

**Draft Nez Perce–Clearwater National Forests
Forest Plan Assessment**

15.0 Designated Areas

October 26, 2012

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15. Designated Areas

Section 15.1 includes information about existing Wilderness areas in the plan area (Designated Areas Map X¹). Section 15.2 includes information about the potential need and opportunity for additional Wilderness areas. Section 15.3 described existing Wild and Scenic Rivers in the plan area while section 15.4 discusses the potential need and opportunity for additional Wild and Scenic Rivers.

15.1 Wilderness—Existing

15.1.1 Existing Information

15.1.1.1 Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness

The following documents provide relevant information regarding the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness area:

- The Wilderness Act, September 3, 1964 (P.L. 88-577; 78 Stat. 890 16 U.S.C. 1121[*note*], 1131–1136), provided for the establishment of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness area
- The Clean Air Act Amendments of 1977
- Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness General Management Direction—updated 1992
- Selway-Bitterroot Wildland Fire Use Plan 1971
- Selway-Bitterroot Wildland Fire Use Guidebook 2000
- Selway-Bitterroot Wildland Fire Use Guidebook/Bitterroot National Forest Fire Management Plan 2010
- Clearwater Forest Amendment 21, Nez Perce Forest Plan Amendment 19, Lolo Forest Plan Amendment 21, and Bitterroot Forest Plan Amendment 12, November 29, 1994, amending the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness General Management Direction and Forest Plans
- Seminole Ranch – DN and Finding of No Significant Impact–Tract 39 Land Exchange–April 27, 2004, “will be incorporated into the National Forest System within the Nez Perce National Forest, and managed and monitored in accordance with the 1987 NPNF Forest Plan, as amended, and future land management plans that may be developed for the National Forest under the National Forest Management Act.”
- Selway-Bitterroot Invasive Plants Management Project EIS November 31, 2009
- Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Character Monitoring 2007, reviewing National Wilderness Character Monitoring protocol

15.1.1.2 Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness

The following documents provide relevant information regarding the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness area:

- The Wilderness Act, September 3, 1964 (P.L. 88-577; 78 Stat. 890 16 U.S.C. 1121 [*note*], 1131–1136), and the Central Idaho Wilderness Act of July 23, 1980 (P.L. 96-312, 94 Stat. 848), provided for the establishment of the River of No Return Wilderness.

¹ Map is under development.

- Passage of 2354 Bill, February 2, 1984, renamed the River of No Return Wilderness the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness.
- Jersey Elkhorn Prescribed Management Ignited Fire EA, 1998
- Programmatic Agreement between the Northern Region (Idaho) and Intermountain Region (Idaho) USDA Forest Service and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and Idaho State Historic Preservation Office Regarding Cultural Resources Management on the National Forest in the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness in the State of Idaho, July 24, 2003
- Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness Revised Wilderness Management Plan and Amendments for the Bitterroot, Boise, Nez Perce, Payette, and Salmon- Challis National Forests, November 20, 2003
- Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness Noxious Plants EIS 2007
- Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness Wildland Fire Use Guidebook 2007
- Interregional Agreement between Intermountain Region Salmon-Challis/Payette/Boise NF and Northern Region Nez Perce National Forest for Administration of Lands within the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness, October 11, 2007
- Air Quality Management Plan (forthcoming)

15.1.1.3 Gospel Hump Wilderness

The following documents provide relevant information regarding the Gospel Hump Wilderness area:

- The Wilderness Act, September 3, 1964 (P.L. 88-577; 78 Stat. 890 16 U.S.C. 1121 [note], 1131–1136), and the Endangered Wilderness Act of 1978 Public Law 95-237 92 Stat. 40, February 24, 1978, provided for the establishment of the Gospel Hump Wilderness.
- The Gospel Hump Wilderness is not designated as a Class I area, because it was not in existence when the 1977 CAA Amendments were promulgated. Nonetheless, the Wilderness Act of 1962 and the Chief’s Wilderness Stewardship Challenge established a positive mandate to provide air resource management in the Gospel Hump Wilderness area as well. In response to the Wilderness Stewardship Challenge, plans were developed to establish and monitor Wilderness Air Quality Values (WAQVs) in the Gospel Hump Wilderness (Story et al. 2008).
- Gospel Hump Wilderness Plan, January 7, 1985
- Gospel Hump Wildland Fire Use Guidebook 2006

15.1.1.4 Hells Canyon Wilderness

An additional 60,000 acres of the Hells Canyon Wilderness located on the Nez Perce National Forest is administered by the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.

15.1.1.5 International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Management of fish and wildlife populations in Wilderness is accomplished by coordinated and cooperative efforts between the state fish and wildlife agencies and the Forest Service. The basis for this coordination and cooperation is found in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the *Policies and Guidelines for Fish and Wildlife Management in National Forest and Bureau of Land Management Wilderness* (AFWA et al. 2006). This MOU was most recently revised in

2006 and is commonly known as the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA) agreement. All four Wilderness areas on the Nez Perce–Clearwater National Forests are managed in accordance with this MOU.

15.1.2 Informing the Assessment

The Wilderness Act of 1964, Use of Wilderness Areas Section 4(b), describes the primary direction for wilderness stewardship: “[E]ach agency administering any area designated as wilderness shall be responsible for preserving the wilderness character of the area.” Agency Wilderness Policy 2320.2(4) directs each agency to “protect and perpetuate wilderness character” from the time of designation.

The definition of Wilderness from the Wilderness Act and the Forest Service Technical Guide (Landres et al. forthcoming) identify and describe 4 qualities of wilderness character. These idealized descriptions attempt to make wilderness character relevant, tangible, and practical for forest planning, management, and monitoring. The 4 defined qualities of wilderness character are Natural Quality, Solitude or Primitive Unconfined Quality, Untrammeled Quality, and Undeveloped Quality. Natural Quality monitors the intentional and unintentional effects from actions taken inside Wilderness as well as from external forces on these systems. Untrammeled Quality monitors actions that intentionally manipulate or control ecological systems. Solitude or Primitive Unconfined Quality monitors all recreation-focused developments (such as trails, campsites, shelters, or toilets). Undeveloped Quality monitors all nonrecreation developments (such as administrative sites, dams, stock fencing, fixed instrumentation sites, or trails and roads used to access inholdings).

15.1.2.1 Current Condition, Trends, and Drivers

Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness

Administrative Units of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness are described in Table 1.

Table 1. Administrative Units of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness

Administrator	Net Acres
West Fork Ranger District Stevensville District (Bitterroot National Forest)	512,000
Powell Ranger District (Clearwater National Forest)	259,165
Moose Creek Ranger District (Nez Perce National Forest)	559,699
Missoula Ranger District (Lolo National Forest)	9,767
Total	1,340,681

The Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness area participated in testing the national prototype for Wilderness Character monitoring (Table 2). This work was completed for field season 2007. During FY12, the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness is comparing the Wilderness Character Monitoring data to 2011 data. The 2011 data are the baseline information/existing condition for the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness.²

² Current condition for the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness area will be updated when the Wilderness Character Report Draft is available.

Table 2. Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Character Monitoring Data, compiled 2012 (table under development)

Indicator	Measure	Stressor	Driver	Current Condition	Trend
Natural Quality					
Species and communities	Percentage of Wilderness acres with nonnative, invasive plant species	Presence of noxious weed species	Increased use by visitors traveling by stock or airplane, hiking, or floating. Backcountry aviation has increased and will likely continue to increase.	Approval to treat weeds; percentage of acres of noxious weeds being calculated	More areas will be affected by weed infestation; with declining budgets, fewer areas will be treated.
	Number of invasive plant species	Number of noxious weed species	Increased use by visitors traveling by stock or airplane, hiking, or floating. Backcountry aviation has increased and will likely continue to increase.	Approval to treat weeds; 19 individual species of noxious weeds located within the Wilderness	More areas will be affected by weed infestation; with declining budgets, fewer areas will be treated.
	Number of lakes stocked with nonnative fish	Stocking of nonnative fish species	Idaho Fish and Game fish stocking program	60 lakes occur within the Wilderness	
	Subsample subwatersheds (6th field HUCs) for genetically pure populations of westslope cutthroat trout	Competition of nonnative species with native westslope cutthroat trout	Idaho Fish and Game stocking program	23 HUCs sampled show 5 signs of hybridization	
	Acres of whitebark pine lost (presence and regeneration)	Whitebark pine blister rust and climate change		In some whitebark pine stands, regeneration is lacking; data being finalized	Community-wide, whitebark pine stands are declining in number. Using fire provides an opportunity for natural selection of blister rust-tolerant species to regenerate
Physical resources	Air quality, including concentrations of nitrogen and sulfur in wet deposition, average sum of anthropogenic fine nitrate and sulfate, average deciview, and lichens			Sulfur and Wet Deposition 0.15mg/L Nitrogen 0.24 mg/L Deciview -5.32 dv Lichen .02523 Sulfur % 0.448 Nitrogen	See Air Quality Summary below
	Soil disturbance and erosion associated with campsites and trails		Visitor use and trail conditions	Evidence of soil disturbance and erosion; data being calculated	
	Stream water quality			No Total Maximum Daily Load streams or 303-Listed streams	

Biophysical processes	Departure from natural fire regime (existing vegetation)	Departure from natural processes—regimes and condition classes	Fire suppression	Vegetation Condition (VC) classes 1–3: VC1: 298,811 acres VC2: 1,010,121 acres VC3: 31,043 acres VC1 is the closest to historical conditions; VC3 is the furthest away.	A fire management plan has been in place since 1991. Fire has been allowed to play a natural role within 75% of the area and generally is well within the area’s natural range of variability. Fires that start on the edges of the Wilderness are suppressed when they threaten to spread beyond the Wilderness boundary and threaten values at risk. (anecdotal per Forest Fire Management Officer)
Solitude or Primitive Unconfined Quality					
Remoteness from sights and sounds of people inside the Wilderness	Number of parties visiting during the primary-use season	Reduced opportunities for solitude	Number of parties	Data being finalized	
	Number of campsites out of class	Reduced opportunities for solitude	Number and size of parties	Campsite inventory spreadsheet shows the following impact ratings: 90 Extreme 170 Heavy 243 Moderate 300 Light	
	Degraded soundscape: time when quiet is affected by unnatural sounds (e.g., airplanes, jet boats)	Reduced opportunities for solitude		Data not being collected	
Facilities that decrease self-reliant recreation	Index of recreation facilities (number and type)	Reduced opportunities for solitude and primitive unconfined recreation	Increased early season and primary-use season visitor use	29 bridges 6 airstrips 3 inholdings	
	Outfitters and guides assigned to sites	Reduced opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation.	Visitor preference for Wilderness experience via outfitted services	Data being finalized	Stable; the number of sites is not increasing.
Untrammelled Quality					
Actions authorized by the federal land manager	Vegetation management	Manipulation of vegetation	Loss of a habitat component within the Wilderness (whitebark pine)	Data being finalized	Proposals for vegetation manipulation within the Wilderness may help reduce whitebark pine habitat loss.

that manipulate biophysical environment	Number of lakes and other water bodies stocked with native fish in waters that were naturally fishless	The number of lakes and other water bodies stocked with fish that were naturally fishless	Idaho Fish and Game fish stocking programs	Idaho: 19 lakes Montana: 7 lakes	Stable; no additional fishless lakes or bodies of water will be stocked
	Wildlife management	Manipulation to improve wildlife management	Idaho Fish and Game or Nez Perce Tribe	0 requests in the last 5 years	As the state assumes responsibility for wolf management, the number of wolf-related requests may increase.
	Acres burned with management-ignited prescribed fire; acres burned under Resource Benefits Program	Departure from natural processes, regimes, and condition classes within the edges of the Wilderness ecosystem		0 requests in the last 5 years	Fire management plan does not include use of management-ignited prescribed fire. The first prescribed natural fire occurred in 1971, beginning the Region 1 program.
Undeveloped Quality					
Nonrecreational structures, installations, and developments	Number of authorized nonrecreational physical developments (including administrative buildings, dams, roads, and structures associated with special provisions)	Administrative buildings	Administrative use and Historic Preservation	These 37 structures have been determined to be the minimum necessary to administer the area: 4 inholdings 4 Forest Service facilities 1 office 1 cabin 8 lookouts 19 dams	Stable; no new facilities will be allowed. Vegetation manipulation for structural protection of facilities is anticipated.
Use of motorized equipment/mechanical transport	Authorized use	Authorization to use motorized or mechanical transport	Administrative use	12 authorized projects; minimum requirement analysis was conducted to determine the minimum necessary	Continue to require minimum requirements

Source: State of the Wilderness documents, compiled annually

Air Quality

The Clean Air Act (CAA) Amendments of 1977 established the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness as a designated Class I area, the highest designation for protection from the effects of air pollution. As stipulated by the 1977 CAA Amendments, federal land managers were required to establish Air Quality Related Values (AQRVs), including visibility, for each designated Class I area. AQRVs for the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness were established in 1994 (Ternes and Ganesan 1994). The following AQRVs have been established for the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness areas: lake monitoring, visibility, lichens, acid deposition, and snow chemistry.

Lake Monitoring

Shasta Lake in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness on the Clearwater National Forest has been monitored since 1995 as part of the regional long-term lake monitoring program. A lake is considered sensitive if the acid neutralizing capacity (ANC) is below 50 $\mu\text{eq/L}$, and highly sensitive if the ANC is below 25 $\mu\text{eq/L}$. Shasta Lake is considered sensitive given its low ANC.

ANC data for Shasta Lake in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness has remained relatively stable since monitoring began in 1996, with an average ANC of 22.3 $\mu\text{eq/L}$.

Sulfate levels are relatively stable for Shasta Lake, averaging 0.135 milligrams per liter (mg/L) since monitoring began in 1996. This sulfate value is low compared to levels found in the lakes within the Gospel Hump Wilderness in 2008 and 2009, when samples ranged from 0.165 mg/L to 0.37 mg/L.

In Shasta Lake nitrate levels are low and near minimum detectable levels.

Visibility

As a designated Class I area, the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness is being monitored for visibility improvements as required by the 1977 CAA Amendments and the 1999 Regional Haze Rule promulgated by the EPA. The monitors used are part of a national monitoring network called Interagency Monitoring for PROtected Visual Environments (IMPROVE); data are collected every 3 days throughout the year. The monitor for the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness is located at the Sula Peak Lookout on the Bitterroot National Forest.

In general, visibility is improving throughout the Nez Perce–Clearwater National Forests. Sulfate appears to have seasonal variation based on data from all 3 monitors. Peak concentrations tend to occur in the late spring, with the lowest concentrations occurring in the winter. This pattern is consistent at each monitoring site, indicating a regional trend. Nitrate, on the other hand, varies at each site.

Lichens

Certain species of lichen are useful bioindicators of air pollution and for establishing and monitoring of critical loads. Lichens are typically monitored every 5 to 7 years. To date, lichens have been collected and analyzed in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness on 3 occasions (1996, 2001, 2007). Sulfur content in each lichen species appears to be consistent through all 3 sampling periods. Nitrogen content was collected only in the most recent round of sampling, so trends cannot be assessed yet.

Acid Deposition

Acid deposition is monitored through the National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP). Under NADP, bulk precipitation samples are collected each week and analyzed for pH, conductivity, and a suite of anions and cations. The NADP monitor at Lost Trail Pass (MT97) monitors deposition conditions in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness.

Nitrate and sulfate concentrations at Lost Trail Pass are exhibiting downward annual trends, consistent with other monitoring data (e.g., IMPROVE visibility).

Snow Chemistry

Since 1993, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) has been collecting bulk snowpack samples from several sites in the Northern Rockies. Three sites (Chief Joseph Pass, Granite Pass, and Montana Snowbowl) are near the Nez Perce–Clearwater National Forests. Mercury levels at Granite Pass and Snowbowl (outside Missoula, MT) are significantly higher than samples collected near Chief Joseph Pass near the southern end of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. Snow chemistry data from other sites in Montana indicates that the elevated levels may be due to a mercury deposition plume from sources west of the Clearwater National Forest, a possibility that merits further investigation.

Sulfate and nitrate levels within the snow chemistry samples are trending downward, which is consistent with other air quality indicators.

System Drivers

Air quality is generally good throughout the Nez Perce–Clearwater National Forests. However, one area of concern is mercury. The Powder River region in eastern Oregon is known for cement manufacturing, and the limestone in that region is known to contain elevated levels of mercury (Graw 2012). The Ash Grove Cement plant in Durkee, Oregon, produces the highest mercury emissions in the Pacific Northwest (Graw 2012). Fish samples collected in the Seven Devils region of the Hells Canyon Wilderness have shown elevated methylmercury concentrations compared to ecological thresholds (Graw 2012). These results, coupled with the elevated mercury levels seen in snow chemistry samples at Granite Pass and Snowbowl in Montana, may indicate that mercury deposition is occurring on the Nez Perce–Clearwater National Forests. Further investigation is warranted to determine if ecological thresholds are being threatened.

Another major stressor for air resource management is smoke. Since 2001, the Nez Perce–Clearwater National Forests have averaged 3,648 acres of prescribed burning per year, with a maximum of 12,926 acres burned in 2007 (Staats 2012). Much of the prescribed burning on the Nez Perce–Clearwater National Forests is considered to be natural ignition for the purposes of visibility and regional haze (Western Regional Air Partnership 2005). However, impacts to public health must be considered. The Nez Perce–Clearwater National Forests work closely with the MT/ID Airshed Group to coordinate prescribed burning activities so that impacts to public health can be mitigated.

Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness

Administrative Units for the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness are described in Table 3.

Table 3. Administrative Units for the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness

Administrator	Net Acres
West Fork Ranger District (Bitterroot National Forest)	193,703
Red River Ranger District Salmon River Ranger District (79 miles of Wild and Scenic River, Main Salmon) (Nez Perce National Forest)	110,773
Krassel Ranger District (Payette National Forest)	791,675
Middle Fork–North Fork Ranger Districts (Salmon-Challis National Forest) ^a	1,269,745
Total	2,365,896

^aIn 1991, acres located on the Boise National Forest were assigned to the Challis National Forest. In 1995, the Salmon and Challis National Forests were combined into one administrative unit.

The Salmon-Challis National Forest and the Payette National Forest will develop and test Region 4 protocols for Wilderness Character Monitoring during Fiscal Year 2012 (FY12). The Nez Perce National Forest will test the protocols in FY13.

The current condition of the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness on the Nez Perce–Clearwater National Forests, the trends related to the current conditions, and the drivers of these trends are listed in Table 2 by Region 1 Wilderness Character indicators.

The Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness Revised Wilderness Management Plan and amendments for the Bitterroot, Boise, Nez Perce, Payette, and Salmon-Challis National Forests were approved November 20, 2003. This Wilderness plan is the most recent of the Wilderness areas administered by the Nez Perce–Clearwater National Forests. Only 5% of the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness area is administered by the Nez Perce–Clearwater National Forests. No plan has been developed to analyze wilderness character and stressors or drivers affecting the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness.

Gospel Hump Wilderness

Administrative Units for the Gospel Hump Wilderness are described in Table 4.

Table 4. Administrative Units for the Gospel Hump Wilderness

Administrator	Net Acres
Salmon River Ranger District (Nez Perce National Forest)	84,517
Red River Ranger District (Nez Perce National Forest)	121,279
Total	205,796

(Introduction to table under development) Table 5

Table 5. Current condition and estimated trends, drivers, and stressors related to wilderness character from the Region 1 Protocol

Indicator	Gospel Hump Wilderness Measure	Stressor	Driver	Current Condition	Trends
Natural Quality					
Species and communities	Percentage of acres with nonnative, invasive plant species	Presence of noxious weeds	Increased use by visitors traveling by stock or airplane, hiking, or floating	No approval to treat weeds	More areas will be affected by weed infestations. A declining budget decreases capacity to inventory and monitor.
	Number of invasive plant species	Number of invasive plant species	Increased use by visitors traveling by stock or airplane, hiking, or floating. Backcountry aviation has increased and will likely continue to increase.	No approval to treat weeds More than 150 weed patches are present; the most common invasive species are St. Johnswort, sulfur cinquefoil, and bull thistle.	More areas will be affected by weed infestations. With a declining budget, fewer areas will be treated.
	Number of lakes stocked with nonnative fish	Stocking of nonnative fish species	Idaho Fish and Game fish stocking program		
	Subsample subwatersheds (6th field HUCs) for genetically pure populations of westslope cutthroat trout	Competition of nonindigenous species with native westslope cutthroat trout	Idaho Fish and Game Stocking Program		
	Loss of whitebark pine (presence and regeneration)	Lack of presence and regeneration	Whitebark pine blister rust and climate change	In some whitebark pine stands, regeneration is lacking.	Community-wide, whitebark pine stands are declining in number. Using fire provides an opportunity for natural selection of blister rust species to regenerate

Indicator	Gospel Hump Wilderness Measure	Stressor	Driver	Current Condition	Trends
Physical resources	Air quality, including concentrations of nitrogen and sulfur in wet deposition, average sum of anthropogenic fine nitrate and sulfate, average deciview, and lichens			Annual lichen monitoring	Baseline monitoring completed in 2007
	Soil disturbance and erosion associated with campsites and trails (barren core)	Soil disturbance and erosion	Visitor use and campsite and trail conditions	Campsite inventories show that 49% of campsites have <50 sq ft barren core, 31% have 50–500 sq ft barren core, 13% have >500 sq ft barren core, and 7% have no barren core.	Barren core associated with campsites is stable or slightly improving. High ridge trails are stable, and valley and creek bottom trails are eroding. No benchmark or standards exist to measure trends.
	Stream water quality			No Total Maximum Daily Load streams or 303-Listed streams	
Biophysical processes	Departure from natural fire regime (existing vegetation). Ponderosa pine fire interval is longer than naturally occurred.	Departure from natural processes and ecosystems	Fire suppression	Fire plan has been in place since 1985. Since 2006, approximately 40% of the Gospel Hump Wilderness east of Sheep Creek has burned.	Fire starts within the 10-and 20-mile drainages are suppressed due to potential to blow out into Square Mountain country and into Orogrande and Dixie.
Solitude and Primitive Unconfined Quality					
	Number of parties visiting during the primary-use season	Reduced opportunities for solitude	Number of parties	No visitor registration slips at trailheads	Managers estimate that visits by summer backpackers and stock users are declining. Fall hunting season use is stable.
	Campsite density	Reduced opportunities for solitude	Number and size of parties	No opportunity classes or standards have been developed. No benchmark exists to measure trends.	Campsite inventories show that 47% of campsites are >2000 feet from other campsites, 27% are <500 feet from other

Indicator	Gospel Hump Wilderness Measure	Stressor	Driver	Current Condition	Trends
					campsites, and 13% are 500–2000 feet from other campsites
	Trail encounters	Reduced opportunities for solitude	Number and size of parties	Trail encounters are not measured. Trail crews and managers compare the number of visitors contacted each year.	Decreasing numbers of trail contacts with crews and managers suggest increasing opportunities for solitude.
	Degraded soundscape: time when quiet is affected by unnatural sounds (airplanes, jet boats)	Reduced opportunities for solitude	Aircraft use	Jet boat and aircraft use occur primarily within the river corridor.	Increased jet boat use may affect visitors on the lower trail systems where they access the Salmon River. Aircraft use is estimated to be stable.
Facilities that decrease self-reliant recreation	Index of recreation facilities (number and type)	Reduced opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation	Early season visitor use and primary use season visitor use	No facilities exist within the Wilderness. Temporary hitch racks are installed each hunting season within the Salmon River corridor at Sheep Creek used by outfitters. Because of past mining and grazing activities, the Wilderness shows more human impacts than most; data for number of bridges are being calculated	No new facilities are proposed.
	Outfitters and guides assigned to sites	Reduced opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation.	Visitor preference for Wilderness experience via outfitted services	14 assigned camps for outfitters are authorized	Stable; the number of sites is not increasing.

Indicator	Gospel Hump Wilderness Measure	Stressor	Driver	Current Condition	Trends
Untrammelled Quality					
Actions authorized by the federal land manager that manipulate biophysical environment	Vegetation management	Manipulation of vegetation	Loss of a habitat component within the Wilderness (whitebark pine)		Proposals for vegetation manipulation may reduce WB pine habitat loss
	Number of lakes and other water bodies stocked with native fish in waters that were naturally fishless		Idaho Fish and Game stocking programs		Stable; no additional fishless lakes or bodies of water will be stocked
	Wildlife management	Manipulation to improve wildlife management	Idaho Fish and Game and Nez Perce Tribe		As the state assumes responsibility for wolf management, the number of wolf-related requests may increase.
	Acres burned with management-ignited prescribed fire			None	
Undeveloped Quality					
Nonrecreational structures, installations, and developments	Number of authorized nonrecreational physical developments (including administrative buildings, dams, roads, and structures associated with special provisions)	Administrative buildings	Administrative use and Historic Preservation	Black Butte Lookout and Oregon Butte Lookout; Wilderness boundary establishes a cherry stem road system, providing access from Square Mountain, Sourdough Saddle, and Wild Horse trailheads.	Stable; no new facilities will be allowed. Vegetation manipulation for structural protection of facilities is anticipated.
Use of motorized equipment/mechanical transport	Authorized use	Authorization to use motorized or mechanical transport	Administrative use	Minimum Requirement Analysis was conducted to determine the minimum necessary.	Continue to require minimum requirements

Air Quality (under development)

The following WAQVs have been established for the Gospel Hump Wilderness area: lake monitoring, visibility, lichens, and acid deposition.

Lake Monitoring

Lakes are considered sensitive if the acid neutralizing capacity (ANC) is below 50 $\mu\text{eq/L}$, and highly sensitive if the ANC is below 25 $\mu\text{eq/L}$. All six Gospel Hump lakes are considered sensitive given their low ANC values; Upper Knob Lake is considered highly sensitive.

The lakes monitored in the Gospel Hump Wilderness in 2008 and 2009 were previously sampled as part of the Nez Perce High Lake Fisheries Project in 1989. However, the 1989 study did not measure ANC, but alkalinity, which is effectively the same measurement as ANC, except that samples are filtered prior to measurement. The 2008 and 2009 ANC measurements are similar to the 1989 alkalinity measurements with the exception of the East Gospel Lake sample, which has an ANC significantly lower than the original alkalinity measurement). These data are interesting to note, though they do not prove a direct correlation between alkalinity and ANC.

In Gospel Hump lakes, nitrate levels are low and or near minimum detectable levels.

Visibility

Along with the Sula IMPROVE monitor, IMPROVE monitors for the Hells Canyon Wilderness (located at Oxbow Dam) and the Sawtooth Wilderness (located near Stanley, ID) can also be used to monitor visibility conditions in the Gospel Hump Wilderness area.

Deciview values for the Hells Canyon, Sawtooth, and Sula IMPROVE monitors are all decreasing since the advent of the Regional Haze Rule. These declining values indicate improved visual range. For each site, the worst days for visibility are typically found during the summer (primarily due to wildfire smoke), although Hells Canyon has experienced wintertime worst days due to nitrate impacts (likely due to regional transport) and Sawtooth has experienced wintertime worst days due to organic carbon (most likely from localized residential wood smoke).

Nitrate values at the Hells Canyon site exhibit a distinctive pattern of increase during the winter. However, no such pattern exists at Sawtooth or Sula. Much like the deciviews, sulfate and nitrate concentrations appear to be trending downward at all 3 sites, an indication that concentrations are decreasing across the Nez Perce–Clearwater National Forests as well.

Lichens (under development)

Certain species of lichen are useful bioindicators of air pollution, and for the establishment and monitoring of critical loads. Lichens are typically monitored every 5 to 7 years. The Gospel Hump Wilderness area has lichen plots that were established in 2008.

Acid Deposition

(Under development)

System Drivers

The 2008 WAQV plan for the Gospel Hump Wilderness lists only 3 potential sources of air

pollution in the general area (Story et al. 2008). However, sources outside the general area may impact the air resource pathway.

- The Gospel Hump Wilderness Plan states that the plan will be reviewed and updated as needed, and at least every 10 years. However, the plan has not been reviewed or updated since its approval in 1985. Development of opportunity classes and standards would improve ability to measure trends of wilderness character.
- The Wilderness plan acknowledges weeds but does not address treatment. Contradicts implementation of a weeds strategy to improve natural character.
- Complete weed inventory, compile data into database, and develop map of weed infestations. Ongoing field season of FY 12.

Hells Canyon Wilderness

(Under development)

15.1.3 Information Needs

- Keep decisions on a strategic level, not including site-specific decisions.
- Develop sideboards and define criteria for the term “site-specific.”

15.2 Wilderness—Recommended

15.2.1 Existing Information (36 CFR 219.6(a)(1))

Existing information regarding management of recommended wilderness is found in the Clearwater National Forest plan (Forest Service 1987a) and Nez Perce National Forest plan (Forest Service 1987b)

15.2.2 Informing the Assessment

15.2.2.1 Current Condition

Clearwater National Forest

Management Area B2 contains 3 areas recommended for wilderness designation:

- Mallard-Larkins (Primitive Area)—66,700 acres
 - An additional 82,892 acres are located on the Idaho Panhandle National Forest
- Hoodoo (Great Burn)—113,000 acres
 - An additional 89,500 acres are located on the Lolo National Forest
- Selway-Bitterroot Additions—18,500 acres.

There are 4 separate additions all located on the Powell Ranger District:

- Sneakfoot—8,700 acres
- Elk Summit—3,300 acres
- Storm Creek—2,500 acres
- Lakes—4,000 acres

Nez Perce National Forest

There are no areas in the 1987 plan recommended for wilderness designation.

15.2.2.2 Trends and Drivers

For wilderness areas and research natural areas, the representations of specific land types or ecosystems present in the plan area that are not currently represented or minimally represented within the system of these designated units. (For wilderness, the process of wilderness evaluation described in FSH 1909.12 Chapter 70 may begin during the assessment, but this process is not required to be completed until publication of the proposed plan and the draft environmental impact statement.)

On the Clearwater National Forest, as part of the current Travel Planning Analysis, recommended wilderness areas were analyzed regarding allowable modes of access (Motorized—Summer/Winter, Mechanized and Bicycle use). Regionally and nationally, the consistent allowance or disallowance of access in these areas by bicycles and snow machines remains controversial although the Clearwater National Forest. The Travel Plan prohibits these uses in recommended areas. Few other aspects of management, other than road building and timber management, are currently as controversial as access in these areas. Weed management in these areas is permitted under current decisions. Determining the type and quantity of infrastructure (e.g., trails, bridges, cabins) compatible with future designation for these areas is a desired outcome as current management and guidance documents lack this analysis/decision.

No areas are recommended for wilderness on the Nez Perce National Forest, although the Meadow Creek area continues to be a roadless area with a contingent of public support for recommendation. The Weitas roadless area on the Clearwater National Forest has a similar contingent of support.

The Fish Lake area on the Clearwater National Forest (Hoodoo–Great Burn) also has a specific contingent of support associated with the allowance of motorized use into the lake.

15.2.3 Information Needs

The current capability analysis was completed in 2005; this analysis needs to be validated and may need to be revised if considered out of date. Validation could include reviewing the Inventoried Roadless/Idaho Roadless Rule areas on both the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests using the Region 1 Regional Wilderness Strategy and the capability analysis criteria to determine if roadless areas on the Forests have inherent features suitable for wilderness

The Mallard Larkins and Great Burn boundaries need to be coordinated with adjacent Forest information and existing Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) mapping for recommended Wilderness areas.

15.2 Wild and Scenic Rivers—Designated

15.2.1 Existing Information

15.2.1.1 Middle Fork Clearwater, Including the Lochsa and Selway Rivers

The following list provided the existing documents and relevant, site-specific decisions:

- Middle Fork Clearwater River, Wild River Study, 1964

- A Design for Wild and Scenic Rivers, Middle Fork Clearwater, Selway Lochsa, 1969
- River Plan–Middle Fork Clearwater, including the Selway and Lochsa Rivers, 1969
- Management Guides–Middle Fork of the Clearwater Including the Lochsa and Selway, 1973
- Selway River Whitewater Management Plan, 1976
- Selway River Whitewater Management Plan, 1982
- Lower Selway–Middle Fork Clearwater Water, Oriented Activities, 1986
- Lochsa River Whitewater Floating Management Plan, 1984
- Amendment to Lochsa River Whitewater Floating Management Plan, 1995
- Clearwater National Forest Plan (III-24-31), 1987
- Clearwater National Forest Plan, Amendment No. 2, 1990
- Nez Perce National Forest Plan, (II-1,Item 7; II-4; II-22-23), 1987
- Nez Perce National Forest Plan (III-17-23), 1987
- Middle Fork Clearwater River Resource Assessment, 2002
- Lochsa River Resource Assessment, 2002
- Selway River Resource Assessment, 2002

The Middle Fork Clearwater Wild and Scenic River System was designated by Congress in 1968. On the Clearwater, Nez Perce, and Bitterroot National Forests, the river system includes the Middle Fork Clearwater, Lochsa, and Selway Rivers. On the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests, the designated system includes 64 miles of the Lochsa River from the Powell Ranger Station to Lowell, Idaho; 23 miles of the Middle Fork Clearwater River from Lowell, Idaho to the Upper Kooskia Bridge at Kooskia, Idaho; and 58 miles of the Selway River from the Nez Perce Forest Boundary with the Bitterroot National Forest (near Goat Creek) to Lowell, Idaho (Table 6).

Table 6. Classification of the Middle Fork Clearwater Wild and Scenic River System within the Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests^a

River	Segment	Miles	Classification
Lochsa	Powell to Lowell	64	Recreation
Middle Fork Clearwater	Lowell to Kooskia	23	Recreation
Selway	Lowell to Selway Bitterroot Wilderness Boundary/	22	Recreation
Selway	Selway Bitterroot Wilderness Boundary to Nez Perce Forest Boundary	36	Wild

^aThere are additional miles of this river system located within the Bitterroot National Forest

Approximately 46,100 acres lie within the designated Wild and Scenic River Boundaries for these segments. The land area within the Selway and Middle Fork Clearwater Wild and Scenic River boundaries is identified as Management Area 8.2 in the Nez Perce Forest Plan (III-19-21) and as Management Area A7 in the Clearwater Forest Plan (III-24-31).

Management Guides and a River Management Plan were prepared (in 1973 and 1969 respectively) to guide management of the river corridor. The two Forest Plans, River Management Plan, and Management Guides provide guidance for the Wild and Scenic River segments. Scenery, recreation, fisheries, wildlife, historic, cultural and traditional uses, water

quality, and vegetation are categories which are used to assess and identify Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs) for the Middle Fork Clearwater, Lochsa, and Selway Rivers.

The ORVs were validated in 2002, during the Snake River Adjudication. A Resource Assessment was prepared for each of the river segments (River Name Resource Assessment 2001). These assessments outline the criteria for evaluating each resource, provide an assessment of the resource situation, and provide a finding of whether the resource should be considered an ORV. These assessments validated scenery, recreation, fisheries, wildlife, historic, cultural, water quality, and vegetation as ORVs for all three river segments. Geology was not identified as an ORV.

In 1976, a site-specific decision was made to address whitewater use on the upper Selway (Selway River Whitewater Management Plan 1976). This was a joint decision between the Nez Perce and Bitterroot National Forests that implemented a limited entry and permit system for private and commercial boaters. The decision also incorporated resource protection measures, cooperation with other agencies, and outlined a monitoring plan. The 1976 Selway River Whitewater Management Plan was updated in 1982 (Selway River Whitewater Management Plan, 1982).

In 1984, a site-specific decision was made to address whitewater use on the Lochsa River (Lochsa River Whitewater Floating Management Plan, 1984). This plan provided management direction for the number of permitted outfitters, party size, campsite use, human waste management, safety requirements, and user education and information. The plan also outlined facility development needs and a monitoring plan.

In 1986, a site-specific decision was made to address water-oriented activities on the Lower Selway and Middle Fork Clearwater Rivers (Lower Selway–Middle Fork Clearwater Water-Oriented Activities, 1986). This decision allowed commercial outfitted floating and float-fishing on the two river segments. The decision limited commercial use on the Lower Selway to 125 total service days during a newly prescribed control season (June 25–September 5). No limit was identified for the Middle Fork Clearwater. The decision also allowed commercial bank-fishing to be provided on the Middle Fork Clearwater but not the Lower Selway.

In 1995, the 1984 Lochsa River Whitewater Floating Management Plan was updated (Amendment to: Whitewater Floating Management Plan–Lochsa River, 1995). This decision set the number of permitted outfitters, provided for special events to be permitted, outlined concerns for floating use of certain tributaries, prohibited motorized use on the Lochsa River, and removed the Forest Service from directing outfitters regarding client standard of care (deferring to existing State regulations).

Within the Middle Fork Clearwater Wild and Scenic River system, 186³ Scenic and Conservation Easements have been acquired. These easements encumber about 4,000 acres of private lands within the designated river boundaries. Easements restrict commercial and residential development and require most development and land management activities on these private lands to be approved by the Forest Service.

Many of the 186 easements allow for subdivision which increases the number of individual landowners with whom the Forest Service must coordinate. Today, approximately

³ These numbers are being verified.

240 landowners, with build-out potential of about 300¹, exist.

US Highway 12 parallels the entire designated length of the Middle Fork Clearwater and Lochsa Rivers and continues east to the Montana border and beyond. There are two highway maintenance stations within the river corridor (Fleming and Bald Mountain) and one outside the corridor (Powell). All three are located on Forest Service land and use is authorized by Special Use Permit.

County Road 223 parallels the lower 5 miles of the Selway River.

15.2.1.2 Salmon River

The following excerpt is provided in regard to existing documents and relevant site-specific decisions (Forest Service 2003):

Fifty-six miles of the Salmon River are located within the Nez Perce National Forest. This section is located between Salmon Falls and Long Tom Bar near Vinegar Creek and is classified as Wild. The designated boundaries for the Salmon River lie within the Payette National Forest to the south and the Nez Perce National Forest to the north. The Salmon River travels through portions of the Gospel-Hump and Frank Church River of No Return (FCRNR) Wilderness areas. It is important to note that the Central Idaho Wilderness Bill (P.L. 96-312) dictates that the portions of the Wild and Scenic River that travel through these Wilderness areas be managed per the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, not the Wilderness Act, despite Section 10b of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act which requires that the more restrictive provisions of either law apply when there is a conflict.

Approximately 9,200 acres lie within the designated Wild and Scenic River Boundaries for this segment. The land area within the Salmon Wild and Scenic River boundaries is identified as Management Area 8.1 in the Nez Perce Forest Plan (III-19-21). The river management plan is incorporated into the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness Management Plan (Forest Service 2003).

The Nez Perce Forest Plan (Forest Service 1987) and the *Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness Plan* (Forest Service 2003) set out management guidelines for the Salmon Wild and Scenic River. Recreation, geology, fisheries, wildlife, historic, cultural and traditional uses, water quality, and vegetation are the identified ORVs for the Salmon River (FCRNR Wilderness Plan, Appendix F, 2003).

15.2.1.3 Rapid River

The following excerpt is provided in regard to existing documents and relevant site-specific decisions (Forest Service 2003):

About 13 miles of the Rapid Wild and Scenic River are located within the Nez Perce National Forest. This is the section located between the Nez Perce National Forest boundary up to the Hells Canyon Wilderness boundary on the mainstem Rapid River and the West Fork of Rapid River from the confluence up to the Payette National Forest boundary near Wyant Camp. Management of the Rapid Wild and Scenic River is coordinated between the Wallowa-Whitman, Payette and Nez Perce National Forests.

Approximately 4,200 acres lie within the designated Wild and Scenic River Boundaries for this segment. The land area within the Rapid Wild and Scenic River boundary is identified as Management Area 8.3 in the Nez Perce Forest Plan (III-22-23). The river management plan is incorporated into the Hells Canyon Wilderness Management Plan (Forest Service 2003).

The Nez Perce Forest Plan and Hells Canyon Wilderness Management Plan set out management guidelines for the Wild and Scenic River segment. Appendix K of the Hells Canyon Wilderness Management Plan FEIS identified Fisheries, Scenery, water quality, and historic and cultural uses as the ORVs for Rapid River.

15.2.2 Informing the Assessment

The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forest Plans required several items to be monitored during the plan cycle, as outlined in the Clearwater Forest Plan (Forest Service 1987a, Chapter IV, Table IV-2, page IV-15) and the Nez Perce Forest Plan (Forest Service 1987b, Chapter V, Table V-1, page V-6). Some of these items are attributed to Management Areas A7 on the Clearwater National Forest, but none are unique monitoring requirements specific to the Wild and Scenic River. All of the monitoring requirements in the Nez Perce Forest Plan are Forest-wide in nature and none are unique monitoring requirements specific to the Middle Fork Clearwater, Salmon, or Rapid Wild and Scenic Rivers.

15.2.2.1 Middle Fork Clearwater, Including the Lochsa and Selway Rivers

There were no monitoring requirements identified for these rivers in the 1973 River Plan.

The Selway Whitewater Plan (1982) required river use inventories to occur annually. River use numbers have been collected consistently for the permit season. During the permit season, monitoring indicates that the number of boats per group appears to be increasing. Use numbers outside of the permit season include anecdotal observations which indicate an increase in the number of boaters floating the Upper Selway during the shoulder seasons; however, this use is highly dependent on favorable river flows.

The Selway Whitewater Plan does not require the use of fire pans or portable toilets. The Selway River may be the only permitted river that does not require them. Even though not required, most boaters carry and use them as a matter of common practice. Hikers and stock users are also not required to use fire pans or portable toilets. These user groups do not routinely carry these and fire scars and human waste issues exist along the Selway River Trail and along the lower Selway River. In addition, very few beaches are in close proximity to a Forest Service toilet, resulting in human waste and garbage concerns along the beaches

The Lower Selway–Middle Fork Water-Oriented Activities decision (1986) required monitoring of commercial activities so as to identify biological, physical, and social impacts. There is a low volume of commercial use of the Lower Selway and Middle Fork Rivers. Put-ins and take-outs are used randomly and are not showing excessive wear or erosion. Based on anecdotal observations, it appears that few, if any, of the river-side camp sites (camps specifically accessed from the river) or lunch areas are used consistently. Developed campgrounds and dispersed campsites within the river corridor are seeing increased resource impacts associated with use by large groups (ATV and motorcycle use) off of roads and designated trails, and parking outside of hardened areas. Future implementation of DRAMVU may alleviate some impacts, but ongoing efforts to control use and to rehabilitate impacts need to continue. Neither the Lochsa River

Whitewater Floating Management Plan (1984) nor the 1995 Amendment specified any monitoring requirements. Commercial whitewater on the Lochsa has remained steady for the last 10 years (at about 2,600 clients annually). There are five commercial businesses owned by four entities. Private boating use, particularly kayaks and catarafts, has increased. Increased use has resulted in congested parking areas and some resource impacts to dispersed camping areas during the boating season (April–June). No statistically reliable data are available to reflect actual private boater use or trends. User data was collected in 2009 but has not been analyzed.

Camping areas are monitored periodically with photos and data sheets available at the Kooskia Ranger Station. Nearly 100 dispersed sites are present on the Lochsa River. In 2010, a nationwide dispersed recreation site inventory protocol was developed. The Lochsa and Middle Fork river corridors were inventoried in 2011. The Selway River corridor was inventoried in 2012, identifying over 40 dispersed recreation sites.

In 1995, a Highway Easement Deed was authorized by the Department of Transportation for the operation and maintenance of US Highway 12 across the Clearwater National Forest. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Idaho Transportation Department—District 2 and the Clearwater National Forest was entered into in 2006, and although the MOU is currently expired, the agencies continue to work in partnership. Recent ongoing litigation seeks clarification on which agency (Idaho Transportation Department or Forest Service) controls the type of vehicles which can travel the roadway.

The existing River Management Plan is aged and does not meet the criteria established in Section 3 of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act as amended in 1986. The plan lacks sufficient detail in several areas including monitoring, user capacities, and development plans.

Other sections of this assessment should be referenced to determine the current condition of the resources associated with the Outstandingly Remarkable Values. In particular the sections on Recreation Opportunities, Scenery, Fisheries, Wildlife, Water Quality, and Heritage Resources should be reviewed.

15.2.2.2 Salmon River

Chapter 3 of the FCRNR Wilderness Plan (2003) contains the monitoring plan for the Wilderness area and the designated river. River related monitoring includes campsite conditions, river use by outfitters and private boaters, and jetboat use. The ORVs within the corridor are also monitored indirectly on a periodic basis⁴.

15.2.2.3 Rapid River

Appendix F of the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area CRMP contains monitoring requirements for the area, including Rapid River. Monitoring items specific to the designated river are found on page F-5 and relate to Recreation Opportunities and vegetative treatments. The ORVs within the corridor are also monitored indirectly on a periodic basis².

15.2.3 Information Needs

Existing river management plans do not address all criteria established in Section 3 of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

⁴ Monitoring plan results are being compiled and will be reported when complete.

15.3 Wild and Scenic Rivers—Eligible

15.3.1 *Clearwater National Forest*

The following list is provided in regard to existing documents and relevant, site-specific decisions:

- Clearwater National Forest Plan (II-36-40), 1987
- Clearwater National Forest Plan, Amendment No. 2, 1990
- Clearwater National Forest Plan, Appendix M, 1987
- Wild and Scenic River Suitability Report and Legislative Environmental Impact Statement for White Sand Creek and a Two-Mile Segment of the Upper Lochsa River, 1995
- Wild and Scenic River Suitability Report and Legislative Environmental Impact Statement for Three Rivers in the North Fork of the Clearwater River Drainage, 1995

The 1987 Clearwater Forest Plan identified three stream segments as being potentially eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation. The Plan was amended in 1990 to add 4 more stream segments, for a total of seven. Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers do not have a unique Management Area designation in the Clearwater Forest Plan. Management direction for these streams is contained in Forest-wide Management Direction (Forest Plan pg. II 36 – 40 and Amendment No. 2) and the Forest Service Handbook (FSH 1909.12, Chapter 80, Section 82.5).

Since 1987, additional streams have been identified as eligible. These include a segment identified in 1995 during the suitability study for White Sands Creek (also known as Colt Killed Creek), and additional streams identified during the previous Forest Plan revision process (circa 2006).

Eligible Wild and Scenic River segments within the Clearwater National Forest are listed in Table 7.

Table 7. Clearwater National Forest Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers

Stream	Section	Potential Classification	Primary ORV	Source
Kelly Creek	Mouth to bridge on Forest Road 581	Recreation	Recreation	1987 Forest Plan
Kelly Creek	Bridge on Forest Road 581 to N/S Fork Confluence	Wild	Recreation	1987 Forest Plan
North and South Fork Kelly Creek	Confluence to source for each fork.	Wild	Fisheries	2006 Forest Plan Revision
Cayuse Creek	Mouth to Silver Creek	Scenic/Wild	Fisheries	1987 Forest Plan
Cayuse Creek	Silver Creek to source	Wild	Fisheries	2006 Forest Plan Revision
North Fork Clearwater River	Dworshak high pool to bridge on Forest Road 255	Recreation	Recreation	1987 Forest Plan
Upper North Fork Clearwater River	Forest Road 255 to headwaters of Gravey Creek	Scenic/Wild	Scenery	2006 Forest Plan Revision
Little North Fork River	Clearwater River portion	Defer to Idaho Panhandle NF	Recreation	1990 Forest Plan Amendment No. 2
Lolo Creek	Forest boundary to headwaters near Hemlock Butte	Recreation	Cultural	2006 Forest Plan Revision
Fish Creek	Mouth to Hungry Creek	Recreation	Fisheries	1990 Forest Plan Amendment No. 2
Fish Creek	Hungry Creek to headwaters	Wild	Fisheries	2006 Forest Plan Revision
Hungry Creek	Entire length	Wild	Fisheries	1990 Forest Plan Amendment No. 2
Musselshell Creek	Forest boundary to fork with Gold Creek	Recreation	Cultural	2006 Forest Plan Revision
White Sand Creek (aka Colt Killed Creek)	Mouth to Wilderness boundary	Recreation	Fisheries	1990 Forest Plan Amendment No. 2
Colt Killed Creek	Wilderness boundary to headwaters	Wild	Recreation	2006 Forest Plan Revision
Upper Lochsa River	Powell Ranger Station to mouth of Colt Killed Creek	Recreation	Recreation	1995 Suitability Report

Following the 1987 Forest Plan, additional analysis was conducted on Kelly Creek, Cayuse Creek, the North Fork Clearwater River, and White Sand Creek to determine suitability for designation. Environmental Impact Statements were prepared in 1995, yet no decisions were issued and the streams' status as eligible rivers remains the same as described in the 1987 Clearwater National Forest Plan and as refined by the 2006 Forest Plan Revision process.

15.3.2 Nez Perce National Forest

The following list is provided in regard to existing documents and relevant site-specific decisions:

- Clearwater National Forest Plan (II-36-40), 1987

- Clearwater National Forest Plan, Amendment No. 2, 1990
- Clearwater National Forest Plan, Appendix M, 1987
- Wild and Scenic River Suitability Report and Legislative Environmental Impact Statement for White Sand Creek and a Two-Mile Segment of the Upper Lochsa River, 1995
- Wild and Scenic River Suitability Report and Legislative Environmental Impact Statement for Three Rivers in the North Fork of the Clearwater River Drainage, 1995

The 1987 Nez Perce Forest Plan identified 13 stream segments (376 miles) as being potentially eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation. Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers do not have a unique Management Area designation in the Nez Perce Forest Plan. Management direction for these streams is contained in Forest-wide Management Direction (Forest Plan pg. II 22-23) as amended by Forest Plan Amendment No.1 and the Forest Service Handbook (FSH 1909.12, Chapter 80, Section 82.5).

Additional streams have been identified as eligible since the 1987 Forest Plan through the 2006 Forest Plan Revision process. It should be noted that the previous Forest Plan Revision process recommended that two stream segments, Bear Creek Complex and Three Links Creek, be dropped from eligibility. Because no decision has been issued for Forest Plan Revision, we will continue to address those streams as eligible Wild and Scenic River segments.

Following the 1987 Forest Plan, additional analysis was conducted on the fifteen tributaries of the Upper Selway River, including Running Creek, Bear Creek Complex, Moose Creek Complex, Three Links and West Fork Three Links Creeks, and Gedney and West Fork Gedney Creeks to determine suitability for designation. An Environmental Impact Statement was prepared in 1995, yet no decision was issued and the streams' status as eligible rivers remains the same as described in the 1987 Clearwater National Forest Plan and as refined by the 2006 Forest Plan Revision process.

Eligible Wild and Scenic River segments within the Nez Perce National Forest are listed in Table 8.

Table 8. Nez Perce National Forest Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers

Stream	Section	Potential Classification	Approximate Mileage	Potential ORV	Source
Bargamin Creek	Mouth to the headwaters	Wild	21	C, F, R, S, T&E, V, W	1987 Forest Plan and 2006 Draft Forest Plan Revision
Bear Creek Complex	Mouth to headwaters, including Cub Creek, Brushy Fork Creek, Paradise Creek, and Wahoo Creek	Wild	65	C, F, G, R, S, T&E, V, W	1987 Forest Plan
Johns Creek	Mouth to headwaters	Wild	19	F, R, S, W	1987 Forest Plan
Lake Creek	Confluence with Crooked Creek to headwaters	Recreation Wild	10 4	C, G, R, S, T&E, V, W	1987 Forest Plan
Meadow Creek	Mouth to headwaters	Recreation Wild	3 41	C, G, R, S, T&E, V, W	1987 Forest Plan and 2006 Draft Forest Plan Revision
Moose Creek Complex	Mouth to headwaters, including East Fork, North Fork, West Fork, and Rhoda Creeks	Wild	93	C, F, G, R, S, T&E, V, W	1987 Forest Plan and 2006 Draft Forest Plan Revision
Running Creek	Mouth to headwaters	Wild	16	F, G, R, W	1987 Forest Plan and 2006 Draft Forest Plan Revision
Salmon River	Confluence with Little Salmon River to Long Tom Bar.	Recreation	26	C, F, R, S, W	1987 Forest Plan
Slate Creek	Mouth to headwaters	Recreation Wild	16 6	C, F, G, R, S	1987 Forest Plan
SF Clearwater	Mouth to confluence with Red River	Recreation	63	F, G, R, S	1987 Forest Plan
White Bird Creek	Forest Boundary to headwater, including north and south forks.	Recreation	18	C, F, G	1987 Forest Plan and 2006 Draft Forest Plan Revision
Three Links Creek	Mouth to headwaters, including West Fork	Wild	18	C, F, G, R, S, V	1987 Forest Plan
Gedney Creek	Mouth to confluence with West Fork and West Fork to headwaters	Recreation Wild	1 13	C, F, G, R, V	1987 Forest Plan and 2006 Draft Forest Plan Revision

Key to Potential ORVs: C=Cultural, F=Fisheries, G=Geologic, R=Recreation, T&E=Threatened and Endangered Species or Habitat, S=Scenic, V=Vegetation, W=Wildlife

15.3.3 Informing the Assessment

In the 1987 Forest Plans, specific rivers were identified and recommended for addition to the Wild and Scenic rivers system. In 1995, three Wild and Scenic Rivers Suitability Reports were

conducted and documented in Legislative Environmental Impact Statements. Suitability was studied for the following rivers:

- White Sand Creek and a 2-mile segment of the Upper Lochsa
- Three rivers in the North Fork Clearwater River drainage (a portion of the North Fork Clearwater, Kelly Creek, and Cayuse Creek)
- Fifteen tributaries of the Upper Selway River (Running, Bear, Brushy Fork, Wahoo, Cub, Paradise, Moose, East Fork Moose, West Fork Moose, North Fork Moose, Rhoda, Three links, West Fork Three links, Gedney, and West Fork Gedney Creeks)

Recommendations for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System were made for each segment studied. Not all streams were recommended for inclusion. These recommendations are detailed in Table 9 and Table 10. No decisions came from these studies and all streams remain eligible and are being managed to protect ORVs.

Through Forest Plan Revision there is an opportunity to revisit the Suitability Reports and make decisions to include some rivers into the National System.

Table 9. Recommendations from 1995 Suitability Studies–Clearwater National Forest

Stream	Segment	Suitability
North Fork Clearwater	Forest Road 250 bridge to Dworshak Reservoir	Recreational–60 miles
Kelly Creek	Headwaters to Forest Road 581 bridge	Wild–27 Miles Recreational–12 Miles
Cayuse Creek	Lost Lake to Silver Creek, Silver Creek to Section 25, T39N, R11E, Section 25 to Kelly Creek	Wild–5 Scenic–26

Table 10. Recommendations from 1995 Suitability Studies–Nez Perce National Forest

Stream	Segment	Suitability
Running Creek	Running Lake to Selway Bitterroot Wilderness Boundary	Scenic–13.1 miles
Running Creek	Wilderness Boundary to mouth at Selway River	Not recommended for inclusion in the Wild & Scenic River system
Bear Creek and all Tributaries		Not recommended for inclusion in the Wild & Scenic River system
Moose Creek and All Tributaries		Not recommended for inclusion in the Wild & Scenic River system
Three Links Creek and All Tributaries		Not recommended for inclusion in the Wild & Scenic River system
Gedney Creek and West Fork Gedney Creek	Mouth at Selway River to Selway Bitterroot Wilderness Boundary	Scenic–8.8 miles Recreational–1.1 Miles
West Fork Gedney Creek	Selway Bitterroot Wilderness Boundary to source	Not recommended for inclusion in the Wild & Scenic River system

15.3.4 Information Needs

Additional information needs would be assessed when Suitability Studies are pursued for any of the eligible rivers.

Literature Cited

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