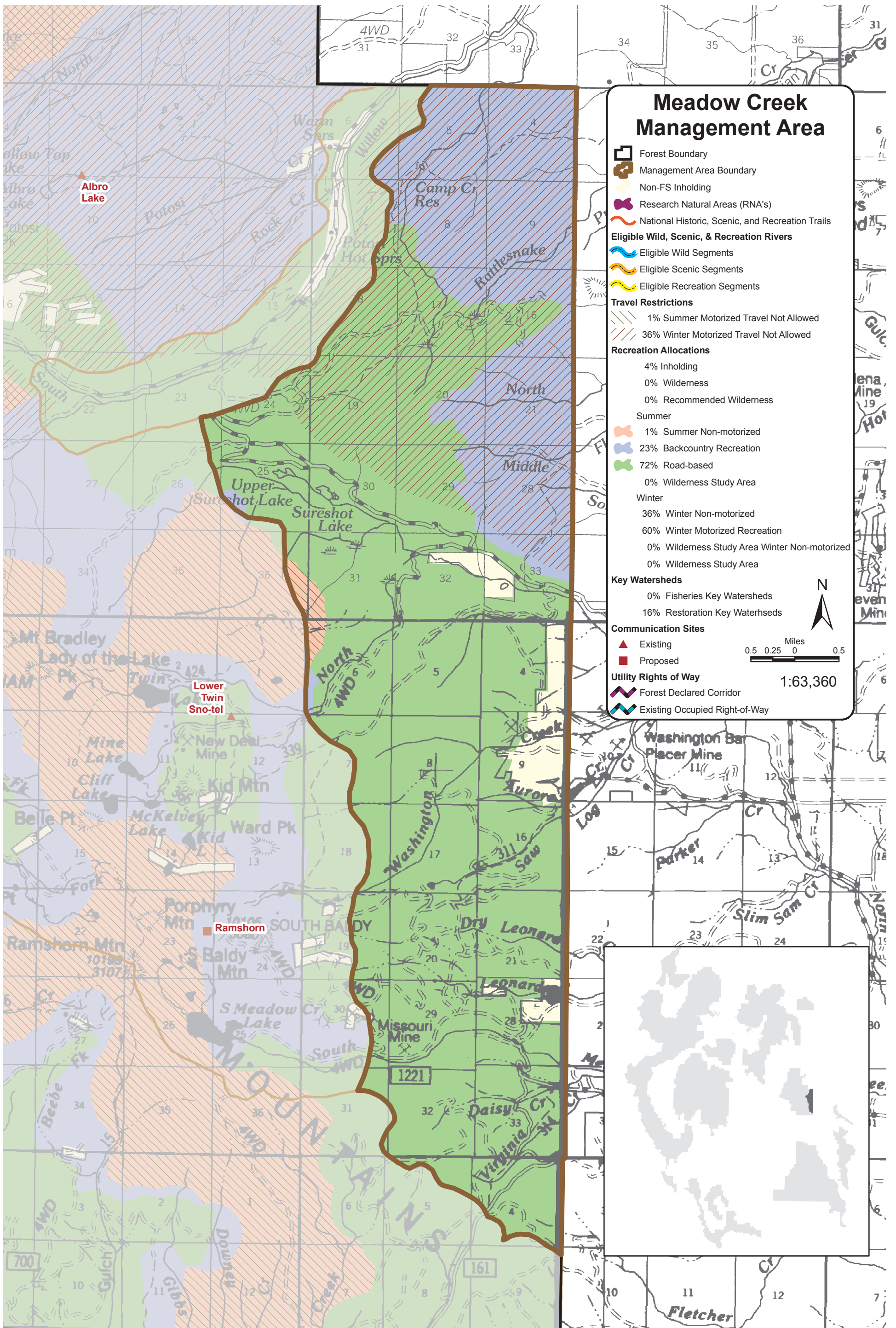
Livestock

Objectives in addition to Forestwide Objectives

Improve road access to the management area, and the quality of road and trails by designating routes and connecting access points

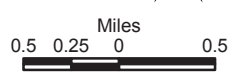
Standards in addition to Forestwide Standards

None

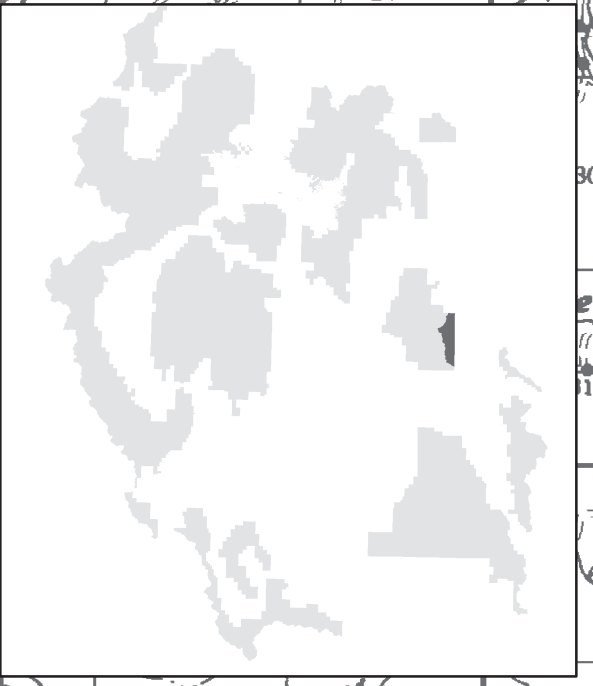


Meadow Creek Management Area

- Forest Boundary
- Management Area Boundary
- Non-FS Inholding
- Research Natural Areas (RNA's)
- National Historic, Scenic, and Recreation Trails
- Eligible Wild, Scenic, & Recreation Rivers**
 - Eligible Wild Segments
 - Eligible Scenic Segments
 - Eligible Recreation Segments
- Travel Restrictions**
 - 1% Summer Motorized Travel Not Allowed
 - 36% Winter Motorized Travel Not Allowed
- Recreation Allocations**
 - 4% Inholding
 - 0% Wilderness
 - 0% Recommended Wilderness
 - Summer**
 - 1% Summer Non-motorized
 - 23% Backcountry Recreation
 - 72% Road-based
 - 0% Wilderness Study Area
 - Winter**
 - 36% Winter Non-motorized
 - 60% Winter Motorized Recreation
 - 0% Wilderness Study Area Winter Non-motorized
 - 0% Wilderness Study Area
- Key Watersheds**
 - 0% Fisheries Key Watersheds
 - 16% Restoration Key Watersheds
- Communication Sites**
 - Existing
 - Proposed
- Utility Rights of Way**
 - Forest Declared Corridor
 - Existing Occupied Right-of-Way



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Meadow Creek Management Area

This area is managed for timber production and a variety of recreation uses.

Recreation takes place in a mix of roaded and semi-primitive settings with altered and natural appearing scenery. Evidence of historic mining is scattered throughout the area. Signs of timber harvest related to gold mining have blended into the landscape but some more recent harvest units are visible. The Meadow Creek area is easily seen from the Highway 287.

Dispersed camping, hiking and fishing, ATV travel on primitive roads, and snowmobiling in winter are common activities. The few non-motorized trails are popular in summer and fall. Recreation use is fairly heavy in all seasons, especially on weekends. Meadow Creek serves as the backyard to several subdivisions (Elk Hills, Shining Mountains North, and Washington Bar) where homes are scattered through the sagebrush/juniper hills. The area is close to McAllister and Ennis and receives day use from both communities as well as Bozeman/Gallatin County area yearlong. The area north of Sureshot Lakes is closed to motorized use in winter to provide opportunities for skiing accessible from South Willow Creek and to provide wildlife security.

Active watershed restoration may take place in parts of this management area within the South Willow Creek watershed.

Visitors may encounter

- Vegetation changes from timber harvest or fire
- Roads for timber harvest
- Motor vehicles on roads and trails in summer and winter
- Remnants of historic mining and current mining activity or reclamation
- Livestock


















Objectives in addition to Forestwide Objectives

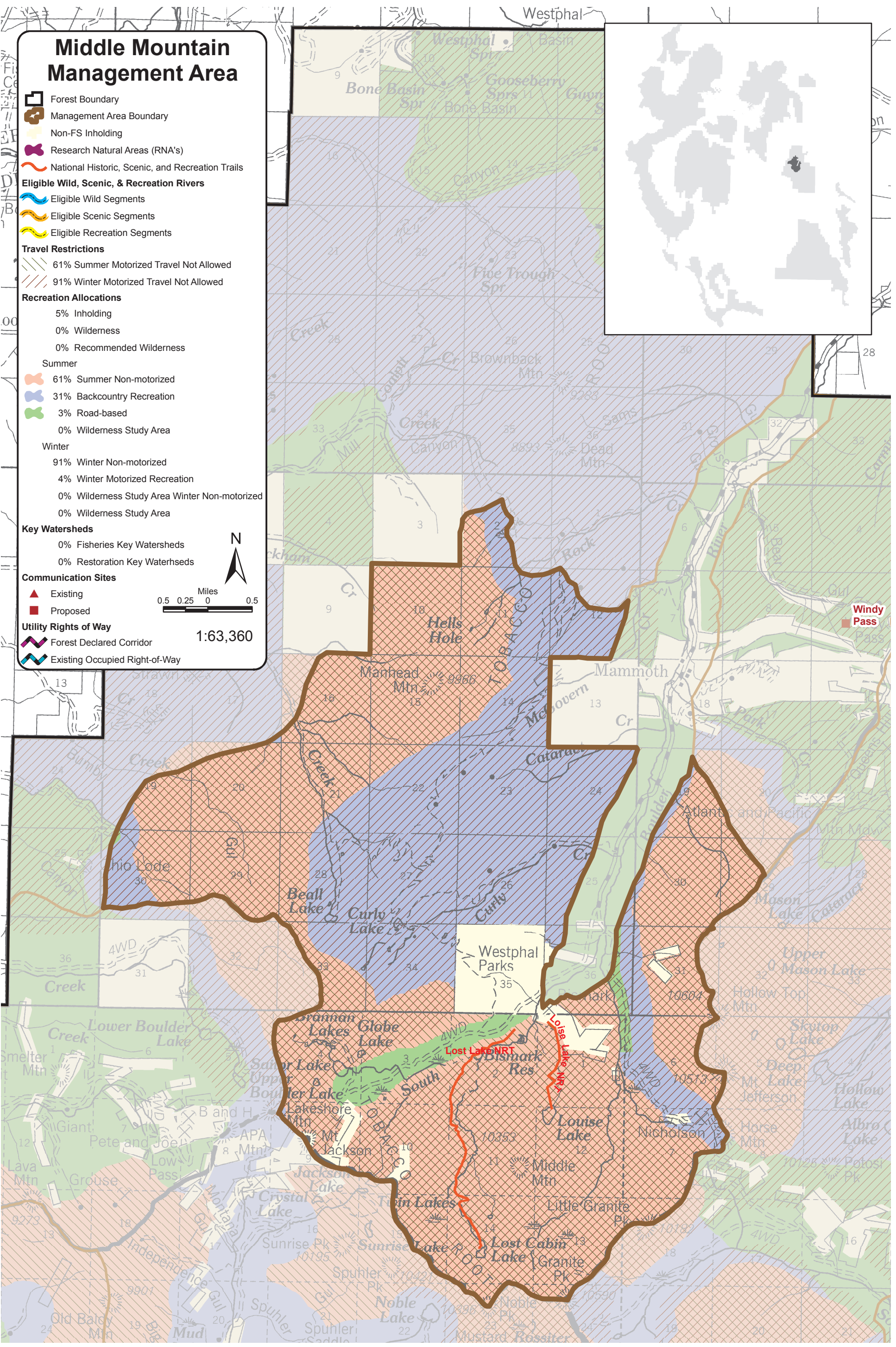
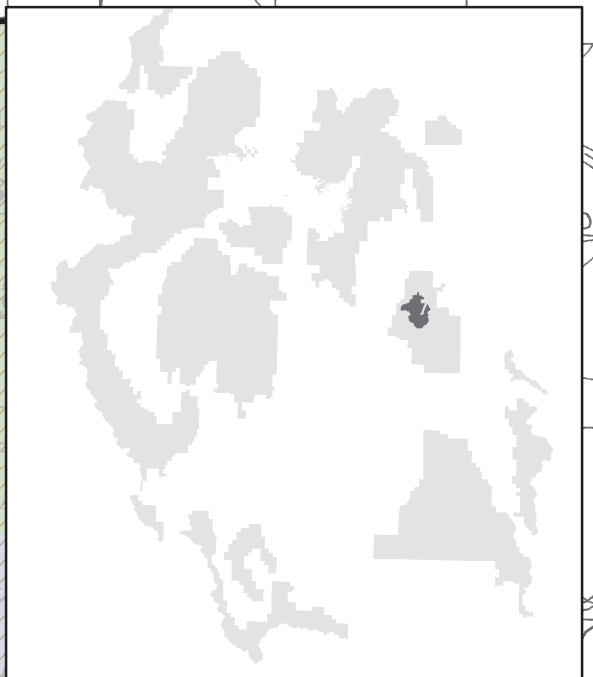
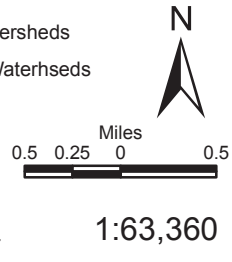
- Provide separate loop opportunities for motorized and non-motorized use
- Reduce risk of fire near private lands in mixed ownership areas and subdivisions through vegetation treatments

Standards in addition to Forestwide Standards

- None

Middle Mountain Management Area

-  Forest Boundary
-  Management Area Boundary
-  Non-FS Inholding
-  Research Natural Areas (RNA's)
-  National Historic, Scenic, and Recreation Trails
- Eligible Wild, Scenic, & Recreation Rivers**
-  Eligible Wild Segments
-  Eligible Scenic Segments
-  Eligible Recreation Segments
- Travel Restrictions**
-  61% Summer Motorized Travel Not Allowed
-  91% Winter Motorized Travel Not Allowed
- Recreation Allocations**
- 5% Inholding
- 0% Wilderness
- 0% Recommended Wilderness
- Summer**
-  61% Summer Non-motorized
-  31% Backcountry Recreation
-  3% Road-based
- 0% Wilderness Study Area
- Winter**
- 91% Winter Non-motorized
- 4% Winter Motorized Recreation
- 0% Wilderness Study Area Winter Non-motorized
- 0% Wilderness Study Area
- Key Watersheds**
- 0% Fisheries Key Watersheds
- 0% Restoration Key Watersheds
- Communication Sites**
-  Existing
-  Proposed
- Utility Rights of Way**
-  Forest Declared Corridor
-  Existing Occupied Right-of-Way



Middle Mountain Management Area

This area is managed to protect roadless characteristics, provide dispersed recreation opportunities, and provide secure wildlife habitat.

Recreation takes place in a semi-primitive setting. This is one of the few places in the Tobacco Roots where recreationists can find a quiet non-motorized backcountry experience in summer and fall. The entire area is non-motorized in winter to provide high elevation winter wildlife security and habitat for mountain goats and other species, and to provide opportunities for skiing or snowshoeing.

Historic mining cabins, adits, and stamp mills are scattered throughout the area. Gold seekers still show occasional interest in both patented and unpatented claims in this highly mineralized area. The Nichol森 Mine, for example, is occasionally actively mined on the west face of Horse Mountain.

Other land uses include livestock grazing.

Visitors may encounter

Vegetation changes from wind, fire, insects, and water events

Visitors on trails at different times of the year on foot, horseback, or bicycles

Motor vehicles on roads and some trails in summer

Remnants of historic mining and current mining activity or reclamation

Livestock

Objectives in addition to Forestwide Objectives


















Maintain or enhance roadless characteristics and naturalness

Standards in addition to Forestwide Standards

Minimum Scenic Integrity Objective - High

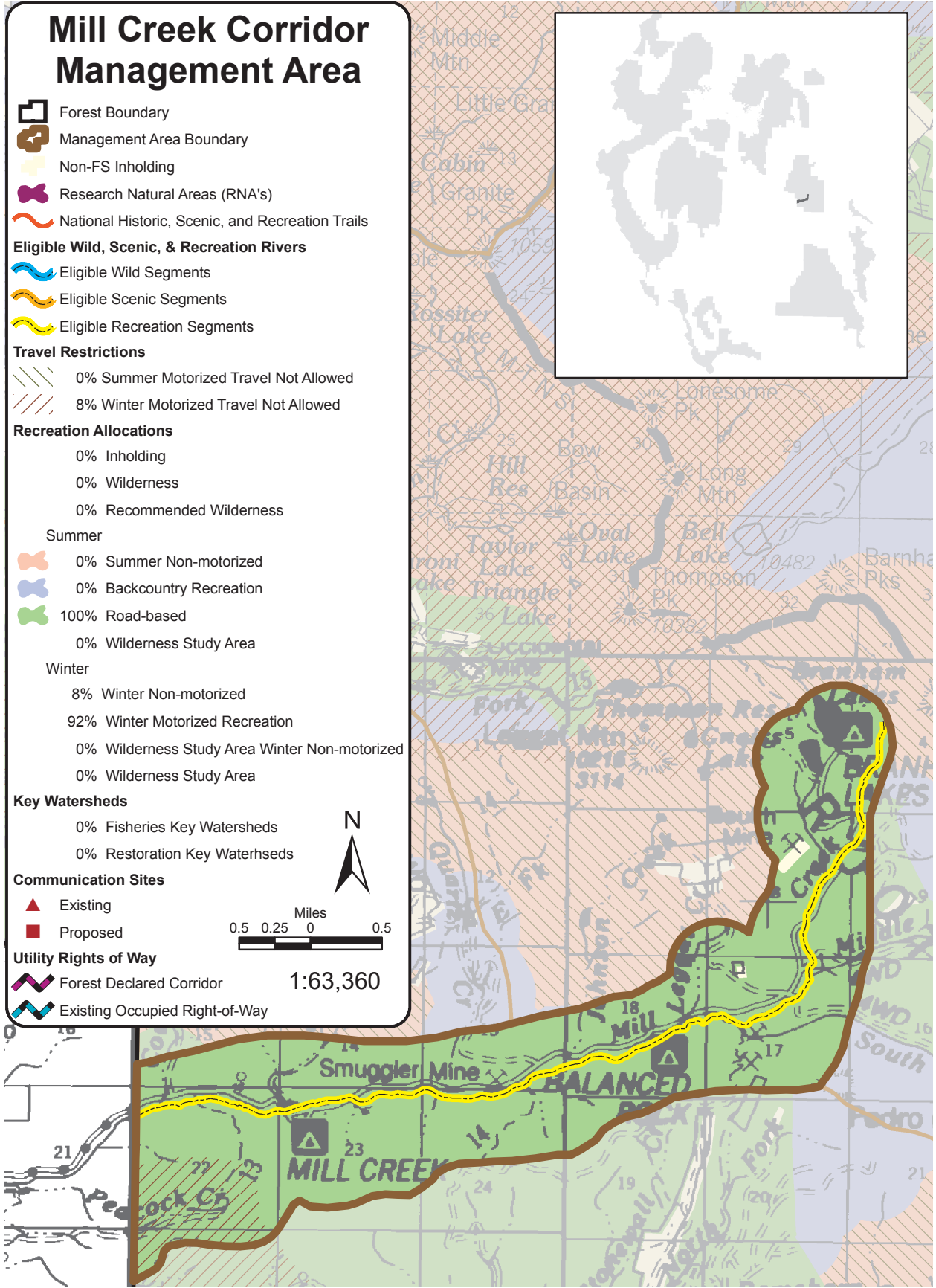
No expansion of motorized opportunities

Mill Creek Corridor Management Area

-  Forest Boundary
-  Management Area Boundary
-  Non-FS Inholding
-  Research Natural Areas (RNA's)
-  National Historic, Scenic, and Recreation Trails
- Eligible Wild, Scenic, & Recreation Rivers**
-  Eligible Wild Segments
-  Eligible Scenic Segments
-  Eligible Recreation Segments
- Travel Restrictions**
-  0% Summer Motorized Travel Not Allowed
-  8% Winter Motorized Travel Not Allowed
- Recreation Allocations**
- 0% Inholding
- 0% Wilderness
- 0% Recommended Wilderness
- Summer**
-  0% Summer Non-motorized
-  0% Backcountry Recreation
-  100% Road-based
- 0% Wilderness Study Area
- Winter**
- 8% Winter Non-motorized
- 92% Winter Motorized Recreation
- 0% Wilderness Study Area Winter Non-motorized
- 0% Wilderness Study Area
- Key Watersheds**
- 0% Fisheries Key Watersheds
- 0% Restoration Key Watersheds
- Communication Sites**
-  Existing
-  Proposed
- Utility Rights of Way**
-  Forest Declared Corridor
-  Existing Occupied Right-of-Way



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Mill Creek Corridor Management Area

This area is a travel corridor managed for developed and dispersed camping opportunities and motorized uses.

The recreation setting is mostly roaded and natural appearing with areas of concentrated recreation developments. Evidence of historic mining is common, as is current activity. The corridor's proximity to Sheridan makes it a backyard for the community. Scenery is important to users of the Mill Creek Road. Development of private in-holdings and patented claims in Mill Creek affects the view and setting. Developed recreation sites are available at Mill Creek, Balanced Rock, and Branham Lakes. The day use areas are frequently full in summer and campgrounds receive heavy use in summer and fall hunting season. The corridor provides access to non-motorized areas in the Tobacco Root Peaks. In winter, both snowmobiles and skiers can recreate in Mill Creek corridor.

Visitors may encounter

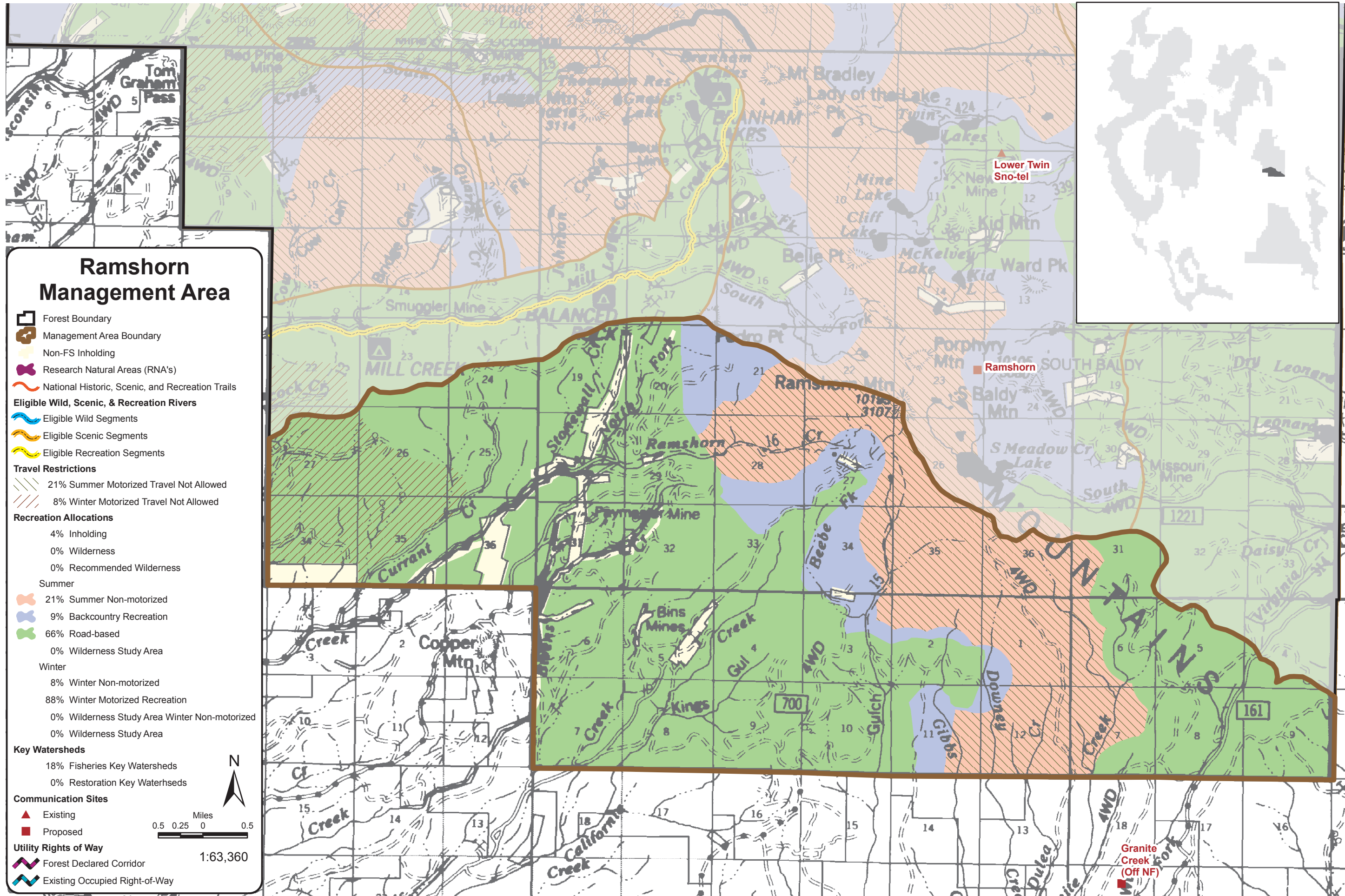
- Vegetation changes from timber harvest or fire
- Dispersed campsites and campgrounds
- Motor vehicles on roads in spring, summer, and fall
- Snowmobiles and skiers on the road corridor in winter
- Remnants of historic mining and current mining activity or reclamation
- Livestock

Objectives in addition to Forestwide Objectives

- Maintain the designated snowmobile route on Mill Creek Road

Standards in addition to Forestwide Standards

- Minimum Scenic Integrity Objective - High



Ramshorn Management Area

This area is managed for timber production, road-based recreation, and other forest uses and values.

The recreation setting is roaded in the lower elevations and semi-primitive non-motorized in the higher elevations along the crest of the Tobacco Roots. Recreation use is light, and limited to activities like firewood cutting, hunting, and recreational driving. Visitors are mostly local and regional residents. Lower elevations are relatively snow free in winters, and provide non-snow opportunities much of the year.

There are a number of subdivisions located in the dry foothills below the forest boundary.

A snowmobile closure protects big game winter range in the Horse Creek – Currant Creek foothills.

California Creek is a fisheries key watershed.

Visitors may encounter

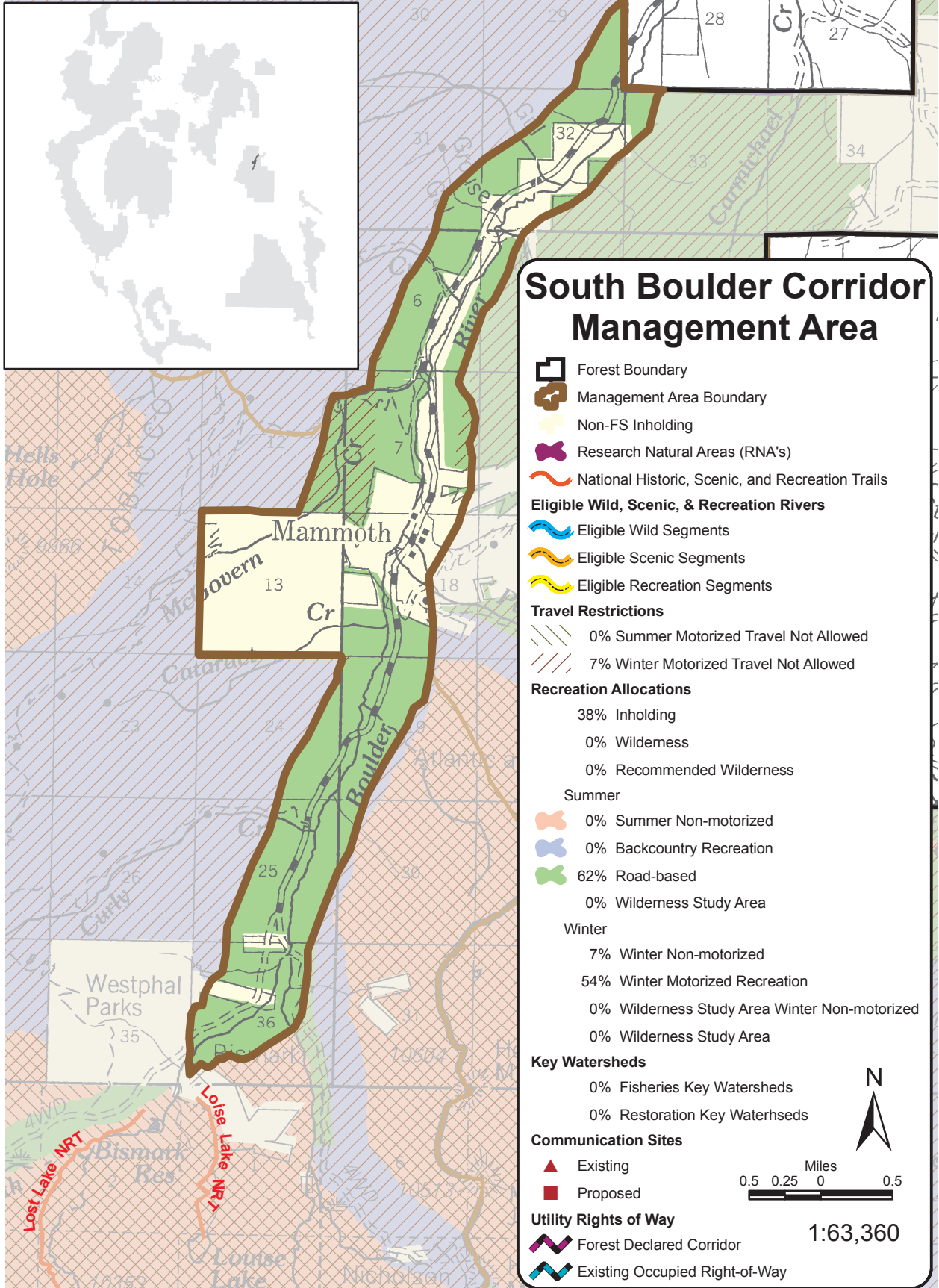
- Vegetation changes from timber harvest or fire
- Roads for timber harvest
- Motor vehicles on roads and trails in summer, fall, and winter
- Dispersed campsites along forest roads in summer and fall
- Livestock

Objectives in addition to Forestwide Objectives

- Retain and improve access to roadside dispersed camping sites

Standards in addition to Forestwide Standards

- None



South Boulder Corridor Management Area

This area is managed for concentrated recreation use and road access through National Forest.

The recreation setting is mostly roaded with concentrated areas of dispersed recreation. South Boulder serves as a travel corridor providing stunning views of the Tobacco Root peaks and as a destination for residents from Mammoth, Cardwell, Whitehall, Bozeman, and beyond. Recreation activities include driving, camping, horseback riding, hunting, and fishing in high mountain lakes and streams accessible from the corridor. Dispersed camping and trail access to non-motorized opportunities in Middle Mountain are available.

Visitors may encounter

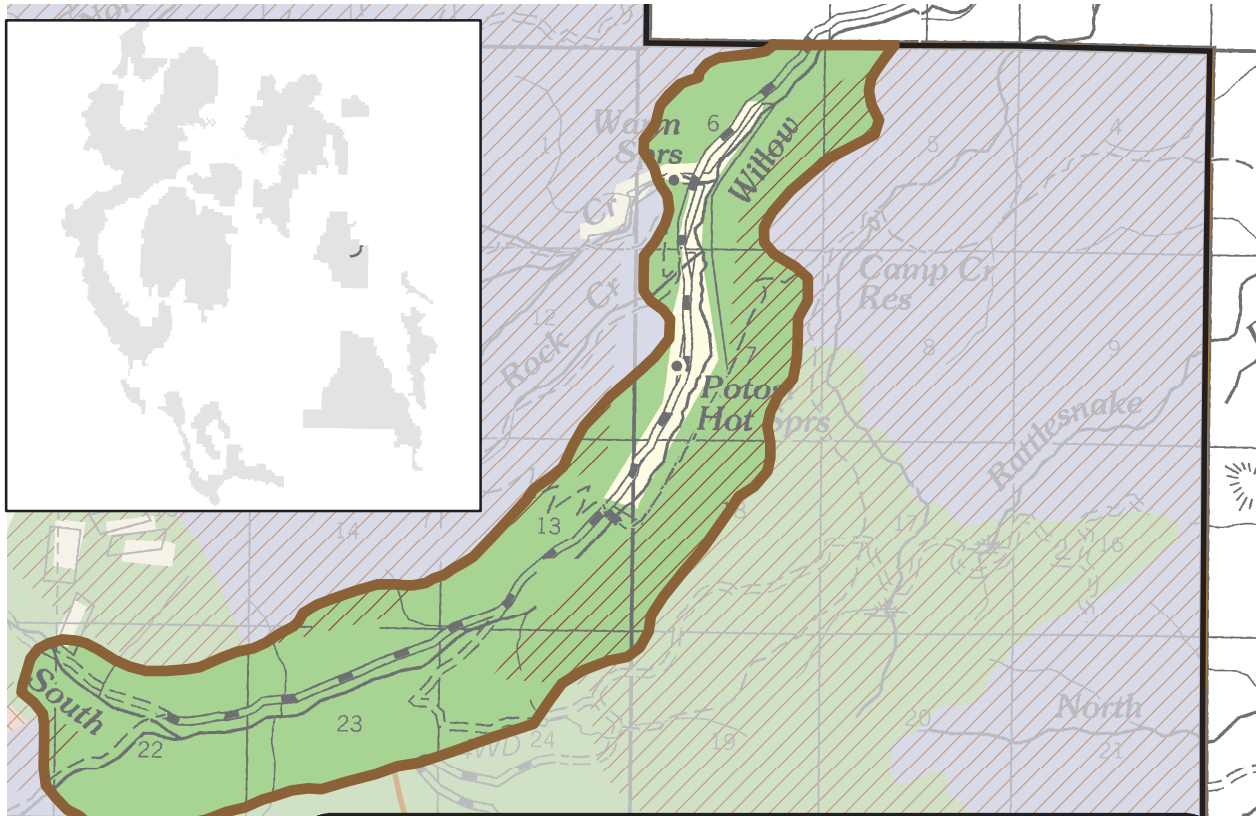
- Vegetation changes from timber harvest or fire
- Motor vehicles on roads and trails in summer and winter
- Dispersed campsites along forest roads
- Developed trailheads for access into the high country
- Livestock

Objectives in addition to Forestwide Objectives

- Designate dispersed sites and where necessary, harden and provide sanitation to minimize soil and water impacts
- Reduce risk of wildfire near Mammoth through vegetation treatment

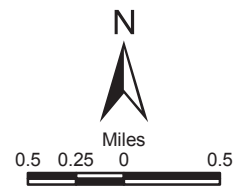
Standards in addition to Forestwide Standards

- Minimum Scenic Integrity Objective - High



South Willow Corridor Management Area

	Forest Boundary	Key Watersheds
	Management Area Boundary	0% Fisheries Key Watersheds
	Non-FS Inholding	100% Restoration Key Watersheds
	Research Natural Areas (RNA's)	Eligible Wild, Scenic, & Recreation Rivers
	National Historic, Scenic, and Recreation Trails	
Travel Restrictions		
	0% Summer Motorized Travel Not Allowed	
	29% Winter Motorized Travel Not Allowed	Communication Sites
Recreation Allocations		
7% Inholding		
0% Wilderness		Utility Rights of Way
0% Recommended Wilderness		
Summer		
	0% Summer Non-motorized	
	0% Backcountry Recreation	
	93% Road-based	
0% Wilderness Study Area		
Winter		
29% Winter Non-motorized		
64% Winter Motorized Recreation		
0% Wilderness Study Area Winter Non-motorized		
0% Wilderness Study Area		



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South Willow Corridor Management Area

This area is managed for concentrated recreation and road access through National Forest.

The recreation setting is a mix of roaded and semi-primitive settings with concentrated areas of recreation development. The South Willow Corridor serves as both a travel corridor and a destination for visitors from Pony, Harrison, Bozeman and more distant areas. Views of the mountain peaks at the head of South Willow Creek from many points on the corridor and trails are stunning. Potosi Campground and other dispersed sites provide visitors the opportunity to camp and ride trail vehicles. Snowmobilers ride up the corridor to areas further up the drainage. The Camp and Rock creek areas are closed to snowmobiles to create ski and snowshoe opportunities from the end of the plowed road.

There are various homes and structures on private in-holdings around Potosi. The Bungalow Group is an authorized recreation residence tract.

Active watershed restoration may take place in this portion of South Willow Creek

Visitors may encounter

- Vegetation changes from timber harvest or fire
- Dispersed camping along forest roads
- Motor vehicles on roads in spring, summer, and fall
- Snowmobilers and skiers on routes and trails in winter
- Livestock





Objectives in addition to Forestwide Objectives


- Develop access and parking to support winter recreation opportunities



Standards in addition to Forestwide Standards

- Minimum Scenic Integrity Objective - High




Tobacco Root Peaks Management Area

-  Forest Boundary
-  Management Area Boundary
-  Non-FS Inholding
-  Research Natural Areas (RNA's)

-  National Historic, Scenic, and Recreation Trails

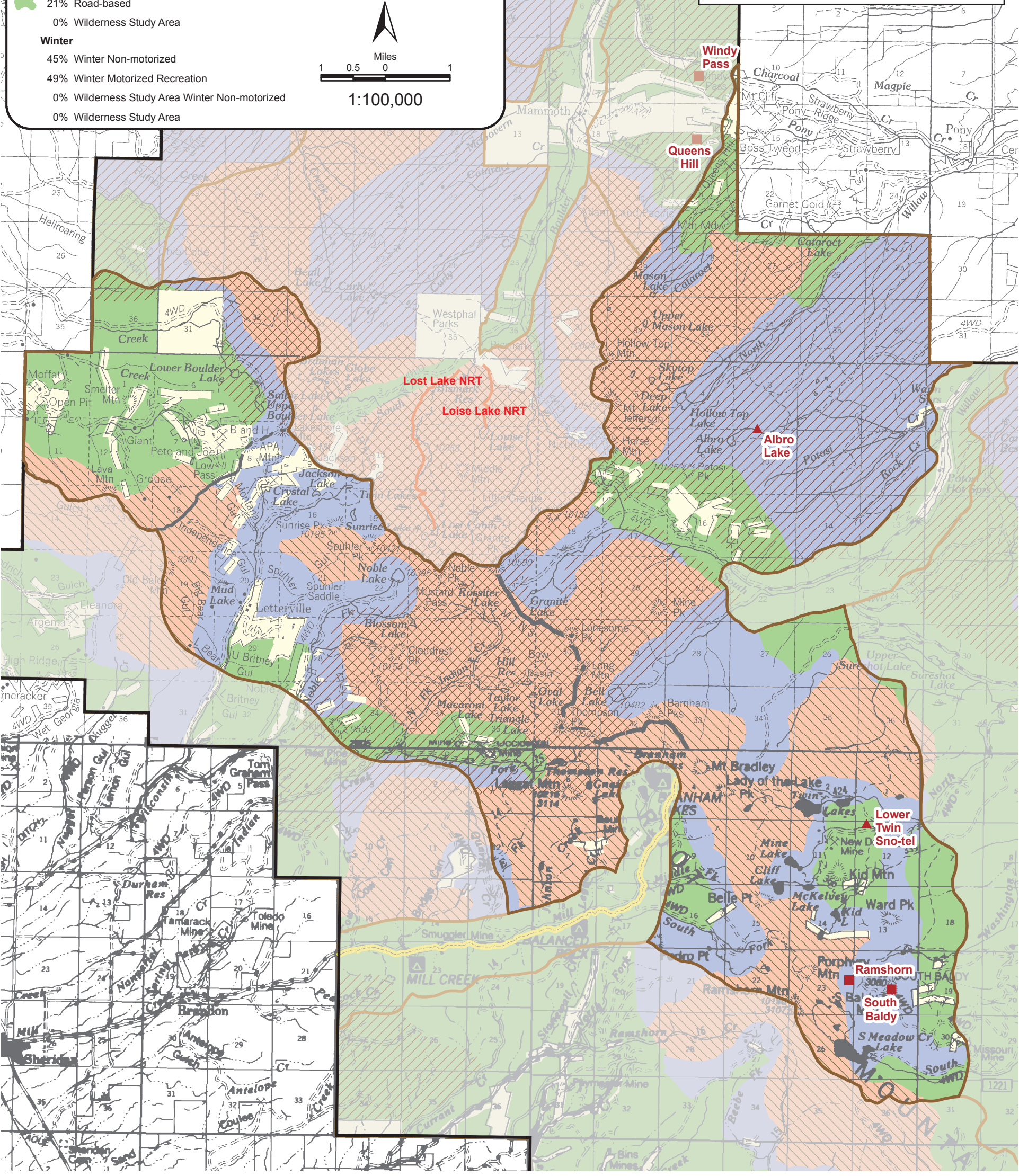
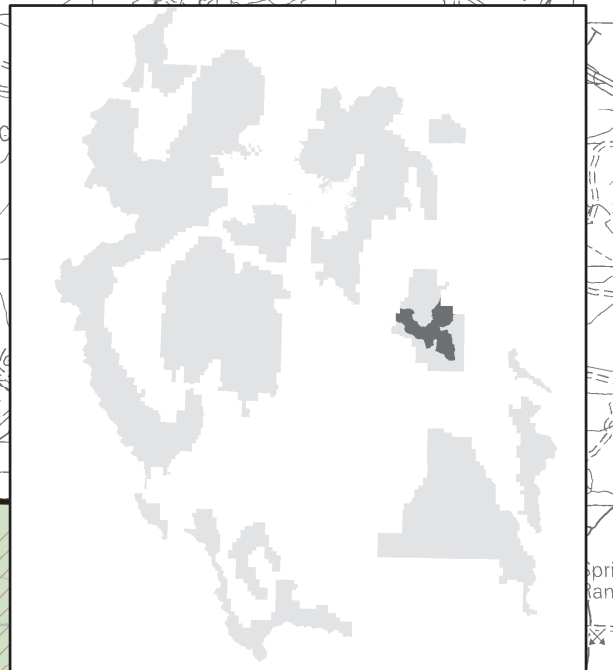
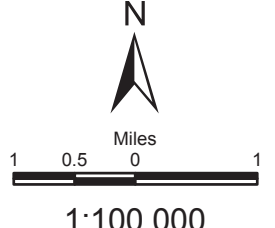
- Travel Restrictions**
-  38% Summer Motorized Travel Not Allowed
 -  45% Winter Motorized Travel Not Allowed

- Recreation Allocations**
- 6% Inholding
 - 0% Wilderness
 - 0% Recommended Wilderness

- Summer**
-  38% Summer Non-motorized
 -  35% Backcountry Recreation
 -  21% Road-based
 - 0% Wilderness Study Area

- Winter**
- 45% Winter Non-motorized
 - 49% Winter Motorized Recreation
 - 0% Wilderness Study Area Winter Non-motorized
 - 0% Wilderness Study Area

- Key Watersheds**
- 9% Fisheries Key Watersheds
 - 23% Restoration Key Watersheds
- Eligible Wild, Scenic, & Recreation Rivers**
-  Eligible Wild Segments
 -  Eligible Scenic Segments
 -  Eligible Recreation Segments
- Communication Sites**
-  Existing
 -  Proposed
- Utility Rights of Way**
-  Forest Declared Corridor
 -  Existing Occupied Right-of-Way



Tobacco Root Peaks Management Area

This area is managed for dispersed recreation and secure high elevation wildlife habitat.

The recreation setting is semi-primitive with natural appearing scenery. Traces of current and historic mining are common on patented ground and mining claims. Opportunities are provided for motorized access to some mountain lakes and alpine areas, while others are accessible only by foot, horse, or mountain bike. Both motorized and non-motorized winter recreation is also well established in some of the high basins and slopes. Motorized closures in selected high elevations habitat provide wildlife security, primarily for mountain goats and remote backcountry winter recreation opportunities.

Because of inholdings and proximity to the forest boundary, the setting in some areas is roaded. Past mining activity and private development alters some locations even more.

Watershed restoration activities, including vegetation management, may take place in the South Willow Creek watershed. Indian Creek is a fisheries key watershed.

Visitors may encounter

- Vegetation changes from timber harvest or fire
- Motor vehicles on roads and open motorized trails in summer and fall
- Hikers, skiers, or horseback riders on trails
- Remnants of historic mining and current mining activity or reclamation
- Livestock at lower elevations


















Objectives in addition to Forestwide Objectives

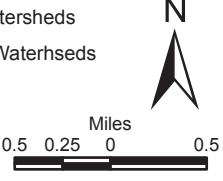
- Retain opportunities for challenging full size four-wheel driving while mitigating impacts to soil and water

Standards in addition to Forestwide Standards

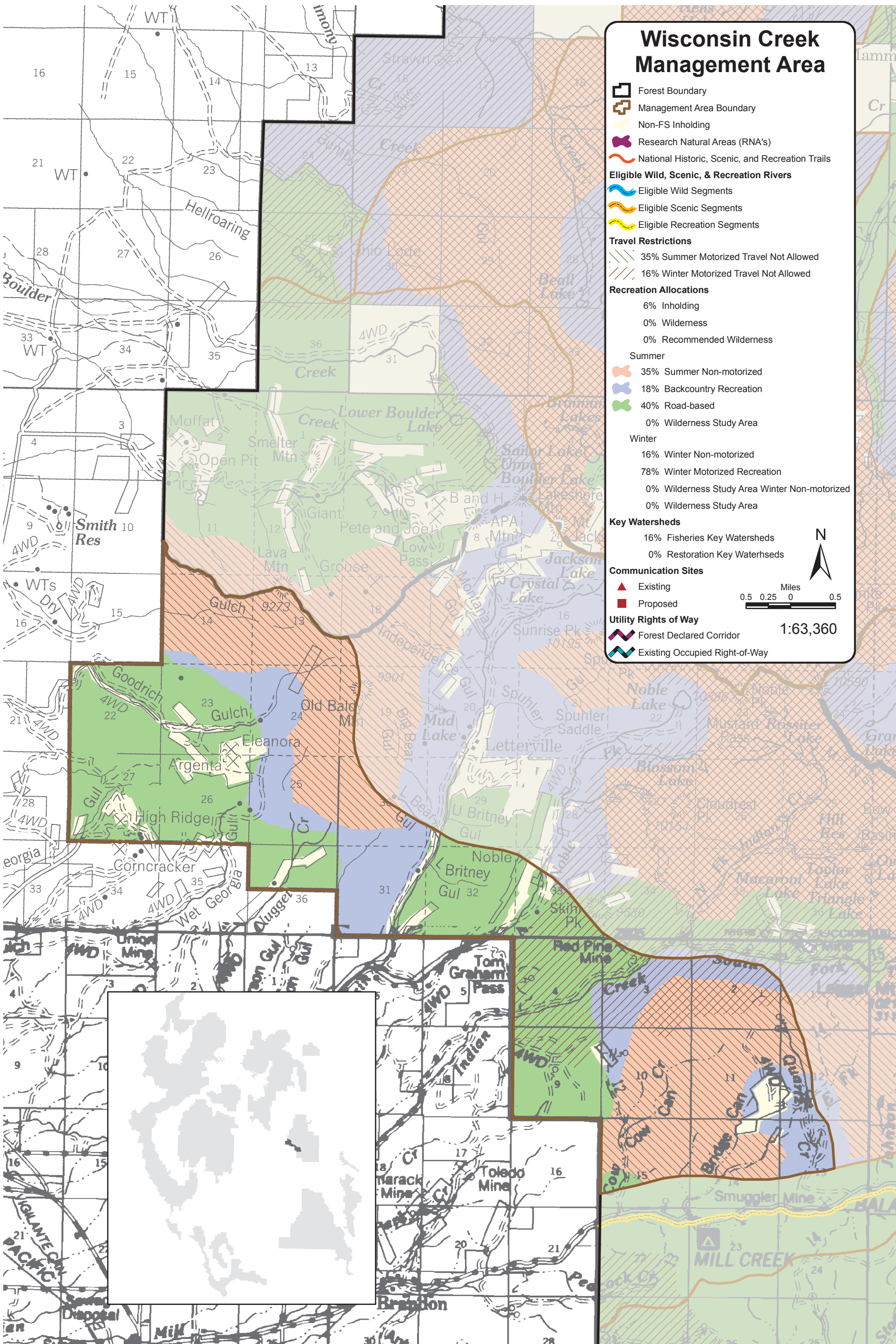
- Minimum Scenic Integrity Objective - Very High

Wisconsin Creek Management Area

-  Forest Boundary
-  Management Area Boundary
-  Non-FS Inholding
-  Research Natural Areas (RNA's)
-  National Historic, Scenic, and Recreation Trails
- Eligible Wild, Scenic, & Recreation Rivers**
 -  Eligible Wild Segments
 -  Eligible Scenic Segments
 -  Eligible Recreation Segments
- Travel Restrictions**
 -  35% Summer Motorized Travel Not Allowed
 -  16% Winter Motorized Travel Not Allowed
- Recreation Allocations**
 - 6% Inholding
 - 0% Wilderness
 - 0% Recommended Wilderness
 - Summer**
 -  35% Summer Non-motorized
 -  18% Backcountry Recreation
 -  40% Road-based
 - 0% Wilderness Study Area
 - Winter**
 - 16% Winter Non-motorized
 - 78% Winter Motorized Recreation
 - 0% Wilderness Study Area Winter Non-motorized
 - 0% Wilderness Study Area
- Key Watersheds**
 - 16% Fisheries Key Watersheds
 - 0% Restoration Key Watersheds
- Communication Sites**
 -  Existing
 -  Proposed
- Utility Rights of Way**
 -  Forest Declared Corridor
 -  Existing Occupied Right-of-Way



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Wisconsin Creek Management Area

This area is managed for dispersed recreation and other resource uses.

The recreation setting is roaded and semi-primitive with mostly natural appearing scenery. Evidence of historic mining is common, as is current activity. Recreation use tied to the roads and trails in various drainages which provide routes to the high alpine lakes of the Tobacco Root Peaks Management Area. Visitors are often just passing through to other destinations, except in winter and early spring. During those seasons recreationists use the area because it is relatively snow free and accessible. The area south of Wisconsin Creek is closed to motorized use in winter to provide opportunities for non-motorized recreation and compliment secure blocks of high elevation winter wildlife habitat connecting to the Tobacco Root Peaks.

Indian Creek is a fisheries key watershed.

Visitors may encounter

Vegetation changes from timber harvest or fire

Motor vehicles on roads and trails in summer, fall, and winter

Livestock

Objectives in addition to Forestwide Objectives

Retain opportunities for full sized four-wheel drive vehicles while mitigating impacts to soil and water

Standards in addition to Forestwide Standards

None