

# APPENDIX J

## Rangeland Suitability

**Appendix J – Rangeland Suitability..... 1**  
PROCESS..... 1  
    Capability..... 1  
    Suitability..... 4



## Appendix J – Rangeland Suitability

### PROCESS

Rangeland capability and suitability analysis for the Proposed Land Management Plan followed the established regional process. The following provides the documentation of the specific steps used to determine capable and suitable rangelands.

#### Capability

Rangeland suitability begins with the process of identifying lands capable of producing forage for grazing use. The following determined capable rangelands:

1. Begin with all lands that are National Forest System (NFS) lands.
2. Subtract soil types that are dominated by a large percentage of rock outcrop and rubbleland, loose granitic or highly erosive soils, very wet and boggy soils, and sites with high mass movement risk.
3. Subtract soil types that are not inherently capable of producing more than 200 pounds of forage per acre within their Potential Natural Community (such as nutrient-poor or shallow soils).

The following soils were used for steps 2 and 3:

- For the KNF, the following soil types were used: 101, 103, 105, 109, 365, 370, 201, 251, 252, 506, 303, 325, 353, 355, 360, 401, 403, 405, or 408.
  - For the IPNF, identified soil types that were capable of grazing (as opposed to identifying and subtracting incapable soils): 104, 105, 110, 112, 119, 121, 122, 131, 133, 134, 155, 157, 250, 252, 256, 257, 280, 283, 290, 350, 360, 446, 457, 461, 469, 470, 473, 557, 561, 567, 573, 757, 761.
4. Subtract areas that consist of lakes, reservoirs, ponds, or major rivers.
  5. Subtract streams by buffering perennial streams by six feet and intermittent streams by three feet on either side.
  6. Subtract slopes greater than 40 percent.

The remaining area is capable rangeland. Figures J-1 and J-2, below, display capable rangelands in the IPNF and KNF. There are 364,200 acres of capable rangeland in the IPNF and 921,700 acres in the KNF.





## Suitability

At the Proposed Land Management Plan level, the suitability determination provides basic information regarding the potential of the land to: produce resources, supply goods and services in a sustainable manner, and the appropriateness of using that land in a given manner. The following steps were utilized to determine suitable rangelands:

1. Subtract areas determined to be not capable.
2. Subtract all areas outside of range allotments.
3. Subtract areas that currently have an overstory of tree canopy cover greater than 60 percent. Transitory range is normally considered as a special short-term instance where suitability occurs because of the removal of the overstory vegetation (e.g., by fire or harvest). However, since the long-term site potential is normally a moderate to dense canopy with little understory production, these areas are generally considered to be suitable for grazing only until the tree canopy cover returns to 60 percent or greater. Changes to suitability due to changes in transitory forage (e.g., becomes available through timber harvest or wildfire or unavailable because of growth of overstory vegetation) will be considered at the project scale. The KNF and IPNF used the Vegetation Mapping Project (VMAP) coverage to determine tree canopy cover. All areas with a canopy cover of greater than 60 percent were subtracted.
4. Subtract Management Areas (MAs) where livestock grazing is generally not suitable. For the Proposed Land Management Plan, all MAs *except* Backcountry (5 on IPNF; 5a, 5b, and 5c on KNF) and General Forest (6 on both forests) were subtracted. Grazing is not part of the desired condition for all other MAs. Based on forest plan guidelines, also subtract riparian areas.
5. Finally, subtract areas where the Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) has determined that livestock grazing is not economically feasible when considering the costs of complying with applicable laws, regulations and Forest Plan standards. For the purposes of the Proposed Land Management Plan, the KIPZ did not identify any areas as uneconomical.

The remaining area is considered suitable rangeland. Figures J-3 and J-4, below, display suitable rangelands in the IPNF and KNF. There are 20,600 acres of suitable rangeland in the IPNF and 147,900 acres of suitable rangeland in the KNF.

The suitability analysis is not a decision to graze livestock on any specific area of land, nor is it a decision about or estimate of livestock grazing capacity. The capability and suitability analysis may or may not provide supporting information for a decision to graze livestock on a specific area, at the project scale. The capability and suitability of an area may be updated at the project scale based on more site-specific information,

Any landscape area will contain areas that are capable and/or suitable, as well as areas that are modeled as being *other than* capable and/or suitable. Since the Plan level suitability determination is based on a modeling process, and comprises a variety of complex landscapes, it is inevitable that intermingling will occur on a land base of any significant size. Therefore, these suitability determinations are not intended to imply that livestock will be precluded from being found on lands that may be modeled as other than capable or suitable.

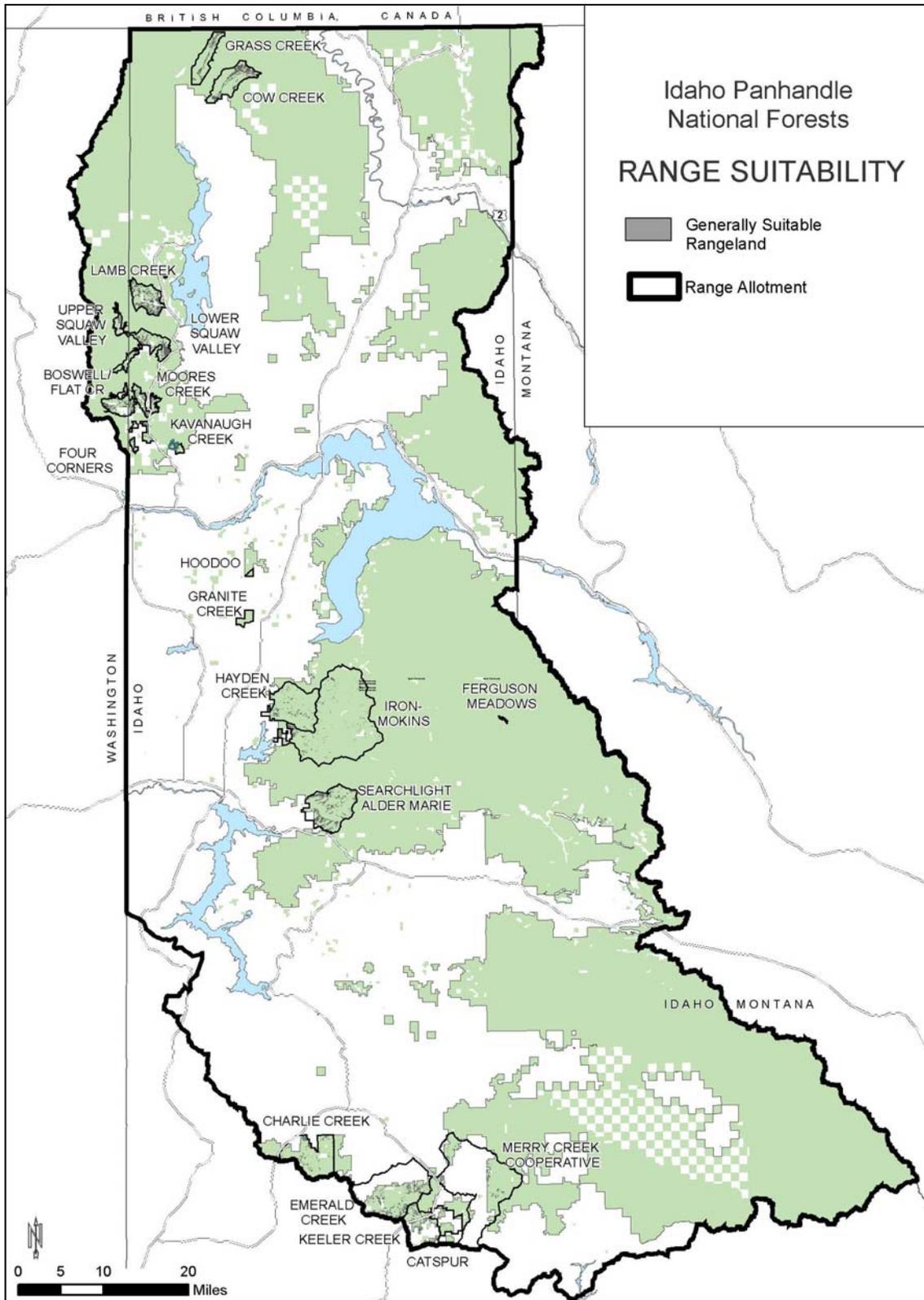


Figure J-3 Suitable Rangeland on the IPNF

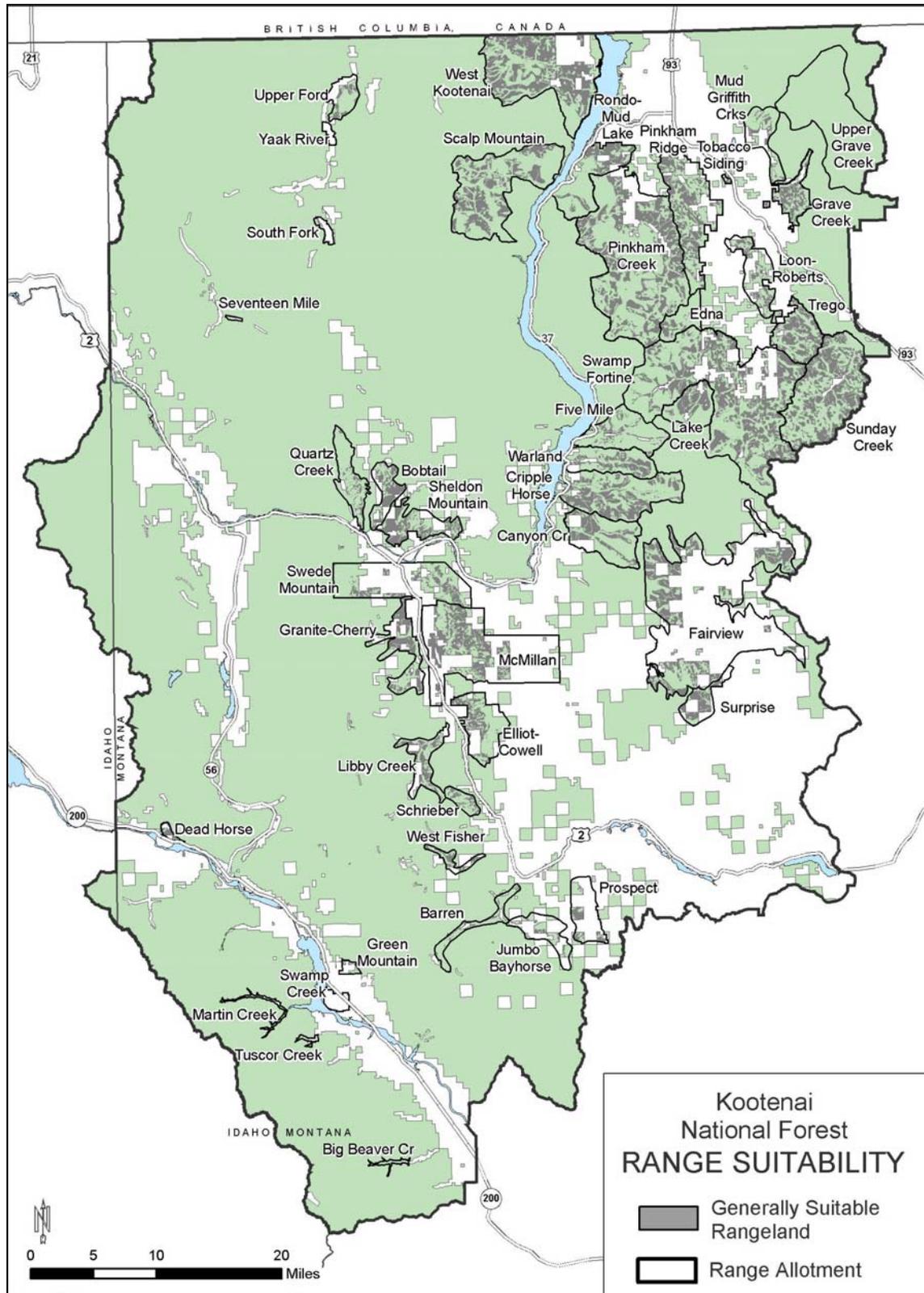


Figure J-4 Suitable Rangeland on the KNF