

Idaho Panhandle National Forests (IPNF)

Changes to the Starting Option Map that are Incorporated into the “Draft Plan Map”

In July of 2005, we shared with the public our Starting Option map. This Starting Option map was developed by the Forest Plan revision Interdisciplinary Team with support and modification by the Leadership Teams on the Kootenai and Idaho Panhandle National Forests. It was our attempt at reflecting public comments that we received during scoping and from the workgroup meetings last fall/winter; and Forest Service policies and legal responsibilities.

Collaborative public meetings were then held from July until the first part of September 2005. The goal of these meetings was for a diverse group of people to come together to discuss the Starting Option map and try and reach agreement on some suggested changes. The District Rangers then reviewed these suggested changes with district specialists and included any suggested changes they had received from the Tribes, elected officials and employees. The District Rangers then brought forward their suggested changes to their respective Forest Supervisors and Leadership Teams on each Forest and the Forest Plan revision team.

The Forest Supervisors then decided on the changes to the Starting Option map after considering all of these suggested changes and ensuring that we were adhering to Forest Service law, regulation and policy. The changes and rationale are listed below:

The Draft Forest Plan Map, which is the revised Starting Option map, is what the revision team will be using in their analysis that will be included in the Comprehensive Evaluation Report (CER). It will also be used in the completion of the Draft Forest Plans (such as Desired Condition), which is scheduled to be released in February 2006. **It's very important for everyone to know that THIS IS NOT A COMMENT PERIOD on the Draft Forest Plan map.** There will be an official comment period on the Draft Forest Plans during the 90-day comment period after the release of these Plans.

Here's the list of the Management Areas (MAs) to help you understand the table below:

1a	Congressionally Designated Wilderness
1b	Recommended Wilderness
1c	Congressionally Designated Wilderness Study Areas
1e	Primitive Lands
2a	Congressionally Designated Wild, Scenic, and Recreational Rivers
2b	Eligible and Suitable Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers
3	Special Interest Areas (Botanical, Geological, Cultural, Scenic and Recreational)
4a	Established and Proposed Research Natural Areas
4b	Experimental Forests
5	Backcountry
6	General Forest
7	Primary Recreation Areas

We will be refining and adding more information to this document as the information becomes available, for example – Management Area acreages, so look for date changes to this document.

Changes to Starting Option Map	Rationale
GENERAL	
<p>Combine MA5a and MA5b into one MA5.</p> <p>MA = Management Area</p>	<p>We combined MA5a and MA5b based on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) public input; 2) the existing Travel Management Plan dictates level and type of use and that this can only be changed through revising the Travel Management Plans using NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) and; 3) the level of direction needed in the Forest Plan.
<p>Combine MA 6a, 6b, and 6c into one MA6.</p>	<p>All existing laws, regulations and policies (ie. grizzly bear core, lynx, 303d listed streams, etc) will determine the level and intensity of management on a given piece of ground. In addition, any proposed project will need to go through NEPA.</p>
<p>Show categories of Wild, Scenic and Recreational for MA2b on the map.</p>	<p>Public requested to show the categories of eligible rivers on the Draft Plan map: wild, scenic, and recreational.</p>
COEUR D'ALENE GEOGRAPHIC AREA	
<p>Retain MA 2b designation for rivers listed eligible under 1987 Forest Plan, including North Fork Coeur d'Alene and Little North Fork Coeur d'Alene.</p> <p>Remove MA 2b designation for new proposed eligible rivers: Independence Creek and Lost Creek.</p>	<p>Strong feedback at GA public meetings that additional MA 2b designations would place further management restrictions adversely affecting vegetation management activities or motorized use opportunities. Independence Creek and Lost Creek are within MA 5 where there will be limited management influence to affect the Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV's), and they will still be denoted as eligible in the Forest Plan.</p>
<p>Designate area south of Fourth of July Summit as MA 7.</p>	<p>This area is currently managed primarily for intensive non-motorized recreation, and encompasses trails and routes used heavily in summer by hikers, bikers and horses, and in winter by Nordic skiers on a groomed system. The area is already designated as such in the District Travel Plan.</p>
LOWER KOOTENAI GEOGRAPHIC AREA	
<p>Long Canyon: Move the MA1b boundary line up to the ridge line on Long Canyon to the north and Parker on the south.</p>	<p>This better represents the districts need to be able to identify the MA boundary on the ground and therefore aid in management. This will maintain the desired MA1b designation of some workgroup members while addressing concerns of other workgroup members of an "expanding" boundary.</p>
<p>Change the Hell Roaring MA5b</p>	<p>The MA6 allocation is inaccurate with a backcountry designation because of the amount of management that has occurred over</p>

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to MA6.	the past.
Change Northwest Peak MA1b designation to MA5.	This will better match the MA designation the Kootenai National Forest (KNF) will be proposing in their Draft Plan map. The KNF has 75% or more of the MA1b designation and the small portion on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests would not fit well with MA1b designation as it stands by itself.
<p>Change the MA5 designation to MA6 from the east end of Russell Ridge to Burton Peak to Cooks Peak.</p> <p>Expand the MA5 to an identifiable location west of the bench elevation in Long canyon down to the Forest Boundary.</p> <p>Change the MA in the Katka area in the Selkirks to MA6.</p>	This better represents backcountry and addresses the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) concerns from the County and their Fire Plan. This “front country” east of this line would be better defined as WUI than Backcountry, while maintaining the MA5 designation west of this line better defines true Backcountry and fits well with MA5.
Continental Mountain Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA): Change from MA1b to MA 5.	Follows the boundaries of the Continental IRA.
Change MA6 to MA5 in the upper part of Boulder Creek	This better represents the Backcountry. The old road has been used as a non-motorized trail and has a Backcountry use and feel to the area.
PEND OREILLE GEOGRAPHIC AREA	
<p><u>Selkirk Recommended Wilderness:</u> Change all the recommended wilderness south of Harrison Peak (Section 30) Long Canyon Pass (Section 30 and 31) from MA1b to MA1e.</p> <p>Change the slivers of MA6a to MA5 along the Upper Pack River that are between MA2 and MA1b in the north portions of Sections 19 and 20 and portions of 17 and 18.</p>	Current boundaries of the southern part of the Selkirk Crest recommended wilderness is a narrow one section to two section wide area. There are no definable boundaries – section lines are used as boundaries. The adjacent areas have been roaded and logged after the 1967 Sundance fire. The boundary now on the Draft Plan Map consolidates a larger area into MA1e – Primitive Lands, which better fits its current use for recreation. The identified MA1e has limited development opportunities because of terrain and damage created by the 1967 Sundance fire.

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<p>Change the MA designation for the MA5b area to MA6, in the southern half of Section 25 below Jeru Peak and portions of Sections 25, 35 and 36.</p>	
<p>Change boundaries along Packsaddle North and South to better establish more manageable boundaries: Change from MA6a to MA5.</p>	<p>Current boundaries do not follow manageable boundaries. In many cases the boundary follows a contour line. This change expands the total acreage of MA5 and provides logical boundaries for management. Proposal does allow some “in-roads” that will allow for future reconstruction of existing roads for helicopter landings.</p>
<p><u>Scotchman Peaks Recommended Wilderness:</u> Change MA5a to MA1b in the northern lobe of the 1987 recommended wilderness area in Thunder and Char Creeks.</p> <p>Add the Regal, Savage and East fork Lightning creek areas currently in MA6a to MA1b.</p> <p>Change the MA6a area between MA1b and MA5a- (parts of Sections 22, 23 and 27) adjacent to the northern lobe, to MA5. Change the small MA6a area in Section 32 to MA5.</p> <p>Change the MA on the northwest, west and southwest borders of the Scotchman recommended wilderness from MA6b to MA5.</p> <p>Shift the wilderness boundary further upslope in Sections 13,18,19, 24, 29, 30 and 33, to the extended winter range boundary and change the allocation from MA1b to MA5.</p>	<p>Proposed changes will provide for more manageable and definable boundaries on-the-ground.</p> <p>The areas in this proposal are remote and are compatible with desired wilderness characteristics. The small inclusions of previously developed areas will develop wilderness characteristics over time.</p> <p>Proposed boundaries will allow for management of the Wildland Urban Interface by designating it as Management Area 5.</p>

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PRIEST GEOGRAPHIC AREA	
<p>Chipmunk Rapids: Change MA7 (north to Outlet) to MA6.</p>	<p>The allocation in the Starting Option map does not fit the MA7 definition.</p> <p>Although the area contains Chipmunk Rapids National Recreation Trail (NRT) and the Dickensheet Information site, there is no special recreation emphasis on the area mapped.</p>
<p>Parcel north of Reeder Bay (estimated 20 acres): Change MA7 to MA6.</p>	<p>Rationale for the starting option map was MA7 applied to National Forest System (NFS) lands between the road and lake, however there is no recreation use emphasis on this small parcel.</p> <p>The entire 80-acre parcel (both sides of road) was congressionally authorized last year for disposal for municipal sewer district purposes.</p>
<p>Three areas - Willow Creek and adjacent area north of Rd 302; Ledge Creek (south of Hughes Fork); Boulder Creek (south of Upper Priest IRA): Change MA5a to MA6.</p>	<p>Areas contain numerous old roads from past timber harvest activities that have been stored, obliterated or overgrown, and some drivable roads, which generally do not the MA5 definition.</p> <p>Recreation use of these areas is light - primarily hunting, dispersed camping and occasional snowmobiling.</p> <p>MA6 provides for active current and future wildlife and aquatic restoration for Threatened and Endangered (T&E) species recovery goals.</p>
<p>Sema Meadow and Cache Creek northwest of road 311: Change MA6 to MA5.</p>	<p>Area is generally unroaded or contains roads that have been stored, overgrown or obliterated.</p> <p>Restoration expected primarily through natural processes.</p> <p>MA5 provides sufficient flexibility for response to fires or other disturbance and travel planning.</p>
<p>North of Upper Priest IRA to Upper Priest/Hughes: Change MA2b to MA 5</p>	<p>Change is intended to eliminate MA 6 in this narrow strip and have MA5 of the IRA continue to the Wild Scenic River (WSR).</p> <p>Area is generally unroaded, or contains roads that have been stored, overgrown or obliterated.</p> <p>Restoration expected primarily through natural processes.</p>
<p>Four areas - Hughes Ridge, Road 1013 corridor, Continental Mtn IRA, and Lime Creek: Change MA1b to MA 5. MA 5</p>	<p>The areas are generally unroaded or contain undrivable roads from past timber harvest activities that have been obliterated, stored or overgrown. Some open roads exist, but most of them with travel restrictions. These areas would not contribute to the</p>

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<p>would not encompass all areas north of Upper Priest River/Hughes Fork and east of the Salmo Priest to the district boundary.</p>	<p>Salmo Priest wilderness values.</p> <p>Some restoration is expected, primarily through natural processes with some active restoration.</p> <p>MA5 would allow for current and future travel management options as needed for T&E recovery, administrative and recreation uses.</p> <p>MA5 would allow some mechanized uses for recreation trail maintenance and fire suppression needs.</p>
<p>Hughes Fork proposed WSR: Change breakpoint of wild and recreation segments to above Hughes Meadow.</p>	<p>Channel through Hughes Meadow is not in natural condition. The channel was modified to support historic uses such as pasture, an airstrip, etc.</p> <p>An inactive mine site is located slightly upstream from Hughes Meadow.</p> <p>Channel restoration has been contemplated (surveys conducted 2004) in the meadow segment and “wild” designation would preclude restoration activities.</p>
<p>Cabinet Pass northwest into Sec. 32: Add this area as MA1e to the 1987 Proposed Salmo Priest Wilderness.</p>	<p>Area is about 1-mile wide band from Cabinet Pass northwest that was omitted from 1987 recommended wilderness.</p> <p>Although previously roaded, the old roads have long been converted to trail use and do not detract from wilderness values.</p> <p>The roads are currently open to mountain bikes but the area is part of “A” travel plan restricting motorized use year round.</p> <p>Some road restoration activities (removing culverts, etc) may be required.</p>
ST. JOE GEOGRAPHIC AREA	
<p>The portion of MA1b in the Mallard-Larkins Pioneer Area is deleted and the Pioneer Area is expanded to the Little North Fork Clearwater River and Trail 50 (which would remain open to single-track motorized use). It would be expanded north to Surveyors Road 395 and Trail 40. Road 395 would remain open to full size vehicles to Sawtooth Saddle and Trail 40</p>	<p>Recognize the special nature of the Mallard-Larkins Pioneer Area.</p> <p>Recognize non-motorized recreation uses for the Pioneer Area and the proposed wilderness, while maintaining the flexibility to utilize motorized equipment for trail maintenance activities.</p> <p>Coordinate with the Clearwater NF proposed wilderness on the southern border.</p> <p>The upper St. Joe River provides the best opportunity and best meets the criteria for wilderness designation.</p>

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<p>would remain open to single-track motorized.</p> <p>The portion of the Recommended Wilderness area in the Upper St. Joe River area would remain the same as the 1987 Forest Plan Boundary.</p> <p>Both areas would allow hand-held motorized tools to be used for trail maintenance.</p>	<p>Motorized use is currently not allowed in the Mallard-Larkins Pioneer Area.</p> <p>Currently, there is not much motorized recreation activity within the recommended wilderness area.</p>
<p>Change the boundary for Grandmother Mountain Wilderness Study Area (WSA) back to the 1987 WSA boundary and the rest of the area will be allocated to MA5.</p>	<p>Recent investment of money spent to maintain trails.</p> <p>State OHV funding was used on the trail reconstruction was used for some of the trails in the area.</p> <p>Single-track (motorcycles) motorized use was an established use, when the Idaho/Arkansas land exchange was promulgated.</p>
<p>Wild and Scenic Rivers:</p> <p>Retain MA 2b eligible designation for rivers listed eligible under 1987 Forest Plan, including the Little North Fork Clearwater River.</p> <p>Remove MA 2b Eligible designation for the following newly proposed eligible streams: Marble Creek, Lost Lake Creek, Little Lost Lake Creek, and Lund Creek.</p>	<p>The Little North Fork Clearwater River is already part of the National River Inventory of streams eligible for Wild and Scenic designation.</p> <p>The creeks removed as eligible will be protected because of the MA allocation.</p> <p>By not designating those rivers for wild, scenic, or recreational status, it assured current motorized access may still occur. Loss of motorized access.</p> <p>The area is usually larger than ¼ mile designation and affects other management options.</p>