INTRODUCTION

This appendix describes Research Natural Areas (RNAs) that have been established or proposed on the three Ecogroup National Forests. The identification and establishment of a national network or RNAs is Congressionally mandated in the National Forest Management Act (36 CFR Sec. 219.25; 36 CFR 251.23) and states, "Forest planning shall provide for the establishment of RNAs. Planning shall make provision for the identification of examples of important forest, shrubland, grassland, alpine, aquatic, and geologic types that have special and unique characteristics of scientific interest and importance...and that are needed to complete the National network of RNAs."

BOISE NATIONAL FOREST

Established RNAs

Fourteen RNAs have been established within the Boise National Forest, ten of those since the original Forest Plan was approved in 1990. A brief description of each follows in Table I-1.

Table I-1. Established RNAs on the Boise National Forest

Name	Year Est.	Acres	Representation
Back Creek	1996	1,368	Subalpine fir habitat types
Bannock Creek	1971	438	Ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, aspen, and oak shrub communities
Bear Creek	1971	387	Undisturbed sagebrush-grass community
Chilcoot Peak	1996	1,294	Undistubed alpine lake and pond; lodgepole pine/Idahofescue
Dry Buck	1996	693	Grand fir/Rocky Mt. maple community on Idaho batholith
Eggers Creek	1996	325	Douglas-fir community with steep-to-moderate gradient stream
Elk Creek Enclosure	1979	108	Undisturbed grassland community
Lowman	1971	380	Ponderosa pine forest community
Monumental Creek	1996	749	Ponderosa pine woodland and bluebunch wheatgrass community
Needles	1996	985	Alpine lake, wet meadows, older glades, subalpine fir types
North Fork Boise River	1996	876	Riparian area with rare plant, *Chaenactis evermanii*
Raspberry Gulch	1996	595	Douglas-fir forest, ponderosa woodland, big mountain sage
Roaring River	1996	423	*Happlopappus aberrans* community
Trinity Mountain	1996	204	Undisturbed high alpine plant communities

Proposed RNAs

No additional RNAs are proposed at this time. No new information has been identified that would initiate additional areas to be included in the RNA system.

PAYETTE NATIONAL FOREST

Established RNAs

Thirteen RNAs have been established within the Payette National Forest, 12 of those since the original Forest Plan was approved in 1988. A brief description of each follows in Table I-2.

Table I-2. Established RNAs on the Payette National Forest

Name	Year Est.	Acres	Representation
Bear Creek	1996	409	Grand fir/blue huckleberry, grand fir/birch-leaved spiraea habitats
Belvidere Creek	1996	2,920	Subalpine fir habitats and wetland plant communities on granitic and volcanic substrates
Bruin Mountain	1989	680	Subalpine fir and whitebark pine habitats, rare plant
Circle End	1996	1,464	Ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir forest
Council Mountain	1996	111	Subalpine meadow, mountain big sage, subalpine fir habitats
Cuddy Mountain	1996	1,030	Douglas-fir and subalpine fir forests, bluebunch wheatgrass
Emery Creek	1996	685	Douglas-fir forest, Idaho fescue grassland, greenbush, rigid sage
Lava Butte	1996	370	Subalpine aquatic features, granitic and basalt substrates
Lost Basin Grassland	1996	75	Idaho fescue, bluebunch wheatgrass, and shrubland communities
Phoebe Meadows	1996	1,500	Douglas-fir and subalpine fir forests, wet sedge meadows
Pony Creek	1996	1,900	Vegetation transition between northern and southern Idaho
Pony Meadows	1979	1,400	Undisturbed wet meadows, shallow lake, ponds, and bogs
Rocky Comfort Flat	1996	996	Douglas-fir habitat, low and stiff sagebrush, grasslands, waterfall

Proposed RNAs

One RNA, Patrick Butte, is currently proposed; this area was also nominated for RNA designation in the 1988 Forest Plan. A draft establishment record has been completed for this area. The area has not yet been established as an RNA because the environmental analysis has not been completed. The Patrick Butte proposed RNA is an estimated 1,112 acres and represents whitebark pine and subalpine fir communities, several aquatic features, and wet sedge meadows in high alpine cirque basins.

SAWTOOTH NATIONAL FOREST

Established RNAs

Six RNAs have been established within the Sawtooth National Forest, all six of those since the original Forest Plan was approved in 1987. A brief description of each follows in Table I-3.

Table I-3. Established RNAs on the Sawtooth National Forest

Name	Year Est.	Acres	Representation
Mount Harrison	1996	381	Relatively undisturbed subalpine vegetation, four rare plants
Pole Canyon	1996	165	Douglas-fir, aspen, big and black sagebrush communities
Pole Creek Exclosure	1996	27	Mountain big sagebrush and subalpine fir habitats in floodplain
Redfish Lake Moraine	1996	1,470	Alpine glacier lateral moraine, cold springs, Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, and subalpine fir communities
Sawtooth Valley Peatlands	1996	273	Rare peatland communities, and five rare plants
Trapper Creek	1996	453	Utah juniper woodland and dwarf shrubland vegetation

Proposed RNAs

One RNA, Basin Gulch, is currently proposed; this area was also nominated for RNA designation in the 1987 Forest Plan. The area has not yet been established as an RNA because the environmental analysis has not been completed. The Basin Gulch proposed RNA is an estimated 1,175 acres, and represents limber pine communities.

SUMMARY

Within the Ecogroup area, established RNAs comprise 25,135 acres, and the two proposed RNAs comprise 2,287 acres. Together, they total 27,422 acres, or about four-tenths of one percent of the land base for the entire Ecogroup area.