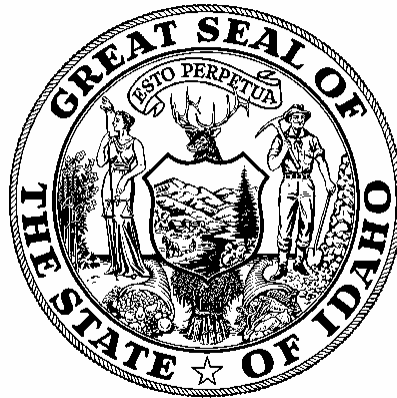


**PETITION OF GOVERNOR JAMES E. RISCH**



**FOR ROADLESS AREA MANAGEMENT IN IDAHO**

**October 5, 2006**

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## BACKGROUND

As Governor of the State of Idaho, I hereby petition the United States Secretary of Agriculture pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 553 of the Administrative Procedure Act, 1.28 of title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations and any other federal law, rule, or regulation that allows states to engage in rulemaking with the Department of Agriculture to promulgate a federal rule for the management of 9.3 million acres of Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs) within Idaho.

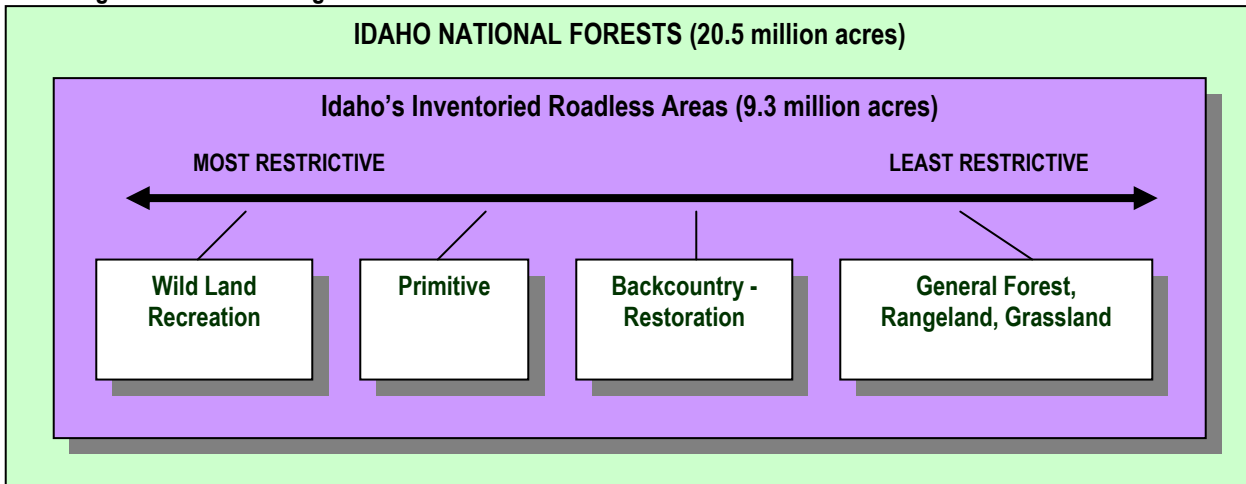
The State wishes to express its appreciation for the Secretary's recognition of the important role states can play in conserving and managing these important resources. In conjunction with this recognition, I believe the recommendations contained herein not only provide solutions to unique local situations, but ensure the long-term sustainability of those attributes which distinguish IRAs from other national forest land.

In order to place the State's recommendations in proper context, it is necessary to set out a brief overview of the process the State employed. As the 9.3 million acres of roadless areas in Idaho represent the largest amount of IRA acreage in the coterminous United States, the State was fully aware it needed a carefully planned process to ensure participation by those most affected by this petition. The State invited affected county commissioners to develop specific recommendations with the aid of individual public comments for the IRAs in their respective county. Additionally, individuals were encouraged to send individual comments directly to the Governor's Office for consideration. This public comment process will be more fully explained in section (7) of this petition.

Once the Governor's Office received both the county recommendations and individual comments, I developed a set of "guiding principles" to help shape and evaluate the strength of submitted comments. For example, the beginning point for evaluating any comment or county recommendation was the prescriptions contained in existing forest plans. This principle coupled with the State's recognition of the strictures of the National Environmental Policy Act 42 U.S.C. § 4321 *et seq.*, (NEPA) represented two of the key principles for determining the applicable management regime. These "guiding principles" will be discussed in further detail under section (2).

Following the evaluation of these comments in light of these guiding principles, each area was placed into one or more "management theme:" (1) Wild Land Recreation; (2) Primitive; (3) Backcountry/Restoration; and (4) General Forest, Rangeland, Grassland. I developed these management themes to generally convey Idaho's recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture.

Figure 1. Idaho's Management Themes



Generally, these themes outline a suite of basic management activities that may or may not occur within a given IRA depending on local circumstance. To the extent possible, I have made every effort to preserve currently existing uses and management activities under Idaho's themes. These themes also aid in charting the shift in management between the existing forest plan and the State's plan. However, a careful reading of these IRAs will illuminate the overall consistency between the petition's recommendations and the forest plans. Again, a more thorough discussion of these themes can be found under section (2).

On behalf of the citizens of Idaho, I believe the State through this petition has made every effort to retain the integrity and natural beauty of these areas for generations of Idahoans to come. Furthermore, I believe the recommendations contained herein represent and provide a viable compromise for those who wish to see these values remain in perpetuity and those who desire the management flexibility to affect future, sensitive change where necessary and dictated by circumstance. In summary, I respectfully request the Secretary to give careful consideration to my recommendations as I believe they represent the best method for preserving and managing these important resources within the great State of Idaho.

## PETITION

The following sections outline the information necessary for inclusion in a state petition under the Administrative Procedure Act.

### **1. The location and description of the particular lands for which the petition is being made, including maps and other appropriate resources in sufficient detail to enable consideration of the petition**

As defined in the 2000 Roadless Area Conservation Rule's Final Environmental Impact Statement, IRAs are those "[a]reas identified in a set of inventoried roadless area maps, contained in the U.S. Forest Service Roadless Conservation, Final Environmental Impact Statement, Volume 2, dated November 2000 (FEIS Nov. 2000), and any

subsequent update or revision of those maps through the land management planning process.” Idaho’s petition includes all 275 IRAs pursuant to this definition. However, Idaho requests a re-inventory of those areas to conform to the requirements for “roadless” designation as defined in the FEIS Nov. 2002, Volume 1 (i.e. “Undeveloped areas typically exceeding 5,000 acres that met the minimum criteria for wilderness consideration under the Wilderness Act . . .”) and/or areas which necessitate boundary correction based on new information. This request to re-inventory will be further addressed under section (3) of this petition. The following lists all 275 IRAs for consideration on a forest-by-forest basis by name, number, and approximate acreage.

**Table 1. IRA’s Included in Idaho’s Petition**

NATIONAL FOREST	IRA NAME	IRA NUMBER	APPROX. ACRES
<b>BOISE NAT’L FOREST</b>			
	Bald Mountain	#019	6,216
	Bear Wallow	#025	9,126
	Bernard	#029	20,787
	Black Lake	#036	5,318
	Blue Bunch	#923	4,864
	Breadwinner	#006	20,390
	Burnt Log	#035	23,653
	Cathedral Rocks	#038	8,132
	Caton Lake	#912	39,111
	Cow Creek	#028	14,711
	Danskin	#001	30,507
	Deadwood	#020	52,396
	Elk Creek	#022	14,980
	Grand Mountain	#007	14,439
	Grimes Pass	#017	13,252

NATIONAL FOREST	IRA NAME	IRA NUMBER	APPROX. ACRES
	Hanson Lakes	#915	17,655
	Hawley Mountain	#018	7,688
	Horse Heaven	#925	4,299
	House Mountain	#001	25,591
	Lime Creek	#937	13,462
	Lost Man Mountain	#041	12,678
	Meadow Creek	#913	21,134
	Mt. Heinen	#003	12,772
	Nameless Creek	#034	2,275
	Needles	#911	29,905
	Peace Rock	#026	191,435
	Poison Creek	#042	4,857
	Poker Meadow	#032	676
	Rainbow	#008	31,440
	Red Mountain	#916	110,194
	Reeves Creek	#010	10,540
	Sheep Creek	#005	70,110
	Smokey Mountains	#914	42,932
	Snowbank	#924	34,127
	Steel Mountain	#012	23,387
	Stony Meadows	#027	13,507

NATIONAL FOREST	IRA NAME	IRA NUMBER	APPROX. ACRES
	Ten Mile/Black Warrior	#013	118,628
	Tennessee	#033	1,016
	Whiskey	#031	4,948
	Whiskey Jack	#009	6,558
	Whitehawk Mountain	#021	8,956
	Wilson Peak	#040	7,932
<b>CARIBOU NAT'L FOREST</b>			
	Bear Creek	#4615	21,048
	Bonneville Peak	#4154	32,267
	Caribou City	#4161	79,103
	Clarkston Mtn.	#4159	22,616
	Deep Creek	#4158	7,089
	Dry Ridge	#4164	23,307
	Elkhorn Mtn.	#4156	41,882
	Gannett Springs	#4111	19,690
	Gibson Creek	#4181	8,408
	Hell Hole	#4168	5,309
	Huckleberry Basin	#4165	21,108
	Liberty Creek	#4175	15,147
	Meade Peak	#4167	44,585
	Mink Creek	#4176	16,344
	Mt. Naomi	#4758	28,116
	North Pebble	#4155	5,484
	Oxford Mtn.	#4157	40,871

NATIONAL FOREST	IRA NAME	IRA NUMBER	APPROX. ACRES
	Paris Peak	#4177	8,816
	Pole Creek	#4160	3,662
	Red Mtn.	#4170	13,700
	Sage Creek	#4166	12,711
	Schmid Peak	#4163	7,114
	Scout Mtn.	#4152	22,498
	Sherman Peak	#4172	7,756
	Soda Point	#4171	23,125
	Station Creek	#4178	9,680
	Stauffer Creek	#4173	6,433
	Stump Creek	#4162	97,301
	Swan Mtn.	#4180	7,428
	Telephone Draw	#4169	4,916
	Toponce	#4153	18,296
	West Mink	#4151	20,266
	Williams Creek	#4174	9,917
	Worm Creek	#4179	42,443
<b>CHALLIS NAT'L FOREST</b>			
	Blue Bunch Mtn.	#06-923	6,121
	Borah Peak	#06-012	130,225
	Boulder-White Clouds	#06-920	139,119
	Camas Creek	#06-901	68,454
	Challis Creek	#06-004	44,272
	Cold Springs	#06-026	8,913



NATIONAL FOREST	IRA NAME	IRA NUMBER	APPROX. ACRES
	Copper Basin	#06-019	10,927
	Diamond Peak	#06-601	78,475
	Greylock	#06-007	11,816
	Grouse Peak	#06-010	8,941
	Hanson Lakes	#06-915	13,533
	Jumpoff Mtn.	#06-014	14,416
	King Mtn.	#06-013	87,053
	Lemhi Range	#06-903	154,717
	Loon Creek	#06-908	106,325
	Pahsimeroi	#06-011	73,316
	Pioneer Mountains	#06-921	172,192
	Prophyry	#06-017	46,526
	Railroad Bridge	#06-922	7,903
	Red Hill	#06-027	14,983
	Red Mountain	#06-916	4,903
	Seafoam	#06-009	31,046
	Spring Basin	#06-006	5,226
	Squaw Creek	#06-005	132,521
	Taylor Mtn.	#06-902	16,780
	Warm Creek	#06-024	6,622
	White Knob	#06-025	65,588
	Wood Canyon	#06-028	7,736
<b>CLEARWATER NAT'L FOREST</b>			
	Bighorn-Weitas	#1306	253,906

NATIONAL FOREST	IRA NAME	IRA NUMBER	APPROX. ACRES
	Eldorado Creek	#1312	6,741
	Hoodoo	#1301	150,565
	Lochsa Face	#1311	74,662
	Lolo Creek	#1805	68 (remainder in MT)
	Mallard-Larkins	#1300	137,338
	Meadow-Creek—Upper North Fork	#1302	46,423
	Moose Mountain	#1305	21,005
	North Fork Spruce—White Sand	#1309	34,230
	North Lochsa Slope	#1307	115,422
	Pot Mountain	#1304	51,423
	Rackliff-Gedney	#1841	35,802
	Rawhide	#1313	5,828
	Siwash	#1303	9,460
	Sneakfoot Meadows	#1314	22,802
	Weir—Post Office	#1308	22,337
<b>NEZ PERCE NAT'L FOREST</b>			
	Clear Creek	#1844	12,082
	Dixie Summit—Nut Hill	#1235	12,224
	East Meadow Creek	#1845D	96,656
	Gospel Hump Adjacent to G. Hump	#1921 #1923	52,585 (Note: 2000 EIS includes only main G. Hump)
	John Day	#1852	14,901
	Lick Point	#1227	7,891

NATIONAL FOREST	IRA NAME	IRA NUMBER	APPROX. ACRES
	Little Slate Creek (Note: in new Nez Perce NF draft Plan this IRA is divided into Little Slate Creek (#1851) and Little Slate Creek N. (#1856))	#1851 #1856	20,521
	Mallard	#1847	22,858
	Middle Fork Face (Note: this IRA was eliminated in new Nez Perce NF draft Plan)		10,406
	North Fork of Slate Creek	#1850	12,791
	Ohara—Falls Creek	#1226	25,344
	Rackliff—Gedney	#1841	53,598
	Rapid River	#1922	18,201
	Salmon Face	#1855	9,586
	Silver Creek—Pilot Knob	#1849	22,324
	West Meadow Creek	#1845C	109,012
<b>IDAHO PANHANDLE NAT'L FOREST</b>			
	Beetop	#130	12,440
	Big Creek	#143	74,340
	Blacktail Mtn. PL	#122	4,960
	Blacktail Mtn. SDPT	#161	4,830
	Buckhorn Ridge	#661	6,410 (Kootenai NF=19,908)
	Continental Mtn.	#153	7,530
	E. Cathedral Peak	#131	22,260
	Gilt Edge—Silver Creek	#792	120
	Graham Coal	#139	10,290
	Grandmother Mountain	#148	22,350
	Hammond Creek	#145	17,400

NATIONAL FOREST	IRA NAME	IRA NUMBER	APPROX. ACRES
	Hellroaring	#128	1,980
	Katka Peak	#157	10,340
	Kootenai Peak	#157	4,970
	Little Grass Mountain	#121	4,050
	Lost Creek	#137	11,610
	Magee	#132	34,820
	Mallard—Larkins	#300	129,330
	Maple Peak	#141	8,620
	Meadow Creek—Upper North	#302	5,890
	Midget Peak	#151	7,240
	Mosquito Fly	# 150	19,410
	Mt. Willard—Lake Estelle	#173	35,000
	North Fork	#147	31,360
	Packsaddle	#155	19,310
	Pinchot Butte	#149	8,500
	Roberts [Kootenai NF]	#691	[Kootenai NF 7,376]
	Roland Point	#146	6,480
	Saddle Mountain	#154	7,770
	Salmo Priest	#981	20,020
	Schafer Peak	#160	5,890
	Scotchman Peaks	#662	19,510 [Kootenai 559]
	Selkirk	#125	97,950
	Sheep Mountain	#799	27,630
	Skitwish Ridge	#135	4,750

NATIONAL FOREST	IRA NAME	IRA NUMBER	APPROX. ACRES
	Spion Kop	#136	22,400
	Stevens Peak	#142	4,700
	Storm Creek	#144	8,230
	Tepee Creek	#133	5,190
	Trestle Peak	#129	7,270
	Trouble Creek	#138	5,980
	Trout Creek	#664	8,310
	Upper Priest	#123	12,670
	West Fork Elk [Kootenai]	#692	[Kootenai 40]
	White Mountain	#127	7,640
	Wonderful Peak	#152	4,880
<b>PAYETTE NAT'L FOREST</b>			
	Big Creek Fringe	#009	1,083 (designated as an IRA because it borders Wilderness)
	Caton Lake	#912	45,338
	Chimney Rock	#006	8,490
	Cottontail Point/Pilot Peak	#004	92,868
	Council Mountain	#018	16,562
	Crystal Mountain	#005	12,984
	Cuddy Mountain	#016	40,899
	French Creek	#026	88,528
	Hells Canyon/ 7 Devils Scenic	#001	29,531
	Horse Heaven	#925	13,438
	Indian Creek	#019	4,806

NATIONAL FOREST	IRA NAME	IRA NUMBER	APPROX. ACRES
	Meadow Creek	#913	8,160
	Needles	#911	131,115
	Patrick Butte	#002	80,569
	Placer Creek	#008	6,930
	Poison Creek	#042	390 (remainder of IRA is in Boise NF)
	Rapid River	#922	57,593
	Secesh	#010	247,641
	Sheep Gulch	#017	5,805
	Smith Creek	#007	2,270 (FS designated as IRA because it borders Wilderness)
	Snowbank	#924	1,520 (remainder of IRA acreage is in Boise NF)
	Sugar Mountain	#014	10,333
<b>SALMON NAT'L FOREST</b>			
	Ageny Creek	#13512	6,377
	Allan Mountain	#13946	46,420
	Anderson Mountain	#13942	18,479
	Blue Joint Mountain	#13941	480 (remainder in Bitterroot NF in MT)
	Camas Creek	#13901	35,401
	Deep Creek	#13509	7,140
	Duck Peak	#13518	48,571
	Goat Mountain	#13944	35,602
	Goldbug Ridge	#13903a	12,732
	Haystack Mountain	#13507	12,107
	Italian Peak	#13945	49,967

NATIONAL FOREST	IRA NAME	IRA NUMBER	APPROX. ACRES
	Jesse Creek	#13510	13,983
	Jureano	#13506	25,324
	Lemhi Range	#13903	153,270
	Little Horse	#13514	7,620
	Long Tom	#13521	20,401
	Mceleny	#13505	3,536
	Musgrove	#13517	8,174
	Napias	#13515	9,280
	Napoleon Ridge	#13501	51,362
	Oreana	#13516	7,568
	Perreau Creek	#13511	8,157
	Phelan	#13508	13,008
	Sal Mountain	#13513	13,952
	Sheepeater	#13520	35,389
	South Deep Creek	#13509a	12,632
	South Panther	#13504a	6,331
	Taylor Mountain	#13902	46,583
	West Big Hole	#13943	84,274
	West Panther Creek	#13504	32,480
<b>SAWTOOTH NAT'L FOREST</b>			
	Black Pine	#003	43,950
	Blackhorse Creek	#039	7,708
	Boulder—White Clouds	#920	322,356

NATIONAL FOREST	IRA NAME	IRA NUMBER	APPROX. ACRES
	Buttercup Mountain	#038	56,653
	Cache Peak	#007	26,525
	Cottonwood	#010	11,307
	Elk Ridge	#019	9,319
	Fifth Fork Rock Creek	#023	16,545
	Hanson Lakes	#915	39,876
	Huckleberry	#016	7,606
	Liberal Mountain	#040	10,529
	Lime Creek	#937	83,359
	Lone Cedar	#011	6,777
	Loon Creek	#908	3,157 (remainder in Challis NF—106,329)
	Mahogany Butte	#012	21,011
	Mt. Harrison	#006	29,931
	Pettit	#017	3,065 (designated as IRA because it is adjacent to Wilderness)
	Pioneer Mountains	#921	119,458
	Railroad Ridge	#922	42,875
	Smokey Mountains	#914	303,567
	Sublett	#005	7,105
	Third Fork Rock Creek	#009	14,234
	Thorobred	#013	6,076
<b>TARGHEE NAT'L FOREST</b>			
	Bald Mountain	#614	17,038
	Bear Creek	#615	97,613



NATIONAL FOREST	IRA NAME	IRA NUMBER	APPROX. ACRES
	Caribou City	#161	11,770
	Diamond Peak	#601	88,416
	Garfield Mtn	#961	43,290
	Garns Mountain	#611	95,604
	Italian Peak	#945	141,154
	Lionhead	#963	16,893
	Mt. Jefferson	#962	60,990
	Palisades	#613	125,805
	Poker Peak	#616	19,578
	Pole Creek	#160	2,638 (remaining acres in Caribou NF)
	Raynolds Pass	#603	7,708
	Two Top	#604	6,983
	West Slope Tetons	#610	806 (remaining acres in WY)
	Winegar Hole	#347	4,031 (remaining acres in WY)
<b>WALLOWA-WHITMAN NAT'L FOREST</b>			
	Big Canyon	#1853	14,115
	Klopton Creek—Corral Creek	#1854	21,305

## 2. The particular management requirements recommended for the lands and any exceptions

Prior to outlining my management recommendations for all 275 roadless areas, the following will further explain both the “guiding principles” which I used to analyze and evaluate public comments, and Idaho’s “management themes” which generally outline the realm of possible future management actions for a given IRA.

## **A. Guiding Principles**

### **Principle 1 - Forest Plan Baseline**

When the State accepted the Secretary's invitation to create a petition under the Administrative Procedure Act, it did so under the assumption that the starting point for discussions would be the current management prescriptions in existing forest plans.

This decision rested primarily on the rationale that forest plans represent the "best consensus" of the public. Therefore, it made sense to use the current and any publicly available draft forest plan as our baseline for evaluating any recommended changes.

### **Principle 2 – Deference to County/Tribal/Public Comments**

One of the chief criticisms lodged against the 2001 Roadless Rule was failure to account for the comments of those most affected by the rule. In order to address this criticism, the State decided to invite the participation of local communities to develop recommendations for the IRAs in their respective county for the Governor's review. As part of this local input, county commissioners took and considered numerous comments from the general public prior to crafting their recommendations by county. Individuals were also encouraged to send their comments directly to the Governor's Office for review.

Another vital part of this public process was the recommendations and comments received from Native American tribes. The Governor's Office was keenly aware of the spiritual and cultural significance some of these areas hold for the tribes. Thus, the State has endeavored to reflect this significance in its recommendations.

Because I felt the counties best represented those who know, work, recreate, and live in these areas, the State has made every effort to defer to their recommendations. Interestingly, by-and-large these recommendations have closely aligned with existing forest plans, which reiterate the importance of using those plans as a backdrop.

### **Principle 3 - NEPA Considerations**

Throughout this process, the State's principle objective was to draft a petition with as much certainty of implementation as both the Administrative Procedure Act and the strictures of NEPA would allow. Given the litigious history of roadless area management and this goal in mind, I decided to create management recommendations procedural and permissive in nature, that is—the Forest Service would not be required or directed to implement specific on-the-ground projects (e.g. build a road, cut timber, extract minerals etc.) pursuant to either the petition or its future accompanying federal rule in any given IRA. Instead, the Forest Service will have the opportunity to select from a suite of management options under each assigned theme for the given area. Once an on-the-ground project is proposed as an action, the required environmental analysis pursuant to NEPA, if necessary, would be conducted. A further discussion of NEPA within the context of this process will be discussed under section (4).

## **Principle 4 – Wild Land Recreation Theme**

Another important consideration or principle was the issue of aligning with the current forest plan where it prescribed an IRA as recommended wilderness for Congress' future consideration. This issue raised two important questions: (1) As governor, can I designate an area as "Wilderness" pursuant to the Wilderness Act; and (2) Which areas merit the continuation of this high degree of management. First, only Congress can designate an area as "Wilderness" pursuant to the Wilderness Act. Therefore, because I can only recommend interim management for these areas under this process, labeling an area as "recommended wilderness" would be misleading. Second, in deciding which areas to consider for the continuation of this management prescription, I considered only those areas substantiated, on at least two occasions, by the analytical rigor employed by the Forest Service prior to assigning this management regime to a particular IRA.

## **Principle 5 - Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)—“Forest Health”**

Among the most important dilemmas facing the Forest Service is the tension between controlling wildland fire and protecting private property adjacent to National Forest land. This tension arises primarily because while the Forest Service has an obligation to control wildland fire, it does not necessarily have a similar duty to protect adjacent private property even though the fire began on National Forest land. By the same token, it is practically impossible for the Forest Service not to protect these properties, especially if they are inholdings. Thus, it is vital for the Forest Service to have the tools necessary to reduce the risk from these fires in WUI areas.

This need for forest health flexibility was the impetus for efforts like the Fire Plan, Healthy Forests Initiative, 10-year strategy, and the Healthy Forest Restoration Act. As a result and as part of our recommendations, we recommended IRAs with WUI locations be categorized into management themes where the Forest Service would be permitted to reduce the hazard and risk to these communities, including the ability to carefully conduct vegetative manipulation.

## **Principle 6 - Consistency Between Intrastate Forests**

From a management perspective, it is important that IRAs spanning county lines be categorized in the same management themes.

## **Principle 7 - Consistency Between Interstate Forests**

Typically, the Forest Service has done a good job at ensuring management consistency of interstate IRAs. We have contacted our neighboring states in an attempt to preserve this same level of consistency.

### **B. Management Themes Overview**

Idaho's management themes represent the foundation of this petition. As such, it is imperative to place the development and composition of each theme in proper context.

Idaho's Roadless Area management recommendations are described by four overarching themes: (1) Wild Land Recreation; (2) Primitive; (3) Backcountry/Restoration; and (4) General Forest. These four themes were developed and refined through review of the existing and draft management prescriptions in each of Idaho's

ten National Forests. Additionally, the four themes are consistent with the United States Forest Service's ecosystem management philosophy;<sup>1</sup> management approaches on those portions of Idaho's National Forests not included in the Roadless Area review; and are designed to address ecological, social, and economic considerations.

Specifically, Idaho's proposed themes span a management continuum that includes at one end, a fairly restrictive approach emphasizing passive management and natural restoration approaches, and on the other end, a relatively unrestrictive approach emphasizing active management. All four themes include allowances for Special Area management.

Along with the development of these four themes, it was essential for the State to develop a "crosswalk" to associate each theme with each of the existing and/or draft management prescriptions in Idaho's ten National Forests. The four themes are designed to encompass the broad range of ecological conditions existing across Idaho's landscape and provide for site-specific flexibility. Because of the varying range of detail, management focus, and overall approach in the existing draft management prescriptions in each national forest plan, these themes also provide a level of consistency across the State, while simultaneously establishing an adequate level of detail.

### **C. Description of Management Themes**

Although each management theme is designed to address a unique set of ecological, social and economic objectives and conditions, the desired conditions and ecosystem characteristics outlined below are generally common to all four management themes.

#### **Desired Conditions**

The following desired conditions are common to all four of Idaho's management themes:

- Ecological and watershed diversity;
- Dynamic, resilient, and resistant to natural and human-caused disturbances;
- Range of vegetative composition and structure providing habitat for desired plant, wildlife, and aquatic species;
- Managed to provide for ecological, cultural, and socio-economic sustainability; and
- Managed to maintain and protect American Indian cultural resources.

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<sup>1</sup> The Forest Service formally adopted ecosystem management as its operating philosophy in 1992. Ecosystem management is generally described as a scientifically based land and resource management approach that integrates ecology, social values, and economic considerations in order to produce, restore, or sustain ecosystem integrity and desired conditions, uses, products, values, and services over the long-term. Ecosystem management shifts the management emphasis from the historical single resource, or species focus, to a broader integrated landscape focus. Ecosystem management also acknowledges humans as part of the ecosystem.

## **Ecosystem Characteristics**

In addition to the general desired conditions identified above, the following ecosystem characteristics and management objectives are also generally common to all of Idaho's four themes:

### ***Physical Composition***

- Soils retain all or most of their natural productivity and are in a condition promoting vegetative growth, hydrologic function, long-term nutrient cycling, and stability against erosion.
- Streams and lakes provide clean water, appropriate temperatures, and a variety of connected habitats to support native and desired non-native aquatic species.

### ***Biological Composition***

- Forest, grassland, shrubland, and riparian plant communities are within a desired range of variability for composition, structure, patterns, and processes.
- Existing noxious weed populations are not expanding, and new invasive species are not becoming established.
- Vegetation forms a diverse network of habitats and connective corridors for wildlife.

### ***Habitat Composition***

- Terrestrial and aquatic habitats support species diversity, with emphasis on maintaining or restoring threatened, endangered, and sensitive species, rare and unique plant communities, and species of cultural, commercial, and recreational significance.
- Riparian areas connect upland and aquatic habitats, and support stable and diverse stream channel conditions.

### ***Disturbance Processes***

- Disturbance processes (e.g. fire, insects, disease, floods, and landslides) contribute to functioning ecosystems.
- Fire plays a natural role where appropriate and desirable, but is suppressed where necessary to protect life and resources.
- Fire is used to manage vegetation where appropriate to enhance ecosystem resiliency and lower hazardous fuel levels.

## **Social and Economic Characteristics**

- Recreational settings range from primitive to developed, offering a wide spectrum of opportunities and uses.
- Facilities (e.g. roads, trails, campgrounds, etc.) are constructed, reconstructed or eliminated as necessary to provide a balance of safe, effective, and environmentally responsible management activities.

- Visitors enjoy a variety of special attractions including National Recreation Areas, Wilderness Areas, Wild and Scenic and Recreational Rivers, historic landmarks, and winter recreation areas.
- People have opportunities to explore and learn about their cultural heritage.
- Significant cultural sites are preserved and accessible.
- Sustainable ecosystems provide a variety of sustainable products and services for current and future generations.
- Timber, range, recreation, minerals, and special use programs offer opportunities for economic development, and contribute to local community needs, while maintaining ecological integrity.

### **Valid Existing Rights**

- All management themes and recommendations are intended to be subject to and protect all valid existing contract, lease, permit, mining claims, uses, and any other property and/or legal rights of private parties as well as the rights of state, tribal, and local government entities.

### **Adaptive Management**

- For each management theme and prescription, this petition also requests the flexibility to require the Forest Service, upon the request of the State or concerned county commissioners, to give priority attention to:
  - Implementing management actions permitted in the IRA to address urgent or impending fire, disease, or other severe risks or impacts to the ecosystem; and
  - Adjust management direction in the IRA to address such conditions.

### ***Management Theme 1: Wild Land Recreation***

In addition to the overall desired conditions and ecosystem characteristics discussed earlier, this theme addresses the following general conditions and uses.

**Current Condition:** Areas managed under the Wild Land Recreation theme show little evidence of historical or human use. Natural processes are predominant. People visiting these areas can find outstanding opportunities for recreation, including exploration, solitude, risk, and challenge. Additionally and as discussed previously, the designation of these areas is substantiated with a great deal of analytical rigor by the Forest Service prior to assignment of a recommended wilderness prescription. Moreover, most of these areas have been through this analytical exercise on at least two separate occasions.

**Desired Future Condition:** Areas managed under the Wild Land Recreation theme will continue to show little evidence of historical or human use. As such, the natural

processes of the area will continue to predominate, which will allow visitors to enjoy the same type of primitive recreation opportunities they found in the past.

**Management Focus:** These areas shall be managed to protect the wilderness characteristics and primitive recreation opportunities of the area if and until Congress exercises its authority pursuant to the Wilderness Act to formally designate the area as “Wilderness.” Only activities and management actions not deemed an irretrievable commitment of resources will be considered suitable uses.

**Watershed and Vegetative Restoration:** Watershed and vegetative restoration shall be accomplished strictly through passive, natural ecological processes.

**Mechanized Uses:** Mechanized uses (e.g. chainsaws, helicopters etc.) shall be allowed in these areas unless said use constitutes an irretrievable commitment of resources.

Table 2. Wild Land Recreation Theme Generally Suitable Uses and Activities<sup>2</sup>

Use/Activity	Yes	No	Notes
Fire management	X		Wildland fire use; prescribed fire
Forest health	X		Prescribed fire for forest health reasons only
Intensive Timber Management		X	Personal use only
Grazing	X		
Motorized Travel	X		Preserves currently existing routes and class of vehicle; further limitations subject to National Forest Travel Planning
Minerals		X	Except leasable, locatable unless withdrawn
Recreation	X		Dispersed
Road construction and/or reconstruction		X	No roads
Trail construction and/or reconstruction	X		
Special Uses		X	Except for uses not deemed an irretrievable commitment of resources
Weed and/or pest management	X		Emphasis on biological control
Mechanized Equipment Use	X		Chainsaws, helicopters etc.

**Special Areas:** Special areas are embedded within roadless areas in the individual forest plan along with relevant restrictions. Examples of special areas within this theme are:

- Wilderness Study Areas
- Other areas possible, if consistent with the prescribed theme

It is important to note the recommending of an IRA and its accompanying acreage under the “Wild Land Recreation” theme does not necessarily imply an endorsement and/or proposal from the State to Congress to designate each of these areas and its accompanying acreage as “Wilderness.” Rather, the State’s intention is to manage these areas, in the interim, in a manner which preserves the option for Congress to consider the designation of these areas as “Wilderness.” The State believes managing these areas under the “Wild Land Recreation” theme best accomplishes this.

<sup>2</sup> Specific management activities and use levels will vary depending on location, accessibility, terrain, economics, resource conditions, and may be subject to NEPA.

Additionally, should Congress decide to designate one of these areas as Wilderness, this petition does not preclude the option for the State to negotiate and comment on Congress' future Wilderness proposal. Thus, Idaho's petition not only aims to preserve the aforementioned option for Congress but for the State as well.

**Table 3. Areas Recommended for Wild Land Recreation Management Theme<sup>3</sup>**

NAT'L FOREST	IRA NAME	APPROX. ACRES	RECOMMENDATION	ACREAGE BREAKDOWN	CONSISTENT W/ CURRENT FP
<b>BOISE NAT'L FOREST</b>					
	Hanson Lakes #915	17,655	<b>Wild Land Recreation</b> (1.2 per FP);	13,555— Wild Land Recreation	<b>YES</b>
	Needles #911	29,905	<b>Wild Land Recreation</b> (1.2 per FP);	4,041— Wild Land Recreation	<b>YES</b>
	Red Mountain #916	110,194	<b>Wild Land Recreation</b> (1.2 per FP);	85,995— Wild Land Recreation	<b>YES</b>
	Ten Mile/ Black Warrior #013	118,628	<b>Wild Land Recreation</b> (1.2 per FP);  **Recommend re-inventory —Boundary Adjustment (See section 3E).	79,783— Wild Land Recreation	<b>YES</b>
<b>CARIBOU NAT'L FOREST</b>					
	Caribou City #4161	79,103	<b>Wild Land Recreation</b> (1.3e per FP);  [Recommendation in Targhee NF portion of this IRA is Backcountry/ Restoration]	25,750— Wild Land Recreation	<b>YES</b>
	Mt. Naomi #4758	28,116	<b>Wild Land Recreation</b> (1.3 per FP);	12,711— Wild Land Recreation	<b>YES</b>

<sup>3</sup> It is important to note all 275 IRAs will be recommended for at least one and possibly more than one management theme. Thus, certain IRAs will appear under more than one management theme table. For instance, while Hanson Lakes #915 has approximately 17,655 total acres, 13,555 are being recommended under the "Wild Land Recreation" theme. Thus, the remaining acreage will appear under a different management theme. A ";" following the recommendation denotes multiple theme designation (e.g. **Wild Land Recreation** 1.3 per FP);).



NAT'L FOREST	IRA NAME	APPROX. ACRES	RECOMMENDATION	ACREAGE BREAKDOWN	CONSISTENT W/ CURRENT FP
<b>CHALLIS NAT'L FOREST</b>					
	Borah Peak #06-012	130,225	<b>Wild Land Recreation;</b>	112,621— Wild Land Recreation	<b>YES</b>
	Boulder-White Clouds 06-920	139,119	<b>Wild Land Recreation;</b> per proposed boundaries of Simpson Bill (CIEDRA) within borders of this IRA (that includes proposed Jerry Peak Wilderness and small portion of proposed Hemmingway Wilderness). A small portion of this IRA is included as part of the Simpson Bill (CIEDRA). [Total Bill includes White Clouds, Hemmingway, and Jerry Peak proposed Wilderness]. For those areas outside of CEIDRA boundaries, they will be recommended as <b>Primitive and/or Backcountry/Restoration.</b>	98,775— Wild Land Recreation	<b>Represents a</b> brokered agreement between interested parties
	Pioneer Mountains #06-921	172,192	<b>Wild Land Recreation;</b> [Recommendation in Sawtooth portion of the IRA is Wild Land Recreation; Primitive; and Backcountry/Restoration].	51,048— Wild Land Recreation	<b>YES</b>
<b>CLEARWATER NAT'L FOREST</b>					
	Hoodoo #1301	150,565	<b>Wild Land Recreation;</b> for the entire IRA with the exception of the Fish Lake Trail.	150,405— Wild Land Recreation	<b>Closely aligns</b> w/ 1987 Plan
	Mallard-Larkins #1300	137,338	<b>Wild Land Recreation;</b>	59,604— Wild Land Recreation	<b>Closely aligns</b> w/ 1987 Plan
	N. Fork Spruce—White Sand #1309	34,230	<b>Wild Land Recreation;</b>	9,778— Wild Land Recreation	<b>YES</b>
	Sneakfoot Meadows #1314	22,802	<b>Wild Land Recreation;</b>	9,305— Wild Land Recreation	<b>Closely aligns</b> w/ 1987 Plan

NAT'L FOREST	IRA NAME	APPROX. ACRES	RECOMMENDATION	ACREAGE BREAKDOWN	CONSISTENT W/ CURRENT FP
<b>IDAHO PANHANDLE NAT'L FOREST</b>					
	Grandmother Mountain #148	22,350	<b>Wild Land Recreation</b> (MA1c per draft FP);	5,110— Wild Land Recreation	<b>YES</b>
	Mallard-Larkins #300	129,330	On the (Panhandle NF portion of IRA) area contiguous between Surveyor Peak and Getaway point managed as <b>Wild Land Recreation</b> (MA1b per draft FP and including Pioneer Area - MA3);	49,480— Wild Land Recreation	<b>YES</b>
	Salmo Priest #981	20,020	<b>Wild Land Recreation</b> (MA1b per draft Plan);	18,320— Wild Land Recreation	<b>YES</b>
	Scotchman Peaks #662	19,510 [Kootenai 559]	<b>Wild Land Recreation</b> (MA1b per draft Plan);	11,150— Wild Land Recreation	<b>YES</b>
	Selkirk #125	97,950	<b>Wild Land Recreation</b> (MA1b per draft FP);	35,620— Wild Land Recreation	<b>YES</b>
<b>PAYETTE NAT'L FOREST</b>					
	Needles #911	131,115	<b>Wild Land Recreation</b> (1.2 per FP);	91,054— Wild Land Recreation	<b>YES</b>
	Secesh #010	247,641	<b>Wild Land Recreation</b> (1.2 per FP);	115,292— Wild Land Recreation	<b>YES</b>
<b>SAWTOOTH NAT'L FOREST</b>					
	Boulder-White Cloud #920	322,356	<b>Wild Land Recreation;—</b> per proposed boundaries of Simpson Bill (CIEDRA) within borders of this IRA (that includes proposed White Clouds Wilderness and Hemmingway Wilderness).	164,800— Wild Land Recreation	<b>Represents a brokered agreement between interested parties</b>
	Hanson Lakes #915	39,876	<b>Wild Land Recreation</b> (1.2 per FP);	18,548— Wild Land Recreation	<b>YES</b>

NAT'L FOREST	IRA NAME	APPROX. ACRES	RECOMMENDATION	ACREAGE BREAKDOWN	CONSISTENT W/ CURRENT FP
	Pioneer Mountains #921	119,458	Wild Land Recreation (1.2 per FP);	60,908— Wild Land Recreation	YES
TARGHEE NAT'L FOREST					
	Diamond Peak #601	88,416	Wild Land Recreation (1.3 per FP);	29,521— Wild Land Recreation	YES
	Italian Peak #945	141,154	Wild Land Recreation (1.3 per FP);	48,722— Wild Land Recreation	YES
	Lionhead #963	16,893	Wild Land Recreation (1.3 per FP);	11,212— Wild Land Recreation	YES
	Palisades #613	125,805	Wild Land Recreation (1.2, 1.3 per FP);	60,687— Wild Land Recreation	YES

## Management Theme 2: Primitive Areas

In addition to the overall desired conditions and ecosystem characteristics discussed earlier, this theme addresses the following general conditions and uses.

**Current Condition:** The current condition of these areas generally reflects the primitive character of the Wild Land Recreation theme, including primitive recreation opportunities, minimal evidence of historical or human use, solitude, and personal risk. However and as mentioned previously, these primitive areas fall short of the Forest Service's suitability criteria. Additionally, these areas include a broad range of terrain and vegetative types.

**Desired Future Condition:** Generally, these areas are naturally appearing and are relatively undisturbed by human management activities. Ecosystems are influenced by natural processes with little human intervention. Ecological processes such as fire, insects, and disease are the primary factors affecting the landscape patterns within this theme.

**Management Focus:** These areas will be managed to protect and maintain both the primitive character and accompanying primitive recreation opportunities. A variety of motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities exist. Campsites may be visible at popular destinations and major trail heads or junctions. Recreation sites accommodate moderate use.

**Watershed and Vegetative Restoration:** Watershed and vegetative restoration will continue to be primarily accomplished through passive, natural ecological processes. That said, as opposed to areas managed under the Wild Land Recreation theme, these areas could incorporate more active restoration actions under carefully selected circumstances to address both urgent forest health concerns (e.g. WUI) and/or specific

habitat needs of species listed pursuant to the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) or species of concern.

**Table 4. Primitive Theme Generally Suitable Uses and Activities<sup>4</sup>**

<b>Use/Activity</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Fire management	X		Wildland fire use; prescribed fire
Forest health	X		Vegetative treatments; salvage, fuel reduction projects (helicopter or from existing roads); prescribed fire
Intensive Timber Management		X	Personal use only
Grazing	X		
Motorized Travel	X		Restricted to snowmobiles and motorized vehicles less than 50 inches; change in class of vehicle and designation of new routes is permissible subject to National Forest Travel Planning
Minerals		X	Except leasable, locatable unless withdrawn
Recreation	X		Dispersed
Road construction and/or reconstruction		X	No roads
Trail construction and/or reconstruction	X		
Special uses	X		If compatible with theme
Weed and/or pest management	X		Emphasis on biological control
Mechanized Equipment Use	X		Chainsaws, helicopters etc.

**Special Areas:** Special areas are embedded within roadless areas in individual forest plans with accompanying restrictions. Examples of special areas within this theme include:

- American Indian sacred sites
- Research Natural Areas

**Table 5. Areas Recommended for Primitive Management Theme**

<b>NAT'L FOREST</b>	<b>IRA NAME</b>	<b>APPROX. ACRES</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	<b>ACREAGE BREAKDOWN</b>	<b>CONSISTENT W/ CURRENT FP</b>
<b>BOISE NAT'L FOREST</b>					
	Bear Wallow #025	9,126	<b>Primitive</b> (4.1c per FP)	9,126—Primitive	<b>YES</b>
	Cathedral Rocks #038	8,132	<b>Primitive</b> (4.1c per FP);	8,108—Primitive	<b>YES</b>
	Cow Creek #028	14,711	<b>Primitive</b> (4.1c per FP)	14,711—Primitive	<b>YES</b>
	Danskin #001	30,507	<b>Primitive</b> (4.1c per FP)	29,933—Primitive	<b>YES</b>

<sup>4</sup> Specific management activities and use levels will vary depending on location, accessibility, terrain, economics, resource conditions, and may be subject to NEPA.

NAT'L FOREST	IRA NAME	APPROX. ACRES	RECOMMENDATION	ACREAGE BREAKDOWN	CONSISTENT W/ CURRENT FP
	Deadwood #020	52,396	Primitive (4.1c per FP);	32,036— Primitive	YES
	Hanson Lakes #915	17,655	Primitive (4.1c per FP);	3,908— Primitive	YES
	Hawley Mountain #018	7,688	Primitive (4.1c per FP)	7,688— Primitive	YES
	House Mountain #001	25,591	Primitive (4.1c per FP)	25,591— Primitive	YES
	Lime Creek #937	13,462	Primitive (4.1c per FP)	13,462— Primitive	YES
	Lost Man Creek #041	12,678	Primitive (4.1c per FP)	12,678— Primitive	YES
	Mt. Heinen #003	12,772	Primitive (4.1c per FP)	12,772— Primitive	YES
	Needles #911	29,905	Primitive (4.1c per FP);	1,925— Primitive	YES
	Peace Rock #026	191,435	Primitive (4.1c per FP);	141,290— Primitive	YES
	Rainbow #008	31,440	Primitive (4.1c per FP)	31,242— Primitive	YES
	Red Mountain #916	110,194	Primitive (4.1c per FP);	11,791— Primitive	YES
	Sheep Creek #005	70,110	Primitive (4.1c per FP)	69,658— Primitive	YES
	Smokey Mountains #914	42,932	Primitive (4.1c per FP)	42,932— Primitive	YES
	Snowbank #924	34,127	Primitive (4.1c per FP) **Recommend re-inventory	34,127— Primitive	YES
	Steel Mountain #012	23,387	Primitive (4.1c per FP)	23,387— Primitive	YES
	Stony Meadows #027	13,507	Primitive (4.1c per FP); **Recommend re-inventory	6,363— Primitive	YES

NAT'L FOREST	IRA NAME	APPROX. ACRES	RECOMMENDATION	ACREAGE BREAKDOWN	CONSISTENT W/ CURRENT FP
	Ten Mile/Black Warrior #013	118,628	<b>Primitive</b> (4.1c per FP); See Ten Mile/Black Warrior boundary adjustment in <b>section 3E.</b>	37,729— Primitive	<b>YES</b>
	Whiskey Jack #009	6,558	<b>Primitive</b> (4.1c per FP)	6,558— Primitive	<b>YES</b>
	Wilson Peak #040	7,932	<b>Primitive</b> (4.1c per FP)	7,932— Primitive	<b>YES</b>
<b>CARIBOU NAT'L FOREST</b>					
	Bear Creek #4615	21,048	<b>Primitive</b> (3.1 per FP);	13,241— Primitive	<b>YES</b>
	Gannett Springs #4111	19,690	<b>Primitive</b> (3.1e per FP);	4,304— Primitive	<b>YES</b>
	Meade Peak #4167	44,587	<b>Primitive</b> (3.1a per FP);	4,692— Primitive	<b>YES</b>
	Red Mountain #4170	13,700	<b>Primitive</b> (3.1e per FP);	5,863— Primitive	<b>YES</b>
	Stump Creek #4162	97,301	<b>Primitive</b> (3.1e per FP);	5,985— Primitive	<b>YES</b>
	Toponce #4153	18,296	<b>Primitive</b> (3.1a per FP);	6,865— Primitive	<b>YES</b>
<b>CLEARWATER NAT'L FOREST</b>					
	Lochsa Face #1311	74,662	<b>Primitive</b> (from Wilderness Gateway to Flytrap Butte);	24,486— Primitive	<b>YES</b>
	North Fork Spruce #1309	34,230	<b>Primitive;</b>	5,791— Primitive	<b>YES</b>
	N. Lochsa Slope #1307	115,422	<b>Primitive;</b> (in Fish and Hungry Creek drainages see map)	31,272— Primitive	<b>YES</b>
	Sneakfoot Mountains #1314	22,802	<b>Primitive;</b>	6,351— Primitive	<b>YES</b>

NAT'L FOREST	IRA NAME	APPROX. ACRES	RECOMMENDATION	ACREAGE BREAKDOWN	CONSISTENT W/ CURRENT FP
<b>NEZ PERCE NAT'L FOREST</b>					
	E. Meadow Creek #1845D	96,656	<b>Primitive</b>	96,656— Primitive	<b>Closely aligns w/ current plan</b>
	Rapid River #1922	18,201	<b>Primitive</b>	18,201— Primitive	<b>YES</b>
<b>IDAHO PANHANDLE NAT'L FOREST</b>					
	Selkirk #125	97,950	<b>Primitive (MA1e per draft FP);</b>	11,050— Primitive	<b>YES</b>
<b>PAYETTE NAT'L FOREST</b>					
	Cottontail Point/Pilot Peak #004	92,868	<b>Primitive (4.1a per FP);</b>	37,203— Primitive	<b>YES</b>
	Council Mountain #018	16,562	<b>Primitive (4.1c per FP)</b>	16,454— Primitive	<b>YES</b>
	Cuddy Mountain #016	40,899	<b>Primitive (4.1c per FP);</b>	36,455— Primitive	<b>YES</b>
	French Creek #026	88,528	<b>Primitive (4.1c per FP);</b>	11,994— Primitive	<b>YES</b>
	Hells Canyon/ 7 Devils Scenic #001	29,531	<b>Primitive (4.1c per FP)</b>	29,531— Primitive	<b>YES</b>
	Indian Creek #019	4,806	<b>Primitive (4.1c per FP)</b> <b>**Recommend re-inventory</b>	4,806— Primitive	<b>YES</b>
	Needles #911	131,115	<b>Primitive (4.1c per FP);</b>	10,944— Primitive	<b>YES</b>
	Patrick Butte #002	80,569	<b>Primitive (4.1a and 4.1c per FP);</b>	24,979— Primitive	<b>YES</b>
	Placer Creek #008	6,930	<b>Primitive (4.1c per FP);</b>	4,100— Primitive	<b>YES</b>

NAT'L FOREST	IRA NAME	APPROX. ACRES	RECOMMENDATION	ACREAGE BREAKDOWN	CONSISTENT W/ CURRENT FP
	Rapid River #922	57,593	Primitive (4.1c per FP);	51,616— Primitive	<b>Not Entirely; Change in response to Tribal Comment</b>
	Secesh #010	247,641	Primitive (4.1c per FP);	7,706— Primitive	<b>YES</b>
	Smith Creek #007	2,270 (FS designated as IRA b/c borders Wilderness)	Primitive (4.1c per FP) ** Recommend re-inventory less than 5,000 acres	2,270— Primitive	<b>YES</b>
	Snowbank #924	1,520 (remainder in Boise NF)	Primitive (4.1c per FP) **Recommend re-inventory	1,520— Primitive	<b>YES</b>
<b>SALMON NAT'L FOREST</b>					
	Blue Joint Mountain #13941	480 (remainder in Bitterroot NF in MT)	Primitive	480—Primitive	<b>YES</b>
	West Big Hole #13943	84,274	Primitive;	22,246— Primitive	<b>YES</b>
<b>SAWTOOTH NAT'L FOREST</b>					
	Blackhorse Creek #039	7,708	Primitive (4.1c per FP)	7,708— Primitive	<b>YES</b>
	Boulder— White Cloud #920	322,356	Primitive (for areas outside CIEDRA proposed boundaries and with the current Rx of 4.1c and 1.2);	70,570— Primitive	<b>YES</b>
	Buttercup Mountain #038	56,653	Primitive (4.1c per FP);	56,303— Primitive	<b>YES</b>
	Elk Ridge #019	9,319	Primitive (4.1c per FP)	9,319— Primitive	<b>YES</b>
	Fifth Fork Rock Creek #023	16,545	Primitive (4.1c per FP);	8,599— Primitive	<b>YES</b>
	Hanson Lakes #915	39,876	Primitive (4.1c per FP);	3,645— Primitive	<b>YES</b>



NAT'L FOREST	IRA NAME	APPROX. ACRES	RECOMMENDATION	ACREAGE BREAKDOWN	CONSISTENT W/ CURRENT FP
	Liberal Mountain #040	10,529	Primitive (4.1c per FP);	8,605— Primitive	YES
	Lime Creek #937	83,359	Primitive (4.1c per FP)	83,359— Primitive	YES
	Mt. Harrison #006	29,931	Primitive (4.1c per FP);	7,707— Primitive	YES
	Pioneer Mountains #921	119,458	Primitive (3.1 and 3.2 per FP);	28,838— Primitive	YES
	Smokey Mountains #914	303,567	Primitive (4.1a per FP);	199,428— Primitive	YES
	Sublett #005	7,105	Primitive (4.1c per FP)	7,105— Primitive	YES
	Third Fork Rock Creek #009	14,234	Primitive (4.1c per FP);	7,891— Primitive	YES
<b>TARGHEE NAT'L FOREST</b>					
	Diamond Peak #601	88,416	Primitive (3.2g and 3.1.1a per FP);	8,912— Primitive	YES
	Garfield Mountain #961	43,290	Primitive (3.1.1a per FP);	8,511— Primitive	YES
	Lionhead #963	16,893	Primitive (2.6.1a per FP);	17—Primitive	YES
	Mt. Jefferson #962	60,990	Primitive (3.1.1a per FP);	41,009— Primitive	YES
	Poker Peak #616	19,578	Primitive (3.1.1a per FP);	19,456— Primitive	YES
	Two Top #604	6,983	Primitive (2.6.1 per FP)	6,983— Primitive	YES
	Winegar Hole #347	4,031 (remainder in WY.)	Primitive **Recommend re-inventory	2,745— Primitive	YES

### **Management Theme 3: Backcountry/Restoration Areas**

In addition to the overall desired conditions and ecosystem characteristics discussed earlier, this theme addresses the following general conditions and uses.

**Current Condition:** This theme includes areas where evidence of human use may or may not be present. Generally, few constructed features exist with the exception of trails

and lookouts. These areas may also show some evidence of vegetative manipulation. Like the primitive areas, areas within this theme include a broad range of terrain and vegetative types.

**Desired Future Condition:** While areas managed under the Backcountry/Restoration theme may display increased evidence of management activities, these areas will generally retain their roadless character.

**Management Focus:** Backcountry Areas will be managed to provide a variety of recreation opportunities, while also ensuring adequate flexibility to maintain forest health. These areas may include trailheads and recreational sites (developed and dispersed). Depending on specific National Forest Travel Plans, these areas may be managed for summer and/or winter motorized recreation opportunities. Lastly, due to the increased management flexibility afforded to these areas, fish and game can potentially benefit from carefully conducted habitat manipulation.

**Watershed and Vegetative Restoration:** Watershed and vegetative restoration will be accomplished through a combination of active management and natural processes. Both active and passive management restoration activities (and in some cases use restrictions) may occur to address specific habitat needs of fish and wildlife.

Table 6. Backcountry/Restoration Theme Generally Suitable Uses and Activities<sup>5</sup>

Use / Activity	Yes	No	Notes
Fire management	X		Prescribed fire; Wildland fire use with restrictions
Forest health	X		Vegetative treatments; salvage, fuel reduction treatments; prescribed fire
Intensive Timber Management		X	Special forest products; personal use; commercial use allowed for forest health reasons only
Grazing	X		
Motorized Travel	X		General preference toward snowmobiles and motorized vehicles less than 50 inches; change in class of vehicle and designation of new routes is permissible subject to National Forest Travel Planning
Minerals	X		Locatable, leasable, salable
Recreation	X		Generally dispersed may include some developed
Road construction and/or reconstruction	X		Preference toward temporary road construction with mitigation; however, permanent road construction permissible based on long-term ecological need
Trail construction and/or reconstruction	X		
Special uses	X		If compatible with theme
Weed and/or pest management	X		
Mechanized Equipment Use	X		

<sup>5</sup> Specific management activities and use levels will vary depending on location, accessibility, terrain, economics, resource conditions, and may be subject to NEPA.

**Special Areas:** Special Areas are embedded within roadless areas in the individual forest plan along with accompanying restrictions. Examples of special areas within this theme include:

- Historic Sites, Pioneer Areas
- Recommended and/or Designated Scenic, Wild and Recreational Rivers
- Geological Special Interest Areas
- Other areas possible if consistent with theme of area

**Table 7. Areas Recommended for Backcountry/Restoration Management Theme**

NAT'L FOREST	IRA NAME	APPROX. ACRES	RECOMMENDATION	ACREAGE BREAKDOWN	CONSISTENT W/ CURRENT FP
<b>BOISE NAT'L FOREST</b>					
	Bald Mountain #019	6,216	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (3.2 per FP)	6,216— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Bernard #029	20,787	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (3.1 and 3.2 per FP)	20,787— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Black Lake #036	5,318	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (3.2 per FP)	5,236— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Blue Bunch #923	4,864	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (3.1 per FP)	4,864— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Breadwinner #006	20,390	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (3.2 per FP)	19,539— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Burnt Log #035	23,653	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (3.1 and 3.2 per FP)	22,926— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Caton Lake #912	39,111	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (3.1 and 3.2 per FP);	29,502— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Deadwood #020	52,396	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (3.2 per FP);	19,728— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Elk Creek #022	14,980	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (3.1 per FP)	14,980— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Grand Mountain #007	14,439	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (3.2 per FP)	14,439— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Grimes Pass #017	13,252	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (3.2 per FP);	11,546— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Horse Heaven #925	4,299	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (3.2 per FP);	2,180— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>

NAT'L FOREST	IRA NAME	APPROX. ACRES	RECOMMENDATION	ACREAGE BREAKDOWN	CONSISTENT W/ CURRENT FP
	Meadow Creek #913	21,134	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (3.1 and 3.2 per FP);	12,727— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Nameless Creek #034	2,275	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (3.1 per FP)  **Recommend re-inventory FS included as IRA because it borders Wilderness	2,275— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Needles #911	29,905	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (3.2 per FP);	22,865— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Peace Rock #026	191,435	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> 3.1 and 3.2 per FP);	48,832— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Poison Creek #042	4,857	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b>  **Recommend re-inventory less than 5,000 acres	4,857— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>NO</b>
	Poker Meadow #032	676	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (3.1 per FP)  **Recommend re-inventory less than 5,000 acres	676— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Red Mountain #916	110,194	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (3.1 and 3.2 per FP);	11,530— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Reeves Creek #010	10,540	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (3.1 and 3.2 per FP)	10,540— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Stony Meadows #027	13,507	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (3.2 per FP);  **Recommend re-inventory	7,144— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Tennessee #033	1,016	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (3.1 per FP)  **Recommend re-inventory FS included as IRA because it is adjacent to Wilderness	1,016— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Whiskey #031	4,948	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (3.1 per FP)  **Recommend re-inventory less than 5,000 acres	4,948— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>

NAT'L FOREST	IRA NAME	APPROX. ACRES	RECOMMENDATION	ACREAGE BREAKDOWN	CONSISTENT W/ CURRENT FP
	Whitehawk Mountain #021	8,956	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (3.1 and 3.2 per FP);	8,879— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
<b>CARIBOU NAT'L FOREST</b>					
	Bear Creek #4615	21,048	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (3.2 per FP);	4,842— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Bonneville Peak #4154	32,267	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (2.7.1, 2.8.3, 3.2, 3.3, 4.2 per FP);	25,202— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Caribou City #4161	79,103	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (2.7.1d, 3.2, 3.3b, 2.7.1d, 2.7.1d, 2.7.2d per FP);	22,437— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Clarkston Mtn. #4159	22,616	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (2.7.1d per FP);	8,920— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Deep Creek #4158	7,089	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (2.7.1d per FP);	2,221— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Dry Ridge #4164	23,307	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (2.7.1d, 2.7.2d, 3.2b per FP);	14,315— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Elkhorn Mtn. #4156	41,882	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (2.7.1d, 2.7.2d per FP);	14,725— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Gannett Springs #4111	19,690	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (2.7.2c per FP);	8,482— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Gibson Creek #4181	8,408	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (3.2b, 3.3b per FP);	7,618— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Hell Hole #4168	5,309	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (2.8.3 per FP);	278— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Huckleberry Basin #4165	21,108	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (2.7.1d per FP);	3,756— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Liberty Creek #4175	15,147	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (3.2b, 3.3b per FP);	12,999— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Meade Peak #4167	44,585	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (2.7.1, 2.7.2 per FP);	9,861— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>

NAT'L FOREST	IRA NAME	APPROX. ACRES	RECOMMENDATION	ACREAGE BREAKDOWN	CONSISTENT W/ CURRENT FP
	Mink Creek #4176	16,344	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (2.7.2d, 3.2b per FP);	13,257— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Mt. Naomi #4758	28,116	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (3.2b, 2.7.2d, 4.3b per FP);	13,576— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	North Pebble #4155	5,484	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (3.2e per FP);	3,949— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Oxford Mtn. #4157	40,871	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (2.7.2d per FP);	11,001— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Paris Peak #4177	8,816	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (3.3b per FP);	7,707— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Pole Creek #4160	3,662	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (3.3b per FP)	3,266— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Red Mtn. #4170	13,700	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (2.7.1d per FP);	3,029— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Sage Creek #4166	12,711	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (2.7.2d per FP);	2,876— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Scmid Peak #4163	7,114	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (3.2b, 2.7.2d, 3.3b, 2.8.3 per FP);	6,615— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Scout Mtn. #4152	22,498	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (2.1.2b, 2.7.2b, 2.8.3, 3.2b, 3.3b, 4.3b per FP);	20,880— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Sherman Peak #4172	7,756	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (2.8.3, 3.2b per FP);	6,323— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Soda Point #4171	23,125	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (2.7.1d, 2.7.2d, 2.8.3, 3.2b, 3.3b per FP);	14,979— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Station Creek #4178	9,680	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (2.7.2d, 2.8.3, 3.2b per FP);	3,640— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Stauffer Creek #4173	6,433	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (2.8.3, 3.2b per FP)	6,433— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Stump Creek #4162	97,301	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (2.7.2d, 2.8.3, 3.2b per FP);	78,388— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>

NAT'L FOREST	IRA NAME	APPROX. ACRES	RECOMMENDATION	ACREAGE BREAKDOWN	CONSISTENT W/ CURRENT FP
	Swan Mtn. #4180	7,428	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (2.7.1d, 2.8.3, 3.3b per FP)	7,428— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Telephone Draw #4169	4,916	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (2.7.1d, 2.8.3, 4.3 per FP);	3,527— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Toponce #4153	18,296	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (2.7.1d, 2.8.3 per FP);	2,451— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	West Mink #4151	20,266	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (2.7.2d, 2.8.3, 3.2b, 3.2f per FP);	11,370— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Williams Creek #4174	9,917	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (2.7.2d, 2.8.3, 3.2b per FP);	4,552— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Worm Creek #4179	42,443	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (2.7.1d, 2.8.3, 3.2b, 3.3b, 4.3 per FP);	34,531— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
<b>CHALLIS NAT'L FOREST</b>					
	Blue Bunch Mountain #06-923	6,121	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b>	6,121— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Borah Peak #06-012	130,225	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (in current 1C areas);	17,604— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Boulder-White Clouds #06-920	139,119	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration;</b> (For those areas outside of CEIDRA boundaries)	40,344— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Camas Creek #06-901	68,454	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b>	68,454— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Challis Creek #06-004	44,272	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b>	44,272— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Cold Springs #06-026	8,913	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b>	8,913— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Copper Basin #06-019	10,927	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b>	10,927— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Diamond Peak #06-601	78,475	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b>	78,475— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>

NAT'L FOREST	IRA NAME	APPROX. ACRES	RECOMMENDATION	ACREAGE BREAKDOWN	CONSISTENT W/ CURRENT FP
	Greylock #06-007	11,816	Backcountry/ Restoration	11,816— Backcountry/ Restoration	YES
	Grouse Peak #06-010	8,941	Backcountry/ Restoration	8,941— Backcountry/ Restoration	YES
	Hanson Lakes #06-915	13,533	Backcountry/ Restoration	13,533— Backcountry/ Restoration	YES
	Jumpoff Mountain #06-014	14,416	Backcountry/ Restoration	14,416— Backcountry/ Restoration	YES
	King Mountain #06-013	87,053	Backcountry/ Restoration	87,053— Backcountry/ Restoration	YES
	Lemhi Range #06-903	154,717	Backcountry/ Restoration	154,717— Backcountry/ Restoration	YES
	Loon Creek #06-908	106,325	Backcountry/ Restoration	106,325— Backcountry/ Restoration	YES
	Pahsimeroi #06-011	73,316	Backcountry/ Restoration (There is WUI on Challis side of this IRA)	73,316— Backcountry/ Restoration	YES
	Pioneer Mountains #06-921	172,192	Backcountry/ Restoration;	121,144— Backcountry/ Restoration	YES
	Prophyry #06-017	46,526	Backcountry/ Restoration	46,526— Backcountry/ Restoration	YES
	Railroad Bridge #06-922	7,903	Backcountry/ Restoration	7,903— Backcountry/ Restoration	YES
	Red Hill #06-027	14,983	Backcountry/ Restoration	14,983— Backcountry/ Restoration	YES
	Red Mountain #06-916	4,903	Backcountry/ Restoration	4,903— Backcountry/ Restoration	YES
	Seafoam #06-009	31,046	Backcountry/ Restoration	31,046— Backcountry/ Restoration	YES
	Spring Basin #06-006	5,226	Backcountry/ Restoration	5,226— Backcountry/ Restoration	YES
	Squaw Creek #06-005	132,521	Backcountry/ Restoration	132,521— Backcountry/ Restoration	YES



NAT'L FOREST	IRA NAME	APPROX. ACRES	RECOMMENDATION	ACREAGE BREAKDOWN	CONSISTENT W/ CURRENT FP
	Taylor Mountain #06-902	16,780	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b>	16,780— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Warm Creek #06-024	6,622	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b>	6,622— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	White Knob #06-025	65,588	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b>	65,588— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Wood Canyon #06-028	7,736	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b>	7,736— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
<b>CLEARWATER NAT'L FOREST</b>					
	Bighorn-Weitas #1306	253,906	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b>	253,906— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Eldorado Creek #1312	6,741	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b>	6,741— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Hoodoo #1301	150,565	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> [for the areas within Fish Lake Trail];	160— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>Closely aligns w/ 1987 Plan</b>
	Lochsa Face #1311	74,662	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration;</b>	50,176— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Lolo Creek #1805	68 (remainder in MT)	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b>	68— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Mallard-Larkins #1300	137,338	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration;</b> [Remove Skull Creek (approx. 4,480 acres) and Bear Creek (approx. 3,200 acres) from the Wild Land Recreation Rx and manage areas under Backcountry/Restoration theme].	76,734— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>Closely aligns w/ 1987 Plan</b>
	Meadow Creek— Upper North Fork #1302	46,423	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b>	46,423— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Moose Mountain #1305	21,005	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b>	21,005— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>

NAT'L FOREST	IRA NAME	APPROX. ACRES	RECOMMENDATION	ACREAGE BREAKDOWN	CONSISTENT W/ CURRENT FP
	North Fork Spruce—White Sand #1309	34,230	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration;</b> [area north of Savage Pass Trail #909]. Backcountry/ Restoration theme also applies to areas identified as suitable for harvest (see draft map dated 4/20/06). See also Sneakfoot Meadows.	18,661— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	North Lochsa Slope #1307	115,422	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration;</b>	84,150— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Pot Mountain #1304	51,423	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b>	51,423— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Rackliff-Gedney #1841	35,802	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b>	35,802— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Rawhide #1313	5,828	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b>	5,828— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Siwash #1303	9,460	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b>	9,460— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Sneakfoot Meadows #1314	22,802	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration;</b> [Area southwest of Elk Summit Road, FS #360, to Savage Pass, north-northwest of Trail #79 (see attached map). See draft Sneakfoot Meadows and N. Fork Spruce-White Sands recommendation].	7,146— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Weir—Post Office	22,337	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b>	22,337— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
<b>NEZ PERCE NAT'L FOREST</b>					
	Clear Creek #1844	12,082	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b>	12,082— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Dixie Summit—Nut Hill #1235	12,224	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b>	12,224— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>

NAT'L FOREST	IRA NAME	APPROX. ACRES	RECOMMENDATION	ACREAGE BREAKDOWN	CONSISTENT W/ CURRENT FP
	Gospel Hump (#1921) and Adjacent to G. Hump (#1923)	52,585 (Note: 2000 EIS includes only main G. Hump)	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> [Note: Recommendation also applies to "Adjacent to G. Hump if included as part of this IRA. If being recommended as separate IRA: recommend <b>re-inventory</b> as it is less than 5,000 acres.	52,585— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	John Day #1852	14,901	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b>	14,901— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Lick Point #1227	7,891	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b>	7,891— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Little Slate Creek [Note: in new Nez Perce draft Plan materials, this IRA is divided into Little Slate Creek (#1851) and Little Slate Creek North (#1856)]	20,521	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> [Note: If IRA is divided into two areas, recommendation to apply to both Little Slate Creek and "new" Little Slate Creek North].	20,521— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Mallard #1847	22,858	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b>	22,858— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Middle Fork Face (this IRA was eliminated in new Nez NF draft Plan)	10,406	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> [**Recommend <b>removal</b> from IRA designation consistent w/ Nez Perce NF revision process].	10,406— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	North Fork of Slate Creek #1850	12,791	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b>	12,791— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Ohara—Falls Creek #1226	25,344	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b>	25,344— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Rackliff-Gedney #1841	53,598	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b>	53,598— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Salmon Face #1855	9,586	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b>	9,586— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	West Meadow Creek #1845C	109,012	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b>	109,012— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>

NAT'L FOREST	IRA NAME	APPROX. ACRES	RECOMMENDATION	ACREAGE BREAKDOWN	CONSISTENT W/ CURRENT FP
IDAHO PANHANDLE NAT'L FOREST					
	Beetop #130	12,440	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (MA5 per draft FP)	12,440— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Big Creek #143	76,340	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (MA5 per draft FP)	76,340— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Blacktail Mountain PL #122	4,960	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (MA5 per draft FP)  **Recommend re-inventory based on draft Plan less than 5,000 acres	4,130— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Blacktail Mountain SDPT #161	4,830	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (MA5 per draft FP)  **Recommend re-inventory based on draft Plan less than 5,000 acres	4,830— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Buckhorn Ridge #661	6,410 [Kootenai NF 19,908]	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (MA5 per draft FP)	6,410— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Continental Mountain #153	7,530	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (MA5 per draft FP)	7,530— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	E. Cathedral Peak #131	22,260	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (MA5 per draft FP);	19,530— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Gilt Edge— Silver Creek #792	120	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (MA5 per draft FP)	120— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Graham Coal #139	10,290	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (MA5 per draft FP)	10,220— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Grandmother Mountain #148	22,350	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (MA5 per draft FP);	16,730— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Hammond Creek #145	17,400	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (MA5 per draft FP)	17,400— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Katka Peak #157	10,340	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (MA5 per draft FP);	7,830— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>

NAT'L FOREST	IRA NAME	APPROX. ACRES	RECOMMENDATION	ACREAGE BREAKDOWN	CONSISTENT W/ CURRENT FP
	Little Grass Mountain #121	4,050	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (MA5 per draft FP)	4,050— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Lost Creek #137	11,610	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (MA5 per draft FP)	11,520— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Magee #132	34,820	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (MA5 per draft FP);	34,210— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Mallard-Larkins #300	129,330	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (MA5 per draft FP);	46,240— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Maple Peak #141	8,620	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (MA5 per draft FP)	8,620— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Meadow Creek— Upper North #302	5,890	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (MA5 per draft FP)	4,380— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Midget Peak #151	7,240	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (MA5 per draft FP)	6,480— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Mosquito Fly #150	19,410	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (MA5 per draft FP)	17,900— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Mt. Willard— Lake Estelle #173	35,000	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (MA5 per draft FP)	33,570— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	North Fork #147	31,360	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (MA5 per draft FP)	30,510— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Packsaddle #155	19,310	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (MA5 per draft FP)	19,310— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Pinchot Butte #149	8,500	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (MA5 per draft FP)	8,500— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Roberts #691 [Kootenai NF]	[Kootenai 7,376]	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (MA5 per draft FP)	7,376— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Roland Point #146	6,480	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (MA5 per draft FP)	6,480— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Salmo Priest #981	20,020	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (MA5 per draft FP);	20— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Schafer Peak #160	5,890	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (MA5 per draft FP);	5,490— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>

NAT'L FOREST	IRA NAME	APPROX. ACRES	RECOMMENDATION	ACREAGE BREAKDOWN	CONSISTENT W/ CURRENT FP
	Scotchman Peaks #662	19,510	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (MA5 per draft FP);	6,780— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Selkirk #125	97,950	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (MA5 per draft FP);	41,190— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Sheep Mountain #799	27,630	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (MA5 per draft FP)	26,840— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Skitwish Ridge #135	4,750	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (MA5 per draft FP)  **Recommend re-inventory	4,750— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Spion Kop #136	22,400	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (MA5 per draft FP)	19,650— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Stevens Peak #142	4,700	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (MA5 per draft FP)	4,700— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Storm Creek #144	8,230	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (MA5 per draft FP)	8,230— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Tepee Creek #133	5,190	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (MA5 per draft FP)	5,190— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Trestle Peak #129	7,270	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (MA5 per draft FP)	7,270— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Trouble Creek #138	5,980	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (MA5 per draft FP)	4,990— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Trout Creek #664	8,310	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (MA5 per draft FP)	8,200— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Upper Priest #123	12,670	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (MA5 per draft FP);	6,120— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	West Fork Elk #692 [Kootenai NF]	[Kootenai 40]	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (MA5 per draft FP)	40— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	White Mountain #127	7,640	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (MA5 per draft FP);	7,540— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Wonderful Peak #152	4,880	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (MA5 per draft FP) **Recommend re-inventory	4,880— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>

NAT'L FOREST	IRA NAME	APPROX. ACRES	RECOMMENDATION	ACREAGE BREAKDOWN	CONSISTENT W/ CURRENT FP
<b>PAYETTE NAT'L FOREST</b>					
	Big Creek Fringe #009	1,083 (FS kept as IRA because it borders Wilderness)	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (3.2 per FP).  **Recommend re-inventory	1,083— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Caton Lake #912	45,338	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (3.1 per FP)	44,205— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Chimney Rock #006	8,490	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (3.2 per FP)	8,490— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Cottontail Point/Pilot Peak #004	92,868	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (3.1, 3.2 per FP);	55,665— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Crystal Mountain #005	12,984	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (3.1 and 3.2 per FP)	12,984— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	French Creek #026	88,528	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (3.1 and 3.2 per FP);	75,799— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Horse Heaven #925	13,438	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (3.1 and 3.2 per FP)	13,438— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Meadow Creek #913	8,160	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (3.1, 3.2 per FP)	8,160— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Needles #911	131,115	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (3.1, 3.2 per FP);	29,117— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Patrick Butte #002	80,569	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (3.1 per FP);	54,466— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Placer Creek #008	6,930	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (3.2 per FP);	2,830— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Poison Creek #042	390 (remainder in Boise NF)	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (4.1c per FP)  ** Recommend re-inventory	390— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>NO</b>
	Secesh #010	247,641	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (3.1, 3.2 per FP);	121,871— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>

NAT'L FOREST	IRA NAME	APPROX. ACRES	RECOMMENDATION	ACREAGE BREAKDOWN	CONSISTENT W/ CURRENT FP
	Sheep Gulch #017	5,805	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (3.2 per FP)	5,805— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Sugar Mountain #014	10,333	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (3.1 per FP)	10,333— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
<b>SALMON NAT'L FOREST</b>					
	Ageny Creek #13512	6,377	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b>	6,377— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Allan Mountain #13946	46,420	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b>	46,420— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Anderson Mountain #13942	18,479	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b>	18,479— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Camas Creek #13901	35,401	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b>	35,401— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Deep Creek #13509	7,140	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b>	7,140— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Duck Peak #13518	48,571	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b>	48,571— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Goat Mountain #13944	35,602	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b>	35,602— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Goldbug Ridge #13903a	12,732	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b>	12,732— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Haystack Mountain #13507	12,107	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b>	12,107— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Italian Peak #13945	49,967	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b>	49,967— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Jesse Creek #13510	13,983	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> [Note: Lemhi County and City of Salmon recently filed a Disaster Declaration with the Governor's Office regarding the risk of catastrophic fire in this IRA].	13,983— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>NO</b>
	Jureano #13506	25,324	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b>	25,324— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>



<b>NAT'L FOREST</b>	<b>IRA NAME</b>	<b>APPROX. ACRES</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	<b>ACREAGE BREAKDOWN</b>	<b>CONSISTENT W/ CURRENT FP</b>
	Lemhi Range #13903	153,270	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b>	153,270— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Little Horse #13514	7,620	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b>	7,620— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Long Tom #13521	20,401	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b>	20,401— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Mceleny #13505	3,536	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b>	3,536— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Musgrove #13517	8,174	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b>	8,174— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Napias #13515	9,280	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b>	9,280— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Oreana #13516	7,568	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b>	7,568— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Phelan #13508	13,008	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b>	13,008— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Sal Mountain #13513	13,952	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b>	13,952— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Sheepeater #13520	35,389	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b>	35,389— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	South Deep Creek #13509a	12,632	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b>	12,632— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	South Panther #13504a	6,331	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b>	6,331— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Taylor Mountain #13902	46,583	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b>	46,583— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	West Big Hole #13943	84,274	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration;</b>	62,028— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	West Panther Creek #13504	32,480	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b>	32,480— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>

NAT'L FOREST	IRA NAME	APPROX. ACRES	RECOMMENDATION	ACREAGE BREAKDOWN	CONSISTENT W/ CURRENT FP
<b>SAWTOOTH NAT'L FOREST</b>					
	Black Pine #003	43,950	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration (3.2 per FP)</b>	43,782— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Boulder-White Cloud #920	322,356	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration;</b>	86,274— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Buttercup Mountain #038	56,653	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b>	350— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Cache Peak #007	26,525	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration (6.1 per FP);</b>	7,083— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Cottonwood #010	11,307	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration (6.1 per FP)</b>	11,307— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Fifth Fork Rock Creek #023	16,545	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration (6.1 per FP);</b>	7,946— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Hanson Lakes #915	39,876	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration (3.1, 3.2, and 4.2 per FP);</b>	17,683— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Huckleberry #016	7,606	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration (3.2 per FP)</b>	6,155— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Liberal Mountain #040	10,529	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration (6.1 per FP);</b>	1,924— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Lone Cedar #011	6,777	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration (6.1 per FP)</b>	6,777— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Loon Creek #908	3,157 (remainder in Challis NF)	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration (3.2 per FP)</b>	3,157— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Mahogany Butte #012	21,011	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration (6.1 per FP)</b>	21,011— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Mt. Harrison #006	29,931	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration (6.1 per FP);</b>	21,930— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>

NAT'L FOREST	IRA NAME	APPROX. ACRES	RECOMMENDATION	ACREAGE BREAKDOWN	CONSISTENT W/ CURRENT FP
	Pettit #017	3,065 (FS retained roadless designation b/c borders Wilderness)	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (3.2 per FP)  **Recommend re-inventory less than 5,000 acres; FS included because it is adjacent to Wilderness)	3,065— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Pioneer Mountains #921	119,458	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (6.1 per FP);	29,712— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Railroad Ridge #922	42,875	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (3.1 per FP)	42,875— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Smokey Mountains #914	303,567	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (3.1 per FP);	104,045— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Third Fork Rock Creek #009	14,234	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (6.1 per FP);	6,343— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Thorobred #013	6,076	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (3.2 per FP)	6,076— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
<b>TARGHEE NAT'L FOREST</b>					
	Bald Mountain #614	17,038	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (2.7a per FP);	15,412— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Bear Creek #615	97,613	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (2.7a, 5.1.3, 5.1.4, 5.4c);	33,867— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Caribou City #161	11,770	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (5.4c, 5.1.3b)	11,770— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Diamond Peak #601	88,416	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (2.7b per FP);	19,025— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Garfield Mtn. #961	43,290	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (2.7b, 3.2g, 5.4 per FP);	14,465— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Garns Mountain #611	95,604	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (2.7a, 3.2i, 5.1.3b, 5.1.4b per FP)	90,630— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Italian Peak #945	141,154	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (2.7b, 3.2g per FP);	49,724— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Lionhead #963	16,893	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (3.2c per FP);	503— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>

NAT'L FOREST	IRA NAME	APPROX. ACRES	RECOMMENDATION	ACREAGE BREAKDOWN	CONSISTENT W/ CURRENT FP
	Mt. Jefferson #962	60,990	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (3.2g, 5.1.3a, 5.1.4b, 5.3.5 per FP);	13,180— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Palisades #613	125,805	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (3.2j, 3.2d, 3.2g, 5.1.3b, 5.2.2 per FP);	53,300— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Pole Creek #160	2,638 [Note: remaining acres are in Caribou NF]	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (5.1.4b per FP)	2,638— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Raynolds Pass #603	7,708	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (3.2c, 3.2g per FP)	7,698— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	West Slope Tetons #610	806 (Remainder in WY)	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (2.7a, 3.2b per FP)	806— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Winegar Hole #347	4,031 (Remainder in WY)	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b>	406— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
<b>WALLOWA-WHITMAN NAT'L FOREST</b>					
	Big Canyon #1853	14,115	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (MA9 per FP)	14,115— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>
	Klopton Creek— Corral Creek #1854	21,305	<b>Backcountry/ Restoration</b> (MA9 per FP)	21,305— Backcountry/ Restoration	<b>YES</b>

### **Management Theme 4: General Forest, Grassland, Rangeland Areas**

In addition to the overall desired conditions and ecosystem characteristics discussed earlier, this theme addresses the following general condition and uses.

**Current Condition:** General Forest areas include locations that may display high levels of human use including roads, facilities, evidence of vegetative manipulation (e.g. silvicultural treatments, grazing) and mineral exploration/extraction. These areas also encompass a broad range of terrain and vegetative types, and may be comprised of forest, grasslands, rangelands, or a combination thereof.

**Desired Future Condition:** These areas may over time display increased levels of human use including roads, facilities, and evidence of vegetative manipulation. General Forest areas will also include evidence of watershed restoration and/or mitigation activities. Despite higher levels of human use than Backcountry/Restoration areas, this theme will still retain some of its roadless qualities. In other words, an area designated

as “General Forest” will not necessarily reflect all the characteristics of “general,” non-roadless forest lands.

**Management Focus:** General Forest areas will be managed to provide a variety of goods and services, broad range of recreational opportunities including both motorized and non-motorized, while also ensuring adequate flexibility to maintain forest, rangeland, and/or grassland health.

**Watershed and Vegetative Restoration:** Watershed and vegetative restoration shall be accomplished primarily through active management, including timber harvest, salvage, fuels reduction, projects, and grazing.

Table 8. General Forest, Rangeland, Grassland Theme Generally Suitable Uses and Activities<sup>6</sup>

Use / Activity	Yes	No	Notes
Fire management	X		Prescribed fire
Forest health	X		Vegetative treatments; prescribed fire; full range silviculture techniques
Intensive Timber Management	X		Full range of silvicultural techniques permissible
Grazing	X		
Motorized Travel	X		Subject to specific National Forest Travel Plan
Minerals	X		Locatable, leasable, salable
Recreation	X		Dispersed and/or developed
Road construction and/or reconstruction	X		Generally, new temporary roads are preferred, but permanent roads are compatible.
Trail construction and/or reconstruction	X		
Special uses	X		
Weed and/or pest management	X		
Mechanized Equipment Use	X		

**Special Areas:** Special Areas are embedded within roadless areas in the individual forest plan along with accompanying restrictions. Examples of special areas within this theme include:

- Historic Sites, Pioneer Areas
- Recommended and/or Designated Scenic, Wild and Recreational Rivers
- Geological Special Interest Areas
- Other areas possible if consistent with theme of area

<sup>6</sup> Specific management activities and use levels will vary depending on location, accessibility, terrain, economics, resource conditions, and may be subject to NEPA.

**Table 9. Areas Recommended for General Forest, Rangeland, Grassland Management Theme**

NAT'L FOREST	IRA NAME	APPROX. ACRES	RECOMMENDATION	ACREAGE BREAKDOWN	CONSISTENT W/ CURRENT FP
<b>BOISE NAT'L FOREST</b>					
	Cathedral Rocks #038	8,132	<b>General Forest</b> (6.1 per FP);	24—General Forest	<b>YES</b>
	Caton Lake #912	39,111	<b>General Forest</b> (5.1 per FP);	9,609—General Forest	<b>YES</b>
	Grimes Pass #017	13,252	<b>General Forest</b> (5.1, 5.2 per FP);	1,706—General Forest	<b>YES</b>
	Horse Heaven #925	4,299	<b>General Forest</b> (5.1 per FP);	2,119—General Forest	<b>YES</b>
	Meadow Creek #913	21,134	<b>General Forest</b> (5.1 per FP);	8,407—General Forest	<b>YES</b>
	Needles #911	29,905	<b>General Forest</b> (5.2 per FP);	56—General Forest	<b>YES</b>
	Red Mountain #916	110,194	<b>General Forest</b> (5.1 per FP);	878—General Forest	<b>YES</b>
	Ten Mile/Black Warrior #013	118,628	<b>General Forest</b> (5.1 per FP);	1,116—General Forest	<b>YES</b>
	Whitehawk Mountain #021	8,956	<b>General Forest</b> (5.1 per FP);	77—General Forest	<b>YES</b>
<b>CARIBOU NAT'L FOREST</b>					
	Bear Creek #4615	21,048	<b>General Forest</b> (6.2 per FP);	2,316—General Forest	<b>YES</b>
	Bonneville Peak #4154	32,267	<b>General Forest</b> (6.2 per FP);	7,065—General Forest	<b>YES</b>
	Caribou City #4161	79,103	<b>General Forest</b> (6.2b per FP);	17,290—General Forest	<b>YES</b>
	Clarkston Mountain #4159	22,616	<b>General Forest</b> (6.2b per FP);	13,164—General Forest	<b>YES</b>
	Deep Creek #4158	7,089	<b>General Forest</b> (6.2b per FP);	4,703—General Forest	<b>YES</b>
	Dry Ridge #4164	23,307	<b>General Forest</b> (5.2b, 6.2b per FP);	8,992—General Forest	<b>YES</b>
	Elkhorn Mountain #4156	41,882	<b>General Forest</b> (5.2b, 6.2b, 6.2e per FP);	27,157—General Forest	<b>YES</b>

NAT'L FOREST	IRA NAME	APPROX. ACRES	RECOMMENDATION	ACREAGE BREAKDOWN	CONSISTENT W/ CURRENT FP
	Gannett Springs #4111	19,690	<b>General Forest</b> (6.2b per FP);	6,717—General Forest	<b>YES</b>
	Gibson Creek #4181	8,408	<b>General Forest</b> (5.2b per FP);	790—General Forest	<b>YES</b>
	Hell Hole #4168	5,309	<b>General Forest</b> (6.2b per FP)	4,522—General Forest	<b>YES</b>
	Huckleberry Basin #4165	21,108	<b>General Forest</b> (5.2b, 5.2c per FP);	17,352—General Forest	<b>YES</b>
	Liberty Creek #4175	15,147	<b>General Forest</b> (5.2b, 6.2b per FP);	1,893—General Forest	<b>YES</b>
	Meade Peak #4167	44,585	<b>General Forest</b> (6.2 per FP);	29,373—General Forest	<b>YES</b>
	Mink Creek #4176	16,344	<b>General Forest</b> (5.2b per FP);	2,730—General Forest	<b>YES</b>
	Mt. Naomi #4758	28,116	<b>General Forest</b> (5.2d per FP);	1,829—General Forest	<b>YES</b>
	North Pebble #4155	5,484	<b>General Forest</b> (5.2b per FP);	1,535—General Forest	<b>YES</b>
	Oxford Mountain #4157	40,871	<b>General Forest</b> (5.2b, 6.2b per FP);	29,462—General Forest	<b>YES</b>
	Paris Peak #4177	8,816	<b>General Forest</b> (5.2b per FP);	1,109—General Forest	<b>YES</b>
	Pole Creek #4160	3,662	<b>General Forest</b> (6.2b per FP);	349—General Forest	<b>YES</b>
	Red Mountain #4170	13,700	<b>General Forest</b> (6.2b per FP);	4,808—General Forest	<b>YES</b>
	Sage Creek #4166	12,711	<b>General Forest</b> (5.2b, 6.2b, 8.2.2g per FP);	9,835—General Forest	<b>YES</b>
	Schmid Peak #4163	7,114	<b>General Forest</b> (6.2b, 5.2b, 8.1 per FP);	499—General Forest	<b>YES</b>
	Scout Mountain #4152	22,498	<b>General Forest</b> (5.2b, 6.2b per FP);	1,521—General Forest	<b>YES</b>
	Sherman Peak #4172	7,756	<b>General Forest</b> (5.2b per FP);	1,433—General Forest	<b>YES</b>
	Soda Point #4171	23,125	<b>General Forest</b> (5.2b per FP);	7,238—General Forest	<b>YES</b>
	Station Creek #4178	9,680	<b>General Forest</b> (6.2b, 8.1u per FP);	6,040—General Forest	<b>YES</b>

NAT'L FOREST	IRA NAME	APPROX. ACRES	RECOMMENDATION	ACREAGE BREAKDOWN	CONSISTENT W/ CURRENT FP
	Stump Creek #4162	97,301	<b>General Forest</b> (5.2b, 6.2b, 8.1u, 8.2.2 per FP);	9,947—General Forest	<b>YES</b>
	Telephone Draw #4169	4,916	<b>General Forest</b> (6.2b per FP); <b>**Recommend re-inventory</b> less than 5,000 acres	1,310—General Forest	<b>YES</b>
	Toponce #4153	18,296	<b>General Forest</b> (6.2b, 8.1b per FP);	8,980—General Forest	<b>YES</b>
	West Mink #4151	20,266	<b>General Forest</b> (5.2b, 8.1u per FP);	929—General Forest	<b>YES</b>
	Williams Creek #4174	9,917	<b>General Forest</b> (5.2b, 8.1u per FP);	4,800—General Forest	<b>YES</b>
	Worm Creek #4179	42,443	<b>General Forest</b> (5.2b, 6.2b, 8.1u per FP);	6,211—General Forest	<b>YES</b>
<b>IDAHO PANHANDLE NAT'L FOREST</b>					
	E. Cathedral Peak #131	22,260	<b>General Forest</b> (MA6 per draft FP);	400—General Forest	<b>YES</b>
	Grandmother Mountain #148	22,350	<b>General Forest</b> (MA6 per draft FP);	120—General Forest	<b>YES</b>
	Hellroaring #128	1,980	<b>General Forest</b> (MA6 per draft FP) <b>**Recommend re-inventory</b>	1,980—General Forest	<b>YES</b>
	Kootenai Peak #126	4,970	<b>General Forest</b> (MA6 per draft FP) <b>**Recommend re-inventory</b>	4,970—General Forest	<b>YES</b>
	Magee #132	34,820	<b>General Forest</b> (MA6 per draft FP);	610—General Forest	<b>YES</b>
	Mallard-Larkins #300	120,991	<b>General Forest</b> (MA6 per draft FP);	80—General Forest	<b>YES</b>
	Saddle Mountain #154	7,770	<b>General Forest</b> (MA6 per draft FP)	7,770—General Forest	<b>YES</b>
	Salmo Priest #981	20,020	<b>General Forest</b> (MA6 per draft FP);	160—General Forest	<b>YES</b>
	Schafer Peak #160	5,890	<b>General Forest</b> (MA6 per draft FP);	400—General Forest	<b>YES</b>



NAT'L FOREST	IRA NAME	APPROX. ACRES	RECOMMENDATION	ACREAGE BREAKDOWN	CONSISTENT W/ CURRENT FP
	Scotchman Peaks #662	19,510 [Kootenai 559]	<b>General Forest</b> (MA6 per draft FP);	350—General Forest	<b>YES</b>
	Selkirk #125	97,950	<b>General Forest</b> (MA6 per draft FP);	8,670—General Forest	<b>YES</b>
	Upper Priest #123	12,670	<b>General Forest</b> (MA6 per draft FP);	290—General Forest	<b>YES</b>
	White Mountain #127	7,640	<b>General Forest</b> (MA6 draft FP);	90—General Forest	<b>YES</b>
<b>PAYETTE NAT'L FOREST</b>					
	Cuddy Mountain #016	40,899	<b>General Forest</b> (5.1 per FP);	2,670—General Forest	<b>YES</b>
	French Creek #026	88,528	<b>General Forest</b> (5.1 per FP);	75—General Forest	<b>YES</b>
<b>SALMON NAT'L FOREST</b>					
	Napoleon Ridge #13501	51,362	<b>General Forest</b>	51,362—General Forest	<b>YES</b>
	Perreau Creek #13511	8,157	<b>General Forest</b>	8,157—General Forest	<b>YES</b>
<b>SAWTOOTH NAT'L FOREST</b>					
	Boulder-White Cloud #920	322,356	<b>General Forest;</b>	712—General Forest	<b>YES</b>
	Cache Peak #007	26,525	<b>General Forest</b> (6.1 per FP);	19,442—General Forest	<b>YES</b>
	Smokey Mountains #914	303,567	<b>General Forest</b> (4.2 per FP);	94—General Forest	<b>YES</b>
<b>TARGHEE NAT'L FOREST</b>					
	Bald Mountain #614	17,038	<b>General Forest</b> (6.1b per FP);	1,622—General Forest	<b>YES</b>
	Bear Creek #615	97,613	<b>General Forest</b> (6.1b);	58,862—General Forest	<b>YES</b>

NAT'L FOREST	IRA NAME	APPROX. ACRES	RECOMMENDATION	ACREAGE BREAKDOWN	CONSISTENT W/ CURRENT FP
	Diamond Peak #601	88,416	General Forest (6.1b per FP);	26,930—General Forest	YES
	Garfield Mountain #961	43,290	General Forest (6.1b per FP);	19,811—General Forest	YES
	Italian Peak #945	141,154	General Forest (6.1b per FP);	39,650—General Forest	YES
	Poker Peak #616	19,578	General Forest (6.1b);	1—General Forest	YES

### **Special Areas:**

As mentioned previously, Special Areas are embedded within roadless areas in the individual forest plan along with accompanying restrictions. Examples of Special Areas within this theme include:

- Historic Sites, Pioneer Areas
- Recommended and/or Designated Scenic, Wild and Recreational Rivers
- Geological Special Interest Areas
- Other areas possible if consistent with theme of area

In addition to those areas, Idaho's petition requests protection and preservation of three Special Areas because of their important tribal and historical significance. The following sets out these three important areas by forest, IRA name, and acreage.

- Nez Perce National Forest, Silver Creek (Pilot Knob) #1849—22,324 acres
- Clearwater National Forest, Nimiipuu and Lewis and Clark National Historic Trails [IRAs—North Lochsa Slope #1307, Bighorn-Weitas #1306, Weir-Post Office #1308, and Hoodoo #1301]—28,000 acres
  - This designation is part of the Lolo Trail National Historic Monument.
- Idaho Panhandle National Forest, Mallard-Larkins #300—33,530 acres
  - This designation applies to the Panhandle side of the IRA consistent with the national forest's current draft plan to protect the Pioneer area.

### **3. The circumstances and needs addressed by this petition include:**

#### **A. Conserving roadless area values and characteristics**

The litigious history of roadless area management has produced a great deal of uncertainty as to the management of the 9.3 million roadless acres in Idaho. Recognizing this uncertainty in Idaho, I have decided to provide recommendations for

the management of these areas pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act. The State of Idaho wants the result of this process to yield a state-specific federal rule which will conserve roadless areas and their values; provide certainty and direction for those who recreate and work in these areas; and meet the needs of fish and wildlife for generations to come.

There are 275 inventoried roadless areas in Idaho, encompassing over 9 million acres. These areas not only represent habitat for protected species such as grizzly bears, gray wolves and several species of anadromous fish; but also comprise a significant portion of Idaho's economy. Additionally, IRAs in Idaho provide excellent recreational opportunities for hunters, fishermen and outdoor enthusiasts, as well as a significant source for drinking and irrigation water throughout the Northwest.

Thus, given the amount of acreage coupled with the multiple uses currently ongoing in these areas, it was necessary for this petition to strike a careful balance between all of the needs of those who depend on and enjoy IRAs with the desire to preserve and sustain the values and characteristics of these areas.

## **B. Protecting human health and safety**

One of the greatest threats to human health and safety relevant to the management of inventoried roadless areas is the risk of wildland fires spreading to communities and private properties adjacent to National Forest land. Among the principles considered during the formulation of Idaho's petition for each inventoried roadless area is management of the wildland urban interface (WUI) to reduce this threat.

While the Forest Service has an obligation to control wildland fire, it does not necessarily have a similar duty to protect adjacent private property. By the same token, it is practically impossible for the Forest Service not to protect in-holdings or adjacent properties. Thus, it is vital for the Forest Service to have the tools necessary to reduce the risk from fires in wildland urban interface areas. Under Idaho's recommendations, inventoried roadless areas that contain urban interface locations will be generally categorized into management themes to provide flexibility for the Forest Service, including the ability to carefully conduct vegetative manipulation, to reduce the hazard and risk to communities and private property.

## **C. Reducing hazardous fuels and restoring essential wildlife habitat**

Recognizing the issue or principle of WUI is important not only for reducing the potential impact of hazardous wildfires, but also to reduce hazardous fuel buildup in all areas of our national forests, especially in inventoried roadless areas. Effectively reducing hazardous fuels requires management flexibility for the Forest Service to address WUI issues proactively rather than reacting to a potential disaster situation. As such and with the benefit of local input, I have endeavored to identify IRAs with potential WUI issues

and provide the Forest Service with the appropriate amount of management flexibility to carefully conduct WUI activities such as prescribed wildfire, salvage logging, or silvicultural projects to maintain the health of our forests.

In addition to reducing fuels, the State's petition recognizes the importance of maintaining wildlife habitat in inventoried roadless areas. To reiterate, the key to accomplishing this objective is to provide the necessary management flexibility to the Forest Service. I firmly believe the benefit of state and local decision making concerning these important areas is those who are most familiar with the varied terrain and wildlife within the state can make recommendations to their elected officials, including agency personnel, for the enhancement of important fish and wildlife habitat. More specifically, on an IRA-by-IRA basis, these recommendations can effectively identify whether activities such as watershed and vegetative restoration should be accomplished through passive/natural ecological processes or active management. As a result, Idaho's management themes were crafted in such a way to address the spectrum of ecological processes and account for the needs of fish and wildlife, which depend on these IRAs.

#### **D. Maintaining existing facilities and access to public and private property**

Access to private and public land was an important consideration during the development of the Governor's Roadless Petition. The petition addresses access in two ways: (1) specifically-including ingress and egress to state and private in-holdings; and (2) generally-to all public lands in inventoried roadless areas.

During the development of the petition the State identified in-holdings, both private and public, within inventoried roadless areas and ascertained there were a total of 53 IRAs with private in-holdings, 9 IRAs with in-holdings held by the State, and 3 IRAs with federal in-holdings.

In addition to in-holdings, I reviewed access to and through inventoried roadless areas, including existing trails and roads, for recreation. The petition protects the status quo of existing trails and roads across all inventoried roadless areas. Each theme, wild land recreation, primitive, backcountry/restoration, and general forest provide continued access for summer and winter recreation; provided the inventoried roadless area currently allows such use. That said, it is important to balance access and recreation with a need to protect the primitive nature of some of these areas. Thus, the Forest Service in partnership with the State and the local community will determine the future access to and through an inventoried roadless area, just as they do today.

Each theme and recommended management prescription is also intended to be subject to valid existing access as well as other property and legal rights of the State, private parties, tribes, and local government entities.

## E. Technical corrections to existing maps such as boundary adjustments to remove existing roaded areas

The State requests a re-inventory of those areas found not in conformity with the requirements for “roadless” designation as defined in the FEIS Nov. 2002, Volume 1 (i.e. “Undeveloped areas typically exceeding 5,000 acres that met the minimum criteria for wilderness consideration under the Wilderness Act . . .”) and/or areas which necessitate boundary correction based on new information. The following lists those IRAs requested for re-inventory and/or boundary correction.

**Table 10. IRAs Requested for Re-Inventory or Boundary Adjustment**

NATIONAL FOREST	IRA NAME/NUMBER	APPROX. ACRES	RATIONALE
BOISE NAT'L FOREST			
	Nameless Creek #034	2,275	Less than 5,000 acres; Forest Service included as an IRA because it is adjacent to Wilderness.
	Peace Rock #026	191,435	County maintains this IRA does not qualify as roadless because it is heavily “roaded.”
	Poison Creek #042	4,857	Less than 5,000 acres
	Poker Meadow #032	676	Less than 5,000 acres
	Snowbank #924	34,127	County maintains this IRA does not qualify as roadless because it is heavily “roaded.”
	Stony Meadows #027	13,507	County maintains this IRA does not qualify as roadless because it is heavily “roaded.”
	Ten Mile/Black Warrior #013	118,628	<b>Boundary Adjustment:</b> consistent w/ Forest Plan (area with FP Rx 5.1 in this IRA), remove from IRA area in township 9N, range 9E, beginning at summit of Jackson Peak north on trail 151 to center of road 531 (see map).
	Tennessee #033	1,016	Less than 5,000 acres; Forest Service included as an IRA because it is adjacent to Wilderness.
	Whiskey #031	4,948	Less than 5,000 acres

NATIONAL FOREST	IRA NAME/NUMBER	APPROX. ACRES	RATIONALE
<b>CARIBOU NAT'L FOREST</b>			
	Telephone Draw #4169	4,916	Less than 5,000 acres
<b>IDAHO PANHANDLE NAT'L FOREST</b>			
	Blacktail Mountain PL #122	5,288	New draft Forest Plan acreage is less than 5,000 acres for this IRA (4,960).
	Blacktail Mountain SDPT #161	4,890	Less than 5,000 acres
	Hellroaring #128	1,747	Less than 5,000 acres
	Kootenai Peak #126	4,512	Less than 5,000 acres
	Skitwish Ridge #135	6,927	New draft Forest Plan acreage is less than 5,000 acres for this IRA (4,750).
	Wonderful Peak #152	4,965	Less than 5,000 acres
<b>PAYETTE NAT'L FOREST</b>			
	Big Creek Fringe #009	1,083	Less than 5,000 acres; Forest Service included as an IRA because it borders Wilderness
	Council Mountain #018	16,562	County maintains IRA designation needs to be removed on the east side and north side (middle fork and east fork of Weiser river drainages) for forest health reasons.
	Indian Creek #019	4,806	Less than 5,000 acres
	Poison Creek #042	390	County maintains IRA designation should be removed because area is heavily "roaded."
	Smith Creek #007	2,270	Less than 5,000 acres; Forest Service included as an IRA because it borders Wilderness

NATIONAL FOREST	IRA NAME/NUMBER	APPROX. ACRES	RATIONALE
	Snowbank #924	1,520	County maintains IRA designation should be removed because area is heavily "roaded."
SALMON NAT'L FOREST			
	Mceleny #13505	3,536	Less than 5,000
SAWTOOTH NAT'L FOREST			
	Pettit #017	3,065	Less than 5,000 acres; Forest Service included because it is adjacent to Wilderness
TARGHEE NAT'L FOREST			
	Winegar Hole #347	4,031	Less than 5,000 acres

#### **4. Differences between the recommended management under this petition and existing United States Forest Service land management plans or policies for inventoried roadless areas and how they would comply with applicable laws and regulations**

As noted previously, two of the State's more important guiding principles were the prescriptions contained in existing forest plans and the parameters of NEPA. The State generally applauds the efforts of the U.S. Forest Service and believes in a majority of these areas the correct management approach is currently being employed. These considerations caused the State to carefully weigh any recommended deviation from the existing forest plan. As is apparent from the management tables above and given the sheer number of IRAs within the State, there are few deviations from existing management prescriptions.

In those few instances where I decided to deviate from the existing prescription, I did so with the assistance of the State's guiding principles, county and public recommendations and the overall permissive management direction contained in this petition. The State is fully aware any future on-the-ground proposed project (i.e. timber harvest, road building, mineral extraction etc.) as a result of this petition and its future accompanying rule is subject to the proper environmental analysis pursuant to NEPA. However, nowhere in the State's petition is the Forest Service required or mandated to make an irretrievable commitment of resources of this nature. Instead, the petition recommends individual roadless areas be managed under one or more management themes, which largely reflect existing forest plan prescriptions. These management

themes then outline and provide a suite of management options for the Forest Service to consider in the future with the cooperation of the local community. Likewise, it is important to note where the petition recommends a shift from the existing programmatic prescription contained in the forest plan to a different management regime; many of these shifts have already been analyzed pursuant to NEPA.

Moreover, if this petition is accepted and accompanied by a subsequent federal rule, the State envisions the direction contained in this petition will be implemented consistent with the National Forest Management Act of 1976 16 U.S.C. § 1604 *et seq.* (NMFA). This petition in no way precludes review for revision or amendment at least every fifteen years or when the Secretary finds conditions have significantly changed under 16 U.S.C. § 1604(f)(5). That said, when the Forest Service does revise and amend forest plans it will do so in accordance with the direction contained in the federal rule requested in this petition.

## **5. Effect on fish and wildlife that inhabit the inventoried roadless areas**

The management flexibility afforded by Idaho's themes provides many benefits to the fish and wildlife that inhabit inventoried roadless areas. In comparison to other non-roadless general forest, Idaho's themes provide an added layer of protection to fish and wildlife and their important habitat. On the other hand, the management flexibility afforded by these themes enable the Forest Service and the State to carefully conduct management activities, including vegetation management activities such as prescribed fire, thinning, helicopter logging, not permissible in congressionally designated Wilderness that can benefit fish and wildlife.

Generally, IRAs provide habitats for a broad array of wildlife species dependent on large, unfragmented blocks of mature forest. Much of the habitat strongholds for forest species, including wolverine, Yellowstone and westslope cutthroat trout, ESA listed bull trout, and ESA listed salmon and steelhead are found within Idaho's inventoried roadless areas. It is important to note the protection provided by IRAs have ensured the continuation of these areas as habitat strongholds, which is one of the primary reasons some of these species have not been listed pursuant to the ESA.

Because IRAs provide high quality habitat not only to these species but to many species in general, IRAs within Idaho create many opportunities for wildlife-related recreation. Hunters, anglers, and wildlife enthusiasts can enjoy solitude in areas with little evidence of man's activities without the use restrictions on mechanized and motorized equipment typically associated with congressionally designated Wilderness.



## A. IRA Management Activities

Activities particularly pertinent to IRA and forest management, such as roads, fire suppression, timber suppression, timber harvest, and motorized travel, can pose a risk to fish and wildlife.

- *Roads*

Roads can negatively impact fish populations and the habitats upon which they depend in a variety of ways. For example, roads can alter the riparian zone vegetation and constrict the floodplain resulting in temperature alteration, reduced recruitment of woody debris, loss of meanders, and reduced habitat diversity. One of the more deleterious effects of roads on fish habitat is fragmentation caused by impassable culverts at stream crossings.

- *Fire Suppression*

The long history of fire suppression has altered forest habitats over large areas of the national forests in Idaho. This interruption of natural processes has resulted in forest habitats outside the range of historic variability for the recent climatic regime. As a result, the quality of wildlife habitat has been reduced and the danger of stand replacing fires has been increased. For example, elk populations in the upper Clearwater drainages are declining, due in part to the loss of brush fields created by fire.

- *Timber Harvest*

Although it is difficult to generalize about timber harvest due to the wide variety of prescriptions used in modern forestry, timber harvest and associated roads has the potential to alter the landscape thereby affecting fish and wildlife. On the negative side, timber harvest can alter and fragment mature forest habitat, alter species composition, reduce snags and down woody material, and modify micro-sites all of which are important habitat components for forest dwelling species.

However, timber harvest can also be a useful tool in manipulating vegetation to benefit fish and wildlife, watersheds, and forest health. In many forested IRAs, primarily small diameter timber harvest with judicious management of prescribed fire could improve forest health and wildlife habitat.

- *Motorized Travel*

Motorized travel on roads and trails can affect fish and wildlife, their habitats, and associated recreational experiences. Motorized trails share some of the negative effects as roads, including erosion and sedimentation. Motorized travel and associated human activity can cause some wildlife species to abandon habitat along motorized routes.

## **B. Mitigation Provided by Idaho's Themes**

By-and-large Idaho's management themes provide the necessary protection and flexibility to both mitigate the aforementioned potential threats and enhance fish and wildlife habitat.

- *Wild Land Recreation and Primitive Management Themes*

Generally, these two management themes, characterized by largely passive management will benefit fish, wildlife, and associated recreation. There will be no impact from roads as this management option is not permitted under either theme. Additionally, areas managed under these themes will benefit fish and wildlife habitats through the use of wildland fire use and prescribed fires because natural processes will play a major role in the ecosystem.

Areas managed under the "Wild Land Recreation" theme eliminates the potential threats associated with timber harvest because only harvest for personal use is permitted. With regard to motorized vehicle use, all of Idaho's themes preserve currently existing motorized access in Idaho. While this may have some effect on fish and wildlife, areas specifically managed under the Wild Land Recreation theme do not permit any activities which constitute an irretrievable commitment of resources. Thus, expansion of current access under this theme is not likely to occur in the future. Furthermore, over time, if consistent with the direction of local decision-making, these areas could anticipate a reduction of access, and as a result will benefit fish and wildlife habitats.

IRAs managed under the Primitive theme will benefit fish and wildlife by allowing a broader array of vegetative management treatment options. In many areas, fire suppression has resulted in fuel buildup presenting an unacceptable risk for the use of prescribed fire. In these situations, fuel reduction projects, not allowed under Wild Land Recreation areas, can set the stage for the use of prescribed fire as a tool for improving wildlife habitat and forest health. While timber harvest is not necessarily prohibited in the Primitive theme, it can only be implemented as a by-product for addressing urgent forest health or fish and wildlife objectives for ESA listed species and species of concern.

- *Backcountry/Restoration*

This theme allows for more active management than either the Wild Land Recreation or Primitive themes. Although this management flexibility could pose some risk to fish and wildlife if permissible activities are not carefully and thoughtfully conducted, the risks are outweighed by the benefit of habitat enhancement and restoration.

Under this management theme, roads can play more of a role in species management than under the aforementioned themes. That said, under the Backcountry/Restoration theme, road construction and/or reconstruction is only permissible under narrowly defined guidelines for ecological purposes with the emphasis on temporary roads with mitigation. These constraints will minimize road construction, and therefore reduce the deleterious effects of roads on fish and wildlife. Additionally, road construction, if it

occurs, will be implemented to restore watersheds and vegetation to benefit forest health and fish and wildlife habitats. Because habitat restoration projects under this theme are not constrained to ESA listed or species of concern, a broader spectrum of species, including hunted species (i.e. mule deer, elk, and big horn sheep) can receive the benefits of increased management flexibility.

While this management theme permits currently existing and contemplates expansion of access for motorized travel, the effects on fish and wildlife are mitigated because these future opportunities are subject to National Forest travel planning and the new Forest Service travel management rule. Implementation of this new rule will restrict all motor vehicle use to designated routes on national forest land. Thus, because many of the negative impacts to fish and wildlife associated with this activity are the result of cross-country travel and route pioneering, the implementation of this rule will reduce impacts to fish and wildlife.

- *General Forest*

Unlike the preceding management themes, fish, wildlife, and ecosystem restoration are not necessarily the driving force behind management activities. Under this theme, fish and wildlife are managed as one of the multiple uses on national forest lands. That said, fish and wildlife are still considered in any NEPA analysis of projects and are given the same emphasis they receive on general forest lands outside of IRAs.

## **6. Public involvement efforts during the development of the petition**

Given the sheer number of comments, acres, national forests, and IRAs within the State, the State was fully cognizant it needed a carefully planned public process to ensure participation by those most affected by the contents of this petition.

On June 23, 2005, when the Governor of Idaho announced the State would develop a petition pursuant to the invitation afforded by the Secretary of Agriculture, he did so with the intent of soliciting the help of local units of government. To this end, the Governor invited local communities to develop specific recommendations for roadless areas in portions of the national forests within their county.

Following that announcement, local communities under the leadership of their respective county commissioners proceeded to outline a process whereby they would provide written recommendations to the Governor for his review. Affected county commissioners decided to hold a series of public meetings to solicit public comment and develop their recommendations. On a state-wide basis approximately sixty (60) public meetings were held. A representative from the Governor's Office or the Governor's Office of Species Conservation attended nearly every meeting in order to provide guidance and aid in the process. Aside from those meetings, staff attended at least ten (10) additional meetings across the State explaining the Governor's vision for this local process.

Due to the voluminous amount of comments received, the county commissioners hired two independent contractors to compile submitted comments and prepare the commissioners' ultimate recommendations. Likewise, in anticipation of receiving and analyzing these recommendations and individual public comments, the Governor's Office Species Conservation hired an independent contractor.

As a result of this local effort, the Governor's Office of Species Conservation received comments and/or recommendations from 66 organizations, 30 counties, and 1,596 individual comments on the 275 individual IRAs within the State. Given the amount of comments coupled with the largest amount of IRA acreage in the coterminous United States, staff spent a substantial amount of time reducing this information into management recommendations for each IRA for the Governor's consideration.

Once staff had assembled these comments, I recommended my staff engage the affected Native American tribes of this State, as fellow sovereigns, in a discussion about these recommendations prior to me making any final decisions. Additionally, I instructed staff to contact neighboring states who were/are engaged in the petition process to ensure inter-IRA consistency.

Therefore, the State's petition effort has involved substantial engagement by local units of government and the public at large, as they represent those who know, live, work, and recreate on these important lands.

## **7. Cooperating agency status in future environmental analysis and rulemaking**

The State of Idaho is willing to participate as a cooperating agency in the state specific rulemaking process should the contents of this petition be accepted pursuant to the APA. To this end, I have promulgated Executive Order 2006-33 (attached Appendix B), which establishes the Governor's Roadless Rule Task Force (Task Force). This Task Force will be responsible for partnering with the Forest Service to ensure that the spirit and letter of the petition are met in the final federal rule for Idaho.

Additionally, I have promulgated Executive Order 2006-34 (attached Appendix C), which establishes the Governor's Roadless Rule Implementation Commission (Commission). The Commission will work with Forest Service, within the limits of state and federal law, to ensure that the spirit and letter of the Idaho Roadless Rule are implemented through Idaho, in the inventoried roadless areas of our national forests.