

Recommended Wilderness Summary

Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests

July 10, 2006

June 15, 2004

This a summary of direction and procedures used to update the inventoried roadless areas inventory for the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests and the process to identify recommended wilderness.

DIRECTION FOR COMPLETING INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREAS INVENTORY UPDATE

There are 3 primary sources of direction for completing this review/update.
They are:

- (1) Code of Federal Regulations, 36 CFR.
- (2) Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.12.
- (3) Region 1 Consistency Guidelines – 12/15/03
 - a. 11/20/96 Region 1 Roadless Area Inventory Process

1. 36 CFR 219.17 Evaluation of Roadless Areas

- a. Evaluate roadless areas including:
 - i. those previously inventoried in a forest plan which remain essentially roadless and undeveloped and which have not yet been designated as wilderness or nonwilderness uses by law
 - ii. areas contiguous to existing wilderness or administratively proposed wildernesses
 - iii. other essentially roadless areas may be subject to evaluation at the discretion of the Forest Supervisor.

2. FSH 1909.12 – Land and Resource Management Planning Handbook – Chapter 7, 7.1-7.31

- a. Roadless areas qualify for placement on the inventory of potential wilderness if, in addition to meeting the statutory definition of wilderness, they meet one or more of the following criteria:
 - i. Contain 5,000 acres or more
 - ii. Contain less than 5,000 acres but:
 - iii. Are manageable in their natural condition due to physiography or vegetation

- iv. Are self-contained ecosystems such as an island
 - v. Are contiguous to existing wilderness, primitive areas, Administration-endorsed wilderness, or roadless areas in other Federal ownership regardless of their size
 - vi. They do not contain improved roads maintained for travel by standard passenger-type vehicles.
- b. Criteria for including improvements – roadless areas may qualify for inventory as potential wilderness even though they include the following types of areas or features:
- i. Airstrips and heliports
 - ii. Cultural treatments involving plantations or plantings where the use of mechanical equipment is not evident.
 - iii. Electronic installations, such as television, radio, and telephone repeaters, and the like, provided their impact is minimal.
 - iv. Areas with evidence of historic mining (50+ yrs ago). Do not include areas of significant current mineral activity.
 - v. Minor structural range improvements.
 - vi. Recreation improvements such as occupancy spots or minor hunting or outfitter camps. Do not include developed sites.
 - vii. Timber harvest areas where logging and prior road construction is not evident. Areas where stumps and skid trails are substantially unrecognizable or where clearcuts have regenerated at to the degree that canopy closure is similar to surrounding uncut areas.
 - viii. Ground-return telephone line, if the ROW has not been cleared.
 - ix. Watershed treatment areas if the use of mechanical equipment is not evident.

3. 12/15/03 Region 1 Consistency Guide – Updating Appendix C for LRMP

- a. Validate and/or adjust as necessary roadless inventory maps in Appendix C of the LRMP in accordance with planning regulations in CFR 219.17. Areas can be modified, added, or dropped from wilderness consideration based on new information and any development within the roadless areas. Once the inventory has been reviewed and validated, wilderness evaluations must be completed for areas in the inventory.
- b. 2002 Roadless Area Conservation Rule (RACR) Maps
 - i. Changes cannot be made to the boundaries in the inventory roadless area maps in the RACR during the revision process. Changes cannot be made unless the 2002 Rule is amended to allow for this to occur.

- c. Mapping Update – 11/20/96 Roadless Area Inventory Process. In order to follow a systematic and consistent approach when updating the mapping of inventory roadless areas and other undeveloped areas, this process was chosen.
 - i. The principle mapping process rules are:
 1. Generate 1:24,000 maps
 2. Inventoried roadless area boundary shall be placed 50 feet from the centerline of an improved road. For FS roads, the intent in the field is that the inventoried roadless boundary starts at the top of the cut slope and/or the bottom of toe of the road.
 3. All “noses” should be at least one mile wide to be included. A “neck” can be used to connect a larger area if the larger area is more than a mile wide or long or of significant size (generally 1,000 acres or more). Retain Appendix C necks from the existing forest plan. Select a watershed line, stream or draw, or contour to determine boundary where a nose is eliminated.
 4. Select the edge of regeneration Harvest Units to be excluded from the roadless area.

EVALUATION OF POTENTIAL WILDERNESS

Once the inventory has been updated and validated by the Forest Supervisors, the next phase is the Evaluation of Potential Wilderness (FSH 1909.12, 7.2). There are 3 steps:

- Capability
- Availability
- Need

1. CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT – the capability of a potential wilderness is the degree to which that area contains the basic characteristics that make it suitable for wilderness designation without regard to its availability for or need as wilderness. Factors are: Opportunity for Solitude, Natural and Free From Human Disturbance, Provides Challenge and Adventure, Variety and Abundance of Wildlife, Primitive and Unconfined Recreation, Manageability.

SEE FEBRUARY 2005 CAPABILITY SUMMARY TABLE BELOW

Feb. 18, 2005

DRAFT
 Summary of Capability Analysis
 Inventoried Roadless Areas
 Nez Perce NF

The tables below summarize the scoring for the 47 questions in the environmental elements used to rate wilderness capability for each inventoried roadless area greater than 5,000 acres from the updated inventory. The scoring was completed in December of 2004 by district recreation specialists from each forest.

Nez Perce NF Inventoried Roadless Areas Capability Assessment										
Score	Clear Creek	Dixie Summit	East Meadow	Gospel Hump	John Day	Lick Pt.	Little Slate Ck	New-W.FK Crooked River	N.Fk Slate Creek	O'Hara Falls Ck
#Highs	2	2	12	9	0	5	4	7	1	3
#Mediums	8	11	6	8	14	9	11	9	13	10
#Lows	9	6	1	2	5	5	4	3	5	6
Overall Ranking	Med	Med	High	Med/High	Med	Med	Med	Med	Med	Med

Nez Perce NF Inventoried Roadless Areas Capability Assessment										
Score	Rackcliff Gedney	Rapid River	Salmon Face	Silver Ck-Pilot Knob	W. Meadow Ck	Mallard				
#Highs	9	10	2	7	13	6				
#Mediums	10	9	13	9	6	10				
#Lows	0	0	4	3	0	3				
Overall Ranking	Med/High	Med/High	Med	Med	High	Med				

February 22, 2005

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 Summary of Capability Analysis
 Inventoried Roadless Areas
 Clearwater National Forest

The table below summarizes the scoring for the 47 questions in the environmental elements used to rate wilderness capability for each inventoried roadless area greater than 5,000 from the updated forest roadless inventory. The scoring was completed in December of 2004 by district recreation specialists from each forest.

Clearwater NF Inventoried Roadless Areas Capability Assessment								
Score	Bighorn Weitas	Hoodoo	Lochsa Face	Mallard-Larkin	Meadow Creek Upper N.	Moose Mtn	Wendover	Washington
Highs	11	13	8	11	11	10	2	3
Mediums	7	5	10	6	6	8	12	7
Lows	1	1	1	2	2	1	3	9
Overall Ranking	High	High	Medium	High	High	Med/High	Med	Low

Clearwater NF Inventoried Roadless Areas Capability Assessment									
Score	N.Fk Spruce White Sand	N.Lochsa Face	Pot Mtn	Rackliff Gedney	Rawhide	Siwash	Sneakfoot Meadows	Weir-Post Office	
Highs	7	8	10	6	3	7	9	8	
Mediums	11	10	7	6	9	10	9	5	
Lows	1	1	2	7	7	2	1	6	
Overall Ranking	Medim	Medium	Med/High	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium/High	Medium	

2. AVAILABILITY – the value of and need for the wilderness resource compared to the value of and need for other resources and uses.

The same roadless areas recommended in the 1987 are proposed as available for consideration for recommendation as wilderness by Congress.

3. **NEED** – the degree to which it contributes to the local and national distribution of wilderness in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Primary criteria are:
- Representation of underrepresented ecosystems,
 - Providing wilderness recreation opportunities for a growing population
 - Providing needed habitat for fish, wildlife and plants.

SEE THE 2003 REGION 1 WILDERNESS NEEDS ASSESSMENT.