

Chapter 2. Strategy

Introduction

The strategy describes how the KNF intends to follow its vision and move toward realizing the desired conditions established in Chapter 1. This strategy consists of three Plan components: objectives, suitability of areas, and special areas. Management areas help further refine suitability of areas and special areas.

- **Objectives** are measurable and time-specific.
- **Suitability of areas** describes general land use suitability for various uses and activities- Forestwide and by management area.
- **Special areas** include areas with unique physical, biological, or social conditions resulting in management direction that represents their special characteristics. These areas are identified by a specific management area.

Objectives

Objectives are projections of Forest activities and program outcomes, which are measurable and time-specific. The life of the Plan is approximately 15 years. Objectives are stepping stones that maintain or move the Forest toward the desired conditions. Objectives also may anticipate levels of conditions, uses, or activities and are linked to the monitoring and evaluation strategy to determine trends and the need to amend or revise the Plan. A single project and/or activity may contribute to multiple objectives.

Like desired conditions, objectives are not commitments or final decisions approving projects and activities. Objectives are based on budgets and other assumptions that are realistic expectations for the Plan period. However, the ability to achieve objectives is based on several factors including annual budgets, Forest priorities, and in some cases, natural events and weather patterns.

The following objectives are designed to help achieve or move the Forest towards the desired conditions described in Chapter 1:

Access and Recreation Objectives

1. Dispersed Recreation Sites

- Annually, maintain 25 percent of concentrated use areas.
- Over the life of the Plan, 10 percent of the concentrated use areas are improved or closed or the appropriate actions taken to reduce deferred maintenance.

2. Developed Recreation Sites

- Annually, operate and maintain at least 95 percent of the developed recreation sites.
- Over the life of the Plan, appropriate actions are taken to modify 15 to 20 percent of the developed recreation sites that improve facilities, expand capacity, or enhance the resource setting.

- 3. Road Maintenance** - Annually, perform maintenance activities on:
 - 20 to 30 percent of Objective Maintenance Level 3, 4, and 5 roads (generally drivable by passenger vehicles).
 - 10 to 20 percent of Objective Maintenance Level 2 roads (generally drivable by high clearance vehicles).
- 4. Winter Trails** - Annually, provide access for both motorized and nonmotorized winter trail activities on:
 - 125 to 200 miles of motorized trails.
 - 25 to 45 miles of nonmotorized trails.
- 5. Summer Trails** - Annually, maintain both motorized and nonmotorized summer trail activities on:
 - 10 to 20 miles of motorized trails.
 - 250 to 750 miles of nonmotorized trails.

Vegetation Objectives

- 1. Vegetation Restoration** - Over the life of the Plan, increase the representation of early seral, shade-intolerant, drought and fire tolerant, insect/disease resistant species dominance types (e.g., ponderosa pine, white pine, western larch, and whitebark pine) on approximately 120,000 to 150,000 acres.
- 2. Old Growth** - Forestwide, increase the amount of old growth above existing and/or increase the amount of NFS lands managed for old growth in each of the following biophysical settings (Ranges displayed are annual increases but may be averaged over the life of the Plan):
 - Warm/dry biophysical setting: 400 to 600 acres.
 - Warm/moist biophysical setting: 1,100 to 1,500 acres.
 - Subalpine biophysical setting: 200 to 500 acres.
- 3. Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plant Species** - Over the life of the Plan:
 - Upon discovery of new invaders (Category 3) and new invasive plant species, contain 100 percent of these occurrences within the discovered site.
 - Treat approximately 75,000 to 94,000 acres to reduce noxious weeds and invasive plant density, infestation size, and/or occurrence.
- 4. Forest Health** - Over the life of the Plan, treat approximately 250,000 acres to maintain and/or improve forest health and to reduce impacts of non-native insects and diseases. Treatment includes timber harvest, prescribed burning/mechanical fuel treatments, wildland fire use, tree stand improvement, blister rust pruning, noxious weed treatments, and other integrated pest management activities including all forest health protection suppression and prevention activities.
 - Over the life of the Plan, approximately 80 - 90 percent of the forest health acres improve fire regime condition class. This includes timber harvest, prescribed

burning/mechanical fuel treatments, wildland fire use, tree stand improvement, blister rust pruning, noxious weed control and/or native re-vegetation projects that re-establish natural fire regimes.

Timber Objectives

1. **Wood Fiber** - Annually over the first decade of the Plan, offer timber for sale at the estimated timber sale program quantity (TSPQ) level of 10.2 to 12.2 MMCF (55.7 – 65.7 MMBF) consisting of the following elements:
 - Approximately 8.6 – 10.1 MMCF (46.7 – 54.8 MMBF) from regularly scheduled timber harvests on lands suitable for timber production. This includes the potential for approximately 0.6 – 1.7 MMCF (3.5 – 10.0 MMBF) from the five to ten inch diameter class.
 - Approximately 1.6 – 2.1 MMCF (9.0 – 10.9 MMBF) from lands not suitable for timber production, but where timber harvests may occur for other multiple-use purposes. This includes the potential for approximately 0.1 – 0.4 MMCF (0.7 – 2.0 MMBF) from the five to ten inch diameter class.

As described in FSH 1909.12 63.4, the above harvest volumes are estimates and describe the output levels associated with activities designed to meet desired ecological, social, and economic conditions. The estimated volumes may change due to project-level data, unforeseen events, or modified conditions. Such conditions do not require a Plan amendment; however, changes will be noted in the Plan set of documents (e.g., the Comprehensive Evaluation Report).

2. **Restocking of Stands after Regeneration Harvest:** Within five years, all stands on lands suitable for timber production are adequately restocked after final regeneration harvest.

Fire Objectives

1. Fire Management
 - Annually, conduct fuels treatment on approximately 5,000 – 15,000 acres on NFS lands.
 - Over the life of the Plan, a minimum of 60 percent of all fuel treatment activities occur in the WUI.
 - Over the life of the Plan, a minimum of 75 percent of all fuel treatment activities outside of the WUI will be designed to improve condition class 2 and 3 or maintain condition class 1 in fire regimes 1, 2, and 3.

Wildlife Objectives

1. **Habitat** - Annually, conduct wildlife habitat maintenance or restoration improvement projects on 1,000 to 5,000 acres of NFS lands.
2. **Threatened and Endangered Animal Species**
 - **Grizzly Bear** - BMUs within the Cabinet/Yaak and the Kootenai portion of the Northern Continental Divide grizzly bear recovery zones that do not meet standards for core, total motorized route density and open motorized route density are brought into compliance within five years after the Land Management Plan has been approved.

Within five years after the Plan has been approved, implement a Forestwide mandatory food storage order.

- **Bald Eagle** - By 2010, complete nest management plans for all currently active (2005) nest sites on NFS lands. Within three years of new nesting establishment on NFS lands, complete nest management plans.
3. **Snags** - Annually, increase the number of snags in the Forest (in those planning subunits that do not meet minimum snag numbers displayed in the desired condition, averaged for each biophysical setting in the planning subunit), by treating 50 acres or 100 trees on the Forest.

Watersheds (Soil, Water, and Riparian Areas) and Aquatic Species Objectives

1. **Watersheds Condition** - Trend watersheds with reduced watershed condition towards higher watershed condition:
- Within 5 years, for Class II and III watersheds, remove or mitigate degradation factors for ten to fifteen 6th-code HUCs.
 - Annually, treat approximately 100 acres in high priority restoration watersheds to improve watershed condition.
2. **303(d)-listed Waterbodies** - Annually, rehabilitate or restore 20 to 50 acres in 303(d)-listed waterbodies, emphasizing waterbodies with approved TMDLs.
3. **Fisheries Habitat** - Annually, enhance or restore 5 to 15 miles of habitat to maintain or restore structure, composition and function of physical habitat for fisheries.
4. **Habitat Connectivity** - Annually, connect one to three miles of fragmented habitat where appropriate to provide for aquatic and riparian-associated species' migratory needs and maintenance of metapopulations.

Other Topics

American Indian Rights and Interests Objectives

1. **Tribal Treaty Rights** - Over the life of the Plan, develop 6 to 25 management plans for traditional use areas, as they relate to the special interest areas, for habitat management in consultation with Tribes.
2. **Treaty and Nontreaty Uses** - Over the life of the Plan, establish one Forest policy per Tribe for access and acquisition of forest products for traditional cultural uses by tribal members in consultation with Tribes.
3. **Traditional Cultural Areas** - Over the life of the Plan, develop 6 to 25 management plans for traditional cultural areas in consultation with Tribes.
4. **Consultation** - Over the life of the Plan, develop one consultation protocol per Tribe for ongoing consultation with each Tribe.

Grazing Objectives

1. **Grazing** - Annually, provide 4,000 – 5,000 head months (HM).

Heritage Resource Objectives

1. **Identification, Evaluation, and Nomination** - Identify, evaluate, and nominate historic properties for listing on the National Register of Historic Places:
 - Annually inventory up to 100 acres
 - Annually identify up to 5 properties
 - Annually evaluate up to 5 properties
 - Over the life of the Plan, nominate up to five properties
2. **Protection** - Over the life of the Plan, protect and/or preserve 15 eligible historic properties.
3. **Overview** - Over the life of the Plan, complete a comprehensive prehistoric and historic overview.

Research Natural Areas (RNAs) Objectives

1. **RNA Establishment** - Over the life of the Plan, establish Doonan Peak, Huson Peak, and Seven Point Genetical RNAs in cooperation with the Rocky Mountain Research Station.

Social and Economic Systems Objectives

See the objectives listed above for output levels associated with management activities in the Forest, which provide uses, values, benefits, products, services, and visitor opportunities.

1. **Jobs/Income** - Based on achievement of projected outputs shown above, annually contribute to local economies by supporting 2,825 – 3,050 local jobs and \$80,600,000 - \$86,700,000 in local income.

Wilderness (Congressionally Designated) Objectives

1. **Wild Character** - Over the life of the Plan, maintain or improve the wilderness character by restoring 2 to 4 existing impacted sites while providing appropriate wilderness recreation opportunities for visitors.

Suitability of Areas

Introduction

National Forest System lands are generally suitable for a variety of multiple uses, such as outdoor recreation, range, timber, watershed, and enjoyment of wildlife and fish habitat. Identification of areas generally suitable for various uses and activities is an important part of the Plan strategy involving social, economic, and ecological considerations. Suitability identification is guidance for project and activity decisionmaking.

Management areas are used in this Plan to identify the general suitability of lands for different uses and management activities. Suitability for some uses and activities is also identified for the

entire Forest, rather than a particular management area. While both Forestwide and management area descriptions are used to identify areas that are generally suitable for different types of management and use, they do not determine what uses and management activities will actually take place at any given time or location. Those decisions will be made later through site-specific analysis of proposed projects and activities.

Lands are generally suitable for uses and activities unless one of the following conditions applies:

- Use is prohibited by law, regulation, executive order, or agency resource management directives.
- Use results in substantial and permanent impairment of the productivity of the land or renewable resource.
- Use is incompatible with the desired conditions for the relevant portion of the Plan area.

The following sections present suitability across the Forest and by management area. Special areas are also reflected in management areas.

Forestwide Suitability

Topics discussed in this section do not apply to specifically mapped management areas in the Forest; they apply across the Forest, anywhere respective suitability criteria are met. In the following section, Forestwide suitability of areas is presented for timber, livestock grazing, riparian conservation areas, motorized recreation, utility corridors, communication sites, and minerals.

Timber

Lands where timber harvest could occur are designated as:

1. **Lands generally suitable for timber production.** These are lands where timber production is compatible with desired condition and objectives. Harvest will occur on a regulated, scheduled basis with rotation ages.
2. **Other lands where timber harvest is an appropriate tool to achieve desired conditions.** These lands are not suitable for timber production. Harvest may occur, but is not scheduled or regulated, with no rotation age. Harvest is compatible with desired condition and may occur for purposes other than timber production.

Table 11 summarizes suitability acres. The timber suitability map (Appendix B of this Plan, Figure B-1) displays areas where timber harvest could occur.

Table 11. Timber suitability acres

Suitability	Acres
Suitable for timber production	817,200
Other lands where responsible official determines harvest is appropriate as a tool to achieve desired condition	777,500

The Forest has 1,594,700 acres where timber harvest could be used as a tool to achieve desired conditions. This represents approximately 72 percent of the KNF. Of those lands, approximately 817,200 acres are generally suitable for timber production. This represents 37 percent of the KNF. The biological aspects of timber suitability will be reviewed at a smaller, site-specific scale during project implementation.

Livestock Grazing

The Forest has 147,900 acres that are considered suitable for livestock grazing, representing approximately seven percent of the KNF. Range suitability will be reviewed at a smaller, site-specific scale during project implementation. The range suitability map (Appendix B of this Plan, Figure B-2) displays areas that are considered suitable for livestock grazing in the Forest.

Riparian Conservation Areas

Riparian conservation areas (see glossary for categories) are generally suitable for activities that improve, restore, or maintain aquatic and riparian ecosystems desired conditions (see “Riparian Area Guidelines” on page 3-9 in Chapter 3).

Motorized Recreation

Motorized recreation is generally suitable on designated routes and in designated areas. Current designated routes and areas are identified on district travel access maps and the Kootenai Snow Trails map.

Utility Corridors

Utility development is generally suitable in designated utility corridors. A listing and map of designated utility corridors can be found in Appendix B of this Plan (Table B-1 and Figure B-3).

Communication Sites

Communication site development is generally suitable at designated communication sites. A listing and map of designated communication sites can be found in Appendix B of this Plan (Table B-2 and Figure B-3).

Minerals

Areas not withdrawn from mineral entry are generally suitable for locatable mineral exploration and development (locatables are subject to rights of entry as defined by the Mining Law of 1872, 30 U.S.C. 22 et seq. (as amended)). A listing of withdrawn areas can be found in Appendix B of this Plan (Table B-3).

Management Area Suitability and Special Areas

Management Areas

Management areas (MAs) define the suitability of various places for different uses and management activities. Activities and uses in management areas are reflective of forestwide desired conditions found in Chapter 1 and management area desired conditions in this Chapter. Management area uses or activities may be limited by Forestwide desired conditions and design criteria found in Chapters 1 and 3. Unless otherwise indicated, the more restrictive conditions apply.

The activities and uses in the Suitability Tables, for each management area, are described below:

Wildland fire use: Although suitable in most MAs, this use is further defined by a Wildland Fire Use Plan and the annual Fire Management Plan. These plans define the criteria as to

where and when wildland fire use would be permitted. The application of wildland fire use is dependent on site-specific conditions such as weather patterns and location.

Prescribed burning: This refers to managed active burning that is set and monitored to burn at certain intensities over a defined area.

Timber harvest as a tool: Timber harvest, which is the commercial removal of wood fiber for utilization, is a tool for managing towards desired conditions. If a MA is suitable for timber harvest as a tool but not suitable for timber production, timber harvest would only occur to move towards desired condition and/or achieve objectives such as fuels reduction or wildlife habitat improvements.

Timber production: This includes timber harvest that is scheduled and regulated, and harvested on a rotation basis. Timber harvest occurs to move timber and other resources towards desired conditions.

Special forest products and firewood - Commercial and personal use: This refers to special forest products, which include but is not limited to: gathering of huckleberries, collection of bows, and transplanting of trees. Commercial use is through a permit and is the gathering of products for sale for revenue production. Personal use may or may not require a permit and gathering of products is for personal or family use and not for sale.

Grazing: This includes livestock grazing through permitted use.

Motorized (summer): This refers to use of motorized vehicles, such as four-wheel drives and OHVs during summer months (May 1 through November 30 every year). Although the desired condition for this use is defined for each MA, this use will follow current travel management maps and decisions until travel management planning is completed.

Motorized (winter): This refers to use of snowmobiles and other motorized winter vehicles during the winter months (December 1 through April 30 every year). Although the desired condition for this use is defined for each MA, this use will follow current travel management maps and decisions until travel management planning is completed.

Nonmotorized (summer and winter): This refers to use by hiking, running, walking, horseback riding, or other means of nonmotorized recreation. This does not include mountain biking, which is described under “mechanized.” Nonmotorized use is generally suitable in all MAs.

Motorized Tools: This refers to hand-held tools, such as the use of chainsaws for trail clearing. For some MAs, this use is specified for administrative use, meaning personal or commercial use would generally not be suitable.

Mechanized: This refers to any wheeled vehicle, such as mountain bikes, nonmotorized carts, wheelbarrows, and other wheeled, non-motorized vehicle. For some MAs, this use is specified as limited to designated routes.

Road construction (permanent or temporary): This refers to building of roads for a specified use or uses, either permanent or temporary.

Minerals – Leasable and Mineral Materials: This refers to leasable minerals such as oil and gas. This use would be permitted through site-specific analysis. Mineral materials include gravel and decorative rock, which is permitted for commercial or personal use.

Each MA is characterized by a description and desired conditions. General suitability for each management area is depicted in each suitability table. In addition, management areas are displayed in the Plan map that accompanies this Plan.

Special Areas

Special areas are areas within the National Forest system designated for their unique or special characteristics. Management guidance for the special areas is found in Forestwide and management area desired conditions and design criteria. For example, MA1a in this chapter includes guidance for congressionally designated wilderness and design criteria identified in Chapter 3 provides direction found in applicable Forest Service manuals pertaining to the management of congressionally designated wilderness.

These special areas, which are discussed in the rest of this chapter, are identified by a management area and are displayed in the Plan map that accompanies this document. These areas are also listed in the following table and are designated, or proposed to be designated, by statute or administrative action.

Table 12 (next page) displays a list of KNF management areas and acreages.

Table 12. KNF management areas and acreages

Management Area	Management Area Name	Acres	Percent
1a	Congressionally Designated Wilderness	93,500	4%
1c	Congressionally Designated Wilderness Study Areas	34,100	2%
1d	Wild Lands	124,400	6%
2b	Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers	43,900	2%
3	Special Interest Areas (Aquatic, Botanical, Ecological, Geological, Heritage Resource, Pioneer, Recreational, Scenic, Traditional/Cultural, Zoological)	59,300	3%
4a	Established and Proposed Research Natural Areas	8,400	0%
5a	Backcountry – Nonmotorized summer and winter	204,400	9%
5b	Backcountry – Motorized summer and winter	140,900	6%
5c	Backcountry – Nonmotorized summer, motorized winter	73,500	3%
6	General Forest	1,422,900	64%
7	Primary Recreation Areas	12,300	1%
	Total NFS lands	2,217,600	

Because some of the management areas overlap, a hierarchy was developed for the management areas for map display and acre calculations. The management area hierarchy is as follows, listed in order of highest to lowest priority, for acre summaries and mapping:

1. 1a Congressionally Designated Wilderness
2. 4a Established and Proposed Research Natural Areas
3. 1c Congressionally Designated Wilderness Study Areas
4. 1d Wild Lands
5. 2b Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers
6. 3 SIAs
7. 7 Primary Recreation Areas

Because of overlapping management areas, the acre figures reported in Table 2 may not match those listed in the special area section below, where total acre figures by special area are shown.

MA1a – Congressionally Designated Wilderness

Description

The KNF manages one congressionally designated wilderness area – the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness. The Cabinet Mountains Wilderness totals 93,500 as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. If, over the life of this Plan, Congress designates any additional wilderness areas on the KNF, those areas would be allocated to this MA.

Desired Condition

The Cabinet Mountains Wilderness provides opportunities for exploration, solitude, risk, challenge, and primitive recreation. Opportunities for solitude are moderate to high on the existing trail system with few human encounters expected. Opportunities for solitude are high when traveling cross-country with almost no human encounters expected. Campsites may be visible at popular destinations and at major trail junctions. These sites accommodate moderate use. Directional and regulatory signs are primarily found at trailheads outside of this MA but some signs may be present within these areas. Designated wilderness areas are managed according to approved plans, which emphasize maintenance and enhancement of wilderness characteristics and primitive qualities. Buildings are rare within this MA, however, preservation of historical features is accomplished when compatible with designated wilderness. Ecosystems are influenced by natural processes with little or no human intervention. Ecological processes such as fire, insects, and disease are the primary factors affecting landscapes patterns within this MA. Non-native plants are rare and not likely to occur. Forage for wildlife and livestock is available in meadows and natural openings, although availability may be limited due to topography, growing season, and disturbance. Suitable activities and uses within this MA are displayed in Table 13.

Table 13. Generally suitable activities and uses for MA1a (Congressionally Designated Wilderness)

Management Activities & Uses	Suitable
Wildland Fire Use	Yes
Prescribed Burning	Yes
Timber Harvest as a Tool	No
Timber Production (scheduled on a rotation basis)	No
Commercial Use of Special Forest Products and Firewood	No
Personal Use of Special Forest Products and Firewood	Yes
Grazing	No
Motorized (Summer)	No
Motorized (Winter)	No
Nonmotorized (Summer)	Yes
Nonmotorized (Winter)	Yes
Motorized Tools	No
Mechanized (e.g., Mountain Bikes)	No
Road Construction (permanent or temporary)	No
Minerals	
Leasable	No
Mineral Materials (Salable)	No

MA1c – Congressionally Designated Wilderness Study Areas

Description

The KNF manages one congressionally designated wilderness study area (WSA) – the Ten Lakes WSA. Ten Lakes (34,100 acres) was congressionally designated as a WSA in the Montana Wilderness Study Act of 1977 (Public Law 95-150). It is administered to maintain the existing wilderness character and potential for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Uses established and allowed prior to the Act of 1977 are allowed to continue until the wilderness study is complete and Congressional action is taken. Activities, practices, and management actions that do not protect wilderness characteristics may be limited or prohibited.

Desired Condition

The existing wilderness character and potential for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System is maintained for the Ten Lakes WSA. Uses established and allowed prior to the legislation requiring the wilderness study are allowed to continue until congressional action is taken. Ecosystems are primarily influenced by natural processes with little human intervention. These areas primarily offer opportunities for primitive recreation. Buildings are rare within this MA, however, preservation of historical features complimentary of the WSA continues. Management actions sustain the natural ecosystem. Suitable activities and uses within this MA are displayed in Table 14.

Table 14. Generally suitable activities and uses for MA1c (Congressionally Designated Wilderness Study Areas)

Management Activities & Uses	Suitable
Wildland Fire Use	Yes
Prescribed Burning	Yes
Timber Harvest as a Tool	No
Timber Production (scheduled on a rotation basis)	No
Commercial Use of Special Forest Products and Firewood	No
Personal Use of Special Forest Products and Firewood	Yes
Grazing	No
Motorized (Summer)	No
Motorized (Winter)	Yes
Nonmotorized (Summer)	Yes
Nonmotorized (Winter)	Yes
Motorized Tools for Administrative Work	Yes
Mechanized (e.g., Mountain Bikes)	Yes
Road Construction (permanent or temporary)	No
Minerals	
Leasable	No
Mineral Materials (Salable)	No

MA1d – Wild Lands

Description

This MA applies to the four areas listed in Table 15. These areas have wilderness characteristics but are not proposed as additions to the National Wilderness Preservation System at this time. They are managed to protect those wilderness characteristics that allow for future consideration of these lands as wilderness. These areas provide opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation opportunities.

Table 15. Areas not recommended as additions to the National Wilderness Preservation System

Wild Lands	Proposed Acres
Cabinet Mountains Addition	29,900
Roderick	23,500
Scotchman Peaks	34,700
Whitefish Divide	38,900

Desired Condition

The wilderness characteristics of these areas are protected to allow for future consideration of these lands as wilderness by Congress. Ecosystems are influenced by natural processes with little human intervention. Ecological processes such as fire, insects, and disease are the primary factors affecting landscape patterns within this MA. Non-native plants are rare and not likely to occur. These areas provide opportunities for exploration, solitude, risk, challenge, and primitive recreation. Opportunities for solitude are moderate to high on the existing trail system with few human encounters expected. Opportunities for solitude are high when traveling cross-country with almost no human encounters expected. Campsites may be visible at popular destinations and at major trail junctions. These sites accommodate moderate use. Forage for wildlife and livestock is available in meadows and natural openings, although availability may be limited due to topography, growing season, and disturbance patterns. Buildings are rare within this MA, however, preservation of historical features complimentary of this MA continues. Suitable activities and uses within this MA are displayed in Table 16.

Table 16. Generally suitable activities and uses for MA1d (Wild Lands)

Management Activities & Uses	Suitable
Wildland Fire Use	Yes
Prescribed Burning	Yes
Timber Harvest as a Tool	No
Timber Production (scheduled on a rotation basis)	No
Commercial Use of Special Forest Products and Firewood	No
Personal Use of Special Forest Products and Firewood	Yes
Grazing	No
Motorized (Summer)	No
Motorized (Winter)	No
Nonmotorized (Summer)	Yes
Nonmotorized (Winter)	Yes
Motorized Tools for Administrative Work	Yes
Mechanized (e.g., Mountain Bikes)	No
Road Construction (permanent or temporary)	No
Minerals	
Leasable	No
Mineral Materials (Salable)	No

MA2b – Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers

Description

This MA applies to river segments that have been identified as eligible or suitable for inclusion as part of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System (W&SR) under the authority granted by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, as amended. Eligible or suitable rivers and adjacent areas are managed to protect the free-flowing, and outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish, wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Eligible rivers are classified as:

- **Wild Rivers:** Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted. These represent vestiges of primitive America.
- **Scenic Rivers:** Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads.
- **Recreational Rivers:** Those rivers or sections of rivers readily accessible by road or railroad that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.

A total of 249 miles have been identified as eligible in this Plan. Table 17 displays these recommended river segments and classifications.

Table 17. River classifications

River	GA Name	District	Status	Recommended Classification	Miles	Acres*
Kootenai River						
Seg. 1	F/K/L	Libby	Eligible	Recreational	8.9	737
Seg. 2	Libby	Libby	Eligible	Recreational	10.1	362
Seg. 3	B/L	3 River/ Libby	Eligible	Recreational	8.8	2,299
Seg. 4	B/L	3 River	Eligible	Recreational	10.3	235
Seg. 5	B/Y	3 River	Eligible	Recreational	8.7	2,309
Yaak River						
Seg. 1	Y	3 River	Eligible	Recreational	19.1	1,842
Seg.2	Y	3 River	Eligible	Recreational	9.8	2,734
Seg. 3	Y	3 River	Eligible	Recreational	11.4	2,069
Seg. 4	B/Y	3 River	Eligible	Wild	9.3	2,586
West Fork Yaak River						
Seg. 1	Y	3 River	Eligible	Wild	4.3	1,329
Seg. 2	Y	3 River	Eligible	Recreational	5.6	1,428
Vinal Creek System						
Vinal Creek/Seg. 1	Y	3 River	Eligible	Scenic	4.1	1,074
Turner Creek/Seg. 2	Y	3 River	Eligible	Scenic	1.0	386
Vermilion River	C	Cabinet	Eligible	Recreational	13.2	3,599

MA2b – Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers (continued)

Table 17. River classifications (continued)

River	GA Name	District	Status	Recommended Classification	Miles	Acres*
Bull River System						
Bull River/Seg. 1	C	Cabinet	Eligible	Recreational	11.3	1,911
Bull River/Seg. 2	C	Cabinet	Eligible	Recreational	9.1	1,622
North Fork and Middle Fork Bull River/Seg.3	C	Cabinet	Eligible	Wild	17.4	4,135
East Fork Bull River/Seg. 4	C	Cabinet	Eligible	Recreational	4.5	1,118
East Fork Bull River/Seg. 5	C	Cabinet	Eligible	Wild	3.0	997
North Fork of the East Fork Bull River/Seg. 6	C	Cabinet	Eligible	Recreational	2.2	616
North Fork of the East Fork Bull River/Seg. 7	C/L	Cabinet	Eligible	Wild	1.4	497
Big Creek System						
Big Creek/Seg.1	K	Rexford	Eligible	Recreational	7.6	2,261
South Fork Big Creek/Seg. 2	K	Rexford	Eligible	Recreational	6.7	2,103
Little North Fork Big Creek/Seg. 3	K	Rexford	Eligible	Wild	1.6	452
Good Creek/Seg. 4	K	Rexford	Eligible	Wild	2.4	717
North Fork Big Creek/Seg. 5	K	Rexford	Eligible	Wild	5.6	1,797
Copeland Creek/Seg. 6	K	Rexford	Eligible	Wild	1.8	564
Lookout Creek/Seg. 7	K	Rexford	Eligible	Wild	2.4	725
East Fork Lookout Creek/Seg. 7	K	Rexford	Eligible	Wild	1.4	443
Unnamed Tributary to Lookout Creek/Seg. 7	K	Rexford	Eligible	Wild	1.7	515
Grave Creek System						
Grave Creek / Seg. 1	T	Fortine	Eligible	Recreational	13.0	3,699
Stahl Creek / Seg. 2	T	Fortine	Eligible	Recreational	4.3	1,244
Clarence Creek / Seg. 3	T	Fortine	Eligible	Recreational	5.2	1,654
Big Sky Creek / Seg. 4	T	Fortine	Eligible	Recreational	6.3	2,002
Quartz Creek System						
Quartz Creek / Seg. 1	L	Libby	Eligible	Recreational	9.5	2,572
West Fork Quartz Creek / Seg.2	L	Libby	Eligible	Wild	2.8	892
West Fork Quartz Creek /Seg. 3	L	Libby	Eligible	Recreational	3.1	904

* National Forest System lands only

MA2b – Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers (continued)

Desired Condition

Eligible W&SRs and their adjacent areas are managed to retain their free-flowing status, classification, and outstandingly remarkable values. Buildings within this MA are maintained if they compliment the recommended classification of the individual river segment. Suitable activities and uses within this MA are displayed in Table 18.

Table 18. Generally suitable activities and uses for MA2b (Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers)

Management Activities & Uses	Suitable
Wildland Fire Use	Yes
Prescribed Burning	Yes
Timber Harvest as a Tool	Wild – No Scenic – Yes Rec – Yes
Timber Production (scheduled on a rotation basis)	No
Commercial Use of Special Forest Products and Firewood	No
Personal Use of Special Forest Products and Firewood	Yes
Grazing	Yes
Motorized (Summer)	Wild – No Scenic – Yes Rec – Yes
Motorized (Winter)	Wild – No Scenic – Yes Rec – Yes
Nonmotorized (Summer)	Yes
Nonmotorized (Winter)	Yes
Motorized Tools (for Scenic and Recreational Rivers)	Yes
Motorized Tools for Administrative Use (Wild Rivers only)	Yes
Mechanized (e.g., Mountain Bikes)	Yes
Road Construction (permanent or temporary)	Wild – No Scenic – Yes Rec – Yes
Minerals	
Leasable	No
Mineral Materials (Salable)	No

MA3 – Special Interest Areas (Aquatic, Botanical, Ecological, Geological, Heritage Resource, Pioneer, Recreational, Scenic, Traditional Cultural, Zoological)

Description

This MA applies to the areas listed in Table 19. These are special places across the Forest that have unique, unusual, or important flora, fauna, geological, historical, paleontological, scenic, or recreational attributes. These areas are managed to protect and enhance the values for which they were identified. Each area is identified by a special interest type (SIA) type and are managed in a similar manner. SIA types include: botanical, ecological, aquatic, zoological, geological, traditional cultural, recreational, cultural, and scenic area. Where there are dual SIA allocations, the most restrictive guidance applies. Established SIAs currently exist in the Forest; whereas, SIAs identified as proposed are being brought forward as part of this Plan.

Table 19. Special Interest Areas (SIAs)

SIA Name	GA Name	District	Established Acres	Proposed Acres	SIA Type
Barnum Wetland	Fisher	Libby	199		Botanical/Aquatic
Berray Cedars	Clark	Cabinet	47		Botanical
Bitterroot Point	Libby	Libby	126		Botanical/ Traditional, Cultural
Boyd Mill	Yaak	3 Rivers	125		Ecological
Clay Mountain	Yaak	3 Rivers	21		Botanical
Devil Gap	Clark	Cabinet	831		Geological
Fortine Creek Meadows	Tobacco	Fortine	37		Botanical/ Ecological
French Creek Fen	Yaak	3 Rivers	37		Botanical
Hamilton Gorge	Tobacco	Fortine	144		Geological
Hidden Lake	Tobacco	Fortine	607		Botanical/Aquatic
Kelsey Creek	Yaak	3 Rivers	17	36	Botanical
Kerr Meadows	Tobacco	Fortine	58		Aquatic/Botanical
Kilbrennan Lake	Yaak	3 Rivers	56		Botanical
Kootenai Falls	Bull/Libby	3 Rivers/ Libby	420		Traditional, Cultural/Heritage
Lower Brimstone	Tobacco	Fortine	39		Botanical
Lower Sunday Creek Ecosystem	Tobacco	Fortine	150		Ecological/ Traditional, Cultural
Lower West Fork Yaak Falls	Yaak	3 Rivers	274		Traditional, Cultural/Geological
Magnesia Fen	Tobacco	Fortine	12		Aquatic/Botanical
Napi Knob	Tobacco	Fortine	18		Botanical
North End Alkali Ecosystem	Tobacco	Fortine	23		Ecological
Northwest Peaks Scenic Area	Yaak	3 Rivers	4,714	8,533	Scenic
Pete Creek	Yaak	3 Rivers	320		Botanical
Rexford Hoodoos	Tobacco	Rexford	73		Geological
Rocky Fivemile Forest	Tobacco	Fortine	160		Ecological

MA3 – Special Interest Areas (continued)

Table 19. Special Interest Areas (SIAs) (continued)

SIA Name	GA Name	District	Established Acres	Proposed Acres	SIA Type
Ross Creek Scenic Area	Bull	3 Rivers	101		Scenic/Traditional, Cultural
Spread Otis Creeks	Yaak	3 Rivers	381		Botanical
Star Canyon	Bull	3 Rivers	81		Geological
Sterling Forest	Tobacco	Fortine	127		Ecological/ Botanical
Swamp Mountain Meadows	Tobacco	Fortine	34		Botanical
Ten Lakes Scenic Area	Tobacco	Fortine	6,542	54,279	Scenic
Tenmile Talus	Koocanusa	Rexford	390		Geological
Upper Big Creek Riparian Ecosystem	Koocanusa/ Libby	Rexford/ Libby	2,966		Ecological
White Creek Fen	Tobacco	Fortine	14		Botanical
Wood Creek Larch	Yaak	3 Rivers	115		Scenic
Yahk Mining District	Yaak	3 Rivers	456		Heritage
494 Road Bedrock Meadow	Tobacco	Fortine		35	Botanical
Bad Medicine	Bull	3 Rivers		1,937	Zoological/ Traditional, Cultural
Baree Creek	Fisher	Libby		57	Traditional, Cultural
Barron Creek	Koocanusa	Rexford		326	Traditional, Cultural
Big Creek Face	Koocanusa	Rexford		327	Traditional, Cultural
Blacktail Wallows	Yaak	3 Rivers		144	Aquatic/Botanical
Bristow Creek	Koocanusa	Libby		18	Botanical
Callahan Historic Mining & Logging District	Bull	3 Rivers		1,689	Heritage
Canyon Falls	Bull	Libby		33	Geological
Caribou Creek	Yaak	3 Rivers		107	Botanical
Cheer Creek	Bull	3 Rivers		67	Botanical
Chicago Peak	Clark	Cabinet		278	Traditional, Cultural
Cody Lakes	Fisher	Libby		41	Aquatic/Zoological
Drop Creek Fen	Koocanusa	Rexford		25	Aquatic/Botanical
East Fork Bull River	Clark	Cabinet		109	Botanical
East Fork Pipe Creek	Libby	Libby		1,118	Geological
Fairway Falls	Bull	3 Rivers		40	Aquatic/Geological
Falls Creek	Bull	3 Rivers		42	Scenic
Fivemile	Koocanusa	Libby		80	Traditional, Cultural
Flower Lake	Libby	Libby		13	Aquatic/Botanical
French Creek Cedars	Yaak	3 Rivers		131	Botanical
Gateway Prairie	Tobacco	Rexford		2,137	Ecological
Geiger Lakes	Fisher	Libby		577	Traditional, Cultural
Halverson Face	Bull	3 Rivers		47	Botanical
Kenelty Caves	Fisher	Libby		87	Geological
Kootenai Mountain	Libby	3 Rivers		217	Traditional, Cultural

MA3 – Special Interest Areas (continued)

Table 19. Special Interest Areas (SIAs) (continued)

SIA Name	GA Name	District	Established Acres	Proposed Acres	SIA Type
Libby Creek Gold Panning	Libby	Libby		156	Recreational
Little North Fork Falls	Koocanusa	Rexford		6	Recreational/ Traditional, Cultural
Lost Horse Fen	Yaak	3 Rivers		308	Aquatic/Botanical
Lower Bristow	Koocanusa	Libby		371	Traditional, Cultural
Lower Stone Hill	Koocanusa	Rexford		81	Traditional, Cultural
McKillop Fen	Fisher	Libby		28	Aquatic
North Fork Keeler	Bull	3 Rivers		95	Aquatic/Botanical
North/Middle/South Forks Bull River	Clark	Cabinet		215	Botanical
Pinkham Falls	Koocanusa	Rexford		21	Traditional, Cultural/Geological
Pipe Ridge	Libby	Libby		30	Botanical
Purcell Summit Fen	Yaak	3 Rivers		76	Aquatic
Rainbow Lake	Libby	Libby		167	Aquatic
Rock Creek Meadows	Clark	Cabinet		186	Aquatic
Ross Falls	Bull	3 Rivers		44	Traditional, Cultural/Geological
Silver Butte Mountain	Fisher	Libby		170	Traditional, Cultural
Skid Creek Fen	Koocanusa	Rexford		79	Aquatic/Botanical
Smeads Bench	Clark	Cabinet		68	Aquatic
Spar Creek Cedars	Bull	3 Rivers		74	Botanical
Spar Springs	Bull	3 Rivers		196	Aquatic
Spruce Mountain Rockfall	Bull	3 Rivers		49	Geological
Stone Hill	Koocanusa	Rexford		760	Recreational/ Geological
Sutton Falls	Koocanusa	Rexford		113	Traditional, Cultural/Geological
Tenmile Falls	Koocanusa	Rexford		187	Traditional, Cultural/Geological
Tepee Lake	Libby	Libby		46	Aquatic/Botanical
Vermilion Falls	Clark	Cabinet		99	Recreational/ Traditional, Cultural
Vinal Lake	Yaak	3 Rivers		83	Traditional, Cultural/Aquatic
West Pipe	Libby	Libby		17	Botanical
Winkum Creek	Yaak	3 Rivers		80	Botanical
Yaak Falls	Yaak	3 Rivers		44	Traditional, Cultural/ Recreational
Total SIA Acres			19,715	76,379	

MA3 – Special Interest Areas (continued)

Desired Condition

Special interest areas (SIAs) protect or enhance, and where appropriate, foster public use and enjoyment of areas with special values. These values apply to aquatic, botanical, ecological, geological, heritage resource, recreational, scenic, traditional cultural, zoological, or other valuable and unique resources. These areas are usually small (less than 1,000 acres) except for the scenic SIAs that are usually several thousand acres. Where appropriate, interpretation of resources for public education or recreation is provided. Buildings are present within this MA (some SIAs) and are usually designed and maintained for the national forest visitor. Vegetation, terrestrial and aquatic habitat, soil productivity, and water quality appears natural in most areas. Management activities vary within these areas depending upon the specific type of SIA.

Suitable uses and activities for Aquatic, Botanical, Ecological, and Zoological SIAs are displayed in Table 20. Suitable uses and activities for Cultural Resource and Tribal Traditional Cultural SIAs are displayed in Table 21. Suitable uses and activities for Geologic, Recreational, and Scenic SIAs are displayed in Table 22.

Table 20. Generally suitable activities and uses for MA3 (SIAs - Aquatic, Botanical, Ecological, and Zoological)

Management Activities & Uses	Suitable
Wildland Fire Use	Yes
Prescribed Burning	Yes
Timber Harvest as a Tool	No
Timber Production (scheduled on a rotation basis)	No
Special Forest Products and Firewood (commercial or personal use)	No
Grazing	No
Motorized (Summer)	No
Motorized (Winter)	No
Nonmotorized (Summer)	Yes
Nonmotorized (Winter)	Yes
Motorized Tools for Administrative Work	Yes
Mechanized (e.g., Mountain Bikes) on designated routes	Yes
Road Construction (permanent or temporary)	No
Minerals	
Leasable	No
Mineral Materials (Salable)	No

NOTE: Where a management plan has been developed for an SIA, suitability may differ from that listed in the table. The suitability in the specific SIA management plan would be followed.

MA3 – Special Interest Areas (continued)

Table 21. Generally suitable activities and uses for MA3 (SIAs - Cultural Resource and Tribal Traditional Cultural)

Management Activities & Uses	Suitable
Wildland Fire Use	Yes
Prescribed Burning	Yes
Timber Harvest as a Tool	No
Timber Production (scheduled on a rotation basis)	No
Special Forest Products and Firewood (commercial or personal use)	No
Grazing	No
Motorized (Summer)	No
Motorized (Winter)	No
Nonmotorized (Summer)	Yes
Nonmotorized (Winter)	Yes
Motorized Tools for Administrative Work	Yes
Mechanized (e.g., Mountain Bikes) on designated routes	Yes
Road Construction (permanent or temporary)	No
Minerals	
Leasable	No
Mineral Materials (Salable)	No

NOTE: Where a management plan has been developed for an SIA, suitability may differ from that listed in the table. The suitability in the specific SIA management plan would be followed.

Table 22. Generally suitable activities and uses for MA3 (SIAs - Geologic, Recreational, and Scenic)

Management Activities & Uses	Suitable
Wildland Fire Use	Yes
Prescribed Burning	Yes
Timber Harvest as a Tool	No
Timber Production (scheduled on a rotation basis)	No
Commercial Use of Special Forest Products and Firewood	No
Personal Use of Special Forest Products and Firewood	Yes
Grazing	No
Motorized (Summer) on Designated Routes	Yes
Motorized (Winter)	Yes
Nonmotorized (Summer)	Yes
Nonmotorized (Winter)	Yes
Motorized Tools	Yes
Mechanized (e.g., Mountain Bikes) on Designated Trails	Yes
Road Construction (permanent or temporary)	Yes – G, R No - S
Minerals	
Leasable	No
Mineral Materials (Salable)	No

G = Geologic Areas; R = Recreational Areas; S = Scenic Areas

NOTE: Where a management plan has been developed for an SIA, suitability may differ from that listed in the table. The suitability in the specific SIA management plan would be followed.

MA4a – Established and Proposed Research Natural Areas

Description

This MA applies to established and proposed research natural areas (RNAs). The KNF has eight established RNAs and three proposed RNAs. Established RNAs currently exist in the Forest; whereas, RNAs identified as proposed are being brought forward as part of this Plan. RNAs form a long-term network of ecological reserves identified for non-manipulative research, education, and the maintenance of biodiversity. Most of these areas protect late-seral or climax vegetative conditions. They are established or proposed to be established, to provide study and protection of a full range of habitat types. RNA information is displayed in Table 23.

Table 23. Research Natural Areas (RNAs)

RNA Name	GA Name	District	Established Acres	Proposed Acres
Big Creek	Koocanusa	Rexford	178	
Doonan Peak	Bull	Three Rivers		504
Hoskins Lake	Yaak	Three Rivers	376	
Huson Peak	Yaak / Libby	Libby		731
LeBeau	Tobacco	Fortine	411	
Lower Ross Creek	Bull	Three Rivers	1,874	
Norman Parmenter	Libby	Libby	1,289	
Pete Creek Meadows	Yaak	Three Rivers	153	
Seven Point Genetical	Clark	Cabinet		1,991
Ulm Peak	Clark	Cabinet	689	
Wolf Weigel	Fisher	Libby	240	
Total RNA Acres			5,210	3,226

Desired Condition

These areas maintain natural, relatively pristine conditions by allowing ecological processes to prevail with minimal human intervention. Most management activities are discouraged. Under special circumstances, deliberate manipulation may be used to maintain or reestablish ecological processes within a RNA, if approved in the RNA management plan or Establishment Record. Nonmanipulative research activities and projects are conducted with nonmotorized equipment. Buildings are not present within these areas. Existing trails have minimal, nonmotorized use. Alternatives for existing recreational uses may be examined and implemented. Suitable uses and activities within this MA are displayed in Table 24 (next page).

MA4a – Established and Proposed Research Natural Areas (continued)

Table 24. Generally suitable activities and uses for MA4a (established/proposed RNAs)

Management Activities & Uses	Suitable
Wildland Fire Use	No
Prescribed Burning	No
Timber Harvest as a Tool	No
Timber Production (scheduled on a rotation basis)	No
Special Forest Products and Firewood (commercial or personal use)	No
Grazing	No
Motorized (Summer)	No
Motorized (Winter)	No
Nonmotorized (Summer)	Yes
Nonmotorized (Winter)	Yes
Motorized Tools for Administrative or Research Work	Yes
Mechanized (e.g., Mountain Bikes) on Designated Trails	Yes
Road Construction (permanent or temporary)	No
Minerals	
Leasable	No
Mineral Materials (Salable)	No

NOTE: Where a management plan has been developed for an RNA, suitability may differ from that listed in the table. The suitability in the specific RNA management plan would be followed.

MA5a, 5b and 5c – Backcountry

Description

Most of these MAs consist of relatively large areas without roads. These MAs provide a variety of recreation opportunities, both motorized and nonmotorized. MA5a provides nonmotorized recreation year-round; MA5b provides motorized and nonmotorized recreation year-round; and MA5c provides motorized recreation in the winter and nonmotorized recreation year-round. Motorized opportunities are generally on trails, as these areas are primarily without roads. The density of motorized routes in all of the MA5s is much lower than the density of motorized routes in MA6 (General Forest). Constructed improvements in this MA generally consist of trails constructed and maintained for recreation users with associated signs and directional markers. In some areas, lookouts, cabins, or other structures are present. Current travel management opportunities continue within this MA until site-specific travel management planning is completed.

The MA5s contain diverse vegetation composition and structure that provides habitat security and connective corridors for certain species. Some evidence of past management activities are present. Watershed and vegetation restoration is accomplished through natural, ecological processes and limited active management activities.

Desired Condition

The range of recreational opportunities is maintained while emphasizing nonmotorized and motorized trail opportunities during the summer and winter periods. The density of motorized routes remains significantly less than in MA6 (General Forest). Existing recreation facilities are maintained. New construction of facilities is rare, with the possible exception of trails.

Ecological conditions are restored or improved. Natural processes create most of the ecological change with allowances for active management restoration activities under certain situations. Watershed and vegetative restoration is achieved predominantly through natural ecological processes and to a much lesser degree through restoration activities. The desired condition recognizes that there are several reasons for possible entry into these areas for restoration management activities. Following are circumstances when timber harvest or road construction may occur:

Timber harvest may occur under the following circumstances:

- To improve wildlife habitat.
- To maintain or restore the desirable characteristics or ecosystem composition and structure.
- If incidental to the implementation of a management activity or administrative use.

Limited road construction, which would generally be temporary, may occur under the following circumstances:

- A road is needed to protect public health and safety in cases of a threat of flood, fire, or other catastrophic event, that without intervention would cause the loss of life or property.
- A road is needed to help facilitate fuels reduction in the wildland urban interface.

- A road is needed for critical resource restoration and protection activities.
- A road is needed to conduct a response action under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) or to conduct a natural restoration action under CERCLA, section 311 of the Clean Water Act, or Oil Pollution Act.
- A road is needed in conjunction with any mineral lease, license, permit, or approval issued for mineral leasing operations.
- Road access is needed pursuant to reserved or valid existing rights or as provided by statute or treaty.
- Road realignment is needed to prevent resource damage by an existing road that is deemed essential for public or private access, management, or public health or safety, and where such damage cannot be corrected by maintenance.

Suitable uses and activities within this MA are displayed in Table 25.

Table 25. Generally suitable activities and uses for MA5a, 5b, and 5c (Backcountry)

Management Activities & Uses	Suitable
Wildland Fire Use	Yes
Prescribed Burning	Yes
Timber Harvest as a Tool	Yes - See Desired Condition
Timber Production (scheduled on a rotation basis)	No
Special Forest Products and Firewood	Yes
Grazing	Yes
Motorized (Summer)	5a – No 5b – Yes 5c – No
Motorized (Winter)	5a – No 5b – Yes 5c – Yes
Nonmotorized (Summer)	Yes
Nonmotorized (Winter)	Yes
Motorized Tools	Yes
Mechanized (e.g., Mountain Bikes)	Yes
Road Construction (permanent or temporary)	Yes - See Desired Condition
Minerals	
Leasable	Yes
Mineral Materials (Saleable)	No

MA6 – General Forest

Description

Most of this MA consists of relatively large areas with roads, trails, structures, and signs of forest management activities. This MA provides a variety of recreation opportunities, both motorized and nonmotorized. Motorized opportunities are on both roads and trails. The density of motorized routes in MA6 is much higher than the density of motorized routes in the MA5's (Backcountry). Nonmotorized opportunities are on trails, rivers, developed facilities and other sites. Constructed improvements in this MA generally consist of campgrounds, picnic or day use areas, trails, lookouts, cabins, or other structures. Current travel management opportunities will continue within this MA until site-specific travel management planning is completed.

MA6 contains diverse vegetation composition and structure. MA6 provides a variety of wildlife habitats, habitat security, and contributes to connective corridors for certain species. Watershed and vegetation restoration is accomplished predominantly through management that emulates natural processes but also through natural ecological processes. Management activities and use levels vary, depending on location, accessibility, terrain, economics, and resource conditions. Evidence of past management activities varies across the landscape from infrequent to very common.

Desired Condition

The range of recreational opportunities is maintained while site or route conditions are maintained or improved as opportunities allow. The density of motorized routes remains significantly more than in the MA5's (Backcountry). Existing recreation facilities are maintained or improved.

Ecological conditions are restored or improved. Management creates most of the ecological change. Watershed and vegetative restoration is achieved predominantly through restoration activities and through natural ecological processes. Restoration activities in MA6 are designed to: improve watershed and aquatic resource conditions, improve vegetation conditions, reduce fuels, improve wildlife habitat, or for other resource benefits. This MA contributes to regulated timber harvest estimates and timber sales occur for the primary purpose of timber production. Suitable uses and activities within this MA are displayed in Table 26.

Table 26. Generally suitable activities and uses for MA6 (General Forest)

Management Activities & Uses	Suitable
Wildland Fire Use	Yes
Prescribed Burning	Yes
Timber Harvest as a Tool	Yes
Timber Production (scheduled on a rotation basis)	Yes
Special Forest Products and Firewood	Yes
Grazing	Yes
Motorized (Summer)	Yes
Motorized (Winter)	Yes
Nonmotorized (Summer)	Yes
Nonmotorized (Winter)	Yes
Motorized Tools	Yes
Mechanized (e.g., Mountain Bikes)	Yes
Road Construction (permanent or temporary)	Yes
Minerals	
Leasable	Yes
Mineral Materials (Saleable)	Yes

MA7 – Primary Recreation Areas

Description

This MA applies to two areas on the KNF. This MA contains a variety of recreation sites and areas that provide an array of recreational opportunities and experiences in a forested environment. These areas may include a heavy investment in recreational infrastructure designed, built, and managed for the national forest visitor. Table 27 displays the MA7 management areas in the KNF.

Table 27. Primary recreation areas

Primary Recreation Areas	District	Acres
Lake Kooacanusa	Libby, Rexford	14,809
Turner Mountain Ski Area	Libby	852

Desired Condition

Major site modifications and facility installations are present. These installations and improvements appear singly or in a combination within recreational complexes. They may include both private and public facilities located on NFS lands. Trails are usually well developed and maintained to a high standard.

These areas may be characterized by substantially modified natural environments. Recreation use in these areas is high. The sounds of people using the area are evident and interaction between visitors is common. A considerable number of facilities designed for use by a large number of people may be present. Facilities are often provided for special activities and are designed to be fully accessible. These facilities are architecturally designed to blend with the forest surroundings while providing the necessary services for forest visitors.

Vegetative manipulation provides for safety and accommodates both existing and new facilities. Vegetative manipulation within ski areas maintains and creates ski runs. Roads, trails, and sometimes highways are often clearly evident. The frequency of human contact is moderate to high. Traffic control devices (signs and barriers) are obvious and numerous, although they are designed to blend in with the human-made environment. Regulatory and informational signs are common. Picnic tables, fire grates, toilet buildings, and camping sites are visible. Interpretive information is provided where needed. Ecosystems are managed and natural processes may or may not, operate freely. Suitable uses and activities within this MA are displayed in Table 28 (next page).

MA7 – Primary Recreation Areas (continued)

Table 28. Generally suitable activities and uses for MA7 (Primary Recreation Areas)

Management Activities & Uses	Suitable
Wildland Fire Use	No
Prescribed Burning	Yes
Timber Harvest as a Tool	Yes
Timber Production (scheduled on a rotation basis)	No
Special Forest Products and Firewood	Yes
Grazing	No
Motorized (Summer)	Yes
Motorized (Winter)	Yes
Nonmotorized (Summer)	Yes
Nonmotorized (Winter)	Yes
Motorized Tools	Yes
Mechanized (e.g., Mountain Bikes)	Yes
Road Construction (permanent or temporary)	Yes
Minerals in all areas except the Kooacanusa Primary Recreation Area	
Leasable	No
Mineral Materials (Salable)	No
Minerals in the Kooacanusa Primary Recreation Area	
Leasable	No
Mineral Materials (Salable)	Yes