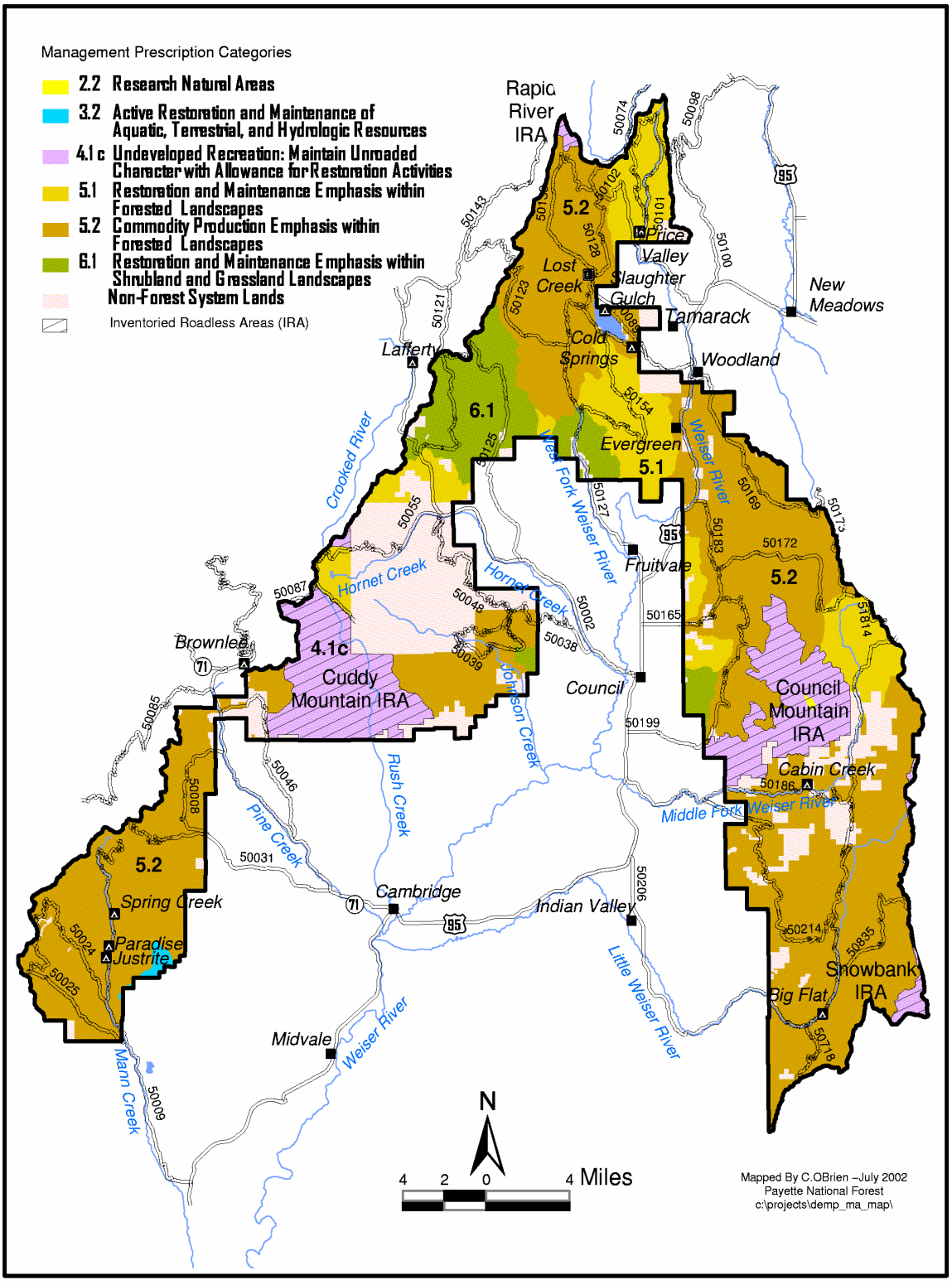
Management Area 03 –Weiser River –Location Map



Management Area 3
Weiser River

MANAGEMENT AREA DESCRIPTION

Management Prescriptions – Management Area 3 has the following management prescriptions (see map on preceding page for distribution of prescriptions).

Management Prescription Category (MPC)	Percent of Mgt. Area
2.2 – Research Natural Areas	Trace
4.1c – Maintain Unroaded Character with Allowance for Restoration Activities	13
5.1 – Restoration and Maintenance Emphasis within Forested Landscapes	14
5.2 – Commodity Production Emphasis within Forested Landscapes	65
6.1 – Restoration and Maintenance Emphasis within Shrubland & Grassland Landscapes	8

General Location and Description - Management Area 3 is comprised of lands administered by the Payette National Forest within the Weiser River drainage (see map, preceding page). The area lies in Adams and Washington Counties, and is administered by the Council, Weiser, and New Meadows Ranger Districts. The management area is an estimated 352,800 acres, which includes numerous state and private land inholdings. The largest inholdings are a block of State lands (28,000 acres) northwest of Council, and a cluster of land parcels (20,000 acres) owned by Boise Corporation south and east of Council Mountain. The management area forms a large semi-circle around the predominantly agricultural communities of Council, Cambridge, and Indian Valley. The area is bordered primarily by National Forest System lands on the outside of the semi-circle, and by private and Bureau of Land Management lands on the inside of the semi-circle. The primary uses or activities in Management Area 3 have been timber management, livestock grazing, irrigation, and dispersed recreation.

Access - The main access to the area is by U.S. Highway 95 that heads north from Weiser, Idaho to Council and New Meadows. From Highway 95, some of the main access routes to the Forest include Forest Road 009 along Mann Creek, Forest Road 008 along West Pine Creek, Forest Road 038 to Johnson Creek, Forest Road 002 along Hornet Creek, Forest Road 127 along the West Fork of the Weiser River, Forest Road 074 up Price Valley, Forest Road 089 from Highway 95 to Lost Valley Reservoir, and Forest Road 186 along the East Fork of the Weiser River. The density of classified roads for the area is an estimated 1.6 miles per square mile, and much of the area has been intensively managed for timber and livestock grazing. Total road density for area subwatersheds ranges between 0 and 8.8 miles per square mile. Trails provide access to portions of the roadless areas. Private landowners restrict access to some areas of the Forest.

The Forest has a cost-share agreement in this area with Boise Corporation and the State of Idaho for building and maintaining a cooperative road system in which all costs and responsibilities are shared. Boise Corporation lands occur in the Middle Fork Weiser River and Mill/Warm Spring

Watersheds, and State lands occur primarily in the Hornet Creek, Goodrich-Bacon, Upper Weiser River, and West Fork Weiser River Watersheds.

Special Features - The Council Mountain Research Natural Area (111 acres) has a representation of sagebrush and subalpine meadow communities, and small stringers of subalpine fir plant communities on basalt substrates. Lost Valley Reservoir provides developed and dispersed recreation opportunities, and is an important source of stored water for irrigation in the Weiser River system. This management area has the highest concentration of prehistoric cultural resource sites on the Forest.

An estimated 11 percent of the management area is inventoried as roadless, including all of the Council Mountain (16,567 acres) Roadless Area, and portions of the Cuddy Mountain, Rapid River, Snowbank, and Poison Creek Roadless Areas. Rush Creek Falls is a scenic waterfall; however, it is difficult to reach because private landowners currently block access to the nearby Forest trailhead.

Air Quality - This management area lies within Montana/Idaho Airshed ID-14 and portions of Adams and Washington Counties. Particulate matter is the primary pollutant of concern related to Forest management activities. No ambient air monitors are located within the airshed. There are three Class I areas within 100 kilometers of this Management Area—the Hells Canyon, Eagle Cap, and Sawtooth Wildernesses. Visibility monitoring has been expanded for these areas.

Between 1995 and 1999, emissions trends for both counties improved for PM 10, while PM 2.5 emissions remained constant. The most common sources of particulate matter within the counties were wildfire, prescribed fire, and fugitive dust from unpaved roads. In addition to Forest management activities, crop residue and ditch burning may contribute to particulate matter emissions, although the amount of agricultural-related burning was very low within Adams County (less than 600 acres) and low in Washington County (an estimated 3,300 acres). There were no point sources within either county.

Soil, Water, Riparian, and Aquatic Resources - Elevations range from 3,400 feet on the Middle Fork of the Weiser River to 8,126 feet atop Council Mountain. Management Area 3 falls primarily within the Hornet Plateau and Sturgill Peak Plateau Uplands Subsections. The main geomorphic landforms found in the area are periglacial uplands and mountain slopes, plateaus and escarpments, and fluvial mountains. Slope gradients range from 15 to 40 percent on the periglacial uplands and mountain slopes, 30 to 50 percent on the fluvial mountains, and 15 to 80 percent on the plateaus and escarpments. Columbia River basalts dominate the surface geology, with scattered inclusions of metasedimentary and granitic rock. Soils generally have low to moderate surface erosion potential, and moderate to high productivity. Subwatershed vulnerability ratings range from low to high, with the majority being low (see table below). Geomorphic Integrity ratings for the subwatersheds vary from moderate (functioning at risk) to low (not functioning appropriately), with the majority being low (see table below). There are localized impacts from roads, timber harvest, livestock grazing, and recreation. Although impacts have been fairly high in some areas, the basalt landtypes and productive soils in this area are inherently more stable and resilient than those in many other parts of the Forest.

The management area is spread out across portions of fourteen watersheds that all drain into the Weiser River Subbasin. The main streams in the area are Mann Creek, Pine Creek, Rush Creek, Hornet Creek, West Fork Weiser River, mainstem Weiser River, East Fork Weiser River, Middle Fork Weiser River, and Little Weiser River. Most standing water in the area is in reservoirs, as there are few natural lakes. The largest body of standing water is Lost Valley Reservoir (989 acres). Lower Mann Creek and Upper Monroe Creek subwatersheds are considered portions of the state-regulated public water system for the city of Weiser.

Water Quality Integrity ratings for the subwatersheds vary from high (functioning appropriately) to moderate (functioning at risk) to low (not functioning appropriately) (see table below). Water quality has been affected by localized impacts, which include sediment loading and thermal changes due to water diversions, roads, timber harvest, livestock grazing, and recreation. Four of the 51 subwatersheds in this area were listed in 1998 as having impaired water bodies under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. These subwatersheds are Johnson Creek, Lower West Fork Weiser, Upper West Fork Weiser, and Lower Lost Creek. The pollutants of concern for these subwatersheds have not been identified. There are currently no TMDL-assigned subbasins associated with this management area.

Subwatershed Vulnerability			Geomorphic Integrity			Water Quality Integrity			No. 303(d) Subs	No. Subs With TMDLs	No. Public Water System Subs
High	Mod.	Low	High	Mod.	Low	High	Mod.	Low			
1	4	46	0	14	37	16	20	15	4	0	2

The Hells Canyon dam complex has eliminated migration to and from the area for native anadromous chinook salmon and steelhead, and these species no longer exist within the subbasin. Native redband rainbow trout occur in many area streams, as do introduced rainbow, brook, cutthroat, and brown trout. Threatened bull trout occur in isolated populations in the Upper Hornet Creek, Upper East Fork Weiser River, Upper Little Weiser River, and Anderson Creek subwatersheds. These populations and their habitats are fragmented by roads and culverts, irrigation dams and ditches, and thermal barriers. High densities of brook trout occur in most of the subwatersheds. Overall, aquatic habitat is currently functioning at risk due to elevated water temperatures, habitat fragmentation, and accelerated sediment. Native fish populations are at risk due to these habitat impacts and the presence of non-native species. The Upper Little Weiser River, Upper East Fork Weiser River, Middle Hornet Creek, and Anderson Creek subwatersheds have been identified as important to the recovery of listed fish species, and as high-priority areas for restoration.

Vegetation - Vegetation at lower elevations is typically grasslands, shrublands, ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir on south and west aspects, and Douglas-fir, western larch, and grand fir forests on north and east aspects. Mid and upper elevations are dominated by shrubs and forest communities of Douglas-fir, grand fir, and subalpine fir, with pockets of western larch, lodgepole pine, aspen, and whitebark pine.

Just over 20 percent of the management area is comprised of rock, water, or shrubland and grassland vegetation groups, including Perennial Grass Montane, Perennial Grass Slopes,

Montane Shrub, Mountain Big Sage, Bitterbrush, and Low Sage. The main forested vegetation groups in the area are Cool Moist Grand Fir (23 percent), Warm Dry Douglas-fir/Moist Ponderosa Pine (19 percent), Dry Grand Fir (16 percent), and Warm Dry Subalpine Fir (11 percent), and Dry Ponderosa Pine/Xeric Douglas-fir (4 percent). Isolated patches of the Warm Dry Subalpine Fir group are scattered through the upper elevations, primarily on north slopes and in high basins (e.g., Sturgill Peak). These patches provide the "fragmented lynx habitat" referred to in the Wildlife characterization. On the northern end of the management area, succession is moving these stands outside their historic range of variation due to lack of disturbance.

In the shrubland and grassland groups, Perennial Grass Montane and Perennial Grass Slopes are functioning at risk due to the increase in undesirable species such as chicory, coneflower, and mullein, and noxious weeds such as Canada thistle, spotted knapweed, rush skeletonweed, and Dalmatian toadflax. Montane Shrub and Low Sage are at properly functioning condition. Mountain Big Sagebrush and Bitterbrush are functioning at risk due to the high levels of old structure and decadence, lack of regeneration, and an increase in non-native species. Past fire exclusion and grazing impacts have contributed to old, decadent stand conditions that are less resilient to fire and other disturbances.

The Ponderosa Pine/Xeric Douglas-fir and Warm Dry Subalpine Fir groups are at properly functioning condition, although dwarf mistletoe levels are moderate to high in the Douglas-fir component. The Warm Dry Douglas-fir/Moist Ponderosa Pine, Dry Grand Fir, and Cool Moist Grand Fir groups are functioning at risk. In managed areas, these groups have low levels of large trees, snags, logs, insects, and disease, and high levels of seral species and mid-aged structural stages. In unmanaged areas, these groups have high stand densities with shade-tolerant grand fir and high levels of insect and disease infestations, which have increased the risk of stand-replacing fire. These conditions are outside those associated with historical fire regimes, which has increased the risk of uncharacteristic fire.

Some riparian vegetation is functioning at risk due to localized impacts from roads, livestock grazing, and private land uses, particularly in the Beaver Creek and Warm Springs Creek drainages. Also, riparian vegetation in lower Lost Creek is adversely affected by fluctuating flows from Lost Valley Reservoir. Vegetation composition has changed in many riparian areas due to roads, timber harvest, livestock grazing, and fire exclusion. Exotic plant species have increased and sedge species have decreased. Cottonwoods and broadleaf shrubs have also decreased, and are not regenerating in many areas due to lack of fire disturbance, hydrologic changes, and competition from non-native plants.

Botanical Resources - Current Region 4 Sensitive species found in this area include Snake River goldenweed, giant helleborine orchid, and Tolmie's onion. Proposed Region 4 Sensitive species that may occur in this area include squaw apple, dwarf gray rabbitbrush, and Mahala-mat ceanothus. Currently, no federally listed or proposed plant species are known to occur in the area, although potential habitat for Ute ladies'-tresses and Spalding's silene may exist. Spalding's silene, a Threatened species, may occur in fescue grassland habitat types from 1,500 to 5,500 feet in elevation. Ute ladies'-tresses, a Threatened species, may have low potential habitat in riparian/wetland areas up to 7,000 feet.

Non-native Plants - Many noxious weeds and exotic plants have been introduced into the area, particularly along the main road corridors. An estimated 20 percent of the area is highly susceptible to invasion by noxious weeds and exotic plant species. The main weeds of concern are spotted and diffuse knapweed, rush skeletonweed, leafy spurge, Scotch thistle, whitetop, Dalmatian toadflax, which currently occur in scattered populations within the area. Yellow toadflax, yellow star thistle, and Canada thistle also occur within the area. Justrite, Paradise, and Spring Creek Campgrounds are considered highly susceptible to noxious weed invasion and spread.

Subwatersheds in the table below have an inherently high risk of weed establishment risk and spread from activities identified with a "yes" in the various activity columns. This risk is due to the amount of drainage area that is highly susceptible to noxious weed invasion and the relatively high level of exposure from those identified vectors or carriers of weed seed.

Subwatershed	Road- related Activities	Livestock Use	Timber Harvest	ATV Off-Road Use	Recreation & Trail Use
Lower Mann Creek	No	Yes	No	No	No
Middle Mann Creek	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Upper Mann Creek	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Upper Monroe Creek	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Sage Creek	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Upper Keithly Creek	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Lower Pine Creek	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
West Pine Creek	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Upper Pine Creek	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Lower WF Weiser River	No	No	No	Yes	No

Wildlife Resources - The wide range of elevations and vegetation types in the management area provide a variety of wildlife habitats. The Lost Valley Reservoir area has nesting bald eagles. Much of the lower elevation grasslands and shrublands is important winter/spring range for elk and deer, and habitat for introduced turkey and chukar. Stringer stands are important habitat components for big game all year long. Forests provide habitat for a number of Region 4 sensitive species, including northern goshawk, flammulated owl, white-headed woodpecker, and great gray owls. The entire area provides nesting and forage habitat for migratory land birds, and general habitat for wide-ranging mammals like elk, bear, and mountain lion. Habitat and populations of northern Idaho ground squirrel, a Threatened species, exist in the northern and northwestern portions of the management area. Habitat for Threatened lynx occurs in fragmented patches in this area, and three Lynx Analysis Units have been mapped. Overall, terrestrial habitat is functioning at risk for the following reasons. Roads and harvest units have increased habitat fragmentation and vulnerability for game species, while lowering levels of large trees, large-diameter snags, and down logs for species dependent on those components. Succession to stands dominated by closed canopy Douglas-fir has reduced habitat for white-headed woodpecker and flammulated owl. In the roaded portions of the area, mature and old trees still exist, but they are in small block sizes that are highly fragmented. The introduction of exotic plants and noxious weeds has lowered the quality of habitat and forage for some native species. Fire exclusion and conifer encroachment have reduced habitat for northern Idaho ground squirrels.

Recreation Resources - Easy road access, campgrounds, and introduced fish species make the Lost Valley Reservoir area a well-used, summer recreation destination. Dispersed recreation such as hunting, hiking, site seeing, and camping occurs throughout Management Area 3, and there are many dispersed campsites and seven developed campgrounds. Several of the dispersed campsites are in northern Idaho ground squirrel habitat. The area is in Idaho Fish and Game Management Units 22, 23, 31, and 32A. Much of the recreational use comes from nearby towns (Weiser, Council, Cambridge, New Meadows), although users from the Treasure Valley (Boise, Nampa, Caldwell) are increasing. Most trails in the area are open to some form of motorized vehicle use. Trail access onto the Forest is restricted in some localized areas due to private landowners. Visual sensitivity is emphasized in roadless areas and along the main travel corridors. Recreation special uses in the area include two annual recreation events and two outfitter/guide permits. Unauthorized motorized use is occurring on yearlong and seasonally closed roads, thereby affecting wildlife security and vulnerability. Both recreational and permitted woodcutters are reducing large snag availability for primary and secondary cavity nesters in the Upper Weiser River drainages.

Dispersed recreation is emphasized. Dispersed camping opportunities are maintained and, resource protection measures are used where needed. Other types of dispersed recreation uses offer a mix of roaded and unroaded opportunities. Roads, areas, and trails are signed as to motorized access restrictions.

Developed recreation sites are maintained at current or improved levels. Renovation of existing developed sites occurs when current facility conditions no longer effectively serve the public.

Trail maintenance is emphasized. Trail funding is used to maintain trails at current or improved levels. The most heavily used trails and those with resource damage have maintenance priority. Trailhead signing indicates the types of trail use allowed.

Scenic Environment – Visually sensitive routes and use areas represent locations from which the scenic environment is considered especially important. Visual sensitivity in this area is emphasized in roadless areas and along the main travel corridors. These routes or areas generally have a more restrictive VQO assigned to them than areas not seen from such locations. The following is a list of visually sensitive routes or use areas with this management area. There may also be sensitive routes or use areas in adjacent management areas that could be affected by actions taken in this management area.

Route or Area Type	Sensitivity Level	Name of Route or Area
Roads	1	Mann Creek 009, US Highway 95, State Highway 71
Roads	2	Lancaster 012, Adams Creek 025, Fourth of July Creek 024, Short Goose 013, Council-Cuprum 002, West Fork Weiser 127, Grouse Creek 123, Lost Creek 154, Lost Valley Reservoir 089, Railroad Saddle 128, West Branch 102, Smokey Boulder 074, East Branch 101, Mud Creek 100, Shingle Flat 183, East Fork Weiser 172, Granite Creek 245, Old Cascade 165, West Fork Weiser 186, Little Weiser 206
Trails	1	None

Route or Area Type	Sensitivity Level	Name of Route or Area
Trails	2	Council Mountain 198, Deseret Cabin-Squaw Flat 201, Crystal Creek 205, Granite Creek 210, Johnson Creek Connector 245, 256, East Fork Pine Creek 263, Big Flat 352
Use Areas	1	Spring Creek, Cold Springs, and Evergreen Campgrounds
Use Areas	2	Justrite, Paradise, Slaughter, Cabin Creek, and Big Flat Campgrounds, Sturgill Peak Lookout

Cultural Resources – Cultural themes in this area include Prehistoric, Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), Forest Service Administration, Timber, and Ranching. This management area has the highest concentration of prehistoric cultural resource sites on the Forest. Historically, this area has many examples of depression era facilities constructed by the CCC, including campgrounds, fire lookouts, administrative sites, and roads. A number of administrative sites on the Council Ranger District are on the National Register of Historic Places. Much of the area has been grazed by livestock since the late 1800s and harvested for timber throughout the 1900s.

Timberland Resources - Of the estimated 217,200 tentatively suited acres in this management area, 162,700 acres have been identified as being suited timberlands, or appropriate for timber production. This represents about 49 percent of the Forest's suited timberland acres. Historically, this area has produced the majority of timber on the Forest. The suited timberland acres are found in MPCs 5.1, 5.2, and 6.1 (see MPC map for this management area). Lands in MPCs 2.2 and 4.1c have been identified as not suited for timber production.

Management Area 3 also includes the Lost Lake Progeny Test Area, and the Calamity and Bull Corral Seed Production Areas. These sites have been developed to test and evaluate the growth and development of trees from different genetic sources, and to produce seeds of desirable genetic quality. Forest products such as fuelwood, posts and poles, and Christmas trees are also collected in the management area.

Rangeland Resources - The management area contains all or portions of sixteen allotments, with three sheep allotments located primarily in the northern third of the area, and thirteen cattle allotments located throughout the remaining area. Grazing on the Warm Springs Allotment frequently exceeds utilization standards within riparian areas. Management Area 3 provides an estimated 95,600 acres of capable rangeland, which represents about 42 percent of the capable rangeland on the Forest.

Mineral Resources - Most past mining activity and claims have occurred on the west side of the management area, around Cuddy Mountain, and southwest of Hitt Mountain. Numerous mining claims exist in this area. The potential for mineral development is high in the Cuddy and Hitt Mountain areas, and relatively low elsewhere.

Fire Management - Wildfires have only burned about 200 acres (.06 percent) of this large management area over the last 15 years. The largest amounts (117 acres) were in the Rock Jack Fire of 1996 and the Cuddy Complex of 1994 (77 acres). This low amount of fire is well below historic levels and has allowed fire regimes to change and fuel loading to increase in unmanaged low-elevation stands. Although fuels are increasing to hazardous levels in some untreated

stands, the overall fire hazard is moderate to low due to the high level of past timber management in the area. The Price Valley Guard Station functions as a helibase, with air and heli-rappel crew support during the fire season. Prescribed fire has been used to improve winter/spring range conditions and to reduce activity-generated and natural fuels. The physical configuration of this management area does not allow for effective wildland fire use.

Woodland, Tamarack, and Evergreen are National Fire Plan communities, and Upper Pine Creek, Upper Weiser River, and Gaylord-Woodland subwatersheds are considered wildland-urban interface areas due to residential development adjacent to the Forest. These same subwatersheds are also considered to pose risks to life and property from potential post-fire floods and debris flows. Historical fire regimes for the area are estimated to be: 5 percent lethal, 45 percent mixed1 or 2, and 50 percent non-lethal. An estimated 18 percent of the area regimes have vegetation conditions that are highly departed from their historical range. Most of this change has occurred in the historically non-lethal fire regimes, resulting in conditions where wildfire would likely be much larger and more intense and severe than historically. In addition, 39 percent of the area is in moderately departed conditions—20 percent in the mixed1/mixed2 fire regimes, and 19 percent in the non-lethal regimes. Wildfire in these areas may result in somewhat larger patch sizes of high intensity or severity, but not to the same extent as in the highly departed areas in non-lethal fire regimes.

Lands and Special Uses – A special-use authorization is issued to Idaho Power for the Brownlee-Paddock and Cambridge-New Meadows power transmission lines, which are in designated utility corridors. Idaho Power also operates and maintains the Oxbow-McCall and Brownlee-Boise Bench 1, 2, 3, and 4 power transmission lines. These power lines are also located in designated utility corridors and are authorized as part of the current FERC license for the Hell's Canyon Dam Complex. When this hydropower project is re-licensed, the power line may be authorized under special-use permit.

Adams County has been issued a Highway Easement Deed for the right-of-way on the Council-Cuprum road. There are several private road easements issued for access to private property. Other authorizations include permits for buried telephone lines.

Several private water systems are authorized. There are currently 14 irrigation ditches and 9 domestic water systems operated under permit in this area. Two reservoirs with dams, Hornet and Lost Valley Reservoir, are operated under a USDI easement. Several private landowners have submitted applications requesting permanent conditional easements be issued for their agricultural water systems per Public Law 99-545.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service has an authorization to operate and maintain Snotel sites located in Squaw Flat and Bear Saddle. This site is used primarily for measuring the water content of snow pack. Boise State University operates a seismograph monitoring site under special use permit. The three designated communication sites in this area are located at Cow Mountain, Indian Mountain, and Sturgill Peak. All are designated for non-commercial, government use only.

MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

In addition to Forest-wide Goals, Objectives, Standards, and Guidelines that provide direction for all management areas, the following direction has been developed specifically for this area.

MPC/Resource Area	Direction	Number	Management Direction Description
MPC 2.2 Research Natural Areas	General Standard	0301	Mechanical vegetation treatments, salvage harvest, and prescribed fire may only be used to maintain values for which the areas were established, or to achieve other objectives that are consistent with the RNA establishment record or management plan.
	Road Standard	0302	Road construction or reconstruction may only occur where needed: a) To provide access related to reserved or outstanding rights, or b) To respond to statute or treaty, or c) To maintain the values for which the Research Natural Area was established.
	Fire Guideline	0303	The full range of fire suppression strategies may be used to suppress wildfires. Fire suppression strategies and tactics should minimize impacts to the values for which the RNA was established.
MPC 4.1c Undeveloped Recreation: Maintain Unroaded Character with Allowance for Restoration Activities	General Standard	0304	Management actions allowed—including mechanical vegetation treatments, salvage harvest, prescribed fire, road maintenance, and special use authorizations—must be designed and implemented in a manner that would be consistent with the unroaded landscape in the temporary, short term, and long term. Exceptions to this standard are actions in the 4.1c road standard, below.
	Road Standard	0305	Road construction or reconstruction may only occur where needed: a) To provide access related to reserved or outstanding rights, or b) To respond to statute or treaty.
	Fire Guideline	0306	The full range of fire suppression strategies may be used to suppress wildfires. Emphasize tactics that minimize impacts of suppression activities on the unroaded landscape.
MPC 5.1 Restoration and Maintenance Emphasis within Forested Landscapes	Road Standard	0307	There shall be no net increase in road densities in the MPC 5.1 portion of the Middle Hornet Creek subwatershed unless it can be demonstrated through the project-level NEPA analysis and related Biological Assessment that: a) For resources that are within their range of desired conditions, the increase in road densities shall not result in degradation to those resources unless outweighed by demonstrable short- or long-term benefits to those resource conditions; and b) For resources that are in a degraded condition, the increase in road densities shall not further degrade nor retard attainment of desired resource conditions unless outweighed by demonstrable short- or long-term benefits to those resource conditions; and c) Adverse effects to TEPC species or their habitat are avoided unless outweighed by demonstrable short- or long-term benefits to those TEPC species or their habitat. An exception to this standard is where additional roads are required to respond to reserved or outstanding rights, statute or treaty, or respond to emergency situations (e.g., wildfires threatening life or property, or search and rescue operations).

MPC/Resource Area	Direction	Number	Management Direction Description
MPC 5.1 Restoration and Maintenance Emphasis within Forested Landscapes	Road Standard	0308	New roads and landings shall be located outside of RCAs in the MPC 5.1 portion of the Middle Hornet subwatershed unless it can be demonstrated through the project-level NEPA analysis and related Biological Assessment that: a) For resources that are within their range of desired conditions, the addition of a new road or landing in an RCA shall not result in degradation to those resources unless outweighed by demonstrable short- or long-term benefits to those resource conditions; and b) For resources that are in a degraded condition, the addition of a new road or landing in an RCA shall not further degrade nor retard attainment of desired resource conditions unless outweighed by demonstrable short- or long-term benefits to those resource conditions; and c) Adverse effects to TEPC species or their habitats are avoided unless outweighed by demonstrable short- or long-term benefits to those TEPC species or their habitats. An exception to this standard is where construction of new roads in RCAs is required to respond to reserved or outstanding rights, statute or treaty, or respond to emergency situations (e.g., wildfires threatening life or property, or search and rescue operations).
	Fire Guideline	0309	The full range of treatment activities, except wildland fire use, may be used to restore and maintain desired vegetation and fuel conditions. Salvage harvest may also occur.
	Fire Guideline	0310	The full range of fire suppression strategies may be used to suppress wildfires. Emphasize strategies and tactics that minimize impacts to habitats, developments, and investments.
	Road Guideline	0311	Road construction or reconstruction may occur where needed: a) To provide access related to reserved or outstanding rights, or b) To respond to statute or treaty, or c) To achieve restoration and maintenance objectives for vegetation, water quality, aquatic habitat, or terrestrial habitat, or d) To support management actions taken to reduce wildfire risks in wildland-urban interface areas; or e) To meet access and travel management objectives.
MPC 5.2 Commodity Production Emphasis within Forested Landscapes	Fire Standard	0312	Wildland fire use is prohibited.
	Fire Guideline	0313	Prescribed fire may be used to: a) Maintain or restore desired vegetative conditions on unsuited timberlands; or b) Maintain or restore desired fuel conditions for all vegetation types; or c) Maintain desired vegetative conditions on suited timberlands within PVGs 2 through 10.
	Fire Guideline	0314	The full range of fire suppression strategies may be used to suppress wildfires. Emphasize strategies and tactics that minimize impacts to developments and investments.
MPC 6.1	Fire Guideline	0315	The full range of treatment activities, except wildland fire use, may be used to restore and maintain desired vegetation and fuel conditions. Salvage harvest may also occur.

MPC/Resource Area	Direction	Number	Management Direction Description
MPC 6.1 Restoration and Maintenance Emphasis within Shrubland and Grassland Landscapes	Fire Guideline	0316	The full range of fire suppression strategies may be used to suppress wildfires. Emphasize strategies and tactics that minimize impacts to habitats, developments, and investments.
	Road Guideline	0317	Road construction or reconstruction may occur where needed: a) To provide access related to reserved or outstanding rights, or b) To respond to statute or treaty, or c) To achieve restoration and maintenance objectives for vegetation, water quality, aquatic habitat, or terrestrial habitat, or d) To support management actions taken to reduce wildfire risks in wildland-urban interface areas; or e) To meet access and travel management objectives.
Soil, Water, Riparian, and Aquatic Resources	Objective	0318	Improve water quality and assist in de-listing 303(d) water bodies by reducing road-related accelerated sediment through a combination of road decommissioning, relocation, reconstruction, and maintenance in the Mann Creek, Pine Creek, West Fork Weiser River, East Branch Weiser River, East Fork Weiser River, Middle Fork Weiser River, and Little Weiser River drainages. The Little Weiser River drainage includes the Upper Little Weiser and Anderson Creek subwatersheds.
	Objective	0319	Restore riparian vegetation and floodplain function throughout the management area by reducing road-related impacts through relocation, reconstruction, or obliteration.
	Objective	0320	Restore riparian areas by relocating or hardening dispersed recreation sites in the Mann Creek, Cabin Creek, Lost Creek, and Anderson Creek drainages, and the horse camping area in the Jungle Creek drainage.
	Objective	0321	Avoid genetic hybridization of isolated populations of bull trout, while improving connectivity between genetically similar fish subpopulations and necessary fish habitat components in the Upper Hornet Creek, Upper East Fork Weiser River, Upper Little Weiser River, and Anderson Creek subwatersheds.
	Objective	0322	Reduce riparian road density and stream crossings in all drainages, with emphasis on those with bull trout populations or suitable habitat.
	Objective	0323	Initiate restoration of and watershed conditions and fish habitat in the Upper East Fork Weiser River, Upper Little Weiser River, Middle Hornet, and Anderson Creek subwatersheds to help strengthen bull trout populations.
Vegetation	Objective	0324	Allow natural succession to dominate in the Warm Dry Subalpine Fir group along ridges and alpine summits. Increase early seral conifer species (Douglas-fir, western larch, Engelmann spruce, and lodgepole pine) in the Warm Dry Subalpine Fir group on the east side and north of Cuddy Mountain.
	Objective	0325	Maintain and promote native grasses and aspen where they occur, and maintain or restore desired conditions for age and canopy class structure in sagebrush and bitterbrush cover types.
	Objective	0326	Restore structure and composition of shrub and deciduous tree components in those portions of riparian areas where these components are missing or on a downward trend.

MPC/Resource Area	Direction	Number	Management Direction Description
Vegetation	Objective	0327	Restore herbaceous and hydric plant composition in the Beaver Creek and Warm Springs Creek drainages to move toward desired conditions for species composition in these areas.
Botanical Resources	Objective	0328	Maintain or restore known populations and occupied habitats of TEPCS plant species, including Snake River goldenweed, giant helleborine orchid, Tolmie's onion, squaw apple, dwarf gray rabbitbrush, and Mahala-mat ceanothus to contribute to the long-term viability of these species.
	Objective	0329	Continue long-term monitoring of Snake River goldenweed to determine whether the viability of local populations is maintained over the long-term.
Non-native Plants	Objective	0330	To reduce impacts on native plants and other resources, eradicate new and small infestations of spotted knapweed, rush skeletonweed, and leafy spurge. Control density and size of Scotch thistle, Dalmatian toadflax, and whitetop populations. Contain or reduce yellow toadflax and Canada thistle where they occur in the area.
Wildlife Resources	Goal	0331	Restore northern Idaho ground squirrel habitat quality, abundance, and connectivity to promote recovery of the species.
	Objective	0332	Implement the recovery plan for the northern Idaho ground squirrel, when approved, to promote recovery of the species
	Objective	0333	Improve enforcement of yearlong and seasonal road closures through signing and on-the-ground patrols to allow for improved big-game security.
	Objective	0334	Coordinate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game to reduce bull elk vulnerability through the use of security areas and reductions in open road density to move toward State herd composition objectives.
	Objective	0335	Maintain or restore the quality and abundance of forage in the Mountain Big Sagebrush and Bitterbrush vegetation groups to improve big-game winter/spring range habitat.
	Objective	0336	Maintain or improve bald eagle nest sites at Lost Valley Reservoir to provide eagle nesting and roosting habitat and contribute to recovery of the species.
	Objective	0337	Increase white-headed woodpecker habitat by managing ponderosa pine stands within the Ponderosa Pine/Xeric Douglas-fir, Warm Dry Douglas-fir/Moist Ponderosa Pine, and Dry Grand Fir vegetation groups toward the desired ranges of size classes, canopy closures, species composition, snags, and coarse woody debris, as described in Appendix A. The ranges of these components may vary by management prescription.
	Objective	0338	Increase flammulated owl habitat by managing ponderosa pine stands within the Warm Dry Douglas-fir/Moist Ponderosa Pine and Dry Grand Fir vegetation groups toward the desired ranges of size classes, canopy closures, species composition, snags, and coarse woody debris, as described in Appendix A. The ranges of these components may vary by management prescription category.
	Standard	0339	The northern Idaho ground squirrel will receive priority consideration for all management activities that occur within their known occupied habitat. The intent of this standard is not to exclude all other activities within this habitat, but rather to reduce or minimize potential impacts to this species while emphasizing habitat improvement within and adjacent to known sites.

MPC/Resource Area	Direction	Number	Management Direction Description
Wildlife Resources	Standard	0340	Vegetation treatments must be designed and implemented to maintain or improve existing wildlife habitat values in forest stringers south of Cuddy Mountain. Forest stringers in this area are defined as narrow fingers of forested vegetation less than 500 feet wide, or isolated patches of forested vegetation less than 10 acres in size.
	Guideline	0341	An increase in the white-headed woodpecker or flammulated owl habitat may be achieved by the following methods: a) Reducing tree densities and ladder fuels under and around existing large ponderosa trees and snags to reduce the risk of tree-replacing fire and to restore more open canopy conditions. b) Managing the firewood program to retain large-diameter ponderosa pine and large snags of other species through signing, public education, size restriction, area closures, or other appropriate methods.
Recreation Resources	Objective	0342	Develop a Recreation Management Plan for the Lost Valley Reservoir area to reduce impacts to northern Idaho ground squirrel habitat.
	Objective	0343	Improve dispersed recreation facilities in the vicinity of Lost Valley Reservoir to manage increased recreation use and mitigate impacts on northern Idaho ground squirrel habitat.
	Objective	0344	Construct a developed campground adjacent to Lost Valley Reservoir that is not within northern Idaho ground squirrel habitat, as a replacement for the Slaughter Gulch dispersed site.
	Objective	0345	Close and rehabilitate the Slaughter Gulch dispersed recreation site to reduce impacts to and restore northern Idaho ground squirrel habitat.
	Objective	0346	Remove existing pit toilets and evaluate new locations for new or replacement vault toilets to reduce resource impacts from existing facilities.
	Objective	0347	Develop a winter recreation parking facility in the vicinity of Price Valley Guard Station to accommodate increasing snowmobile use.
	Objective	0348	Evaluate developed campgrounds and upgrade as needed to provide universal access and to accommodate larger camp trailers and recreation vehicles.
	Objective	0349	Develop and maintain a day use picnic area and interpretation site at the old Hornet Guard Station location to enhance recreational opportunities.
	Objective	0350	Develop and maintain a group camping area at Horse Cabin Flats to enhance recreational opportunities.
	Objective	0351	Develop and maintain a day use picnic area at the Mann Creek Guard Station site to enhance recreational opportunities.
	Objective	0352	Evaluate the need for dispersed campsites and establish sites within areas where they will have relatively low impacts to important biophysical resources.
	Objective	0353	Construct parking areas and provide information signs at key trailhead locations to provide parking and information for trail users. Parking for a minimum of two or three vehicles is needed in most cases.

<table>
<tr><th>MPC/Resource Area</th><th>Direction</th><th>Number</th><th>Management Direction Description</th></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="10">Recreation Resources</td><td>Objective</td><td>0354</td><td>Repair trails where erosion and water-caused resource damage is occurring. Repairs may include rehabilitating eroded trail sections, rerouting sections away from streams, and installing bridges.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Objective</td><td>0355</td><td>Seek to acquire trail easements through private lands to improve recreation access.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Objective</td><td>0356</td><td>Improve access to Rush Creek Falls by improving the Boundary Trail (#245) and the Rush Creek Trail (#262).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Objective</td><td>0357</td><td>Improve trail signing especially in areas near Council Mountain, Cuddy Mountain and Sturgill Peak where past management activities have made trail location difficult.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Objective</td><td>0358</td><td>Evaluate and incorporate methods to help prevent weed establishment and spread from off-road ATV/motorbike use in the Middle Mann Creek, Upper Mann Creek, Upper Monroe Creek, Sage Creek, Upper Keithly Creek, Lower Pine Creek, West Pine Creek, Upper Pine Creek, and Lower West Fork Weiser River subwatersheds. Methods to consider include annual weed inspection and treatment of trailheads and other high use areas; and posting educational notices in these areas to inform the public of areas that are highly susceptible to weed invasion and measures they can take to help prevent weed establishment and spread.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Objective</td><td>0359</td><td>Achieve or maintain the following ROS strategy:
<table>
<tr><th rowspan="2">ROS Class</th><th colspan="2">Percent of Mgt. Area</th></tr>
<tr><th>Summer</th><th>Winter</th></tr>
<tr><td>Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized</td><td>1%</td><td>10%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Semi-Primitive Motorized</td><td>11%</td><td>37%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Roaded Natural</td><td>16%</td><td>1%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Roaded Modified</td><td>72%</td><td>52%</td></tr>
</table>
The above numbers reflect current travel regulations. These numbers may change as a result of future travel regulation planning</td></tr>
<tr><td>Standard</td><td>0360</td><td>All new developed recreation facilities shall be located outside occupied NIDGS habitat.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Guideline</td><td>0361</td><td>Consider Justrite, Paradise, and Spring Creek Campgrounds as high priority areas for noxious weed inspection, eradication, and prevention. Noxious weed detection, management, and prevention should be practiced and promoted at these facilities on an annual basis.</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="4">Cultural Resources</td><td>Objective</td><td>0362</td><td>Prepare management plans for all properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places, including Indian Mountain Fire Lookout (PY-616) and Council Ranger Station Administrative Site (PY-540) to meet federal requirements for the management of historic properties.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Objective</td><td>0363</td><td>Continue data recovery on damaged historic property at PY-399 to meet federal requirements for the management of historic properties.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Objective</td><td>0364</td><td>Continue to source obsidian artifacts from PY-399 and other sites through chemical identification to meet federal requirements for identification of historic properties.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Objective</td><td>0365</td><td>Maintain the historic character of Sturgill Peak Lookout to meet federal requirements for the management of historic properties.</td></tr>
</table>

MPC/Resource Area	Direction	Number	Management Direction Description
Timberland Resources	Objective	0366	Reduce the acres of Douglas-fir dwarf mistletoe infection in the upper elevations of the Hitt Mountains by regenerating stands and planting ponderosa pine and non-host species, if possible, or by creating openings without infected residual trees.
	Objective	0367	Reduce the opportunity for noxious weed establishment and spread by keeping suitable weed sites to a minimum during timber harvest activities in the Middle Mann Creek, Upper Mann Creek, Upper Keithly Creek, Lower Pine Creek, West Pine Creek, and Upper Pine Creek subwatersheds. Consider such methods as designated skid trails, winter skidding, minimal fireline construction, broadcast burning rather than pile burning, or keeping slash piles small to reduce heat transfer to the soil.
	Guideline	0368	Existing noxious weed infestations should be treated on landings, skid trails, and helibases in the project area before timber harvest activities begin in the Middle Mann Creek, Upper Mann Creek, Upper Keithly Creek, Lower Pine Creek, West Pine Creek, and Upper Pine Creek subwatersheds.
Rangeland Resources	Objective	0369	Establish grazing capacities and provide management systems that help restore riparian vegetation in the Beaver Creek, Warm Springs Creek, and lower Lost Creek drainages.
	Objective	0370	Evaluate and incorporate methods to help prevent weed establishment and spread from livestock grazing activities in the Middle Mann Creek, Upper Mann Creek, Upper Monroe Creek, Sage Creek, Upper Keithly Creek, Lower Pine Creek, West Pine Creek, and Upper Pine Creek subwatersheds. Methods to consider include changes in the timing, intensity, duration, or frequency of livestock use; the location of salting; and restoration of watering sites.
	Objective	0371	Make allotment management planning on the Warm Springs Allotment a priority.
	Objective	0372	Establish grazing capacities and provide management systems that help restore riparian vegetation on the Warm Springs Allotment.
	Objective	0373	Determine the best class of livestock (cow/calves, steer, ewe/lambs or yearling sheep) to graze the Warm Springs allotment to minimize impacts to riparian areas.
	Standard	0374	Livestock salting shall be located outside occupied NIDGS habitat.
	Guideline	0375	Coordinate livestock use and activity with NIDGS habitat needs.
Fire Management	Objective	0376	Use prescribed fire and mechanical treatments within and adjacent to wildland-urban interface areas and Forest Service administrative sites to manage fuels to reduce wildfire hazards. Develop and prioritize vegetation treatment plans for wildland-urban interface in coordination with local and tribal governments, agencies, and landowners.
	Objective	0377	Use prescribed fire to increase early seral conifer species in the higher-elevation vegetation groups from Cuddy Mountain north to Smith Mountain.
	Objective	0378	Coordinate and emphasize fire education and prevention programs with private landowners to help reduce wildfire hazards and risks. Work with landowners to increase defensible space around structures.

MPC/Resource Area	Direction	Number	Management Direction Description
Fire Management	Standard	0379	Once a Wildland Fire Situation Analysis (WFSA) is approved, heavy equipment shall not be used to construct fire lines within occupied NIDGS habitat unless: a) The line officer or designee determines that imminent safety to human life or protection of structures is an issue; OR b) The incident resource advisor determines and documents an escaped fire would cause more degradation to occupied NIDGS habitat than would result from heavy equipment disturbance. In no case will the decision to use heavy equipment in occupied NIDGS habitat be delayed when the line officer or designee determines safety or loss of human life or protection of structures is at imminent risk.
	Standard	0380	Once a WFSA is approved, incident bases, camps, helibases, staging areas, helispots, and other centers for incident activities shall be located outside of occupied NIDGS habitat unless the only suitable location for such activities is determined and documented by the line officer or designee to be within occupied NIDGS habitat. In no case will the decision to place these activities inside occupied NIDGS habitat be delayed when the line officer or designee determines safety or loss of human life or structures is at imminent risk.
	Standard	0381	Once a WFSA is approved, avoid delivery of chemical retardant, foam, or additives to all surfaces within occupied NIDGS habitat unless: a) The line officer or designee determines that imminent safety to human life or protection of structures is an issue; OR b) The incident resource advisor determines and documents an escaped fire would cause more degradation to occupied NIDGS habitat, than would be caused by chemical, foam or additive delivery to the habitat. In no case will the decision to avoid delivery of chemical retardant, foam or additives to occupied NIDGS habitat be delayed when the line officer or designee determines safety or loss of human life or protection of structures is at imminent risk
	Guideline	0382	Coordinate with the Boise National Forest, State of Idaho, and the BLM to develop compatible wildland fire suppression and wildland fire use strategies.
Lands and Special Uses	Objective	0383	Acquire an avigation easement for Price Valley Guard Station Helibase flight path to allow for the future use of Price Valley as a helibase in the midst of wildland-urban interface subdivision developments.
	Objective	0384	Use land ownership adjustments to acquire northern Idaho ground squirrel habitat to contribute to recovery efforts.
	Objective	0385	Acquire state land parcel (Section 16) north of Lost Valley Reservoir to improve management of northern Idaho ground squirrel habitat.
	Objective	0386	Acquire state land within Rush Creek Subwatershed in order to maintain the semi-primitive recreation setting and opportunities in this portion of the Cuddy Mountain Roadless Area.
	Objective	0387	Prepare site plans for the Sturgill Peak, Cow Mountain, and Indian Mountain communications sites to meet agency policy and eliminate potential use conflicts.

MPC/Resource Area	Direction	Number	Management Direction Description
Lands and Special Uses	Objective	0388	Use land exchange opportunities and easement acquisitions to acquire land parcels and/or road easements to improve access to the Rush Peak/Rush Falls portion of the Forest.
	Objective	0389	Issue a Federal Roads and Trails Act easement to Adams County for the 0.6-mile section of the Lost Valley Reservoir loop road, from U.S. Highway 95 to the first cattle guard.
	Guideline	0390	Give preference to analysis and approval of authorizations for new rights-of-way or other utility–related facilities requested within the utility corridors in this area (Oxbow-McCall power line corridor, Council-Cuprum Road corridor, State Highway 71 corridor, and Cambridge-New Meadows power line corridor).
Facilities and Roads	Objective	0391	Coordinate transportation system development, management, and decommissioning with cost-share cooperators to develop a shared transportation system serving the lands of all parties.
	Objective	0392	Maintain Price Valley Guard Station as a heli-rappel base to train and board fire-fighting personnel, and to maintain and store fire-fighting equipment.
	Objective	0393	Evaluate and use methods to help prevent weed establishment and spread from road management activities in the Middle Mann Creek, Upper Mann Creek, Upper Monroe Creek, Sage Creek, Upper Keithly Creek, Lower Pine Creek, West Pine Creek, and Upper Pine Creek subwatersheds. Methods to consider include: a) When decommissioning roads, treat weeds before roads are made impassable. b) Schedule road maintenance when weeds are least likely to be viable or spread. Blade from least to most infested sites. c) Consult or coordinate with the district noxious weed coordinator when scheduling road maintenance activities. d) Periodically inspect road systems and rights of way. e) Avoid accessing water for dust abatement through weed-infested sites, or utilize mitigation to minimize weed seed transport.