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CHAPTER 2 – ALTERNATIVES

Introduction

This chapter describes and compares the alternatives considered for the FC–RONRW Management Plan. It includes a description of each alternative considered. All other elements of the existing Wilderness management plan will remain unchanged. This section also presents the alternatives in comparative form, sharply defining the differences among the alternatives and providing a clear basis for choice among options by the decision maker and the public.

All alternatives proposed for implementation meet the requirements of the National Forest Management Act. All action alternatives attempt to satisfy the purpose and need for action. The Environmental Consequences section (Chapter 4) of this report describes the likely environmental effects associated with implementation of each alternative.

Key Changes between the Draft and Final EIS

In January 1998 the DEIS for the FC–RONRW Management Plan was issued with five alternatives (including the required no action alternative). The comment from the public was that the range of alternatives considered was too narrow and all alternatives restricted use below current management plan levels, which was not perceived to be appropriate. Public comments supported an aggressive noxious weed treatment strategy, but expressed concern that the Forest Service was attempting to fix recreational use problems that did not exist.

In August 1999 the Forest Service issued an FEIS and ROD for Noxious Weed Control within the FC–RONRW. The issue of weed control was considered to be too urgent to delay during the completion of the Management Plan EIS.

In September 1999 the Forest Service issued a Supplemental DEIS (SDEIS) for the Wilderness Management Plan that added 6 additional alternatives (for a total of 11). These alternatives reflected the issues of concern to a specific user group, but did not integrate all of the decisions necessary to meet the purpose and need.

Analysis of public comment and review of the effects of alternatives proposed in the DEIS and SDEIS has led to a refinement of the Decision Framework (Chapter 1). The framework describes how the decisions for the Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) and Wilderness Management Plan revisions will be made.

Because the Alternatives presented in the DEIS and SDEIS were not fully integrated and included items beyond the scope of this analysis, alternatives 1 through 11 have been consolidated into Alternatives A through E. Alternatives A through E display and analyze the full range of actions displayed in the DEIS and SDEIS, but address only those actions being carried forward for decision based upon this FEIS. Actions that were common among several alternatives, or that were not significantly different from another alternative have been consolidated. Alternatives were renamed to reduce confusion with the original alternatives

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Elements Common to Alternatives Considered in Detail

Parameters for management of the FC–RONRW have many sources, including laws and regulations, which govern the Forest Service, agency policies, and management direction in over-arching plans and agreements.

Laws

Central Idaho Wilderness Act (CIWA) of 1980 (PL 96-312, July 23, 1980)

Sec.7 (a)(1) the landing of aircraft, where this use has become established prior to the date of enactment of this Act shall be permitted to continue subject to such restrictions as the Secretary deems desirable: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall not permanently close or render unserviceable any aircraft landing strip in regular use on national forest lands on the date of enactment of this Act for reasons other than extreme danger to aircraft, and in any case not without the express written concurrence of the agency of the State of Idaho charged with evaluating the safety of backcountry airstrips;

Sec. 7(a)(3) commercial services may be provided as necessary and proper for recreational activities as long as they meet direction provided in paragraph 4(d)(6) of the Wilderness Act.

Sec. 9(a) the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act is amended as follows: In section 3(a) after paragraph (23) insert the following new paragraph:

“(24)(A) Salmon, Idaho - The segment of the main river from the mouth of the North Fork of the Salmon River downstream to Long Tom Bar in the following classes:

The forty-six mile segment from the mouth of the North Fork of the Salmon River to Corn Creek as a recreational river; and

The seventy-nine mile segment from Corn Creek to Long Tom Bar as a wild river...

The use of motorboats (including motorized jetboats) within this segment of the Salmon River shall be permitted to continue at a level not less than the level of use that occurred during calendar year 1978.

Sec. 9(b) the segment of the Salmon River designated as a Wild and Scenic River by the CIWA (public law 95-237) shall be managed under the provisions of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act rather than the Wilderness Act.

Wilderness Act of 1964 (PL 88-577, September 3, 1964):

Sec. 2(a) administered wilderness areas for the use and enjoyment of the American people, leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness, and provide for their protection, preservation, and gathering and dissemination of information regarding their use and enjoyment as wilderness.

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (82 Stat.906, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1271-1287 (October 2, 1968):

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Sec. 1(b) "selected rivers...with their immediate environments...shall be preserved in free-flowing condition...for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations..."

Sec. 2(b) (1) "Wild river areas - Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted. These represent vestiges of primitive America.

Area Specific Direction

Management direction for the FC–RONRW is currently described in the Forest Plans for the Salmon, Challis, Payette, Nez Perce, Bitterroot, and Boise NFs. Further detail is provided in:

- Recreation Management Plan for the Middle Fork of the Salmon W&SR;
- Salmon W&SR Management Plan;
- Programmatic Agreement (PA) for Cultural Resources Management (see Appendix H-1 for standards and guidelines to be implemented in all alternatives);
- PACFISH and Inland Fish Strategies; and
- Court Ordered Remedial Plan regarding outfitter and guide operations within the FC–RONRW.
- Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 2709.11 and the Outfitter-Guide Administration Guidebook (February 1997), which provide direction for commercial outfitter and guide operations, which include both the Middle Fork and Salmon Rivers. A part of this direction calls for the commercial allocation to be defined in priority use service days. FSH 2709.11 requires adjustments to assigned priority use service days based on actual use. "Actual use" is the average of the highest two years in the previous five-year period and determines allocation of future priority use service days. Unused capacity is removed from the system or reallocated to other commercial or noncommercial users. As a result, some unused commercial capacity could shift to noncommercial use, and the ratio of commercial to noncommercial launches could change.

This FEIS consolidates the above direction into a new FC–RONRW Management Plan, which will be incorporated by amendment into the appropriate Forest Plans. It also complies with direction from other laws, regulations, and policies regulating the management of National Forest System lands.

Monitoring

Monitoring is required for all alternatives considered in detail. For this FEIS monitoring will be displayed for: Air Quality; Aviation; Cultural Resources; Minerals; Recreation; and Wildlife. For specific indicators and standards see [Appendix C – Monitoring](#).

Alternatives Considered But Not Analyzed in This EIS

NEPA requires Federal agencies to rigorously explore and objectively evaluate all reasonable alternatives and to briefly discuss the reasons for eliminating any alternatives that were not

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developed in detail (40 CFR 1502.14). Public comments received in response to the DEIS and SDEIS provided suggestions for alternative methods for achieving the purpose and need. Some of these alternatives may have been outside the scope of this analysis, duplicative of the alternatives considered in detail, or determined to be components that would cause unnecessary environmental harm. Therefore, a number of alternatives were considered, but dismissed from detailed consideration for reasons summarized below.

Alternatives Generated through Public Comment

Increasing Wilderness Preservation by Drastically Reducing Use Levels

To emphasize at all times the opportunities for solitude throughout the wilderness and to afford the highest protection of the wilderness resource, this alternative would drastically reduce use approximately 90 percent in the Salmon River and Middle Fork of the Salmon River (Middle Fork River). This alternative is not given detailed study because it is similar to DEIS Alternative 2, SDEIS Alternative 9 and FEIS Alternative B, in that they emphasize solitude and primitive and unconfined experiences.

Decreasing Wilderness Preservation by Allowing Unrestricted Use

This alternative would allow demand to dictate use, with no restrictions on use. Only the minimum amount of management action would be taken to rectify the most pressing social and resource effects. This alternative would afford virtually unregulated use of the wilderness. The predicted result would be unacceptable environmental harm. It could seriously damage the wilderness resource and eliminate opportunities for solitude, particularly in the Salmon River, Middle Fork, and their tributaries.

Instead of perpetuating a wilderness river experience on the Middle Fork River, this alternative would most likely eliminate this unique experience while allowing irreversible effects to the ecological, physical, and social conditions in this river corridor. No controls would be set for float or jetboat launches on the Salmon River, which probably would create extreme congestion and pose safety conflicts during the peak summer season. All areas with high use levels could exceed physical, ecological, and social carrying capacity. This could result in displacement of wildlife species and increased presence and spread of noxious weeds. Since the expected effects from implementing this alternative would be too great, it was eliminated from detailed study.

Alternatives from DEIS and SDEIS dropped from consideration (U.S. Forest Service 1998, 1999)

Draft EIS Alternatives 4 and 5 and SDEIS Alternatives 7 and 8 are dropped from consideration.

Alternative 4

Management of Dewey Moore, Mile-Hi, Simonds, and Vines landing strips is the same as Alternative E

River float boating emphasis and goals during the summer season are replicated by Alternatives D and E.

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Because Alternative C has the same emphasis as Alternative 4 for noncommercial jetboaters, plus offers a wider range of BUDs there is no need to also display Alternative 4.

Regarding management of the Painter Bar road, Alternative 4 is the same as Alternative A.

Alternative 5

Management of Dewey Moore, Mile-Hi, Simonds, and Vines landing strips is the same as Alternative D.

Launch, party size and length of stay levels are also analyzed in Alternatives B, D, and E.

Continuing the 15 BUDs per week limitation for noncommercial recreation jetboats is the same as Alternative A.

Painter Bar road management is the same as Alternative D.

Alternative 7

Management of Dewey Moore, Mile-Hi, Simonds, and Vines landing strips is the same as Alternative E.

Launches; party size and length of stay for float boats are managed as Alternative A.

Noncommercial jetboaters management is the same as Alternative A.

Alternative 7 did not address management of the Painter Bar road.

Alternative 8

Management of Dewey Moore, Mile-Hi, Simonds, and Vines landing strips is the same as Alternative E.

Noncommercial float boat recreation use decisions have been deferred pending additional studies of alternative allocations systems.

Noncommercial jetboaters management is the same as Alternative A except for a provision to curtail jet backs. Curtailing jet back use is covered in Alternative B in the Final EIS.

Management of the Painter Bar road is the same as Alternative A.

Descriptions of Alternatives Considered in Detail

The following is a brief summary of the five alternatives analyzed in detail in this FEIS and their relationship to the alternatives displayed in the DEIS and SDEIS.

Alternative A: This is DEIS Alternative 1, the No Action Alternative which continues existing management direction.

Alternative B: This alternative has a primitive emphasis and incorporates:

- The no maintenance strategy for, Dewey Moore Mile-Hi, Simonds, and Vines landing strips from DEIS Alt. 1, 3, and SDEIS Alt. 9.
- The Middle Fork Salmon and Salmon Rivers float boat launches, party size and length of stay from DEIS Alt. 2.

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- The noncommercial jetboater strategy from SDEIS Alt 9.
- The Painter Bar Road management strategy from DEIS Alt 2 and SDEIS Alt 9.

Alternative C: This Alternative emphasizes providing access to the Wilderness and incorporates:

- The maintenance strategy for Dewey Moore Mile-Hi, Simonds, and Vines landing strips from SDEIS Alts. 6, 7, and 8.
- The Middle Fork Salmon River float boat strategy from SDEIS Alt 10 and the Salmon River float boat launches, party size and length of stay from the SDEIS Alt. 11.
- The noncommercial jetboat strategy from SDEIS Alt 11.
- The Painter Bar Road management strategy from DEIS Alt. 1.

Alternative D: This is the "Preferred Alternative", and is a modification of SDEIS Alternative 6, which incorporates changes, based on public comment on the SDEIS. Alternative D includes:

- The maintenance strategy for Dewey Moore Mile-Hi, Simonds, and Vines landing strips from DEIS Alt. 5.
- The Salmon and Middle Fork Salmon Rivers float boat launches, party size and length of stay from Alt. 6 modified to reflect public comment.
- Public comments received on the Supplemental DEIS to develop a noncommercial jetboat strategy for the FEIS.
- The Painter Bar Road management strategy from SDEIS Alternative 6.

Alternative E: This is SDEIS Alternative 6 and was designed to reflect public comment received on the DEIS.

Alternative A: No Action

The no action alternative would continue management as directed by the existing management plan for the FC–RONRW, the Middle Fork and the Salmon River. The management direction would however be updated with the Programmatic Agreement for heritage resources management. Emergency use at Dewey Moore, Mile-Hi, Simonds and Vines landing strips would continue to be allowed but the landing strips would not be maintained and use as a public landing strip would continue to be discouraged. Whitewater river experiences on the Middle Fork and the Salmon Rivers would be met by continuing current numbers of launches, party size and length of stay. Jetboat access for commercial use and noncommercial recreational use would continue at current levels, while jetboat permits for ingress / egress would be issued for based on properties deeded in 1978. Motorized access, to visitors and private inholders, on the Painter Bar Road would continue year round.

Management of Dewey Moore, Mile-Hi, Simonds, and Vines Landing Strips

Dewey Moore, Mile-Hi, Simonds, and Vines landing strips would not be maintained for public aviation use. Over time the landing sites would naturally revert to native vegetation.

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Middle Fork River Strategy

Management of the Middle Fork would continue as it currently exists with floating use managed year round. There would be no change in the number of launches, party size, or length of stay. Table 2.2 shows the existing condition for these factors.

The ratio of commercial to noncommercial float boat launches would remain at generally 3:4 for the summer season. The opportunities for people to float each day (number of launches X number of people per party) are 90 commercial users to 96 noncommercial users, if all launches are filled with the maximum number of people allowed. The total maximum PAOT per day would be a ratio of 720 commercial users to 768 noncommercial users.

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Table 2.1 Seasonal Factors Determining Middle Fork River Float Boat Maximum PAOT Alternative A								
	Winter		Spring		Summer		Fall	
	Com	Noncom	Com	Noncom	Com	Noncom	Com	Noncom
Launches per day	7*				3	4	7	
Maximum number of people per party	30 **	24	30 **	24	30 **	24	30 **	24
Maximum length of stay in days	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
Maximum PAOT in the river corridor each day	1680	1344	1680	1344	720	768	1680	1344
Total Maximum PAOT in the river corridor each day	1344 – 1680***				1,488		1344 – 1680***	

* Seven launches in the winter, spring and fall are available on a first-come first-served basis.

** Commercial party size allows for guides and boat crew persons.

*** The maximum range assumes either commercial or noncommercial receive all seven launches.

Salmon River Strategy

Use is only controlled during the summer season, June 20-September 7. The rest of the year use is unlimited.

As directed by current law (CIWA), jetboat use is maintained at not less than the 1978 level and private land access (ingress/egress) is allowed by jetboats. Currently ingress/egress to private property is 22 jetboats and the maximum allowable is 67 jetboats at one time.

For float boat use, the factors used to derive the seasonal PAOT per day are indicated in Table 2.3.

Winter, spring, and fall float boat launches per day and maximum numbers of people per party are not limited. Maximum length of stay is 10 days year-round.

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Summer season maximums are the same for commercial or noncommercial float boaters. They include: float boat launches per day 4 each (commercial/noncommercial); party size 30 people per group; length of stay 10 days.

Ratios of potential commercial to noncommercial float boat launches are 4:4 each day during the summer season. Opportunities to float are 120 people commercial and 120 people noncommercial each day during the summer season if all launches are filled with the maximum number of people allowed, for a total of 240 people. Neither launches nor opportunities to float would be regulated outside the summer season.

Table 2.2 Seasonal Factors Determining Salmon River Float Boat Maximum PAOT Alternative A								
	Winter		Spring		Summer		Fall	
	Com	Noncom	Com	Noncom	Com	Noncom	Com	Noncom
Launches per day	Unlimited				4	4	Unlimited	
Maximum number of people per party	Unlimited				30	30	Unlimited	
Maximum length of stay in days	10							
Maximum PAOT in the river corridor each day	Unlimited				1,200	1,200	Unlimited	
Total Maximum PAOT in the river corridor each day	Unlimited				2,400		Unlimited	

Noncommercial Recreational Jetboaters

Use is only controlled during the summer season, June 20-September 7. The rest of the year use is unlimited.

During the control season there is a differentiation between use above Ludwig Rapid and below Ludwig Rapid.

Motorized use allocations are not less than the estimated 1978 motorboat use levels.

The Boat Use Days (BUDs) numbers do not include private property ingress/egress by jetboats.

Summer Season (June 20 – September 7)

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Boats At One Time (BAOT): If all users chose one-day trips the maximum BAOT number would be 15. If they all chose 10-day trips the maximum BAOT would be 3.

BUDs: Noncommercial jetboaters are allocated 15 BUDs per week and a maximum stay of 10 days. The number of BUDs per week is the limiting factor in Alternative A.

Launches/Week: A maximum of 15 launches/week are allowed. This could be 15 1-day launches, 2 7-day launches and 1 1-day launch, or any combination in between. If 15 single day launches all occurred on 1 day there could be no additional noncommercial jetboat use that week. The maximum number of launches per week would be 3 if all noncommercial recreation jetboaters chose longer trips.

Length of Stay: The maximum length of stay in the Salmon River corridor is 10 days. However, jetboat permits are issued on a 7-day cycle. So a noncommercial jetboater would need 2 back-to-back permits to stay a full 10-days in the Wild River corridor.

Party Size (Boats): A maximum of three jetboats are allowed to travel together.

Party Size (People): The maximum number of people per party is 30.

Permits: A limited Forest Service issued permit is required

Trips per Season: If all users chose one-day trips the maximum trips during the Summer Season would be 171. If they all chose 7 to 10-day trips the maximum Summer Season trips would be 34.

Outside the Summer Season:

Boats At One Time (BAOTS): There is no limitation on the number of noncommercial BAOT.

BUDs: There is no limitation on BUDs outside the summer season.

Launches/Week: There is no limitation on the number of launches allowed.

Length of Stay: The maximum length of stay in the Salmon River corridor is 10 days.

Party Size (Boats): The number of jetboats per party is unlimited.

Party Size (People): The maximum number of people per party is unlimited.

Permits: There is no requirement for noncommercial jetboaters to obtain a permit outside the summer season.

Trips per Season: There is no limitation on the number of trips per season.

Jetboat use for the Salmon River is displayed in Table 2.3.

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Table 2.3 Seasonal Factors Determining Salmon River Jetboat Maximum PAOT Alternative A					
<i>Noncommercial Jetboats</i>					
Season	Winter	Spring	Summer		Fall
BUDs per Week	Unlimited		15*		Unlimited
Length of Stay (in days)	10		Maximum stay 10	Minimum stay 1	10
Maximum Launches per Week	Unlimited		3	15	Unlimited
Maximum Trips per Season	Unlimited		34	Unlimited	Unlimited
Maximum BAOT	Unlimited		3**	15**	Unlimited
Maximum People per Party	Unlimited		30***		Unlimited
Maximum Noncommercial PAOT****	Unlimited		90	450	Unlimited
<i>Commercial Jetboats</i>					
Maximum BAOT	19		18		19
Maximum People per Party	Unlimited		30***		Unlimited
Maximum Commercial PAOT****	Unlimited		540		Unlimited
Maximum Total Jetboat PAOT	Unlimited		630	990	Unlimited

* BUDs / week is the limiting factor.

** The maximum noncom. BAOT could only occur on one day of the week.

*** Based on maximum campsite capacity and maximum party size for all corridor users -not individual jetboat capacity.

**** Jetboat PAOT = BAOT X People / Party.

Does Not Include Ingress/Egress Use Permitted for Private Property Access

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Table 2.4 is a summary of PAOTs for all the activities occurring in the Salmon River corridor daily under Alternative A.

Table 2.4 Summary of PAOT Capacities for the Salmon River Alternative A								
	Winter		Spring		Summer		Fall	
	Jetboat	Float	Jetboat	Float	Jetboat	Float	Jetboat	Float
Maximum PAOT in the river corridor each day by Use	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	630-990	2,400	Unlimited	Unlimited
Total PAOT in the river corridor each day – combined Jetboat & Float Use	Unlimited		Unlimited		3030-3390*		Unlimited	

* Does not include ingress/egress use permitted for private property access.

Painter Bar Road

Painter Bar Road would remain open as shown in the current Management Plans. The Nez Perce NF Land and Resource Management Plan, pg III-17 refers to the Salmon Wild and Scenic River Management Plan, which provides specific direction for the painter Bar Road at pg 71 (3)(b).

The Salmon River plan specifies the continued use of the Painter Bar Road within the Wild River corridor until the Plan directs otherwise.

Alternative B: Environmentally Preferred

Alternative B emphasizes a more primitive wilderness experience by providing opportunities for solitude in the Wild River corridors. Emergency use at Dewey Moore, Mile-Hi, Simonds and Vines landing strips would continue to be allowed but the landing strips would not be maintained and use as a public landing strip would continue to be discouraged. The number of launches and maximum party size would be reduced for float boaters on both the Middle Fork and the Salmon Rivers. In addition a variable trip length option would be implemented to meet float boaters needs while reducing the maximum PAOT on the Rivers. This Alternative manages jetboat

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numbers using the 1978 motorboat level as the maximum use allowed. The Painter Bar Road would be closed and managed as a nonmotorized trail.

Management of Dewey Moore, Mile-Hi, Simonds, and Vines Landing Strips

Dewey Moore, Mile-Hi, Simonds, and Vines Landing Strips are not maintained for public aviation use. Over time the landing sites would naturally revert to native vegetation.

Middle Fork River Strategy

Management of recreational use is accomplished by seasonal variations in emphasis:

- ♦ March 1 - September 10 emphasizes opportunities for whitewater float boating activities.
- ♦ September 11 - February 28 emphasizes opportunities for hunting, fishing, and winter recreation activities (non-boating in winter but allows float boats in fall).
- ♦ In order to provide a more primitive wilderness river recreation experience on the Middle Fork, the maximum PAOT per day is set by season.
- ♦ Table 2.6 shows the maximum number of launches, numbers of people per party and lengths of stay that can be used as long as the maximum PAOT/day is not exceeded. The design features of the Variable Trip Length option (see Appendix A – Glossary for definition) apply. Numbers of people and lengths of stay are given in ranges to accommodate the Variable Trip Length option.
- ♦ The total maximum PAOT per day is the limiting factor at determining the number of people allowed on the river. The maximum PAOT per day for the summer season is set at 290. In the spring season, the maximum PAOT per day is 170 to provide an even more primitive wilderness recreation experience during the spring high water season. The fall season maximum PAOT per day is also 170 to emphasize hunting and fishing via float boats. Non-boating PAOT activities are allowed but not calculated here. The winter boating PAOT is zero because non-boating is emphasized and ice and cold weather prohibit boating activities.
- ♦ The maximum number of PAOT in the river corridor each day by season, regardless of which service (commercial/noncommercial) do not exceed the PAOT amount shown in Table 2.5.

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	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall
Launches per day	0	4	3	2
Number of people per party	0	1 - 14	1 - 19	1 - 10
Length of stay in days	0	1 - 8	1 - 10	1 - 14
Total Maximum PAOT in the river corridor each day	0	170	290	170

Salmon River Strategy

Management of recreational use is accomplished by seasonal variation in emphasis.

- ♦ March 1 - September 10 emphasizes opportunities for float boating activities.
- ♦ September 11 - February 28 emphasizes opportunities for hunting, fishing, and winter recreation activities via jetboats.
- ♦ Alternative B is designed to provide the most semi-primitive recreation experience possible on the Salmon River within the tenets of current laws, which include the two legal requirements to maintain jetboat use at the 1978 level and private ingress/egress access.
- ♦ Table 2.6 shows the number of launches, people per party, length of stay and PAOT per season for float use on the Salmon River. The number of people and lengths of stay are given in ranges because the “variable trip length” would apply.
- ♦ The maximum number of PAOT in the river corridor each day by season, regardless of which service (commercial/noncommercial) do not exceed the PAOT amount shown in Table 2.6.

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Table 2.6 Seasonal Factors Determining Salmon River Float Boat Maximum PAOT Alternative B				
	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall
Launches per day	1	2	2	1
Number of people per party	1-8	1-16	1-13	1-14
Length of stay in days	5-14	3-14	5-14	5-14
Maximum PAOT in the river corridor each day for float use	40	100	130	70

Jetboats

The maximum number of launches, people per party, length of stay and PAOT per season for jetboat use on the Salmon River are shown in Table 2.8.

Alternative B sets the 1978 jetboat use level as the maximum level for jetboat use, both noncommercial recreation and commercial jet boats. Jetboats used to access private property were not included in the Forest Service estimates of noncommercial recreation jetboat use or the commercial jetboat use for 1978. Therefore they cannot be included in the numbers and given priority in this alternative without reducing the noncommercial recreation jetboaters or the commercial jetboaters below their 1978 use level. The numbers used here are the lowest that can be used and still meet the CIWA constraints.

Noncommercial Recreational Jetboaters

There would continue to be a differentiation in use above and below Ludwig Rapid.

The summer season is June 20 – Sept. 7:

Boats At One Time (BAOT): If all users chose one-day trips the maximum BAOT would be 15. If they all chose 10-day trips the maximum BAOT would be 3.

BUDs: Noncommercial jetboaters are allocated 15 BUDs per week and a maximum stay of 10 days. The number of BUDs is the limiting factor in Alternative B.

Launches/Week: A maximum of 15 launches/week occur if 15 noncommercial recreation jetboaters choose single-day trips. (If 15-singleday launches all occurred on 1 day there could be no additional noncommercial jetboater use that week.) The maximum number of launches per week would be 3 if all noncommercial recreation jetboaters chose longer trips.

Length of Stay: The maximum length of stay in the Salmon River corridor is 10 days. However, jetboat permits are issued on a 7-day cycle.

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Party Size (Boats): The maximum number was not addressed in the parent Alternative 9.

Party Size (People): The maximum number of people per party is 15.

Permits: A limited Forest Service issued permit is required

Trips per Season: If all users chose one-day trips the maximum trips during the Summer Season would be 171. If they all chose 7 to10-day trips the maximum Summer Season trips would be 34.

Outside the summer season:

Boats At One Time (BAOT): The maximum number of noncommercial BAOT is 70.

BUDs/week: There is no set limitation on BUDs outside the summer season.

Launches/Week: There are 7 jetboat launches per day (49 per week), including noncommercial and commercial jetboats. Forest Service estimates indicate approximately 900 jetboat trips outside the summer season in 1978. No priority is indicated for either user groups.

Length of Stay: The maximum length of stay in the Salmon River corridor is 10 days.

Party size (Boats): The maximum number was not addressed in the parent Alternative 9.

Party Size (People): The maximum number of people per party is 15.

Permits: Noncommercial jetboaters are required to obtain a Forest Service Issued permit for jetboat use outside the summer season.

Trips per Season: There are no more than 900 trips outside the summer season.

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Table 2.7				
Seasonal Factors Determining Salmon River Jetboat Maximum PAOT				
Alternative B				
Noncommercial Jetboats				
Season	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall
BUDs per Week	Unlimited		15*	
Length of Stay (in days)	10		Maximum stay 7	Minimum stay 1
Maximum Launches per Week	49/wk. 7/day (com. & noncom.)	3	15	49/wk. 7/day (com. & noncom.)
Maximum Trips per Season	900 (com. & noncom.)	34	171	900 (com. & noncom.)
Maximum BAOT	70 (com. & noncom.)	3**	15**	70 (com. & noncom.)
Maximum People per Party	15***		15***	
Maximum Noncommercial PAOT****	700	45	225	700
Commercial Jetboats				
Maximum BAOT	19	18		19
Maximum People per Party	15	15***		15
Maximum Commercial PAOT****	285	270		285
Maximum Total Jetboat PAOT	Unlimited	315	495	Unlimited

* BUDs / week is a limiting factor.

** The maximum noncom. BAOT could only occur on one day of the week.

*** Based on maximum 15 party size - a limiting factor for this alternative.

**** Jetboat PAOT = BAOT X People / Party.

Does Not Include Ingress/Egress Use Permitted for Private Property Access

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Table 2.8 is a summary of PAOT for all the activities occurring in the Salmon River corridor daily.

Table 2.8 Summary of PAOT Capacities for the Salmon River Alternative B								
	Winter		Spring		Summer		Fall	
	Jetboat	Float	Jetboat	Float	Jetboat	Float	Jetboat	Float
Maximum PAOT in the river corridor each day by Use	700	40	700	100	315 - 495	130	700	70
Total PAOT in the river corridor each day – combined Jetboat & Float Use	740		800		445 - 625		770	
Ingress/egress (Jetboat use for private landowner access)	67		67		67		67	
Total Maximum PAOT allowed in the river corridor each day	807		867		512 – 692*		837	

* Does not include ingress/egress use for private property access.

Painter Bar Road

The Painter Bar Road is physically closed and rehabilitated. A tread is maintained to allow access by trail from the eastside of Mackay Bar Campground to the Painter Bar Homestead.

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Alternative C

This Alternative C emphasizes providing more access to the Wilderness for certain user groups. Dewey Moore, Mile-Hi, Simonds and Vines landing strips would be maintained by the Forest Service for use by commercial and noncommercial aviation. The Middle Fork of the Salmon River would emphasize noncommercial access by adding three additional launches, year round, for small noncommercial groups. The Salmon River would emphasize noncommercial jetboat use. An increase to 24 launches daily would be available for noncommercial jetboaters during the summer and launches would be unlimited for all user groups during the winter, spring and fall. Float boat use on the Salmon River would continue at current launches, party size and length of stay unless there was a need to limit use on the River, at which time the reduction would be met by limiting float boater use. The Painter Bar Road would remain open to motorized traffic year round.

Management of Dewey Moore, Mile-Hi, Simonds, and Vines Landing Strips

Dewey Moore, Mile-Hi, Simonds, and Vines Landing Strips are maintained by the Forest Service for use as public landing strips.

Middle Fork River Strategy

Alternative C emphasizes opportunities for noncommercial float boats to get on the Middle Fork by increasing the number of launches available. Commercial outfitters continue to have three launches per day. The alternative increases the number of noncommercial launches from four to seven per day total.

Commercial

Commercial launches are scheduled the same as they are currently.

Noncommercial

The initial four noncommercial launches continue to be issued through the current lottery system. The three additional launches, limited to a party size of eight, and are handled through a secondary lottery for those who were not successful in the initial lottery drawing. The overall odds of getting a permit are 1 in 13.

During all seasons, maximum party size is 30 for commercial, 16 for 4 noncommercial launches, and 8 for 3 noncommercial launches. The length of stay is 8 days.

Due to the increase in number of launches, campsites are preassigned throughout the permit season. A increased emphasis would be placed on assigning campsites based on party and campsite size. For example, small party launch groups are limited to small party campsites.

Table 2.10 is a summary of the number of launches and party size by season, and the number of PAOT that could be on the River.

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Salmon River Strategy

Management emphasis is on jetboat use for the entire year.

Jetboat use is allowed to increase above the estimated 1978 level.

Table 2.9 Seasonal Factors Determining Middle Fork River Float Boat Maximum PAOT Alternative C						
	Winter	Spring	Summer		Fall	
	Com	Noncom	Com	Noncom	Com	Noncom
Launches per day	3	4 + 3	3	4 + 3	3	4 + 3
Maximum number of people per party	30	4 – 15* 3 - 8	30	4 – 15* 3 - 8	30	4 – 15* 3 - 8
Maximum length of stay in days	8					
Maximum PAOT in the river corridor each day	720	714	720	714	720	714
Total Maximum PAOT in the river corridor each day	1434		1434		1434	

* Four of the noncommercial permits would be for parties up to 15 people in size and 3 of the permits for up to 8 people.

With the substantial increase in summer season jetboat traffic, Alternative C requires all commercial outfitters to supply their clients with written information pamphlets (produced by the Forest Service with the help of user groups) before their booking so they can make informed decisions as to which river experience they truly want. Noncommercial floaters would also receive this information when applying for permits and receiving them. Additional information is provided to floaters and jet boaters regarding navigating and enjoying the Salmon River, including safe and ethical methods of passing other craft, on the river and at campsites.

If the Salmon River use needed to be cut during the life of this plan, reductions would come from floatboaters and not jetboaters.

Floatboats: Table 2.10 shows the maximum number of launches, people per party, length of stay and PAOT per season for float use on the Salmon River.

There is no change in the total number of launches, party size, or length of stay from the current condition for the summer season, or the other seasons.

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A review of commercial use data over the last 15 years shows that during the summer season there is approximately 100 allocated commercial launches that are unused by outfitters each year. The exact current number would be determined by a business-by-business review of actual launches used. Actual use is calculated by averaging the highest two years in the last five-year period.

Of the approximately 100 currently unused allocated commercial launches, 50 percent would be permanently withdrawn from the commercial allocation and made available to noncommercial floaters through the annual lottery. The remaining 50 percent would be maintained in a commercial allocation pool and made available to outfitters who experienced reductions in their launch allocation, as a result of the review, for future growth opportunities.

The ratio of potential commercial to noncommercial float boat launches each day would change from the current 4:4 to less commercial and more noncommercial.

Neither launches nor opportunities to float are regulated outside the summer season. However, party size is restricted to 30 people for both commercial and noncommercial floaters and the maximum length of stay is 10 days.

Table 2.10 Seasonal Factors Determining Salmon River Float Boat Maximum PAOT Alternative C								
	Winter		Spring		Summer		Fall	
	Com	Noncom	Com	Noncom	Com	Noncom	Com	Noncom
Launches per day	Unlimited				4	4	Unlimited	
Maximum number of people per party	30							
Maximum length of stay in days	10							
Maximum PAOT in the river corridor each day	Unlimited				1200	1200	Unlimited	
Total Maximum PAOT in the river corridor each day	Unlimited				2400		Unlimited	

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Jetboats

Table 2.11 shows the maximum number of launches, people per party, length of stay and PAOT per season for jetboat use on the Salmon River.

The noncommercial jetboat use is based on 24 jetboat launches per day with a maximum length of stay of 10 days and a maximum party size of 12 people per boat. Over the course of the 10-day length of stay, there could be up to 240 jetboats on the river at one time. Table 2.12 is a summary of the maximum PAOT for jetboats.

Outside the summer season, jetboats launches are not limited. There is a restriction on the maximum number of people per party of 20 people. Noncommercial jetboaters are required to obtain a self-issued permit, which is used for data collection.

Private property access is not included in either the commercial or noncommercial allocation of jetboat use. Property owners are allowed ingress/egress (access) to their properties and use of the river and surrounding areas. Currently there are 22 private property owners with permits. An additional 45 private property owners do not currently have access to their property with jetboats. If they request access, the total number of ingress/egress jetboat use could total 67.

The total maximum potential PAOT allowed in the river corridor each day during the summer season is 2,400 PAOT for float boats and 3,420 for jetboats, for a total of 5,820 PAOT.

Noncommercial Recreational Jetboaters

Noncommercial jetboat permits are useable on all sections of the Salmon River between Corn Creek and Vinegar Creek, with no differentiation of use levels above or below Ludwig Rapid.

Summer Season (June 20 – Sept 7):

Boats At One Time (BAOT): There is a maximum of 240 BAOTs

BUDs: There are a maximum of 1,680 BUDs per week. The BUDs number is not the controlling factor in Alternative C. The number of launches per week, people per launch party, and the length of stay are the limiting factors.

Launches/Week: There are 24 launches per day. A maximum of 168 launches/week are allowed.

Length of Stay: The maximum length of stay in the Salmon River corridor is 10 days.

Party Size (Boats): The maximum number was not addressed in parent Alternative 11.

Party Size (People): The maximum number of people per party is 12. There is no Party.

Permits: A limited Forest Service issued permit is required

Trips per Season: There are 1,920 trips per season.

Outside the Summer Season:

Boats At One Time (BAOT): There is no limitation on the number of noncommercial

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Boats At One Time (BAOT): There is no limitation on the number of noncommercial BAOT.

BUDs: There is no limitation on BUDs.

Launches/Week: There is no limitation on the number of launches allowed.

Length of Stay: The maximum length of stay in the Salmon River corridor is 10 days.

Party Size (Boats): The maximum number of boats per party is unlimited.

Party Size (People): The maximum number of people per party is 20. There is no limitation on the number of boats traveling together.

Permits: There is a requirement for noncommercial jetboaters to obtain a self-issued permit used for data collection.

Trips per Season: There is no limitation on the number of trips per season.

Table 2.12 is a summary of PAOT for all the activities occurring in the Salmon River corridor daily under Alternative C.

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Table 2.11				
Seasonal Factors Determining Salmon River Jetboat Maximum PAOT				
Alternative C				
Noncommercial Jetboats				
Season	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall
BUDs per Week	Unlimited		1,680*	Unlimited
Length of Stay (in days)	10		10**	10
Maximum Launches per Week	Unlimited		168** (24 per day)	Unlimited
Maximum Trips per Season	Unlimited		1920	Unlimited
Maximum BAOT	Unlimited		240	Unlimited
Maximum People per Party	Unlimited		12**	Unlimited
Maximum Noncom. PAOT****	Unlimited		2880***	Unlimited
Commercial Jetboats				
Maximum BAOT	19		18	19
Maximum People per Party	Unlimited		30 [#]	Unlimited
Maximum Commercial PAOT****	Unlimited		540	Unlimited
Maximum Total Jetboat PAOT	Unlimited		3420	Unlimited

* BUDs is not the limiting factor

** Launches / day, people / party (12), and length of stay are the limiting factors for noncom. jetboats.

*** In this alternative the noncom. jetboat PAOT is calculated as: Launches/day X Length of stay X People/party.

[#] 30 people per party, for comm. boats is based on campsite capacity and maximum party size for all corridor users - not on jetboat capacity.

^{##} Comm. PAOT = BAOT X People / party.

Does Not Include Ingress/Egress Use Permitted for Private Property Access

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Table 2.12 Summary of PAOT Capacities for the Salmon River Alternative C								
	Winter		Spring		Summer		Fall	
	Jetboat	Float	Jetboat	Float	Jetboat	Float	Jetboat	Float
Maximum PAOT in the river corridor each day by Use	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	3420	2400	Unlimited	Unlimited
Total PAOT in the river corridor each day – combined Jetboat & Float Use	Unlimited		Unlimited		5,820*		Unlimited	

* Does not include ingress/egress use for private property access.

Painter Bar Road

Painter Bar Road would remain open as currently shown in the Nez Perce Forest Management Plan, which specifies the continued use of the road until the plan directs otherwise.

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Alternative D – Preferred Alternative

Alternative D is the Preferred Alternative. It was developed to be responsive to public comments received on the Supplemental Draft EIS (SDEIS). As background, Alternative D used SDEIS Alternative 6 as a starting point, and modified Alternative 6 (to form Alternative D as displayed) based on the comments received on the SDEIS.

Alternative D will begin maintenance on Dewey Moore, Mile-Hi, Simonds and Vines landing strips, however only at a level needed for emergency use. These airstrips are not intended for public use and will not be maintained at that level. Increases in float boat use on both the Middle Fork and Salmon Rivers will be tempered by implementing a variable trip length system that allows visitors, both commercial and non commercial, to choose their trip length of stay based on party size. Private jetboat use will be increased to provide more opportunity for longer length of stay to that user group. The Painter Bar Road would be closed to motorized traffic during the summer, however would be opened for the rest of the year.

Management of Dewey Moore, Mile-Hi, Simonds, and Vines Landing Strips

Dewey Moore, Mile-Hi, Simonds, and Vines Landing Strips are maintained for emergency use only. The Idaho Division of Aeronautics and the Federal Aviation Administration will be notified of the emergency use only status of these landing strips. The Forest Service will work with these agencies regarding appropriate notifications and actions consistent with the emergency use status.

Middle Fork River Strategy

During spring, summer, and fall seasons, the river is managed with emphasis on float boating recreational activities with opportunities for a primitive recreation experience.

During the winter season, the emphasis is on a Primitive experience and non-boating recreational activities.

Both commercial and noncommercial floaters can choose, under a variable trip length option, their party size with a corresponding length of stay that could vary between six and eight days.

See Table 2.14 for variable trip length options by party size.

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Table 2.13 Variable Trip Length Options		
	Party Size	Length of Stay
Noncommercial Year Round	21 - 24	6 days
	11 - 20	7 days
	1 - 10	8 days
Commercial Year Round	21 - 30	6 days
	11 - 20	7 days
	1 - 10	8 days

See Table 2.14 for a summary of number of launches, maximum party size, and length of stay for the Middle Fork.

The ratio of commercial to noncommercial float boat launches remains at 3:4 for the summer season. The opportunities for people to float (number of launches X number of people per party) are 90 commercials to 96 noncommercials, if all launches are filled with the maximum number of people allowed. The maximum PAOT per day is comprised of 540 commercials to 576 noncommercials.

In the spring and fall seasons seven launches per day are allowed. These float permits are available on a first come first serve basis, regardless of whether it is commercial or noncommercial use.

There is no boat use on the Middle Fork during the winter season, December 1 through February 29.

Cancelled launches have to be turned in 21 days in advance. All cancelled launches (both commercial and noncommercial) are available for reissue only to noncommercial parties.

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Table 2.14
Seasonal Factors Determining Middle Fork River Float Boat Maximum PAOT
Alternative D

	Winter		Spring		Summer		Fall	
	Com	Noncom	Com	Noncom	Com	Noncom	Com	Noncom
Launches per day	0		7		3	4	7	
Maximum number of people per party	0		30	24	30	24	30	24
Maximum length of stay in days	0		6-8	6-8	6-8	6 - 8	6	6 - 8
Maximum PAOT in the river corridor each day	0		1260*	1008*	540	576	1260*	1008*
Total Maximum PAOT in the river corridor each day	0		1008-1260*		1116		1008 – 1260*	

* Maximum use under the spring and fall seasons assumes each user group has all 7 launches each day.

Salmon River Strategy

Management emphasis is on noncommercial and commercial float boating during the summer season and noncommercial and commercial jet boating, fishing, and hunting during the spring, fall, and winter seasons.

A review of commercial use data over the last 15 years shows that during the summer season there is approximately 100 allocated commercial launches that are unused by outfitters each year. The exact current number would be determined by a business-by-business review of actual launches used. Actual use is calculated by averaging the highest two years in the last five-year period.

Of the approximately 100 currently unused allocated commercial launches, 50 percent would be permanently withdrawn from the commercial allocation and made available to noncommercial floaters through the annual lottery. The remaining 50 percent would be maintained in a commercial allocation pool and made available to outfitters who experienced reductions in their launch allocation, as a result of the review, for future growth opportunities.

The ratio of potential commercial to noncommercial float boat launches each day would change from the current 4:4 to less commercial and more noncommercial.

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Salmon River commercial and noncommercial float boat operations year round are based on the variable trip length options, where party size would determine the maximum trip length as follows. See Table 2.15 for variable trip length options by party size.

Table 2.15		
Commercial and Noncommercial Year round	Party Size	Length of Stay
	21 - 30	6 days
	11 - 20	7 days
	1 - 10	8 days

The maximum numbers of float boaters that could get on the river each day during the summer continues to be 240.

There are no launch limits outside the summer season for either commercial or noncommercial float boaters.

Tables 2.17 and 2.18 show the maximum number of launches, people per party, length of stay and PAOT per season for float and jetboat use.

Table 2.16 Seasonal Factors Determining Salmon River Float Boat Maximum PAOT Alternative D									
	Winter		Spring		Summer		Fall		
	Com	Noncom	Com	Noncom	Com	Noncom	Com	Noncom	
Launches per day	unlimited				4	4	unlimited		
Maximum number of people per party	30								
Maximum length of stay in days	6 - 8								
Maximum PAOT in the river corridor each day	unlimited				720	720	unlimited		
Total Maximum PAOT in the river corridor each day	unlimited				1,440		unlimited		

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Jetboats

During the summer season, commercial jetboats continue to operate under the same number of special use permits, 18, as current. There is no limit on the number of trips allowed. The special use permits continue to describe the types of jetboat activities allowed.

Outside the summer season, 19 jetboats continue to be permitted for commercial operations with activities controlled by special use permits.

Party size for commercial users is limited to a maximum number of 30 people, for all seasons.

Noncommercial Recreational Jetboaters

During summer season Alternative D eliminates BUDs as the controlling factor determining noncommercial recreational jetboat use. The total number of jetboats on the water at one time (BAOT) is the controlling factor. BUDs are displayed as the result of various combinations of launches and lengths of stay.

Noncommercial jetboat permits are useable on all sections of the Salmon River between Corn Creek and Vinegar Creek, with no differentiation of use levels above or below Ludwig Rapid.

Summer Season (June 20 – Sept 7)

Boats At One Time (BAOT): The noncommercial recreational jetboaters would be allocated five-overnight jetboats on the water at one time. These overnight boats would stay from two to seven- days each. When any of the boats ends a trip another noncommercial jetboat can take its place the following day. The multi-day trips can overlap from one week to another.

BUDs: -Are not used as a controlling factor. Maximum BUDs resulting from BAOT allocation would be 40

Launches/Week: A maximum of 10 - 25 launches/week are allowed, depending on length of stay chosen.

Length of Stay: The maximum length of stay for multi-day noncommercial recreational jetboats is 7 days.

Party Size (Boats): A maximum of 3 jetboats traveling together are permitted.

In addition noncommercial recreational jetboaters are allocated five-single day trips each week with no overnight stay. If all five-single day trips occurred on the same day and all five overnight boat slots are filled the maximum BAOT would be 10.

Party Size (People): The maximum number of people per party is 30.

Permits: A limited Forest Service issued permit is required

Trips per Season: If all overnight jetboaters chose 7-day trips and all single day trips are used the maximum trips during the summer season would be 114. If all the overnight jetboaters chose 2-day trips and all single day trips are used the maximum summer season trips would be 257

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Outside the Summer Season:

Boats At One Time (BAOT): There is no limitation on BAOT.

BUDs: are not used as a controlling factor.

Launches/Week: There is no limitation on launches.

Length of Stay: The maximum length of stay is 14 days.

Party Size (Boats): There is no limitation on the number of boats traveling together outside the summer season.

Party Size (People): The maximum number of people per party is 30.

Permits: There is a requirement for noncommercial jetboaters to obtain a self-issued permit to be used for data collection.

Trips per Season: There is no limitation on trips per season.

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Table 2.17 Seasonal Factors Determining Salmon River Jetboat Maximum PAOT Alternative D					
Noncommercial Jetboats					
Season	Winter	Spring	Summer		Fall
BUDs per Week	Unlimited		40*		Unlimited
Length of Stay (in days)	14		Maximum Stay 1 and 7**	Minimum Stay 1 and 2***	14
Maximum Launches per Week	Unlimited		10 (5 single, 5 overnight)	22 (5 single, 17.5 overnight)	Unlimited
Maximum Trips per Season	Unlimited		114	257	Unlimited
Maximum BAOT	Unlimited		10 [#]		Unlimited
Maximum People per Party	30 ^{##}		30 ^{##}		30 ^{##}
Maximum Noncom. PAOT ^{###}	Unlimited		300		Unlimited
Commercial Jetboats					
Maximum BAOT	19		18		19
Maximum People per Party	Unlimited		30 ^{##}		Unlimited
Maximum Commercial PAOT ^{###}	Unlimited		540		Unlimited
Maximum Total Jetboat PAOT	Unlimited		840		Unlimited

* BUDs is not the limiting factor.

** The 5 single-day boats per week would have 1-day trips and the 5 overnight boats would stay 7-days.

*** The 5 single day boats would have 1-day trips and the boaters using the 5 overnight boat slots would stay 2-days.

[#] The maximum BAOT is 10 (5 single-day boats and 5 overnight boats). BAOT is the limiting factor. The maximum could only occur on one day of the week, lowering to a maximum 5 overnight BAOT on the other 6 days of the week.

^{##} Based on maximum campsite capacity and maximum party size for all corridor users, not individual jetboat capacity.

^{###} PAOT = BAOT X People / Launch Group.

Does Not Include Ingress/Egress Use Permitted for Private Property Access

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Table 2.18 is a summary of PAOT for all the activities occurring in the Salmon River corridor daily under Alternative D.

Table 2.18 Summary of PAOT Capacities for the Salmon River Alternative D								
	Winter		Spring		Summer		Fall	
	Jetboat	Float	Jetboat	Float	Jetboat	Float	Jetboat	Float
Maximum PAOT in the river corridor each day by Use	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited	834	1440	unlimited	unlimited
Total PAOT in the river corridor each day – combined Jetboat & Float Use	unlimited		unlimited		2,274*		unlimited	

Painter Bar Road

The Painter Bar Road from the eastside of Mackay Bar Campground to the Painter Bar Homestead is closed to motorized or mechanized transport during the summer season from June 20 to September 7.

* Does not include ingress/egress use for private property access.

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Alternative E – Proposed Action

Alternative E is the Proposed Action. Like Alternative D it uses SDEIS Alternative 6 as a starting point. As background SDEIS Alternative 6 was developed to be responsive to a broad base of public comments received on the Draft EIS. As displayed, Alternative E eliminates those portions of SDEIS Alternative 6 that are no longer being considered in this FEIS, see Chapter 1 Decision Framework.

Under this Alternative Dewey Moore, Mile-Hi, Simonds and Vines landing strips would be maintained by the Forest Service for use by commercial and noncommercial aviation. Increases in float boat use on both the Middle Fork and Salmon Rivers will be tempered by implementing a variable trip length system that allows visitors, both commercial and non commercial, to choose their trip length of stay based on party size. Private jetboat use will be increased to provide more opportunity for longer length of stay to that user group. The Painter Bar Road would be closed to motorized traffic during the summer, however would be opened for the rest of the year.

Management of Dewey Moore, Mile-Hi, Simonds, and Vines Landing Strips

Dewey Moore, Mile-Hi, Simonds, and Vines Landing Strips sites are maintained by the Forest Service for use as public landing strips to provide wilderness access and recreational opportunities.

Middle Fork River Strategy

Year round, the river is managed with emphasis on float boating recreation activities with opportunities for a primitive recreational experience. River floaters can choose under a variable trip length option, their party size with a corresponding length of stay that could vary between six and eight days.

See Table 2.19 for variable trip length options by party size.

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Table 2.19 Variable Trip Length Options		
	Party Size	Length of Stay
Noncommercial Year Round	21 - 24	6 days
	11 - 20	7 days
	1 - 10	8 days
Commercial Year Round	21 - 30	6 days
	11 - 20	7 days
	1 - 10	8 days

The ratio of commercial to noncommercial float boat launches remains at 3:4 for the summer season. The opportunities for people to float (number of launches X number of people per party) are 90 commercials to 96 noncommercials, if all launches are filled with the maximum number of people allowed. The maximum PAOT per day is comprised of 540 commercials to 576 noncommercials.

In the spring and fall seasons seven launches per day are allowed. These float permits are available on a first come first serve basis, regardless of whether it is commercial or noncommercial use.

There is no boat use on the Middle Fork during the winter season, December 1 through February 29.

Cancelled launches are turned in 21 days in advance. All cancelled launches (both commercial and noncommercial) are available for reissue only to noncommercial parties.

See Table 2.20 for a summary of number of launches, maximum party size, and length of stay for the Middle Fork.

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	Winter		Spring		Summer		Fall	
	Com	Noncom	Com	Noncom	Com	Noncom	Com	Noncom
Launches per day	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4
Maximum number of people per party	30	24	30	24	30	24	30	24
Maximum length of stay in days	6-8	6-8	6-8	6-8	6-8	6 - 8	6-8	6 - 8
Maximum PAOT in the river corridor each day	540	576	540	576	540	576	540	576
Total Maximum PAOT in the river corridor each day	1,116		1,116		1,116		1,116	

Salmon River Strategy

Management emphasis is on noncommercial and commercial float boating during the summer season, and noncommercial and commercial jetboating, fishing, and hunting during the spring, fall, and winter seasons.

A review of commercial use data over the last 15 years shows that during the summer season there is approximately 100 allocated commercial launches that are unused by outfitters each year. The exact current number would be determined by a business-by-business review of actual launches used. Actual use is calculated by averaging the highest two years in the last five-year period.

Of the approximately 100 currently unused allocated commercial launches, 50 percent would be permanently withdrawn from the commercial allocation and made available to noncommercial floaters through the annual lottery. The remaining 50 percent would be maintained in a commercial allocation pool and made available to outfitters who experienced reductions in their launch allocation, as a result of the review, for future growth opportunities.

The ratio of potential commercial to noncommercial float boat launches each day would change from the current 4:4 to less commercial and more noncommercial

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Tables 2.22 and 2.23 show the maximum number of launches, people per party, length of stay and PAOT per season for float and jetboat use respectively on the Salmon River.

During the summer season, both commercial and noncommercial groups have the choice of determining how long their party stays on the river based on the party size they choose under the variable trip option. However, the maximum number of people per party is 30 and the length of stay varies between 6 and 8 days, depending on the number of people in the party.

There are no launch limits outside the summer season for either commercial or noncommercial float boaters.

During the winter and spring seasons, commercial and noncommercial operations are allowed a maximum party size of 30 people. The length of stay opportunities remains the same as current, 10 days.

During the fall season, the maximum commercial and noncommercial party size is 20 people with a maximum of 14-day length of stay per campsite. Then the party needs to move at least 5 miles.

Table 2.21 Seasonal Factors Determining Salmon River Float Boat Maximum PAOT Alternative E								
	Winter		Spring		Summer		Fall	
	Com	Noncom	Com	Noncom	Com	Noncom	Com	Noncom
Launches per day	unlimited				4	4	unlimited	
Maximum number of people per party	30				30		20	
Maximum length of stay in days	10		10		6 - 8		14	
Maximum PAOT in the river corridor each day	unlimited				720	720	unlimited	
Total Maximum PAOT in the river corridor each day	unlimited				1,440		unlimited	

Jetboats

During the summer season, commercial jetboats continue to operate under the same number of special use permits, 18, as current. There is no limit on the number of trips allowed. The special use permits continue to describe the types of jetboat activities allowed.

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Outside the summer season, 19 jetboats continue to be permitted for commercial operations with activities controlled by special use permits.

Party size for commercial users is limited to a maximum number of 30 people during the spring, summer, and winter seasons. The fall season is limited to a maximum of 20 people.

Ingress/egress continue to be allowed, under permit, to access personal property along the river. This alternative maintains the current allowance of 22 private property access permits, which are not included in either the commercial or noncommercial totals. These are access-only permits allowing property owners to go directly to and from their property.

Noncommercial Recreational Jetboaters

Noncommercial jetboat permits are useable on all sections of the Salmon River between Corn Creek and Vinegar Creek. There is no differentiation of use levels above or below Ludwig Rapid.

Summer Season (June 20 – Sept 7)

Boats At One Time (BAOT): The maximum number of BAOT is 20.

BUDs: Noncommercial jetboaters are allocated 20 BUDs per week. The number of BUDs per week is the limiting factor in Alternative E.

Launches/Week: A maximum of 20 launches/week is allowed.

Length of Stay: The maximum length of stay for noncommercial recreational jetboats is 10 days.

Party Size (Boats): The maximum number of boats per party was not addressed in parent Alternative 6.

Party Size (People): The maximum number of people per party is 30.

Permits: A limited Forest Service issued permit is required

Trips per Season: If all users chose one-day trips the maximum would be 228. If they chose 7 to 10-day trips the maximum would be 34.

Outside the Summer Season:

Boats At One Time (BAOT): If all users chose one-day trips the maximum BAOT number would be 20. If they all chose 10-day trips the maximum BAOT would be 3.

BUDs: Noncommercial jetboaters are allocated 20 BUDs per week. The number of BUDs per week is the limiting factor in Alternative E.

Launches/Week: There is no limitation on launches

Length of Stay: The maximum length of stay is 14 days during the fall season and 10 days during the spring and winter seasons.

Party Size (Boats): There is no limitation on the number of boats traveling together

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outside the summer season.

Party Size (People): The maximum party size is 20 people during the fall and 30 people during the spring and winter seasons.

Permits: There is a requirement for noncommercial jetboaters to obtain a self-issued permit to be used for data collection.

Trips per Season: There is no limitation on trips per season.

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Table 2.22					
Seasonal Factors Determining Salmon River Jetboat Maximum PAOT					
Alternative E					
Noncommercial Jetboats					
Season	Winter	Spring	Summer		Fall
BUDs per Week	Unlimited		20*		Unlimited
Length of Stay (in days)	10	Maximum stay 10	Minimum stay 1	10	
Maximum Launches per Week	Unlimited	3	20	Unlimited	
Maximum Trips per Season	Unlimited	34	228	Unlimited	
Maximum BAOT	Unlimited	4**	20**	Unlimited	
Maximum People per Party	Unlimited	30***		Unlimited	
Maximum Noncomm. PAOT****	Unlimited	120	600	Unlimited	
Commercial Jetboats					
Maximum BAOT	19	18		19	
Maximum People per Party	Unlimited	30***		Unlimited	
Maximum Commercial PAOT****	Unlimited	540		Unlimited	
Maximum Total Jetboat PAOT	Unlimited	660	1140	Unlimited	

* BUDs / week is the limiting factor.

** The maximum noncomm. BAOT could only occur on one day of the week.

*** Based on maximum campsite capacity and maximum party size for all corridor users -not individual jetboat capacity.

**** Jetboat PAOT = BAOT X People / Party.

Does Not Include Ingress/Egress Use Permitted for Private Property Access

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Table 2.23 is a summary of PAOT for all the activities occurring in the Salmon River corridor daily under Alternative E.

Table 2.23 Summary of PAOT Capacities for the Salmon River Alternative E								
	Winter		Spring		Summer		Fall	
	Jetboat	Float	Jetboat	Float	Jetboat	Float	Jetboat	Float
Maximum PAOT in the river corridor each day by Use	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	660-1140	1,440	Unlimited	Unlimited
Total PAOT in the river corridor each day – combined Jetboat & Float Use	Unlimited		Unlimited		2100-2580*		Unlimited	

* Does not include ingress/egress use for private property access.

Painter Bar Road

The Painter Bar Road from the eastside of Mackay Bar Campground to the Painter Bar Homestead is closed to motorized or mechanical transport during the summer season from June 20 to September 7.

Comparison of Alternatives

Table 2.24 provides a summary of implementation decisions for each alternative. Information in the table is focused on activities and effects where different levels of effects or outputs can be distinguished quantitatively or qualitatively among alternatives.

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Table 2. 24 Comparison of Alternatives																	
														ALTE			
Management of Dewey Moore, Mile-Hi, Simonds, and Vines Landing Strips		No maintenance would occur. Over time these emergency only landing strips would be naturally restored.				Same as Alternative A				Maintained for use as public landing strips.				Maintained for emergency use.	Same as Alternative C		
Middle Fork River Float Use	Commercial	Seasons	W	SP	SU	F	W	SP	SU	F	Year Round	W	SP	SU	F	Year Round	
		Launches/Day	0-7		3	0-7		0	4	3	2	3	0	7*	3	7*	3
		Party Size	30	30	30	0	1-14	1-19	1-10	30	0	30			30		
		Length of Stay	8	8	8	0	1-8	1-10	1-14	8	0	6 - 8			6-8		
		PAOT	1680	720	1680	0	170	290	170	720	0	1,260*	540	1,260*	540		
	Non -Commercial	Launches/Day	0-7		4	0 - 7		Under Alternative B, all use is combined regardless of the user group. For Table purposes, all use for this alternative is shown in the commercial use section above.				4 (+3)	0	7*	4	7*	4
		Party Size	24	24	24	15 (8)	0					24			24		
		Length of Stay	8	8	8	8	0					6-8			6 - 8		
		PAOT	1344	768	1344	714	0					1,008*	576	1,008*	576		
	Total Maximum PAOT		1344 - 1680		1488	1344 - 1680		0	170	290	170	1,434	0	1,008-1,260*	1,116	1,008-1,260*	1,116
							Variable party size and length of stay.								* There are only 7 launches available, on a first come, first serve basis. If all 7 launches go to noncommercial groups 1008 PAOTS would be the maximum. If all 7 launches go to commercial groups 1260 PAOTS could result.	Variable party size and length of stay for both user groups.	

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Table 2.25 Comparison of Alternatives																							
																		ALTE					
	SEASONS	W	SP	SU	F	W	SP	SU	F	W	SP	SU	F	W	SP	SU	F	W	SP	SU	F		
		Salmon River Float Use	Commercial	Un-limited	4	Un-limited	1	2	2	1	Un-limited	4	Un-limited	Un-limited	4	Un-limited	Un-limited	4	Un-limited	Un-limited	4	Un-limited	
Party Size	Un-limited		30	Un-limited	1-8	1-16	1-13	1-14	30				30				30				20		
Length of stay	10				5-14	3-14	5-14		10				6-8				10	6-8	14				
PAOT	Un-limited		1,200	Un-limited	40	100	130	70	Un-limited	1,200	Un-limited	Un-limited	720	Un-limited	Un-limited	720	Un-limited	Un-limited	720	Un-limited			
Non-commercial	Un-limited		4	Un-limited	Under Alternative B, all use is combined regardless of the user group. For Table purposes, all use for this alternative is shown in the commercial use section above.						Un-limited	4	Un-limited	Un-limited	4	Un-limited	Un-limited	4	Un-limited				
Party Size	Un-limited		30	Un-limited							30				30				30				20
Length of stay	10										10				6-8				10	6-8	14		
PAOT	Un-limited		1,200	Un-limited							Un-limited	1,200	Un-limited	Un-limited	720	Un-limited	Un-limited	720	Un-limited	Un-limited	720	Un-limited	
Total Maximum PAOT			Un-limited	2,400	Un-limited	40	100	130	70	Un-limited	2,400	Un-limited	Un-limited	1,440	Un-limited	Un-limited	1,440	Un-limited					

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Table 2.25 Comparison of Alternatives											
										Alt E	
Noncommercial Recreational Jetboat Use	Summer Season (Permits Required)	Maximum BUDs/Week *	15		15		1680 (BUDs not a limiting factor, 24 launches/day limits)	40 (BUDs not a limiting factor 10 BOAT limits)		20	
		Length of Stay (Days)**	Maximum Stay 10	Maximum Stay 1	Maximum 7	Maximum 1	10	Maximum**** 1 & 7	Maximum***** 1 & 2	Maximum 10	Maximum 1
		Launches/Week	3	15	3	15	168	10	22	4	20
		Trips per Season	34	171	34	171	1920	114	257	46	228
		BAOT	3	15	3	15	240	10		4	15
		Maximum # of People/Party	30		15		12	30		30	
		PAOT***	90	450	45	225	2880	300		120	600
		Maximum # of jetboats traveling together	3		Unlimited		Unlimited	3		Unlimited	
Commercial Jetboat Use	Summer (18 Permits)	PAOT	540		270		540	540		540	

*Alternatives A, B, and E are limited by BUDs/Week. Alternative C is limited by 24 launches/day. Alternative D is limited by BAOT.

**Length of stay if all users chose the maximum or the minimum. The rows below show the launches/week, maximum trips/season and BAOT that would result from the choice of length of stay.

***For jetboats PAOT = BOAT x Maximum # of people per launch.

****The five-single day boats per week would have one-day trips and the five-overnight boats would choose seven-day trips.

*****The five-single day boats would have one-day trips and the boaters using the five-overnight boat slots would choose two-day.

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Table 2.25 Comparison of Alternatives							
							Alt E
Noncommercial Recreational Jetboat Use	Outside the Summer Season	BUDs	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
		Launches/Week	Unlimited	49	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
		Length of Stay (Days)	10	10	10	14	14-Fall 10-Winter/Spring
		BAOT	Unlimited	70	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
		Trips per Season	Unlimited	900	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
		Maximum # of People/Party	Unlimited	15	20	30	20-Fall 30-Winter/Spring
		Permit Required	No	Yes	Self-issued permit	Self-issued permit	Self-issued permit
Commercial Jetboat Use	Outside the Summer Season	PAOT	Unlimited	700	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
Painter Bar Road		Open to motorized use as determined by Nez Perce Forest Plan.	Painter Bar Road would be closed. A tread would be maintained to allow access by trail on this section of closed road.	Open for motorized use as determined by Nez Perce Forest Plan	Close the road from the eastside of Mackay Bar Campground to Painter Bar Homestead to motorized or mechanized transport during the Summer Season	Close the road from the eastside of Mackay Bar Campground to Painter Bar Homestead to motorized or mechanized transport during the Summer Season.	
