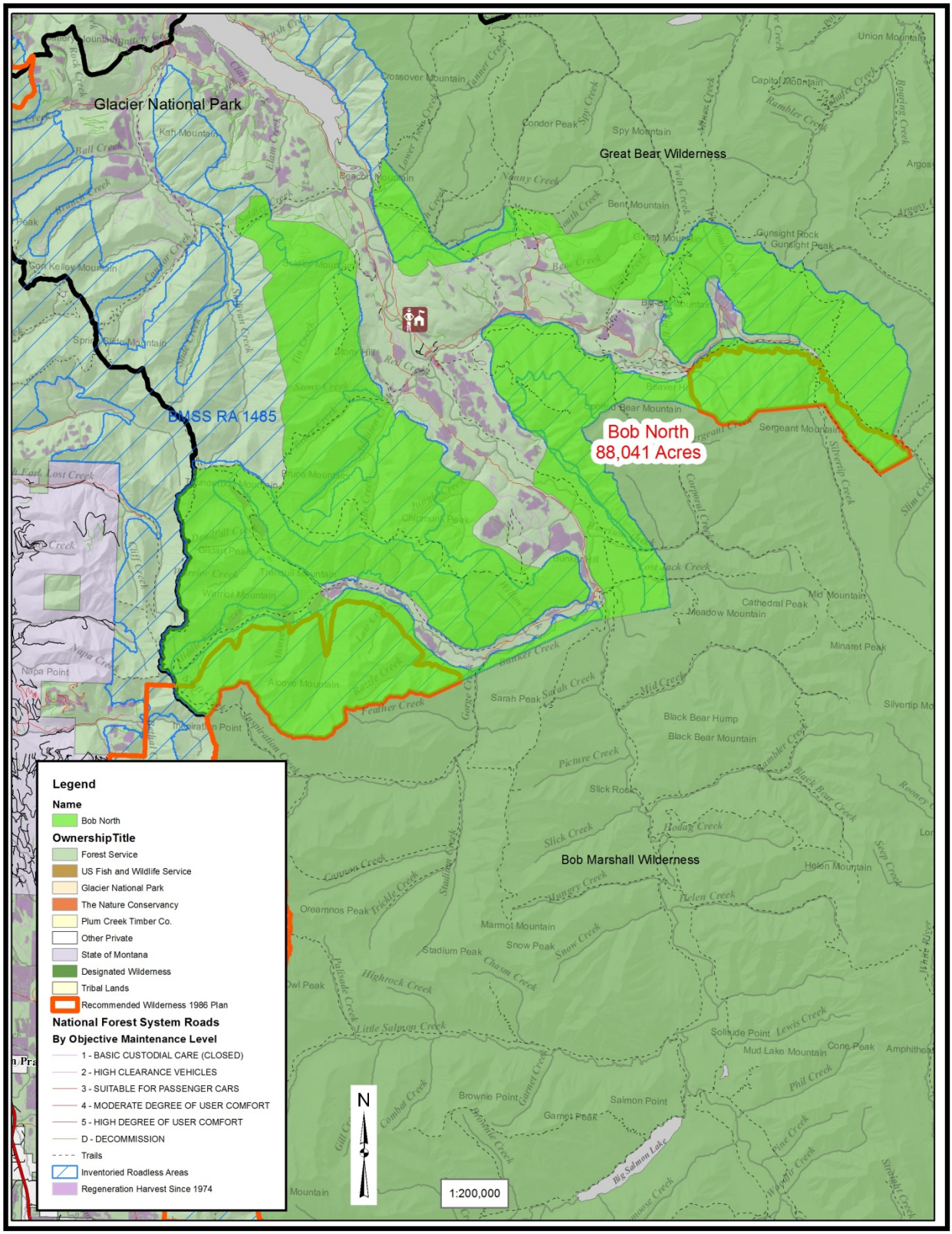
This area was revised on August 19, 2014 to exclude the Silvertip Cabin, resulting in a 52 acre reduction.



NOTE: **Responses to questions requiring data analysis to complete are not expected and should be left blank.** Other measures rely on general knowledge of the area. The forest plan revision planning team will take your responses and comments into consideration when they complete the worksheets. The completed worksheets will be part of the project record.

Criteria 1: Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

Question 1a: What is the composition of plant and animal communities within the area?

Question 1b: What is the extent to which the area reflects ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?

Measures for 1a and 1b	Outcome
Percent of area that appears to be affected primarily by the force of nature (inverse of the percent of area of timber harvest[1]).	
Percent total of the area without invasive weeds (inverse of the percent of total area that has invasive weeds).	
Percent of area that is not affected by maintenance level 1 roads[2] (inverse of the percent of area of maintenance level 1 roads).	
Percent of area that is not affected by decommissioned roads (inverse of the percent of area of decommissioned roads)	
Percent of area that is not affected by known historic roads (inverse of the percent of area of known historic roads).	

Measures for 1a and 1b:

Describe the extent of invasive fish and animals.

Describe the departure from natural range of variation in forest composition, structure, patterns and ecological processes.

[1] Past timber harvests considered "most impactive," which in this context refers to the degree of visual change in the forest related to the proportion of the tree cover that is removed. Regeneration harvests (clearcut, seedtree and shelterwood cuts) are the most impactive, because they remove most of the existing trees. Intermediate cuts, such as commercial thins or salvage cuts, remove a smaller portion of the existing trees and are considered less impactive. Information on timber harvests is from the Forest Service Activity Tracking System database.
[2] Roads that have been placed in storage between intermittent uses.

Narrative:

Question 1c: What is the extent to which improvements (improvement criteria 71.22 from FSH Book 1909.12 chap 70) included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?

Measures for 1c:

Improvement Type	Extent of departures
Airstrips	
Heliports	
Vegetation treatments that are not substantially noticeable.	
Timber harvest areas where logging and prior road construction are not substantially noticeable.	
Permanently installed vertical structures, such as electronic installations including cell towers, television, radio, and telephone repeaters, provided their impact, as well as their maintenance and access needs, is minimal.	
Areas of historic mining where impacts are not substantially noticeable.	
Areas of mining activity where impacts are not substantially noticeable.	
Range improvement areas, involving minor structural improvements (for example fences or water troughs) and non-structural improvements (chaining, burning, spraying, potholing, and so forth) that are not substantially noticeable.	
Recreational improvements, such as occupancy spots, or minor hunting, or outfitting camps.	
Ground-return telephone lines, electric lines, and power lines if a right-of-way has not been cleared. Exclude power lines with cleared right-of-ways, pipelines, and other permanently installed linear right-of-way structure.	
Watershed treatment areas (contouring, diking, channeling) that are not substantially noticeable, or if wilderness character can be maintained or restored through appropriate management actions.	
Lands adjacent to development or activities that impact opportunities for solitude.	
Structures, dwellings and other relics of past occupation when they are considered part of the historical and cultural landscape of the area.	

Criteria 2: Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation[3].

Question 2a: What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?

Measures for 2a	Outcome
Area and % total of area available for summer non-motorized opportunity	
Area and % total available for winter non-motorized opportunity	

Narrative for 2a:

- Describe the proximity to private lands and non-Forest Service roads.
- Describe the general topography of the area in context of sight, sound, and screening.

Narrative:

Question 2b: What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Measures for 2b	Outcome
Acres and % total of primitive and non-primitive classes for summer recreation opportunity spectrum.	
Acres and % total of primitive and non-primitive ROS winter recreation opportunity spectrum.	

Measure for 2b:

Describe the types of primitive recreation activities in the area.

[3] The area does not have to possess outstanding opportunities for both elements, nor does it need to have outstanding opportunities on every acre. Consider impacts that are pervasive and that influence a visitor's opportunity for solitude.

Narrative:

Criteria 3: Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value.

Question 3a: Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities; rare ecosystem for wildlife habitat; rare ecosystem for aquatics; rare ecosystem for terrestrial; any biodiversity hotspots; coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species, or underrepresented/rare vegetation types[4]?

Measures for 3a	Outcome
Presence/absence of Bull trout and/or westslope cutthroat trout	
Acres of whitebark pine vegetation type	
Acres of water howellia fens and bogs	
Acres of terrestrial community types of greatest conservation need for the Canadian Rockies ecosystem[5]	
Underrepresented or rare vegetation types in region[6]	
Species richness % of total acreage[7]	
Acres of key conservation areas for wolverine[8]	
Acres of key conservation areas for mountain goat[8]	

Measure for 3a: Description of the coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species

Narrative:

[4] Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.
[5] From Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP), Appendix E, Tier 1 List (2014).
[6] An analysis of vegetation types that are underrepresented in existing Region 1 designated wilderness.
[7] Using Western Governors' Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool: Mapping Fish and Wildlife across the West.
[8] From Conservation Legacy on a Flagship Forest: Wildlife and Wildlands on the Flathead National Forest, Montana by John Weaver (Working Paper Number 43, May 2014).
[9] A variety of sources will be used, including Squires et al. 2013, McKelvey et al. 2011, Waller and Servheen 2005, Weaver 2014, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (in press).

Question 3b: Is there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?

Measures for 3b	Outcome
Acres and % total of distinctive scenic class	
Outstanding landscapes in acres/% total (extremely steep breakland, cliffs).	

Measure for 2b: Description of any unique geologic features in the area.

Narrative:

Question 3c: Is there historic or cultural resources of historic value in the area?

Narrative:

Question 3d: Is there high quality water resources or important watershed features in the area?

Narrative:

Question 3e: Is there any special interest areas and/or research natural areas in the areas?

Measure 3e	Outcome
Acres and % of total of special interest areas or research natural areas.	

Question 3f: Is there any scientific or education features in the area?

Narrative:

Criteria 4: Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

Question 4a: How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?

Measures for 4a	Outcome
Describe the shape and configuration of the area.	
Describe if there are any legally established rights or uses within the area.	
Are there specific Federal or state laws that may be relevant to availability of the area for wilderness or the ability to manage the area to protect wilderness characteristics?	
Describe the management of adjacent lands.	
Describe the current management of the area.	
Acres and % total of wildland urban interface in the area.	
Type and extent of management restrictions within the area.	