Wildfire. At this time the majority of the included timber has already been removed. However, the Purchaser is expected to continue to remove small amounts of fire-killed and imminently dead timber in 2008.

Power Salvage Sale – This salvage sale permits the removal of downed trees only from 66 acres within sections of the right-of-way of the overhead power line in the Warm Lake Basin. This contract is projected to terminate in July of 2008.

South Fork Campground Restoration Project – While still in the developmental phase, the objective of this project would be to minimize the fire-induced effects of the 2007 wildfire on the 10 acre South Fork Campground by removing hazard trees, planting conifers, and implementing other restorative activities. The environmental analysis for this project is tentatively scheduled to occur in 2008 with implementation in 2009 or 2010.

Shoreline Fuels Reduction Project – This project consists of mechanical mulching of 32 acres of sub-merchantable trees and hand thinning and piling of 77 acres of sub-merchantable trees, all in the vicinity of the Shoreline Campground. Implementation is scheduled to occur in 2008.

Alternative A would have no direct or indirect effects on coarse woody debris/fuel loads, therefore no incremental or cumulative effects would occur as a result of this alternative (P.R., Vol. 2, Fuel Loads and Fire Risk).

The cumulative effects of Alternative B or C in combination with ongoing and/or foreseeable future activities would be a decrease in snag densities and therefore reduced sources of coarse woody debris/fuel loads in the future within the cumulative effects area. Relative to acres affected by these alternatives, personal use firewood cutting is the only foreseeable future activity that would add cumulatively to effects on the same acres. It should be noted that the eventual decomposition of these trees/logs and the projected shortage of snags in the future would eventually result in similar effects on both harvested and unharvested acres (P.R., Vol. 2, Fuel Loads and Fire Risk).

3.3 Roadless Resource

This section of the document describes the existing conditions and effects of the alternatives on inventoried roadless areas (IRAs) that occur within the 103,804 acre project area. The discussions have been partitioned into two sections; wilderness attributes and roadless area characteristics.

The term "inventoried roadless area" refers to an area at least 5,000 acres in size without developed and maintained roads and substantially natural. An inventoried roadless area is specifically defined as an area that meets the minimum criteria for wilderness as defined by the Wilderness Act of 1964 and Forest Service Guidelines.

On the Payette and Boise National Forests, Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs) were initially identified during the Roadless Area Resource Evaluation of 1972 (also known as RARE I) and the RARE II of 1979. These inventories were updated and areas were re-evaluated for wilderness suitability as part of the initial forest planning efforts completed on the Payette and Boise National Forests in 1988 and 1990, respectively. As part of the recent Forest Plan revision process on these Forests, the inventories were further reviewed and updated. During the re-inventory process, changes were made to the roadless area boundaries based on project-level development and by examining boundaries for areas that may have been missed omitted. Roadless area boundaries were adjusted to reflect previous project developments such as timber harvest units, new road construction, and utility corridors; undeveloped areas missed in previous inventories; and areas that have changed, over time, affecting their eligibility for classification as roadless and undeveloped. Roadless acreages also changed due to the use of new technology (GIS) to determine acreages of defined areas. The updated inventory was included in the Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation, Final Environmental Impact Statement, Volume 2, (USDA 2000).

3.3.1 Wilderness Attributes

This section of the document describes the effects of the proposed alternatives on the wilderness attributes of apparent naturalness, natural integrity, opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation, special features or values, and wilderness manageability and boundaries of affected IRAs. Appendix C of the Final EIS for the Southwest Idaho Ecogroup Land and Resource Management Plans (July 2003) provides an overview description of the various roadless areas on the Forest and their characteristics. Effects were assessed by determining the area changed from an undeveloped to developed condition based on the criteria established in the Wilderness Act, section 2(C) and Forest Service Handbook 1909.12, Section 7. The criteria is used to evaluate if activities would effect an area to such a degree that a portion of, or the entire area, would no longer meet the roadless area definition and therefore be omitted from consideration as potential wilderness.

A key factor in analyzing the effects of management activities on roadless areas is disturbance. Disturbance is the alteration, through human interference, of the area's undeveloped character. The intensity, magnitude, and nature of the disturbance determine if the area would be considered developed.

Portions of five different IRAs occur within the boundaries of the 103,804 acre analysis area; Needles IRA, Stony Meadows IRA, Peace Rock IRA, Reeves Creek IRA, and the Caton Lake IRA (Figure 3-10).

3.3.1.1 Environmental Consequences Specific to Alternative A

This alternative does not propose any activities within any IRA and therefore would have no direct or indirect effects on the wilderness attributes (P.R., Vol. 3, Roadless Resource).

3.3.1.2 Environmental Consequences Common to Alternative B and C

Apparent Naturalness/Natural Integrity - These alternatives do not propose any activities within the boundaries of any IRA and therefore would have no effect on apparent naturalness/natural integrity within any IRA (P.R., Vol. 3, Roadless Resource).

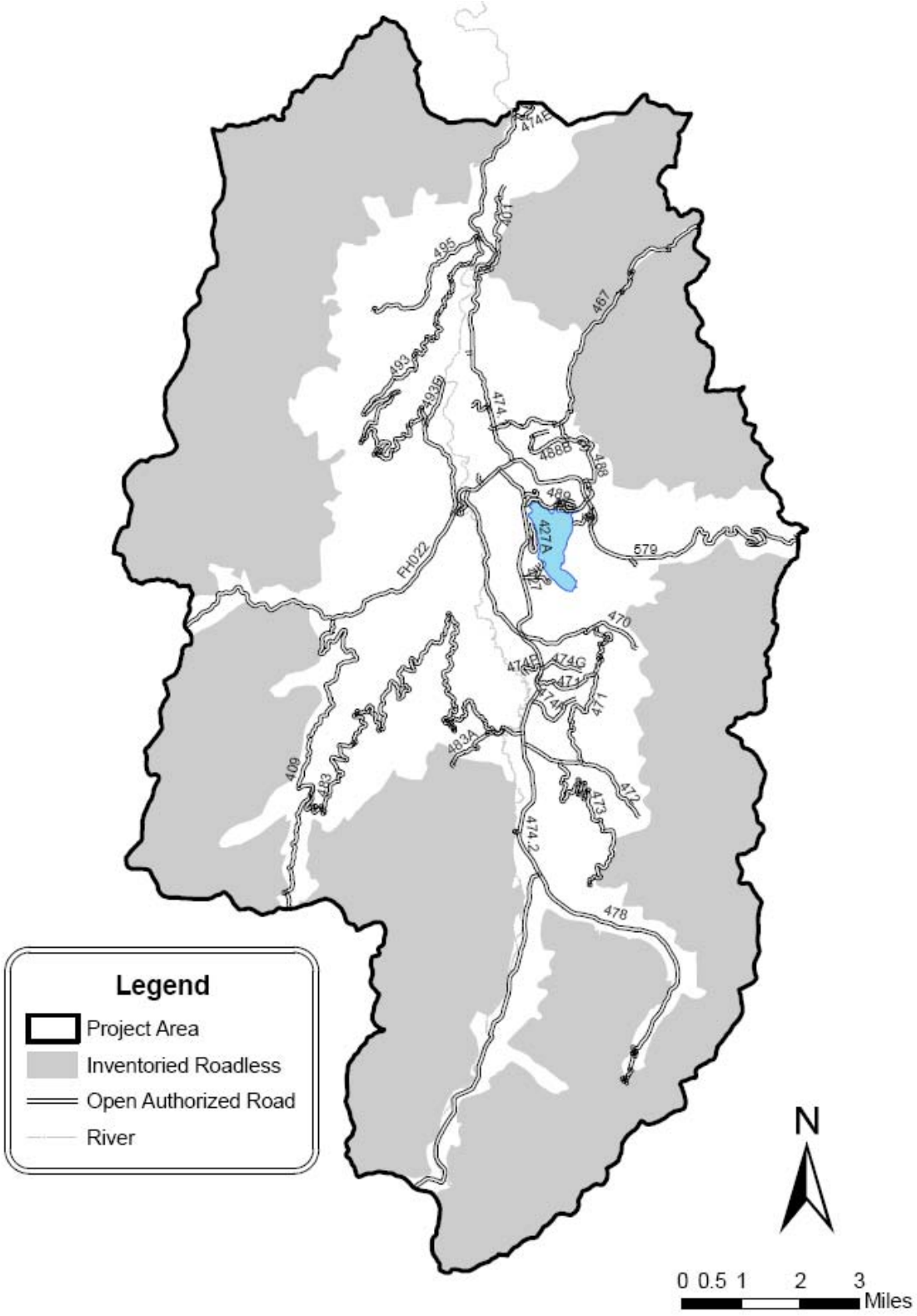
Primitive Recreation/Solitude - Noise from harvest-related operations and tree falling activities would reduce or diminish feelings of solitude and remoteness in those portions of the IRAs immediately adjacent to proposed units. However, given that all activities would occur within 200 feet of open authorized roads, the impact on solitude and remoteness would be considered inconsequential. Further, proposed activities along any one road would not be expected to last more than a couple of weeks and therefore would be of a temporary nature (P.R., Vol. 3, Roadless Resource).

Special Features, Special Values, or Special Places – These alternatives would have no effect on any special features, values, or places identified within any IRA (P.R., Vol. 3, Roadless Resource).

Wilderness Manageability and Boundaries – Proposed activities would not result in direct or indirect effects on the boundaries of any IRA. Potential wilderness boundaries would not be affected (P.R., Vol. 3, Roadless Resource).

Conclusion – Noise associated with implementation of Alternative B or C would result in only minor temporary effects on solitude and feelings of remoteness in portions of the IRAs. Alternatives B and C would not have any other direct or indirect effects on any IRA (P.R., Vol. 3, Roadless Resource).

Figure 3-10 Inventoried Roadless Areas



3.3.1.3 Cumulative Effects

Given the lack of any direct or indirect effects on any IRA with the exception of temporary impacts on solitude and remoteness, and the fact that noise resulting from this project could not be heard beyond the project area, the area used to assess cumulative effects was limited to the 103,804 acre analysis area.

With the exception of a five acre parcel in the vicinity of Knox Ranch, the entire cumulative effects area is administered by the U.S. Forest Service. Since 1950 an estimated 7,208 acres have been harvested within the cumulative effects area. Although the specific effects cannot be quantified, the existing conditions disclosed above reflect the impacts of those past activities as well as any recovery that has occurred since those events. Ongoing or foreseeable future activities within this cumulative effects area that could add incrementally to impacts on this resource are listed below. Reference **Appendix B** for additional information and maps related to the cumulative effects analyses completed for this project.

Cabin Salvage, Knox Salvage, and South Fork Houselog Salvage I Sales – These three salvage sales, all under contract to the same Purchaser, were offered following the 2003 South Fork Wildfire. At this time the majority of the included timber has already been removed. However, the Purchaser is expected to continue to remove small amounts of fire-killed and imminently dead timber in 2008.

Power Salvage Sale – This salvage sale permits the removal of downed trees only from 66 acres within sections of the right-of-way of the overhead power line in the Warm Lake Basin. This contract is projected to terminate in July of 2008.

South Fork Campground Restoration Project – While still in the developmental phase, the objective of this project would be to minimize the fire-induced effects of the 2007 wildfire on the 10 acre South Fork Campground by removing hazard trees, planting conifers, and implementing other restorative activities. The environmental analysis for this project is tentatively scheduled to occur in 2008 with implementation in 2009 or 2010.

Shoreline Fuels Reduction Project – This project consists of mechanical mulching of 32 acres of sub-merchantable trees and hand thinning and piling of 77 acres of sub-merchantable trees, all in the vicinity of the Shoreline Campground. Implementation is scheduled to occur in 2008.

Tyndall Stolle Reforestation Project – This project consists of planting conifers on an estimated 4,127 acres that burned at a high or moderate intensity where competing vegetation is expected and/or where no seed source is present to facilitate natural regeneration. Planting activities are projected to occur in the spring and fall of 2008 and 2009.

None of the alternatives would have any direct or indirect effects on apparent naturalness, natural integrity, special features, or wilderness manageability and boundaries of any IRA. Therefore none of the alternatives would result in any cumulative effects on these attributes (P.R., Vol. 3, Roadless Resource).

Alternative A would have no direct, indirect, or cumulative effects on opportunities for solitude and feelings of remoteness in any IRA (P.R., Vol. 3, Roadless Resource).

Noise associated with Alternative B or C could combine with noise-related impacts associated with ongoing and/or foreseeable future activities and result in an incremental effect on opportunities for solitude and feelings of remoteness. While it is unlikely that these activities would occur in the same general area and at the same time, the combination of the actions could result in minor, temporary (two weeks) incremental or cumulative effects on feelings of solitude/remoteness in portions of several IRAs (P.R., Vol. 3, Roadless Resource).

3.3.2 Roadless Area Characteristics

This section of the document will focus on the roadless area characteristics of the IRAs including high quality soil and water; diversity of plant and animal species; habitat for threatened, endangered, proposed, candidate, and sensitive species; watersheds that function as sources of public drinking water; semi-primitive and primitive recreation opportunities; natural appearing landscapes; traditional cultural properties and sacred sites, and; other unique or special features. This section of the document also discloses the potential effects of the various alternatives on these characteristics.

The roadless characteristics identified were derived from a roadless area characteristic description contained in the *Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation Final Environmental Impact Statement* (USDA 2000). While these characteristics are not unique to roadless areas and will be present outside of as well as within roadless areas, they often represent what lends a particular roadless area social and ecological value. Appendix H of the Southwest Idaho Land and Resource Management Plans FEIS provides descriptions of the existing roadless characteristics for the various IRAs in their entireties. It should be noted that this information was compiled at a much larger scale (Ecogroup) than this analysis area and, by necessity, used coarse data sources.

High Quality Soil and Water - Soil quality and geomorphic integrity in roadless areas are generally very high due to the relative lack of disturbance in these areas. A common indicator of geomorphic integrity is the road density expressed in terms of miles/square mile of roadless area. A lower road density implies a higher geomorphic integrity. Water quality integrity ratings are intended to reflect the current extent of water quality condition in the IRA based on past and current disturbances. Three indicators were used to assess water quality and watershed integrity within roadless areas: (1) road miles in riparian conservation areas, (2) the number of road/stream crossings within each roadless area, and (3) the amount of damaged stream segments within the roadless area. The three indicators were then combined to arrive at an overall composite watershed quality integrity rating for each individual roadless area.

Diversity of Plant and Animal Species - The Southwest Idaho Ecogroup landscape represents a complex system that has been influenced by a number of factors including the interaction of soils, aspect, elevation, climate, and disturbance. All these factors have shaped the vegetative composition and patterns across the landscape, which in turn have influenced the biodiversity. At a coarse scale, the diversity of potential vegetation groups (PVGs) and other land or water forms within a given roadless area was used as an indicator of potential diversity of plants, mammals, amphibians, fish, reptiles, and invertebrates. While it is recognized that other subcomponents within a PVG, such as structural stages, age classes, species composition, and density are important diversity variables, the complexity of display and detail of such data would be at a finer scale than desired for the overview of diversity characteristics by individual IRA.

Inventoried roadless areas also conserve native biodiversity which impedes the spread of non-native invasive species, such as noxious weeds. Infestation by these invaders can substantially change overall biological diversity by affecting the amount and distribution of native plants and animals.

Habitat for Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, Candidate, and Sensitive Species - Roadless areas often support a diversity of habitats and communities, providing or affecting habitat for a number of threatened, endangered, proposed, candidate, and sensitive species (TEPCS). Appendix H of the Forest Plan provides information on presence/absence of TEPCS that was derived from coarse scale eco-group databases. For this project assessment, more site-specific data and analysis relative to TEPCS has been developed. Reference Chapter 3 of the EA for discussions specific to TEPCS plants (Section 3.2.11), wildlife (Section 3.10), and fish (Section 3.12).

Sources of Public Drinking Water - National Forest System lands often contain watersheds that are important sources of public drinking water. Management of these watersheds to maintain the flow of clean water is crucial to a growing population.

Semi-primitive and Primitive Recreation Opportunities - Forest landscapes offer recreation settings that are managed to provide the physical and social environments for a variety of recreation opportunities and experiences. The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) describes the different classes of outdoor environments, activities, and experience opportunities ranging from the primitive end of the spectrum with low visitor use, to the more urban setting where highly developed facilities and high numbers of users would likely be encountered. While IRAs can contain a fairly wide range of ROS settings, they are valued particularly for the settings that are towards the primitive or semi-primitive end of the spectrum.

ROS classes also may vary by season due to a shift in travel management strategies for summer and winter reflected in the current travel plan, and/or a reduction of road access due to snow during winter. As a result there can be dramatic differences between summer and winter ROS classes.

Natural Appearing Landscapes - High quality scenery, especially scenery with natural-appearing landscapes, is a primary reason that people choose to recreate. Most of the IRAs in the Southwest Idaho Ecogroup are essentially natural appearing and have a high degree of scenic integrity. In addition to natural appearing landscapes, indicators that can be used to represent high quality scenery are the scenic variety classes. There are three variety classes that identify the scenic quality of the landscape based on elements of landform, rock-form, vegetation, waterbodies, and streams. Of most importance in this case is Variety Class A, Distinctive Landscape.

Traditional Cultural Properties and Sacred Sites - Traditional cultural properties are places, sites, structures, art, or objects that have played an important role in the cultural history of a group. Sacred sites are places that have special religious significance to a group. Many of the nation's cultural resources are located on federal lands, with National Forest system lands containing a substantial share. Many of these resources have not yet been inventoried, especially those that occur in IRAs where development has been relatively minimal. Most inventories for cultural resources have been conducted on lands where development or management projects have been proposed because of legal requirements to disclose the impacts of such projects on cultural resources. IRAs that have a high potential or sensitivity of cultural resource sites were identified during development of the Forest Plan FEIS.

Other Unique or Special Features - IRAs may contain special or unique features that contribute to the biological, recreational, historic, and scenic values of the areas. Special features are unique or special examples of plant and animal communities, geologic features, scenic grandeur, or other locally identified attributes that merit special consideration.

3.3.2.1 Environmental Consequences Specific to Alternative A

This alternative does not propose any activities within any IRA and therefore would have no direct or indirect effects on any roadless characteristic.

3.3.2.2 Environmental Consequences Common to Alternative B and C

These alternatives do not propose any activities within the boundaries of any IRA.

High Quality Soil and Water – Alternatives B and C would not have a measurable effect on any of the indicators used to assess geomorphic integrity, water quality, or watershed integrity within roadless areas. The existing condition of these indicators within the IRAs would be maintained (P.R., Vol. 11, Watershed/Soils).

Diversity of Plant and Animal Species – Alternatives B and C would not increase or decrease the acres of any PVG within the IRAs (P.R., Vol. 2, PVG).

Habitat for Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, Candidate, and Sensitive Species - Section 3.2.11 of the EA discloses that Alternative B or C may affect but is not likely to adversely affect

Spiranthes diluvialis and may impact individuals or habitat but would not likely contribute to a trend towards Federal Listing or cause a loss of viability to the population or species for *Botrychium lineare, Botrychium simplex, Botrychium crenulatum, Botrychium multifidum, Botrychium virginianum, Douglasia idahoensis, Lewisia sacajaweana, Epipactis gigantean*, or *Allotropa virgata* (P.R., Vol. 2, TES Plants).

Section 3.10.1 of the EA discloses that Alternative B or C may affect but is not likely to adversely affect lynx and northern Idaho ground squirrel (P.R., Vol. 10, Threatened and Endangered).

Section 3.10.2 of the EA discloses that Alternative B or C would have no impact on boreal owl, peregrine falcon, mountain quail, greater sage grouse, western big-eared bat, spotted bat, and spotted frog, and; may impact individuals but would not likely contribute to a trend towards federal listing or loss of viability to the population or species of gray wolf, great gray owl, flammulated owl, bald eagle, northern goshawk, white-headed woodpecker, northern three-toed woodpecker, fisher, and wolverine (P.R., Vol. 10, Sensitive Species).

Section 3.12 of the EA discloses that Alternative B or C may affect but is not likely to adversely affect Chinook salmon or their designated critical habitat, steelhead trout or their designated critical habitat, or bull trout, and; may impact individuals but would not likely contribute to a trend towards federal listing or loss of viability to the population or species of westslope cutthroat trout (P.R., Vol. 12, Fisheries).

Sources of Public Drinking Water - There are no watersheds within any of the IRAs that provide surface water to facilities that treat and distribute that water for domestic purposes (P.R., Vol. 11).

Semi-primitive and Primitive Recreation Opportunities – Alternatives B and C would maintain the existing Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) classifications within the IRAs in both the summer and winter months (P.R., Vol. 4, Recreation).

Natural Appearing Landscapes - The current amount of high scenic value class landscape (Variety Class A) within the IRAs would be maintained under these alternatives (P.R., Vol. 6, Visuals).

Traditional Cultural Properties and Sacred Sites – Alternatives B and C would not have any direct or indirect effects on historically significant sites. Previously identified sites would be protected under these alternatives. The State Historic Preservation Officer has reviewed the resource report and concurred with the no adverse effects determination. Contract provisions that would halt all degrading activities would be included with these alternatives to prevent adverse impacts to any unknown sites discovered during implementation (P.R., Vol. 8, Cultural Resources).

Other Unique or Special Features – These alternatives would not impact any unique or special features found within any IRA (P.R., Vol. 3, Roadless).

3.3.2.3 Cumulative Effects

The area used to assess cumulative effects on roadless area characteristics was limited to the 103,804 acre analysis area (Figure 3-1).

With the exception of a five acre parcel in the vicinity of Knox Ranch, the entire cumulative effects area is administered by the U.S. Forest Service. Since 1950 an estimated 7,208 acres have been harvested within the cumulative effects area. Although the specific effects cannot be quantified, the existing conditions disclosed above reflect the impacts of those past activities as well as any recovery that has occurred since those events. Ongoing or foreseeable future activities within this cumulative effects area that could add incrementally to impacts on this resource are identical to those listed above for wilderness attributes. Reference **Appendix B** for additional information and maps related to the cumulative effects analyses completed for this project.

Since none of the alternatives would have any measurable direct or indirect effects on the indicators of high quality soil and water; diversity of plant and animal species; sources of public drinking water; semi-primitive and primitive recreation opportunities; natural appearing landscapes; traditional cultural properties and sacred sites, or; other unique or special features within any IRA, no incremental or cumulative effects would occur as a result of any alternative (P.R., Vol. 3, Roadless).

Reference Sections 3.2.11, 3.10.1, 3.10.2, and 3.12 for discussions specific to the cumulative effects of the alternatives on threatened, endangered, proposed, candidate, and sensitive plant, wildlife, and fish species.

3.4 Recreation

This section of the document discusses the existing conditions of the recreation resources and opportunities, as well as the effects of the various alternatives on those resources and/or uses. The analysis area used in this assessment consists of the 103,804 acre project area (Figure 3-11).

Warm Lake and its surrounding basin have long been popular destinations for visitors in the summer and fall months. Visitors often camp at established campgrounds near Warm Lake or at one of the numerous dispersed campsites in the basin, and recreate in the surrounding areas. Open authorized roads within the project area facilitate dispersal of these visitors and receive considerable use by the general public. These roads provide access to trails leading to Rice Lake and Long Lake, as well as numerous other established trails and undeveloped campsites. Typical traffic levels on most of these roads during the summer are characterized as moderate to heavy (P.R., Vol. 4, Recreation).

The close proximity of the South Fork Salmon River (SFSR) also increases use of the project area. In recent years, the area has experienced a dramatic increase in use during the salmon sport fishing season in that portion of the SFSR downstream of Warm Lake Highway (FH22). This fishing season, which typically runs from mid-June to mid-July, attracts fishermen from around the state. Salmon fishing associated with tribal treaty rights also continues to occur in the lower reaches of the SFSR. Similar to sport fishing, the amount of tribal fishing in any given year influences the amount of use in the project area (P.R., Vol. 4, Recreation).

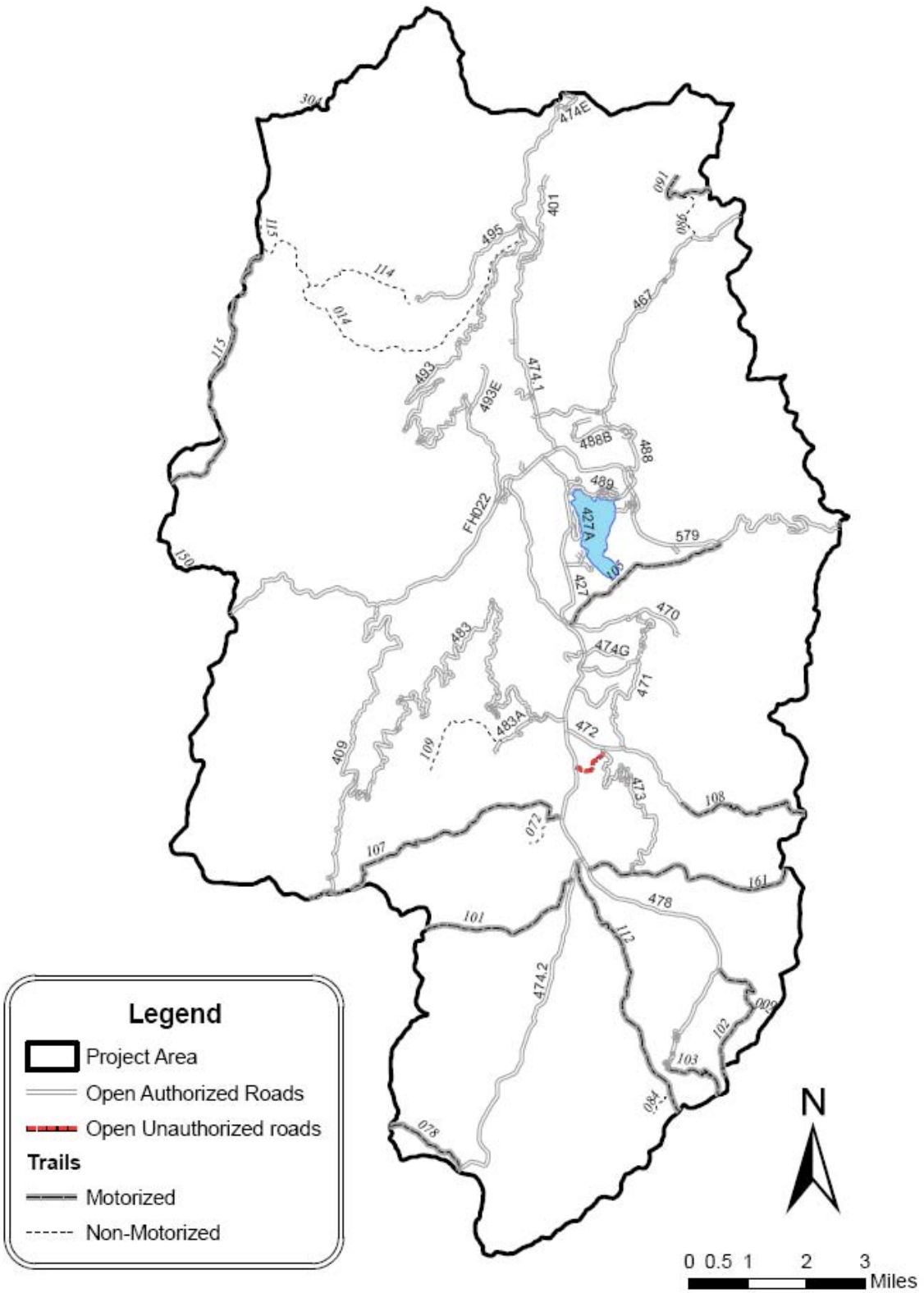
The analysis area also receives an abundance of use in association with hunting seasons for deer and elk. In addition to Valley County residents, many hunters from the Treasure Valley use the area for prolonged visits, often up to one week in duration. These visitors often take advantage of the numerous dispersed campsites on a recurring, annual basis (P.R., Vol. 4, Recreation).

Snowmobiling is also a popular activity within the area during the winter months. The #474.2 road is groomed for snowmobile use from Warm Lake Highway (FH22) south to the #107 trailhead. Road #483 is also groomed for snowmobile use during the winter months (P.R., Vol. 4, Recreation).

Roughly 121 miles of open authorized roads occur within the analysis area and provide passenger vehicle access during some portion of the year. Warm Lake Highway (FH22), the #474.1 road, and a portion of the #579 road to Warm Lake Lodge, are plowed during the winter months in order to maintain passenger vehicle access. Seven of the 121 miles are open to passenger vehicles during the summer months but closed seasonally in September of each year with gates. The remaining 112 miles of authorized roads in the analysis area are closed year-round to passenger vehicles (P.R., Vol. 4, Recreation).

A number of designated trails exist within the analysis area, some of which could potentially be affected by proposed activities including Trails #101, #112, #161, #107, #108, #105, and #014. Use levels on these motorized and non-motorized trails vary from low to high depending upon the particular trail and the season of use. Reference Figure 3-11 for locations of travel routes in the analysis area (P.R., Vol. 4, Recreation).

Figure 3-11 Travel Routes



Similar to the rest of the Boise National Forest, the analysis area provides recreation opportunities for local residents as well as residents of the Treasure Valley. The use of both roads and trails (motorized and non-motorized) within the analysis area has increased over the last decade and is expected to continue to increase in the future as the demand for both motorized and non-motorized recreation increases.

While the burn intensity of the 2007 wildfire varied across the analysis area, in many locations tree mortality was extensive along the corridors of existing roads. A few of these fire-killed trees will fall to the ground prior to the spring of 2008. However, the majority of the fire-killed trees will pose a chronic hazard to travelers along an estimated 60 miles of road for many years to come. In addition, trees falling into these routes will be a recurring maintenance problem (P.R., Vol. 4, Recreation).

A number of roads and/or trails within the analysis area have been identified as travel-ways that Valley County, Idaho has asserted a claim of rights-of-way under Federal Law R.S. 2477 and the common law, laws of the predecessors of Idaho Territory, Idaho Territory, and the State of Idaho (Assertion, Valley County Idaho, filed September 8, 1997). The maps and/or narratives accompanying Valley County's Assertion identify claims of rights-of-way on all or portions of the following travel-ways within the analysis area: Roads FH22, #579, #474.1, #467, #474.2, #427, #489, #472, #474Q, #478, and an unauthorized road connecting the #474.2 to the #473, and; Trails #014, #115, #150, #086, #091, #105, #108, #102, #009, #101, #107, #072, and several undesignated trails (P.R., Vol. 4, Recreation).

Numerous Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) classifications occur within the analysis area. ROS classifications that could potentially be impacted by proposed activities include Roaded Modified, Roaded Natural, Rural, and Semi-Primitive Motorized (P.R., Vol. 4, Recreation).

3.4.1 Environmental Consequences Specific to Alternative A

This alternative does not propose any changes to the current management of roads or trails within or adjacent to the analysis area, nor would it effect the current level of recreational use in the area. No direct effects to the existing patterns or levels of recreational use or current ROS classifications would occur (P.R., Vol. 4, Recreation).

By year five (five years after the wildfire) fire-killed trees adjacent to roads within the analysis area will begin falling to the ground, with the smaller diameter trees the first to fall as they gradually succumb to the forces of nature such as wind and decay. Given the severity of crown scorch within most of the fire-killed trees (Section 3.2.1), an estimated 75 to 85 percent of the snags will have fallen by year 15. By year 25 the majority of the fire-induced snags in the analysis area will have fallen to the ground (P.R., Vol. 2, Snags).

Although unquantifiable, falling snags will pose a threat to users of an estimated 60 miles of open authorized roads within the analysis area and result in a recurring maintenance need for the next 25 years (P.R., Vol. 4, Recreation).

3.4.2 Environmental Consequences Common to Alternative B and C

During implementation (up to two years), users of open authorized roads and dispersed campsites would be displaced by proposed activities in the analysis area. However, proposed activities along any one road would not be expected to last more than a couple of weeks and therefore would be of a temporary nature. Frequent users of these roads and/or dispersed campsites would likely take advantage of similar opportunities on other road systems in or adjacent to the analysis area. Post-implementation management of the existing transportation system within the project area would not change under Alternative B or C. Following implementation the miles of road in the analysis area open to passenger vehicles during some portion of the year would continue to be 121 miles. All existing road restrictions would be reinstated upon completion of proposed activities (P.R., Vol. 4, Recreation).

Relative to the salmon fishing season, these alternatives do not propose any activities along that section of the SFSR where salmon fishing is permitted or where the majority of these fishermen camp. Effects to these users of open authorized roads and dispersed campsites would be identical to those presented in the preceding paragraph (P.R., Vol. 4, Recreation).

Users of Trails #101, #112, #161, #107, #108, #105, and #014 could also be temporarily displaced by active operations occurring sporadically over a period of two years. However, displacement associated with any one trail would likely be for no more than a couple of weeks. If displaced, users of these trails would likely take advantage of other trails in or adjacent to the analysis area. To mitigate potential undesirable effects on trails, design features associated with all action alternatives (Section 2.4.2.2) would require that any portion of a designated trail within proposed harvest units be maintained free of logs and/or slash resulting from harvest activities. Ground-based skidding would not be allowed down the trail and, should it be necessary to skid across a designated trail, the Purchaser would be required to reconstruct the disturbed portion of the trail tread following activities. In addition, should felled trees that are to be retained on site fall across any designated trails, such trees would be bucked and segments of the trees and any associated limbs removed from designated trails, by hand, within 24 hours of felling operations (Section 2.4.3.3). Given incorporated design features these alternatives would not be expected to have any substantial effect on trail use or the quality of that trail beyond the potential for temporary displacement discussed above (P.R., Vol. 4, Recreation).

Design features associated with these alternatives (Section 2.4.2.2) prohibit plowing of snow within the analysis area. Given this design feature and the fact that proposed activities would not occur during the winter months when snowmobiling conditions are ideal, these alternatives would not be expected to have noticeable effects on snowmobiling activities (P.R., Vol. 4, Recreation).

As previously disclosed, post-implementation management of the existing transportation system within the analysis area would not change under Alternative B or C. These alternatives would not eliminate access to any road or trail that Valley County, Idaho has asserted a claim of rights-of-way under Federal Law R.S. 2477 and the common law (P.R., Vol. 4, Recreation).

There would be some level of temporary road use and/or other activities under Alternatives B and C within the Roaded Modified, Roaded Natural, Rural, and/or Semi-Primitive Motorized ROS classifications within the analysis area. However, these activities would be consistent with the current settings and characteristics that exist along open authorized roads. In the case of these ROS classifications, a wide range of management activities and objectives may occur. Given that there would be no change from the current ROS classifications, Alternatives B and C would be consistent with Forest Plan Management Area 19 Objective #1962 (P.R., Vol. 4, Recreation).

Although unquantifiable, felling of fire-killed and imminently dead trees would reduce the hazard that these trees pose to users of an estimated 60 miles of open authorized roads. Similarly, these alternatives would reduce the projected maintenance needs resulting from dead trees falling into the road prisms over the next 25 years (P.R., Vol. 4, Recreation).

3.4.3 Cumulative Effects

Since the effects of the proposed alternatives would be limited to the project area, the 103,804 acre analysis area was used to assess the cumulative effects on recreational uses and opportunities (Figure 3-1).

With the exception of a five acre parcel in the vicinity of Knox Ranch, the entire cumulative effects area is administered by the U.S. Forest Service. Since 1950 an estimated 7,208 acres have been harvested within the cumulative effects area. Historic records indicate that since 1910 roughly 67,853 acres within the cumulative effects area have been affected by wildfire, some of which overlap with harvested acres. Although the specific effects cannot be quantified, the existing conditions disclosed above reflect the impacts of those past activities as well as any recovery that has occurred since those events. Ongoing or foreseeable future activities within this cumulative effects area that could add incrementally

to impacts on this resource are listed below. Reference **Appendix B** for additional information and maps related to the cumulative effects analyses completed for this project.

Cabin Salvage, Knox Salvage, and South Fork Houselog Salvage I Sales – These three salvage sales, all under contract to the same Purchaser, were offered following the 2003 South Fork Wildfire. At this time the majority of the included timber has already been removed. However, the Purchaser is expected to continue to remove small amounts of fire-killed and imminently dead timber in 2008.

Power Salvage Sale – This salvage sale permits the removal of downed trees only from 66 acres within sections of the right-of-way of the overhead power line in the Warm Lake Basin. This contract is projected to terminate in July of 2008.

South Fork Campground Restoration Project – While still in the developmental phase, the objective of this project would be to minimize the fire-induced effects of the 2007 wildfire on the 10 acre South Fork Campground by removing hazard trees, planting conifers, and implementing other restorative activities. The environmental analysis for this project is tentatively scheduled to occur in 2008 with implementation in 2009 or 2010.

Shoreline Fuels Reduction Project – This project consists of mechanical mulching of 32 acres of sub-merchantable trees and hand thinning and piling of 77 acres of sub-merchantable trees, all in the vicinity of the Shoreline Campground. Implementation is scheduled to occur in 2008.

Miscellaneous Recreational Activities – Numerous recreation-related uses in the area, such as church camps, hunting, camping, firewood cutting, and sightseeing, are expected to continue in the future.

SFSR Travel Management Project - While still in the developmental phase, the objective of this project would be to minimize undesirable impacts associated with poorly located dispersed campsites and authorized and unauthorized roads and/or trails causing resource damage, as well as to address under-sized culverts, fish passage barriers, and/or structures damaged by the 2007 wildfire in the South Fork Salmon River drainage. The environmental analysis for this project is tentatively scheduled to occur in 2008 with implementation in 2009 or 2010.

Sport Fishing for Salmon - The State of Idaho allows sport fishing of Chinook salmon in the South Fork Salmon River on a year to year basis depending on the number of returning fish. This season varies annually in length and the numbers of fish permissible to take, which indirectly influences the amount of use in the cumulative effects area.

Tribal Fishing for Salmon – Tribal members still exercise their treaty rights to fish for salmon in the South Fork Salmon River. In recent years, the salmon runs have increased due to hatchery-raised stock being released to supplement the wild runs. Similarly to sport fishing, the amount of tribal fishing in any given year influences the amount of use in the cumulative effects area.

Warm Lake Highway Reconstruction Project – The majority of this project was completed in the summer of 2007 and included repair and resurfacing of the Warm Lake Highway (FH22) from Big Creek Summit to its crossing of the South Fork Salmon River.

Road Use and Road Maintenance – In addition to the ongoing use associated with recreational activities, roads within the area would continue to receive routine maintenance and/or repair as priorities dictate and funding allows.

BAER Culvert Replacements – A number of culverts removed in the fall of 2007 as part of the Cascade Complex BAER project would be reinstalled in the summer of 2008.

Alternative A would not result in any direct, indirect, or cumulative effects on current or future access, recreational use, or recreational opportunities within the analysis area (P.R., Vol. 4, Recreation).

Alternative B or C, in combination with ongoing and/or foreseeable future activities, could result in the temporary displacement of recreationists. However, it is unlikely that ongoing and foreseeable future activities would occur during the same time period, therefore numerous alternate routes and/or dispersed campsites should remain available within the analysis area during implementation of these alternatives. The cumulative effect of Alternative B or C on recreational uses and/or opportunities would be inconsequential (P.R., Vol. 4, Recreation).

Although unquantifiable, the cumulative effect of Alternative B or C in combination with ongoing and/or foreseeable future activities would be a reduction in the number of dead trees (i.e. hazard trees) adjacent to roads and a reduced maintenance need over the next 25 years (P.R., Vol. 4, Recreation).

3.5 Wild and Scenic Rivers

This section of the document discusses the existing conditions of wild and scenic rivers, as well as the effects of the various alternatives on those resources. The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 directs the Forest Service to determine which river segments have Outstanding Remarkable Values (ORVs) and to recommend to Congress those determined suitable for inclusion in the National Rivers System. This process is accomplished through agency policy related to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act that requires rivers identified as potential Wild and Scenic Rivers to be evaluated as to their eligibility, with the findings documented in the Forest Plan. Once deemed eligible, segments must have a suitability study completed to determine if they can be recommended to Congress for inclusion in the National Rivers System.

The Forest Service, acting on behalf of the Secretary of Agriculture, recommends rivers to Congress for designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Any Wild and Scenic River recommendation in a Forest Plan is a preliminary administrative recommendation that will receive further review and possible modification by the Chief of the Forest Service, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the President of the United States. Congress has the authority to make final decisions on the designation of rivers as part of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Designation of a river under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act affords the river certain legal protection from development that would impact its ORVs and provides a mechanism for management of river resources. The principle effect of the Act is to preclude or severely limit the construction of dams and other significant water resources projects that might affect river values. A study river is a river segment and the adjacent corridor within a quarter mile of its banks that is identified for study as a potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (36CFR 297.3). Pending designation by Congress, management direction requires protection of the river segment from activities that could diminish or degrade its potential classification or eligibility.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act provides for three classifications: Wild, Scenic, and Recreational. A Wild river is one that is remote and in a relatively undisturbed physical setting. A Scenic river may be accessible by road and may have a fair amount of development in its corridor, but intrusions are minor and largely unnoticeable by someone within the river corridor. A Recreational river has considerable development in its corridor and easy river access, but it is often the kind of development that enhances river recreation such as campgrounds and boat launches.

Appendix J (*Wild and Scenic Rivers Suitability Study Report*) of the Final EIS for the Southwest Idaho Ecogroup Land and Resource Management Plans documents the suitability study for five rivers. The *Wild and Scenic Rivers Suitability Study Report* concluded that the 77 mile stretch of Segment 1 of the South Fork Salmon River (SFSR) is suitable for designation with a recommended classification of Recreational. As displayed in Figure 3-12, the SFSR and its associated ¼ mile wide corridors run through the center of the 103,804 acre project area.