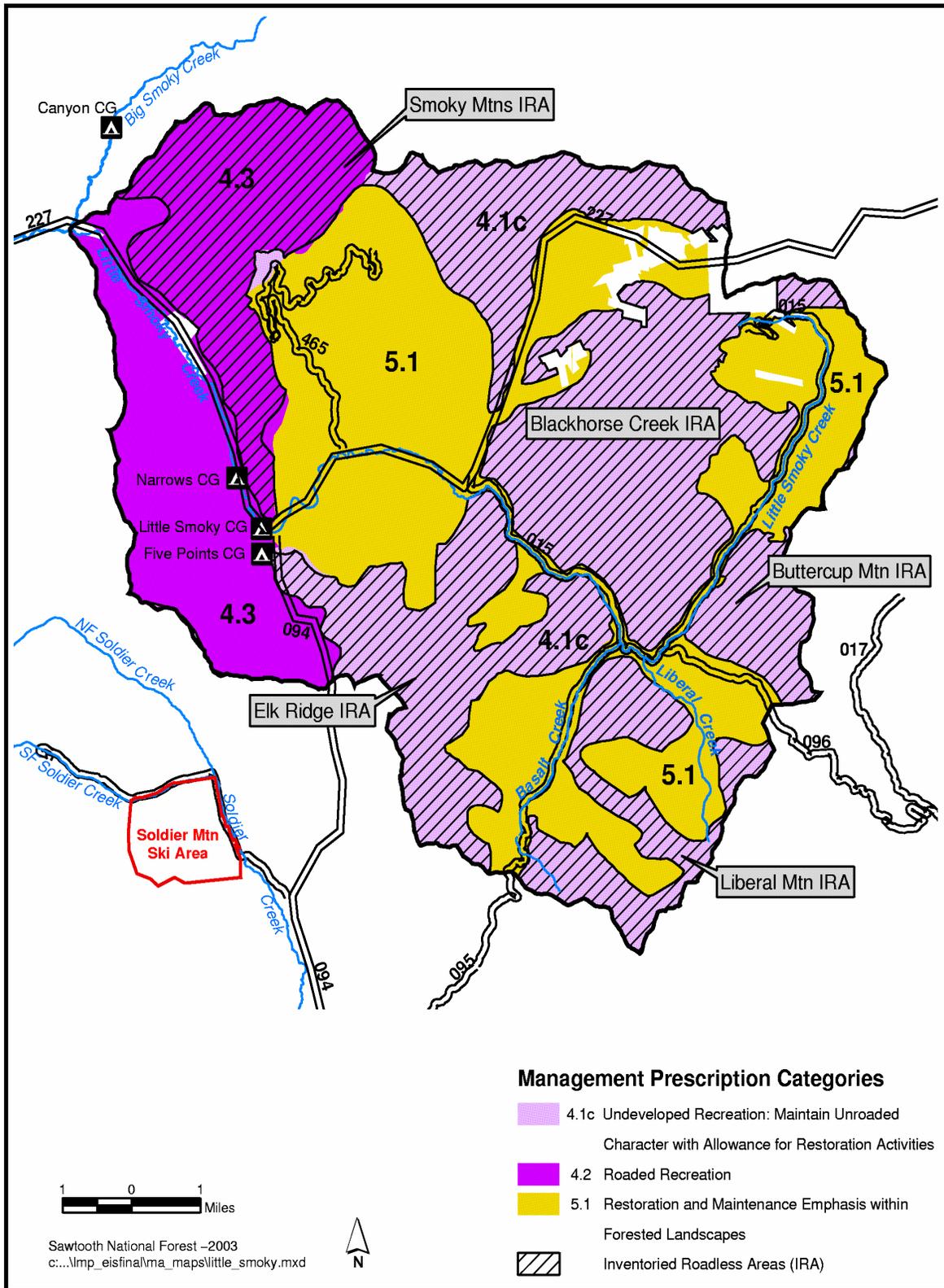


Management Area 07 –Little Smoky Creek Location Map



Management Area 07 Little Smoky Creek

MANAGEMENT AREA DESCRIPTION

Management Prescriptions - Management Area 7 has the following management prescriptions (see map on preceding page for distribution of prescriptions).

Management Prescription Category (MPC)	Percent of Mgt. Area
4.1c – Maintain Unroaded Character with Allowance for Restoration Activities	40
4.2 – Roaded Recreation Emphasis	23
5.1 – Restoration and Maintenance Emphasis within Forested Landscapes	37

General Location and Description - Management Area 7 is comprised of Forest Service administered lands within the Little Smoky Creek drainage northeast of Fairfield, Idaho (see map, preceding page). The management area is an estimated 55,500 acres, including several small private land inholdings that, together, make up about 2 percent of the area. The inholdings are mainly mining sites in the upper Carrie and Little Smoky Creek drainages. The primary uses and activities in this management area have been livestock grazing, dispersed motorized recreation, timber management, and mining.

Access - The main access to the area is from the south via Forest Road 094 from Fairfield, or from the west via Forest Road 227, along the South Fork Boise River and then up Little Smoky Creek and Carrie Creek. Forest Roads 227, 015, 095, and 094 are well maintained. The rest of the roads in the area are generally rough, winding, and native-surfaced. Most roads follow the bottoms of the major drainages in the area. An estimated 5 miles of existing road have been closed to public motorized access during hunting season over the past two decades. Most closures were related to reducing big game (primarily elk) vulnerability. The density of classified roads in the management area is an estimated 1.5 miles per square mile. Total road density for area subwatersheds ranges from 1.3 to 2.2 miles per square mile. Most travel is by road, and relatively few trails exist.

Special Features – An estimated 52 percent of the management area is inventoried as roadless, including all of the Blackhorse Roadless Area and portions of the Buttercup, Elk Ridge, Liberal Mountain, and Smoky Mountains Roadless Areas. Worswick and Preis Hot Springs occur within the area.

Air Quality - This management area lies within Montana/Idaho Airshed ID-21 and Camas County. Particulate matter is the primary pollutant of concern related to Forest management. The closest ambient air monitor is located in Mountain Home. It is used to obtain current background levels, trends, and seasonal patterns of particulate matter. The Sawtooth Wilderness and the Craters of the Moon National Monument are the closest Class I areas. Visibility monitoring has been expanded for these areas.

Between 1995 and 1999, emissions trends in Camas County improved for PM 10 and PM 2.5. While the PM 2.5 trend for Camas County indicated an improving trend, annual emissions were increasing. The discrepancy in PM 2.5 trend was due to a peak year of emissions caused by wildfires. The most common source of particulate matter within the counties was fugitive dust from unpaved roads and agricultural activities such as tilling. In addition to Forest management activities, crop residue and ditch burning may contribute to particulate matter emissions. The amount of agricultural-related burning was low in Camas County (an estimated 3,000 acres). There were no point sources located within Camas County.

Soil, Water, Riparian, and Aquatic Resources - Elevations range from around 5,500 feet on Little Smoky Creek to 9,301 feet atop Dollarhide Mountain. Management Area 7 is predominantly in the Upper South Fork Boise River Streamcut Lands subsection, featuring fluvial mountains, and depositional lands. Slope gradients average between 45 to 70 percent in the glaciated and fluvial mountains, and 0 to 35 percent in the depositional lands. Granite material of the Idaho batholith dominates the surface geology. Soils generally have moderate to high surface erosion potential, and soil productivity is moderate. Subwatershed vulnerability ratings range from low to moderate (see table below). Geomorphic Integrity ratings for the subwatersheds vary from moderate (functioning at risk) to low (not functioning appropriately) (see table below). Localized areas have had impacts from roads, mining, grazing, and dispersed recreation. These impacts include accelerated erosion, as well as stream bank and channel modification.

The management area is comprised of the Little Smoky Creek Watershed, which drains west into the South Fork Boise River Subbasin. The main streams in the area are Little Smoky Creek, Carrie Creek, Liberal Creek, Grindstone Creek, and Basalt Creek. There are no natural lakes or reservoirs. Water Quality Integrity ratings for the subwatersheds vary from moderate (functioning at risk) to low (not functioning appropriately), with the majority being moderate (see table below). Localized areas have accelerated sediment from roads, mining, grazing, and dispersed recreation. These impacts are amplified by the fact that natural sediment levels are relatively high. Three of the five subwatersheds in this area have impaired water bodies that were listed in 1998 under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. These subwatersheds are Red Rock-Carrie, Upper Little Smokey, and Basalt Creek. The pollutants of concern are unknown. There are currently no TMDL-assigned subwatersheds associated with this management area.

Subwatershed Vulnerability			Geomorphic Integrity			Water Quality Integrity			No. 303(d) Subs	No. Subs With TMDLs	No. Public Water System Subs
High	Mod.	Low	High	Mod.	Low	High	Mod.	Low			
0	3	2	0	2	3	0	4	1	3	0	0

Anadromous fish species no longer occur within this area because downstream dams have blocked migration routes to and from the ocean. Bull trout, a Threatened species, occurs in the management area, although recent intensive surveys have not detected the presence of a reproducing population anywhere in the watershed. A few (likely migratory) individual bull trout have recently been observed in the Red Rock-Carrie and Lick-Five Points subwatersheds. Redband trout are present throughout area streams. Introduced brook trout occur in isolated

areas, and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game currently stocks non-native sterile redband trout in Little Smoky Creek. Kokanee salmon, introduced to Anderson Reservoir, migrate upstream to spawn within the management area. Overall, aquatic habitat is functioning at risk in localized areas due to sedimentation impacts and elevated summer water temperatures. Native fish populations are at risk due to the presence of introduced fish species.

Vegetation - Vegetation is naturally patchy throughout much of the area, with islands of coniferous forest surrounded by open shrubland and sagebrush/grass communities. Lower and mid-elevations feature sagebrush/grasslands on south and west aspects. North and east aspects support Douglas-fir communities. Lodgepole pine occurs at these elevations in cold air drainages and frost-pockets. The subalpine fir zone occupies higher elevations. Sites within this zone are generally dry and support Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, and subalpine fir. Engelmann spruce occurs infrequently and is restricted to small areas that stay moist throughout the year or along waterways. Whitebark pine is found at the highest elevations interspersed with alpine meadows, rock bluffs, and talus slopes.

An estimated 38 percent of the management area is non-forested, or covered by grasslands, shrublands, meadows, rock, or water. Much of this area is comprised of the Mountain Big Sagebrush and Montane Shrub vegetation groups. The main forested vegetation groups are Cool Dry Douglas-Fir (29 percent), Warm Dry Subalpine Fir (21 percent), and High Elevation Subalpine Fir (8 percent). Aspen and lodgepole pine are important components in the Warm Dry Subalpine Fir and Cool Dry Douglas-Fir groups.

The Montane Shrub and Mountain Big Sagebrush groups are functioning at risk in some areas due to fire exclusion and historic grazing and trailing impacts, which have altered structure and species composition. Older, closed-canopy structure dominates.

The High Elevation Subalpine Fir group is functioning at risk due to fire exclusion that has allowed the more shade-tolerant subalpine fir to dominate, to the detriment of the whitebark pine component. The Warm Dry Subalpine Fir and Cool Dry Douglas-Fir groups are not functioning properly in many areas because fire exclusion has resulted in older, more decadent stands with more climax species and less early seral species, particularly aspen and lodgepole pine. Aspen is present in pure stands and mixed with Douglas-fir; however many stands are dying out or being replaced by conifers. Older aspen stands are infected with leaf blight and fungus, and are not regenerating satisfactorily. Fire hazard is increasing in conifers stands due to increasing mortality from mistletoe, Douglas-fir tussock moth, and bark beetles. Fuel loads are increasing beyond historic levels.

Riparian vegetation is functioning at risk in localized areas due primarily to localized grazing impacts and fire exclusion. In some areas, sedges are being replaced by less desirable grass species due to livestock grazing. Some cottonwood and willow communities are becoming old and decadent, and are not regenerating due to fire exclusion. Snag and in-stream large woody debris levels are likely below historic levels in some areas due to fuelwood gathering.

Botanical Resources - Bugleg goldenweed, a current Region 4 Sensitive species, is endemic to this and adjacent management areas. This area includes its largest known population. No federally listed or proposed plant species are known to occur in the area, but potential habitat exists for Ute ladies'-tresses and slender moonwort. Ute ladies'-tresses, a Threatened species, may have high potential habitat in riparian/wetland areas from 1,000 to 7,000 feet. Slender moonwort, a Candidate species, may occur in moderate to higher elevation grasslands, meadows, small openings in spruce and lodgepole pine, and open rocky outcrops.

Non-native Plants – A number of noxious weeds and exotic plants have been introduced into the management area, particularly along main road and trail corridors. The main weeds of concern are spotted and diffuse knapweeds, which are highly invasive species currently found in small, scattered populations. An estimated 21 percent of the management area is highly susceptible to noxious weed invasion and spread.

The Lick-Five Pints, Worswick Creek, and Grindstone Creek subwatersheds have an inherently high risk of weed establishment and spread. This risk is due to the amount of drainage area that is highly susceptible to noxious weed invasion and the relatively high level of exposure from recreation and trail use in these areas.

Wildlife Resources - The low-elevation shrublands and forests provide big game summer range but are generally too high for winter range. However, there is an elk winter feeding site at Lick Creek that keeps elk in the area all winter long. Elk were eliminated from this area near the turn of the century but re-introduced in the 1930s. Douglas-fir forests at mid elevations provide habitat for two Region 4 Sensitive species, northern goshawk and flammulated owl. High-elevation subalpine forests provide habitat for boreal owls, three-toed woodpeckers, and wolverine, as well as summer range for deer, elk, moose, black bear, and mountain lion. Much of the area provides nesting and foraging habitat for migratory landbirds, and general habitat for wide-ranging mammals such as elk, bear, and wolves. This area is within the Central Idaho Wolf Recovery Area. Terrestrial habitat is functioning at risk in localized areas due primarily to concerns with elk winter range. The level of human disturbance is low to moderate and could be affecting wildlife movement patterns. Habitat fragmentation from roads, timber harvest, or fire is low to moderate.

Recreation Resources - The Forest Service maintains one small, developed campground, Five Points, and manages the Little Smoky Winter Recreation Area used mostly by snowmobilers. The rest of the management area provides dispersed recreation opportunities year-round, including hunting, horseback riding, mountain biking, motorbiking, and snowmobiling. Most use is road-related and there are relatively few backcountry trails. Overall use is increasing, particularly ATV and snowmobile use. Most of the area is in Idaho Fish and Game Units 43 and 44. Many of the recreation users come from the Magic Valley, including the cities of Twin Falls, Jerome, and Gooding. The Camas, Gooding, and Lincoln Designated Snowmobile Program #13 provides for the grooming of snowmobile trails in the area and maintenance of the Basalt Creek warming hut. Recreation special uses include two outfitter and guide operations.

Cultural Resources – Cultural themes in this area include mining and Forest Service Administration. Little information has been recorded to indicate prehistoric use. The drainage has been mined historically. One recorded mining site contains a log cabin and hand-stacked rock in a placer-mined area, a feature potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The site suggests Chinese mining in the drainage, and historic records confirm Chinese mining claims. "Chinaman's Gulch" nearby also suggests a Chinese presence.

Timberland Resources - Of the estimated 28,800 tentatively suited acres in this management area, 13,600 acres have been identified as being suited timberlands, or appropriate for timber production. This represents about 10 percent of the Forest's suited timberland acres. The suited timberland acres are found in MPCs 4.2 and 5.1, as shown on the map displaying the MPCs for this management area. Lands within MPC 4.1c are identified as not suited for timber production. These acres have received a moderate level of past timber management. Forest products such as fuelwood, posts, and poles are collected in designated areas.

Rangeland Resources - The management area contains all or portions of four sheep and three cattle allotments. This area provides an estimated 12,900 acres of capable rangeland, which represents about 2 percent of capable rangeland on the Forest.

Mineral Resources - Considerable historic hard rock and placer mining and dredging activity have occurred in the Carriatown Mining District of this management area. Many of the roads in the area were originally constructed to access mining claims. Although current mining activity is low, many claims still exist and the potential for mineral development is considered moderate.

Fire Management - Prescribed fire has been used to reduce activity-generated fuels. The only large wildfire in the last 15 years was the Wells Summit Fire of 500 acres in 1992. There are no National Fire Plan communities in this area, but Lick-Five Points and Red Rock-Carrie are considered wildland-urban interface subwatersheds due to development adjacent to the Forest. Historical fire regimes for the area are estimated to be 100 percent mixed1 or 2. Only 3 percent of the area regimes have vegetation conditions that are highly departed from their historical range. However, 43 percent of the area regimes have vegetation conditions that are moderately departed from their historical range. Wildfire in these areas may result in larger patch sizes of high intensity or severity, but not to the same extent as in the highly departed areas in non-lethal fire regimes.

Lands and Special Uses - Special-use authorizations include one elk feed shed, one road to private property, two spring and pipeline water developments, and three livestock permittee cabins. An undesignated communications site is located on Elk Ridge.

MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

In addition to Forest-wide Goals, Objectives, Standards, and Guidelines that provide direction for all management areas, the following direction has been developed specifically for this area.

Resource/Program	Direction	Number	Management Direction Description
MPC 4.1c Undeveloped Recreation: Maintain Unroaded Character with Allowance for Restoration Activities	General Standard	0701	Management actions—including mechanical vegetation treatments, salvage harvest, wildland fire use, prescribed fire, special use authorizations, and road maintenance—must be designed and implemented in a manner that would be consistent with the unroaded landscape in the temporary, short term, and long term. Exceptions to this standard are actions in the 4.1c roads standards, below.
	Road Standard	0702	Within IRAs, road construction or reconstruction may only occur where needed: a) To provide access related to reserved or outstanding rights, or b) To respond to statute or treaty.
	Road Standard	0703	Outside IRAs, road construction or reconstruction may only occur where needed: a) To provide access related to reserved or outstanding rights, or b) To respond to statute or treaty, or c) To provide transportation systems that support accomplishment of Management Area Recreation Resource Opportunity Spectrum objectives.
	Fire Guideline	0704	The full range of fire suppression strategies may be used to suppress wildfires. Emphasize tactics that minimize impacts of suppression activities on the unroaded landscape in the area.
MPC 4.2 Roaded Recreation Emphasis	Vegetation Guideline	0705	Vegetation management actions—including wildland fire use, prescribed fire, and mechanical treatments—may be used to maintain or restore desired vegetation and fuel conditions provided they do not prevent achievement of recreation resource objectives.
	Fire Guideline	0706	The full range of fire suppression strategies may be used to suppress wildfires. Emphasize strategies and tactics that minimize impacts to recreation developments and investments.
MPC 5.1 Restoration and Maintenance Emphasis within Forested Landscapes	Vegetation Guideline	0707	Any vegetation treatment activity may be used to restore or maintain desired vegetation and fuel conditions. The available vegetation treatment activities include wildland fire use. Salvage harvest may also occur.
	Fire Guideline	0708	The full range of fire suppression strategies may be used to suppress wildfires. Emphasize strategies and tactics that minimize impacts to habitats, developments, and investments.
	Road Guideline	0709	Road construction or reconstruction may occur where needed: a) To provide access related to reserved or outstanding rights, or b) To respond to statute or treaty, or c) To achieve restoration and maintenance objectives for vegetation, water quality, aquatic habitat, or terrestrial habitat; or d) To support management actions taken to reduce wildfire risks in wildland-urban interface areas; or e) To meet access and travel management objectives.
Soil, Water, Riparian, and Aquatic Resources	Objective	0710	Improve water quality through reconstruction or relocation of trail segments in the following areas: Upper Little Smoky Creek, Liberal Creek, Cannonball Creek, Sawmill Creek, Wood Gulch Creek, Red Rock Creek, Williams Creek, Grindstone Creek, Rosetta Creek, Basalt Creek, Five Points Creek, and Worswick Creek drainages.
	Objective	0711	Relocate, reconstruct, or close and rehabilitate the Willow-Little Smoky Ridge 084, Lick Creek 080, Grindstone 081, Stovepipe 082, and Devil's Dive 085 trails that are contributing sediment and degrading water quality.

Resource/Program	Direction	Number	Management Direction Description
Soil, Water, Riparian, and Aquatic Resources	Objective	0712	Restore soil conditions (erosion, bare ground, and compaction) from historic use on the Little Smoky Driveway that has been compounded by annual cattle movement between Ditto Flat and Little Smoky Creek.
	Objective	0713	Restore vegetative composition and soil compaction of wet meadows in the Ditto Flat and Liberal Creek areas that have been degraded by livestock management and water table changes.
	Objective	0714	Improve riparian areas and streambank stability by reducing soil compaction, accelerated sediment, and loss of vegetation caused by dispersed camping and fishing recreation in the Little Smoky, Basalt, Five Points, Worswick, and Carrie Creek valley bottoms.
	Objective	0715	Improve instream habitat, streambank stability, and sediment storage capacity by enforcing permit conditions on riparian fuelwood cutting, and by re-introducing large woody debris to stream channels, especially in the Upper Little Smoky, Five Points, Carrie, and Lick Creek drainages.
	Objective	0716	Coordinate with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to maintain or restore native fish populations and currently unoccupied habitat by reducing the threat of hybridization and competition from non-native fish species, especially in Lick, Five Points, and Little Smoky Creeks.
	Objective	0717	Develop and implement measures to restore historic stream channel and floodplain function and morphology in the dredged meadow reach of Little Smoky Creek.
Vegetation	Objective	0718	Restore the early seral aspen component to desired conditions, as described in Appendix A, to improve visual quality and wildlife habitat.
	Objective	0719	Maintain or restore the whitebark pine component of the High Elevation Subalpine Fir vegetation group to desired conditions, as described in Appendix A.
	Objective	0720	Restore the herbaceous component of the Mountain Big Sagebrush communities adjacent to riparian areas in narrow drainages.
	Objective	0721	Restore hydric and woody shrub species composition and density in bottom riparian areas within the Grindstone Creek, Carrie Creek, Worswick Creek, Red Rock Creek, Rosetta Creek, Wood Gulch, Camp Creek, Sawmill Creek, and Cannonball Creek drainages, where vegetation has been altered by livestock grazing.
Botanical Resources	Objective	0722	Maintain or restore populations and occupied habitats of TEPCS species, including bugleg goldenweed, to contribute to their long-term viability of these species.
	Objective	0723	Emphasize reducing spotted knapweed and non-native species within TEPCS species actual and potential habitat.
	Guideline	0724	Coordinate forested restoration, riparian restoration (including road and trail reconstruction, relocation, and obliteration activities), prescribed fire, and non-native plant eradication efforts with a Forest botanist to minimize impacts to TEPCS plant species, actual or potential habitat, and pollinators of these plants.
Non-native Plants	Objective	0725	Prevent and control the establishment of noxious weeds, with emphasis on rush skeletonweed, spotted knapweed, and diffuse knapweed.

Resource/Program	Direction	Number	Management Direction Description																			
Wildlife Resources	Objective	0726	Coordinate seasonal road closures with Idaho Department of Fish and Game to reduce elk vulnerability and disturbance.																			
	Guideline	0727	Management actions in sage grouse habitat should be designed to meet the desired conditions for sagebrush described in Appendix A. Where greater than 40 percent of the sage grouse habitat in the management area has less than 10 percent canopy cover, actions should be designed to maintain or restore canopy cover conditions.																			
Recreation Resources	Objective	0728	Provide winter recreation opportunities outside of designated elk winter-feeding areas, wolverine denning areas, and lynx habitat.																			
	Objective	0729	Consider decisions that enhance winter recreation opportunities and summertime recreation as viable income generators for residents in Camas County.																			
	Objective	0730	Develop a dispersed recreation site plan to address soil compaction and vegetation restoration needs in the Worswick Hot Springs area, Carrie Creek drainage, Little Smoky Creek from Worswick Hot Springs to Carrie Creek, Basalt Creek Meadows, and McHan Gulch to Little Smoky Creek.																			
	Objective	0731	Reduce soil erosion and sedimentation associated with off-road vehicles on the Lick Creek Trail, Basalt Creek area, Five Points Creek, Grindstone Creek, Elk Ridge area, Worswick Hot Springs area, and Ditto Flat area.																			
	Objective	0732	Determine eligibility of the Ketchum-Featherville Road for Backcountry Byway designation.																			
	Objective	0733	Evaluate and incorporate methods to help prevent weed establishment and spread from recreation and trail use in the Lick-Five Points, Worswick Creek, and grindstone Creek subwatersheds. Consider annual weed inspection and treatment of trailheads and other high-use areas; and posting educational notices in these areas to inform the public of areas that are susceptible to weed invasion and measures they can take to help prevent weed establishment and spread.																			
	Objective	0734	<p>Achieve or maintain the following ROS strategy:</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: 40px;"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">ROS Class</th> <th colspan="2">Percent of Mgt. Area</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Summer</th> <th>Winter</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Primitive</td> <td>0%</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized</td> <td>0%</td> <td>16%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Semi-Primitive Motorized</td> <td>35%</td> <td>84%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Roaded Natural</td> <td>39%</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Roaded Modified</td> <td>26%</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The above numbers reflect current travel regulations. These numbers may change as a result of future travel regulation planning</p>	ROS Class	Percent of Mgt. Area		Summer	Winter	Primitive	0%	0%	Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized	0%	16%	Semi-Primitive Motorized	35%	84%	Roaded Natural	39%	0%	Roaded Modified	26%
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Roaded Modified	26%	0%																				
Cultural Resources	Objective	0735	Provide interpretive opportunities and site protection at Worswick Hot Springs to enhance visitor experiences.																			
	Objective	0736	Document historic mining sites in the area.																			
	Objective	0737	Interpret mining properties at Carrietown for public education and enjoyment.																			
	Objective	0738	Preserve historic hand-stacked rocks, and evaluate for significance as potentially the only feature of its kind on the Forest.																			

Resource/Program	Direction	Number	Management Direction Description
Timberland Resources	Objective	0739	Identify Douglas-fir stands that have conditions that predispose them to epidemic insect activity and stand-replacing fire. Initiate actions to treat stand densities and hazardous fuel conditions to reduce insect and wildfire hazards.
	Objective	0740	Sign riparian areas with road access as closed to fuelwood cutting where appropriate to retain large woody debris.
Rangeland Resources	Objective	0741	Restore ground cover, reduce sediment contributions, and restore streambank vegetative composition in drainages with bull trout habitat and 303d listed streams (headwaters Little Smoky to Carrie Creek) through adjustments to livestock grazing capacities and management.
	Objective	0742	Adjust livestock grazing capacities and management to restore ground cover and streambank vegetation, and reduce sediment contributions, in drainages with native fish habitat.
	Standard	0743	Forage utilization by cattle in riparian areas will not exceed 30 percent use of most palatable forage species, or must retain a minimum 6 inch stubble height of native hydric greenline species, whichever occurs first, when riparian goals and objectives are not being met.
Mineral Resources	Objective	0744	Restore and reclaim abandoned mine sites.
Fire Management	Objective	0745	Use prescribed fire and/or mechanical treatments within and adjacent to wildland/urban interface areas in the Lick-Five Points and Red Rock-Carrie subwatersheds to manage fuel loadings and reduce wildfire hazards. Develop and prioritize vegetation treatment plans for wildland-urban interface in coordination with local and tribal governments, agencies, and landowners.
	Objective	0746	Identify areas appropriate for Wildland Fire Use. Use wildland fire to restore or maintain desired vegetative conditions and to reduce fuel loadings.
	Objective	0747	Coordinate and emphasize fire education and prevention programs with private landowners to help reduce wildfire hazards and risks. Work with landowners to increase defensible space around structures.
Facilities and Roads	Objective	0748	Reduce impacts of duplicate roads through re-location, reconstruction, and obliteration in the Ditto Flat area.