Chapter 2. Strategy

Introduction

The strategy describes how the IPNF 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 10 percent of concentrated use areas.
- Over the life of the Plan, 5 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:
    - 250 to 500 miles of motorized trails.
    - 30 to 75 miles of nonmotorized trails.

5. **Summer trails -** Annually, maintain both motorized and nonmotorized summer trail activities on:
    - 100 to 200 miles of motorized trails.
    - 100 to 200 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 85,000 to 90,000 acres.

2. **Old Growth -** Forestwide, 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: 450 to 550 acres.
    - Warm/moist biophysical setting: 1,000 to 1,100 acres.
    - Subalpine biophysical setting: 350 to 450 acres.

3. **Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plant Species -** Over the life of the Plan:
    - Upon discovery of new invaders (noxious weeds or invasive plant species), contain 100 percent of these occurrences within the discovered site.
    - Upon discovery, treat 100 percent of noxious weeds and invasive plant species in weed-free grasslands, riparian areas, and wetlands.
    - Treat approximately 15,000 to 30,000 acres to reduce noxious weed 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 13.2 to 13.7 MMCF (69.9 – 73.2 MMBF), consisting of the following elements:

   - Approximately 11.4 to 11.5 MMCF (60.2 – 61.7 MMBF) from regularly scheduled timber harvests on lands suitable for timber production.
   - Approximately 1.8 to 2.2 MMCF (9.7 – 11.5 MMBF) from lands not suitable for timber production, but where timber harvest may occur for other multiple-use purposes.

   As described in FSH 1909.12 63.4, the above harvest volume 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 4,500 – 6,500 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 Selkirk and Cabinet/Yaak 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 Plan has been approved.

- **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.

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

1. **Watersheds Condition -** Trend watersheds shown to be functioning at risk (FAR) or not properly functioning (NPF) toward properly functioning condition (PFC) by:

   - Over the life of the Plan, removing or mitigating risk factors (that are within the reasonable control of National Forest management) for 25 percent of the 6th-code scale watersheds that are characterized as FAR or as NPF (approximately 20 to 30 sub-watersheds).
   - Treating 750 to 1000 acres in FAR and in NPF subwatersheds to fully restore, establish, or maintain aquatic functions and processes in those watersheds.

2. **303(d)-listed Waterbodies -** In each five-year period of the Plan, approximately 15 to 20 percent of the NFS lands within 303(d)-listed waterbodies or watersheds (FY2002 list) are eligible for delisting by:

   - Applying improvement measures and controls associated with most (approximately 90 percent) of the 303(d)-listed watersheds, streams, and waterbodies that have existing Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) and implementation plans.
   - Annually, improving, rehabilitating, or restoring 100 to 150 acres in 303(d)-listed watersheds.

3. **Fisheries Habitat -** Annually, enhance or restore 10 to 15 miles of habitat to maintain or restore structure, composition, and function of physical habitat for fisheries.

4. **Habitat Connectivity -** Over the life of the Plan, connect 10 to 15 miles of fragmented habitat where appropriate to provide for aquatic and riparian-associated species' migratory needs and maintenance of metapopulations.

5. **Soil Quality and Productivity -** Annually, restore soil integrity and productivity consistent with Regional Soil Quality criteria (FSM 2554.03 – R1 Supplement 2500-99-1) on approximately 400 acres currently not meeting soil quality criteria (or approximately seven percent of the vegetation management treatment acres).

Other Topics

American Indian Rights and Interests Objectives

1. **Treaty and Nontreaty Uses -** Over the life of the Plan, develop one policy for access and acquisition of forest products for traditional cultural uses by tribal members in consultation with the Tribes.

2. **Consultation -** Over the life of the Plan, develop one communication plan for ongoing consultation with each Tribe.

Grazing Objectives

1. **Grazing -** Annually, provide 2,000 – 3,200 head months (HMs).

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 five properties.
    - Annually evaluate up to five 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. **Historic Context -** Over the life of the Plan, develop five historic contexts for historic properties.

Minerals Objectives

1. **Abandoned Mines -** Annually, conduct reclamation activities on one abandoned mine site.

Research Natural Areas (RNAs) Objectives

1. **RNA Establishment -** Over the life of the Plan, establish two RNAs in cooperation with the Rocky Mountain Research Station (Red Horse Mountain and Upper Priest River RNAs).

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 3,165 – 3,215 local jobs and $91,900,000 - $93,200,000 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

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 the 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 9 summarizes timber suitability acres. The timber suitability map (Appendix B of this Plan, Figure B-1) displays areas where timber harvest could occur.

Table 9. Timber suitability acres

Suitability	Acres
Lands Generally Suitable for Timber Production	969,100
Other Lands where Responsible Official determines harvest is appropriate as a tool to achieve desired condition	976,900

The Forest has 1,946,000 acres where timber harvest could be used as a tool to achieve desired conditions. This represents approximately 78 percent of the IPNF. Of those lands, approximately 969,000 acres are generally suitable for timber production. This represents 39 percent of the

IPNF. The biological aspects of timber suitability will be reviewed at a smaller, site-specific scale during project implementation.

Livestock Grazing

The Forest has 20,600 acres that are considered suitable for livestock grazing, representing approximately a very small percentage of the IPNF. 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 3-10 in Chapter 3).

Motorized Recreation

Current travel management restrictions will remain in place throughout the Forest until site-specific travel management plans are complete. The Plan will not make individual road and trail decisions. Travel management plans will be based on, and will consider, information in the Plan, specifically: 1) the motorized/nonmotorized designations found in the management areas and 2) the desired conditions for the geographic areas. These two items from the Plan will be the foundation of the travel management plan. Until travel management plans are completed, current travel management direction, found on Forest visitor maps, remains in place.

Motorized recreation is generally suitable on designated routes and in designated areas. Current designated routes and areas are identified on the Forest Visitor's maps, the Coeur d'Alene River and St. Joe Ranger District Snowmobile Trails maps, the Sandpoint and Bonners Ferry Area Snowmobile Trails map, and the Priest Lake Winter Recreation 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 found 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 MA 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 10 (next page) displays a list of IPNF management areas and acreages.

Table 10. IPNF management areas and acreages

Management Area	Management Area Name	Acres	Percent
1a	Congressionally Designated Wilderness	9,900	0.4%
1b	Recommended Wilderness	129,700	5.2%
1c	Congressionally Designated Wilderness Study Areas	5,200	0.2%
1e	Primitive Lands	21,300	0.9%
2a	Congressionally Designated Wild and Scenic Rivers	21,300	0.9%
2b	Eligible or Suitable Wild and Scenic Rivers	48,200	1.9%
3	Special Interest Areas (Botanical, Geological, Cultural, Scenic and Recreational)	35,500	1.4%
4a	Established and Proposed Research Natural Areas	14,100	0.6%
4b	Experimental Forests	8,200	0.3%
5	Backcountry	679,000	27.2%
6	General Forest	1,515,200	60.6%
7	Primary Recreation Areas	13,100	0.5%
	Total NFS lands	**2,500,700**	

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. 2a Congressionally Designated Wild and Scenic Rivers
3. 4a Established and Proposed Research Natural Areas
4. 1b Recommended Wilderness
5. 1c Congressionally Designated Wilderness Study Areas
6. 1e Primitive Lands
7. 2b Eligible or Suitable Wild and Scenic Rivers
8. 3 SIAs
9. 4b Experimental Forests
10. 7 Primary Recreation Areas

Because of overlapping management areas, the acre figures reported in Table 10 may not match those listed in the special areas section below, where total acre figures by special area are shown.

MA1a – Congressionally Designated Wilderness

Description

The IPNF shares in the management of one congressionally designated wilderness area – the Salmo-Priest Wilderness. The Salmo-Priest Wilderness totals 41,335, of which 11,949 acres are on the IPNF in the state of Washington. This MA only applies to the portion of the Salmo-Priest Wilderness on the IPNF. If, over the life of this Plan, Congress designates any additional wilderness areas on the IPNF, those areas would be allocated in this MA.

Desired Condition

The Salmo-Priest 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 continues to occur, where 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 management area. 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 11.

Table 11. 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

MA1b – Recommended Wilderness

Description

This MA applies to the four areas listed in Table 12. These areas are recommended as additions to the National Wilderness Preservation System. They are managed to protect their wilderness characteristics until Congressional action is taken. Activities and management actions that do not protect wilderness characteristics are limited or prohibited.

Table 12. Recommended additions to the National Wilderness Preservation System

Recommended Wilderness	Recommended Acres
Mallard Larkins	56,600
Salmo-Priest	19,200
Scotchman Peaks	26,400
Selkirk	36,700

Desired Condition

The wilderness characteristics of each recommended area are maintained until congressional action is taken. Such characteristics include natural appearance, natural integrity, opportunities for solitude, opportunities for primitive recreation, and any identified special features.

Recommended 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. Recommended wilderness areas are managed to maintain and protect wilderness characteristics and primitive qualities. Buildings are rare within this MA; however, preservation of historical features, where compatible with recommended wilderness, continues. 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 management area. 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 uses and activities within this MA are displayed in Table 13.

MA1b – Recommended Wilderness (continued)

Table 13. Generally suitable activities and uses for MA1b (recommended 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 for Administrative Work	Yes
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 IPNF manages one congressionally designated wilderness study area (WSA) – Grandmother Mountain WSA (5,200 acres) located on the St. Joe Ranger District. It was acquired from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) as part of the Arkansas-Idaho Land Exchange Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-584). At the time of the exchange, the BLM was managing it as a WSA established under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782). The Arkansas-Idaho Land Exchange Act requires that this area be managed to preserve its suitability for designation as wilderness until Congress determines otherwise. Activities, practices, and management actions that do not protect wilderness characteristics may be limited or prohibited. Existing uses that were in place prior to acquisition by the Forest Service will continue.

Desired Condition

The existing wilderness character and potential for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System are maintained for the Grandmother Mountain WSA. Uses established and allowed prior to the legislation requiring the wilderness study until Congressional action is taken continue. Ecosystems are primarily influenced by natural processes with little human intervention. These areas primarily offer opportunities for backcountry 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)	Yes
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 (Saleable)	No

MA1e – Primitive Lands

Description

This MA applies to the two areas listed in Table 15. These two areas have wilderness characteristics but are not recommended as additions to the National Wilderness Preservation System. These areas are different from recommended wilderness (MA1b) in that they allow winter motorized recreation (snowmobiling) and mountain biking.

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

Primitive Lands	Proposed Acres
Salmo-Priest	1,600
Selkirk	19,700

Desired Condition

Backcountry values are maintained in areas proposed for primitive management. These areas are natural appearing and are relatively undisturbed by human management activity. 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. A variety of nonmotorized summer recreation opportunities occur. Mechanized summer opportunities including mountain bike use occurs. Winter motorized use occurs. 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 uses and activities within this MA are displayed in Table 16.

Table 16. Generally suitable activities and uses for MA1e (Primitive 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)	Yes
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 (Saleable)	No

MA2a – Congressionally Designated Wild and Scenic Rivers

Description

This MA applies to river segments that Congress or the Secretary of Interior have designated 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. The St. Joe River is the only river with designated segments – one segment of the river has a wild designation and the other segment of the river has a recreational designation. If any eligible or suitable river segments (see MA2b) are designated by Congress over the life of this Plan, those areas would be allocated in this MA.

Designated 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.

Table 17. Wild and Scenic Rivers

Currently Designated River	GA Name	District	Status	Classification	Miles	Acres*
St. Joe River	St. Joe	St. Joe	Designated	Wild	29.5	8,288
				Recreational	41.6	13,060

Desired Condition

The two segments of the St. Joe River are managed to protect their unique values. Direction contained in the St. Joe W&SR Development and Management Plan is followed. During the life of this Plan, this management plan is updated and revised.

Designated rivers and adjacent areas are managed to protect and perpetuate the free-flowing characteristics of the river, and outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish, wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. Several structures are located within the “recreational river” portion of this MA and are maintained and utilized. Those structures associated with the St Joe Lodge are located within the “wild” portion of the MA and are used and maintained under a special use permit. Historic properties (both historic and prehistoric sites) will be recognized elements of designated wild, scenic, or recreational river areas. Suitable uses within this MA are displayed in Table 18.

MA2a – Congressionally Designated Wild and Scenic Rivers (continued)

Table 18. Generally suitable activities and uses for MA2a (Congressionally Designated 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 Administrative Work	Yes
Mechanized (e.g., Mountain Bikes)	Wild – No Scenic – Yes Rec - Yes
Road Construction (permanent or temporary)	Wild – No Scenic – Yes Rec - Yes
Minerals Leasable Mineral Materials (Saleable)	 All – No All - No

MA2b – Eligible and Suitable Wild and Scenic Rivers

Description

This MA includes portions of nine rivers on the IPNF. Most of these rivers were found eligible or suitable as wild, scenic, or recreational rivers in the 1987 Forest Plan. Two rivers were identified as eligible and added to this Plan, which include portions of the Kootenai River and Hughes Fork of the Priest River. A total of 265 miles have been identified as eligible and/or suitable in this Plan. Table 19 displays these recommended river segments and classifications.

Eligible and suitable 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.

Table 19. River classifications

River	GA Name	District	Status	Recommended Classification	Miles	Acres*
Upper Priest River	Priest	Priest Lake	Suitable	Wild	20.1	5,096
Little North Fork Clearwater River						
Seg.1	St. Joe	St. Joe	Eligible	Recreational	11.3	2,434
Seg. 2	St. Joe	St. Joe	Eligible	Wild	26.1	5,869
Seg. 3	St. Joe	St. Joe	Eligible	Recreational	3.4	39
Coeur d'Alene River						
Seg. 1	CdA	CdA River	Eligible	Recreational	7.6	0
Seg. 2	CdA	CdA River	Eligible	Recreational	30.2	398
Little North Fork Coeur d'Alene River	CdA/ PO	CdA River/ Sandpoint	Eligible	Recreational	38.2	11,288
North Fork Coeur d'Alene River						
Seg. 1	CdA	CdA River	Eligible	Recreational	9.2	2,904
Seg.2	CdA	CdA River	Eligible	Wild	15.6	4,454
Seg. 3	CdA	CdA River	Eligible	Recreational	52.2	11,287
Pack River	PO	Sandpoint	Eligible	Recreational	15.3	4,263
Long Canyon Creek	LK	Bonners Ferry	Eligible	Wild	15.2	4,488
Hughes Fork						
Seg. 1	Priest	Priest Lake	Eligible	Wild	7.5	2,323
Seg. 2	Priest	Priest Lake	Eligible	Recreational	7.1	1,674
Kootenai River	LK	Bonners Ferry	Eligible	Recreational	6.6	1,392

* NFS lands
(CdA=Coeur d'Alene, PO=Pend Oreille, LK=Lower Kootenai)

MA2b – Eligible and Suitable Wild and Scenic Rivers (continued)

Desired Condition

Eligible or suitable W&SRs and their adjacent areas are managed to retain their free-flowing status, classification, and outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish, wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. Buildings within this MA are retained if they compliment the recommended classification of the individual river segment. Historic properties (both historic and prehistoric sites) are recognized elements of eligible or suitable wild, scenic, or recreational river areas. Natural disturbance processes are evident in these areas. Suitable uses within this MA are displayed in Table 20.

Table 20. Generally suitable activities and uses for MA2b (eligible and suitable 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 Administrative Work	Yes
Mechanized (e.g., mountain bikes)	Yes
Road Construction (permanent or temporary)	Wild – No Scenic – Yes Rec - Yes
Minerals Leasable Mineral Materials (Saleable)	 All – No All - No

MA3 – Special Interest Areas (Botanical, Geological, Pioneer, Recreational, & Scenic)

Description

This MA applies to the areas listed in Table 21. These are special places across the Forest that have unique, unusual, or important flora, fauna, geological, scenic, or recreational attributes. These special interest areas (SIAs) are managed to protect and enhance the values for which they were identified. Each SIA is part of a category, which will be managed similarly. On the IPNF, the types of SIAs include botanical, geological, recreational, scenic, and pioneer areas.

Table 21. Management area direction for special interest areas (SIAs)

SIA Name	GA Name	District	Established Acres	Proposed Acres	SIA Type
Copper Falls	Lower Kootenai	Bonners Ferry	40		Geological
Hanna Flats Botanical Area	Priest	Priest Lk	16		Botanical
Hobo Cedar Grove Botanical Area	St. Joe	St. Joe	232	453	Botanical
Mallard Larkins Pioneer Area	St. Joe	St. Joe	13,948	9,004	Pioneer
Northwest Peaks Scenic Area	Lower Kootenai	Bonners Ferry	1,972	2,639	Scenic
Roosevelt Grove of Ancient Cedars Scenic Area	Priest	Priest Lk	139	115	Scenic/ Botanical
Sandhouse Cedar Grove	St. Joe	St. Joe	120		Botanical
Settlers Grove of Ancient Cedars Botanical Area	Coeur d'Alene	Coeur d'Alene River	182		Botanical
Upper Priest Lake Scenic Area	Priest	Priest Lk	4,809		Scenic
Bath Creek Gorge	Priest	Priest Lk		254	Geological
Emerald Creek	St. Joe	St. Joe		2,350	Recreational
Huff Lake	Priest	Priest Lk		70	Botanical
Upper Priest River Botanical Area	Priest	Priest Lk		5,096	Botanical
Total SIA Acres			**21,458**	**19,981**	

Desired Condition

Special interest areas (SIAs) protect or enhance, and where appropriate, foster public use and enjoyment of areas with special values. These values include botanical, geological, recreational, scenic, and pioneer areas, with valuable and unique resources. These areas are usually small (less than 1,000 acres) except for scenic and pioneer special interest areas that are usually several thousand acres in size. Where appropriate, interpretation of resources for public education or recreation is provided. Vegetation, terrestrial and aquatic habitat, soil productivity, and water quality appears natural in most areas. Buildings are present within this MA (some SIAs) and are usually designed and maintained for the national forest visitor. Management activities vary within these areas depending upon the specific type of SIA. Suitable uses and activities for botanical SIAs are displayed in Table 22. Suitable uses and activities for geologic, recreational, scenic, and pioneer SIAs are displayed in Table 23.

MA3 – Special Interest Areas (continued)

Table 22. Generally suitable activities and uses for MA3 (SIAs -Botanical)

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 Mineral Materials (Saleable)	 No 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 23. Generally suitable activities and uses for MA3 (SIAs - Geologic, Recreational, Scenic, and Pioneer Areas)

Management Activities	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 on all areas except Emerald Creek SIA Grazing on Emerald Creek SIA	No Yes
Motorized (Summer) – all areas except Emerald Creek SIA	Yes – R No – G, S, P
Motorized (Summer) – Emerald Creek SIA	Yes
Motorized (Winter) – all areas except Emerald Creek SIA	Yes – R No – G, S, P
Motorized (Winter) – Emerald Creek SIA	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, P
Minerals on all areas except Emerald Creek SIA Leasable Mineral Materials (Salable)	 No No
Minerals on Emerald Creek SIA Leasable Mineral Materials (Salable)	 Yes Yes

G = Geologic SIAs; R = Recreational SIAs; S = Scenic SIAs; P = Pioneer SIAs.

MA4a – Established and Proposed Research Natural Areas

Description

This MA applies to established and proposed research natural area (RNAs). The IPNF has 20 established RNAs, two proposed RNAs, and one proposed addition to an existing RNA. 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 designated for non-manipulative research, education, and the maintenance of biodiversity. Most of these areas protect late successional or climax vegetative conditions. They are established or proposed to be established to provide study and protection of a full range of habitat types. Table 24 displays the list of established and proposed RNAs in the IPNF.

Table 24. Research natural areas (RNAs)

RNA Name	GA Name	District	Established Acres	Proposed Acres
Binarch Creek	Priest	Priest Lake	653	
Bottle Creek	Priest	Priest Lake	258	
Canyon Creek	Priest	Priest Lake	895	
Five Lakes Butte	St. Joe	St. Joe	325	
Hunt Girl Creek	Lower Kootenai	Bonners Ferry	1,426	
Kaniksu Marsh	Priest	Priest Lake	172	
Montford Creek	Coeur d'Alene	Coeur d'Alene R	299	
Pond Peak	Coeur d'Alene	Coeur d'Alene R	269	
Potholes	Priest	Priest Lake	305	
Red Horse Mountain	Coeur d'Alene	Coeur d'Alene R		1,274
Round Top Mountain	Priest	Priest Lake	96	
Scotchman #2	Pend Oreille	Sandpoint	1,312	
Smith Creek	Lower Kootenai	Bonners Ferry	1,248	
Snowy Top	Priest	Priest Lake	845	
Spion Kop	Coeur d'Alene	Coeur d'Alene R	480	
Tepee Creek	Priest	Priest Lake	613	
Theriault Lake	St. Joe	St. Joe	111	45
Three Ponds	Lower Kootenai	Bonners Ferry	243	
Upper Fishhook	St. Joe	St. Joe	319	
Upper Priest River	Priest	Priest Lake		1,351
Upper Shoshone Creek	Coeur d'Alene	Coeur d'Alene R	1,306	
Wellner Cliffs	Priest	Priest Lake	305	
Total RNA Acres			**11,480**	**2,670**

MA4a – Established and Proposed Research Natural Areas (continued)

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. Non-manipulative research activities and projects are conducted with nonmotorized equipment. Existing trails have minimal, nonmotorized use. Most recreational uses are discouraged. Buildings are not present within these areas. Alternatives for existing recreational uses are examined and implemented. Suitable uses and activities within this MA are displayed in Table 25.

Table 25. 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 (Saleable)	No

MA4b – Experimental Forests

Description

This MA is comprised of two existing experimental forests on the IPNF: Priest River Experimental Forest and Deception Creek Experimental Forest. Table 26 displays the acreage for these two experimental forests. These areas are dedicated for a wide variety of manipulative and nonmanipulative research. They are managed in cooperation with the Rocky Mountain Research Station. Priest River Experimental Forest was established for the purposes of researching tree species common in the inland northwest, including western white pine. Deception Creek Experimental Forest was established in an area that was primarily large, mature western white pine at the time the experimental forest was established in the 1930s.

Table 26. Experimental forests

Experimental Forest	GA Name	District	Acres
Priest River Experimental Forest	Priest	Priest Lake	6,200
Deception Creek Experimental Forest	Coeur d'Alene	Coeur d'Alene R	3,500

Desired Condition

These areas are managed for research purposes. A variety of forest management practices have created a wide range of forest conditions in the experimental forests, from early to late seral forests. To meet the purposes of this MA, very active management is evident, including both mechanical and nonmechanical vegetation and soil manipulation techniques. Some areas within the experimental forests appear relatively undisturbed. Watershed experiments may include small impoundments and techniques to measure flow and other hydrologic and aquatic variables. Experiments may alter the physical and chemical soil properties for long-term soil productivity research. Genetic tests continue and support the tree improvement program. A variety of scientific equipment is used within these areas to monitor and collect data necessary for specific research projects. Although road density is relatively high, access and many uses are limited in parts of these areas for experimental purposes. Buildings and structures are located within these areas. While a variety of uses is allowed within these areas, some uses are not encouraged. These areas provide cooperative research opportunities with other research entities including educational institutions and other governmental research agencies. Suitable uses and activities within this MA are displayed in Table 27.

Table 27. Generally suitable activities and uses for MA4b (Experimental Forests)

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	
Leasable	No
Mineral Materials (Saleable)	Yes

MA5 – Backcountry

Description

Most of this MA consists of relatively large areas without roads. This MA provides a variety of recreation opportunities, both motorized and nonmotorized. Motorized opportunities are generally on trails, as these areas are primarily without roads. The density of motorized routes in MA5 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 will continue within this MA until site-specific travel management planning is completed.

MA5 contains 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 recreation opportunities that emphasize a variety of nonmotorized and motorized trail opportunities is maintained during the summer and winter periods. The density of motorized routes remains significantly less than in MA6. Existing recreation facilities (including buildings) 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. Watershed and vegetative restoration are achieved predominantly through natural ecological processes and to a much lesser degree through active management. Active management in this MA is expected to be an exception, triggered by disturbance processes, certain conditions or specific situations.

The reasons for entry into MA5 are referred to as “triggers” that would initiate further study and a decisionmaking process before any activity would begin. It is expected that the majority of active management will occur in MA6, and not in this MA, for the following reasons:

- Unless one of the triggers is met, natural processes are the predominant cause of ecological change in these areas.
- These areas are undeveloped, and do not have many, if any, Forest System Roads. It may be more costly to perform certain types of management activities in these areas than in landscapes that have been actively managed, such as in MA6.
- The desired condition for MA6 will result in focusing more active management activities on those lands than in MA5.

The triggers for road construction and vegetation restoration activities in MA5 include:

Road Construction

There is limited road construction that would occur under certain circumstances. Site-specific project analysis determines if road construction is appropriate, and if so, the type of road needed and the long-term management of the road. It is expected most roads will be temporary roads and will be closed upon project completion. Circumstances that may require road construction include:

Public health and safety - A road is needed to protect public health and safety in cases of an imminent threat of flood, fire, or other catastrophic event, that without intervention would cause the loss of life or property. Examples may include:

- Fuels reductions projects in the urban interface.
- Forest management activities in special watersheds (public water supplies).

Resource Protection - A road is needed for critical resource restoration and protection activities. Examples may include:

- Wildlife habitat restoration, especially for threatened or endangered species or species of interest or concern.
- Road realignment 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.

Emergencies and Other Rights - Examples may include:

- 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, including ANILCA.

Vegetation Restoration

Vegetation restoration activities are allowed under certain circumstances. Site-specific project analysis determines if vegetation treatment using timber harvest is the appropriate management tool to be used, and if so, considers the following circumstances as appropriate for this activity:

Vegetation manipulation is needed for one of the following purposes:

- To improve habitat for listed or proposed threatened and endangered species, species of concern, or species of interest.
- To maintain or restore the desirable characteristics or ecosystem composition and structure. Examples include:
  - To reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire effects.
  - To address insect and disease or other forest health concerns.

Vegetation treatment is needed for appropriate administrative uses. Administrative uses (defined in 36 CFR 223) include activities such as:

- Construction, maintenance or repair of roads, bridges, trails, telephone lines, fences, recreation areas or other improvements of value for the protection or the administration of Federal lands.
- Fuel in federal camps, buildings and recreation areas.
- Research and demonstration projects.
- Use in disaster relief work conducted by public agencies.

- Disposal when removal is desirable to protect or enhance multiple-use values in a particular area.

Suitable uses and activities within this MA are displayed in Table 28.

Table 28. Generally suitable activities and uses for MA5 (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)	*
Motorized (Winter)	*
Nonmotorized (Summer)	Yes
Nonmotorized (Winter)	Yes
Motorized Tools	Yes
Road Construction (permanent or temporary)	Yes - See Desired Condition
Minerals	
Leasable	Yes
Mineral Materials (Saleable)	No

* = Current travel management opportunities will continue within this MA until site-specific travel management planning is completed.

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 exist on some roads and trails. The density of motorized routes in MA6 is much higher than the density of motorized routes in MA5 (Backcountry). Nonmotorized opportunities exist on some 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 active 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 recreation opportunities that emphasize a variety of nonmotorized and motorized road and trail opportunities is maintained during the summer and winter periods while maintaining and improving site or route conditions as opportunities allow. The density of motorized routes will remain significantly more than in MA5 (Backcountry). Existing recreation facilities are common and maintained or improved.

Ongoing vegetation management activities continue, such as timber harvests that require multiple entries, timber stand improvement activities, seed orchards, and other multiple year, ongoing activities.

The ecological conditions are maintained or restored. Active management creates most of the ecological change. Watershed and vegetative restoration are achieved predominantly through restoration activities and also through natural ecological processes. Restoration activities in MA6 may have the intent of improving watershed and aquatic resource conditions, vegetation conditions, fuels reduction, wildlife habitat improvement, or for other resource benefits. This MA is the only one of the MAs that has regulated timber harvest (i.e., timber production) estimates, and therefore timber sales for the primary purpose of timber production may occur in this MA. It is expected that the majority of active management will occur in this MA, not in MA5 or the other MAs for the following reasons:

- The desired condition for this MA includes using active management as a primary tool to affect ecological change.
- This MA covers a significant portion of the Forest. When the land area covered by the MA and its desired condition are considered together, it is to be expected that a majority of management activities will happen on these NFS lands.

- This MA contains the vast majority of Forest System Roads. Therefore it may be more cost effective to perform certain types of management activities in these areas than in other, less roaded areas.

Suitable uses and activities within this MA are displayed in Table 29.

Table 29. 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 six proposed areas on the IPNF. 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 heavy investment in recreational infrastructure designed, built, and managed for the national forest visitor. Table 30 displays the MA7 management areas in the IPNF.

Table 30. Primary recreation areas in the IPNF

Primary Recreation Areas	District	Acres
4th of July	Coeur d'Alene River	3,862
Canfield Mountain	Coeur d'Alene River	1,835
English Point	Coeur d'Alene River	358
Lookout	Coeur d'Alene River	1,303
Priest Lake	Priest Lake	6,551
Sam Owen	Sandpoint	316

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 sometimes high. 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.

The scenic condition may be altered and easily noticeable to visitors. Vegetation alterations are made in harmony with the natural-appearing landscape. Vegetation manipulation is done to provide for safety and accommodate both existing and new facilities. Vegetation manipulation within ski areas maintains and creates ski runs. Roads, trails, and sometimes highways are often evident. The frequency of human contact is moderate to high. Signs and traffic control devices on roads and trails 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 be allowed to operate freely. Suitable uses and activities within this MA are displayed in Table 31 (next page).

MA7 – Primary Recreation Areas (continued)

Table 31. 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	
Leasable	No
Mineral Materials (Saleable)	No