

BOISE NATIONAL FOREST INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREAS**Bald Mountain
Roadless Area No. 0402019
6,236 Acres****DESCRIPTION**

The Bald Mountain IRA, on the Emmett Ranger District, includes the south slopes of the South Fork Payette River from the Garden Valley Ranger Station to Danskin Creek. This roadless area is accessed from the Banks-Lowman Highway (Forest Highway 17) via State Highway 55.

Elevations range from 3,100 feet along the South Fork Payette River to 5,148 feet at Bald Mountain. The area is underlain by Cretaceous granitics of the Idaho batholith. Sagebrush-bitterbrush/grass communities and scattered stands of ponderosa pine vegetate steep fluvial lands. Overall, the Bald Mountain area is marked with open slopes supporting sparse grass and brush vegetation interspersed with open stands of ponderosa pine. Major side drainages are deeply incised, with steep banks. Bald Mountain is the area's predominant feature.

CAPABILITY

Natural Integrity and Appearance: The apparent naturalness and natural integrity of the Bald Mountain area have been affected by wildlife habitat improvements of bitterbrush plantings in some locations. In the northern portion there is evidence of constructed fire lines and some plantations following the 1987 Anderson Creek Fire.

Opportunities for Solitude and Primitive Recreation: Opportunities for solitude, primitive recreation, and challenging experiences are somewhat limited by the relatively small size of the area. The steep and rugged terrain provides for challenging cross-country travel. The broken and complex terrain provides some opportunities for solitude.

Special Features: A segment of the South Fork Payette River lies adjacent to the southern boundary. This river segment is eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation. An estimated 326 acres of the river corridor occurs within the IRA.

Manageability and Boundaries: Along the southern edge, ownership boundaries would form some of the boundaries, while in other locations a logical boundary could be created by a defined offset from the riverbank or highway. The other boundaries would benefit from some minor adjustments to make them more logical and definable.

AVAILABILITY

Recreation: The area receives fairly heavy use during the fall big-game hunting season. The trails within the area provide for other backpacking and day hiking use. There is a 2-mile segment of a non-motorized trail in the area. Inventoried ROS classes are as follows:

ROS Class	Summer	Winter
Roaded Natural	22%	22%
Roaded Modified	28%	0%
Semi-Primitive Motorized	0%	4%
Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized	50%	74%

Fisheries: This IRA contains a portion of the South Fork Payette River from the confluence with Danskin Creek downstream to the Garden Valley Ranger Station. This portion of the river does not provide spawning habitat for listed bull trout but is potential nodal habitat (migrational and over-winter rearing). This portion of the river also provides a migration corridor that bull trout use to access spawning and rearing habitat outside the IRA. The South Fork Payette River within the IRA provides rearing habitat for redband rainbow trout. This IRA also includes several tributaries to the South Fork Payette River that flow in from the north. These tributaries have been field surveyed, and Poorman Creek, Nelson Creek, and Carpenter Creek are not fish-bearing streams. Since these are the largest tributaries within the IRA, it is not likely that any tributaries in the IRA are fish bearing.

Wildlife: Suitable habitat for federally listed species is limited within this IRA. Species such as the gray wolf and lynx may occur within the IRA; however, occurrence of these species is probably related to dispersing individuals. There is no identified lynx habitat in the area. A small amount of bald eagle wintering habitat occurs along the southern boundary. Habitat for Regional sensitive species varies within this area. Habitat for boreal owl and great gray owl does not exist or is very limited, while habitat for northern goshawk, flammulated owl, and white-headed woodpecker does exist. Most of the area provides important elk and deer winter range. Habitat for pileated woodpecker nesting exists in the northern and southern portion of this area.

Water: Bald Mountain has numerous perennial streams that mostly flow southerly to the South Fork Payette River. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other uses on the Forest. An estimated 3 acres of the area are within a municipal watershed for the Rivers Point Property Owners.

Range: There are no open grazing allotments in the IRA. There are 163 acres of capable sheep rangeland within the IRA.

Timber: The area includes an estimated 30,023 thousand board feet (MBF) of standing timber volume, equivalent to 58,771 hundred cubic feet (CCF). An estimated 3,100 acres (50 percent) of the Bald Mountain IRA are tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 456 acres have low productivity; 2,495 acres, moderate productivity; and 342 acres, high productivity.

Minerals: A portion of the inactive Abella molybdenum mine lies along the area's western edge. The IRA is not a mineral development interest area. There is a small area in the southwest corner of the IRA that is identified as a fair to poor permissive area for silt, sand, and gravel. There are no active mineral claims within the area.

Heritage: The area has low cultural resource sensitivity. Surveys in adjoining and overlapping areas, in similar topographic situations, have resulted in low cultural resource site densities.

Landownership and Special Uses: There is no private or state land within the IRA. One outfitter/guide service provides cougar and bear hunting trips in the area, and another provides trail rides.

Disturbances: An estimated 650 acres of the IRA were burned in the 1987 Anderson Complex Fire. Approximately 80 percent of the area was burned in low intensity prescribed fires in 1997. Soil movement and localized landslides have occurred in the Hanks Creek, Whiskey Creek, Poorman Creek, and Russell Creek drainages during recent rain-on-snow events.

Botanical Characteristics: No threatened, endangered, or Region 4 sensitive plant species are known to occur in the area. Most of the area, an estimated 6,200 acres, has been infested by rush skeletonweed, a noxious weed.

NEED

Proximity to Designated Wilderness and Population Centers: The Bald Mountain area lies about 30 miles from the FC-RONR Wilderness and the Sawtooth Wilderness. The area lies about 36 miles from Boise. As a designated wilderness, this area would serve the community of Crouch-Garden Valley, and the population centers of Boise and Salt Lake City.

Biological: This IRA lies within the M332 Ecoregion (Middle Rocky Mountain Steppe-Coniferous Forest-Alpine Meadow Province), which is well represented in existing wildernesses.

Social: Comments received on the DEIS expressed a desire for some form of roadless area protection for most all roadless areas. One concerned individual specifically identified this IRA for wilderness recommendation. This IRA is recommended for wilderness designation in the most recent wilderness bill, HR 488, the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act.

WILDERNESS EVALUATION SUMMARY

Capability Summary:

Apparent Naturalness	Moderate
Opportunity for Solitude	Low
Opportunities for Challenge and Adventure	Low
Special Features	Present

Determination of Availability or Unavailability: The IRA does not meet any of the criteria listed in FSH 1909.12.7.22a. Therefore the IRA is available for wilderness designation.

Values Foregone With Wilderness Designation: The economic values associated with 3,100 acres of tentatively suited timberlands containing 30,023 MBF or 58,771 CCF would be foregone. Values from future mineral development would likely be foregone, although rights to valid existing claims might be retained. However, the IRA is not a mineral development interest area and has no active claims. There are no motorized trails in the area, nor is motorized off-trail use permitted; so there would be no motorized recreational use values foregone. Mountain bike use opportunities on the one segment of non-motorized trail would be foregone.

Biological and Social Need: The M332 Ecoregion is well represented in existing designated wildernesses. Only one individual expressed interest in recommending this IRA for wilderness in response to the DEIS.

ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

IRA Disposition by Alternative: The following table displays IRA management disposition for each alternative in acres. These values represent the potential, long-term outcomes of managing the IRA based solely upon its MPC assignments.

IRA Management Disposition	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Recommended Wilderness	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maintain undeveloped character	0	0	0	0	0	6,236	0
Potential low levels of development	0	0	0	5,900	0	0	6,236
Available for a full range of development	6,236	6,236	6,236	336	6,236	0	0

Potential Future Development: Potential future development is represented by combinations of management emphasis/direction (MPCs), and existing conditions that are likely to become priority areas for development activities over the course of the next two or three decades. The development activities chosen for this estimation include timber harvest, vegetation restoration and fuel reduction. Development potential is expressed in acres in the table below.

Potential Development	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Timber activities	2,165	0	0	0	0	0	0
Restoration/fuel reduction activities	0	2,330	2,330	303	2,262	0	2,330
Total	2,165	2,330	2,330	303	2,262	0	2,330

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics: The following table displays the effects on wilderness characteristics for each alternative. The effects on wilderness characteristics are based on the estimation of potential future development.

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
	H	H	H	L	H	N	H

N = No change; slight change or less than 1 percent of the area potentially affected.

L = Light impact; 1-5 percent of the area potentially affected.

M = Moderate impact; 5-20 percent of the area potentially affected.

H = High impact; greater than 20 percent of the area potentially affected.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The preferred alternative does not recommend any portion of the Bald Mountain IRA for wilderness. All of the IRA would be available for low levels of development activities. Before any activity is approved that would have a significant impact on the undeveloped character of the area, it would be preceded by an environmental analysis following NEPA procedures and public involvement.

Bear Wallow
Roadless Area No. 0402025
9,133 Acres

DESCRIPTION

The Bear Wallow roadless area, on the Emmett Ranger District, lies between the Scriver Creek Road and the Middle Fork Payette River Road. The area is accessed from the Middle Fork Payette River Road (Forest Road 698) from the Banks-Lowman Highway (Forest Highway 17) via State Highway 55. The Bear Wallow Trail traverses the area from north to south.

Elevations range from about 3,200 feet to 6,000 feet. Slopes are steep, dissected by small streams, and dominated by dense stands of ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir.

Dense brush fields and old fire scars occur along the upper ridges and in the southern portion of the area. Timbered stands are concentrated near Scriver Creek and the Middle Fork Payette River. Slopes into the river are over-steepened and highly erosive, with sparse vegetation except on the river terrace and in side drainages. The gentler slopes into Scriver Creek support denser stands of timber, interspersed with impenetrable stands of brush that originated from old fires. No prominent topographic features lie in the Bear Wallow area.

CAPABILITY

Natural Integrity and Appearance: The natural integrity and apparent naturalness of the Bear Wallow roadless area are intact because few activities have occurred in this area.

Opportunities for Solitude and Primitive Recreation: Opportunities for solitude and remoteness are available due to the complex, broken terrain and the fairly continuous vegetative cover. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are good due to the rugged terrain. The area can be characterized as hot and dry during the summer months.

Special Features: A segment of the Middle Fork Payette River lies adjacent to the eastern boundary. This river segment is eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation. An estimated 1.3 miles of the river and 670 acres of the river corridor occur within the IRA.

Manageability and Boundaries: The southeastern boundary could be logically defined as a certain offset from the Payette River Road or the river bank itself. The other boundaries would benefit from some minor changes to create more logical and manageable boundaries.

AVAILABILITY

Recreation: The recreation use in this area is fairly minimal, with most of the use occurring during the fall big-game hunting season. There is some ATV use on the motorized trail along the western side. There are segments of two motorized trails in the area, totaling about 6.1 miles. Inventoried ROS classes are as follows:

ROS Class	Summer	Winter
Roaded Natural	21%	3%
Roaded Modified	19%	0%
Semi-Primitive Motorized	60%	97%

Fisheries: Bear Wallow includes small tributary streams that flow into the Middle Fork Payette River from the east. These tributaries are upstream from Scriver Creek and downstream of Sixmile Creek, which is partially included in the IRA. Most of these tributaries have not been surveyed primarily due to their small size. The most likely fish-bearing streams are Tie, Baron, and Rocky Canyon Creeks (the largest of the tributaries), and any fish present are likely to be redband rainbow trout. Tributaries within this roadless area are identified as bull trout key watersheds (State of Idaho 1996).

Wildlife: Suitable habitat for federally listed endangered species such as the wolf and lynx is limited within this IRA. There is no potential lynx habitat in this area. Individuals that pass through when dispersing from other areas are not likely to stay long because of the lack of denning habitat. The lower portion of the roadless area adjoins the South Fork Payette River, which provides bald eagle wintering habitat. No peregrine falcon habitat exists within this IRA.

Habitat exists for the white-headed woodpecker and flammulated owl within lower-elevation ponderosa pine stands. Habitat for northern goshawk is provided within mid-slope forested areas. Limited habitat for the pileated and white-headed woodpecker, and meadow and red-backed vole, exists within the IRA. Key winter range habitat is provided for elk and deer, most of it in the lower elevations adjacent to the Middle Fork Payette River.

Water: Bear Wallow has a number of perennial streams, most of them flowing easterly towards the Middle Fork Payette River. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other uses on the Forest. An estimated 2400 acres are within a municipal watershed of Rivers Point Property Owners.

Range: Approximately 80 percent of the area is within an active sheep allotment. An estimated 2,350 acres are capable sheep rangelands.

Timber: The area includes 65,417 thousand board feet (MCF) of standing timber volume, equivalent to 131,904 hundred cubic feet (CCF). An estimated 6,700 acres (73 percent) of the Bear Wallow IRA are tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 290 acres are considered to have low productivity; 2,910 acres, moderate productivity; and 3,644 acres, high productivity.

Minerals: The area is not a mineral development interest area. There are only two mining claims in the area.

Heritage: Although prehistoric sites have been documented in the South Fork Payette River corridor, the steep topography of the IRA results in the area having low cultural resource sensitivity.

Landownership and Special Uses: There is no private or state land within the IRA. One outfitter/guide service provides cougar and bear hunting trips in the area.

Disturbances: An estimated 670 acres have burned by wildfire since 1960.

Botanical Characteristics: Giant helleborine (*Epipactis gigantea*), a sensitive plant species, occurs in the area. A very minor amount of rush skeletonweed has been identified in the area.

NEED

Proximity to Designated Wilderness and Population Centers: The Bear Wallow area lies about 30 miles from the FC-RONR Wilderness and the Sawtooth Wilderness. The area lies about 45 miles from Boise. As a designated wilderness, this area would serve the community of Crouch-Garden Valley, and the population centers of Boise and Salt Lake City.

Biological: This IRA lies within the M332 Ecoregion (Middle Rocky Mountain Steppe-Coniferous Forest-Alpine Meadow Province), which is well represented in existing wildernesses.

Public Interest: There has been relatively low public interest in this area becoming wilderness. Only one concerned individual specifically identified this IRA for wilderness recommendation in response to the DEIS. This IRA is recommended for wilderness designation in the most recent wilderness bill, HR 488, the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act.

WILDERNESS EVALUATION SUMMARY

Capability Summary:

Apparent Naturalness	High
Opportunity for Solitude	Moderate
Opportunities for Challenge and Adventure	Moderate
Special Features	Present

Determination of Availability or Unavailability: The IRA does not meet any of the criteria listed in FSH 1909.12.7.22a. Therefore, the IRA is available for wilderness designation.

Values Foregone With Wilderness Designation: The economic values associated with 6,700 acres of tentatively suited timberlands containing 65,417 MBF or 131,904 CCF would be foregone. Values from future mineral development would likely be foregone, although rights to valid existing claims might be retained. However, this is not a mineral development interest area. Current motorized recreation use opportunities would be foregone. Motorized use associated with 6 miles of trails would be foregone. There is some incidental snowmobile use in the area that would be foregone. Mountain bike use opportunities would be foregone.

Biological and Social Need: The M332 Ecoregion is well represented in existing designated wildernesses. Only one individual expressed interest in recommending this IRA for wilderness in response to the DEIS.

ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

IRA Disposition by Alternative: The following table displays IRA management disposition for each alternative in acres. These values represent the potential, long-term outcomes of managing the IRA based solely upon its MPC assignments.

IRA Management Disposition	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Recommended Wilderness	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maintain undeveloped character	0	0	0	0	0	9,133	0
Potential low levels of development	0	6,108	6,108	6,614	0	0	9,133
Available for full range of development	9,133	3,025	3,025	2,519	9,133	0	0

Potential Future Development: Potential future development is represented by combinations of management emphasis/direction (MPCs), and existing conditions that are likely to become priority areas for development activities over the course of the next two or three decades. The development activities chosen for this estimation are timber harvest, vegetation restoration, and fuel reduction. Development potential is expressed in acres in the table below.

Potential Development	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Timber activities	5,093	0	0	0	1,795	0	0
Restoration/fuel reduction activities	0	5,496	5,496	1,919	3,577	0	5,496
Total	5,093	5,496	5,496	1,919	5,372	0	5,496

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics: The following table displays the effects on wilderness characteristics for each alternative. The effects on wilderness characteristics are based on the estimation of potential future development.

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
	H	H	H	H	H	N	H

N = No change; slight change or less than 1 percent of the area potentially affected.

L = Light impact: 1-5 percent of the area potentially affected.

M = Moderate impact; 5-20 percent of the area potentially affected.

H = High impact; greater than 20 percent of the area potentially affected.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The preferred alternative does not recommend any of the Bear Wallow IRA for wilderness. The IRA would be available for low levels of development activities. Before any activity is approved that would have a significant impact on the undeveloped character of the IRA, it would be preceded by an environmental analysis following NEPA procedures and public involvement.

Bernard
Roadless Area No. 0402029
20,886 Acres

DESCRIPTION

The Bernard roadless area, on the Cascade and Lowman Ranger Districts, includes parts of the Elk Creek, Sulphur Creek, and Deadwood River drainages. This area is accessed from the Warm Lake Highway (Forest Road 22), via State Highways 21 or 55. This area is also accessed from the Porter Creek (008), Tyndall-Sulphur (095), and West Fork Elk Creek (006) Trails.

Elevations range from about 6,000 feet along the Deadwood River to 8,203 feet atop Bernard Mountain. The southern portion of the area has characteristic moderately steep slopes, while the northern portion is dominated by glacial troughlands. Moderate to dense stands of Douglas-fir exist at the lower elevations, and stands of Engelmann spruce, lodgepole pine, and subalpine fir are found at the higher elevations.

Overall, the area is marked with steep forested slopes that give way to open alpine meadows and scattered alpine timber stands. Scenic views of the Deadwood River Canyon, Deadwood Reservoir, and the Sawtooth Mountains can be seen from ridge tops. Notable landmarks include Pilgrim Mountain (8,196 feet), and Bernard Mountain (8,203 feet).

CAPABILITY

Natural Integrity and Appearance: The natural integrity and appearance of the area are intact.

Opportunities for Solitude and Primitive Recreation: When considered as part of the adjacent FC-RONR Wilderness, the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are plentiful. The steep and rugged terrain provides challenges to cross-country travel.

Special Features: A segment of the Deadwood River lies adjacent to the western boundary. This river segment is eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation with a recreational classification. An estimated 470 acres of the river corridor occur within the IRA.

Manageability and Boundaries: The area has some very complex and irregular boundaries due to the long cherry stem exclusion of the road along Sulphur Creek. The eastern boundary of the area is adjacent to the FC-RONR Wilderness.

AVAILABILITY

Recreation: The area receives some backcountry hunting, hiking, and camping. The area has three non-motorized trails totaling about 4.6 miles that access the adjacent FC-RONR Wilderness. Inventoried ROS classes are as follows:

ROS Class	Summer	Winter
Roaded Natural	19%	0%
Roaded Modified	14%	0%
Semi-Primitive Motorized	0%	100%
Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized	67%	0%

Fisheries: Upper Sulphur Creek and its tributaries lie within the northern portion of the IRA. A tributary from the north supports westslope cutthroat trout. Sulphur Creek is a tributary to the Middle Fork Salmon River that supports westslope cutthroat trout and listed chinook and steelhead and is critical habitat for Snake River spring/summer chinook. The area encompasses portions of other streams in the Johnson Creek drainage that may also provide spawning and/or rearing habitat for listed chinook, steelhead, and bull trout. The entire IRA lies within an area designated as critical habitat for spring/summer chinook salmon.

The southern portion of the Bernard IRA contains the North Fork Deer Creek, Little Beaver Creek, and East Fork Deadwood River. All of these streams except Little Beaver Creek flow into the Upper South Fork Payette key bull trout watershed (State of Idaho 1996).

North Fork Deer Creek contains a small section of focal (spawning and rearing) bull trout habitat. This and adjacent subpopulations of bull trout in the South Fork Deer Creek are important because the upper Deadwood River watershed is isolated from colonization due to Deadwood Dam.

The East Fork Deadwood River, Topnotch, Bernard, and other small tributaries to the upper Deadwood River contain only short sections of redband rainbow trout spawning and rearing habitat near their mouths. The rest of these streams are too steep and small. The East Fork Deadwood River appears to have good habitat; however, bull trout and other fish are absent upstream of the mouth.

Little Beaver Creek flows into Bear Valley, which has been designated as critical salmon habitat. Chinook salmon and steelhead trout may use the lower sections for rearing. Redband rainbow trout and westslope cutthroat trout may use Little Beaver Creek for spawning and rearing.

An estimated 4.5 miles of streams in the area have bull trout spawning and rearing habitat.

Wildlife: Confirmed gray wolf activity has occurred in this IRA with increasing activity occurring since the augmentation program in the 1990s. Sixty-eight percent of the IRA has potential lynx habitat, but it is not known if lynx are present. Fisher, wolverine, boreal owl, great gray owl, northern three-toed woodpecker, northern goshawk, flammulated owl, Townsend's big-eared bat, spotted bat, and spotted frog are Region 4 sensitive species. These species are either known or highly likely to occur in this IRA based on known presence in or nearby, or the presence of suitable habitat.

Water: The area has drainages flowing predominantly westerly to Johnson Creek and southerly to Deer Creek. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other uses on the Forest.

Range: A portion of one cattle allotment encompasses about 35 percent of the roadless area. The allotment is managed under a rest-rotation system. There are 944 acres of capable cattle rangelands in the IRA.

Timber: The area includes an estimated 131,985 thousand board feet (MBF) of standing timber volume, equivalent to 259,968 hundred cubic feet (CCF). An estimated 17,700 acres (85 percent) of the IRA are tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 12,089 acres are considered to have low productivity; 5,946 acres, moderate productivity; and 392 acres, high productivity.

Minerals: Twenty-one mining claims exist in the area. The patented Deadwood mine adjoins the roadless area. The area is not an identified mineral development interest area.

Heritage: Cultural resource site sensitivity is rated as low to moderate. Mining sites have been located along the Deadwood River, although none have been identified within the roadless area.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no private or state-owned lands within the IRA. One outfitter/guide provide bear and cougar hunting trips in the area, while another provides deer and elk hunting trips, summer pack trips, and trail rides.

Disturbances: There have been four recorded wildfire ignitions or occurrences since 1960. An estimated 6,450 acres have burned in wildfires, most of this in the 1987 Deadwood Fire.

Botanical Characteristics: Idaho douglasia, a Region 4 sensitive species, has been documented in the area. There are no inventoried locations of noxious weeds within the roadless area.

NEED

Proximity to Designated Wilderness and Population Centers: The Bernard area is adjacent the Frank Church-River of No Return (FC-RONR) Wilderness. The area lies about 66 miles from Boise. As a designated wilderness, this area would serve the communities of Cascade and Crouch-Garden Valley, and the population centers of Boise and Salt Lake City.

Biological: This IRA lies within the M332 Ecoregion (Middle Rocky Mountain Steppe-Coniferous Forest-Alpine Meadow Province), which is well represented in existing wildernesses.

Public Interest: There has been moderate public interest in this area becoming wilderness. Numerous concerned individuals or organizations specifically suggested this IRA for wilderness recommendation in response to the DEIS. This IRA is recommended for wilderness designation in the most recent wilderness bill, HR 488, the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act.

WILDERNESS EVALUATION SUMMARY

Capability Summary:

Apparent Naturalness	High
Opportunity for Solitude	High
Opportunities for Challenge and Adventure	High
Special Features	Present

Determination of Availability or Unavailability: The IRA does not meet any of the criteria listed in FSH 1909.12.7.22a. Therefore, the IRA is available for wilderness designation.

Values Foregone With Wilderness Designation: The economic values associated with 17,700 acres of tentatively suited timberlands containing 131,985 MBF or 259,968 CCF would be foregone. Values from future mineral development would likely be foregone, although rights to valid existing claims might be retained. However, this is not a mineral development interest area. Current motorized recreation use opportunities would be foregone, including use associated with 4.6 miles of motorized trails. While there are no trails currently being utilized to any degree for mountain bike use, potential mountain bike use opportunities would be foregone.

Biological and Social Need: The M332 Ecoregion is well represented in existing designated wildernesses. Numerous individuals or organizations specifically suggested this IRA for wilderness recommendation in response to the DEIS.

ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

IRA Disposition by Alternative: The following table displays IRA management disposition for each alternative in acres. These values represent the potential, long-term outcomes of managing the IRA based solely upon its MPC assignments.

IRA Management Disposition	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Recommended Wilderness	0	0	0	20,886	0	0	0
Maintain undeveloped character	0	0	0	0	0	20,886	0
Potential low levels of development	19,028	20,886	17,600	0	0	0	20,886
Available for full range of development	1,858	0	3,286	0	20,886	0	0

Potential Future Development: Potential future development is represented by combinations of management emphasis/direction (MPCs), and existing conditions that are likely to become priority areas for development activities over the course of the next two or three decades. The development activities chosen for this estimation are timber harvest, vegetation restoration, and fuel reduction. Development potential is expressed in acres in the table below.

Potential Development	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Timber activities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Restoration/fuel reduction activities	1,621	1,621	12,988	0	12,988	0	9,085
Total	1,621	1,621	12,988	0	12,988	0	9,085

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics: The following table displays the effects on wilderness characteristics for each alternative. The effects on wilderness characteristics are based on the estimation of potential future development.

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
	M	M	H	N	H	N	H

N = No change; slight change or less than 1 percent of the area potentially affected.

L = Light impact: 1-5 percent of the area potentially affected.

M = Moderate impact; 5-20 percent of the area potentially affected.

H = High impact; greater than 20 percent of the area potentially affected.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The preferred alternative does not recommend any portion of the Bernard IRA for wilderness. All of the IRA would be available for low levels of development. Before any activity is approved that would have a significant impact on the undeveloped character of the IRA, it would be preceded by an environmental analysis following NEPA procedures and public involvement.

**Black Lake
Roadless Area No. 0402036
5,321 Acres**

DESCRIPTION

The Black Lake IRA, on the Cascade Ranger District, lies between the Thunder Mountain and Trapper Creek Roads (Forest Roads 440 and 440A), and adjoins the FC-RONR Wilderness. The area is accessed from the Thunder Mountain Road, off the Johnson Creek Road (Forest Road 413) north of Landmark. The area is also accessed by the Summit Trail (068).

Elevations range from about 7,000 feet near the Thunder Mountain Road to 9,169 feet at Pistol Rock. The area is underlain by Cretaceous granitics of the Idaho batholith. Steep-sided, unshaped glacial valleys are vegetated with Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir, and lodgepole pine in the higher country and Douglas-fir at the lower elevations. Generally, the Black Lake area has high-elevation U-shaped glacial valleys and cirque basin topography. Prominent landmarks include Pistol Rock and Black Lake.

CAPABILITY

Natural Integrity and Appearance: The natural appearance and integrity of the area has been affected in some locations by historic mining activity. Overall, the area generally retains its natural appearance and natural integrity.

Opportunities for Solitude and Primitive Recreation: When considered alone, the Black Lake area has limited opportunities for solitude, challenge, and primitive recreation due to its small size. When considered as an addition to the FC-RONR Wilderness, the area would compliment the extensive opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation in the Wilderness.

Special Features: About 80 acres of the 1,291-acre Chilcoot Peak Research Natural Area lie within this roadless area.

Manageability and Boundaries: A portion of the area's boundaries is shared with the FC-RONR Wilderness. Only a few minor boundary adjustments would be needed to make this a manageable addition.

AVAILABILITY

Recreation: There is one non-motorized trail of an estimated 2.5 miles. Inventoried ROS classes are as follows:

ROS Class	Summer	Winter
Roaded Modified	47%	0%
Semi-Primitive Motorized	0%	100%
Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized	53%	0%

Fisheries: Trapper and Riordan Creeks support bull trout. As the headwaters of Riordan Creek, Black Lake may also support bull trout. The entire IRA is within area designated as critical habitat for spring/summer chinook salmon. Spawning and rearing habitat exists for chinook salmon and bull trout. There are an estimated 3.1 miles of stream with bull trout spawning and rearing habitat.

Wildlife: Confirmed gray wolf activity has occurred in this IRA, with increasing activity occurring since the augmentation program in the 1990s. An estimated 88 percent of this IRA is identified lynx habitat. Fisher, wolverine, boreal owl, great gray owl, northern three-toed woodpecker, northern goshawk, flammulated owl, Townsend's big-eared bat, spotted bat, and spotted frog are Region 4 sensitive species either known or highly likely to occur in this IRA. Potential wolverine denning habitat has been identified in the area.

Water: There are a few scattered small bodies of water in the area. Black Lake contains the headwaters of Riordan Creek and Trapper Creek that eventually flow to Johnson Creek. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other uses on the Forest.

Range: Portions of two allotments encompassing the entire IRA. One allotment is grazed by cattle and managed under a rest-rotation system. The other allotment is grazed with horses under a season-long grazing system. There are 207 acres of capable cattle rangeland in this IRA.

Timber: The roadless area has 33,927 thousand board feet (MBF) of standing timber volume, equivalent to 67,123 hundred cubic feet (CCF). An estimated 4,400 acres (83 percent) of the Black Lake IRA are tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 1,996 acres are considered to have low productivity; 3,007 acres, moderate productivity; and 0 acres, high productivity.

Minerals: There are 263 mining claims in the area. The area is estimated to have a high level of mineral development interest.

Heritage: Cultural resource site sensitivity is rated as moderate based upon the topography and report of historic sites. The area has had few surveys conducted within it.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no private or state lands within the IRA, and no special uses.

Disturbances: There have been no major disturbances in the area recently.

Botanical Characteristics: No threatened, endangered, or Region 4 sensitive plant species are known to occur in the area. There have been few plant surveys conducted in the area. There are no inventoried locations of noxious weeds within the roadless area.

NEED

Proximity to Designated Wilderness and Population Centers: This area adjoins the FC-RONR Wilderness. The area lies about 90 miles from Boise and 35 miles from Cascade. As a designated wilderness, this area would serve the local communities of Yellow Pine and Cascade, and the population centers of Boise and Spokane.

Biological: This IRA lies within the M332 Ecoregion (Middle Rocky Mountain Steppe-Coniferous Forest-Alpine Meadow Province), which is well represented in existing wildernesses.

Public Interest: There has been moderate public interest in this area becoming wilderness. Concerned individuals or organizations specifically suggested this IRA for wilderness recommendation in response to the DEIS. This IRA is recommended for wilderness designation in the most recent wilderness bill, HR 488, the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act.

WILDERNESS EVALUATION SUMMARY

Capability Summary:

Apparent Naturalness	Moderate
Opportunity for Solitude	High
Opportunities for Challenge and Adventure	High
Special Features	Present

Determination of Availability or Unavailability: The IRA does not meet any of the criteria listed in FSH 1909.12.7.22a. Therefore the IRA is available for wilderness designation.

Values Foregone With Wilderness Designation: The economic values associated with 4,400 acres of tentatively suited timberlands containing 33,397 MBF or 67,123 CCF would be foregone. Values from future mineral development would likely be foregone, although rights to valid existing claims might be retained. This area has high potential for mineral development. No motorized use currently occurs. While there are no trails currently receiving mountain bike use, potential mountain bike opportunities would be foregone.

Biological and Social Need: The M332 Ecoregion is well represented in existing designated wildernesses. Concerned individuals or organizations specifically suggested this IRA for wilderness recommendation in response to the DEIS.

ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

IRA Disposition by Alternative: The following table displays IRA management disposition for each alternative in acres. These values represent the potential, long-term outcomes of managing the IRA based solely upon its MPC assignments.

IRA Management Disposition	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Recommended Wilderness	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maintain undeveloped character	82	82	82	82	82	5,321	82
Potential low levels of development	0	5,239	5,239	5,239	5,239	0	5,239
Available for full range of development	5,239	0	0	0	0	0	0

Potential Future Development: Potential future development is represented by combinations of management emphasis/direction (MPCs), and existing conditions that are likely to become priority areas for development activities over the course of the next two or three decades. The development activities chosen for this estimation are timber harvest, vegetation restoration, and fuel reduction. Development potential is expressed in acres in the table below.

Potential Development	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Timber activities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Restoration/fuel reduction activities	4,014	4,014	4,014	0	4,014	0	4,014
Total	4,014	4,014	4,014	0	4,014	0	4,014

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics: The following table displays the effects on wilderness characteristics for each alternative. The effects on wilderness characteristics are based on the estimation of potential future development.

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
	H	H	H	N	H	N	H

N = No change; slight change or less than 1 percent of the area potentially affected.

L = Light impact: 1-5 percent of the area potentially affected.

M = Moderate impact; 5-20 percent of the area potentially affected.

H = High impact; greater than 20 percent of the area potentially affected.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The preferred alternative does not recommend any portion of the Black Lake IRA for wilderness. The 82 acres in the Chilcoot Peak Research Natural Area would retain its undeveloped character; the remaining IRA would be available for low levels of development. Before any activity is approved that would have a significant impact on the undeveloped character of the IRA, it would be preceded by an environmental analysis following NEPA procedures and public involvement.

**Breadwinner
Roadless Area No. 0402006
20,476 Acres**

DESCRIPTION

The Breadwinner IRA is located on the Idaho City and Mountain Home Ranger Districts, and extends between Badger Creek recreation site and Alexander Flats along the Middle Fork Boise River and between Troutdale and Barber Flat on the North Fork Boise River. The Breadwinner area can also be accessed by the Cottonwood Creek (189), Haga Creek (130), and Short Creek (168) Trails.

Elevations in this roadless area, which is underlain by granitics of the Idaho batholith, range from 3,100 to 6,000 feet. Slopes are steep and dissected by small streams; about one-third of the area has slopes over 60 percent. Hot dry summers and shallow granitic soils support open brush-grass communities scattered with stands of ponderosa pine. Stands of Douglas-fir occur on northern slopes and are broken by open non-forested areas. Overall, the Breadwinner area has rolling dry slopes, forested peaks, and V-shaped canyons and gullies. The North Fork Boise River Canyon, from Troutdale to Rabbit Creek, provides good opportunities for river floating.

CAPABILITY

Natural Integrity and Appearance: Although the natural integrity of this area has been affected by early placer mining, evidence of these past activities is very limited. The natural appearance is relatively intact. There is a short segment (0.17 mile) of classified road just within the IRA boundary.

Opportunities for Solitude and Primitive Recreation: The 7-mile float trip down the North Fork Boise River from Rabbit Creek to Troutdale provides the best opportunities for solitude, primitive recreation, and challenging experience in this roadless area. This section of the river is rugged and isolated. Opportunities for the float trip are restricted to certain times of the year when river flows are adequate.

Special Features: The 852-acre North Fork Boise River Research Natural Area is contained within the Breadwinner IRA. The Breadwinner IRA contains an eight-mile stretch of the North Fork Boise River just prior to its confluence with the Middle Fork. The confluence of the Middle and North Fork Boise River occurs within the IRA. A segment of the Middle Fork Boise River lies adjacent to the southern boundary and a segment of the North Fork Boise River bisects the IRA. These river segments are eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation. Within the IRA there is a total of 9.8 river miles and 3,420 corridor acres eligible for inclusion within the Wild and Scenic River system.

Manageability and Boundaries: There is a small (about 1,500 acres) portion in the northwestern corner that is effectively isolated from the main body of the IRA. Redefining the boundaries to exclude this portion would facilitate wilderness manageability. The North Fork and Middle Forks of the Boise River would make logical boundaries for much of the area.

AVAILABILITY

Recreation: Recreational use consists primarily of fall big-game hunting, some upland bird hunting, and some spring river floating and river fishing in the Middle and North Fork Boise River. There is some incidental hiking and backpacking in the area. There are three trails in the area, including two motorized trails totaling about 5.7 miles and 1.5 miles of non-motorized trail.

Inventoried ROS classes are as follows:

ROS Class	Summer	Winter
Roaded Natural	17%	14%
Roaded Modified	26%	0%
Semi-Primitive Motorized	14%	27%
Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized	43%	59%

Fisheries: Streams that are located in this area are Logging Gulch, French Creek, Haga Creek, and Meadow Creek. These streams contain redband rainbow trout and brook trout, but do not contain bull trout. The North Fork Boise River is important nodal (migration and over-wintering) habitat for bull trout and also contains suckers, whitefish, and sculpins. The North Fork Boise River also provides important wintering habitat for adult redband rainbow trout.

Wildlife: The area contains species typical for ponderosa pine up to subalpine fir habitats. The area contains important security area for big game (elk and deer) and for species such as wolverine. Bald eagles winter along the North and Middle Forks Boise River. Habitat for fisher, northern goshawk, white-headed woodpecker, flammulated owl, great gray owl, and mountain quail exists or is likely to exist in the area. Important winter range for elk and mule deer occurs along the Middle Fork and North Forks Boise River.

Water: The Breadwinner IRA contains a portion of the North Fork Boise River, and the Middle Fork Boise River borders the area to the south. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other uses on the Forest.

Range: All of the IRA is within a sheep allotment. There are no grazing improvements within the IRA. There are 2,433 acres of capable sheep rangelands.

Timber: The IRA includes about 77,484 thousand board feet (MCF) of standing timber volume, equivalent to 155,403 hundred cubic feet (CCF). An estimated 8,600 acres (41 percent) are tentatively suited timberland, with 3,978 acres considered to have low productivity; 6,323 acres, moderate productivity; and 1,278 acres, high productivity.

Minerals: There are currently 98 mining claims within the area.

Heritage: The area has low cultural resource sensitivity. There are Civilian Conservation Corps structures, mining, and prehistoric sites documented along the Middle Fork Boise River.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no private or state lands within the IRA. One outfitter guide provides cougar and bear hunting opportunities.

Disturbances: There have been 13 recorded wildfire ignitions or occurrences since 1960. An estimated 730 acres have burned by wildfire since then.

Botanical Characteristics: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur in the area. Rush skeletonweed, a noxious weed, has infested an estimated 215 acres.

NEED

Proximity to Designated Wilderness and Population Centers: The area lies about 20 miles west of the Atlanta entrance to the Sawtooth Wilderness. The area lies about 30 miles from Boise. As a designated wilderness, the area would serve the local communities of Idaho City and Prairie, and the population centers of Boise and Salt Lake City.

Biological: This IRA lies within the M332 Ecoregion (Middle Rocky Mountain Steppe-Coniferous Forest-Alpine Meadow Province), which is well represented in existing wildernesses.

Public Interest: There has been moderate public interest in this area becoming wilderness. Concerned individuals or organizations specifically suggested this IRA for wilderness recommendation in response to the DEIS. The area was also recommended for wilderness in the most recent wilderness bill, HR 488, the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act.

WILDERNESS EVALUATION SUMMARY

Capability Summary:

Apparent Naturalness	High
Opportunity for Solitude	Moderate
Opportunities for Challenge and Adventure	Moderate
Special Features	Present

Determination of Availability or Unavailability: The IRA does not meet any of the criteria listed in FSH 1909.12.7.22a. Therefore, the IRA is available for wilderness designation.

Values Foregone With Wilderness Designation: The economic values associated with 8,600 acres of tentatively suited timberlands containing 77,484 MBF or 155,403 CCF would be foregone (41 percent of the IRA). Values from future mineral development would likely be foregone, although rights to valid existing claims might be retained. This area has some potential for mineral development. Current motorized recreation use opportunities on 5.7 miles of trail would be foregone. Mountain bike use opportunities would be foregone; there is a segment of an identified mountain bike trail in the area.

Biological and Social Need: The M332 Ecoregion is well represented in existing designated wildernesses. Concerned individuals or organizations specifically suggested this IRA for wilderness recommendation.

ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

IRA Disposition by Alternative: The following table displays IRA management disposition for each alternative in acres. These values represent the potential, long-term outcomes of managing the IRA based solely upon its MPC assignments.

IRA Management Disposition	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Recommended Wilderness	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maintain undeveloped character	852	852	852	20,476	852	20,476	852
Potential low levels of development	0	0	5,231	0	0	0	19,624
Available for full range of development	19,624	19,624	14,393	0	19,624	0	0

Potential Future Development: Potential future development is represented by combinations of management emphasis/direction (MPCs), and existing conditions that are likely to become priority areas for development activities over the course of the next two or three decades. The development activities chosen for this estimation are timber harvest, vegetation restoration, and fuel reduction. Development potential is expressed in acres in the table below.

Potential Development	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Timber activities	5,629	0	0	0	2,454	0	0
Restoration/fuel reduction activities	0	6,026	6,026	0	3,392	0	6,026
Total	5,629	6,026	6,026	0	5,846	0	6,026

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics: The following table displays the effects on wilderness characteristics for each alternative. The effects on wilderness characteristics are based on the estimation of potential future development.

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
	H	H	H	N	H	N	H

N = No change; slight change or less than 1 percent of the area potentially affected.

L = Light impact: 1-5 percent of the area potentially affected.

M = Moderate impact; 5-20 percent of the area potentially affected.

H = High impact; greater than 20 percent of the area potentially affected.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The preferred alternative does not recommend any portion of the Breadwinner IRA for wilderness. An 852-acre portion of the Breadwinner IRA would be managed as the North Fork Boise River Research Natural Area, retaining the undeveloped character of that portion. The remainder of the IRA would be available for low levels of development. Before any activity is approved that would have a significant impact on the undeveloped character of the IRA, it would be preceded by an environmental analysis following NEPA procedures and public involvement.

**Burnt Log
Roadless Area No. 0402035
23,697 Acres**

DESCRIPTION

The Burnt Log roadless area, on the Cascade Ranger District, lies about one mile north of Landmark. The area is accessed by the Horn Creek and Burnt Log Roads (Forest Roads 414 and 447), via the Warm Lake-Stanley Road (Forest Road 579). The area is also accessed by the McClure (089), Burnt Log (123), and Pistol Creek (087) Trails. The area has a very irregular shape, with long fingers and a narrow section adjoining the FC-RONR Wilderness.

Elevations range from about 5,400 feet at the mouth of Burnt Log Creek to about 9,000 feet near Chilcoot Peak. In the lower portion of the Burnt Log Creek drainage, flat to gently rolling terrain drops off steeply into Johnson Creek. The area is dominated by lodgepole pine and subalpine fir, though stands of ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir are found on lower, steep slopes. Overall, the Burnt Log IRA is marked by flat ridge-tops and deep, steep V-shaped drainages.

CAPABILITY

Natural Integrity and Appearance: The natural integrity and appearance of the Burnt Log roadless area is generally intact. There are short segments of three different classified roads within the IRA, totaling 0.6 mile.

Opportunities for Solitude and Primitive Recreation: The area is fairly large, yet the extremely irregular and complex shape limits the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. As a result, many portions of the area are less than one mile wide, while the widest portion is less than 4 miles in width. Opportunities for solitude exist due to the complex and varied terrain, while the convoluted shape restricts opportunities for challenge or primitive recreation. A very narrow segment of the area is contiguous to the FC-RONR Wilderness.

Special Features: Most of the 1,291-acre Chilcoot Peak Research Natural Area lies within this roadless area. A segment of Burnt Log Creek bisects the IRA and is eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation. An estimated 10.5 miles of the river and 3,110 acres of the river corridor occur within the IRA. This roadless area also supports a small population of mountain goats. Chilcoot Creek and nearby Chilcoot Lake are areas of special recreational interest.

Manageability and Boundaries: Because of the very complex and irregular boundaries, it would be difficult to define and administer the area as a designated wilderness. More logical and definable boundaries could be drawn, but would result in a large reduction of acreage.

AVAILABILITY

Recreation: There are five trails within the roadless area, of which about 12 miles are motorized and 7.2 miles are non-motorized. Inventoried ROS classes are as follows:

ROS Class	Summer	Winter
Roaded Natural	9%	0%
Roaded Modified	72%	0%
Semi-Primitive Motorized	0%	97%
Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized	19%	3%

Fisheries: Peanut Creek, a tributary to Burnt Log Creek, supports westslope cutthroat trout. Burnt Log Creek supports westslope cutthroat trout and bull trout populations, and is used as spawning and rearing habitat by listed chinook and steelhead. Johnson Creek also supports westslope cutthroat trout, and provides spawning and rearing habitat for listed chinook, steelhead and bull trout. The IRA encompasses portions of other streams in the Johnson Creek drainage that may also provide spawning and/or rearing habitat for listed chinook, steelhead, bull trout, and cutthroat trout. The entire IRA is within an area designated as critical habitat for spring/summer chinook salmon. An estimated 15.7 miles of stream are bull trout spawning and rearing habitat.

Wildlife: Confirmed gray wolf activity has occurred in this IRA, with increasing activity occurring since the augmentation program in the 1990s. Over 70 percent of this IRA is potential lynx habitat. Fisher, wolverine, boreal owl, great gray owl, northern three-toed woodpecker, northern goshawk, flammulated owl, Townsend's big-eared bat, spotted bat, and spotted frog are Region 4 sensitive species either known or highly likely to occur in this IRA. The IRA provides relatively undisturbed and remote habitat that is very valuable for these species.

Water: There are a few scattered small bodies of water in the area. The area has a number of perennial streams in the Burnt Log Creek drainage that flow northwesterly to Johnson Creek. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish, wildlife and other uses on the Forest.

Range: A portion of one allotment encompasses about 80 percent of the roadless area. It is grazed by cattle and managed under a rest-rotation system. There are 964 acres of capable cattle rangeland in the IRA. The portion of the allotment within the roadless area receives moderate use and contains fences used for stock management.

Timber: The IRA has 187,412 thousand board feet (MBF) of standing timber volume, equivalent to 369,015 hundred cubic feet (CCF). An estimated 21,300 acres (90 percent) of the Burnt Log IRA are tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 14,173 acres are considered to have low productivity; 8,831 acres, moderate productivity; and 0 acres, high productivity.

Minerals: There are no mining claims in the area and the area is not considered a potential mineral development area. A portion of the IRA is considered a fair to poor permissive area for silt, sand and gravel.

Heritage: Cultural resource site sensitivity is rated as moderate. Historic mining sites, Thunder Mountain Road, and prehistoric sites have been identified adjacent the area.

Landownership and Special Uses: There is no private or state land within the IRA. There is one outfitter-guide permit for big-game hunting and horse trail riding.

Disturbances: There have been six recorded wildfire ignitions or events since 1960 in the area, burning an estimated 1,890 acres.

Botanical Characteristics: No threatened, endangered, or Region 4 sensitive plant species are known to occur in the area. There have been few plant surveys conducted in the area. There are no inventoried locations of noxious weeds within the roadless area.

NEED

Proximity to Designated Wilderness and Population Centers: A small portion of the area is immediately adjacent the FC-RONR Wilderness. The area lies about 80 miles from Boise and 27 miles from Cascade. As a designated wilderness, this area would serve the communities of Cascade and Yellow Pine, and the population centers of Boise and Spokane.

Biological: This IRA lies within the M332 Ecoregion (Middle Rocky Mountain Steppe-Coniferous Forest-Alpine Meadow Province), which is well represented in existing wilderness.

Public Interest: There has been moderate public interest in this area becoming wilderness. Concerned individuals or organizations specifically suggested this IRA for wilderness recommendation in response to the DEIS. This IRA is recommended for wilderness designation in the most recent wilderness bill, HR 488, the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act.

WILDERNESS EVALUATION SUMMARY

Capability Summary:

Apparent Naturalness	High
Opportunity for Solitude	Moderate
Opportunities for Challenge and Adventure	Moderate
Special Features	Present

Determination of Availability or Unavailability: The IRA does not meet any of the criteria listed in FSH 1909.12.7.22a. Therefore, the IRA is available for wilderness designation.

Values Foregone With Wilderness Designation: The economic values associated with 21,300 acres of tentatively suited timberlands containing 187,412 MBF or 369,015 CCF would be foregone. Values from future mineral development would likely be foregone, although rights to valid existing claims might be retained. However, this area has low potential for mineral development. Current motorized recreation use opportunities associated with 12 miles of motorized trail would be foregone. While no trails are currently used for mountain biking, potential mountain bike use would be foregone.

Biological and Social Need: The M332 Ecoregion is well represented in existing designated wildernesses. Concerned individuals or organizations specifically suggested this IRA for wilderness recommendation.

ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

IRA Disposition by Alternative: The following table displays IRA management disposition for each alternative in acres. These values represent the potential, long-term outcomes of managing the IRA based solely upon its MPC assignments.

IRA Management Disposition	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Recommended Wilderness	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maintain undeveloped character	727	727	727	727	727	23,697	727
Potential low levels of development	0	22,970	22,970	22,970	11,520	0	22,970
Available for a full range of development	22,970	0	0	0	11,450	0	0

Potential Future Development: Potential future development is represented by combinations of management emphasis/direction (MPCs), and existing conditions that are likely to become priority areas for development activities over the course of the next two or three decades. The development activities chosen for this estimation are timber harvest, vegetation restoration, and fuel reduction. Development potential is expressed in acres in the table below.

Potential Development	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Timber activities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Restoration/fuel reduction activities	18,628	18,628	18,628	0	18,628	0	1,132
Total	18,628	18,628	18,628	0	18,628	0	1,132

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics: The following table displays the effects on wilderness characteristics for each alternative. The effects on wilderness characteristics are based on the estimation of potential future development.

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
	H	H	H	N	H	N	L

N = No change; slight change or less than 1 percent of the area potentially affected.

L = Light impact; 1-5 percent of the area potentially affected.

M = Moderate impact; 5-20 percent of the area potentially affected.

H = High impact; greater than 20 percent of the area potentially affected.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The preferred alternative does not recommend any portion of the Burnt Log IRA for wilderness. A small portion of the area will be managed as the Chilcoot Peak Research Natural Area, retaining its undeveloped character. Most of the IRA would be available for low levels of development. Before any activity is approved that would have a significant impact on the undeveloped character of the IRA, it would be preceded by an environmental analysis following NEPA procedures and public involvement.

Cathedral Rocks
Roadless Area No. 0402038
8,203 Acres

DESCRIPTION

In the previous Forest Plan, this area was as considered part of the larger Danskin IRA. The area was and continues to be effectively segregated from the larger Danskin IRA by Forest Road 165. Accordingly, the area has been made a separate, independent roadless area.

The Cathedral Rocks area, in the Mountain Home Ranger District, is roughly bounded by the Forest boundary on the south, and the South Fork Boise River on the north and east. This area lies about 35 miles east of Boise, and is accessed by Forest Roads 134 and 113 leading from State Highway 20. Elevations range from 3,200 to 7,000 feet. The topography includes rolling to very steep hills, broadening into benches and valleys. Brush and grass communities, with scattered stands of ponderosa pine, dominate this area.

CAPABILITY

Natural Integrity and Appearance: A primitive road network winds through the area. The northern portion retains its predominant natural appearance, while the southern portion is crossed by a number of primitive roads. There are a number of grazing developments in the form of water troughs or other water developments that detract from the natural appearance.

Opportunities for Solitude and Primitive Recreation: There are few opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation due to the relatively small size and the generally open terrain. The central portion narrows to about a mile in width.

Special Features: A segment of the South Fork Boise River lies adjacent to the eastern boundary and is eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation. An estimated 1.5 miles of the river and 490 acres of the river corridor occur within the IRA. Cathedral Rocks are a unique geological formation of special interest.

Manageability and Boundaries: The existing network of primitive roads could result in manageability problems with a wilderness designation. Much of the current boundaries occur along private/federal landlines.

AVAILABILITY

Recreation: There are few recreational activities occurring in the area. There are no inventoried trails in the area. Inventoried ROS classes are as follows:

ROS Class	Summer	Winter
Roaded Natural	7%	7%
Roaded Modified	43%	0%
Semi-Primitive Motorized	50%	93%

Fisheries: Streams that are located in this area are Bock Creek, Menecke Creek, and Cayuse Creek. These streams are small with high gradients, but may provide some fish habitat during the spring and early summer. Usually, the flows decrease in late summer and fall to where the streams are too small to support a fish population.

Wildlife: The area occurs within the range of the gray wolf, although there is no known denning or rendezvous activity reported in the area. Habitat for wintering bald eagles occurs within the area. There is a historical nest site for peregrine falcon in the Cathedral Rocks area, but there has been no recorded nesting in the last 25 years. Only minor potential habitat occurs for northern three-toed woodpecker, northern goshawk, and flammulated owl, due to past fires eliminating much of the nesting habitat. Potential habitat occurs for spotted bat, Townsend's big-eared bat, and the spotted frog. Historical habitat occurs for mountain quail. The IRA provides security for big game and contains big-game winter range.

Water: A few perennial streams flow northeasterly to the South Fork Boise River. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other uses on the Forest.

Range: Portions of two cattle allotments cover the entire area. One is managed under a rest rotation system, and both have improvements such as water developments and fences within the IRA. There are 2,038 acres of capable cattle rangeland in the IRA.

Timber: The IRA contains 4,081 thousand board feet (MBF) of standing timber volume, equivalent to 7,865 hundred cubic feet (CCF). An estimated 900 acres (11 percent) of the Cathedral Rocks IRA are tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 62 acres are considered to have low productivity; 856 acres, moderate productivity; and 69 acres, high productivity.

Minerals: There are few mining claims in the area.

Heritage: This area has had little previous survey; however, based upon the topography and sites found in the adjacent roaded areas, this IRA appears to have moderate site sensitivity.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no private or state lands within the IRA.

Disturbances: There have been 19 recorded wildfire occurrences or ignitions since 1960. Most of the acreage burned (7,965 acres) with the 1992 Foothills Fire.

Botanical Characteristics: No threatened, endangered, or Region 4 sensitive plant species are known to occur in the area. Leafy spurge, a noxious weed, has infested an estimated 26 acres.

NEED

Proximity to Designated Wilderness and Population Centers: The Cathedral Rocks area lies about 60 road miles from the Atlanta entrance to the Sawtooth Wilderness Area. The area lies about 35 miles from Boise and about 25 miles from Mountain Home. As a designated wilderness, the area would serve the local communities of Mountain Home and Prairie, and population centers such as Boise and Salt Lake City.

Biological: This IRA lies within the M332 Ecoregion (Middle Rocky Mountain Steppe-Coniferous Forest-Alpine Meadow Province), which is well represented in existing wilderness.

Public Interest: There has been relatively low public interest in this area becoming wilderness. Only one concerned individual specifically identified this IRA for wilderness recommendation in response to the DEIS. This IRA is recommended for wilderness designation in the most recent wilderness bill, HR 488, the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act.

WILDERNESS EVALUATION SUMMARY

Capability Summary:

Apparent Naturalness	Moderate
Opportunity for Solitude	Moderate
Opportunities for Challenge and Adventure	Moderate
Special Features	Present

Determination of Availability or Unavailability: The IRA does not meet any of the criteria listed in FSH 1909.12.7.22a. Therefore the IRA is available for wilderness designation.

Values Foregone With Wilderness Designation: The economic values associated with 900 acres of tentatively suited timberlands containing 4,081 MBF or 7,865 CCF would be foregone. Values from future mineral development would likely be foregone, although rights to valid existing claims might be retained. However, this area has low potential for mineral development. Current motorized recreation use opportunities would be foregone. The opportunity for public motorized use on the existing primitive roads would be foregone.

Biological and Social Need: The M332 Ecoregion is well represented in existing designated wildernesses. Only one concerned individual specifically identified this IRA for wilderness recommendation.

ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

IRA Disposition by Alternative: The following table displays IRA management disposition for each alternative in acres. These values represent the potential, long-term outcomes of managing the IRA based solely upon its MPC assignments.

IRA Management Disposition	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Recommended Wilderness	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maintain undeveloped character	0	0	0	0	0	8,203	0
Potential low levels of development	0	0	0	6,150	0	0	8,203
Available for a full range of development	8,203	8,203	8,203	2,053	8,203	0	0

Potential Future Development: Potential future development is represented by combinations of management emphasis/direction (MPCs), and existing conditions that are likely to become priority areas for development activities over the course of the next two or three decades. The development activities chosen for this estimation are timber harvest, vegetation restoration, and fuel reduction. Development potential is expressed in acres in the table below.

Potential Development	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Timber activities	1083	1083	303	0	1083	0	0
Restoration/fuel reduction activities	0	0	792	353	0	0	1093
Total	1083	1083	1095	353	1083	0	1093

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics: The following table displays the effects on wilderness characteristics for each alternative. The effects on wilderness characteristics are based on the estimation of potential future development.

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
	M	M	M	L	M	N	M

N = No change; slight change or less than 1 percent of the area potentially affected.

L = Light impact: 1-5 percent of the area potentially affected.

M = Moderate impact; 5-20 percent of the area potentially affected.

H = High impact; greater than 20 percent of the area potentially affected.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The preferred alternative does not recommend any portion of the Cathedral Rocks IRA for wilderness. Essentially all of the roadless area would be available for low levels of development. Before any activity is approved that would have a significant impact on the undeveloped character of the roadless area, it would be preceded by an environmental analysis following NEPA procedures and public involvement.

**Cow Creek
Roadless Area No. 0402028
14,717 Acres**

DESCRIPTION

The Cow Creek roadless area lies south and west of Arrowrock Reservoir, north of the Wood Creek Road, and east of the Grouse Creek Road. The northern boundary adjoins the Arrowrock Reservoir. The area is accessed from the Wood Creek Road and Grouse Creek Trail, via the Upper Black's Creek Road off Interstate 84. No trail access is present.

Elevations range from about 3,200 feet along the Middle Fork Boise River to about 5,000 feet. The area is underlain by Cretaceous granitics of the Idaho batholith. Moderately steep lands with rounded ridge tops are strongly dissected and covered with open brush-grass communities. Overall, the area is marked by steep to rolling dry hills, broken by V-shaped canyons. No prominent features are present.

CAPABILITY

Natural Integrity and Appearance: The natural integrity and apparent naturalness of the Cow Creek area is generally intact. There are approximately 50 stock tanks consisting of heavy equipment tires, scattered through the area that detract from the natural appearance. There are two segments of classified roads within the IRA that total 3.76 miles. These roads penetrate to the interior of the IRA.

Opportunities for Solitude and Primitive Recreation: Opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are affected by the lack of cover and views of adjacent development. A sense of solitude would be difficult to achieve from points where motorized use on Arrowrock Reservoir is readily observable.

Special Features: There are no identified special features.

Manageability and Boundaries: The area has some irregular boundaries that could be difficult to administer. Offsets from high water elevations of the reservoir could form fairly logical boundaries along most of the northern and eastern sides.

AVAILABILITY

Recreation: Day hikers and fishermen accessing the South Fork Boise River use the area. There are no inventoried system trails in the area. Inventoried ROS classes are as follows:

ROS Class	Summer	Winter
Roaded Natural	14%	13%
Roaded Modified	16%	0%
Semi-Primitive Motorized	19%	87%
Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized	51%	0%

Fisheries: Streams of this area are Grouse, Cow, and Deadman Creeks. These streams are short and steep with intermittent flows. Grouse Creek is the largest stream and may have some redband rainbow trout in the lower reach. The fishery value of these streams is limited due to their small size.

Wildlife: The area occurs within the range of the gray wolf although there is no known denning or rendezvous activity reported in the area. The area includes wintering bald eagle habitat and an active eagle nest. There is minimal replacement eagle nesting habitat because of the relative lack of trees in the area. Minor potential habitat occurs for northern three-toed woodpecker, northern goshawk, flammulated owl, and white-headed woodpecker due to past fires eliminating nesting habitats. Potential habitat occurs for spotted bat, Townsend's big-eared bat, and spotted frog. Historical habitat occurs for the mountain quail. The IRA provides security for big game and contains big-game winter range.

Water: Perennials flow north and east to Arrowrock Reservoir and south to Wood Creek. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other uses on the Forest. An estimated 940 acres are within a municipal watershed of United Water Idaho.

Range: All of the area is within one sheep allotment managed under a rest rotation system. There is an intensive amount of water developments and some fencing. There are 1,984 acres of capable cattle rangeland in the IRA.

Timber: The IRA contains 10,494 thousand board feet (MBF) of standing timber volume, equivalent to 20,756 hundred cubic feet (CCF). An estimated 1000 acres (7 percent) of the Cow Creek IRA contains tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 774 acres are considered to have low productivity; 921 acres, moderate productivity; and 10 acres, high productivity.

Minerals: A small portion of the southwest corner of the IRA has been identified as a low potential mineral development area. There are over 100 scattered mining claims in the southern portion of the IRA. The area has a portion that is considered a fair to poor permissive area for silt, sand and gravel.

Heritage: The area has low cultural resource sensitivity. Surveys in adjoining and overlapping areas, in similar topographic situations, indicate the area likely has a low site density.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no private or state lands within the IRA. One outfitter-guide provides cougar and bear hunting opportunities.

Disturbances: There have been 11 recorded wildfire ignitions or occurrences in the area. A total of 14,580 acres have burned in wildfires, with most of this attributed to the 1992 Foothills Fire.

Botanical Characteristics: No threatened, endangered, or Region 4 sensitive plant species are known to occur in the area. Rush skeletonweed has infested an estimated 2 acres of the IRA.

NEED

Proximity to Designated Wilderness and Population Centers: The Cow Creek IRA lies about 60 miles from the Atlanta entrance to the Sawtooth Wilderness. The area lies about 18 miles from Boise and about 30 miles from Mountain Home. As a designated Wilderness, the area would serve the local community of Mountain Home, and population centers of Boise and Salt Lake City.

Biological: An estimated 51 percent of this IRA lies within the M342 Ecoregion (Intermountain Semi-desert Province), which is minimally represented in existing wildernesses. The remainder (49 percent) lies within the M332 Ecoregion (Middle Rocky Mountain Steppe-Coniferous Forest-Alpine Meadow Province), which is well represented in existing wildernesses.

Public Interest: There has been relatively low public interest in this area becoming wilderness. Only one concerned individual specifically identified this IRA for wilderness recommendation in response to the DEIS. This IRA is recommended for wilderness designation in the most recent wilderness bill, HR 488, the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act.

WILDERNESS EVALUATION SUMMARY

Capability Summary:

Apparent Naturalness	Moderate
Opportunity for Solitude	Moderate
Opportunities for Challenge and Adventure	Moderate
Special Features	None

Determination of Availability or Unavailability: The IRA does not meet any of the criteria listed in FSH 1909.12.7.22a. Therefore, the IRA is available for Wilderness designation.

Values Foregone With Wilderness Designation: The economic values associated with 1000 acres of tentatively suited timberlands containing 10,494 MBF or 20,756 CCF would be foregone. Values from future mineral development would likely be foregone, although rights to valid existing claims might be retained. However, most of this area has low potential for mineral development. Current motorized recreation use would be foregone, including opportunities for public motorized use on the existing primitive road.

Biological and Social Need: The M342 Ecoregion portion (51 percent) is minimally represented in designated wildernesses, and M332 Ecoregion (49 percent) is well represented. Only one concerned individual specifically identified this IRA for wilderness recommendation.

ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

IRA Disposition by Alternative: The following table displays IRA management disposition for each alternative in acres. These values represent the potential, long-term outcomes of managing the IRA based solely upon its MPC assignments.

IRA Management Disposition	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Recommended Wilderness	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maintain undeveloped character	0	0	0	0	0	14,717	0
Potential low levels of development	0	0	0	0	0	0	14,717
Available for full range of development	14,717	14,717	14,717	14,717	14,717	0	0

Potential Future Development: Potential future development is represented by combinations of management emphasis/direction (MPCs), and existing conditions that are likely to become priority areas for development activities over the course of the next two or three decades. The development activities chosen for this estimation are timber harvest, vegetation restoration, and fuel reduction. Development potential is expressed in acres in the table below.

Potential Development	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Timber activities	0	665	109	0	665	0	0
Restoration/fuel reduction activities	591	0	573	684	0	0	684
Total	591	685	682	684	685	0	684

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics: The following table displays the effects on wilderness characteristics for each alternative. The effects on wilderness characteristics are based on the estimation of potential future development.

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
	L	L	L	L	L	N	L

N = No change; slight change or less than 1 percent of the area potentially affected.

L = Light impact; 1-5 percent of the area potentially affected.

M = Moderate impact; 5-20 percent of the area potentially affected.

H = High impact; greater than 20 percent of the area potentially affected.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The preferred alternative does not recommend any portion of the Cow Creek IRA for wilderness. Essentially all of the roadless area would be available for low levels of development. Before any activity is approved that would have a significant impact on the undeveloped character of the roadless area, it would be preceded by an environmental analysis following NEPA procedures and public involvement.

Danskin
Roadless Area No. 0402001
30,627 Acres

DESCRIPTION

The Danskin IRA, in the Mountain Home Ranger District, is roughly bounded by the Forest boundary to the west, and the South Fork Boise River to the north and east. This area lies about 35 miles east of Boise, and is accessed by the Upper Black's Creek Road from Interstate 84. The area may also be accessed with off-highway vehicles throughout the Willow Creek area.

Elevations range from 3,200 to 7,000 feet. The topography includes rolling to very steep hills, broadening into benches and valleys. Brush and grass communities, with scattered stands of ponderosa pine, dominate this area. Overall, this area is marked by well-dissected rolling and steep hills, broke by v-shaped valleys. Danskin Peak (6,694 feet) lies west of the roadless area.

CAPABILITY

Natural Integrity and Appearance: The natural integrity and appearance of this area has been altered in many locations by an extensive network of all-terrain vehicle (ATV) and motorcycle trails. There are 3.17 miles of classified roads within the IRA. There are numerous scattered water troughs to facilitate grazing that also detract from the natural appearance.

Opportunities for Solitude and Primitive Recreation: Opportunities for solitude are provided due to the large area and the complex broken terrain formed by the numerous drainages and streams flowing to the South Fork Boise River. The lack of vegetative screening on many of the arid slopes and upper elevations limits the available solitude. Currently the motorized use on the popular off-road trail system interrupts the available solitude in much of the area. The large land area does provide opportunities for primitive recreation, while the harsh, arid summer climate challenges cross-country trekkers. The southeastern portion is almost effectively segregated by land ownership inholdings and adds little to the opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation found in the rest of the area.

Special Features: The area is noted for its extensive network of ATV and motorcycle trails. The 593-acre Raspberry Gulch Research Natural Area occurs in the southeastern portion of the IRA. A segment of the South Fork Boise River lies adjacent to the eastern boundary and is eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation. An estimated 7.4 river miles and 1,896 corridor acres are within the IRA.

Manageability and Boundaries: Due to the current and historical motorized use, management as designated wilderness with the accompanying motorized use restrictions could be unpopular with motorized user groups. A logical boundary adjustment to accommodate a wilderness designation would be the deletion of the southeastern portion (about 5,000 acres) that is effectively isolated by land ownership exclusions. This portion also contains totally enclosed private parcels and primitive access roads that would add to the management difficulty.

AVAILABILITY

Recreation: The Danskin Mountains Trail Management Area occupies a large portion of this IRA. The use is mainly motorcycle and ATV, although non-motorized uses are also gaining in popularity. There are hiking and horseback riding activities in the area. The area is a popular fall big-game hunting area; it also receives some upland bird hunting. There are 59 trails with a total of 114 miles in the area. All are motorized trails. Inventoried ROS classes are as follows:

ROS Class	Summer	Winter
Roaded Natural	6%	6%
Roaded Modified	26%	0%
Semi-Primitive Motorized	68%	94%

Fisheries: The main stream in this roadless area is Willow Creek, with tributaries of Beaver, Horse, and Packsaddle Creeks. Virtually all of the tributaries of Willow Creek are quite small with stream flows that are marginal for supporting fish life. Some of the small streams on the eastern side of this area may be providing spawning habitat for fish inhabiting the South Fork Boise River. Willow Creek contains a moderate-sized population of redband rainbow trout, but most of the tributaries are too small and intermittent to sustain fish populations.

Wildlife: The area occurs within the range of the gray wolf, although there is no known denning or rendezvous activity in the area. Wintering bald eagle habitat occurs within the area. Only minor potential habitat occurs for northern three-toed woodpecker, northern goshawk, flammulated owl, pileated woodpecker, and white-headed woodpecker due to past fires that have eliminated much of the nesting habitat. Potential habitat occurs for spotted bat, Townsend's big-eared bat, and spotted frog. Historical habitat occurs for the mountain quail. The IRA provides security for big game, and the area contains a considerable amount of big-game winter range.

Water: Willow Creek and associated streams drain the central portion of the area. Along the eastern boundary perennial streams flow to the South Fork Boise River. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other uses on the Forest.

Range: The Danskin IRA contains portions of four active cattle allotments. All utilize a rest rotation system and have water developments and fences. There are 6,079 acres of capable cattle rangeland in the IRA.

Timber: The IRA contains 22,789 thousand board feet (MBF) of standing timber volume, equivalent to 43,829 hundred cubic feet (CCF). An estimated 2,300 acres (8 percent) of the Danskin IRA contains tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 1,086 acres are considered to have low productivity; 2,302 acres, moderate productivity; and 49 acres, high productivity.

Minerals: Minerals present within the area include molybdenum, gold, silver, copper, lead, nitrate, asbestos, beryllium, and small amounts of uranium. The potential to develop these minerals is low to moderate. There are hundreds of mining claims located mainly in the western portion of the IRA, which is a low potential mineral development area.

Heritage: The area has low cultural resource sensitivity. Prehistoric isolates and historic habitations have been documented within the area.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are three parcels of private land ownership totaling about 320 acres within the IRA.

Disturbances: There have been 23 recorded wildfire ignitions or occurrences in the area. A total of 30,240 acres have burned in wildfires, with most of this attributed to the 1992 Foothills Fire.

Botanical Characteristics: No threatened, endangered, or Region 4 sensitive plant species are known to occur in the area. Scotch thistle, a noxious weed, has infested an estimated 3 acres.

NEED

Proximity to Designated Wilderness and Population Centers: The Danskin area lies about 60 road miles from the Atlanta entrance to the Sawtooth Wilderness Area, 35 miles from Boise, and 25 miles from Mountain Home. As a designated wilderness, the area would serve the local communities of Mountain Home and Prairie, and population centers of Boise and Salt Lake City.

Biological: An estimated 62 percent of this IRA lies within the M332 Ecoregion (Middle Rocky Mountain Steppe-Coniferous Forest-Alpine Meadow Province), which is well represented in existing wildernesses. The remainder of the IRA (38 percent) lies within the M342 Ecoregion (Intermountain Semi-desert Province), which is minimally represented in existing wildernesses.

Public Interest: There has been moderate public interest in this area becoming wilderness. Concerned individuals or organizations specifically suggested this IRA for wilderness recommendation in response to the DEIS. This IRA is recommended for wilderness designation in the most recent wilderness bill, HR 488, the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act.

WILDERNESS EVALUATION SUMMARY

Capability Summary:

Apparent Naturalness	Low
Opportunity for Solitude	Moderate
Opportunities for Challenge and Adventure	Low
Special Features	Present

Determination of Availability or Unavailability: The IRA does not meet any of the criteria listed in FSH 1909.12.7.22a. Therefore the IRA is available for wilderness designation.

Values Foregone With Wilderness Designation: The economic values associated with 2,300 acres of tentatively suited timberlands containing 22,789 MBF or 43,829 CCF would be foregone. Values from future mineral development would likely be foregone, although rights to valid existing claims might be retained. This area has low to moderate potential for mineral development. The area contains the highest concentration of motorized trails on the Forest. The current motorized recreation use opportunities associated with the 114 miles of trails would be foregone. Mountain bike use opportunities on these trails would also be foregone.

Biological and Social Need: The M332 Ecoregion portion (62 percent of IRA) is well represented in designated wildernesses, and M342 Ecoregion (38 percent) is minimally represented. Concerned individuals or organizations specifically suggested this IRA for wilderness recommendation.

ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

IRA Disposition by Alternative: The following table displays IRA management disposition for each alternative in acres. These values represent the potential, long-term outcomes of managing the IRA based solely upon its MPC assignments.

IRA Management Disposition	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Recommended Wilderness	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maintain undeveloped character	589	589	589	589	589	30,627	589
Potential low levels of development	30,038	30,038	0	0	0	0	30,038
Available for full range of development	0	0	30,038	30,038	30,038	0	0

Potential Future Development: Potential future development is represented by combinations of management emphasis/direction (MPCs), and existing conditions that are likely to become priority areas for development activities over the course of the next two or three decades. The development activities chosen for this estimation are timber harvest, vegetation restoration, and fuel reduction. Development potential is expressed in acres in the table below.

Potential Development	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Timber activities	0	0	1,714	0	1,714	0	0
Restoration/fuel reduction activities	0	0	0	1,746	0	0	1,746
Total	0	0	1,714	1,746	1,714	0	1,746

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics: The following table displays the effects on wilderness characteristics for each alternative. The effects on wilderness characteristics were rated as high for all alternatives due to the current extensive network of motorized trails that are expected to continue to be managed as such under all alternatives.

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
	H	H	H	H	H	H	H

N = No change; slight change or less than 1 percent of the area potentially affected.

L = Light impact; 1-5 percent of the area potentially affected.

M = Moderate impact; 5-20 percent of the area potentially affected.

H = High impact; greater than 20 percent of the area potentially affected.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The preferred alternative does not recommend any portion of the Danskin IRA for wilderness. Essentially all of the roadless area would be available for low levels of development, with the exception of the Raspberry Gulch Research Natural Area. Before any activity is approved that would have a significant impact on the undeveloped character of the roadless area, it would be preceded by an environmental analysis following NEPA procedures and public involvement.

**Deadwood
Roadless Area No. 0402020
52,468 Acres**

DESCRIPTION

The Deadwood IRA, on the Lowman and Emmett Ranger District, encompasses the Deadwood River drainage from the Deadwood Reservoir to the confluence of the South Fork Payette River. The area is bounded by the Scott Mountain Road (Forest road 555) on the west and Deadwood Ridge on the east, and is accessed by the Banks-Lowman Highway (Forest Highway 17). The area is also accessed by the Deadwood Ridge (019) and Julie Creek (020) Trails.

Elevations range from about 3,800 feet along the South Fork Payette River to 7,066 feet at Deadwood Mountain. This roadless area is underlain by granitics of the Idaho batholith. Lands at lower elevations are moderately steep and dry, while those at higher elevations are steeper, moister, and more strongly dissected by streams. Steep, rugged canyons enclose the Deadwood River. Sagebrush-grass communities with stands of ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir abound at lower elevations, while dense stands of lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir, and subalpine fir dominate in higher areas. Overall, the Deadwood roadless area is steep, rugged, and remote. Prominent features include the Deadwood River Canyon, Stevens Point (6,640 feet), Deadwood Mountain, and Deadwood Ridge.

CAPABILITY

Natural Integrity and Appearance: The natural appearance and integrity of this roadless area is intact. There is some evidence of salvage logging in the southeast portion within the Clear Creek drainage.

Opportunities for Solitude and Primitive Recreation: The large land mass and the complex mountainous terrain broken by the numerous drainages flowing to the Deadwood River, and the Deadwood River Canyon provide opportunities for solitude and remoteness. Opportunities for primitive recreation are good, especially along the Deadwood River, and the ruggedness of the canyon provides challenging recreation experiences.

Special Features: The lower portion of the Deadwood River bisects the IRA. The South Fork Payette River lies adjacent to the southern boundary. These river segments are eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation. There are an estimated 13.4 river miles and 4,546 river corridor acres within the IRA.

Manageability and Boundaries: Some minor boundary adjustments would be desirable to facilitate identification and management if the area were to be designated wilderness.

AVAILABILITY

Recreation: The IRA receives backcountry fall big-game hunting use concentrated mostly in the areas adjacent to trails and roads. Fall hunting is the predominant recreational use. A few trails in the area receive some mountain bike use. Some of the trails, particularly the Deadwood Ridge Trail, are popular hiking trails as well. There is a popular network of motorized trails in the area that receives a moderate amount of motorized trailbike and ATV use. There are segments of four motorized trails in the area totaling about 24.5 miles. Inventoried ROS classes are as follows:

ROS Class	Summer	Winter
Roaded Natural	14%	4%
Roaded Modified	14%	0%
Semi-Primitive Motorized	26%	84%
Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized	46%	12%

Fisheries: The streams draining the Deadwood IRA are within the Upper South Fork Payette River bull trout key watershed (State of Idaho 1996). The lower Deadwood River bisects the Deadwood IRA. Lower Deadwood River potentially serves as the only migratory corridor between the isolated populations of bull trout in Scott and Warm Springs Creeks. The Scott Creek population is located within this IRA. Given the occurrence of a strong migratory population of bull trout in Clear Creek, the lower Deadwood may also provide feeding habitat or a migratory corridor for large migratory bull trout.

Scott, Ninemile, and No Man Creek, and the lower Deadwood River provide spawning and rearing habitat for redband rainbow trout throughout much of their extent. Many of the other streams within this IRA--such as Lorenzo, Nellie's Basin, Meadow Camp Creek and several unnamed streams--provide spawning and rearing habitat for redband rainbow where they join the Deadwood River. All of these streams are too steep to provide fish habitat beyond a few hundred meters from their confluence with the Deadwood River. This IRA also borders Clear Creek, and many tributaries of Clear Creek originate within this IRA. Clear Creek is of special note because it contains the only documented strong migratory population of bull trout within the South Fork Payette River drainage. The area contains an estimated 4.1 miles of streams with bull trout spawning and rearing habitat.

Wildlife: Gray wolves are known to occur within this area. Bald eagles can be found along the lower portion of Deadwood River and along the South Fork Payette River from mid-October to April. Fish from these rivers and carrion found on adjacent ungulate winter ranges are primary sources of food for wintering eagles. In addition, the Deadwood River corridor at the north end of the IRA may provide a source of food for breeding bald eagles prior to ice melt at Deadwood Reservoir. Potential habitat for lynx, wolverine, and fisher occurs, however their presence in the area is unknown. Wolverine denning habitat has been identified in the area. An estimated 35 percent of the area contains potential lynx habitat. The IRA provides relatively secluded habitat important to these species. Fisher, wolverine, boreal owl, great gray owl, northern three-toed woodpecker, northern goshawk, flammulated owl, Townsend's big-eared bat, spotted bat, and spotted frog are Region 4 sensitive species that are known to occur or could potentially occur within the IRA. The area provides summer and fall habitat for elk and mule deer. The IRA provides security areas for elk and deer during hunting seasons. Lower-elevation slopes along the Deadwood and South Fork Payette Rivers provide wintering areas for elk, deer, and moose.

Water: The Deadwood area has a number of perennial streams that flow to the Deadwood River. Along the east boundary a few perennials flow to Clear Creek. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other uses on the Forest.

Range: Portions of 3 different allotments cover approximately 50 percent of the IRA. These allotments are vacant sheep grazing allotments. Deadwood has 4,480 acres of capable sheep rangeland.

Timber: The area includes an estimated 339,715 thousand board feet (MBF) of standing timber, equivalent to 662,664 hundred cubic feet (CCF). An estimated 40,700 acres (78 percent) of the Deadwood IRA are considered tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 16,662 acres have low productivity; 20,566 acres, moderate productivity; and 49 acres, high productivity.

Minerals: There are currently 177 scattered mining claims in the area. The southwestern portion is part of an identified moderate potential mineral development area. The area also has a portion that is considered a fair to poor permissive area for silt, sand and gravel.

Heritage: The area has a low to moderate cultural resource sensitivity based on the topography. There are documented prehistoric, historic, and mining sites in the vicinity.

Landownership and Special Uses: There is no other private or state land within the IRA. There is a television translator and buried power line in the area. One outfitter-guide service provides big game (deer and elk) and bear and cougar hunting trips in the area. Another outfitter/guide provides big game (deer and elk) hunting trips, summer pack trips, and trail rides in the area. There is a permitted seismic monitoring station east of Scott Mountain Lookout.

Disturbances: There have been eight recorded wildfire ignitions or occurrences in the area. A total of 760 acres have burned in wildfires. There have been high infestations of Douglas-fir beetle along the southeast side in the Clear Creek drainage.

Botanical Characteristics: Idaho bitterroot (*Lewisia kelloggii*), a Region 4 proposed sensitive plant, occurs in the area. Rush skeletonweed, a noxious weed, has infested an estimated 4,120 acres of the IRA.

NEED

Proximity to Designated Wilderness and Population Centers: The Deadwood IRA is 11 miles west of the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness, and about 42 miles from Boise. As a designated wilderness, this area would serve the communities of Lowman and Crouch-Garden Valley, and the population centers of Boise and Salt Lake City.

Biological: This IRA lies within the M332 Ecoregion (Middle Rocky Mountain Steppe-Coniferous Forest-Alpine Meadow Province), which is well represented in existing wildernesses.

Public Interest: There has been moderate to high public interest in this area becoming wilderness. Numerous concerned individuals or organizations specifically suggested this IRA for wilderness recommendation in response to the DEIS. This IRA is recommended for wilderness designation in the most recent wilderness bill, HR 488, the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act.

WILDERNESS EVALUATION SUMMARY

Capability Summary:

Apparent Naturalness	High
Opportunity for Solitude	High
Opportunities for Challenge and Adventure	High
Special Features	Present

Determination of Availability or Unavailability: The IRA does not meet any of the criteria listed in FSH 1909.12.7.22a. Therefore, the IRA is available for wilderness designation.

Values Foregone With Wilderness Designation: The economic values associated with 40,700 acres of tentatively suited timberlands containing 339,715 MBF or 662,664 CCF would be foregone. Values from future mineral development would likely be foregone, although rights to valid existing claims might be retained. This area has low to moderate potential for mineral development. Current motorized recreation use opportunities would be foregone. The area is criss-crossed with a network of motorized trails. Motorized use associated with 24.5 miles of trails would be foregone. Some of the trails are currently used as mountain bike routes and this use would also be foregone.

Biological and Social Need: The M332 Ecoregion is well represented in existing designated wildernesses. Numerous concerned individuals or organizations specifically suggested this IRA for wilderness recommendation in response to the DEIS.

ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

IRA Disposition by Alternative: The following table displays IRA management disposition for each alternative in acres. These values represent the potential, long-term outcomes of managing the IRA based solely upon its MPC assignments.

IRA Management Disposition	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Recommended Wilderness	0	0	0	51,821*	0	0	0
Maintain undeveloped character	647	647	647	647	647	52,468	647
Potential low levels of development	0	3,609	7,171	0	0	0	51,821
Available for full range of development	51,821	48,212	44,650	0	51,821	0	0

*Recommended Wilderness areas do not include acreages for Research Natural Areas within them.

Potential Future Development: Potential future development is represented by combinations of management emphasis/direction (MPCs), and existing conditions that are likely to become priority areas for development activities over the course of the next two or three decades. The development activities chosen for this estimation are timber harvest, vegetation restoration, and fuel reduction. Development potential is expressed in acres in the table below.

Potential Development	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Timber activities	20,861	3,941	0	0	24,187	0	0
Restoration/fuel reduction activities	7,780	25,860	29,905	0	4,127	0	2,905
Total	28,641	29,801	29,905	0	28,313	0	29,905

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics: The following table displays the effects on wilderness characteristics for each alternative. The effects on wilderness characteristics are based on the estimation of potential future development.

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
	H	H	H	N	H	N	H

N = No change; slight change or less than 1 percent of the area potentially affected.

L = Light impact; 1-5 percent of the area potentially affected.

M = Moderate impact; 5-20 percent of the area potentially affected.

H = High impact; greater than 20 percent of the area potentially affected.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The preferred alternative does not recommend any portion of the Deadwood IRA for wilderness. A small portion of the IRA will be managed as a Research Natural Area and maintain its undeveloped character. Most of the IRA would be available for low levels of development. Before any activity is approved that would have a significant impact on the undeveloped character of the IRA, it would be preceded by an environmental analysis following NEPA procedures and public involvement.

**Elk Creek
Roadless Area No. 0402022
14,990 Acres**

DESCRIPTION

The Elk Creek roadless area, in the Lowman Ranger District, is bordered by Bear Valley Creek on the east, Elk Creek on the north, and Bearskin Creek on the west and south. The IRA is accessed from the Clear Creek/Bear Valley Creek Road (Forest Road 582) via State Highway 21, and the Warm Lake-Stanley Highway (Forest Road 579) via State Highway 55 or State Highway 21. The area is also accessed by the Sheep Creek Trail, used by hunters and livestock permittees.

Elevations range from 6,500 feet to 7,700 feet. Steep slopes at lower elevations are vegetated with scattered to dense stands of lodgepole pine. At higher elevations and on northern exposures, subalpine fir dominates. Overall, the Elk Creek area is marked by rolling, mountainous terrain dissected by the Sheep Trail Creek and Cook Creek. A prominent landmark is Cook Creek Ridge on the northern end of the area.

CAPABILITY

Natural Integrity and Appearance: The natural integrity and apparent naturalness of this roadless area are relatively intact, since few activities have occurred in this area.

Opportunities for Solitude and Primitive Recreation: Opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are moderate because of the relatively small size of the area, and the proximity to developed areas; however, the rugged and forested nature of the area tends to counter these limitations.

Special Features: Segments of Elk Creek and Bear Valley Creek lie adjacent or within the northern and eastern IRA boundaries. These creeks are eligible for designation as Wild and Scenic Rivers. There are an estimated 8.3 river miles and 2,310 corridor acres within the IRA.

Manageability and Boundaries: The creeks that border the area on the north and to the east make fairly logical and definable boundaries for management. Forest road 564 makes a deep intrusion into the area from the west, which makes the northern portion a long narrow area generally separated from the main body of the inventoried area. This road has made irregular boundaries that would benefit from adjustments to create a more manageable and definable boundary location if the area were to be designated wilderness.

AVAILABILITY

Recreation: The IRA receives typical backcountry fall big-game hunting use, concentrated mostly in the areas adjacent to the Cook Ridge Road. The area receives little other recreational use. There are no recreation trails in the area. Inventoried ROS classes are as follows:

ROS Class	Summer	Winter
Roaded Natural	26%	0%
Roaded Modified	25%	0%
Semi-Primitive Motorized	0%	100%
Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized	49%	0%

Fisheries: Except for some minor headwater segments, this IRA contains all of Sheep Trail Creek, which flows into Bear Valley Creek at the IRA boundary, and all of Cook Creek, which flows into Elk Creek at the IRA boundary. The northwestern boundary of the IRA roughly follows the lower 2 miles of Bearskin Creek. The northern boundary roughly follows the lower 5 miles of Elk Creek, almost to its confluence with Bear Valley Creek. The eastern boundary roughly follows 8 miles of Bear Valley Creek, to within a half mile of Elk Creek.

Bear Valley Creek and Elk Creek both serve as spawning and rearing habitat for listed spring/summer chinook salmon and steelhead trout, although most steelhead spawning is believed to take place further downstream in Bear Valley Creek. Bearskin Creek historically served as chinook spawning habitat, but because of stream habitat changes, today Bearskin Creek serves only as rearing habitat. The lower ends of other perennial streams may also serve as rearing habitat for both chinook and steelhead. The entire IRA has been designated as critical habitat for salmon. An estimated 17.1 miles of streams have salmon and steelhead spawning and rearing habitat.

The portion of Elk Creek adjacent to this IRA, and the portion of Bear Valley Creek downstream of Cache Creek, serve as nodal or migratory habitat for listed bull trout. Bearskin Creek, the portion of Bear Valley Creek above Cache Creek, Sheep Trail Creek, and Cook Creek serve as adjunct habitat, meaning that they could provide spawning and rearing habitat. Bull trout have been found in portions of Sheep Trail Creek and Bearskin Creek, but do not represent population strongholds. There is spawning and rearing habitat for cutthroat trout.

Wildlife: Gray wolves are known to occur within this area. The complex of wet meadows and adjacent forest cover with high elk use make this area potentially suitable for denning and rendezvous habitat. Potential habitat for lynx, wolverine, and fisher occurs; however, their presence in the area is unknown. The IRA provides relatively secluded habitat important to these species. Most of Elk Creek IRA has been identified as potential lynx habitat, with an estimated 83 percent of the area considered lynx habitat. Boreal owl, great gray owl, northern goshawk, and spotted frog are sensitive species that are known to occur or could potentially occur within the IRA. Most of these species occupy mid to late-seral forested habitats. Great gray owls and northern goshawks are known to breed in the IRA or in similar habitats immediately adjacent to the IRA. The importance of these late-successional habitats within Elk Creek IRA has likely increased due to the large fire-created openings occurring to the north of the IRA.

Water: Perennial streams in the area flow to Elk Creek and Bear Valley Creek. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other uses on the Forest.

Range: There are no open grazing allotments in the area. There are a number of short drift fences within the area. There are 682 acres of capable cattle rangeland in the IRA.

Timber: The IRA contains an estimated 120,654 thousand board feet (MBF) of standing timber volume, equivalent to 239,601 hundred cubic feet (CCF). An estimated 14,200 acres (95 percent) of the IRA are tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 9,626 acres are considered to have low productivity; 4,574 acres, moderate productivity; and 0 acres, high productivity.

Minerals: There are a few scattered mining claims in the area. The area is not an identified potential mineral development area. The IRA does have some areas considered fair to good for common variety sand and gravel deposits.

Heritage: Cultural resource site sensitivity is rated as moderate. Numerous prehistoric and historic mining sites have been identified adjacent to and within the area.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no private or state-owned lands within the IRA. One outfitter/guide provides bear and cougar hunting trips in the area, while another provides deer and elk hunting trips, summer pack trips, and trail rides.

Disturbances: There have been 14 recorded wildfire ignitions or occurrences in the area. Approximately 350 acres have burned in wildfires.

Botanical Characteristics: There have been few plant surveys conducted in the area. No threatened, endangered, or Region 4 sensitive plant species are known to occur in the area. There are no inventoried locations of noxious weeds within the roadless area.

NEED

Proximity to Designated Wilderness and Population Centers: The Elk Creek area lies about 5 miles west of the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness. The area lies about 65 miles from Boise. As a designated wilderness, this area would serve the communities of Cascade and Crouch-Garden Valley, and the population centers of Boise and Salt Lake City.

Biological: This IRA lies within the M332 Ecoregion (Middle Rocky Mountain Steppe-Coniferous Forest-Alpine Meadow Province), which is well represented in existing wildernesses.

Public Interest: There has been relatively low public interest in this area becoming wilderness. Only one concerned individual specifically identified this IRA for wilderness recommendation in response to the DEIS. This IRA is recommended for wilderness designation in the most recent wilderness bill, HR 488, the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act.

WILDERNESS EVALUATION SUMMARY

Capability Summary:

Apparent Naturalness	High
Opportunity For Solitude	Moderate
Opportunities For Challenge And Adventure	Moderate
Special Features	Present

Determination of Availability or Unavailability: The IRA does not meet any of the criteria listed in FSH 1909.12.7.22a. Therefore the IRA is available for wilderness designation.

Values Foregone With Wilderness Designation: The economic values associated with 14,200 acres of tentatively suited timberlands containing 120,654 MBF or 239,601 CCF would be foregone. Values from future mineral development would likely be foregone, although rights to valid existing claims might be retained. However, this area has low potential for mineral development. Current motorized recreation use opportunities would be foregone. There is snowmobile use occurring adjacent to Bearskin Creek.

Biological and Social Need: The M332 Ecoregion is well represented in existing designated wildernesses. One concerned individual identified this IRA for wilderness recommendation.

ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

IRA Disposition by Alternative The following table displays IRA management disposition for each alternative in acres. These values represent the potential, long-term outcomes of managing the IRA based solely upon its MPC assignments.

IRA Management Disposition	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Recommended Wilderness	0	0	0	14,990	0	0	0
Maintain undeveloped character	0	0	0	0	0	14,990	0
Potential low levels of development	0	14,990	14,990	0	0	0	14,990
Available for full range of development	14,990	0	0	0	14,990	0	0

Potential Future Development: Potential future development is represented by combinations of management emphasis/direction (MPCs), and existing conditions that are likely to become priority areas for development activities over the course of the next two or three decades. The development activities chosen for this estimation are timber harvest, vegetation restoration, and fuel reduction. Development potential is expressed in acres in the table below.

Potential Development	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Timber activities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Restoration/fuel reduction activities	12833	12833	12833	0	12833	0	12833
Total	12833	12833	12833	0	12833	0	12833

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics: The following table displays the effects on wilderness characteristics for each alternative. The effects on wilderness characteristics are based on the estimation of potential future development.

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
	H	H	H	N	H	N	H

N = No change; slight change or less than 1 percent of the area potentially affected.

L = Light impact; 1-5 percent of the area potentially affected.

M = Moderate impact; 5-20 percent of the area potentially affected.

H = High impact; greater than 20 percent of the area potentially affected.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The preferred alternative does not recommend any portion of the Elk Creek IRA for wilderness. All of the IRA would be available for low levels of development. Before any activity is approved that would have a significant impact on the undeveloped character of the IRA, it would be preceded by an environmental analysis following NEPA procedures and public involvement.

**Grand Mountain
Roadless Area No. 0402007
14,462 Acres**

DESCRIPTION

The Grand Mountain roadless area, on the Idaho City Ranger District, lies between Barber Flat and Dutch Creek, northeast of Boise. The area is bordered with the Barber Flat Road and the North Fork Boise River on the west and the Swanholm drainage on the east. The area is accessed by the Middle Fork Boise River Road and North Fork Boise River Road from State Highway 21.

Elevations range from about 3,860 feet at Alexander Flats to 7,264 atop Grand Mountain. The Middle Fork Boise River drainage is characterized by shallow to steep granitic stream-cut lands dominated by open stands of brush-grass communities. About 60 percent of the area has slopes greater than 60 percent. Lands drained by the North Fork Boise River are strongly dissected, granitic lands dominated by dense stands of ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir. Steep, dry peaks and valleys are the dominant landforms.

CAPABILITY

Natural Integrity and Appearance: Generally, the area retains its natural integrity and natural appearance. There are short segments of three classified roads within the IRA totaling 0.4 mile.

Opportunities for Solitude and Primitive Recreation: There are opportunities for solitude and remoteness. The rugged terrain provides some opportunities for challenging recreation experiences. The opportunities are somewhat limited due to the shape of the area that narrows down to less than a half mile wide in the central portion. This irregular and disjointed shape affects the continuity of the area and limits the sense of remoteness and the available challenge of backcountry travel.

Special Features: A segment of the Middle Fork Boise River lies adjacent to the southern boundary. This river segment is eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation. An estimated 665 acres of the river corridor occurs within the IRA.

Manageability and Boundaries: The area has some fairly irregular and complex boundaries. Manageability as a designated wilderness would benefit from simplified boundaries that could be created with little acreage difference.

AVAILABILITY

Recreation: The area has low recreation use. There is some fall big-game hunting and some upland bird hunting in the area. There are two motorized trails totaling about 5 miles. Inventoried ROS classes are as follows:

ROS Class	Summer	Winter
Roaded Natural	12%	12%
Roaded Modified	25%	0%
Semi-Primitive Motorized	16%	63%
Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized	47%	25%

Fisheries: Streams located in this area are Beaver, Browns, and Granite Creek. These are relatively small, steep, and rapid-flowing streams that contain moderate-sized populations of redband rainbow trout. They do not contain bull trout and are not in a priority bull trout watershed. The adjacent Middle Fork Boise River is an important bull trout stream that provides habitat for migration, rearing, and wintering.

Wildlife: The IRA provides an important security area for big game (deer and elk) and is surrounded by highly roadled areas for the most part. The area forms an important link between unroaded areas to the south and the Sawtooth Wilderness for species such as pine martin and wolverine. There is a minor amount of potential lynx habitat (237 acres). There is identified habitat for fisher, northern goshawk, white-headed woodpecker, flammulated owl, and northern three toed woodpeckers. Winter range for elk and mule deer occurs primarily along the Middle Fork Boise River.

Water: There are a number of perennial streams in the area that flow mostly southerly to the Middle Fork Boise River. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other uses on the Forest.

Range: All of the area is within a sheep allotment. There are no grazing improvements within the IRA. There are 2,421 acres of capable sheep rangeland.

Timber: The IRA has an estimated 64,989 thousand board feet (MBF) of standing timber volume, equivalent to about 129,527 hundred cubic feet (CCF). An estimated 6,900 acres (48 percent) of the IRA are tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 4,974 acres are considered to have low productivity; 2,981 acres, moderate productivity; and 1,837 acres, high productivity.

Minerals: There are 14 mining claims in the Grand Mountain area. There are known geothermal locations along the adjacent Middle Fork Boise River.

Heritage: The area has low cultural resource sensitivity. There are Civilian Conservation Corps structures, and mining and prehistoric sites documented in the vicinity.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no private or state lands within the IRA. One outfitter-guide provides cougar and bear hunting opportunities.

Disturbances: There have been seven recorded wildfire ignitions or occurrences in the area. An estimated 1,530 acres have burned in wildfires, with most of this attributed to the 1992 Foothills Fire. Past insect and disease activity have affected approximately 90 percent of the IRA. Most of the conifer vegetation has had some defoliation, and there are scattered pockets of mortality.

Botanical Characteristics: No threatened, endangered, or Region 4 sensitive plant species are known to occur in the area. Minor amounts (less than 1 acre each) of St. Johnswort and Dalmation toadflax occur in the area.

NEED

Proximity to Designated Wilderness and Population Centers: The Sawtooth Wilderness lies approximately 10 miles to the east. The IRA lies about 30 miles from Boise. As a designated Wilderness, the area would serve the local community of Idaho City, and the population centers of Boise and Salt Lake City.

Biological: This IRA lies within the M332 Ecoregion (Middle Rocky Mountain Steppe-Coniferous Forest-Alpine Meadow Province), which is well represented in existing wildernesses.

Public Interest: There has been relatively low public interest in this area becoming wilderness. Only one concerned individual specifically identified this IRA for wilderness recommendation in response to the DEIS. This IRA is recommended for wilderness designation in the most recent wilderness bill, HR 488, the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act.

WILDERNESS EVALUATION SUMMARY

Capability Summary:

Apparent Naturalness	High
Opportunity for Solitude	Moderate
Opportunities for Challenge and Adventure	Moderate
Special Features	Present

Determination of Availability or Unavailability: The IRA does not meet any of the criteria listed in FSH 1909.12.7.22a. Therefore, the IRA is available for wilderness designation.

Values Foregone With Wilderness Designation: The economic values associated with 6,900 acres of tentatively suited timberlands containing 64,989 MBF or 129,527 CCF would be foregone. Values from future mineral development would likely be foregone, although rights to valid existing claims might be retained. This area has low potential for mineral development, but does have known geothermal resources. Current motorized recreation use opportunities would be foregone. Motorized use associated with 5 miles of trails would be foregone. While there are no trails currently being used to any degree by mountain bikers, potential mountain bike use would be foregone.

Biological and Social Need: The M332 Ecoregion is well represented in existing designated wildernesses. Only one concerned individual specifically identified this IRA for wilderness recommendation in response to the DEIS.

ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

IRA Disposition by Alternative: The following table displays IRA management disposition for each alternative in acres. These values represent the potential, long-term outcomes of managing the IRA based solely upon its MPC assignments.

IRA Management Disposition	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Recommended Wilderness	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maintain undeveloped character	0	0	0	0	0	14,462	0
Potential low levels of development	0	0	0	14,462	0	0	14,462
Available for full range of development	14,462	14,462	14,462	0	14,462	0	0

Potential Future Development: Potential future development is represented by combinations of management emphasis/direction (MPCs), and existing conditions that are likely to become priority areas for development activities over the course of the next two or three decades. The development activities chosen for this estimation are timber harvest, vegetation restoration, and fuel reduction. Development potential is expressed in acres in the table below.

Potential Development	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Timber activities	1,195	0	0	0	1,195	0	0
Restoration/fuel reduction activities	3,344	4,640	4,640	1,290	3,344	0	4,640
Total	4,539	4,640	4,640	1,290	4,539	0	4,640

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics: The following table displays the effects on wilderness characteristics for each alternative. The effects on wilderness characteristics are based on the estimation of potential future development.

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
	H	H	H	M	H	N	H

N = No change; slight change or less than 1 percent of the area potentially affected.

L = Light impact: 1-5 percent of the area potentially affected.

M = Moderate impact; 5-20 percent of the area potentially affected.

H = High impact; greater than 20 percent of the area potentially affected.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The preferred alternative does not recommend any portion of the Grand Mountain IRA for wilderness. Essentially all of the IRA would be available for low levels of development. Before any activity is approved that would have a significant impact on the undeveloped character of the roadless area, it would be preceded by an environmental analysis following NEPA procedures and public involvement.

**Grimes Pass
Roadless Area No. 0402017
13,289 Acres**

DESCRIPTION

The Grimes Pass roadless area, in the Emmett Ranger District, extends from the Grimes Pass Road (Forest Road 382) to Rock Creek, south of the South Fork Payette River. The area is accessed from the Banks-Lowman Highway (Forest Road 17) via State Highway 55 and the Grimes Creek Road via State Highway 21.

The Grimes Pass IRA is underlain by Cretaceous granitics of the Idaho batholith. Elevations range from about 3,500 feet to 7,000 feet. Strongly dissected fluvial lands are vegetated with moderate to dense stands of Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine. Overall, the Grimes Pass area has steep slopes and deep ravines. Dense timber stands of Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine are interspersed with brushy areas and rock outcrops.

CAPABILITY

Natural Integrity and Appearance: The natural integrity and appearance of this roadless area have been somewhat affected by scattered evidence of old mining roads and old diggings. There are segments of five different classified roads within the IRA totaling 2.1 miles.

Opportunities for Solitude and Primitive Recreation: Opportunities for solitude, primitive recreation, and challenging experiences are somewhat limited because of this area's narrow and irregular shape, which confines use. The steep and rugged terrain provides considerable challenge to cross country foot travel and the broken terrain allows for seclusion and solitude.

Special Features: A segment of the South Fork Payette River lies adjacent and within the northern boundary. This river segment is eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation. An estimated 6.5 river miles and 1,860 eligible corridor acres occur within the IRA.

Manageability and Boundaries: The Grimes Pass area could be more easily managed if the boundary were changed to eliminate that portion west of the Grayback/Bear Creek Ridge. However, the size and shape of the area are not well suited for wilderness management.

AVAILABILITY

Recreation: The IRA receives backcountry fall big-game hunting use that is concentrated mostly in the areas adjacent to trails and roads, but the area receives little other recreational use. There are no recreation trails in the area. Inventoried ROS classes are as follows:

ROS Class	Summer	Winter
Roaded Natural	22%	22%
Roaded Modified	50%	0%
Semi-Primitive Motorized	28%	78%

Fisheries: This IRA contains a portion of the South Fork Payette River from Rock Creek, downstream to Sweet Creek. This portion of the river does not provide spawning habitat for listed bull trout but is identified as a nodal habitat (migrational and over-winter rearing). This portion of the river also provides a migration corridor that bull trout use to access spawning and rearing habitat outside the Grimes Pass IRA. The South Fork Payette River within the Grimes Pass IRA provides rearing habitat for redband rainbow trout.

This roadless area also includes several tributaries to the South Fork Payette River that flow in from the south. These tributaries have not been surveyed due to lack of access and because the natural channel morphology of these tributaries is steep, high gradient, and cascading. Therefore, it is not likely that these tributaries provide habitat for bull trout due to elevation, drainage size, and access limitations. Some of these tributaries most likely contain spawning and rearing habitat for redband rainbow trout.

Wildlife: Gray wolves may occur within this area. Bald eagles winter along the South Fork Payette River. Fish from the river and carrion found on ungulate winter range provide the primary sources of food. Potential habitat for lynx, wolverine, and fisher occurs; however, their presence in the area is unknown. An estimated 13 percent of the area is potential lynx habitat. The IRA provides relatively secluded habitat important to these species. Boreal owl, northern goshawk, flammulated owl, white-headed woodpecker, three-toed woodpecker, and spotted frog are sensitive species that are known to occur or could potentially occur within the IRA. The area provides summer and fall habitat for elk and mule deer. Most of the area provides important winter range, with the lower elevation and south aspects in Rock Creek receiving the most use. The IRA provides security areas for elk and deer during hunting seasons.

Water: The Grimes Pass IRA has a number of perennial streams that flow northerly to the South Fork Payette River. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other uses on the Forest.

Range: There are no open allotments or capable grazing lands within the IRA. There are 301 acres of capable sheep rangeland in this IRA.

Timber: The IRA includes an estimated 112,776 thousand board feet (MBF) of standing timber volume, equivalent to 217,955 hundred cubic feet (CCF). An estimated 10,800 acres (81 percent) of the IRA are tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 2,532 acres have low timber productivity; 8,223 acres, moderate productivity; and 1,173 acres, high productivity.

Minerals: The Pine Creek Camp and AMAX molybdenum prospects are located in this area. There are known geothermal sites along the adjacent South Fork Payette River. Most of the IRA is identified as an area of potential mineral development. There are over 600 mining claims in the IRA.

Heritage: There is a high probability that historic cultural resources can be found in this IRA because mining has occurred since the late 1800s. The area is included in the Boise Historic Mining District. Homesteads, mining, and prehistoric sites have been recorded in the vicinity.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no private or state-owned lands in the area. One outfitter-guide service provide cougar and bear hunting trips in the area, four river outfitting companies provide river trips on the South Fork Payette, and one river outfitter has an assigned camp site just within the roadless boundary. There is a special use permit for an Idaho Power transmission line at a short segment along the roadless boundary.

Disturbances: There are high incidences of Douglas-fir mistletoe on the north slopes facing the South Fork Payette River.

Botanical Characteristics: No threatened, endangered, or Region 4 sensitive plant species are known to occur in the area. Rush skeletonweed has infested an estimated 14 acres of the IRA.

NEED

Proximity to Designated Wilderness and Population Centers: The Grimes Pass IRA is about 30 miles southwest of the FC-RONR Wilderness and about 20 miles east of the Sawtooth Wilderness. The area lies about 35 miles from Boise. As a designated wilderness, this area would serve the local communities of Idaho City and Crouch-Garden Valley, and the population centers of Boise and Salt Lake City.

Biological: This IRA lies within the M332 Ecoregion (Middle Rocky Mountain Steppe-Coniferous Forest-Alpine Meadow Province), which is well represented in existing wildernesses.

Public Interest: There has been relatively low public interest in this area becoming wilderness. Only one concerned individual specifically identified this IRA for wilderness recommendation in response to the DEIS. This IRA is recommended for wilderness designation in the most recent wilderness bill, HR 488, the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act.

WILDERNESS EVALUATION SUMMARY

Capability Summary:

Apparent Naturalness	High
Opportunity for Solitude	Low
Opportunities for Challenge and Adventure	Moderate
Special Features	Present

Determination of Availability or Unavailability: The IRA does not meet any of the criteria listed in FSH 1909.12.7.22a. Therefore, the IRA is available for wilderness designation.

Values Foregone With Wilderness Designation: The economic values associated with 10,800 acres of tentatively suited timberlands containing 112,776 MBF or 217,995 CCF would be foregone. Values from future mineral development would likely be foregone, although rights to valid existing claims might be retained. This area has relatively high potential for mineral development, and known geothermal resources. Current motorized recreation use opportunities would be foregone.

Biological and Social Need: The M332 Ecoregion is well represented in existing designated wildernesses. One concerned individual identified this IRA for wilderness recommendation.

ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

IRA Disposition by Alternative: The following table displays IRA management disposition for each alternative in acres. These values represent the potential, long-term outcomes of managing the IRA based solely upon its MPC assignments.

IRA Management Disposition	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Recommended Wilderness	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maintain undeveloped character	0	0	0	0	0	13,289	0
Potential low levels of development	0	9,564	9,564	11,545	0	0	11,575
Available for full range of development	13,289	3,725	3,725	1,744	13,289	0	1,714

Potential Future Development: Potential future development is represented by combinations of management emphasis/direction (MPCs), and existing conditions that are likely to become priority areas for development activities over the course of the next two or three decades. The development activities chosen for this estimation are timber harvest, vegetation restoration, and fuel reduction. Development potential is expressed in acres in the table below.

Potential Development	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Timber activities	4,450	856	0	0	4,451	0	856
Restoration/fuel reduction activities	1,005	4,990	5,896	1,249	1,045	0	4,990
Total	5,455	5,846	5,896	1,249	5,496	0	5,846

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics: The following table displays the effects on wilderness characteristics for each alternative. The effects on wilderness characteristics are based on the estimation of potential future development.

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
	H	H	H	M	H	N	H

N = No change; slight change or less than 1 percent of the area potentially affected.

L = Light impact; 1-5 percent of the area potentially affected.

M = Moderate impact; 5-20 percent of the area potentially affected.

H = High impact; greater than 20 percent of the area potentially affected.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The preferred alternative does not recommend any of the Grimes Pass IRA for wilderness. All of the IRA would be available for low levels of development. Before any activity is approved that would have a significant impact on the undeveloped character of the IRA, it would be preceded by an environmental analysis following NEPA procedures and public involvement.

**Hawley Mountain
Roadless Area No. 0402018
7,726 Acres**

DESCRIPTION

The Hawley Mountain roadless area, in the Idaho City and Emmett Ranger Districts, lies between the Quartzburg exclusion and the Forest boundary. This roadless area is accessed from the Jerusalem area off State Highway 55. No trail access is present.

Elevations range from 4,400 feet to 7,301 feet atop Hawley Mountain. Some strongly dissected granitic fluvial lands are vegetated with moderate to dense stands of Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine, while other lands include brush-grass communities interspersed with scattered stands of Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine. Much of the area was burned during a wildfire in the 1960s and is currently vegetated with dense brush, young ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir. Overall, this area is marked by large areas of heavy brush, with smaller areas of heavy Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine, and grand fir. Hawley Mountain is the area's most prominent landmark.

The Hawley Mountain Fire Lookout is staffed through a cooperative agreement with the State of Idaho. The lookout and access road has been excluded from the roadless area.

CAPABILITY

Natural Integrity and Appearance: The natural integrity and apparent naturalness of the Hawley Mountain area have been affected in some areas by past fire control activities such as constructed fire lines and segments of primitive roads. There are segments of three classified roads within the IRA totaling 1.58 miles. These roads extend into the central portion of the IRA.

Opportunities for Solitude and Primitive Recreation: Opportunities for solitude, primitive recreation, and challenging experiences are limited somewhat by the relatively small size of the area. The rugged terrain and remote location of the area does provide for a degree of solitude and remoteness. The narrowness of the area (most of the area is less than 2 miles in width) tends to confine and limit use.

Special Features: No special features have been identified in this area.

Manageability and Boundaries: Some minor boundary adjustments would facilitate management as a designated wilderness.

AVAILABILITY

Recreation: The area receives moderate use during the fall big-game hunting season, but there is little other recreational use. There are no trails in the area. Inventoried ROS classes are as follows:

ROS Class	Summer	Winter
Roaded Modified	100%	0%
Semi-Primitive Motorized	0%	100%

Fisheries: This IRA contains portions of headwater tributaries of the South Fork Payette River (Charters Creek and Coski Creek) and Alder Creek (Schilling, McKinzie, Longs, Bunches, and West Fork Creeks). The only surveyed stream within this IRA is West Fork Creek, a headwater tributary to Alder Creek. Redband rainbow trout have been found within West Fork Creek and could potentially occur within Bunches, Longs, and Shilling Creeks within this IRA. Coski and Charters Creeks within this IRA have not been surveyed; potential fish presence is questionable since these are headwater tributaries of small streams. It is not likely that any of these tributaries within the IRA provide habitat for bull trout due to drainage size and access limitations.

Wildlife: Suitable habitat for federally listed endangered species is limited within this IRA. Species such as the gray wolf and lynx may occur within the IRA; however, occurrence of these species is probably related to dispersing individuals. There is no identified lynx habitat in the IRA. Bald eagle and peregrine falcon habitat does not exist within the area. Habitat for Regional sensitive species such as white-headed woodpecker, great gray owl, northern goshawk, flammulated owl, and northern three-toed woodpecker is identified in the area. The area provides some elk and deer winter range. Habitat for pileated woodpecker nesting exists in the northern and southern portion of this area.

Water: The area has perennial streams that flow easterly to Alder Creek and southeasterly to Granite Creek. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other uses on the Forest.

Range: There are portions of two active cattle allotments covering approximately 75 percent of the area. The area has 386 acres of capable cattle rangeland in this IRA and 55 acres of capable sheep rangeland.

Timber: The area has an estimated 33,413 thousand board feet (MBF) of standing timber volume, equivalent to 68,309 hundred cubic feet (CCF). An estimated 6,400 acres (83 percent) of the Hawley Mountain IRA are tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 1,877 acres have low productivity; 3,645 acres, moderate productivity; and 1,081 acres, high productivity.

Minerals: The general area around Hawley Mountain IRA includes some of the first mineral developments in the Boise Basin. There are currently 27 scattered mining claims in the area. The IRA is not identified as a potential mineral development area.

Heritage: The area has low cultural resource sensitivity. Surveys in the adjoining and overlapping areas, in similar topographic situations, indicate the area has a low site density.

Landownership and Special Uses: There is no private or state land within the IRA. One outfitter-guide service provides cougar and bear hunting trips in the area.

Disturbances: There have been two recorded wildfire ignitions or occurrences in the area. Approximately 3,600 acres have burned in wildfires, with most of this attributed to the 1966 Charter Mountains Fire.

Botanical Characteristics: No threatened, endangered, or Region 4 sensitive plant species are known to occur in the area. A minor amount of Rush skeletonweed occurs in the area (less than 1 acre).

NEED

Proximity to Designated Wilderness and Population Centers : The Hawley Mountain area lies about 36 miles from the Sawtooth and the FC-RONR Wildernesses. The area lies about 28 miles from Boise. As a designated wilderness, this area would serve the communities of Idaho City and Crouch-Garden Valley, and the population centers of Boise and Salt Lake City.

Biological: This IRA lies within the M332 Ecoregion (Middle Rocky Mountain Steppe-Coniferous Forest-Alpine Meadow Province), which is well represented in existing wildernesses.

Public Interest: There has been relatively low public interest in this area becoming wilderness. Only one concerned individual specifically identified this IRA for wilderness recommendation in response to the DEIS. This IRA is recommended for wilderness designation in the most recent wilderness bill, HR 488, the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act.

WILDERNESS EVALUATION SUMMARY**Capability Summary:**

Apparent Naturalness	Moderate
Opportunity for Solitude	Moderate
Opportunities for Challenge and Adventure	Low
Special Features	None

Determination of Availability or Unavailability: The IRA does not meet any of the criteria listed in FSH 1909.12.7.22a. Therefore, the IRA is available for wilderness designation.

Values Foregone With Wilderness Designation: The economic values associated with 6,400 acres of tentatively suited timberlands containing 33,413 MBF or 68,309 CCF would be foregone. Values from future mineral development would likely be foregone, although rights to valid existing claims might be retained. Some historic mining has occurred. Current motorized recreation use opportunities would be foregone. There is some light snowmobile use occurring in the southern portion of the IRA.

Biological and Social Need: The M332 Ecoregion is well represented in existing designated wildernesses. Only one concerned individual specifically identified this IRA for wilderness recommendation in response to the DEIS.

ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

IRA Disposition by Alternative: The following table displays IRA management disposition for each alternative in acres. These values represent the potential, long-term outcomes of managing the IRA based solely upon its MPC assignments.

IRA Management Disposition	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Recommended Wilderness	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maintain undeveloped character	0	0	0	0	0	7,726	0
Potential low levels of development	0	0	0	0	0	0	7,726
Available for full range of development	7,726	7,726	7,726	7,726	7,726	0	0

Potential Future Development: Potential future development is represented by combinations of management emphasis/direction (MPCs), and existing conditions that are likely to become priority areas for development activities over the course of the next two or three decades. The development activities chosen for this estimation are timber harvest, vegetation restoration, and fuel reduction. Development potential is expressed in acres in the table below.

Potential Development	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Timber activities	4,478	0	0	0	4,478	0	0
Restoration/fuel reduction activities	0	1,687	1,687	1,687	0	0	1,687
Total	4,478	1,687	1,687	1,687	4,478	0	1,687

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics: The following table displays the effects on wilderness characteristics for each alternative. The effects on wilderness characteristics are based on the estimation of potential future development.

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
	H	H	H	H	H	N	H

N = No change; slight change or less than 1 percent of the area potentially affected.

L = Light impact; 1-5 percent of the area potentially affected.

M = Moderate impact; 5-20 percent of the area potentially affected.

H = High impact; greater than 20 percent of the area potentially affected.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The preferred alternative does not recommend any portion of the Hawley Mountain IRA for wilderness. All of the IRA would be available for low levels of development. Before any action is approved that would have a significant impact on the undeveloped character of the IRA, it would be preceded by an environmental analysis following NEPA procedures and public involvement.

**House Mountain
Roadless Area No. 0402001
25,596 Acres**

DESCRIPTION

The House Mountain IRA, on the Mountain Home Ranger District, lies about 37 miles north of Mountain Home, northeast of Boise. The area is accessed from a two-lane graveled road that parallels the South Fork Boise River on the area's southern boundary. Access is also provided from Forest Road 137, the Smith Prairie Road on the west, and the Castle Creek Road on the east.

Elevations within this area range from 3,200 to 7,700 feet, and most slopes are steep, dry and non-forested. About two-thirds of the area contains slopes over 40 percent. Sagebrush with an understory of forbs predominates on southern slopes, while scattered stands of Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine with understories of dense brush or grass prevail on northern slopes. Overall, the area has steep, dry peaks and valleys. House Mountain (elevation 7,700 feet) lies along the roadless area's northern boundary, and Anderson Ranch Reservoir and Dam lie about one mile east of the roadless area.

CAPABILITY

Natural Integrity and Appearance: The natural integrity and appearance of the House Mountain area is intact as little evidence of man's activity exists. There are short segments of three different classified roads just within the IRA boundaries. These segments total 0.6 mile.

Opportunities for Solitude and Primitive Recreation: There are moderate opportunities provided for solitude or remoteness. The lack of vegetative screening limits solitude in some locations. Views to the roads and other activities outside of the area readily occur in many locations. Opportunities for primitive recreation or challenging experiences are enhanced with the rugged terrain of the area.

Special Features: The South Fork Boise River lies adjacent to the southern and southwestern boundary. This river is eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation with a recreational classification. An estimated 835 acres of this river corridor occurs within the IRA.

Manageability and Boundaries: There are some very irregular boundaries in the northern portion that would create some management complexity. Many of the other boundaries are formed by other private or state lands ownership.

AVAILABILITY

Recreation: Recreation use is primarily big-game hunting, dispersed camping, and fishing. There are 4.7 miles of motorized trails in the area. Inventoried ROS classes are as follows:

ROS Class	Summer	Winter
Roaded Natural	16%	13%
Roaded Modified	18%	0%
Semi-Primitive Motorized	66%	87%

Fisheries: This unit has several short, small streams with limited amounts of water that drain into the South Fork Boise River. The main streams in the area are Pierce, Rock, and Elk Creeks. Pierce Creek has a population of redband rainbow trout that is small but self-sustaining at this time. Rock Creek has a population of cutthroat trout that are isolated from the South Fork Boise River by cascades and waterfalls near the mouth of the stream.

Wildlife: The area occurs within the range of the gray wolf although there is no known denning or rendezvous activity reported in the area. Wintering bald eagle habitat occurs within the area, and the area contains bald eagle nesting habitat. Minor lynx and wolverine habitat occur in the area. Potential habitat occurs for northern three-toed woodpecker, northern goshawk, flammulated owl, white-headed woodpecker, pileated woodpecker, spotted bat and Townsend's big-eared bat. Known spotted frog populations occur. Historical habitat for mountain quail occurs. The IRA provides security for big game and contains big-game winter range primarily in the south and west portions adjacent to the South Fork Boise River.

Water: Numerous perennial streams drain east and southeast to Anderson Ranch Reservoir, while others drain westerly to the South Fork Boise River. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other uses on the Forest.

Range: There are two sheep allotments that cover about 80 percent of the area, and two cattle allotments that cover the remaining 20 percent of the area. One cattle allotment has a few water developments and fences, and the other has no improvements. There are 2,272 acres of capable cattle rangeland and 3,457 acres of capable sheep rangeland in this IRA.

Timber: The IRA contains 65,227 thousand board feet (MBF) of standing timber volume, equivalent to 135,134 hundred cubic feet (CCF). An estimated 10,800 acres (42 percent) of the IRA contains tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 3,797 acres are considered to have low productivity; 5,548 acres, moderate productivity; and 3,761 acres, high productivity.

Minerals: The area has a portion that is considered a fair to poor permissive area for silt, sand and gravel. There has been no mining activity in the past. There are currently 75 scattered mining claims in the area.

Heritage: The area has low cultural resource sensitivity. Surveys in adjoining and overlapping area, in similar topographic situations, indicate the area likely has a low site density.

Landownership and Special Uses: No private or state land occurs within the IRA. There are two outfitter-guide permittees that operate in the area; one is permitted for cougar and bear hunting, and the other for bear hunting only.

Disturbances: There have been no areas burned by wildfire since 1960. Douglas-fir bark beetle populations continue to be active at above endemic levels and are most pronounced where defoliation occurred by the Douglas-fir tussock moth in the early 1990s. Evidence of western pine and spruce beetle activity exists mainly east of House Mountain.

Botanical Characteristics: No threatened, endangered or sensitive plant species are known to occur in the area. Two noxious weeds, leafy spurge and yellow toadflax, have infested an estimated 10 acres of the IRA.

NEED

Proximity to Designated Wilderness and Population Centers: The House Mountain IRA lies about 50 road miles from the Atlanta entrance to the Sawtooth Wilderness Area. The area lies an estimated 75 miles from Boise and about 37 miles from Mountain Home. As a designated wilderness, the area would serve the local communities of Mountain Home and Prairie, and population centers such as Boise and Salt Lake City.

Biological: This IRA lies within the M332 Ecoregion (Middle Rocky Mountain Steppe-Coniferous Forest-Alpine Meadow Province), which is well represented in existing wildernesses.

Public Interest: There has been relatively low public interest in this area becoming wilderness. Only one concerned individual specifically identified this IRA for wilderness recommendation in response to the DEIS. This IRA is recommended for wilderness designation in the most recent wilderness bill, HR 488, the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act.

WILDERNESS EVALUATION SUMMARY**Capability Summary:**

Apparent Naturalness	High
Opportunity for Solitude	High
Opportunities for Challenge and Adventure	High
Special Features	None

Determination of Availability or Unavailability: The IRA does not meet any of the criteria listed in FSH 1909.12.7.22a. Therefore, the IRA is available for wilderness designation.

Values Foregone With Wilderness Designation: The economic values associated with 10,800 acres of tentatively suited timberlands containing 65,227 MBF or 135,134 CCF would be foregone. Values from future mineral development would likely be foregone, although rights to valid existing claims might be retained. No historic mining has occurred.

Current motorized recreation use opportunities on 5 miles of trails would be foregone. Potential mountain bike use opportunities would be foregone. Trails in the southeastern portion of the area have been identified as mountain bike opportunities.

Biological and Social Need: The M332 Ecoregion is well represented in existing designated wildernesses. Only one concerned individual identified this IRA for wilderness recommendation in response to the DEIS.

ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

IRA Disposition by Alternative: The following table displays IRA management disposition for each alternative in acres. These values represent the potential, long-term outcomes of managing the IRA based solely upon its MPC assignments.

IRA Management Disposition	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Recommended Wilderness	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maintain undeveloped character	0	0	0	0	0	25,596	0
Potential low levels of development	0	0	0	15,355	0	0	25,596
Available for full range of development	25,596	25,596	25,596	10,241	25,596	0	0

Potential Future Development: Potential future development is represented by combinations of management emphasis/direction (MPCs), and existing conditions that are likely to become priority areas for development activities over the course of the next two or three decades. The development activities chosen for this estimation are timber harvest, vegetation restoration, and fuel reduction. Development potential is expressed in acres in the table below.

Potential Development	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Timber activities	3,535	2,121	0	0	8,589	0	0
Restoration/fuel reduction activities	5,411	6,975	9,254	5,411	0	0	9,254
Total	8,946	9,096	9,254	5,411	8,589	0	9,254

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics: The following table displays the effects on wilderness characteristics for each alternative. The effects on wilderness characteristics are based on the estimation of potential future development.

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
	H	H	H	H	H	N	H

N = No change; slight change or less than 1 percent of the area potentially affected.

L = Light impact; 1-5 percent of the area potentially affected.

M = Moderate impact; 5-20 percent of the area potentially affected.

H = High impact; greater than 20 percent of the area potentially affected.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The preferred alternative does not recommend any portion of the House Mountain IRA for wilderness. Essentially all of the roadless area would be available for low levels of development. Before any activity is approved that would have a significant impact on the undeveloped character of the roadless area, it would be preceded by an environmental analysis following NEPA procedures and public involvement.

**Lost Man Creek
Roadless Area No. 0402041
12,678 Acres**

DESCRIPTION

The Lost Man Creek IRA is a recently delineated roadless area that was identified during a 1999 roadless area inventory update for the Forest Plan Revision. The Lost Man Creek IRA, in the Mountain Home and Idaho City Ranger Districts, lies about 12 miles west of Atlanta, northeast of Boise. The area is bordered by the Middle Fork Boise River to the north, Roaring River to the west, and Phifer Creek to the east. The area is accessed from the Middle Fork Boise River Road from State Highway 21.

Elevations range from 4,200 feet along the Boise River to 7,600 feet in the southeast corner. The area has complex drainage patterns formed by drainages to the north, west, and east. Primary streams in the interior of the area are Lost Man Creek and Deadman Creek. Lands drained by the Middle Fork Boise River are strongly dissected, granitic lands dominated by dense stands of ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir. Overall the area is characterized by steep rugged terrain, with complex drainage patterns eventually leading to the Middle Fork Boise River. The terrain is generally forested and dominated with stands of mixed conifer, ponderosa pine, and Douglas-fir.

CAPABILITY

Natural Integrity and Appearance: Generally, the area retains its natural integrity and natural appearance.

Opportunities for Solitude and Primitive Recreation: There are opportunities for solitude and remoteness. The rugged terrain provides numerous opportunities for challenging recreation experiences. The size of the area provides ample opportunities for solitude, and the complex terrain and vegetative screening provide opportunities for isolation and visual screening.

Special Features: A segment of the Middle Fork Boise River lies adjacent to the northern boundary. This river segment is eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation. An estimated 4.3 miles of the river and 720 acres of the river corridor occur within the IRA.

Manageability and Boundaries: The area has fairly logical boundaries along the north, east, and west formed by roads paralleling river drainages. The southern portion of the area has some irregular boundaries formed by past timber harvest areas and timber access roads. Manageability as a designated wilderness would benefit from simplified boundaries in the southern portion of the unit.

AVAILABILITY

Recreation: Recreation use is low in the area. There is some fall big-game hunting and some upland bird hunting in the area. An estimated 2.6 miles of one motorized trail occur within the area. Inventoried ROS classes are as follows:

ROS Class	Summer	Winter
Roaded Natural	26%	10%
Roaded Modified	37%	0%
Semi-Primitive Motorized	0%	67%
Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized	37%	23%

Fisheries: Streams located in this area are Lost Man Creek, Buck Creek, Phifer Creek, and Roaring River. All these streams are tributaries to the Middle Fork Boise River. Both occupied (focal) and unoccupied (adjunct) bull trout spawning and rearing habitat are present in the area. In addition to bull trout, redband/rainbow trout, and sculpin are present. The Middle Fork Boise River is important nodal (migration and over-wintering) habitat for bull trout, over-wintering habitat for adult redband/rainbow trout, and habitat for sculpin, whitefish, and suckers.

Wildlife: The area provides potential habitat for a number of sensitive wildlife species. Sensitive species likely to be found include mountain quail, northern goshawk, spotted frog, flammulated owl, and white-headed woodpecker. Wolverines have been sited wandering in the Trinity area, and these sightings have been confirmed with radio-collared wolverines. It is likely wolverines pass through this roadless area to get to the Trinities. Potential three-toed woodpecker habitat occurs in the roadless area. There have been fisher sightings along the Middle Fork Boise River. It is likely that the area provides foraging habitat for the Townsend big-eared and spotted bats. In general the area provides potential habitat for most or all the current Region 4 sensitive species that occur on the Boise Forest. At this time, there is no known wolf pack activity occurring in the area. Lynx habitat occurs in the southeastern and central portions of the area, equating to approximately 18 percent of the IRA.

Water: There are a number of perennial streams in the area that flow mostly northerly to the Middle Fork Boise River. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other uses on the Forest.

Range: All of the area is within a sheep allotment. There are no grazing improvements within the IRA. There are 2,649 acres of capable sheep rangeland in the IRA.

Timber: An estimated 8,000 acres (63 percent) of the IRA are tentatively suited timberlands. The roadless area has 81,417 thousand board feet (MBF) of standing timber volume, equivalent to 161,007 hundred cubic feet (CCF). An estimated 5,427 acres in the area are considered to have low productivity; 3,007 acres, moderate productivity; and 1,879 acres, high productivity.

Minerals: There are geothermal hot springs along the adjacent Middle Fork Boise River. There are currently 42 scattered mining claims in the area. The area has a small portion that is considered a fair to poor permissive area for silt, sand and gravel.

Heritage: The area has low cultural resource sensitivity. Historical logging and mining sites have been identified in the general vicinity.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no private or state-owned lands within the IRA. One outfitter-guide provides cougar and bear hunting opportunities.

Disturbances: Past insect and disease activity have affected the area. Much of the IRA's conifer vegetation has had some defoliation by Douglas-fir tussock moth, and a pattern of widely scattered tree mortality exists.

Botanical Characteristics: No threatened, endangered, or Region 4 sensitive plant species are known to occur in the area. There are some minor amounts (0.04 acre) of rush skeletonweed, a noxious weed, identified in the area.

NEED

Proximity to Designated Wilderness and Population Centers: The Sawtooth Wilderness lies approximately 10 miles to the east. The IRA lies about 30 miles from Boise. As a designated wilderness, the area would serve the local communities of Mountain Home and Atlanta, and population centers such as Boise and Salt Lake City.

Biological: This IRA lies within the M332 Ecoregion (Middle Rocky Mountain Steppe-Coniferous Forest-Alpine Meadow Province), which is well represented in existing wildernesses.

Public Interest: The degree of public interest for wilderness designation is unknown at this time as this area is a recently delineated roadless area and has not undergone any formal scoping or public comment period relative to wilderness designation.

WILDERNESS EVALUATION SUMMARY

Capability Summary:

Apparent Naturalness	High
Opportunity for Solitude	Moderate
Opportunities for Challenge and Adventure	Moderate
Special Features	Present

Determination of Availability or Unavailability: The IRA does not meet any of the criteria listed in FSH 1909.12.7.22a. Therefore, the IRA is available for wilderness designation.

Values Foregone With Wilderness Designation: The economic values associated with 8,000 acres of tentatively suited timberlands containing 81,417 MBF or 161,007 CCF would be foregone. Values from future mineral development would likely be foregone, although rights to valid existing claims might be retained. Current motorized recreation use opportunities associated with 2.6 miles of trails would be foregone. While no trails are currently being used to any degree by mountain bikers, potential mountain bike use opportunities would be foregone.

Biological and Social Need: The M332 Ecoregion is well represented in existing designated wildernesses. The degree of public interest for wilderness designation is unknown at this time as this area is a recently delineated roadless area and has not undergone any formal scoping or public comment period relative to wilderness designation.

ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

IRA Disposition by Alternative: The following table displays IRA management disposition for each alternative in acres. These values represent the potential, long-term outcomes of managing the IRA based solely upon its MPC assignments.

IRA Management Disposition	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Recommended Wilderness	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maintain undeveloped character	0	0	0	0	0	12,678	0
Potential low levels of development	0	0	0	12,678	0	0	12,678
Available for full range of development	12,678	12,678	12,678	0	12,678	0	0

Potential Future Development: Potential future development is represented by combinations of management emphasis/direction (MPCs), and existing conditions that are likely to become priority areas for development activities over the course of the next two or three decades. The development activities chosen for this estimation are timber harvest, vegetation restoration, and fuel reduction. Development potential is expressed in acres in the table below.

Potential Development	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Timber activities	1,917	1,569	0	0	1,884	0	0
Restoration/fuel reduction activities	3,345	3,722	5,378	1,993	3,385	0	5,378
Total	5,262	5,290	5,378	1,993	5,269	0	5,378

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics: The following table displays the effects on wilderness characteristics for each alternative. The effects on wilderness characteristics are based on the estimation of potential future development.

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
	H	H	H	M	H	N	H

N = No change; slight change or less than 1 percent of the area potentially affected.

L = Light impact; 1-5 percent of the area potentially affected.

M = Moderate impact; 5-20 percent of the area potentially affected.

H = High impact; greater than 20 percent of the area potentially affected.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The preferred alternative does not recommend any portion of the Lost Man Creek IRA for wilderness. Essentially all of the roadless area would be available for low levels of development. Before any activity is approved that would have a significant impact on the undeveloped character of the roadless area, it would be preceded by an environmental analysis following NEPA procedures and public involvement.

**Mt. Heinen
Roadless Area No. 0402003
12,788 Acres**

DESCRIPTION

The Mt. Heinen IRA, in the Mountain Home Ranger District, is bordered by Arrowrock Reservoir on the south, Cottonwood Creek on the east, and private parcels on the west. This area lies about 20 miles northeast of Boise, and is accessed by the Middle Fork Boise River Road off State Highway 21.

Elevations in the Mt. Heinen area range from 3,200 feet along Arrowrock Reservoir to 6,339 feet at Mt. Heinen. The area is underlain by granitics of the Idaho batholith, and many slopes are easily eroded. About half the area have slopes of over 40 percent. At lower elevations, sagebrush and bitterbrush with an understory of forbs and cheatgrass predominates, while stands of ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir prevail at higher elevations. Overall, the area is marked with steep, dry slopes that become more moist and forested at higher elevations. Mt. Heinen lies near the center of the area.

CAPABILITY

Natural Integrity and Appearance: The natural integrity and appearance of the Mt. Heinen area are generally intact, as little human activity has occurred in the roadless area. There are about 7 miles of cleared fire lines radiating north, south, east, and west of Mt. Heinen. There are two segments of primitive road totaling about 1 mile within the IRA.

Opportunities for Solitude and Primitive Recreation: Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are somewhat limited because of the relatively small size of the area and the excluded private parcels that extend into the area.

Special Features: No special features have been identified in this IRA.

Manageability and Boundaries: Some of the current boundaries follow private property lines. A small portion is effectively segregated by private property along Deer Creek. Manageability as a designated wilderness area would be improved by altering the boundaries to exclude this portion.

AVAILABILITY

Recreation: Most of the recreation use in this area consists of fall big-game hunting and spring turkey hunting. There is some hiking and backpacking occurring in the area, with the top of Mt. Heinen generally being the destination for the views it provides. There are no recreation trails in the area. There is some illegal motorized use on some of the ridges. Inventoried ROS classes are as follows:

ROS Class	Summer	Winter
Roaded Natural	19%	14%
Roaded Modified	16%	0%
Semi-Primitive Motorized	0%	60%
Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized	65%	26%

Fisheries: Streams of this area are Deer, Cinch, and the upper part of Smith Creek. These are short, small streams with steep gradients and intermittent flows. Grouse Creek is the largest stream and may have some redband rainbow trout in the lower reach on years when flows are adequate.

Wildlife: The area occurs within the range of the gray wolf, although there is no known denning or rendezvous activity reported in the area. Wintering bald eagle and nesting habitat occurs within the area. Minor wolverine habitat occurs in the area. Potential habitat occurs for northern three-toed woodpecker, northern goshawk, flammulated owl, and white-headed woodpecker. Potential habitat occurs for spotted bat, Townsend's big-eared bat, and spotted frog. Historical habitat occurs for the mountain quail. The IRA provides security for big game. The southern portion contains important elk and mule deer winter range.

Water: Perennial streams flow south to Arrowrock Reservoir and east to Cottonwood Creek. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other uses on the Forest. An estimated 490 acres are within a municipal watershed of United Water Idaho.

Range: Approximately 75 percent of the area is within an active cattle allotment managed under a rest rotation system. There are range improvements in the form of fences and water developments. The remaining 25 percent of the area is in a vacant allotment. There are 536 acres of capable cattle grazing land and 554 acres of capable sheep grazing land in the IRA.

Timber: The roadless area has 36,770 thousand board feet (MBF) of standing timber volume, equivalent to 73,948 hundred cubic feet (CCF). An estimated 4,100 acres (32 percent) of the Mt. Heinen IRA are tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 1,748 acres are considered to have low productivity; 2,924 acres, moderate productivity; and 502 acres, high productivity.

Minerals: There are 40 mining claims in the area. Near Wood Gulch on the east, the area adjoins patented and unpatented lode mining claims with high gold potential.

Heritage: The area has low cultural resource sensitivity. Surveys in adjoining and overlapping areas, in similar topographic situations, show the area to be characterized by a low site density.

Landownership and Special Uses: There is no private or state land within the IRA. No special uses are known in the area.

Disturbances: There have been three recorded wildfire ignitions or occurrences in the area since 1960. An estimated 4,760 acres have burned in wildfires, with most of this attributed to the 1992 Dunnigan Fire. Douglas-fir and Western pine bark beetle activity occurs at low to moderate levels mainly along the perimeter of burned areas.

Botanical Characteristics: No threatened, endangered, or Region 4 sensitive plant species are known to occur in the area. There are no inventoried locations of noxious weeds within the roadless area.

NEED

Proximity to Designated Wilderness and Population Centers: The area lies about 70 road miles from the entrance to the Sawtooth Wilderness Area. The area lies about 20 miles from Boise. As a designated wilderness, the area would serve the local communities of Mountain Home and Prairie, and population centers such as Boise and Salt Lake City.

Biological: This IRA lies within the M332 Ecoregion (Middle Rocky Mountain Steppe-Coniferous Forest-Alpine Meadow Province), which is well represented in existing wildernesses.

Public Interest: There has been relatively low public interest in this area becoming wilderness. Only one concerned individual specifically identified this IRA for wilderness recommendation in response to the DEIS. This IRA is recommended for wilderness designation in the most recent wilderness bill, HR 488, the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act.

WILDERNESS EVALUATION SUMMARY

Capability Summary:

Apparent Naturalness	Moderate
Opportunity for Solitude	Low
Opportunities for Challenge and Adventure	Moderate
Special Features	None

Determination of Availability or Unavailability: The IRA does not meet any of the criteria listed in FSH 1909.12.7.22a. Therefore, the IRA is available for wilderness designation.

Values Foregone With Wilderness Designation: The economic values associated with 4,100 acres of tentatively suited timberlands containing 36,770 MBF or 73,948 CCF would be foregone. Values from future mineral development would likely be foregone, although rights to valid existing claims might be retained. Current motorized recreation use opportunities would be foregone.

Biological and Social Need: The M332 Ecoregion is well represented in existing designated wildernesses. One concerned individual identified this IRA for wilderness recommendation.

ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

IRA Disposition by Alternative: The following table displays IRA management disposition for each alternative in acres. These values represent the potential, long-term outcomes of managing the IRA based solely upon its MPC assignments.

IRA Management Disposition	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Recommended Wilderness	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maintain undeveloped character	0	0	0	0	0	12,788	0
Potential low levels of development	0	0	0	0	0	0	12,788
Available for full range of development	12,788	12,788	12,788	12,788	12,788	0	0

Potential Future Development: Potential future development is represented by combinations of management emphasis/direction (MPCs), and existing conditions that are likely to become priority areas for development activities over the course of the next two or three decades. The development activities chosen for this estimation are timber harvest, vegetation restoration, and fuel reduction. Development potential is expressed in acres in the table below.

Potential Development	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Timber activities	1,194	1,884	0	0	3,062	0	0
Restoration/fuel reduction activities	2,019	1,278	3,299	3,299	0	0	3,299
Total	3,213	3,160	3,299	3,299	3,062	0	3,299

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics: The following table displays the effects on wilderness characteristics for each alternative. The effects on wilderness characteristics are based on the estimation of potential future development.

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
	H	H	H	H	H	N	H

N = No change; slight change or less than 1 percent of the area potentially affected.

L = Light impact: 1-5 percent of the area potentially affected.

M = Moderate impact; 5-20 percent of the area potentially affected.

H = High impact; greater than 20 percent of the area potentially affected.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The preferred alternative does not recommend any portion of the Mt. Heinen IRA for wilderness. Essentially all of the roadless area would be available for low levels of development. Before any activity is approved that would have a significant impact on the undeveloped character of the roadless area, it would be preceded by an environmental analysis following NEPA procedures and public involvement.

**Nameless Creek
Roadless Area No. 02034
2,277 Acres**

DESCRIPTION

The Nameless Creek IRA, on the Lowman Ranger District, is a “residual” area not included when the FC-RONR Wilderness was created in 1980. This area adjoins the southwestern portion of the wilderness and is accessed by the Warm Lake-Stanley Road (Forest Road 579) via State Highways 21 or 55. The area is also accessed by the North Fork Elk Creek (005) Trail.

Elevations range from about 6,400 feet along Bear Valley Creek to nearly 8,000 feet. Lands vary from flat, wet grassy meadows with scattered stands of lodgepole pine and Engelmann spruce, to moderately steep slopes with moderate to dense stands of lodgepole pine. Overall, the area has rolling to mountainous topography interspersed with large meadows. Prominent features include Nameless Creek and Nameless Meadow.

CAPABILITY

Natural Integrity and Appearance: The natural appearance and integrity of this area are intact.

Opportunities for Solitude and Primitive Recreation: Opportunities for primitive recreation and solitude are good. When considered as part of the adjacent FC-RONR Wilderness, the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are plentiful.

Special Features: No special features have been identified in this IRA.

Manageability and Boundaries: The northern boundary of the area is adjacent to the FC-RONR Wilderness. Some minor boundary adjustments could make more logical, manageable boundaries if the area were to be designated wilderness.

AVAILABILITY

Recreation: The IRA receives typical backcountry fall big-game hunting use, concentrated mostly in the areas adjacent to trails and roads. The North Fork Elk Creek area is part of a “Watchable Wildlife Area.” There is a 1.2-mile segment of a non-motorized trail in the area, which accesses the FC-RONR Wilderness. The area receives light use as a portal to this wilderness. Inventoried ROS classes are as follows:

ROS Class	Summer	Winter
Roaded Natural	20%	0%
Roaded Modified	80%	0%
Semi-Primitive Motorized	0%	20%
Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized	0%	80%

Fisheries: This IRA contains all of Nameless Creek except the lower two-thirds mile that flows out of the IRA and enters Elk Creek. Nameless Creek does not provide spawning habitat for listed Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon or Snake River Basin steelhead, but may provide some rearing habitat at its lower end. The entire Bear Valley basin, including this IRA, has been designated as critical habitat for salmon. Nameless Creek has not been surveyed thoroughly, but has been designated as adjunct habitat, meaning that it could provide spawning and rearing habitat for listed bull trout. This portion of Elk Creek serves as nodal or migratory habitat for bull trout.

Wildlife: Gray wolves are known to occur within this area, with adjacent habitats within the FC-RONR Wilderness used by wolves for denning and rearing areas. Potential habitat for lynx and wolverine occurs; however, their presence in the area is unknown. The mature forest habitats within the IRA currently provide important cover and travel areas for these species. About 52 percent of the IRA has been identified as potential lynx habitat. Great gray owl, northern goshawk, northern three-toed woodpecker, and spotted frog are sensitive species that are known to occur or could potentially occur within the IRA. Great gray owls and goshawks are known to breed in Bear Valley in habitats similar to those found in this IRA. Many of these sensitive species occupy mid- to late-seral forested habitats, which have recently burned in this area. The IRA provides summer and fall habitat for elk and mule deer, and elk calving areas.

Water: The area has a number of streams that flow to Elk Creek including Nameless Creek. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other uses on the Forest.

Range: There are no grazing allotments in the IRA. There are short drift fences in the area. There are 413 acres of capable cattle rangeland in the IRA.

Timber: The area has 5,424 thousand board feet (MBF) of standing timber volume, equivalent to 10,877 hundred cubic feet (CCF). An estimated 1,700 acres (75 percent) of the Nameless IRA are considered tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 985 acres are considered to have low productivity; 744 acres, moderate productivity; and 0 acres, high productivity.

Minerals: The area has a portion that is considered a fair to poor permissive area for silt, sand and gravel. There are two mining claims in the area.

Heritage: Cultural resource site sensitivity is rated as moderate. Prehistoric sites have been identified adjacent the area. The roadless area has not been surveyed, but it is expected that sites exist within the area.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no private or state-owned lands within the IRA. One outfitter-guide provide bear and cougar hunting trips in the area, and another provides deer and elk hunting trips, summer pack trips, and trail rides.

Disturbances: There has been one recorded wildfire occurrence in the area since 1960. An estimated 2,170 acres burned in the 1987 Deadwood Fire.

Botanical Characteristics: There have been few plant surveys conducted in the area. No threatened, endangered, or Region 4 sensitive plant species are known to occur in the area. There are no inventoried locations of noxious weeds within the roadless area.

NEED

Proximity to Designated Wilderness and Population Centers : The area adjoins the FC-RONR Wilderness. The area lies about 70 miles from Boise. As a designated wilderness, this area would serve the community of Cascade and Crouch-Garden Valley, and the population centers of Boise and Salt Lake City.

Biological: This IRA lies within the M332 Ecoregion (Middle Rocky Mountain Steppe-Coniferous Forest-Alpine Meadow Province), which is well represented in existing wildernesses.

Public Interest: There has been moderate public interest in this area becoming wilderness. Concerned individuals or organizations specifically suggested this IRA for wilderness recommendation in response to the DEIS. This IRA is recommended for wilderness designation in the most recent wilderness bill, HR 488, the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act

WILDERNESS EVALUATION SUMMARY**Capability Summary:**

Apparent Naturalness	High
Opportunity for Solitude	High
Opportunities for Challenge and Adventure	High
Special Features	None

Determination of Availability or Unavailability: The IRA does not meet any of the criteria listed in FSH 1909.12.7.22a. Therefore, the IRA is available for wilderness designation.

Values Foregone With Wilderness Designation: The economic values associated with 1,700 acres of tentatively suited timberlands containing 5,423 MBF or 10,877 CCF would be foregone. Values from future mineral development would likely be foregone, although rights to valid existing claims might be retained. However, the area appears to have very low potential for mineral development. There would be no motorized use values foregone. The area is closed to off-road motorized use and there are no groomed winter routes or over-the-snow use allowed.

Biological and Social Need: The M332 Ecoregion is well represented in existing designated wildernesses. Concerned individuals or organizations specifically suggested this IRA for wilderness recommendation.

ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

IRA Disposition by Alternative: The following table displays IRA management disposition for each alternative in acres. These values represent the potential, long-term outcomes of managing the IRA based solely upon its MPC assignments.

IRA Management Disposition	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Recommended Wilderness	0	0	0	2,277	0	0	0
Maintain undeveloped character	0	0	0	0	0	2,277	0
Potential low levels of development	2,277	2,277	2,277	0	0	0	2,277
Available for full range of development	0	0	0	0	2,277	0	0

Potential Future Development: Potential future development is represented by combinations of management emphasis/direction (MPCs), and existing conditions that are likely to become priority areas for development activities over the course of the next two or three decades. The development activities chosen for this estimation are timber harvest, vegetation restoration, and fuel reduction. Development potential is expressed in acres in the table below.

Potential Development	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Timber activities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Restoration/fuel reduction activities	0	0	1,558	0	1,558	0	0
Total	0	0	1,558	0	1,558	0	0

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics: The following table displays the effects on wilderness characteristics for each alternative. The effects on wilderness characteristics are based on the estimation of potential future development.

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
	N	N	H	N	H	N	N

N = No change; slight change or less than 1 percent of the area potentially affected.

L = Light impact; 1-5 percent of the area potentially affected.

M = Moderate impact; 5-20 percent of the area potentially affected.

H = High impact; greater than 20 percent of the area potentially affected.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The preferred alternative does not recommend any portion of the Nameless Creek IRA for wilderness. All of the IRA would be available for low levels of development. Before any activity is approved that would have a significant impact on the undeveloped character of the IRA, it would be preceded by an environmental analysis following NEPA procedures and public involvement.

**Peace Rock
Roadless Area No. 0402026
191,712 Acres**

DESCRIPTION

The Switchback roadless area, identified in the 1990 Boise National Forest Plan, has been merged with the Peace Rock IRA, as they shared common boundaries. Peace Rock is the largest roadless area on the Boise NF. The IRA is on the Cascade, Emmett, and Lowman Ranger Districts, between the Middle Fork Payette River and the Deadwood River. Additional stringers of land extend into the headwaters of the South Fork Salmon River. The IRA is accessed off the Banks-Lowman Highway (Forest Highway 17), the Scott Mountain Road (Forest Road 555), and the Middle Fork Payette River Road (Forest Road 698), via State Highways 55 or 21. The area is also accessed by several trails, including the Switchback, Middle Fork Payette, Rattlesnake, Lightning Ridge, Silver Creek Summit, Peace Creek, and Tranquil Basin Trails.

Elevations range from about 3,600 feet along the Middle Fork Payette River to 8,696 feet at Rice Peak. The dominant landforms are steep, highly dissected slopes with sharp ridge tops and v-shaped drainages. At lower elevations, scattered to dense stands of Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine predominate, while in higher areas, moderate to dense stands of subalpine fir and scattered stands of lodgepole pine prevail. Prominent features include Scott Mountain, Peace Rock, Wild Buck Peak, Lightning Creek Rock, Silver Creek Summit, Rice Peak, and several hot springs along the Middle Fork Payette River.

CAPABILITY

Natural Integrity and Appearance: The apparent naturalness and natural integrity of the area have generally been unaffected, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. The area generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. There are a number of short classified road segments that are just within the IRA boundaries. There are 5 such classified road segments totaling 2.28 miles, with most of this in the Silver Creek vicinity.

Opportunities for Solitude and Primitive Recreation: The area's rugged terrain provides outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Opportunities for high-quality backpacking, remote hiking, and hunting are extremely good. Opportunities for solitude are plentiful due to the large area, rugged and steep terrain, and numerous drainages.

Special Features: The jagged, rocky knobs of Peace Rock and Silver Creek Summit are notable distinct features. Scattered high-elevation glacial basins are special features that contrast with the dry steep terrain of most of the area. The Long Fork Silver Creek with its steep canyon walls is also a special feature of the area. Rice Peak fire lookout is managed for recreational rental use. This IRA contains segments of three different rivers that have been identified as eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers: Middle Fork Payette River, South Fork Payette River, and Deadwood River. The segments total an estimated 4,330 acres and 16.2 river miles within the IRA. This IRA also contains a river segment determined suitable for designation to the Wild and Scenic River System, the South Fork Salmon River. There are an estimated 1,606 acres of this river corridor and 4.4 miles of the segment within the IRA.

Manageability and Boundaries: Peace Rock has some very complex and irregular boundaries in some locations due to cherry stem boundaries caused by excluding roads and associated timber harvest. Some of the boundaries would be difficult to identify on the ground and to administer. Creating more manageable boundaries would result in a reduction of acreage.

AVAILABILITY

Recreation: This very large area has an extensive, well-maintained trail system. Most of the trail use is by ATV or motorcycle. The area supports a wide range of backcountry recreation such as hunting, camping, and horseback riding. The area receives fairly high fall big-game hunting use. The Rice Peak Lookout is being developed into a lookout/cabin rental. There are 35 trails within the roadless area, of which 137.1 miles are motorized and 21.9 miles are non-motorized. Inventoried ROS classes are:

ROS Class	Summer	Winter
Roaded Natural	7%	1%
Roaded Modified	14%	1%
Semi-Primitive Motorized	55%	96%
Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized	24%	2%

Fisheries: The Peace Rock IRA contains portions of three major drainages that have important fisheries populations and habitats, the Middle Fork Payette River, the South Fork Salmon River, and Johnson Creek. This IRA contains a sizeable portion of the Middle Fork Payette River from Bridge Creek upstream, including the headwaters and various tributaries. This reach of the Middle Fork includes focal, nodal, and adjunct bull trout habitat. This IRA also contains Bull Creek and Sixteen-to-one Creek, which provide focal habitat and/or adjunct habitat for bull trout. Wet Foot, West Fork, Sixmile, Valley, Peace, Lightning, Silver, and Long Fork Silver are identified as adjunct bull trout habitat. Streams downstream that have been sampled include Goat, Lake, Dash, Bryan, Bridge, Rattlesnake, Big Bulldog, Lightning, Onion, Lookout, Anderson Creeks, and all contain redband rainbow trout habitat. These tributaries are within state-identified bull trout key watersheds (State of Idaho 1996).

This IRA also contains a segment of the South Fork Salmon River, including the headwaters. The main stem South Fork within and adjacent to the IRA provides spawning and rearing habitat for bull trout as well as westslope cutthroat, and listed chinook and steelhead. Lodgepole, Mormon, Bear, Rice and Tyndall Creeks, and tributaries to Rice Creek and Yellowjacket Creek, support bull trout populations. Bear Lake has not been surveyed but could support bull trout. Other streams in the South Fork and Johnson Creek drainages may also provide spawning and/or rearing habitat for listed chinook, steelhead, and bull trout. Portions of the IRA within the South Fork and Johnson Creek drainages is designated as critical habitat for spring/summer chinook salmon. There are an estimated 1.7 miles of stream with salmon and steelhead spawning and rearing habitat, and 45.8 miles of stream with bull trout spawning and rearing habitat.

Wildlife: Confirmed gray wolf activity has occurred in this IRA, with increasing activity occurring since the augmentation program in the 1990s. The IRA has potential lynx habitat but it is not known if lynx are present. An estimated 48 percent of the IRA is potential lynx habitat. Fisher, wolverine, boreal owl, great gray owl, northern three-toed woodpecker, northern goshawk, flammulated owl, and spotted frog

are Region 4 sensitive species that are either known or highly likely to occur in this IRA based on known presence, or the existence of habitat. Wolverine denning habitat has been identified in the area. A small amount (242 acres) of bald eagle wintering habitat occurs in the area. There is very limited elk or mule deer winter range in the area, most of it along the small portion adjacent the South Fork Payette River.

Water: There are some high-elevation lakes in the northern portion of the area. The area has a complex drainage system with streams flowing in every direction to various major watersheds. The area contains a portion of the Middle Fork Payette River with numerous perennial streams flowing to it from the east and west, including Bull Creek. The area also has perennial streams flowing east and west to the South Fork Salmon River, east to the Deadwood River and Reservoir, and perennials flowing south to the South Fork Payette River and Anderson Creek. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other uses on the Forest. An estimated 7,830 acres are within a municipal watershed of the Rivers Point Property Owners.

Range: There are portions of five allotments encompassing about 50 percent of the IRA. One allotment is grazed by cattle and managed under a rest-rotation system. The other four are vacant sheep allotments. There are few range improvements in the area. There are 271 acres of capable cattle grazing land and 20,453 acres of capable sheep grazing land in the IRA.

Timber: The area has 1,337,888 thousand board feet (MBF) of standing timber volume, or 2,665,224 hundred cubic feet (CCF). An estimated 158,900 acres (83 percent) of the Peace Rock IRA are tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 64,423 acres are considered to have low productivity; 73,755 acres, moderate productivity; and 30,250 acres, high productivity.

Minerals: There are geothermal hot springs along the Middle Fork Payette River. There are currently 270 mining claims in the IRA. A portion of the inactive Abella molybdenum mining operation is located in the southeast corner of the area. The area has a portion that is considered a fair to poor permissive area for silt, sand and gravel.

Heritage: The area has high cultural resource sensitivity. There are historic and prehistoric sites identified in the area. The South Fork Payette River corridor, the Wild Buck Trail area, and Tranquil Basin are locations where such sites have been identified.

Landownership and Special Uses: There is no private or state land within the IRA. There is an outfitter-guide permit for horse trail rides. One outfitter-guide service provides cougar and bear hunting trips in the area, while another provides deer and elk hunting trips, summer pack trips, and trail rides in the area.

Disturbances: There have been eight recorded wildfire ignitions or occurrences in the area. An estimated 8,370 acres have burned in wildfires. Approximately 11,000 acres of low-intensity prescribed fire have occurred in the Bulldog and Rattlesnake Creek drainages. Localized areas of Douglas-fir beetle infestations killed a large percentage of the older Douglas-fir trees in the early 1900s. Evidence of this mortality occurs in scattered locations throughout the IRA.

Botanical Characteristics: Idaho douglasia, and giant helleborine, both Region 4 sensitive plant species, have been reported in the IRA. Rush skeletonweed, a noxious weed, has infested an estimated 4,240 acres of the IRA.

NEED

Proximity to Designated Wilderness and Population Centers : The area lies about 3 miles from the FC-RONR Wilderness. The area lies about 40 miles from Boise. As a designated wilderness, this area would serve the communities of Cascade and Crouch-Garden Valley, and the population centers of Boise and Salt Lake City.

Biological: This IRA lies within the M332 Ecoregion (Middle Rocky Mountain Steppe-Coniferous Forest-Alpine Meadow Province), which is well represented in existing wildernesses.

Public Interest: There has been relatively high public interest in this area becoming wilderness. Numerous concerned individuals or organizations specifically suggested this IRA for wilderness recommendation in response to the DEIS. This IRA is recommended for wilderness designation in the most recent wilderness bill, HR 488, the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act.

WILDERNESS EVALUATION SUMMARY**Capability Summary:**

Apparent Naturalness	High
Opportunity for Solitude	High
Opportunities for Challenge and Adventure	High
Special Features	Present

Determination of Availability or Unavailability: The IRA does not meet any of the criteria listed in FSH 1909.12.7.22a. Therefore, the IRA is available for wilderness designation.

Values Foregone With Wilderness Designation: The economic values associated with 158,900 acres of tentatively suited timberlands containing 1,337,888 MBF or 2,665,855 CCF would be foregone. Values from future mineral development would likely be foregone, although rights to valid existing claims might be retained. Portions of the area have potential for mineral development. Current motorized recreation use opportunities on 143 miles of trails would be foregone. The area has an extensive network of motorized trails. There is some snowmobile use occurring in some locations of the IRA that would be foregone. The area does have trails that are currently used by mountain bikers, and mountain bike use opportunities would be foregone.

Biological and Social Need: The M332 Ecoregion is well represented in existing designated wildernesses. Numerous concerned individuals or organizations specifically suggested this IRA for wilderness recommendation in response to the DEIS. There appears to be considerable local interest and support for a wilderness or other special designation for the area.

ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

IRA Disposition by Alternative: The following table displays IRA management disposition for each alternative in acres. These values represent the potential, long-term outcomes of managing the IRA based solely upon its MPC assignments.

IRA Management Disposition	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Recommended Wilderness	0	0	0	190,399*	0	0	0
Maintain undeveloped character	1,313	1,313	1,313	1,313	1,313	191,712	1,313
Potential low levels of development	89,400	133,785	137,289	0	40,109	0	190,399
Available for full range of development	100,999	56,614	53,110	0	150,290	0	0

*Recommended wilderness areas do not include acreages for the Research Natural Area within them.

Potential Future Development: Potential future development is represented by combinations of management emphasis/direction (MPCs), and existing conditions that are likely to become priority areas for development activities over the course of the next two or three decades. The development activities chosen for this estimation are timber harvest, vegetation restoration, and fuel reduction. Development potential is expressed in acres in the table below.

Potential Development	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Timber activities	31,487	2,702	0	0	38,931	0	0
Restoration/fuel reduction activities	40,787	73,297	141,739	0	99,353	0	118,142
Total	72,274	75,999	141,739	0	138,284	0	118,150

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics: The following table displays the effects on wilderness characteristics for each alternative. The effects on wilderness characteristics are based on the estimation of potential future development.

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
	H	H	H	N	H	N	H

N = No change; slight change or less than 1 percent of the area potentially affected.

L = Light impact; 1-5 percent of the area potentially affected.

M = Moderate impact; 5-20 percent of the area potentially affected.

H = High impact; greater than 20 percent of the area potentially affected.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The preferred alternative does not recommend any portion of the Peace Rock IRA for wilderness. All of the roadless area would be available for low levels of development with the exception of a small area managed as a Research Natural Area. Before any activity is approved that would have a significant impact on the undeveloped character of the IRA, it would be preceded by an environmental analysis following NEPA procedures and public involvement.

**Poison Creek
Roadless Area Nos. 0402042 and 0412042
5243 Acres (4854 acres Boise NF; 389 acres Payette NF)**

DESCRIPTION

The Poison Creek IRA is a recently delineated roadless area that was identified during a 1999 roadless area inventory for the Forest Plan Revision. The Poison Creek area lies within the West Mountain range, west of the Cascade Reservoir and northwest of Cascade, Idaho. The area lies within the Cascade Ranger District on the Boise NF and the Council Ranger District on the Payette NF. The area is accessed via Forest Road 422 along the west side of Cascade Reservoir and by the West Mountain Ridge Road (Forest Road 653). The area is also accessed by the motorized Poison Creek (4196) and Arling (4116) Trails. Generally the area consists of east-facing slopes of the West Mountain Ridge that form a backdrop for Cascade Reservoir.

Elevations range from 5,200 feet along the east boundary to 7,836 feet at Lone Tree Summit. Slopes in the roadless area are generally moist and stream-cut. Moderate to dense mixed conifer stands of grand fir, Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine, and western larch are found at lower elevations, while subalpine fir, Engelmann spruce and whitebark pine dominate in the higher country. Lodgepole pine is scattered throughout. Typical understory grasses include Idaho fescue, pinegrass, elk and Ross sedges. Several shrubs are evident, including mountain maple, ninebark, common and mountain snowberry, blue huckleberry, grouse whortleberry, sagebrush and alder. Overall, the Poison Creek roadless area is marked by dense timber at lower elevations, giving way to alpine vegetation, meadows, exposed rock outcroppings, and steep non-forested slopes.

CAPABILITY

Natural Integrity and Appearance: The area generally appears primarily affected by the forces of nature, with little evidence of man's imprint. The natural integrity of the area is intact. There are two short segments of unclassified roads within the perimeter of the IRA totaling 0.35 mile.

Opportunities for Solitude and Primitive Recreation: There are opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation due to the rugged terrain and forested cover over much of the area. The relatively small size diminishes the opportunities for challenge and risk. In some locations of the IRA, a feeling of solitude or remoteness is diminished by the proximity of Cascade Reservoir, the adjacent rural developments, and the nearby communities of Cascade and Donnelly.

Special Features: The high-elevation Poison Lake is a special water feature. Lone Tree Summit is a notable landmark feature.

Manageability and Boundaries: The ridge road along the west boundary would form a logical boundary as would landownership boundaries along the north, south, and eastern boundaries.

AVAILABILITY

Recreation: There are two motorized trails within the roadless area totaling 3.5 miles. Trail use is low and generally occurs during the fall big-game hunting season. Summer recreation use is low, while fall recreation use increases slightly with big-game hunting seasons. The area is closed to off-road and off-

trail motorized travel except for snowmobiles. Most of the snowmobile use occurs on the ridge top and on some of the east facing slopes that are void of trees. The winter snowmobile use is low due to the difficult terrain and the avalanche danger on the open east-facing slopes. Inventoried ROS classes are as follows:

ROS Class	Summer	Winter
Roaded Natural	7%	0%
Roaded Modified	94%	7%
Semi-Primitive Motorized	0%	93%

Fisheries: The IRA contains the headwater portions of Poison Creek, Rock Creek, Duck Creek, Gibson Creek, and three unnamed streams to the south of Duck Creek. These are mostly small, very steep, and rapid-flowing streams that contain small to moderate-sized populations of brook trout and possibly small populations of redband rainbow trout. They do not contain bull trout and are not in a priority bull trout watershed. No fishery exists in Poison Lake, but an exceptional assortment of aquatic invertebrates and amphibians inhabits the pond.

Wildlife: The ridge top provides an important raptor migration corridor. The area provides habitat for big-game species such as mountain lion, black bear, elk, and mule deer. An estimated 29 percent of the area contains lynx habitat. There also is potential wolverine denning habitat. Pileated woodpecker and boreal owl nesting habitat has been identified in portions of the area. White-headed woodpecker, flammulated owl, northern goshawk, and northern three-toed woodpecker habitat likely exists in the area. Bald eagles are known to use the lower portions of this area for perching during the spring and summer months, the area has a very small amount of bald eagle nesting habitat.

Water: Poison Lake is a high-elevation picturesque small water body. Perennial streams flow easterly to Cascade Reservoir, with Poison and Duck Creeks as the dominant drainages. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other uses on the Forest.

Range: There are no grazing allotments in the area. There are 177 acres of capable cattle rangeland in the IRA.

Timber: There are an estimated 25,921 thousand board feet (MBF) of standing timber within the IRA, equivalent to 51,329 hundred cubic feet (CCF). An estimated 2,500 acres (48 percent) of the IRA are tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 815 acres are considered to have low productivity; with 1,299 acres, moderate productivity; and 960 acres, high productivity.

Minerals: There are currently 5 mining claims in the IRA.

Heritage: Although sites have been documented adjacent and within the area, the cultural resource site sensitivity is low.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no state or private lands, or authorized special uses in the area.

Disturbances: There have been no major disturbances in the area since 1960.

Botanical Characteristics: No threatened, endangered, or Region 4 sensitive plant species are known to occur in the area. There are no inventoried locations of noxious weeds within the roadless area.

NEED

Proximity to Designated Wilderness and Population Centers: The area lies about 30 miles from the FC-RONR Wilderness. The area lies about 60 miles from Boise and 8 miles from Cascade. As a designated wilderness, the area would serve the local communities of Cascade and McCall, and the regional population centers of Boise and Salt Lake City.

Biological: An estimated 68 percent of this IRA lies within the M332 Ecoregion (Middle Rocky Mountain Steppe-Coniferous Forest-Alpine Meadow Province), which is well represented in existing wildernesses. The remainder of the IRA (32 percent) lies within the M342 Ecoregion (Intermountain Semi-desert Province), which is minimally represented in existing wildernesses.

Public Interest: The degree of public interest for wilderness designation is unknown at this time as this area is a recently delineated roadless area and has not undergone any formal scoping or public comment period relative to wilderness designation.

WILDERNESS EVALUATION SUMMARY**Capability Summary:**

Apparent Naturalness	High
Opportunity for Solitude	Low
Opportunities for Challenge and Adventure	Moderate
Special Features	Present

Determination of Availability or Unavailability: The IRA does not meet any of the criteria listed in FSH 1909.12.7.22a. Therefore, the IRA is available for wilderness designation.

Values Foregone With Wilderness Designation: The economic values associated with 2,500 acres of tentatively suited timberlands containing 25,921 MBF or 51,329 CCF would be foregone. Values from future mineral development would likely be foregone, although rights to valid existing claims might be retained. The area appears to have low potential for mineral development. Current motorized recreation use opportunities would be foregone. Motorized use associated with 3.5 miles of trails would be foregone. There is considerable winter snowmobile use along the upper ridges of the area. While no trails are currently being used to any degree by mountain bikers, potential mountain bike use opportunities would be foregone.

Biological and Social Need: The M332 Ecoregion portion (68 percent of IRA) is well represented in designated wildernesses, and M342 Ecoregion (32 percent of IRA) is minimally represented. The degree of public interest for wilderness designation is unknown at this time as this area is a recently delineated roadless area and has not undergone any formal scoping or public comment period relative to wilderness designation.

ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

IRA Disposition by Alternative: The following table displays IRA management disposition for each alternative in acres. These values represent the potential, long-term outcomes of managing the IRA based solely upon its MPC assignments:

IRA Management Disposition	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Recommended Wilderness	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maintain undeveloped character	0	0	0	0	0	5,243	0
Potential low levels of development	0	0	5,243	5,243	0	0	5,243
Available for full range of development	5,243	5,243	0	0	5,243	0	0

Potential Future Development: Potential future development is represented by combinations of management emphasis/direction (MPCs), and existing conditions that are likely to become priority areas for development activities over the course of the next two or three decades. The development activities chosen for this estimation are timber harvest, vegetation restoration, and fuel reduction. Development potential is expressed in acres in the table below.

Potential Development	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Timber activities	2,115	124	0	0	124	0	0
Restoration/fuel reduction activities	0	2,026	2,150	2,150	2,026	0	2,150
Total	2,115	2,150	2,150	2,150	2,150	0	2,150

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics: The following table displays the effects on wilderness characteristics for each alternative. The effects on wilderness characteristics are based on the estimation of potential future development.

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
	H	H	H	H	H	N	H

N = No change; slight change or less than 1 percent of the area potentially affected.

L = Light impact; 1-5 percent of the area potentially affected.

M = Moderate impact; 5-20 percent of the area potentially affected.

H = High impact; greater than 20 percent of the area potentially affected.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The preferred alternative does not recommend any portion of Poison Creek IRA for wilderness. Essentially all of the IRA would be available for low levels of development. Before any action is approved that would have a significant impact on the undeveloped character of the IRA, it would be preceded by an environmental analysis following NEPA procedures and public involvement.

**Poker Meadows
Roadless Area No. 0402032
676 Acres**

DESCRIPTION

The Poker Meadows roadless area, on the Lowman Ranger District, is a “residual” area not included in the wilderness when the FC-RONR was created in 1980. This area adjoins the southwestern portion of the wilderness, and is accessed by the Warm Lake-Stanley Road (Forest Road 22) via State Highways 21 or 55. No trail access is present.

Elevations range from about 6,400 feet along Bear Valley Creek to nearly 8,000 feet. Lands vary from flat, wet grassy meadows with scattered stands of lodgepole pine and Engelmann spruce to moderately steep slopes with moderate to dense stands of lodgepole pine. Overall, the Poker Meadows IRA is marked with moderately steep forested slopes with interspersed wet meadows. No prominent landscape features are present.

CAPABILITY

Natural Integrity and Appearance: The natural appearance and integrity of this area is intact.

Opportunities for Solitude and Primitive Recreation: Opportunities for primitive recreation and solitude are limited by the area’s small size. When considered as part of the adjacent FC-RONR Wilderness, the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are plentiful.

Special Features: This IRA is adjacent to segments of Elk Creek that are eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation. An estimated 2.9 miles of the river and 367 acres of the river corridor occur within the IRA.

Manageability and Boundaries: The northern boundary of the area is adjacent to the FC-RONR Wilderness. Some minor boundary adjustments could make more logical, manageable boundaries if the area were to be designated wilderness.

AVAILABILITY

Recreation: The IRA receives typical backcountry fall big-game hunting use, and some snowmobile use in the open areas and meadows. There are no recreation trails in the area. Inventoried ROS classes are as follows:

ROS Class	Summer	Winter
Roaded Natural	100%	0%
Semi-Primitive Motorized	0%	100%

Fisheries: This IRA contains the lower two-thirds of an unnamed stream that flows into Bear Valley Creek at the IRA boundary. This unnamed creek does not provide spawning habitat for listed Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon or Snake River Basin steelhead trout, but may provide rearing

habitat at its lower end. The entire Bear Valley basin, including this IRA, has been designated as critical habitat for salmon. This creek has not been surveyed, but probably does not provide spawning and rearing habitat for listed bull trout. The area contains an estimated 4.4 miles of stream with bull trout spawning and rearing habitat, and 4.6 miles of streams with salmon and steelhead spawning and rearing habitat.

Wildlife: Gray wolves are known to occur within this area. The complex of wet meadows and adjacent forest cover with high elk use make this area potentially suitable for denning and rendezvous habitat, although the proximity to the Warm Lake-Stanley Road may reduce this potential. Potential habitat for wide-ranging lynx, wolverine, and fisher occurs. An estimated 82 percent of the IRA has identified potential lynx habitat. The mature forest habitats within the IRA currently provide important cover and travel areas for these species. Great gray owls and goshawks are known to breed in the adjacent Bear Valley in habitats similar to those found in Poker Meadows IRA. Many of the sensitive species occupy mid- to late-seral forested habitats. The importance of these late-successional habitats within this IRA has increased due to the large fire-created seral areas occurring to the north of the IRA.

This IRA is part of a large complex of wet meadows interspersed with dense forest cover. These areas are used by elk for calving and are considered key summer habitat. The IRA is important for providing security areas for elk and deer during hunting seasons and for maintaining the snag component of forested habitats across large areas.

Water: The area includes parts of Bear Valley Creek and a few associated streams that flow into Bear Valley Creek. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other uses on the Forest.

Range: There are no grazing allotments in the area. There are 54 acres of capable cattle rangeland in the area.

Timber: The area includes 5,647 thousand board feet (MBF) of standing timber volume, equivalent to 12,505 hundred cubic feet (CCF). An estimated 600 acres (89 percent) of the IRA contain tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 58 acres are considered to have low productivity; 552 acres, moderate productivity; and 0 acres, high productivity.

Minerals: The area has a portion that is considered a fair to poor permissive area for silt, sand and gravel. There are few mining claims in the area.

Heritage: Cultural resource site sensitivity is rated as high. Prehistoric sites have been identified adjacent and within the area.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no private or state-owned lands within the IRA. One outfitter-guide provide bear and cougar hunting trips in the area, while another provides deer and elk hunting trips, summer pack trips, and trail rides.

Disturbances: There have been four recorded wildfire ignitions or occurrences in the area. Approximately 60 acres have burned in wildfires.

Botanical Characteristics: There have been few plant surveys conducted in the area. No threatened, endangered, or Region 4 sensitive plant species are known to occur in the area.

NEED

Proximity to Designated Wilderness and Population Centers: The Poker Meadows area is adjacent to the FC-RONR Wilderness. The area lies about 70 miles from Boise. As a designated wilderness, this area would serve the community of Cascade and Crouch-Garden Valley, and the population centers of Boise and Salt Lake City.

Biological: This IRA lies within the M332 Ecoregion (Middle Rocky Mountain Steppe-Coniferous Forest-Alpine Meadow Province), which is well represented in existing wildernesses.

Public Interest: There has been moderate public interest in this area becoming wilderness. Concerned individuals or organizations specifically suggested this IRA for wilderness recommendation in response to the DEIS. This IRA is recommended for wilderness designation in the most recent wilderness bill, HR 488, the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act.

WILDERNESS EVALUATION SUMMARY**Capability Summary:**

Apparent Naturalness	High
Opportunity for Solitude	High
Opportunities for Challenge and Adventure	High
Special Features	Present

Determination of Availability or Unavailability: The IRA does not meet any of the criteria listed in FSH 1909.12.7.22a. Therefore, the IRA is available for wilderness designation.

Values Foregone With Wilderness Designation: The economic values associated with 600 acres of tentatively suited timberlands containing 5,647 MBF or 12,205 CCF would be foregone. Values from future mineral development would likely be foregone, although rights to valid existing claims might be retained. The area appears to have low potential for mineral development. Current motorized recreation use opportunities would be foregone.

Biological and Social Need: The M332 Ecoregion is well represented in existing designated wildernesses. Concerned individuals or organizations specifically suggested this IRA for wilderness recommendation.

ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

IRA Disposition by Alternative: The following table displays IRA management disposition for each alternative in acres. These values represent the potential, long-term outcomes of managing the IRA based solely upon its MPC assignments.

IRA Management Disposition	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Recommended Wilderness	0	0	0	676	0	0	0
Maintain undeveloped character	0	0	0	0	0	676	0
Potential low levels of development	0	676	676	0	0	0	676
Available for full range of development	676	0	0	0	676	0	0

Potential Future Development: Potential future development is represented by combinations of management emphasis/direction (MPCs), and existing conditions that are likely to become priority areas for development activities over the course of the next two or three decades. The development activities chosen for this estimation are timber harvest, vegetation restoration, and fuel reduction. Development potential is expressed in acres in the table below.

Potential Development	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Timber activities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Restoration/fuel reduction activities	506	506	506	0	506	0	0
Total	506	506	506	0	506	0	0

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics: The following table displays the effects on wilderness characteristics for each alternative. The effects on wilderness characteristics are based on the estimation of potential future development.

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
	H	H	H	N	H	N	N

N = No change; slight change or less than 1 percent of the area potentially affected.

L = Light impact; 1-5 percent of the area potentially affected.

M = Moderate impact; 5-20 percent of the area potentially affected.

H = High impact; greater than 20 percent of the area potentially affected.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The preferred alternative does not recommend any portion of the Poker Meadows IRA for wilderness. All of the roadless area would be available for low levels of development. Before any activity is approved that would have a significant impact on the undeveloped character of the IRA, it would be preceded by an environmental analysis following NEPA procedures and public involvement.

Rainbow
Roadless Area No. 0402008
31,466 Acres

DESCRIPTION

The Rainbow IRA, in the Mountain Home Ranger District, is located north of Anderson Ranch Reservoir, and south of Trinity Lakes. This area is accessed either by the Fall Creek Road north of the reservoir, or the Trinity Creek Road northwest of Featherville. The Rainbow IRA is also accessed by the Alpine Lakes (1174), Rainbow Lakes (1175), Bear Hole (1176), and Cross Cut (1172) Trails.

Elevations in the Rainbow IRA range from 6,000 to 9,100 feet. In the northern portion of the area, glaciers have created U-shaped valleys, rocky cirques, and scoured sideslopes. Stands of subalpine fir and whitebark pine are scattered among extensive barren areas. Pockets of lodgepole pine occur in the northern portion. In the southern portion, granitic stream-cut lands with moderate to steep slopes are covered with moderate to dense stands of ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir. Overall, the Rainbow IRA provides a scenic subalpine environment, marked by craggy peaks and cirque basins. Trinity Mountain lies within this roadless area.

CAPABILITY

Natural Integrity and Appearance: The natural integrity and appearance of the Rainbow IRA is intact since little evidence of man's activity exists. There are four short segments of classified roads within the perimeter of the IRA totaling 0.85 mile.

Opportunities for Solitude and Primitive Recreation: Opportunities for primitive recreation are good as this area provides challenge and diversity of opportunity, and contains few man-made facilities. Opportunities for solitude are enhanced with the complex terrain and forested vegetative cover. The glacial scouring and river dissection of the terrain provides a complex broken terrain that affords ample opportunities for experiencing solitude or remoteness.

Special Features: The numerous high-elevation glacial lakes found in the headwaters of the Rainbow Creek drainage are special features that attract many day hikers and backpackers. Most of the 210-acre Trinity Mountain Research Natural Area is contained within the IRA.

Manageability and Boundaries: The area has some fairly irregular and complex boundaries. Manageability as a designated wilderness would benefit from simplified boundaries that could be created with little acreage difference.

AVAILABILITY

Recreation: Recreation activities that occur in the area are backpacking, camping, big-game hunting, hiking, horseback riding, and trailbike riding. There is a concentration of non-motorized trails in the high-elevation Rainbow Lakes areas, with many of the lakes being destination camping or day hiking spots. There are nine non-motorized trails totaling about 6 miles, and five motorized trails totaling an estimated 16.7 miles. Inventoried ROS classes are as follows:

ROS Class	Summer	Winter
Roaded Natural	16%	2%
Roaded Modified	33%	0%
Semi-Primitive Motorized	0%	52%
Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized	51%	46%

Fisheries: Major streams with headwaters in this area are Fall Creek and Trinity Creek. Smaller streams are Talley, Dog, Green, and Wagontown Creeks. This unit has a diversity of fish species. Bull trout were found in Fall Creek in 1994 and are known to have inhabited Trinity Creek in past years (Casey, personal communication, 1996). The upper half of Fall Creek and all of the Trinity Creek drainage are bull trout priority watersheds. Redband rainbow trout are located in all the streams with suitable habitat such as Wagontown, Green, Dog, Fall, Bear Wallow, Tally, Parks, and Trinity Creeks. Kokanee salmon spawn in the lower part of Trinity Creek in the fall months but are blocked from using Fall Creek by the large culvert at the crossing of Forest Road 113. An estimated 29.5 miles of streams contain bull trout spawning and rearing habitat.

Trinity Lakes and the Rainbow Basin Lakes are very popular waters for hikers and anglers during the summer months. These lakes contain rainbow, cutthroat, and brook trout.

Wildlife: The area occurs within the range of the gray wolf, although there is no known denning or rendezvous activity reported in the area. Wintering and nesting bald eagle habitat occurs within the area. The northern and central portions contain lynx habitat on an estimated 23 percent of the IRA. Good wolverine and fisher habitat occurs in the area. Potential habitat occurs for northern three-toed woodpecker, northern goshawk, flammulated owl, and white-headed woodpecker. Potential habitat occurs for spotted bat and Townsend's big-eared bat. Known populations of spotted frog occur. Potential habitat occurs for mountain quail. The IRA provides security for big game and contains big-game winter range.

Water: The Rainbow area contains some of the highly attractive and popular high-elevation lakes around Trinity Mountain Lookout. Perennial streams flow east and southeast to the South Fork Boise River and Anderson Ranch Reservoir. Other perennials flow west and southwest to Fall Creek. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other uses on the Forest.

Range: Approximately 85 percent of the area is within two sheep allotments that have no improvements. Ten percent of the area (around Rainbow Lakes) is not in an allotment, and the remaining five percent of the area is within a cattle allotment that has some improvements in the form of fences and water developments. There are 560 acres of capable cattle grazing land and 6,851 acres of capable sheep grazing land.

Timber: The roadless area has 128,009 thousand board feet (MBF) of standing timber volume, equivalent to 255,272 hundred cubic feet (CCF). An estimated 17,700 acres (56 percent) of the IRA contains tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 10,748 acres are considered to have low productivity; 6,121 acres, moderate productivity; and 7,260 acres, high productivity.

Minerals: There are few mining claims in the area. The IRA does contain a small area considered a fair to good area for sand and gravel along the South Fork Boise River.

Heritage: The area has low cultural resource sensitivity. Surveys in adjoining and overlapping areas, in similar topographic situations, indicate the area likely has a low site density.

Landownership and Special Uses: There is no private or state land within the IRA. One outfitter-guide provides cougar and bear hunting opportunities.

Disturbances: Douglas-fir bark beetle populations continue to be active at above endemic levels and are most pronounced where defoliation occurred by the Douglas-fir tussock moth in the early 1990s. A complex of other bark beetle activity exists at various levels throughout the IRA and adjacent areas. Tree mortality is most pronounced on north aspect Douglas-fir stands and where subalpine fir predominates.

Botanical Characteristics: No threatened, endangered, or Region 4 sensitive plant species are known to occur in the area. Few plant surveys have been conducted in the area.

NEED

Proximity to Designated Wilderness and Population Centers: The Rainbow IRA lies about 22 air miles from the Atlanta entrance to the Sawtooth Wilderness. The area lies about 44 miles from Boise and 30 miles from Mountain Home. As a designated wilderness, the area would serve the local communities of Mountain Home and Featherville, and population centers such as Boise and Salt Lake City.

Biological: This IRA lies within the M332 Ecoregion (Middle Rocky Mountain Steppe-Coniferous Forest-Alpine Meadow Province), which is well represented in existing wildernesses.

Public Interest: There has been moderate public interest in this area becoming wilderness. This IRA was specifically suggested for wilderness recommendation by concerned individuals or organizations in response to the DEIS. This IRA is recommended for wilderness designation in the most recent wilderness bill, HR 488, the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act.

WILDERNESS EVALUATION SUMMARY

Capability Summary:

Apparent Naturalness	High
Opportunity for Solitude	High
Opportunities for Challenge and Adventure	High
Special Features	Present

Determination of Availability or Unavailability: The IRA does not meet any of the criteria listed in FSH 1909.12.7.22a. Therefore, the IRA is available for wilderness designation.

Values Foregone With Wilderness Designation: The economic values associated with 17,700 acres of tentatively suited timberlands containing 128,009 MBF or 255,272 CCF would be foregone. Values from future mineral development would likely be foregone, although rights to valid existing claims might be retained. There is some potential in the area for sand and gravel extraction. Current motorized recreation use opportunities would be foregone. Motorized use associated with 16.7 miles of trails would be foregone. There are trails within the area that have been identified as popular mountain bike routes, and these uses and opportunities would be foregone.

Biological and Social Need: The M332 Ecoregion is well represented in existing wildernesses. Concerned individuals or organizations specifically suggested this IRA for wilderness recommendation in response to the DEIS.

ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

IRA Disposition by Alternative: The following table displays IRA management disposition for each alternative in acres. These values represent the potential, long-term outcomes of managing the IRA based solely upon its MPC assignments.

IRA Management Disposition	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Recommended Wilderness	0	0	0	31,267*	0	0	0
Maintain undeveloped character	199	199	199	199	199	31,466	199
Potential low levels of development	14,251	14,216	14,216	0	7,963	0	31,267
Available for full range of development	17,016	17,051	17,051	0	23,304	0	0

*Recommended wilderness areas do not include acreages for the Research Natural Area within them.

Potential Future Development: Potential future development is represented by combinations of management emphasis/direction (MPCs), and existing conditions that are likely to become priority areas for development activities over the course of the next two or three decades. The development activities chosen for this estimation are timber harvest, vegetation restoration, and fuel reduction. Development potential is expressed in acres in the table below.

Potential Development	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Timber activities	1,694	1,478	0	0	9,070	0	0
Restoration/fuel reduction activities	5,944	6,176	14,400	0	4,804	0	14,400
Total	7,638	7,654	14,400	0	13,873	0	14,400

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics: The following table displays the effects on wilderness characteristics for each alternative. The effects on wilderness characteristics are based on the estimation of potential future development.

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
	H	H	H	N	H	N	H

N = No change; slight change or less than 1 percent of the area potentially affected.

L = Light impact; 1-5 percent of the area potentially affected.

M = Moderate impact; 5-20 percent of the area potentially affected.

H = High impact; greater than 20 percent of the area potentially affected.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The preferred alternative does not recommend any portion of the Rainbow IRA for wilderness. Most of the roadless area would be available for low levels of development with the exception of the Trinity Mountain Research Natural Area. Before any activity is approved that would have a significant impact on the undeveloped character of the roadless area, it would be preceded by an environmental analysis following NEPA procedures and public involvement.

Red Mountain
Roadless Area No. 0402916 (Boise) 0406916 (Salmon-Challis)
115,245 Acres (110,350 Boise NF Acres, 4,895 Salmon-Challis NF Acres)

DESCRIPTION

The Red Mountain IRA, on the Lowman Ranger District, Boise National Forest, and Yankee Fork Ranger District, Salmon-Challis National Forest, lies north and east of Lowman and includes the Eightmile and Warm Springs Creek drainages of the South Fork Payette River drainage, and the area east of Bear Valley Creek in the Middle Fork Salmon River drainage. The area is accessed from State Highway 21, the Clear Creek Road from Lowman to Bear Valley (Forest Road 582), the Warm Lake Road from Cascade (Forest Road 22), and the Fir Creek Road from Stanley (Forest Road 579). The northeastern part of the area is also accessed by the Bench Creek Trail (024), near Highway 21. The area is also accessed by several trails, including the Wyoming-Fir Creek (015), Clear Creek (145), Warm Springs (147), Link (148), and Kirkham Ridge (144) Trails.

Elevations range from about 4,500 feet along the South Fork Payette River to 8,722 feet atop Red Mountain. Lower elevations include steep stream-cut slopes and canyons, while higher elevations are characterized by glacial troughlands and cirques. Vegetation in the South Fork Payette River drainage includes open sagebrush/grass communities, and moderate to dense stands of ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir. The Clear Creek and Bear Valley areas are marked by scattered to dense stands of lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir, and subalpine fir, with scattered stands of Engelmann spruce in the wetter areas.

Overall, the area includes diverse mountainous terrain, ranging from heavily forested slopes to barren and dissected rocky canyons, to high alpine mountain lakes in cirque basins. Prominent features include Red Mountain, Eightmile Mountain (7,871 feet), and the high-elevation Red Mountain lakes.

CAPABILITY

Natural Integrity and Appearance: Generally the area retains its natural appearance and natural integrity. There is one short segment (0.57 mile) of unclassified road within the perimeter of the IRA.

Opportunities for Solitude and Primitive Recreation: The large area, extensive mountain terrain, and varied vegetative, landform, and water features allow for ample opportunities to experience solitude and primitive or challenging forms of recreation.

Special Features: The high-elevation Red Mountain Lakes are special landscape features. The IRA lies adjacent to segments of Bear Valley Creek and the South Fork Payette River, which are eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation. There are an estimated 670 acres of these river corridors within the IRA. Important habitat for three threatened fish species occurs in this IRA.

Manageability and Boundaries: Some minor boundary adjustments would be desirable to facilitate identification and management if the area were to be designated wilderness.

AVAILABILITY

Recreation: This is a large area and receives a variety of backcountry motorized and non-motorized use mostly on the existing 66-mile trail system. The IRA receives typical backcountry fall big-game hunting

use, concentrated mostly in the areas adjacent to trails and roads. A popular groomed snowmobile route follows the northern boundary, and snowmobile use occurs adjacent this trail in the open forest and open meadow areas. The high-elevation lakes in the northern portion of the IRA are popular recreation destinations, accessible by a network of trails. There are 11 trails within the area, of which 59.6 miles are motorized and 6.4 miles are non-motorized. Inventoried ROS classes are as follows:

ROS Class	Summer	Winter
Roaded Natural	7%	4%
Roaded Modified	4%	0%
Semi-Primitive Motorized	28%	96%
Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized	61%	0%

These ROS acres only reflect the Boise portion of Red Mountain IRA.

Fisheries: All of the streams within the Red Mountain IRA are within either the Bear Valley or upper South Fork Payette River bull trout key watersheds (State of Idaho 1996). The entire Bear Valley basin, including portions of this IRA, has been designated as critical habitat for salmon.

The main streams within the Bear Valley watershed that are bordered by or fall within this IRA include Bear Valley, Fir, Cold, Wyoming, Sack, Pole, and Cache Creeks. This IRA borders Bear Valley Creek, which provides spawning and rearing habitat for listed chinook salmon and steelhead trout. This section of Bear Valley Creek also contains nodal listed bull trout habitat and provides habitat for redband rainbow and westslope cutthroat trout. The mouth and lower portion of Fir Creek may have historically provided spawning habitat for chinook and steelhead; however, currently Fir Creek is probably only used by these fish for rearing. Fir Creek provides spawning and rearing habitat for redband rainbow, westslope cutthroat, and bull trout. Cold Creek provides focal bull trout habitat, and redband rainbow have been observed. Wyoming Creek provides focal bull trout habitat and spawning and rearing habitat for redband rainbow and possibly westslope cutthroat trout. Pole Creek may provide marginal rearing habitat for chinook salmon and steelhead. The same section of stream may also provide very limited spawning and rearing habitat for bull trout, westslope cutthroat, and redband rainbow. The lower 2 miles of Cache Creek may have historically provided spawning habitat for chinook and steelhead, but currently only serves only as potential rearing habitat. Steelhead may potentially use up to 4 miles for rearing. Cache Creek provide focal and adjunct bull trout habitat. In addition, there are redband rainbow and potential westslope cutthroat trout spawning and rearing habitat. Sack Creek historically may have provided spawning habitat for chinook and steelhead. Currently about one mile is potentially used by chinook for rearing, and steelhead may use about 2.5 miles for rearing. A portion of Sack Creek is adjunct bull trout habitat and potentially provides spawning and rearing habitat for redband rainbow and westslope cutthroat trout. Sack Creek has very high densities of non-native brook trout.

Lost Lake is a small lake within the IRA that contains bull trout, redband rainbow, and cutthroat trout. East and West Cache Lakes are also located within this IRA, and both contain strong populations of native redband rainbow trout. These lakes are somewhat unique in that they support native populations of fish that are not augmented with hatchery fish.

The major streams within the upper South Fork Payette key bull trout watershed that border or fall within this IRA include Clear, Fivemile, Eightmile, Little Tenmile, Casner, Warmspring, and Canyon Creeks. The streams listed above contain an estimated 20 miles of nodal and 29 miles of focal bull trout habitat. Clear Creek originates within this IRA and is of special note because it contains the only documented

strong migratory population of bull trout within the South Fork Payette River. In addition, Clear Creek is listed as a bull trout priority watershed. All of the streams listed above provide spawning and rearing habitat for redband rainbow trout. Many of the large number of small, unnamed streams that originate within this IRA provide some spawning and rearing habitat for redband rainbow trout.

The Red Mountain and Cat Creek cluster of lakes are relatively pristine and can only be accessed by foot, horseback, bike, or, motorcycle. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game has planted these lakes with rainbow, westslope cutthroat, rainbow/cutthroat hybrids, and grayling. In addition, a few of the lakes appear to have some remnant populations of native redband rainbow.

The IRA contains an estimated 29.5 miles of streams with bull trout spawning and rearing habitat.

Wildlife: Gray wolves are known to occur within this area. The complex of wet meadows and adjacent forest cover with high elk use in the north-northwest portion make this area potentially suitable for denning and rendezvous habitat. Potential habitat for lynx, wolverine, and fisher occurs; however, their presence in the area is unknown. Suitable potential denning habitat for wolverine has been identified within the IRA. Lynx have historically been documented in the Sack Creek area. Approximately 50 percent of the area is potential lynx habitat, with most of it concentrated in the northern half of the IRA. There are sizeable amounts of potential wolverine denning habitat and scattered lynx denning habitat in the area. The IRA provides a large, secluded habitat important to these species. Boreal owl, great gray owl, northern goshawk, flammulated owl, white-headed woodpecker, three-toed woodpecker, and spotted frog are sensitive species that are known to occur or could potentially occur within the IRA.

The area provides summer and fall habitat for elk and mule deer. The northern portion falls within Bear Valley and is used by elk for calving and rearing. The IRA is important for providing security areas for elk and deer during hunting seasons. There is limited winter range for elk and deer, primarily along the lower elevations adjacent the South Fork Payette River.

Water: The area has a complex drainage system of numerous perennial streams that flow northwest to Bear Valley Creek, west to Clear Creek, and south to the South Fork Payette River. There are a number of small high elevation lakes around the Red Mountain summit. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish wildlife and other uses on the Forest.

Range: There are portions of two vacant sheep grazing allotments that occupy approximately 50 percent of the IRA. There are a few short drift fences in the area. There are 778 acres of capable cattle grazing land and 7,521 acres of capable sheep grazing land.

Timber: The IRA has an estimated 545,001 thousand board feet (MBF) of standing timber volume, equivalent to 1,075,939 hundred cubic feet (CCF). An estimated 74,900 acres (65 percent) of the IRA are tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 47,622 acres have low productivity; 35,101 acres, moderate productivity; and 3,271 acres, high productivity.

Minerals: There are currently 590 mining claims in the IRA. The area has a portion that is considered a fair to poor permissive area for silt, sand and gravel.

Heritage: Cultural resource site sensitivity is rated as low.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no private or state owned lands within the IRA. There are three outfitter-guide services that provide big game (deer and elk) hunting trips and summer pack trips in the area. Another outfitter provides cougar and bear hunting trips in the area. An avalanche forecasting

station is planned for this area. A domestic water transmission line, and a diversion for irrigation and domestic water are permitted water uses in the area.

Disturbances: The 1992 County Line Fire and 1989 Lowman Fire were major disturbances. A total of 15,6300 acres have been burned by wildfire since 1960. There have been nine recorded wildfire ignitions or occurrences in the area. The Mace Creek area has high infestations of Douglas-fir beetle. In the Canyon Creek corridor, an outbreak of spruce budworm has been followed by Douglas-fir beetle infestations.

Botanical Characteristics: There are known occurrences of Idaho douglasia, a Region 4 sensitive plant species, and Idaho bitterroot, a proposed sensitive plant species. There are minor amounts of spotted knapweed, rush skeletonweed, and Dalmation toadflax (noxious weeds), with less than 1 acre considered occupied or invaded by each.

NEED

Proximity to Designated Wilderness and Population Centers: The Red Mountain area lies between the Sawtooth Wilderness and the FC-RONR Wilderness. The northern portion lies within 2 miles of the FC-RONR Wilderness. The area lies about 50 miles from Boise. As a designated wilderness, this area would serve the community of Stanley, and the population centers of Boise and Salt Lake City.

Biological: This IRA lies within the M332 Ecoregion (Middle Rocky Mountain Steppe-Coniferous Forest-Alpine Meadow Province), which is well represented in existing wildernesses.

Public Interest: There has been relatively high public interest in this area becoming wilderness. Numerous concerned individuals or organizations specifically suggested this IRA for wilderness recommendation in response to the DEIS. This IRA is recommended for wilderness designation in the most recent wilderness bill, HR 488, the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act.

WILDERNESS EVALUATION SUMMARY

Capability Summary:

Apparent Naturalness	High
Opportunity for Solitude	High
Opportunities for Challenge and Adventure	High
Special Features	Present

Determination of Availability or Unavailability: The IRA does not meet any of the criteria listed in FSH 1909.12.7.22a. Therefore, the IRA is available for wilderness designation.

Values Foregone With Wilderness Designation: The economic values associated with 74,900 acres of tentatively suited timberlands containing 545,001 MBF or 1,075,939 CCF would be foregone. Values from future mineral development would likely be foregone, although rights to valid existing claims might be retained. There are currently 590 mining claims within the area. Current motorized recreation use opportunities would be foregone. The area has an extensive network of motorized trails. Motorized use associated with approximately 60 miles of trails would be foregone. Snowmobile use occurs in the northern portion adjacent Bear Valley Creek. There are trails within the area that have been identified as popular mountain bike routes, and mountain bike use opportunities would be foregone.

Biological and Social Need: The M332 Ecoregion is well represented in existing designated wildernesses. Numerous concerned individuals or organizations specifically suggested this IRA for wilderness recommendation in response to the DEIS.

ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

IRA Disposition by Alternative: The following table displays IRA management disposition for each alternative in acres. These values represent the potential, long-term outcomes of managing the IRA based solely upon its MPC assignments.

IRA Management Disposition	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Recommended Wilderness	84,335	86,066	86,066	110,350	0	86,066	86,066
Maintain undeveloped character	0	0	0	0	0	24,284	0
Potential low levels of development	11,262	19,474	20,781	4,895	44,955	4,895	28,278
Available for full range of development	19,648	9,705	8,398	0	70,290	0	901

Potential Future Development: Potential future development is represented by combinations of management emphasis/direction (MPCs), and existing conditions that are likely to become priority areas for development activities over the course of the next two or three decades. The development activities chosen for this estimation are timber harvest, vegetation restoration, and fuel reduction. Development potential is expressed in acres in the table below.

Potential Development	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Timber activities	0	0	0	0	9,009	0	0
Restoration/fuel reduction activities	11,679	10,641	16,234	0	53,537	0	8,977
Total	11,679	10,641	16,234	0	62,546	0	8,977

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics: The following table displays the effects on wilderness characteristics for each alternative. The effects on wilderness characteristics are based on the estimation of potential future development.

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
	M	M	M	N	H	N	M

N = No change; slight change or less than 1 percent of the area potentially affected.

L = Light impact; 1-5 percent of the area potentially affected.

M = Moderate impact; 5-20 percent of the area potentially affected.

H = High impact; greater than 20 percent of the area potentially affected.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The preferred alternative recommends an 86,066-acre portion of the Red Mountain IRA for wilderness. The remaining portion would be available for mainly low levels development. These prescriptions and wilderness recommendations only apply to the portion of Red Mountain IRA located on the Boise National Forest. Before any activity is approved that would have a significant impact on the undeveloped character of the roadless area, it would be preceded by an environmental analysis following NEPA procedures and public involvement.

**Reeves Creek
Roadless Area No. 0402010
10,540 Acres**

DESCRIPTION

The Reeves Creek area was part of the larger Caton Lake IRA during the 1990 Forest Plan roadless evaluation. During the evaluation undertaken for Forest Plan Revision, it was determined that the utility corridor along Cabin Creek effectively separates this area from the main portion of Caton Lake, resulting in a spatially separate roadless area. Located on the Cascade Ranger District, the Reeves Creek area lies northeast of Warm Lake within the South Fork Salmon River and Johnson Creek drainages. The area is accessed by the Johnson Creek Road from Landmark (Forest Road 413) via the Warm Lake Highway (Forest Road 22), and by roads leading from the South Fork Salmon River Road (Forest Road 474).

Elevations range from 5,280 feet in Paradise Valley to an 8,241-foot unnamed mountaintop. Slopes are moderately steep to steep and stream-cut, while many peaks and ridges have been glacially scoured and are separated by U-shaped glacial valleys. The lower slopes contain ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir, while lodgepole pine and subalpine fir are the predominant cover types in the high country. Approximately 50 percent of the area was intensively burned in the 1989 Warm Lake Complex Fire. Overall, the Reeves Creek area is characterized as a forested mountain ridge broken by complex drainage patterns created by creeks and drainages flowing to Johnson Creek to the east, and to the South Fork Salmon River to the west.

CAPABILITY

Natural Integrity and Appearance: Natural integrity and appearance of the area are largely intact.

Opportunities for Solitude and Primitive Recreation: There are opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation in the area. Opportunities for solitude have been limited in some areas due to the loss of vegetative screening from recent wildfires.

Special Features: There are no special features identified in the area.

Manageability and Boundaries: Cherry-stem roads to the east will make management difficult. Adjustments to simplify these boundaries would result in substantial reduction in the IRA's size.

AVAILABILITY

Recreation: Recreation use is low with horseback riding, and hunting use occurring. There are no trails within this roadless area. Inventoried ROS classes are as follows:

ROS Class	Summer	Winter
Rural	3%	3%
Roaded Natural	2%	0%
Roaded Modified	40%	0%
Semi-Primitive Motorized	0%	97%
Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized	55%	0%

Fisheries: Upper Cabin Creek supports bull trout populations. While the lower portions of Cabin Creek, Knox Creek, and Reeves Creek provide spawning and rearing habitat for chinook, and likely for steelhead, the upper portions that are within the IRA do not. The IRA encompasses portions of streams on both South Fork Salmon River and Johnson Creek drainages that do or potentially may provide spawning and/or rearing habitat for listed species. The entire IRA is within an area designated as critical habitat for spring/summer chinook salmon. An estimated 3.1 miles of streams contain bull trout spawning and rearing habitat.

Wildlife: Confirmed gray wolf activity has occurred in this IRA, with increasing activity occurring since the augmentation program in the 1990s. About 59 percent of this IRA is potential lynx habitat. This IRA has noted elk winter range. There is cliff habitat that provides good potential habitat for peregrine falcon. Fisher, wolverine, boreal owl, great gray owl, northern three-toed woodpecker, northern goshawk, flammulated owl, and spotted frog are Region 4 sensitive species that are either known or highly likely to occur in this IRA based on known presence in or nearby, or the existence of habitat. Flammulated owl habitat is present along the lower elevations on west and south-facing slopes. Potential wolverine denning habitat has been identified in the area.

Water: There are a few scattered small bodies of water in the area. The area has perennial streams that drain southwest to Warm Lake Creek and east to Johnson Creek. Reeves Creek is the primary drainage in the area. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish wildlife and other uses on the Forest.

Range: There is a portion of one allotment encompassing about 50 percent of the roadless area that is grazed by cattle and managed under a rest-rotation system. There are 418 acres of capable cattle grazing land. The portion of the allotment within the roadless area receives very little use.

Timber: The roadless area has 65,963 thousand board feet (MBF) of standing timber volume, equivalent to 130,913 hundred cubic feet (CCF). An estimated 8,500 acres (81 percent) of the Reeves Creek IRA are tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 4,921 acres are considered to have low productivity; 3,980 acres, moderate productivity; and 182 acres, high productivity.

Minerals: The area has a portion that is considered a fair to poor permissive area for silt, sand and gravel. There are currently 20 mining claims in the area.

Heritage: The cultural resource site sensitivity is moderate. Historic mining, cabin, and prehistoric sites have been documented adjacent and within the area.

Landownership and Special Uses: There is no private or state land within the IRA. There are three outfitter-guide permits for fishing, hunting and horseback riding.

Disturbances: There have been two recorded wildfire ignitions or occurrences in the area since 1960. An estimated 4,150 acres have burned in wildfires, with most of this attributed to the 1989 Warm Lake complex of fires. Approximately 1,100 acres were burned recently with low-intensity prescribed fire in the Cabin Creek and Reeves Creek area. Epidemic levels of Douglas-fir beetle infestations resulted in mortality of a large percentage of the older Douglas-fir trees in the early 1990s. Evidence of this mortality occurs in scattered locations throughout the IRA where Douglas-fir is present.

Botanical Characteristics: No threatened, endangered, or Region 4 sensitive plant species are known to occur in the area. There are no inventoried locations of noxious weeds within the roadless area.

NEED

Proximity to Designated Wilderness and Population Centers: The Reeves Creek area lies about 15 miles from the FC-RONR Wilderness. The area lies about 80 miles from Boise and 22 miles from Cascade. As a designated wilderness, this area would serve the local communities of Cascade and Yellow Pine, and the regional population centers of Boise and Spokane.

Biological: This IRA lies within the M332 Ecoregion (Middle Rocky Mountain Steppe-Coniferous Forest-Alpine Meadow Province), which is well represented in existing wildernesses.

Public Interest: There has been relatively low public interest in this area becoming wilderness. Only one concerned individual specifically identified this IRA for wilderness recommendation in response to the DEIS. This IRA is recommended for wilderness designation in the most recent wilderness bill, HR 488, the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act.

WILDERNESS EVALUATION SUMMARY**Capability Summary:**

Apparent Naturalness	High
Opportunity for Solitude	Moderate
Opportunities for Challenge and Adventure	Moderate
Special Features	None

Determination of Availability or Unavailability: The IRA does not meet any of the criteria listed in FSH 1909.12.7.22a. Therefore, the IRA is available for wilderness designation.

Values Foregone With Wilderness Designation: The economic values associated with 8,500 acres of tentatively suited timberlands containing 65,963 MBF or 130,913 CCF would be foregone. Values from future mineral development would likely be foregone, although rights to valid existing claims might be retained. Current motorized recreation use opportunities would be foregone.

Biological and Social Need: The M332 Ecoregion is well represented in existing designated wildernesses. Only one concerned individual specifically identified this IRA for wilderness recommendation in response to the DEIS.

ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

IRA Disposition by Alternative: The following table displays IRA management disposition for each alternative in acres. These values represent the potential, long-term outcomes of managing the IRA based solely upon its MPC assignments.

IRA Management Disposition	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Recommended Wilderness	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maintain undeveloped character	0	0	0	0	0	10,540	0
Potential low levels of development	0	4,944	4,944	4,944	3,392	0	10,540
Available for full range of development	10,540	5,596	5,596	5,596	7,148	0	0

Potential Future Development: Potential future development is represented by combinations of management emphasis/direction (MPCs), and existing conditions that are likely to become priority areas for development activities over the course of the next two or three decades. The development activities chosen for this estimation are timber harvest, vegetation restoration, and fuel reduction. Development potential is expressed in acres in the table below.

Potential Development	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Timber activities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Restoration/fuel reduction activities	8,045	8,045	8,045	4,245	8,045	0	4,245
Total	8,045	8,045	8,045	4,245	8,045	0	4,245

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics: The following table displays the effects on wilderness characteristics for each alternative. The effects on wilderness characteristics are based on the estimation of potential future development.

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
	H	H	H	H	H	N	

N = No change; slight change or less than 1 percent of the area potentially affected.

L = Light impact; 1-5 percent of the area potentially affected.

M = Moderate impact; 5-20 percent of the area potentially affected.

H = High impact; greater than 20 percent of the area potentially affected.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The preferred alternative does not recommend any of the Reeves Creek IRA for wilderness. All of the IRA would be available for low levels of development. Before any activity is approved that would have a significant impact on the undeveloped character of the IRA, it would be preceded by an environmental analysis following NEPA procedures and public involvement.

**Sheep Creek
Roadless Area No. 0402005
70,336 Acres**

DESCRIPTION

The Sheep Creek IRA, in the Mountain Home and Boise Ranger Districts, lies south of the Middle Fork Boise River, about 45 miles east of Boise. The area is primarily accessed by the Middle Fork Boise River Road, although the high elevation, southern portion may be accessed by the Fall Creek and Roaring River Roads. The area is also accessed from the William H. Pogue National Recreation trail, and the Lava Mountain, the Roaring River, the Corral Creek, and the Devil's Creek trails.

Elevations range from 3,500 feet along the Middle Fork to over 8,000 feet in the Trinities. The Sheep Creek area is underlain by granitics of the Idaho batholith. Lower slopes, typically steep and dissected by small streams, are covered by grass and forbs that thrive in the hot, dry summers and shallow granitic soils. Open brush and grass communities are scattered with ponderosa pine on moister northern and eastern slopes. The higher elevations are characterized with glaciated peaks, valleys, and slopes; several small lakes are found along the southern divide. Stands of ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir occur in upper Sheep Creek, but subalpine fir and whitebark pine prevail at higher elevations.

Overall, the area includes dry, rolling hills that gradually give way to steep, forested slopes and, at the highest elevations, craggy glacial peaks, cirques, and alpine lakes. Sheep Mountain (8,211 feet) lies near the area's eastern border, and Rattlesnake Mountain (8,177 feet) lies in the southwestern corner.

CAPABILITY

Natural Integrity and Appearance: Although the natural integrity of this area has been altered by past mining activities, the natural appearance is basically intact. There are localized areas around the historic mining sites that have evidence of previous occupation and mining.

Opportunities for Solitude and Primitive Recreation: The area provides good opportunities for solitude since the area is vast, and has steep canyons and extensive timber cover. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are good because of the area's size, diversity, and topography, which provide opportunities for fishing, hunting, high-elevation hiking, cross-country skiing, and pack trips.

Special Features: The 454-acre Roaring River Research Natural Area occurs within the Sheep Creek IRA. The IRA lies adjacent to the Middle Fork Boise River, which is eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation. An estimated 3.0 river miles and 2,504 eligible corridor acres occur within the IRA.

Manageability and Boundaries: Some of the current boundaries follow some fairly irregular lines that would be difficult to administer if the area were designated wilderness. Established motorized use could also complicate a non-motorized mandate like designated wilderness. Simpler, more logical boundaries could be developed with little change in the overall acreage.

AVAILABILITY

Recreation: Recreation is concentrated mostly on the trail system that is used by expert motorcycle riders and is also popular with hikers, backpackers, and horseback riders. The area is also used extensively during the fall hunting season. There is some fishing in the high-elevation lakes, and hiking or backpacking occurring with the lakes as destinations. There are eight motorized trails in the area totaling an estimated 56.7 miles. Inventoried ROS classes are as follows:

ROS Class	Summer	Winter
Roaded Natural	10%	7%
Roaded Modified	5%	0%
Semi-Primitive Motorized	48%	88%
Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized	37%	5%

Fisheries: Streams in this area are Sheep Creek, Devils Creek, Pete Creek, Big Five Creek, and Roaring River. This area has been largely isolated from any development activity and is a very important refuge area for bull trout. Sheep Creek and Roaring River are both priority bull trout watersheds and have healthy self-sustaining populations of bull trout at this time. The Sheep Creek population appears to be one of the more stable and stronger subpopulations on the Forest. Nodal habitat is also available to both of these streams in the Middle Fork Boise River. Roaring River presently has a large culvert at the crossing of Forest Road 255 that is blocking any upstream migration of bull trout to the upper reaches of the stream. Redband rainbow trout also inhabit the streams of this area. The adjacent Middle Fork Boise River contains mountain suckers, whitefish, and kokanee during the fall months. An estimated 34.8 miles of streams are considered bull trout spawning and rearing habitat.

Wildlife: The area occurs within the range of the gray wolf, although there is no known denning or rendezvous activity reported in the area. Wintering bald eagle habitat occurs within the area. Potential lynx habitat occurs in the southeastern half of the area. An estimated 24 percent of the area is identified as potential lynx habitat. Good potential habitat occurs for the fisher and wolverine. Potential habitat occurs for northern three-toed woodpecker, northern goshawk, flammulated owl, great gray owl, and white-headed woodpecker. Potential habitat occurs for spotted bat and Townsend's big-eared bat. Known populations of the spotted frog occur in the area. Habitat occurs for the mountain quail; a recent (within last 10 years) sighting has occurred in the Roaring River drainage. The IRA provides security for big game and contains big-game winter range.

Water: This area contains the headwaters of Sheep Creek, Roaring River, and Smith Creek. There are numerous perennials that flow to these creeks and rivers and well as those that flow directly to the Middle Fork Boise River, located along the northern boundary. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other uses on the Forest.

Range: Ninety percent of the area is within a vacant allotment. Five percent is within a cattle allotment managed under a rest rotation system and has some water developments. Another 5 percent is within a sheep allotment that has no improvements. There are 134 acres of capable cattle grazing land and 9,462 acres of capable sheep grazing land in the IRA.

Timber: The roadless area has 290,968 thousand board feet (MBF) of standing timber volume, equivalent to 574,077 hundred cubic feet (CCF). An estimated 38,100 acres (54 percent) of the Sheep Creek IRA are tentatively suited timberland. An estimated 19,479 acres are considered to have low productivity; 21,263 acres, moderate productivity; 6,275 acres, high productivity.

Minerals: The probability of finding minerals in the area is high as the historic mining areas of Twin Springs, Sheep Creek, Rattlesnake Mountain, and the West Fork, Middle Fork, and East Fork Roaring River all lay within this roadless area. Minerals produced include gold, silver, and lead. Some molybdenum exploration has occurred in the Sevir Creek drainage. There are currently 460 mining claims in the area.

Heritage: The area has low cultural resource sensitivity, based on the topography. Sites in the vicinity include historic mining, prehistoric, and isolated historic finds likely related to sheep herding activities.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no private or state lands within the IRA. There are two outfitter-guides that provide bear and cougar hunting and one outfitter-guide that provides llama pack trips and fishing.

Disturbances: There have been two recorded wildfire ignitions or occurrences in the area since 1960. Most of the area (27,730 acres) was burned in the 1992 Foothills Fire. Douglas-fir bark beetle activity has been active at moderate to high levels through 1996, but appears to have declined since 1997. During a recent rain-on-snow event, there were blowouts and soil movement in the Roaring River, South Fork Sheep Creek, and Sheep Creek drainages.

Botanical Characteristics: No threatened, endangered, or Region 4 sensitive plant species are known to occur in the area. There are small amounts of noxious weeds present, with an estimated 2 acres infested by spotted knapweed, and 4 acres by rush skeletonweed.

NEED

Proximity to Designated Wilderness and Population Centers: The Sheep Creek area lies approximately 30 miles west of the Atlanta entrance to the Sawtooth Wilderness. The area lies about 45 miles from Boise and 35 miles from Mountain Home. As a designated wilderness, the area would serve the local communities of Mountain Home and Idaho City, and population centers such as Boise and Salt Lake City.

Biological: This IRA lies within the M332 Ecoregion (Middle Rocky Mountain Steppe-Coniferous Forest-Alpine Meadow Province), which is well represented in existing wildernesses.

Public Interest: There has been moderate public interest in this area becoming wilderness. This IRA was specifically suggested for wilderness recommendation by concerned individuals or organizations in response to the DEIS. This IRA is recommended for wilderness designation in the most recent wilderness bill, HR 488, the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act.

WILDERNESS EVALUATION SUMMARY

Capability Summary:

Apparent Naturalness	High
Opportunity for Solitude	High
Opportunities for Challenge and Adventure	High
Special Features	Present

Determination of Availability or Unavailability: The IRA does not meet any of the criteria listed in FSH 1909.12.7.22a. Therefore, the IRA is available for wilderness designation.

Values Foregone With Wilderness Designation: The economic values associated with 38,100 acres of tentatively suited timberlands containing 290,968 MBF or 574,077 CCF would be foregone. Values from future mineral development would likely be foregone, although rights to valid existing claims might be retained. This area has relatively high potential for mineral development. Current motorized recreation use opportunities on 57 miles of trails would be foregone. The area has an extensive network of motorized trails. There is a portion of an identified mountain bike route in the area. Mountain bike use opportunities would be foregone.

Biological and Social Need: The M332 Ecoregion is well represented in existing designated wildernesses. Concerned individuals or organizations specifically suggested this IRA for wilderness recommendation.

ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

IRA Disposition by Alternative: The following table displays IRA management disposition for each alternative in acres. These values represent the potential, long-term outcomes of managing the IRA based solely upon its MPC assignments.

IRA Management Disposition	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Recommended Wilderness	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maintain undeveloped character	453	453	453	46,307	453	70,336	27,993
Potential low levels of development	57,910	56,942	45,868	24,029	27,540	0	42,342
Available for full range of development	11,973	12,941	24,015	0	42,342	0	0

Potential Future Development: Potential future development is represented by combinations of management emphasis/direction (MPCs), and existing conditions that are likely to become priority areas for development activities over the course of the next two or three decades. The development activities chosen for this estimation are timber harvest, vegetation restoration, and fuel reduction. Development potential is expressed in acres in the table below.

Potential Development	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Timber activities	5,577	4,141	0	0	4,635	0	0
Restoration/fuel reduction activities	0	1,858	28,487	4,931	23,509	0	18,371
Total	5,577	5,999	28,487	4,931	28,144	0	18,371

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics: The following table displays the effects on wilderness characteristics for each alternative. The effects on wilderness characteristics are based on the estimation of potential future development.

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
	M	M	H	M	H	N	H

N = No change; slight change or less than 1 percent of the area potentially affected.

L = Light impact; 1-5 percent of the area potentially affected.

M = Moderate impact; 5-20 percent of the area potentially affected.

H = High impact; greater than 20 percent of the area potentially affected.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The preferred alternative does not recommend any portion of the Sheep Creek IRA for wilderness. Approximately 40 percent of the IRA (27,993 acres) would be managed to maintain its undeveloped character, the remaining portion is available for low levels of development. Before any activity is approved that would have a significant impact on the undeveloped character of the roadless area, it would be preceded by an environmental analysis following NEPA procedures and public involvement.

Snowbank
Roadless Areas No. 0402924 and 0412924
35,730 Acres (34,211 Boise NF; 1,518 Payette NF)

DESCRIPTION

The Snowbank area lies within the West Mountain range, west and south of Cascade. The area lies within the Emmett and Cascade Ranger Districts on the Boise NF and the Council Ranger District on the Payette NF. The area is accessed from the Snowbank Mountain Road (Forest Road 446) off State Highway 55. Snowbank is also accessed from the Anderson Creek Road, the Pole Creek Road, and Forest Roads 622, 625, 646, and 653. The area is also accessed by several Forest trails, including the Wilson Creek (133), West Mountain (139), Blue Lake (119), and Skein Lake (122) Trails.

Elevations range from 5,200 feet to 8,322 feet at Snowbank Mountain. Slopes in the roadless area are generally moist and stream-cut. On the North Fork Payette slope, glaciated troughlands predominate. Moderate to dense stands of Douglas-fir, grand fir, and ponderosa pine are found at lower elevations, while subalpine fir and whitebark pine dominate in the higher country. Lodgepole pine is scattered throughout. Typical understory grasses include Idaho fescue, pinegrass, elk and ross sedges. Several shrubs are evident, including ninebark, common and mountain snowberry, huckleberry, grouse whortleberry, sagebrush and alder.

On Snowbank Mountain there is a federal aviation site, a radar site, and an access road that has been excluded from the Snowbank IRA. Overall, the Snowbank roadless area is marked by dense timber at lower elevations, giving way to alpine vegetation, meadows, and small mountain lakes near the peaks. Special attractions include Gabes Lake, Blue Lake, Shirts Lake, Tripod Peak, and Wilson Meadows.

CAPABILITY

Natural Integrity and Appearance: The area's natural appearance and natural integrity are noticeably altered in many locations from intensive grazing. This is particularly noticeable around the high-elevation lakes and wet meadows. There are segments of 3 unclassified roads totaling 1.97 miles within the IRA. There is a sheep driveway within the roadless area.

Opportunities for Solitude and Primitive Recreation: Generally there are considerable opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation due to the large size and rugged terrain of the area. In some locations adjacent to the Snowbank summit the opportunities are reduced by the physical presence of the summit facilities and the access road.

Special Features: The high-elevation lakes are a special water feature. Mountain cirques and craggy rock peaks are also special features. There is a fire lookout on Tripod Peak.

Manageability and Boundaries: The road to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) communication site would complicate wilderness management in this area. This area is an especially popular area for winter snowmobile and summer motorized use. A wilderness designation could cause considerable conflicts with established use.

AVAILABILITY

Recreation: The area supports a wide range of backcountry recreation such as hunting, camping, horseback riding, and fishing. The area receives fairly heavy winter snowmobile use, and the steep east-facing slopes rising to West Mountain are particularly favored for challenging a snow machine's "high tracking" ability. The area also receives fairly heavy fall big-game hunting use. Some of the high-elevation lakes are popular backpacking or hiking destinations. There are 13 trails within the roadless area, of which 7.4 miles are motorized and 42 miles are non-motorized. Inventoried ROS classes are:

ROS Class	Summer	Winter
Roaded Natural	11%	10%
Roaded Modified	23%	13%
Semi-Primitive Motorized	12%	77%
Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized	54%	0%

Fisheries: The west slopes contain portions of the headwaters of Sagehen, Renwick, Antelope, Third Fork Squaw, Squaw, and Poison Creeks, all of which drain into Squaw Creek. These tributaries are within the Squaw Creek Key Watershed for bull trout (State of Idaho 1996). Bull trout have been found within the headwater areas of Squaw Creek and Third Fork Squaw Creek, and most of the tributaries to Squaw Creek identified within the IRA are identified as potential bull trout habitat. Gabes Lake does not support fish, but provides good macro-invertebrate and amphibian habitat. Bull Corral Creek contains rainbow trout. An estimated 13.8 miles of streams contain bull trout spawning and rearing habitat.

Wildlife: Peregrine falcon habitat and a historic (1950) nest site are present. The ridge top provides an important raptor migration corridor. The area provides habitat for big-game species such as mountain lion, black bear, elk, and mule deer. Potential lynx and wolverine denning habitat has been identified in the area. An estimated 48 percent of the area is potential lynx habitat. Sizeable amounts of pileated nesting habitat have been identified in the western portion of the area. Habitat for northern goshawk, great gray owl, flammulated owl, boreal owl, white-headed woodpecker, and northern three-toed woodpecker occur in the area.

Water: Blue Lake is a highly used, picturesque lake less than one mile from the Snowbank Road. Gabes Lake is also another popular use lake in the area. There are other small high-elevation lakes in the area. There are several perennial streams that flow either easterly to the Cascade Reservoir or the North Fork Payette River, or westerly to Squaw Creek. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other uses on the Forest.

Range: Portions of five cattle grazing allotments encompass about 85 percent of the IRA. There are some structural improvements in the form of fencing, spring developments, and rider cabins within the roadless area. There are 4,289 acres of capable cattle rangeland within the IRA. The Van Wyck sheep driveway crosses the northern portion of the area.

Timber: The area has 234,339 thousand board feet (MBF) of standing timber volume, equivalent to 470,338 hundred cubic feet (CCF). An estimated 27,600 acres (77 percent of the IRA) are considered tentatively suitable timberland. An estimated 5,606 acres are considered to have low productivity; 16,886 acres, moderate productivity; and 7,260 acres, high productivity.

Minerals: There are currently 14 mining claims located in the area.

Heritage: Early mining sites and old cabin remnants are scattered within the Snowbank area, and a wide variety of sites have been documented in and around the IRA. Cultural resource sensitivity is moderate.

Landownership and Special Uses: There is no private or state land within the IRA. There is an outfitter-guide permit for horse trail riding, and a cooperative agreement with the state for a fire lookout at Tripod Peak. There is a permit for an irrigation water transmission line.

Disturbances: There have been no recent major disturbances in the area.

Botanical Characteristics: No threatened, endangered, or Region 4 sensitive plant species are known to occur in the area. Rush skeletonweed, a noxious weed, has infested less than 1 acre of the IRA.

NEED

Proximity to Designated Wilderness and Population Centers: The area lies about 30 miles from the FC-RONR Wilderness. The area lies about 50 air miles from Boise and 5 air miles from Cascade. As a designated wilderness, this area would serve the communities of Cascade and Emmett, and the population centers of Boise and Salt Lake City.

Biological: An estimated 97 percent of this IRA lies within the M332 Ecoregion (Middle Rocky Mountain Steppe-Coniferous Forest-Alpine Meadow Province), which is well represented in existing wildernesses. The remainder of the IRA (3 percent) lies within the M342 Ecoregion (Intermountain Semi-desert Province), which is minimally represented in existing wildernesses.

Biological: This IRA lies within the M332 Ecoregion (Middle Rocky Mountain Steppe-Coniferous Forest-Alpine Meadow Province), which is well represented in existing wildernesses.

Public Interest: There has been relatively high public interest in this area becoming wilderness. Numerous concerned individuals or organizations specifically suggested this IRA for wilderness recommendation in response to the DEIS. This IRA is recommended for wilderness designation in the most recent wilderness bill, HR 488, the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act.

WILDERNESS EVALUATION SUMMARY

Capability Summary:

Apparent Naturalness	High
Opportunity for Solitude	Moderate
Opportunities for Challenge and Adventure	High
Special Features	Present

Determination of Availability or Unavailability: The IRA does not meet any of the criteria listed in FSH 1909.12.7.22a. Therefore, the IRA is available for wilderness designation.

Values Foregone With Wilderness Designation: The economic values associated with 27,600 acres of tentatively suited timberlands containing 234,339 MBF or 470,338 CCF would be foregone. Values from future mineral development would likely be foregone, although rights to valid existing claims (14) might be retained. Current motorized recreation use opportunities on 7.5 miles of trail would be foregone. Some portions receive considerable snowmobile use, and this use would be foregone. There are trails

within the southern portion of the IRA that have been identified as popular mountain bike routes. Mountain bike use opportunities would be foregone.

Biological and Social Need: The M332 Ecoregion portion (97 percent of IRA) is well represented in designated wildernesses, and M342 Ecoregion (3 percent of IRA) is minimally represented. Numerous concerned individuals or organizations specifically suggested this IRA for wilderness recommendation.

ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

IRA Disposition by Alternative: The following table displays IRA management disposition for each alternative in acres. These values represent the potential, long-term outcomes of managing the IRA based solely upon its MPC assignments.

IRA Management Disposition	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Recommended Wilderness	0	0	0	35,729	0	0	0
Maintain undeveloped character	0	0	0	0	0	35,729	0
Potential low levels of development	21,871	26,178	6,140	0	0	0	35,729
Available for full range of development	13,858	9,551	29,589	0	35,729	0	0

Potential Future Development: Potential future development is represented by combinations of management emphasis/direction (MPCs), and existing conditions that are likely to become priority areas for development activities over the course of the next two or three decades. The development activities chosen for this estimation are timber harvest, vegetation restoration, and fuel reduction. Development potential is expressed in acres in the table below.

Potential Development	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Timber activities	8,985	4,119	0	0	21,995	0	0
Restoration/fuel reduction activities	0	3,118	25,816	0	2,416	0	25,815
Total	8,985	7,237	25,816	0	24,411	0	25,815

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics: The following table displays the effects on wilderness characteristics for each alternative. The effects on wilderness characteristics are based on the estimation of potential future development.

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
	H	H	H	N	H	N	H

N = No change; slight change or less than 1 percent of the area potentially affected.

L = Light impact: 1-5 percent of the area potentially affected.

M = Moderate impact; 5-20 percent of the area potentially affected.

H = High impact; greater than 20 percent of the area potentially affected.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The preferred alternative does not recommend any portion of the Snowbank IRA for wilderness. All of the IRA would be available for low levels of development. Before any activity is approved that would have a significant impact on the undeveloped character of the IRA, it would be preceded by an environmental analysis following NEPA procedures and public involvement.

**Steel Mountain
Roadless Area No. 0402012
23,482 Acres**

DESCRIPTION

The Steel Mountain IRA, located in the Idaho City and Mountain Home Ranger Districts, is bounded on the west by the Phifer Creek Road, on the east by the James Creek Road, and on the north by the Middle Fork Boise River Road. The area is also accessed by the Hot Creek Trail, which bisects the area from west to east.

Elevations range from about 4,500 feet along the Middle Fork Boise River to 9,730 feet at Steel Mountain. Glaciated peaks, valleys, and slopes with rugged and rocky terrain characterize higher elevations. Nearly 40 percent of the land surface consists of outcrops of hard, fractured granite. Open brush and grass communities, and moderate to dense Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, and subalpine fir forests occur in the lower areas. There are scattered pockets of whitebark pine in elevations above 8,000 feet. Overall, the area includes glaciated, rocky peaks at higher elevations, several small lakes at mid elevations, and steep timbered slopes at lower elevations. Steel Mountain, at 9,730 feet elevation, is the highest peak on the Boise NF.

CAPABILITY

Natural Integrity and Appearance: The natural integrity and appearance of the Steel Mountain area has been slightly affected by past mining activity. There is evidence of dredging adjacent the Middle Fork Boise River. There are an estimated 4 miles of primitive road in the Bald Mountain Creek area.

Opportunities for Solitude and Primitive Recreation: Opportunities for solitude are good because the extensive vegetation and rugged topography creates several isolated areas. Opportunities for primitive recreation are also good because the rugged terrain provides challenging cross-country travel.

Special Features: Steel Mountain, at 9,730 feet elevation, is the highest peak on the Boise Forest. The IRA contains segments of Elk Creek and the Middle Fork Boise River, which are eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation. An estimated 4.1 river miles and 2,204 acres of corridor occur within the IRA. Lake Creek is a high-elevation alpine lake of special interest.

Manageability and Boundaries: The area has some readily manageable boundaries. The northern boundary could logically consist of the Middle Fork Boise River while the west and southwest boundary would be an offset from the road along James Creek and Grade Creek.

AVAILABILITY

Recreation: The area receives some fall big-game hunting, backpacking, and hiking. Fishing occurs in Lake Creek Lake. The trails receive motorized use and some equestrian use. There is one 8.7 mile motorized trail in the area. Inventoried ROS classes are as follows:

ROS Class	Summer	Winter
Roaded Natural	27%	11%
Roaded Modified	4%	0%
Semi-Primitive Motorized	18%	89%
Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized	51%	0%

Fisheries: Streams in this area are the upper ends of Steel, Elk, Phifer, Hot, and Lake Creeks, which are very small and steep, with limited fishery habitat. They contain redband rainbow trout in the lower reaches where flows are sufficient. The southern part of this area also contains the headwaters of Elk Creek, a priority bull trout watershed. Large waterfalls at the road crossing of Forest Road 126 prevent the upstream migration of fish to the headwaters of Elk Creek. Within the IRA, there are 12.5 miles of streams considered bull trout spawning and rearing habitat.

Wildlife: The IRA is an important security area for deer and elk. The area forms an important link between unroaded areas to the south and the Sawtooth Wilderness for species such as pine martin, wolverine, and perhaps lynx. Potential lynx habitat is scattered throughout the area, with about 36 percent of the IRA being potential habitat. Potential wolverine denning habitat has been identified in the area. Habitat for fisher, northern goshawk, boreal owl, flammulated owl, northern three-toed woodpecker and white-headed woodpecker occurs in the area. Winter range for big game is generally absent. Steel Mountain contains potential mountain goat habitat.

Water: Steel Mountain has a number of perennial streams that flow north west and east to the Middle Fork Boise River, and south to Feather River. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other uses on the Forest.

Range: The entire area is within two sheep grazing allotments, and there are no grazing improvements within the IRA. There are 2,630 acres of capable sheep rangeland in the IRA.

Timber: The IRA has 113,705 thousand board feet (MBF) of standing timber volume, equivalent to 221,242 hundred cubic feet CCF). An estimated 13,900 acres (59 percent) of the IRA are tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 8,584 acres are considered to have low productivity; 6,259 acres, moderate productivity; and 2,260 acres, high productivity.

Minerals: There has been considerable past mining activity along the Middle Fork Boise River and some limited activity along James Creek Road. The area has a low estimated interest in mineral development. There are 165 mining claims in the area.

Heritage: The area is part of the South Boise Historic Mining District. Prehistoric and historic sites, including the mining towns of Atlanta and Yuba City, are located adjacent and within the roadless area. Cultural resource site sensitivity of the IRA is moderate.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no private or state lands within the IRA. There are two outfitter-guide permittees that provide cougar and bear hunting opportunities.

Disturbances: None of the area has burned in wildfires since 1960. Bark beetles have affected much of the northern portion of the IRA. The southern portion has had heavy infestations of Tussock moth. Such insect and disease processes have affected about 60 percent of the area.

Botanical Characteristics: Idaho douglasia, a Region 4 sensitive plant species, has been documented in the area. There is approximately 8 acres considered infested by St. Johnswort, a noxious weed, and less than 1 acre occupied by Dalmation toadflax.

NEED

Proximity to Designated Wilderness and Population Centers: Steel Mountain lies just 3 miles southwest of the Atlanta entrance to the Sawtooth Wilderness. The area lies about 46 miles from Boise. As a designated wilderness, the area would serve the local communities of Idaho City and Atlanta, and the regional population centers of Boise and Salt Lake City.

Biological: This IRA lies within the M332 Ecoregion (Middle Rocky Mountain Steppe-Coniferous Forest-Alpine Meadow Province), which is well represented in existing wildernesses.

Public Interest: There has been moderate public interest in this area becoming wilderness. Concerned individuals or organizations specifically suggested this IRA for wilderness recommendation in response to the DEIS. This IRA is recommended for wilderness designation in the most recent wilderness bill, HR 488, the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act.

WILDERNESS EVALUATION SUMMARY

Capability Summary:

Apparent Naturalness	High
Opportunity for Solitude	High
Opportunities for Challenge and Adventure	High
Special Features	Present

Determination of Availability or Unavailability: The IRA does not meet any of the criteria listed in FSH 1909.12.7.22a. Therefore, the IRA is available for wilderness designation.

Values Foregone With Wilderness Designation: The economic values associated with 13,900 acres of tentatively suited timberlands containing 113,705 MBF or 221,342 CCF would be foregone. Values from future mineral development would likely be foregone, although rights to valid existing claims might be retained. There are currently 165 mining claims in the area. Current motorized recreation use opportunities would be foregone. Motorized use on an 8.7-mile segment of motorized trail would be foregone. There is some snowmobile use occurring in the area.

Biological and Social Need: The M332 Ecoregion is well represented in existing designated wildernesses. Concerned individuals or organizations specifically suggested this IRA for wilderness recommendation in response to the DEIS.

ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

IRA Disposition by Alternative: The following table displays IRA management disposition for each alternative in acres. These values represent the potential, long-term outcomes of managing the IRA based solely upon its MPC assignments.

IRA Management Disposition	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Recommended Wilderness	0	0	0	23,482	0	0	0
Maintain undeveloped character	0	0	0	0	0	23,482	0
Potential low levels of development	23,482	23,482	23,482	0	0	0	23,482
Available for full range of development	0	0	0	0	23,482	0	0

Potential Future Development: Potential future development is represented by combinations of management emphasis/direction (MPCs), and existing conditions that are likely to become priority areas for development activities over the course of the next two or three decades. The development activities chosen for this estimation are timber harvest, vegetation restoration, and fuel reduction. Development potential is expressed in acres in the table below.

Potential Development	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Timber activities	0	0	0	0	4,327	0	0
Restoration/fuel reduction activities	0	0	9,257	0	4,504	0	9,257
Total	0	0	9,257	0	8,831	0	9,257

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics: The following table displays the effects on wilderness characteristics for each alternative. The effects on wilderness characteristics are based on the estimation of potential future development.

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
	N	N	H	N	H	N	H

N = No change; slight change or less than 1 percent of the area potentially affected.

L = Light impact; 1-5 percent of the area potentially affected.

M = Moderate impact; 5-20 percent of the area potentially affected.

H = High impact; greater than 20 percent of the area potentially affected.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The preferred alternative does not recommend any portion of the Steel Mountain IRA for wilderness. Essentially all of the roadless area would be available for low levels of development. Before any activity is approved that would have a significant impact on the undeveloped character of the roadless area, it would be preceded by an environmental analysis following NEPA procedures and public involvement.

**Stony Meadows
Roadless Area No. 0402027
13,553 Acres**

DESCRIPTION

The Stony Meadows IRA, on the Cascade Ranger District, lies west of Warm Lake in the Clear Creek, Big Creek, and Curtis Creek drainages. This area is accessed from the Warm Lake Highway (Forest Road 22) via State Highway 55, the Clear Creek Road (Forest Road 409), and the Stony Meadows Road (Forest Road 433). The area is also accessed from the Tyndall Creek (107) and the Alpine Creek (106) Trails.

Elevations range from about 5,500 feet to over 8,000 feet. Moderately steep to steep slopes are moderately dissected, and are vegetated with moderate to dense stands of grand fir, lodgepole pine, and subalpine fir; and scattered stands of Douglas-fir. Curtis Lake is centrally located in the roadless area.

CAPABILITY

Natural Integrity and Appearance: The natural integrity and apparent naturalness of the Stony Meadows area are generally intact.

Opportunities for Solitude and Primitive Recreation: Opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation occur within the area. Dense vegetation and dissected terrain provide some opportunities for solitude. The irregular shape with narrow appendages and cherry stemmed road exclusions limits opportunities for primitive recreation.

Special Features: The high-elevation lakes are special landscape features. Curtis Lake is a high-elevation lake of special interest.

Manageability and Boundaries: The very complex and irregular shape would make boundary identification and administration difficult. Creating a more manageable unit would result in a loss of considerable acres.

AVAILABILITY

Recreation: Recreation use is low, with hunting and horseback riding as the primary recreation uses. There are two motorized trails within the roadless area totaling about 5.2 miles. Inventoried ROS classes are as follows:

ROS Class	Summer	Winter
Roaded Natural	13%	6%
Roaded Modified	38%	19%
Semi-Primitive Motorized	0%	75%
Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized	49%	0%

Fisheries: Stony Meadow Creek in the Middle Fork Payette River drainage supports bull trout. Within the portion of the IRA that lie in the South Fork Salmon River drainage, Trail Creek, Trail Creek tributaries, and Curtis Creek and tributaries support westslope cutthroat and bull trout. The IRA encompasses all or portions of other streams in the South Fork Salmon River drainage that may also provide spawning and/or rearing habitat for listed chinook, steelhead, and bull trout. That portion of the IRA that lies within the South Fork Salmon River drainage is designated as critical habitat for spring/summer chinook salmon. An estimated 8.4 miles of streams in the area provide bull trout spawning and rearing habitat.

Wildlife: Confirmed gray wolf activity has occurred in this IRA, with increasing activity occurring since the augmentation program in the early 1990s. Approximately 77 percent of this IRA is potential lynx habitat. Fisher, wolverine, boreal owl, great gray owl, northern three-toed woodpecker, northern goshawk, flammulated owl, and spotted frog are Region 4 sensitive species either known or highly likely to occur in this IRA.

Water: Curtis Lake is a popular backcountry lake. There are a few other small, scattered high-elevation lakes. The Oro Mountain area has perennial streams that flow east primarily to Curtis Creek and southeast to the Middle Fork Payette River. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other uses on the Forest.

Range: This roadless area receives no domestic livestock grazing use. There are no capable rangelands in the IRA.

Timber: The roadless area has 109,547 thousand board feet (MBF) of standing timber volume, equivalent to 217,986 hundred cubic feet (CCF). An estimated 12,500 (92 percent) of the Stony Meadows IRA are tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 3,788 acres are considered to have low productivity; 8,544 acres, moderate productivity; and 954 acres, high productivity.

Minerals: There are few mining claims in the area. The area is not considered a mineral development interest area.

Heritage: Cultural resource site sensitivity is rated as moderate. Prehistoric sites have been identified adjacent to the area.

Landownership and Special Uses: There is no private or state land within the IRA. There is one outfitter-guide permit for horse trail rides and hunting.

Disturbances: There have been no acreages burned by wildfire since 1960. Approximately 750 acres have been burned with prescribed fire in the Curtis Creek area.

Botanical Characteristics: Idaho douglasia, a Region 4 sensitive plant species, has been documented in the area. There are no inventoried locations of noxious weeds within the roadless area.

NEED

Proximity to Designated Wilderness and Population Centers: The Stony Meadows area lies about 20 miles from the FC-RONR Wilderness. The area lies about 70 miles from Boise and 10 miles from Cascade. As a designated wilderness, this area would serve the local communities of Cascade and McCall, and the population centers of Boise and Spokane.

Biological: This IRA lies within the M332 Ecoregion (Middle Rocky Mountain Steppe-Coniferous Forest-Alpine Meadow Province), which is well represented in existing wildernesses.

Public Interest: There has been relatively low public interest in this area becoming wilderness. Only one concerned individual specifically identified this IRA for wilderness recommendation in response to the DEIS. This IRA is recommended for wilderness designation in the most recent wilderness bill, HR 488, the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act.

WILDERNESS EVALUATION SUMMARY

Capability Summary:

Apparent Naturalness	High
Opportunity for Solitude	Moderate
Opportunities for Challenge and Adventure	Moderate
Special Features	Present

Determination of Availability or Unavailability: The IRA does not meet any of the criteria listed in FSH 1909.12.7.22a. Therefore, the IRA is available for wilderness designation.

Values Foregone With Wilderness Designation: The economic values associated with 12,500 acres of tentatively suited timberlands containing 109,547 MBF or 217,986 CCF would be foregone. Values from future mineral development would likely be foregone, although rights to valid existing claims might be retained. However, there are few mineral claims in the area, and it is not considered a mineral development interest area. Current motorized recreation use opportunities would be foregone. Motorized use associated with 5.2 miles of trails would be foregone. Although no routes are currently receiving mountain bike use of any note, mountain bike use opportunities would be foregone.

Biological and Social Need: The M332 Ecoregion is well represented in existing designated wildernesses. One concerned individual specifically identified this IRA for wilderness recommendation.

ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

IRA Disposition by Alternative: The following table displays IRA management disposition for each alternative in acres. These values represent the potential, long-term outcomes of managing the IRA based solely upon its MPC assignments.

IRA Management Disposition	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Recommended Wilderness	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maintain undeveloped character	0	0	0	0	0	13,553	0
Potential low levels of development	0	7,146	7,146	9,448	0	0	13,553
Available for full range of development	13,553	6,407	6,407	4,105	13,553	0	0

Potential Future Development: Potential future development is represented by combinations of management emphasis/direction (MPCs), and existing conditions that are likely to become priority areas for development activities over the course of the next two or three decades. The development activities chosen for this estimation are timber harvest, vegetation restoration, and fuel reduction. Development potential is expressed in acres in the table below.

Potential Development	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Timber activities	3,411	187	0	0	3,411	0	0
Restoration/fuel reduction activities	8,111	11,404	11,603	11,598	8,111	0	11,603
Total	11,521	11,591	11,603	11,598	11,521	0	11,603

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics: The following table displays the effects on wilderness characteristics for each alternative. The effects on wilderness characteristics are based on the estimation of potential future development.

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
	H	H	H	H	H	N	H

N = No change; slight change or less than 1 percent of the area potentially affected.

L = Light impact: 1-5 percent of the area potentially affected.

M = Moderate impact; 5-20 percent of the area potentially affected.

H = High impact; greater than 20 percent of the area potentially affected.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The preferred alternative does not recommend any portion of the Stony Meadows IRA for wilderness. All of the roadless area would be available for low levels of development. Before any activity is approved that would have a significant impact on the undeveloped character of the roadless area, it would be preceded by an environmental analysis following NEPA procedures and public involvement.

**Ten Mile/Black Warrior
Roadless Area No. 0402013
118,772 Acres**

DESCRIPTION

The Ten Mile/Black Warrior roadless area is within the Idaho City and Lowman Ranger Districts. The area lies between the Middle Fork Boise River and the South Fork Payette River, and adjoins the Sawtooth Wilderness. The Black Warrior portion of this roadless area is accessed from the Middle Fork Boise River Road (Forest Road 268), the central portion from the Pikes Fork-Graham Road (Forest Road 312), and the northern portion from State Highway 21.

The area is also accessed by several Forest trails, including the North Fork Boise River Trail from Johnson Creek Campground to the Deer Park Campground; and the Horse Heaven (050), Johnson Creek (059), Ten Mile Ridge (157), Blue Jay (149), Black Warrior (053), and Wapiti Creek (160) Trails. The interior of the area is accessed from the road along Crooked River and Big Silver Creek that accesses the Graham administrative site (Forest Road 312). This road and the facilities at the administrative site have been excluded from the roadless area.

Elevations range from 4,700 feet along the Middle Fork Boise River near Deer Park to 8,930 feet at West Warrior Peak. Lands include strongly dissected stream-cut lands, steep canyon lands, and glaciated trough lands. Vegetation varies from scattered to dense stands of ponderosa pine or Douglas-fir, to dense and open stands of lodgepole pine and subalpine fir interrupted by avalanche paths. Overall, the Ten Mile/Black Warrior area includes moderately steep forested areas that give way to rocky glaciated terrain at higher elevations. Prominent features include Picket Mountain (8,218 feet) and Wolf Mountain (8,785 feet). Goat Mountain, West and East Warrior Peaks, and Swanholm Peak are other notable landforms in the area.

CAPABILITY

Natural Integrity and Appearance: Generally the natural integrity and appearance of the Ten Mile/Black Warrior is intact. There are some specific isolated areas where man's imprint is noticeable. There is evidence of early mining activities in the Graham area, and a four-wheel drive trail up Black Warrior Creek to the Overlook Mine is still evident. There are an additional 2 miles of primitive road along Eagle Creek.

Opportunities for Solitude and Primitive Recreation: Opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are good because the Ten Mile/Black Warrior area is a large rugged area, and contains a variety of vegetation and terrain. The opportunities are further enhanced when the area is considered in conjunction with the adjacent Sawtooth Wilderness.

Special Features: The IRA contains segments of the North and Middle Fork Boise River that are eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation. There are an estimated 11 river miles and 4,210 acres of eligible corridor within the IRA. There are scattered high-elevation lakes in the area. The steep-walled canyon of the North Fork Boise River east of Deer Park is a unique and scenic geologic feature.

Manageability and Boundaries: The cherry-stem exclusion of the road accessing the Graham administrative site creates a very irregular boundary. A logical topographic boundary on the north end would be the ridgeline between Ten Mile Creek and the South Fork Payette River. Some minor adjustments of some of the other irregular boundaries would also help create a more definable, locatable boundary for wilderness management.

AVAILABILITY

Recreation: The area receives typical backcountry fall big-game hunting use concentrated mostly in the areas adjacent to the trails and roads. The area provides access to the west side of the Sawtooth Mountains. Hiking, backpacking, and camping are dispersed recreation activities that take place in the area, and some of the high-elevation lakes, such as Jenny Lake, are popular backpacking destinations. The area accommodates motorized and non-motorized trail use; a trail network that traverses the area is a popular motorcycle route and the Bear River Trail is a popular equestrian use trail. There is an extensive trail system, with 14 different trails totaling about 77 miles. There are six non-motorized trails totaling about 39.3 miles and eight motorized trails totaling 37.8 miles. Inventoried ROS classes are as follows:

ROS Class	Summer	Winter
Roaded Natural	2%	2%
Roaded Modified	13%	0%
Semi-Primitive Motorized	16%	98%
Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized	69%	0%

Fisheries: The creeks and streams of this roadless area can generally be separated into those that flow predominantly northerly to the South Fork Payette River and those that flow southerly to the major drainages of the North Fork and Middle Fork Boise River watersheds.

South Fork Payette Watersheds - These drainages encompass the northern portion of the IRA and include Tenmile, Wapiti, Chapman, Wolf Creek, and other small streams. These streams are within the Upper South Fork Payette River bull trout key watershed (State of Idaho 1996). In addition all of Tenmile Creek is designated as a bull trout priority watershed.

Tenmile is suspected to have a strong population of bull trout and therefore is designated as adjunct and nodal habitat for its entire length. Wapiti Creek supports a strong bull trout population and is designated nodal for its entire length. Chapman Creek contains a small isolated population of bull trout that are bounded by a blown-out, virtually uninhabitable section of stream below a steep narrow section of stream above. This patch of habitat is less than 0.5 mile in length.

Tenmile and Wapiti Creeks both provide extensive spawning and rearing habitat for redband rainbow trout. MacDonald Creek provides limited spawning and rearing habitat for redband rainbow near its confluence with the South Fork Payette River. Blue Jay and Wolf Creeks and the rest of the small streams that originate in this IRA are too small and steep to provide spawning and rearing habitat.

Middle and North Fork Boise River Watersheds - This area encompasses the central and southern portion of the roadless area. Major streams in this portion are the upper sections of Bear, Rocky, Hunter, Taylor, Lodgepole, Johnson, and Black Warrior creeks. This portion also contains upper reaches of the Middle Fork Boise River, North Fork Boise River, Bear River, and Crooked River. Most of the drainages within this area are bull trout priority watersheds and are producing high quality spawning and rearing habitat.

Due to the relatively isolated nature of the area, most of these streams still contain bull trout and are extremely important to the viability and persistence of fish in this area. The rivers are providing nodal (wintering and migration) habitat and connectivity between the lower-elevation nodal habitats in Arrowrock Reservoir and the upriver spawning and rearing areas. The rivers and streams also contain thriving populations of redband rainbow trout and some smaller numbers of cutthroat and brook trout.

About 60,630 acres (51 percent) of the IRA is considered bull trout spawning and rearing habitat. There are 72.5 miles of streams with bull trout spawning and rearing habitat.

Wildlife: Gray wolves have been recorded in this area. Potential habitat for lynx, wolverine, and fisher occurs, however their presence in the area is unknown. Approximately 32 percent of the area is potential lynx habitat. The IRA provides relatively secluded habitat important to these species and considerable potential wolverine denning habitat has also been identified in the area. Boreal owl, northern goshawk, flammulated owl, white-headed woodpecker, and the three-toed woodpecker are sensitive species that are known to occur or could potentially occur within the IRA. The area has a number of small marshy lakes that provide suitable habitat for western toads, long-toed salamanders, and spotted frogs. Bald eagles winter along the North Fork Boise River. Moose occur along the North Fork Boise River in the Graham area. The area provides summer and fall habitat for elk and mule deer, and is important for providing security areas for elk and deer during hunting seasons and for maintaining the snag component of forested habitats across large areas. Mountain goats are present in the Wolf Mountain and Goat Mountain areas.

Water: This large area has numerous perennial streams and headwaters of major rivers. There is a complex drainage pattern with drainages to numerous individual watersheds. In the northern portion of the area, Ten Mile Creek and associated streams flow northerly to the South Fork Payette River. Bear River, Crooked River, Johnson Creek, and the North Fork Boise River with numerous associated perennials occur in the central portion of the unit. Perennial streams in the southern portion of the area flow southerly to the Middle Fork Boise River. There is a spring box water development that serves as a domestic water source for the adjacent Graham Guard Station. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other uses on the Forest.

Range: Approximately 80 percent of the area is within a sheep allotment that has no improvements within the IRA. There are 15,111 acres of capable sheep rangelands.

Timber: The area has an estimated 401,969 thousand board feet (MBF) of standing timber volume, equivalent to 802,962 hundred cubic feet (CCF). An estimated 57,300 acres (48 percent) of the IRA are tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 46,139 acres are considered to have low productivity; 24,293 acres, moderate productivity; and 4,925 acres, high productivity.

Minerals: There are almost 2,000 mining claims in the area. A portion of the IRA is estimated to have a low level of interest for mineral development. The area has a portion that is considered a fair to poor permissive area for silt, sand and gravel.

Heritage: The area has moderate cultural resource site sensitivity. There are historic and prehistoric sites in the vicinity and within the area.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no private or state-owned lands within the IRA. One outfitter-guide service provides deer, elk, bear and cougar hunting trips, summer pack trips, and llama pack services in the area, while another outfitter-guide provides guided horse rides in the Swanholm/Graham area.

Disturbances: There have been 36 recorded wildfire ignitions or occurrences in the area. An estimated 43,570 acres have burned in wildfire since 1960, most of it associated with the 1994 Rabbit Creek Fire. The Taylor Creek and Upper Johnson Creek drainages have experienced some significant amounts of soil movement and soil erosion.

Botanical Characteristics: Idaho douglasia and Idaho bitterroot, both Region 4 sensitive plant species, have been documented in a number of locations within the IRA. An estimated 9 acres have St. Johnswort, a noxious weed.

NEED

Proximity to Designated Wilderness and Population Centers: The Ten Mile-Black Warrior area is immediately adjacent the Sawtooth Wilderness. The area lies about 50 miles from Boise. As a designated wilderness, the area would serve the local communities of Idaho City and Atlanta, and the regional population centers of Boise and Salt Lake City.

Biological: This IRA lies within the M332 Ecoregion (Middle Rocky Mountain Steppe-Coniferous Forest-Alpine Meadow Province), which is well represented in existing wildernesses.

Public Interest: There has been relatively high public interest in this area becoming wilderness. Numerous concerned individuals or organizations specifically suggested this IRA for wilderness recommendation in response to the DEIS. This IRA is recommended for wilderness designation in the most recent wilderness bill, HR 488, the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act.

WILDERNESS EVALUATION SUMMARY

Capability Summary:

Apparent Naturalness	High
Opportunity for Solitude	High
Opportunities for Challenge and Adventure	High
Special Features	Present

Determination of Availability or Unavailability: The IRA does not meet any of the criteria listed in FSH 1909.12.7.22a. Therefore, the IRA is available for wilderness designation.

Values Foregone With Wilderness Designation: The economic values associated with 57,300 acres of tentatively suited timberlands containing 401,969 MBF or 802,692 CCF would be foregone. Values from future mineral development would likely be foregone, although rights to valid existing claims might be retained. There are currently 2,000 mineral claims in the area.

Current motorized recreation use opportunities would be foregone. There are motorized trails in the northern and southern portions of the IRA. Motorized use associated with 38 miles of trails would be foregone. There is some snowmobile use occurring along the road into Graham. There is an identified mountain bike route in the IRA, mountain bike use opportunities would be foregone.

Biological and Social Need: The M332 Ecoregion is well represented in existing designated wildernesses. Numerous concerned individuals or organizations specifically suggested this IRA for wilderness recommendation.

ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

IRA Disposition by Alternative: The following table displays IRA management disposition for each alternative in acres. These values represent the potential, long-term outcomes of managing the IRA based solely upon its MPC assignments.

IRA Management Disposition	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Recommended Wilderness	77,067	79,890	79,890	118,772	0	79,890	79,890
Maintain undeveloped character	0	0	0	0	0	38,883	0
Potential low levels of development	0	19,111	24,412	0	71,026	0	37,746
Available for full range of development	41,705	19,771	14,470	0	47,746	0	1,136

Potential Future Development: Potential future development is represented by combinations of management emphasis/direction (MPCs), and existing conditions that are likely to become priority areas for development activities over the course of the next two or three decades. The development activities chosen for this estimation are timber harvest, vegetation restoration, and fuel reduction. Development potential is expressed in acres in the table below.

Potential Development	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Timber activities	734	0	0	0	7,166	0	0
Restoration/fuel reduction activities	13,739	13,133	13,133	0	26,551	0	13,133
Total	14,472	13,133	13,133	0	33,718	0	13,133

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics: The following table displays the effects on wilderness characteristics for each alternative. The effects on wilderness characteristics are based on the estimation of potential future development.

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
	M	M	M	N	H	N	M

N = No change; slight change or less than 1 percent of the area potentially affected.

L = Light impact; 1-5 percent of the area potentially affected.

M = Moderate impact; 5-20 percent of the area potentially affected.

H = High impact; greater than 20 percent of the area potentially affected.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The preferred alternative recommends an 80,081-acre portion of the Ten Mile/Black Warrior IRA for wilderness. The majority (97 percent) of the remaining portion would be available for low levels of development. Before any activity is approved that would have a significant impact on the undeveloped character of the roadless area, it would be preceded by an environmental analysis following NEPA procedures and public involvement.

**Tennessee
Roadless Area No. 0402033
1,016 Acres**

DESCRIPTION

The Tennessee roadless area, on the Lowman Ranger District, is a “residual” area not included when the FC-RONR Wilderness was created in 1980. This area adjoins the southwestern portion of the FC-RONR Wilderness, and is accessed by the Warm Lake/Stanley Road (Forest road 579) via State Highways 21 or 55.

Elevations range from about 6,400 feet along Bear Valley Creek to nearly 8,000 feet. The area is underlain by Cretaceous granitics of the Idaho batholith, with small areas of Tertiary volcanics and Quaternary alluvium. Lands vary from flat, wet grassy meadows with scattered stands of lodgepole pine and Engelmann spruce to moderately steep slopes with moderate to dense stands of lodgepole pine. Generally, the Tennessee area displays moderate to steep forested slopes. A prominent feature is Tennessee Creek.

CAPABILITY

Natural Integrity and Appearance: The natural appearance and integrity of this area are intact.

Opportunities for Solitude and Primitive Recreation: Opportunities for primitive recreation and solitude are limited by the area’s small size. When considered as part of the adjacent FC-RONR Wilderness, the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are plentiful.

Special Features: The southern boundary lies adjacent to Elk Creek, an eligible Wild and Scenic River. An estimated 75 acres of the river corridor occur within the IRA.

Manageability and Boundaries: The eastern boundary of the area adjoins the FC-RONR Wilderness. Some minor boundary adjustments could make more logical, manageable boundaries if the area were to be designated wilderness.

AVAILABILITY

Recreation: The IRA receives typical backcountry fall big-game hunting use, and some snowmobile use in the open areas and meadows. There are no recreation trails in the area. Inventoried ROS classes are as follows:

ROS Class	Summer	Winter
Roaded Natural	59%	0%
Roaded Modified	41%	0%
Semi-Primitive Motorized	0%	59%
Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized	0%	41%

Fisheries: This IRA contains most of the lower third of Tennessee Creek, which flows into the IRA from the FC-RONR Wilderness, and flows out of the IRA into Elk Creek. Tennessee Creek does not provide spawning habitat for listed Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon or Snake River Basin steelhead, but may provide rearing habitat in the lower portion within the IRA. The entire Bear Valley basin, including this IRA, has been designated as critical habitat for salmon. Tennessee Creek has not been surveyed, but is unlikely to provide spawning and rearing habitat for listed bull trout. This portion of Elk Creek serves as nodal or migratory habitat for bull trout. There are an estimated 4.4 miles of streams with bull trout spawning and rearing habitat in the IRA.

Wildlife: Gray wolves are known to occur within this area. Tennessee IRA is part of a larger complex of wet meadows and adjacent forest cover that provide key calving and summer range for elk. While Tennessee's small size and closeness to the Warm Lake-Stanley Road limit its suitability for denning and rendezvous sites, the area contributes to maintaining large, relatively undisturbed habitat for wolves and ungulates. Potential habitat for wide-ranging lynx, wolverine, and fisher occurs; however, their presence in the area is unknown. The mature forest habitats within the IRA currently provide important cover and travel areas for these three species. An estimated 62 percent of the IRA has been identified as potential lynx habitat. Boreal owl, great gray owl, northern goshawk, three-toed woodpecker, and spotted frog are sensitive species that are known to occur or could potentially occur within the IRA. Most of these species occupy mid- to late-seral forested habitats. The importance of these late-successional habitats within Tennessee IRA has likely increased due to the large fire-created seral area occurring to the north of the IRA. The area provides summer and fall habitat for elk and mule deer.

Water: The area has a few perennials that flow southerly to Elk Creek. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other uses on the Forest.

Range: There are no grazing allotments in the area. There are 39 acres of capable cattle rangelands in the IRA.

Timber: The IRA has an estimated 5,545 thousand board feet (MBF) of standing timber volume, equivalent to 11,051 hundred cubic feet (CCF). An estimated 900 acres (89 percent) of the Tennessee IRA contain tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 615 acres are considered to have low timber productivity; 350 acres, moderate; and 0 acres, high productivity.

Minerals: There are no known mining claims in the area. The area has a portion that is considered a fair to poor permissive area for silt, sand and gravel.

Heritage: Cultural resource site sensitivity is rated as moderate. Prehistoric sites have been identified adjacent the area. The roadless area has not been surveyed, but it is expected that sites exist within the area.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no private or state-owned lands within the IRA. One outfitter-guide provide bear and cougar hunting trips in the area, and another provides deer and elk hunting trips, summer pack trips, and trail rides.

Disturbances: The 1987 Deadwood Fire burned an estimated 730 acres of the area.

Botanical Characteristics: There have been few plant surveys conducted in the area. No threatened, endangered, or Region 4 sensitive plant species are known to occur in the area.

NEED

Proximity to Designated Wilderness and Population Centers: The area adjoins the FC-RONR Wilderness. The area lies about 70 miles from Boise. As a designated wilderness, this area would serve the community of Cascade and Crouch-Garden Valley, and the population centers of Boise and Salt Lake City.

Biological: This IRA lies within the M332 Ecoregion (Middle Rocky Mountain Steppe-Coniferous Forest-Alpine Meadow Province), which is well represented in existing wildernesses.

Public Interest: There has been moderate public interest in this area becoming wilderness. Concerned individuals or organizations specifically suggested this IRA for wilderness recommendation in response to the DEIS. This IRA is recommended for wilderness designation in the most recent wilderness bill, HR 488, the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act.

WILDERNESS EVALUATION SUMMARY**Capability Summary:**

Apparent Naturalness	High
Opportunity for Solitude	High
Opportunities for Challenge and Adventure	High
Special Features	None

Determination of Availability or Unavailability: The IRA does not meet any of the criteria listed in FSH 1909.12.7.22a. Therefore, the IRA is available for wilderness designation.

Values Foregone With Wilderness Designation: The economic values associated with 900 acres of tentatively suited timberlands containing 5,545 MBF or 11,051 CCF would be foregone. Values from future mineral development would likely be foregone, although rights to valid existing claims might be retained. There are no known mining claims in the IRA. Current motorized recreation use opportunities would be foregone. There are no motorized trails in the area, but some winter snowmobile use occurs in the areas adjacent Elk Creek.

Biological and Social Need: The M332 Ecoregion is well represented in existing designated wildernesses. Concerned individuals or organizations specifically suggested this IRA for wilderness recommendation.

ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

IRA Disposition by Alternative: The following table displays IRA management disposition for each alternative in acres. These values represent the potential, long-term outcomes of managing the IRA based solely upon its MPC assignments.

IRA Management Disposition	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Recommended Wilderness	0	0	0	1,016	0	0	0
Maintain undeveloped character	0	0	0	0	0	1,016	0
Potential low levels of development	0	1,016	1,016	0	0	0	1,016
Available for full range of development	1,016	0	0	0	1,016	0	0

Potential Future Development: Potential future development is represented by combinations of management emphasis/direction (MPCs), and existing conditions that are likely to become priority areas for development activities over the course of the next two or three decades. The development activities chosen for this estimation are timber harvest, vegetation restoration, and fuel reduction. Development potential is expressed in acres in the table below.

Potential Development	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Timber activities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Restoration/fuel reduction activities	875	875	875	0	875	0	0
Total	875	875	875	0	875	0	0

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics: The following table displays the effects on wilderness characteristics for each alternative. The effects on wilderness characteristics are based on the estimation of potential future development.

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
	H	H	H	N	H	N	N

N = No change; slight change or less than 1 percent of the area potentially affected.

L = Light impact; 1-5 percent of the area potentially affected.

M = Moderate impact; 5-20 percent of the area potentially affected.

H = High impact; greater than 20 percent of the area potentially affected.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The preferred alternative does not recommend any portion of the Tennessee IRA for wilderness. All of the roadless area would be available for low levels of development. Before any activity is approved that would have a significant impact on the undeveloped character of the roadless area, it would be preceded by an environmental analysis following NEPA procedures and public involvement.

**Whiskey
Roadless Area No. 0402031
4,962 Acres**

DESCRIPTION

The Whiskey roadless area, on the Cascade Ranger District, adjoins the FC-RONR Wilderness along the wilderness area's western boundary. The Whiskey area includes the headwaters of Whiskey Creek, a drainage of Johnson Creek, and lies about 6 miles south of Landmark. The area is accessed from Landmark by the Whiskey Creek Road via the Warm Lake-Stanley Road (Forest Road 579). The area is also accessed by the Sulphur Creek Trail (083).

Elevations range from 6,800 feet to 8,777 feet. The roadless area is generally vegetated with lodgepole pine, subalpine fir, and Engelmann spruce. Overall, the Whiskey roadless area is marked by low, rolling timbered hills.

CAPABILITY

Natural Integrity and Appearance: The natural integrity and appearance of this roadless area are generally intact.

Opportunities for Solitude and Primitive Recreation: When considered alone the Whiskey area has limited opportunities for solitude, challenge, and primitive recreation due to the area's small size. When considered as an addition to the FC-RONR Wilderness, the area would compliment the current extensive opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation in the FC-RONR Wilderness. Opportunities for solitude are limited in the western appendage.

Special Features: There are no identified special features in the area.

Manageability and Boundaries: A portion of the area's boundaries is shared with the FC-RONR Wilderness. No boundary adjustment would be needed to make this a manageable addition.

AVAILABILITY

Recreation: There are two trails within the roadless area, of which 1.5 miles are motorized and 2.1 miles are non-motorized. Inventoried ROS classes are as follows:

ROS Class	Summer	Winter
Roaded Natural	13%	0%
Roaded Modified	74%	0%
Semi-Primitive Motorized	0%	100%
Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized	13%	0%

Fisheries: Sand Creek historically supported chinook spawning, and likely provides chinook and steelhead rearing habitat. Whiskey Creek likely also provides rearing habitat for chinook and steelhead. These streams are tributaries to Johnson Creek, which provides chinook and steelhead spawning and

rearing habitat outside the IRA. The entire IRA is within an area designated as critical habitat for spring/summer chinook salmon. The IRA contains an estimated 3.1 miles of streams with chinook or steelhead spawning and rearing habitat.

Wildlife: Confirmed gray wolf activity has occurred in this IRA, with increasing activity occurring since the augmentation program in the 1990s. An estimated 88 percent of this IRA is potential lynx habitat. Wolverine, boreal owl, great gray owl, northern three-toed woodpecker, northern goshawk, and spotted frog are Region 4 sensitive species either known or highly likely to occur in this IRA. The IRA provides relatively undisturbed, largely inaccessible habitat that is very valuable for these species.

Water: The area has a few perennial streams that flow west to Johnson Creek. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish, wildlife and other uses on the Forest.

Range: There is a portion of one allotment encompassing about 95 percent of the roadless area that is grazed by cattle and managed under a rest-rotation system. There are 173 acres of capable cattle rangeland in the IRA. The portion of the allotment within the roadless area receives moderate use and contains fences used for stock management.

Timber: The IRA has an estimated 37,422 thousand board feet (MBF) of standing timber volume, equivalent to 75,139 hundred cubic feet (CCF). An estimated 4,700 acres (95 percent) of the IRA are tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 3,153 acres are considered to have low productivity; 1,597 acres, moderate productivity; and 0 acres, high productivity.

Minerals: There are no known mining claims in the area. The area has a portion that is considered a fair to poor permissive area for silt, sand and gravel.

Heritage: Cultural resource site sensitivity is rated as low. Prehistoric sites have been identified in the vicinity.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no private or state lands within the IRA. There is one outfitter-guide permit for big-game hunting.

Disturbances: There have been no major disturbances in the area.

Botanical Characteristics: No threatened, endangered, or Region 4 sensitive plant species are known to occur in the area. There have been few plant surveys conducted in the area.

NEED

Proximity to Designated Wilderness and Population Centers: The area is contiguous to the FC-RONR Wilderness. The area lies an estimated 77 miles from Boise and 26 miles from Cascade. As a designated wilderness, this area would serve the local community of Cascade, and the population centers of Boise and Spokane.

Biological: This IRA lies within the M332 Ecoregion (Middle Rocky Mountain Steppe-Coniferous Forest-Alpine Meadow Province), which is well represented in existing wildernesses.

Public Interest: There has been moderate public interest in this area becoming wilderness. Concerned individuals or organizations specifically suggested this IRA for wilderness recommendation in response to the DEIS. This IRA is recommended for wilderness designation in the most recent wilderness bill, HR 488, the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act.

WILDERNESS EVALUATION SUMMARY

Capability Summary:

Apparent Naturalness	High
Opportunity for Solitude	High
Opportunities for Challenge and Adventure	High
Special Features	None

Determination of Availability or Unavailability: The IRA does not meet any of the criteria listed in FSH 1909.12.7.22a. Therefore, the IRA is available for wilderness designation.

Values Foregone With Wilderness Designation: The economic values associated with 4,700 acres of tentatively suited timberlands containing 37,422 MBF or 75,139 CCF would be foregone. Values from future mineral development would likely be foregone, although rights to valid existing claims might be retained. There are no known mining claims in the IRA. Current motorized recreation use opportunities would be foregone. Motorized use associated with one 1.5-mile segment of motorized trail would be foregone. Although there are no trails receiving mountain bike use of any note, mountain bike use opportunities would be foregone.

Biological and Social Need: The M332 Ecoregion is well represented in existing designated wildernesses. Concerned individuals or organizations specifically suggested this IRA for wilderness recommendation.

ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

IRA Disposition by Alternative: The following table displays IRA management disposition for each alternative in acres. These values represent the potential, long-term outcomes of managing the IRA based solely upon its MPC assignments.

IRA Management Disposition	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Recommended Wilderness	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maintain undeveloped character	0	0	0	0	0	4,962	0
Potential low levels of development	0	4,962	4,962	4,962	0	0	4,962
Available for full range of development	4,962	0	0	0	4,962	0	0

Potential Future Development: Potential future development is represented by combinations of management emphasis/direction (MPCs), and existing conditions that are likely to become priority areas for development activities over the course of the next two or three decades. The development activities chosen for this estimation are timber harvest, vegetation restoration, and fuel reduction. Development potential is expressed in acres in the table below.

Potential Development	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Timber activities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Restoration/fuel reduction activities	4,368	4,368	4,368	0	4,368	0	0
Total	4,368	4,368	4,368	0	4,368	0	0

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics: The following table displays the effects on wilderness characteristics for each alternative. The effect on wilderness characteristics is based on the estimation of potential future development.

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
	H	H	H	N	H	N	N

N = No change; slight change or less than 1 percent of the area potentially affected.

L = Light impact: 1-5 percent of the area potentially affected.

M = Moderate impact; 5-20 percent of the area potentially affected.

H = High impact; greater than 20 percent of the area potentially affected.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The preferred alternative does not recommend any portion of the Whiskey IRA for wilderness. Essentially all of the roadless area would be available for low levels of development. Before any activity is approved that would have a significant impact on the undeveloped character of the roadless area, it would be preceded by an environmental analysis following NEPA procedures and public involvement.

**Whiskey Jack
Roadless Area No. 0402009
6,563 Acres**

DESCRIPTION

The Whiskey Jack IRA, in the Mountain Home Ranger District, lies within the Trinity Creek drainage about 4 miles northwest of Featherville. This roadless area is bordered on the north and west by the Trinity Ridge Road from Phifer Creek, and is accessed by this road or by the Trinity Creek Road from Featherville. The area is also accessed by the Cross Cut Trail and the Elk Springs Trail.

Elevations in this area range from 4,950 feet to nearly 7,200 feet. Lower elevations are marked by strongly dissected, stream-cut lands vegetated with scattered to dense stands of ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir. At higher elevations, steep slopes are vegetated with scattered to dense stands of lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir, and subalpine fir. Overall, timbered, well-dissected steep or rolling hills characterize the area.

CAPABILITY

Natural Integrity and Appearance: The natural integrity and appearance of this roadless area are relatively intact because few activities have taken place within the area itself. There are short segments of four different classified roads within the IRA totaling 0.5 mile.

Opportunities for Solitude and Primitive Recreation: Opportunities for solitude, remoteness and primitive recreation are limited by the relatively small size of the area. The overall width of the area in most locations is little more than a mile wide. The opportunities for challenge and remoteness would accordingly be limited.

Special Features: There are no identified special features in the area.

Manageability and Boundaries: Because this roadless area is narrow, the only wilderness boundary that would warrant consideration would be the roads and harvest units that currently bound the IRA. Distinct topographic features for a boundary are lacking.

AVAILABILITY

Recreation: Recreational activities are backpacking, big-game hunting, hiking, horseback riding, and trailbike riding. There are three motorized trails in the area totaling an estimated 3.7 miles. Inventoried ROS classes are as follows:

ROS Class	Summer	Winter
Roaded Natural	29%	0%
Roaded Modified	71%	0%
Semi-Primitive Motorized	0%	82%
Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized	0%	18%

Fisheries: Streams in this area are Whiskey Jack and the upper ends of Spring Creek and Bear Creek. Whiskey Jack Creek contains a healthy population of small redband rainbow trout. The streams do not contain bull trout at this time as the culvert at Forest road FDR 172 is blocking any upstream migration of fish into Whiskey Jack Creek and likely has contributed to the reduction of bull trout numbers in this drainage. Whiskey Jack is in the Trinity Creek watershed and the entire drainage is a priority watershed for bull trout. The streams of this drainage are adjunct (unoccupied) habitat at this time, but are high priority for the re-introduction of bull trout.

Wildlife: The area occurs within the range of the gray wolf, although there is no known denning or rendezvous activity reported in the area. An estimated 55 percent of the area is potential lynx habitat. Wolverine and fisher habitat occurs in the area. Potential habitat occurs for northern three-toed woodpecker, northern goshawk, flammulated owl, and white-headed woodpecker. Potential habitat occurs for spotted bat, Townsend's big-eared bat, and spotted frog. Potential habitat occurs for mountain quail. The IRA provides security for big game.

Water: Perennials flow southeasterly to Feather River and the South Fork Boise River. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other uses on the Forest.

Range: The entire area is covered with portions of three sheep allotments. None of the allotments have any improvements. There are 1,328 acres are capable sheep rangelands.

Timber: The roadless area has 28,373 thousand board feet (MCF) of standing timber volume, equivalent to 56,229 hundred cubic feet (CCF). An estimated 4,800 acres (73 percent) of the IRA contains tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 2,789 acres are considered to have low productivity; 1,213 acres, moderate productivity; and 1,794 acres, high productivity.

Minerals: There are currently 56 mining claims in the area. The area is not a mineral development interest area.

Heritage: This area is included in the South Boise Historic Mining District. Prehistoric and historic sites are located within and adjacent to the area. The site sensitivity is moderate.

Landownership and Special Uses: There is no private or state land within the IRA. One outfitter-guide provides cougar and bear hunting opportunities.

Disturbances: Approximately 650 acres of this IRA have burned in wildfires since 1960. Douglas-fir bark beetle populations continue to be active at above endemic levels and are most pronounced where defoliation occurred by the Douglas-fir tussock moth in the early 1990s. A complex of other bark beetle activity exists at various levels throughout the IRA and adjacent areas. Tree mortality is most pronounced on north aspect Douglas-fir stands and where subalpine fir is dominant.

Botanical Characteristics: Idaho bitterroot (*Lewisia kelloggii*) is a Region 4 proposed sensitive species that has been located in the area. A minor amount of noxious weeds occur in the IRA.

NEED

Proximity to Designated Wilderness and Population Centers: The Sawtooth Wilderness lies about 25 miles to the northeast. The IRA lies about 45 miles from Boise and 40 miles from Mountain Home. As a designated wilderness, the area would serve the local communities of Mountain Home and Featherville, and population centers such as Boise and Salt Lake City.

Biological: This IRA lies within the M332 Ecoregion (Middle Rocky Mountain Steppe-Coniferous Forest-Alpine Meadow Province), which is well represented in existing wildernesses.

Public Interest: There has been relatively low public interest in this area becoming wilderness. Only one concerned individual specifically identified this IRA for wilderness recommendation in response to the DEIS. This IRA is recommended for wilderness designation in the most recent wilderness bill, HR 488, the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act.

WILDERNESS EVALUATION SUMMARY

Capability Summary:

Apparent Naturalness	High
Opportunity for Solitude	Moderate
Opportunities for Challenge and Adventure	Low
Special Features	None

Determination of Availability or Unavailability: The IRA does not meet any of the criteria listed in FSH 1909.12.7.22a. Therefore, the IRA is available for wilderness designation.

Values Foregone With Wilderness Designation: The economic values associated with 4,800 acres of tentatively suited timberlands containing 28,373 MBF or 56,229 CCF would be foregone. Values from future mineral development would likely be foregone, although rights to valid existing claims might be retained. The IRA is not a mineral development interest area. Current motorized recreation use opportunities would be foregone. Motorized use associated with 3.7 miles of trails would be foregone. There is an identified mountain bike trail in the area; mountain bike use opportunities would be foregone.

Biological and Social Need: The M332 Ecoregion is well represented in existing designated wildernesses. One concerned individual specifically identified this IRA for wilderness recommendation.

ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

IRA Disposition by Alternative: The following table displays IRA management disposition for each alternative in acres. These values represent the potential, long-term outcomes of managing the IRA based solely upon its MPC assignments.

IRA Management Disposition	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Recommended Wilderness	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maintain undeveloped character	0	0	0	0	0	6,563	0
Potential low levels of development	0	0	0	6,563	0	0	6,563
Available for full range of development	6,563	6,563	6,563	0	6,563	0	0

Potential Future Development: Potential future development is represented by combinations of management emphasis/direction (MPCs), and existing conditions that are likely to become priority areas for development activities over the course of the next two or three decades. The development activities chosen for this estimation are timber harvest, vegetation restoration, and fuel reduction. Development potential is expressed in acres in the table below.

Potential Development	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Timber activities	2,463	0	0	0	3,895	0	0
Restoration/fuel reduction activities	1,455	4,039	4,039	4,039	0	0	4,039
Total	3,919	4,039	4,039	4,039	3,895	0	4,039

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics: The following table displays the effects on wilderness characteristics for each alternative. The effects on wilderness characteristics are based on the estimation of potential future development.

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
	H	H	H	H	H	N	H

N = No change; slight change or less than 1 percent of the area potentially affected.

L = Light impact: 1-5 percent of the area potentially affected.

M = Moderate impact; 5-20 percent of the area potentially affected.

H = High impact; greater than 20 percent of the area potentially affected.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The preferred alternative does not recommend any portion of the Whiskey Jack IRA for wilderness. Essentially all of the roadless area would be available for low levels of development. Before any activity is approved that would have a significant impact on the undeveloped character of the roadless area, it would be preceded by an environmental analysis following NEPA procedures and public involvement.

**Whitehawk Mountain
Roadless Area No. 0402021
8,964 Acres**

DESCRIPTION

The Whitehawk Mountain IRA, in the Lowman Ranger District, includes the ridge area between the Deadwood and Bear Valley Creek drainages, and extends from the Boise County line to the head of the South Fork Deer Creek. This roadless area is accessed from the Clear Creek-Bear Valley Road (Forest Road 582) via State Highway 21. Access is provided on the west by the Deadwood Ridge Trail (019).

While the area encompasses most of Whitehawk Mountain, the Whitehawk Mountain Lookout and access road are excluded from the roadless area. Elevations range from 6,800 feet to 8,100 feet atop Whitehawk Mountain. Lower elevations are marked by steep slopes vegetated with lodgepole pine, ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, and subalpine fir. At higher elevations, glaciated lands are vegetated with dense to open stands of lodgepole pine and subalpine fir. Overall, the Whitehawk Mountain IRA is marked by steep, forested slopes with rocky outcrops at higher elevations. Whitehawk Mountain is a prominent feature.

CAPABILITY

Natural Integrity and Appearance: The natural integrity and apparent naturalness of the Whitehawk area is relatively intact. There are a number of very short, classified road segments that are within the boundary of the IRA. Seven different segments total an estimated 0.7 mile.

Opportunities for Solitude and Primitive Recreation: Opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are somewhat limited by the relatively small size and a very irregular and fractured shape. The presence of the lookout and the access road on the single dominant landform of the area also limits the sense of remoteness and solitude.

Special Features: There are no identified special features within the area.

Manageability and Boundaries: The area has a very irregular shape due to the exclusion of surrounding roads and timber harvest units. Identification of its boundaries and administration as a wilderness would be difficult with the current irregular boundaries. It would not be possible to refine more logical boundaries with a less fractured shape without losing significant acreage of the roadless area.

AVAILABILITY

Recreation: The IRA receives typical backcountry fall big-game hunting use, concentrated mostly in the areas adjacent to trails and roads. There are no recreation trails in the area. Inventoried ROS classes are as follows:

ROS Class	Summer	Winter
Roaded Natural	4%	0%
Roaded Modified	47%	0%
Semi-Primitive Motorized	49%	83%
Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized	0%	17%

Fisheries: The streams draining the Whitehawk IRA are within the Upper South Fork Payette River bull trout key watershed (State of Idaho 1996). In addition much of the area drains into a bull trout priority watershed. The remaining portion drains into Bear Valley, which has been designated critical salmon habitat.

Middle Fork and East Fork Warm Springs Creek harbor strong but isolated focal populations of bull trout. Middle Fork Warm Springs Creek is entirely within this IRA while only about 20 percent of East Fork Warm Springs flows through this IRA. These populations may potentially serve as sources of bull trout colonizers for other nearby, but somewhat isolated, patches of suitable bull trout habitat. Bearskin Creek originates within this IRA and flows into Bear Valley. Bearskin Creek contains a strong focal population of bull trout. The lower section of Bearskin Creek, which is outside of this IRA, may currently provide rearing habitat for chinook salmon and steelhead. Redband rainbow and westslope cutthroat trout may use this stream (including the portions with this IRA) for spawning and rearing. Redband rainbow trout spawn and rear in a small portion of the sections of Warm Springs and Middle Fork Warm Springs Creek that flow through this IRA.

Wildlife: Gray wolves are known to occur within this area. Potential habitat for lynx, wolverine, and fisher occurs, however their presence in the area is unknown. The IRA provides relatively secluded habitat important to these species. Most of the Whitehawk IRA has been identified as potential lynx habitat (72 percent). Boreal owl, great gray owl, northern goshawk, flammulated owl, three-toed woodpecker, and spotted frog are sensitive species known to occur or could potentially occur within the IRA. The area provides summer and fall habitat for elk and mule deer. The IRA is important for providing security areas for elk and deer during hunting seasons and for maintaining the snag component of forested habitats across large areas.

Water: Perennial streams in the area flow southwest to the Deadwood River and easterly to Bear Valley Creek and Elk Creek. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other uses on the Forest.

Range: Approximately 60 percent of the area is within a vacant sheep allotment. There are no range improvements in the area. There are 302 acres of capable cattle grazing land and 325 acres of capable sheep grazing land in the IRA.

Timber: The IRA includes an estimated 69,528 thousand board feet (MBF) of standing timber volume, equivalent to 137,503 hundred cubic feet (CCF). An estimated 8,000 acres (89 percent) of the IRA are tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 4,910 acres are considered to have low productivity; 2,917 acres, moderate productivity; and 696 acres, high productivity.

Minerals: The area has few mining claims. The area has a portion that is considered a fair to poor permissive area for silt, sand and gravel.

Heritage: Cultural resource site sensitivity is rated low.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no private or state-owned lands within the IRA. One outfitter-guide provides bear and cougar hunting trips in the area, while another provides deer and elk hunting trips, summer pack trips, and trail rides.

Disturbances: The 1992 Cub Creek Fire burned an estimated 520 acres in the area, much of it at high intensity. A high level of Douglas-fir beetle infestation has occurred in the Middle Fork Warm Springs drainage.

Botanical Characteristics: No threatened, endangered, or Region 4 sensitive plant species are known to occur in the area. Rush skeletonweed, a noxious weed, has infested less than 1 acre of the IRA.

NEED

Proximity to Designated Wilderness and Population Centers: The Whitehawk IRA lies about 5 miles west of the FC-RONR Wilderness. The area lies about 60 miles from Boise. As a designated wilderness, this area would serve the local communities of Cascade and Crouch-Garden Valley, and the population centers of Boise and Salt Lake City.

Biological: This IRA lies within the M332 Ecoregion (Middle Rocky Mountain Steppe-Coniferous Forest-Alpine Meadow Province), which is well represented in existing wildernesses.

Public Interest: There has been relatively low public interest in this area becoming wilderness. Only one concerned individual specifically identified this IRA for wilderness recommendation in response to the DEIS. This IRA is recommended for wilderness designation in the most recent wilderness bill, HR 488, the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act.

WILDERNESS EVALUATION SUMMARY

Capability Summary:

Apparent Naturalness	High
Opportunity for Solitude	Moderate
Opportunities for Challenge and Adventure	Low
Special Features	None

Determination of Availability or Unavailability: The IRA does not meet any of the criteria listed in FSH 1909.12.7.22a. Therefore, the IRA is available for wilderness designation.

Values Foregone With Wilderness Designation: The economic values associated with 8,000 acres of tentatively suited timberlands containing 42,514 MBF or 83,562 CCF would be foregone. Values from future mineral development would likely be foregone, although rights to valid existing claims might be retained. This area has few existing mining claims. Little or no motorized use would be foregone, as there are no recreation trails in the area.

Biological and Social Need: This M332 Ecoregion is well represented in existing designated wildernesses. Only one concerned individual specifically identified this IRA for wilderness recommendation in response to the DEIS.

ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

IRA Disposition by Alternative: The following table displays IRA management disposition for each alternative in acres. These values represent the potential, long-term outcomes of managing the IRA based solely upon its MPC assignments.

IRA Management Disposition	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Recommended Wilderness	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maintain undeveloped character	0	0	0	0	0	8,964	0
Potential low levels of development	0	3,928	3,928	8,964	0	0	8,964
Available for full range of development	8,964	5,036	5,036	0	8,964	0	0

Potential Future Development: Potential future development is represented by combinations of management emphasis/direction (MPCs), and existing conditions that are likely to become priority areas for development activities over the course of the next two or three decades. The development activities chosen for this estimation are timber harvest, vegetation restoration, and fuel reduction. Development potential is expressed in acres in the table below.

Potential Development	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Timber activities	3,640	0	0	0	3,640	0	0
Restoration/fuel reduction activities	3,437	7,248	7,248	7,248	3,437	0	4,108
Total	7,007	7,248	7,248	7,248	7,077	0	4,108

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics: The following table displays the effects on wilderness characteristics for each alternative. The effects on wilderness characteristics are based on the estimation of potential future development.

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
	H	H	H	H	H	N	H

N = No change; slight change or less than 1 percent of the area potentially affected.

L = Light impact; 1-5 percent of the area potentially affected.

M = Moderate impact; 5-20 percent of the area potentially affected.

H = High impact; greater than 20 percent of the area potentially affected.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The preferred alternative does not recommend any portion of the Whitehawk IRA for wilderness. All of the IRA would be available for low levels of development. Before any action is approved that would have a significant impact on the undeveloped character of the IRA, it would be preceded by an environmental analysis following NEPA procedures and public involvement.

**Wilson Peak
Roadless Area No. 0402040
7,950 Acres**

DESCRIPTION

The Wilson Peak IRA is a recently delineated roadless area identified during the 1999 roadless area inventory update for the Forest Plan Revision. The Wilson Peak IRA, on the Idaho City Ranger District, lies east of Pioneerville and west of Pilot Peak Lookout. The area is accessed from Forest Road 380 north of Mores Creek Summit and Forest Road 314 from State Highway 21.

Elevations range from about 5,000 feet in the southwestern extent of the area to 7,837 at Wilson Peak. The area has some complex drainage patterns formed by the headwaters of numerous drainages flowing to the north, south, east, and west. The North and East Forks of Elk Creek are the primary drainages in the south, while to the north drainages flow to Clear Creek and Grimes Creek. Wilson Peak is the dominant landform. Moderate to dense mixed conifer stands of ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir occur throughout the area. Subalpine fir commonly occurs at the highest elevations.

CAPABILITY

Natural Integrity and Appearance: Generally, the area retains its natural integrity and natural appearance. A primitive road approaches Wilson Peak from the south. This classified road segment extends into the IRA for a distance of 1.4 miles. The area has had some scattered, light salvage harvesting in response to Douglas-fir beetle activity; as a result there may be a subtle change in the natural integrity of the area. The natural appearance is also altered at the locations of the individual tree patches that were harvested.

Opportunities for Solitude and Primitive Recreation: There are opportunities for solitude and remoteness. The rugged terrain provides some opportunities for challenging recreation experiences. The complex terrain and vegetative screening provides opportunities for isolation and solitude. The irregular and disjointed shape affects the continuity of the area and limits the sense of remoteness and the available challenge of backcountry travel, with some areas being less than a mile in width.

Special Features: There are no special features identified in the area.

Manageability and Boundaries: The area has some fairly irregular and complex boundaries. Creating more logical or simplified boundaries would reduce the size of the area.

AVAILABILITY

Recreation: The area has low recreation use, although there is some fall big-game hunting. There are an estimated 2.5 miles of motorized trail (Forest Trail 163) approaching Wilson Peak from the north. Inventoried ROS classes are as follows:

ROS Class	Summer	Winter
Roaded Modified	64%	3%
Semi-Primitive Motorized	36%	97%

Fisheries: There are two small fish-bearing streams in this roadless area. Grimes Creek, a small stream inhabited by many brook trout and a smaller population of redband, lies in the northern portion and meanders through lush meadows. Elk Creek is in the southern portion of the area and contains a small population of redband trout. Neither stream supports bull trout or is within a priority bull trout watershed.

Wildlife: The IRA is an important security area for big game (deer and elk) and is largely surrounded by highly roaded areas. The area forms an important link between high-elevation areas to the east (Pilot Peak, Sunset Mountain) and the Boise Ridge/Shafer Butte area to the southwest. Species such as gray wolf, wolverine, and perhaps lynx may use this area as a travelway between these areas. An estimated 70 percent of the area contains potential lynx habitat. Habitats for fisher, northern goshawk, great gray owl, flammulated owl, white-headed woodpecker, and northern three-toed woodpecker occur in the area.

Water: There are a number of perennial streams in the area that flow to Clear Creek, Grimes Creek, and Elk Creek. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish and wildlife habitat and other uses on the Forest. An estimated 950 acres are within a municipal watershed of Idaho City.

Range: This IRA contains portions of four different allotments that cover approximately 70 percent of the area. There are 704 acres of capable sheep rangeland in this IRA.

Timber: The IRA has 42,514 thousand board feet (MBF) of standing timber volume, equivalent to about 83,562 hundred cubic feet (CCF). An estimated 5,327 acres (67 percent) of the Wilson Peak IRA are tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 634 acres are considered to have low productivity; 6,041 acres, moderate productivity; and 595 acres, high productivity.

Minerals: Historic mining has occurred within and around the IRA. There are over 500 mining claims in the area. A portion of the area is considered to have an estimated moderate level of interest for mineral development.

Heritage: The area has moderate cultural resource sensitivity. There are historic sites in the area or in the immediate vicinity. Part of the area is within the Boise Historic Mining District.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no private or state lands within the IRA. There are no special uses in the area.

Disturbances: There has been an estimated 10 acres that have burned by wildfire since 1960.

Botanical Characteristics: Idaho bitterroot (*Lewisia kelloggii*) is a Region 4 proposed sensitive species that has been located in the area. A minor amount of noxious weeds occur in the IRA.

NEED

Proximity to Designated Wilderness and Population Centers: The Sawtooth Wilderness lies approximately 20 miles to the east. The IRA is about 25 miles from Boise. As a designated wilderness, the area would serve the local communities of Idaho City and Pioneerville, and the population centers of Boise and Salt Lake City.

Public Interest: The degree of public interest for wilderness designation is unknown at this time as this area is a recently delineated roadless area and has not undergone any formal scoping or public comment period relative to wilderness designation.

WILDERNESS EVALUATION SUMMARY

Capability Summary:

Apparent Naturalness	Moderate
Opportunity for Solitude	Moderate
Opportunities for Challenge and Adventure	Low
Special Features	None

Determination of Availability or Unavailability: The IRA does not meet any of the criteria listed in FSH 1909.12.7.22a. Therefore, the IRA is available for wilderness designation.

Values Foregone With Wilderness Designation: The economic values associated with 7,100 acres of tentatively suited timberlands containing 42,514 MBF or 83,562 CCF would be foregone. Values from future mineral development would likely be foregone, although rights to valid existing claims might be retained. This area has moderate potential and interest for mineral development, as evidenced by 500 claims. Current motorized recreation use opportunities would be foregone. Motorized use associated with an estimated 2.5 miles of trails would be foregone. Portions of this IRA are popular for winter snowmobile use. There is an identified mountain bike use route in the area; opportunities for mountain bike use would be foregone.

Biological and Public Interest Need: The M332 Ecoregion is well represented in existing designated wildernesses. The degree of public interest for wilderness designation is unknown at this time as this area is a recently delineated roadless area and has not undergone any formal scoping or public comment period relative to wilderness designation.

ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

IRA Disposition by Alternative: The following table displays IRA management disposition for each alternative in acres. These values represent the potential, long-term outcomes of managing the IRA based solely upon its MPC assignments.

IRA Management Disposition	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Recommended Wilderness	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maintain undeveloped character	0	0	0	0	0	7,950	0
Potential low levels of development	0	4,668	4,668	4,668	4,668	0	7,950
Available for full range of development	7,950	3,282	3,282	3,282	3,282	0	0

Potential Future Development: Potential future development is represented by combinations of management emphasis/direction (MPCs), and existing conditions that are likely to become priority areas for development activities over the course of the next two or three decades. The development activities chosen for this estimation are timber harvest, vegetation restoration, and fuel reduction. Development potential is expressed in acres in the table below.

Potential Development	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Timber activities	2686	0	0	0	2686	0	0
Restoration/fuel reduction activities	3370	6181	6181	6181	3370	0	6181
Total	6055	6181	6181	6181	6055	0	6181

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics: The following table displays the effects on wilderness characteristics for each alternative. The effects on wilderness characteristics are based on the estimation of potential future development.

Effects on Wilderness Characteristics	Alt 1B	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
	H	H	H	H	H	N	H

N = No change; slight change or less than 1 percent of the area potentially affected.

L = Light impact; 1-5 percent of the area potentially affected.

M = Moderate impact; 5-20 percent of the area potentially affected.

H = High impact; greater than 20 percent of the area potentially affected.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The preferred alternative does not recommend any portion of the Wilson Peak IRA for wilderness. All of the roadless area would be available for low levels of development. Before any activity is approved that would have a significant impact on the undeveloped character of the roadless area, it would be preceded by an environmental analysis following NEPA procedures and public involvement.