

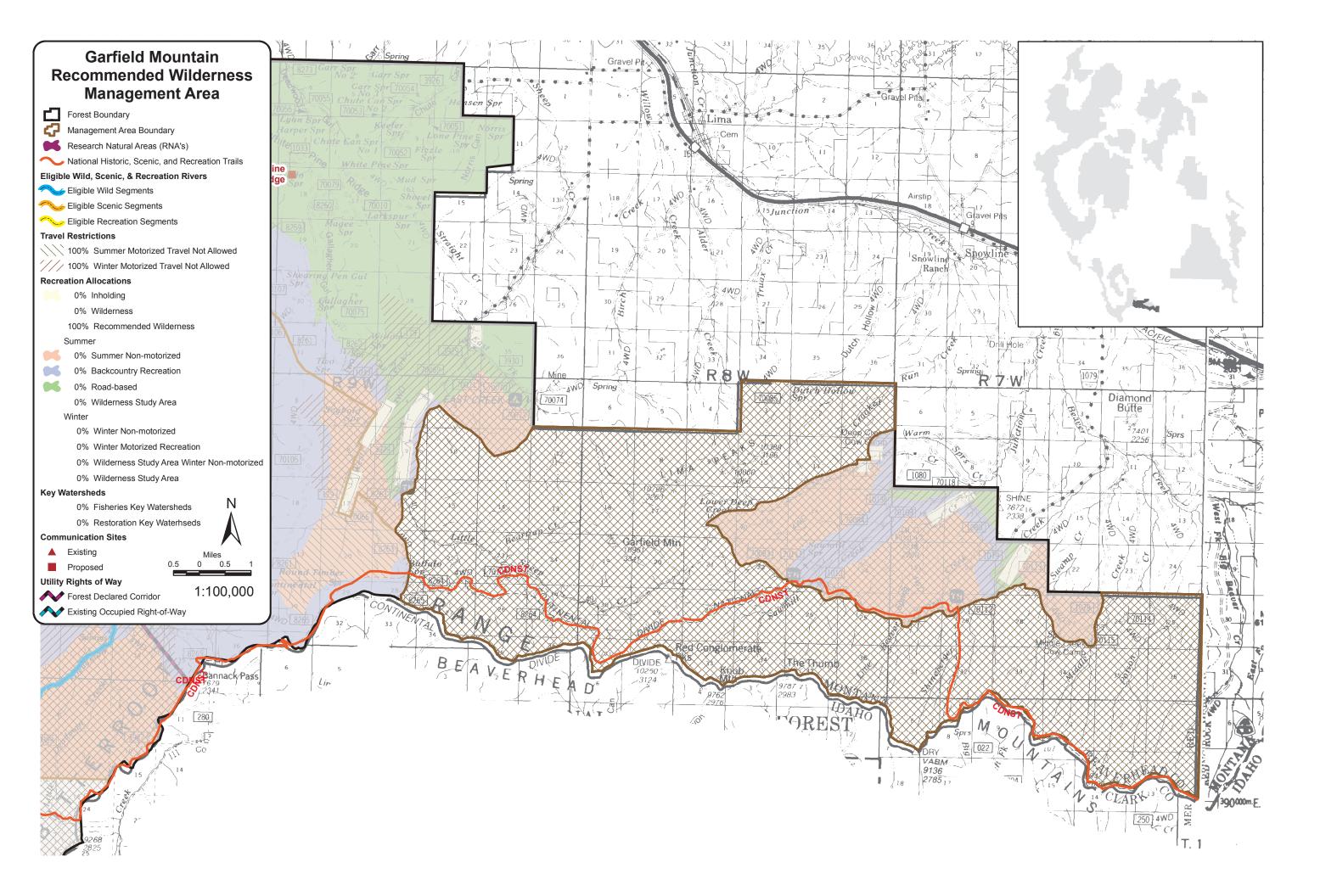
LIMA TENDOY LANDSCAPE

The Lima Tendoy Landscape is located in the southwest corner of Montana. BLM lands are a large component of the overall landscape. The Horse Prairie and Big Sheep Creek Valleys surround the Tendoy Mountains. These valleys in turn are bordered by the Beaverhead Mountains, the crest of which form the Idaho border and Continental Divide. This section of the Continental Divide contains one of the tallest groups of mountain peaks in Montana. Along the southern edge of the landscape grasslands uniquely transition directly to rocky peaks, without the usual band of conifers between these two cover types.

National Forest lands in this landscape are dominated by sagebrush-grasslands. Forests include lodgepole pine, dry site Douglas-fir, spruce and subalpine fir, and whitebark pine. Wet meadows, aspen stands, and riparian willow zones are common within both of these general vegetation types. The Forest provides habitat for a wealth of birds, waterfowl, small mammals, and big game species, including elk, moose, bighorn sheep, and mountain goats. Habitat along the Continental Divide links wildlife in the Centennial, Lima Tendoy, and Beaverhead mountains, and provides a connection between the Greater Yellowstone and Bitterroot Ecosystems. Sage grouse migrate over the divide between Montana and Idaho.

Grasslands dominate, making livestock grazing a valued traditional use. This landscape includes the second largest area on the Forest with moderate potential for oil and gas. Numerous historic and prehistoric Native American sites date back at least 12,000 years.

Recreation use is usually most concentrated during hunting season. In the summer months people occasionally use roads, dispersed campsites, the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, the Nez Perce National Historic Trail, and the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. The only National Landmark on the Forest, Lemhi Pass National Historic Landmark, is located along the Continental Divide and managed jointly with the Salmon-Challis National Forest.



Garfield Mountain Recommended Wilderness Management Area

This area is managed to protect wilderness characteristics and provide recreation with high levels of challenge and solitude.

The setting is semi-primitive with natural appearing scenery. Summer recreation includes light non-motorized use on roads and trails. Dispersed use is heaviest in hunting season.

The area has high quality big game winter range.

Livestock grazing is a valued use in this management area. Otherwise, vegetation is managed through prescribed and natural fire.

Visitors may encounter

Native vegetation changes only from fire and other natural events

Wildlife, including forest carnivores

Livestock

Objectives in addition to Forestwide Objectives

None

Standards in addition to Forestwide Standards

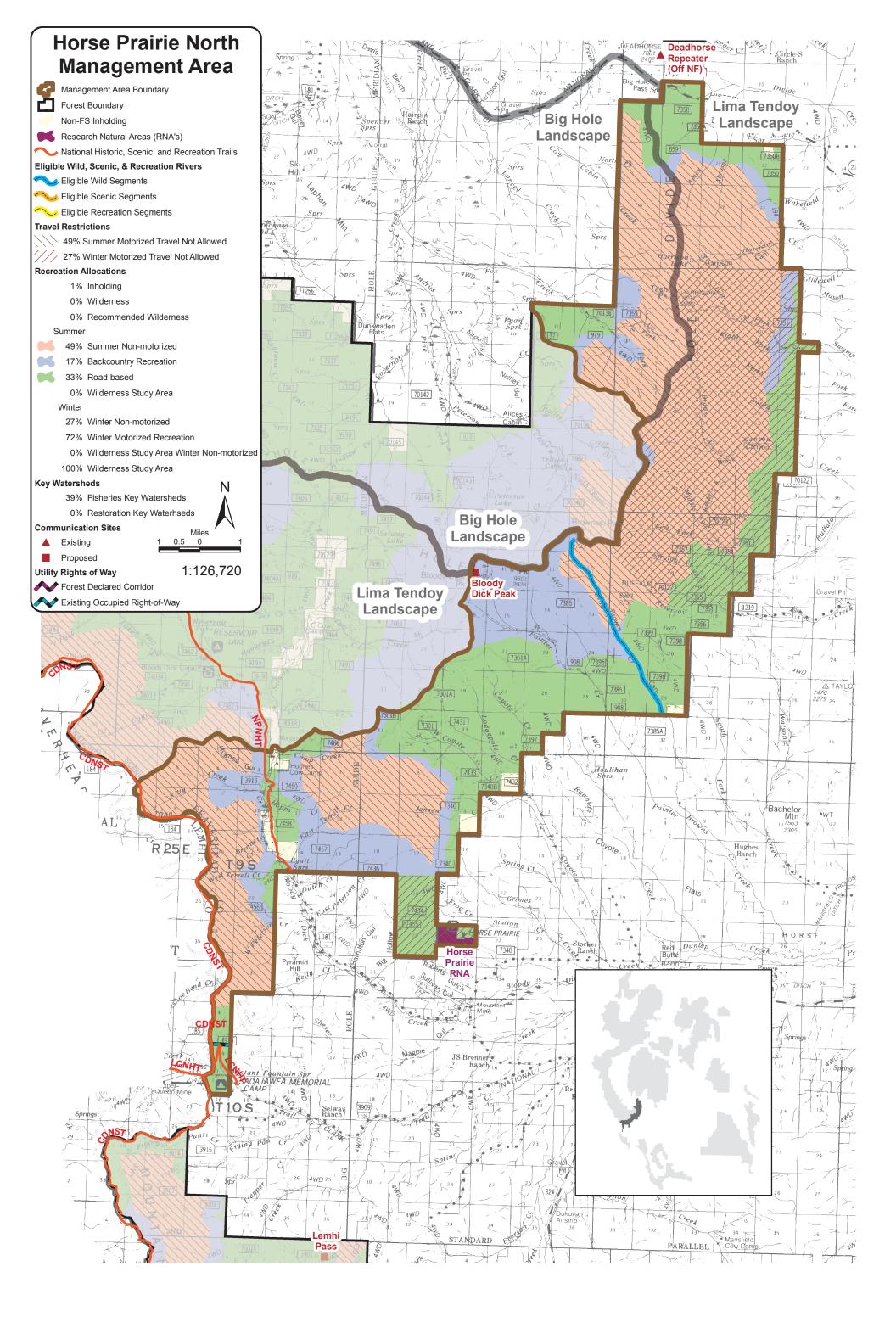
Minimum Scenic Integrity Objective - Very High

Management of the area if released from wilderness designation

Semi-primitive non-motorized summer and a mix of semi-primitive motorized and non-motorized in winter (as mapped in Alternative 5)

Minimum Scenic Integrity Objective - High

Mountain bikes are allowed



Horse Prairie North Management Area

This area is managed for dispersed recreation, historic preservation, and forest products.

The recreation setting includes roaded and semi-primitive areas with both altered and natural appearing scenery. Locally and nationally, the area is unique for its included Lemhi Pass National Historic Landmark and three National Trail sections. The road system includes the graveled county road across Lemhi Pass, a mile of Highway 278, and several system and primitive roads along the Forest boundary. Hunting, traveling along national trails, Lemhi Pass interpretation, hiking, mountain biking, and ATV riding on primitive roads and trails are common activities. Snowmobiling is the most common winter recreation, with many people accessing the area from Idaho. The distance from populated areas and access make cross country skiing uncommon.

Winter motorized closures on the north end provide secure winter wildlife habitat.

Vegetation is managed through timber harvest and timber production, livestock grazing, and with fire or other natural changes.

Buffalo, Fox, Reservoir, and Painter Creeks are fisheries key watersheds, managed to conserve native fish populations.

Visitors may encounter

Vegetation changes from timber harvest or fire

Motor vehicles and mountain bike riders on a variety of roads and trails in the foothills

Visitors at Lemhi Pass or traveling along national trails

Snowmobilers

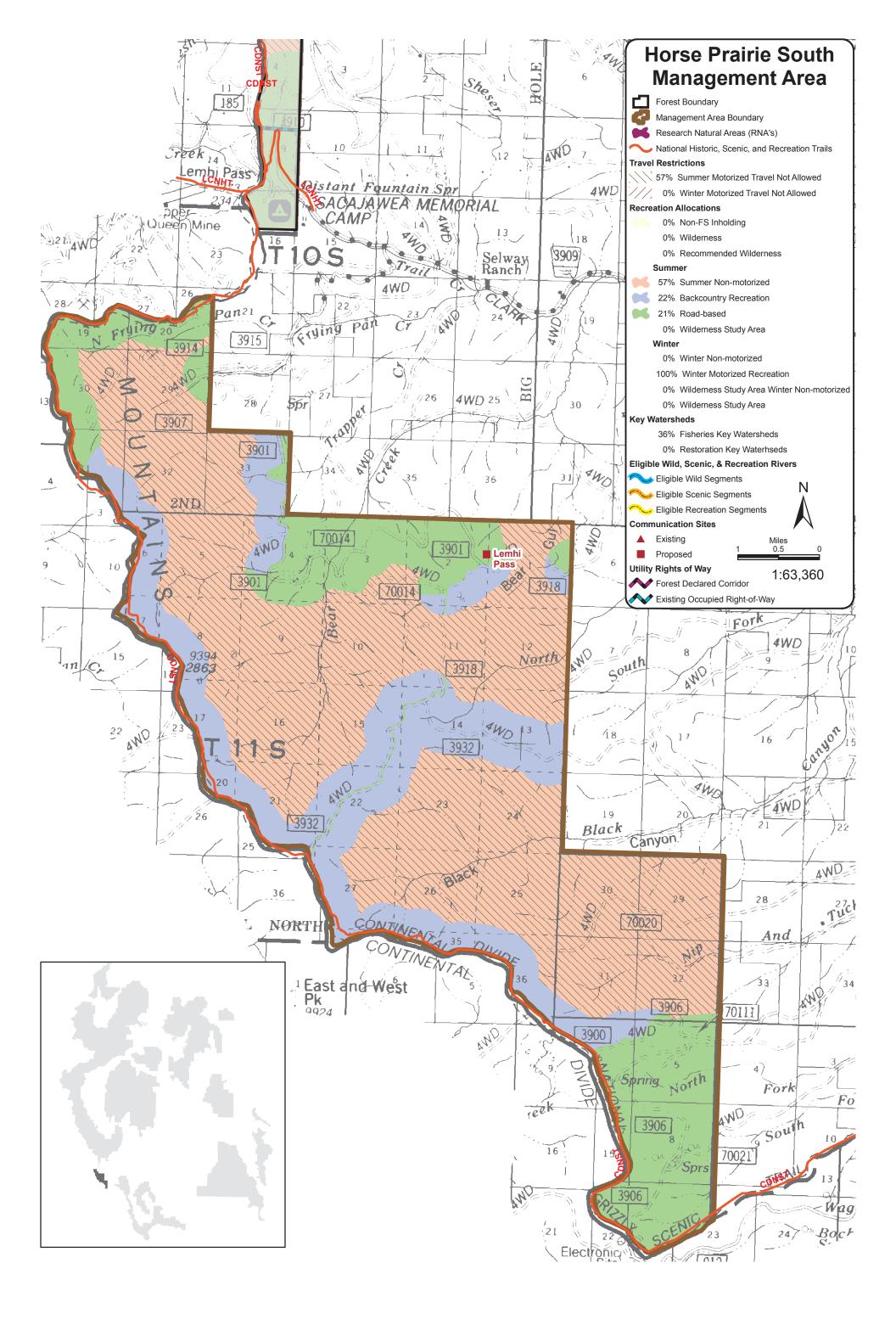
Livestock

Objectives in addition to Forestwide Objectives

None

Standards in addition to Forestwide Standards

Expansion of the utility corridor or its uses in areas visible from Lemhi Pass National Historic Landmark is not allowed



Horse Prairie South Management Area

This area is managed for livestock grazing and remote dispersed recreation.

The recreation setting is mostly semi-primitive non-motorized with some backcountry and roaded areas. The area is remote from populated areas and access is primitive. Backcountry recreation, including hunting, traveling along the continental divide, hiking, mountain biking, and ATV riding on primitive roads and trails is available but use outside of hunting season is light. The entire area is open to travel in winter. Snowmobiling is the most common winter recreation. Some visitors access the area from Idaho. The distance from populated areas and access make cross country skiing uncommon.

Vegetation is managed through grazing allotments and with fire or other natural changes.

Bear Creek is a fisheries key watershed, managed to conserve native fish populations.

Visitors may encounter

Vegetation changes from timber harvest or fire

Motor vehicles and mountain bike riders on a variety of roads and trails in the foothills

Snowmobilers

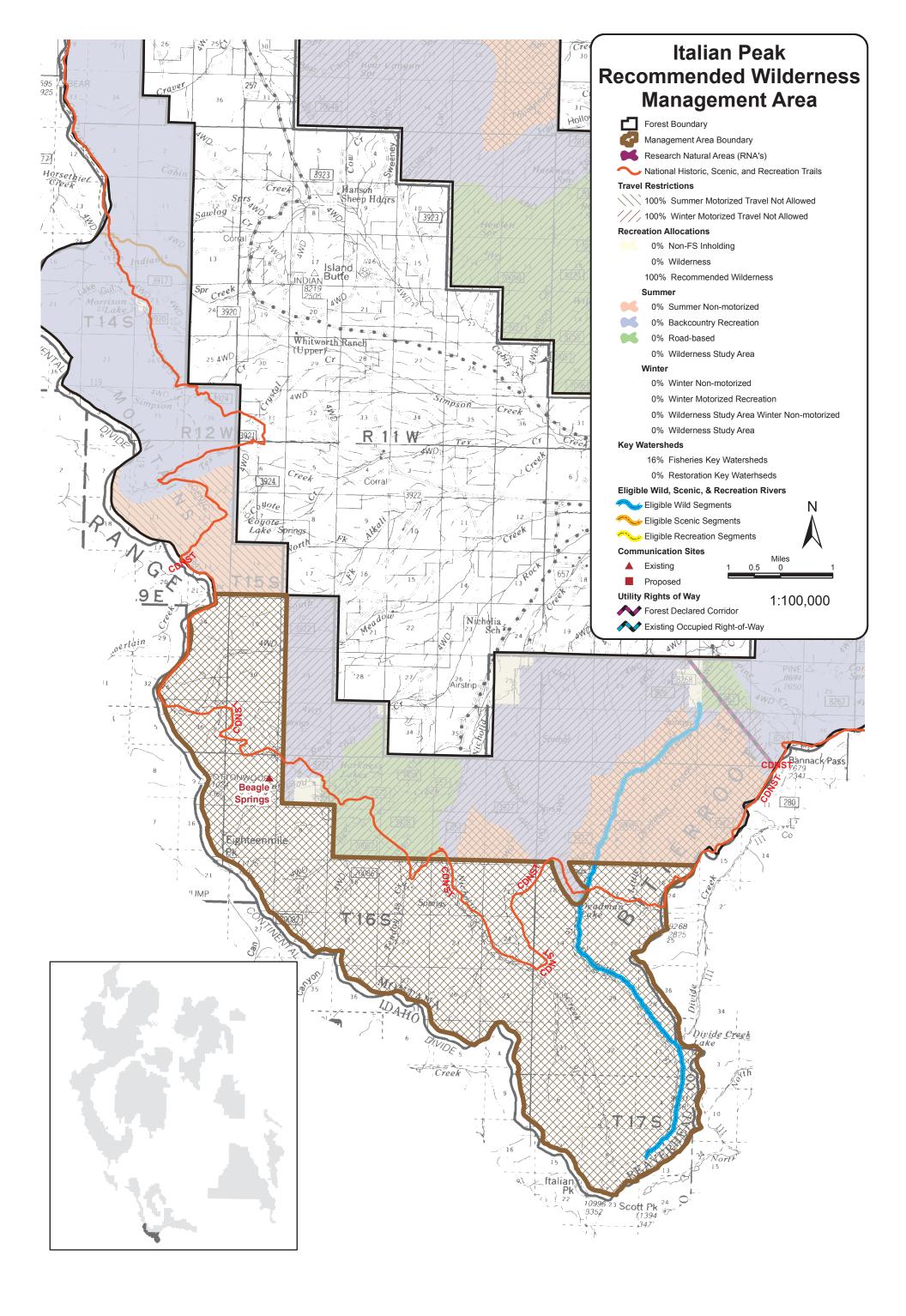
Livestock

Objectives in addition to Forestwide Objectives

None

Standards in addition to Forestwide Standards

None



Italian Peak Recommended Wilderness Management Area

This area is managed to protect wilderness characteristics and provide non-motorized recreation with high levels of challenge and solitude.

The Italian Peak area has been recommended for wilderness designation since 1986, in combination with adjacent lands in Idaho on the Targhee-Caribou National Forest and Bureau of Land Management. The recreation setting is semi-primitive non-motorized recreation. Recreation use in the area is highest in hunting season. Other common activities are hiking, horse use, dispersed camping, and fishing.

Vegetation is managed through prescribed and natural fire and livestock grazing.

Nicholia Creek is a fisheries key watershed, managed to conserve native fish populations.

Visitors may encounter

Native vegetation changes only from fire or other natural events

Livestock

Objectives in addition to Forestwide Objectives

None

Standards in addition to Forestwide Standards

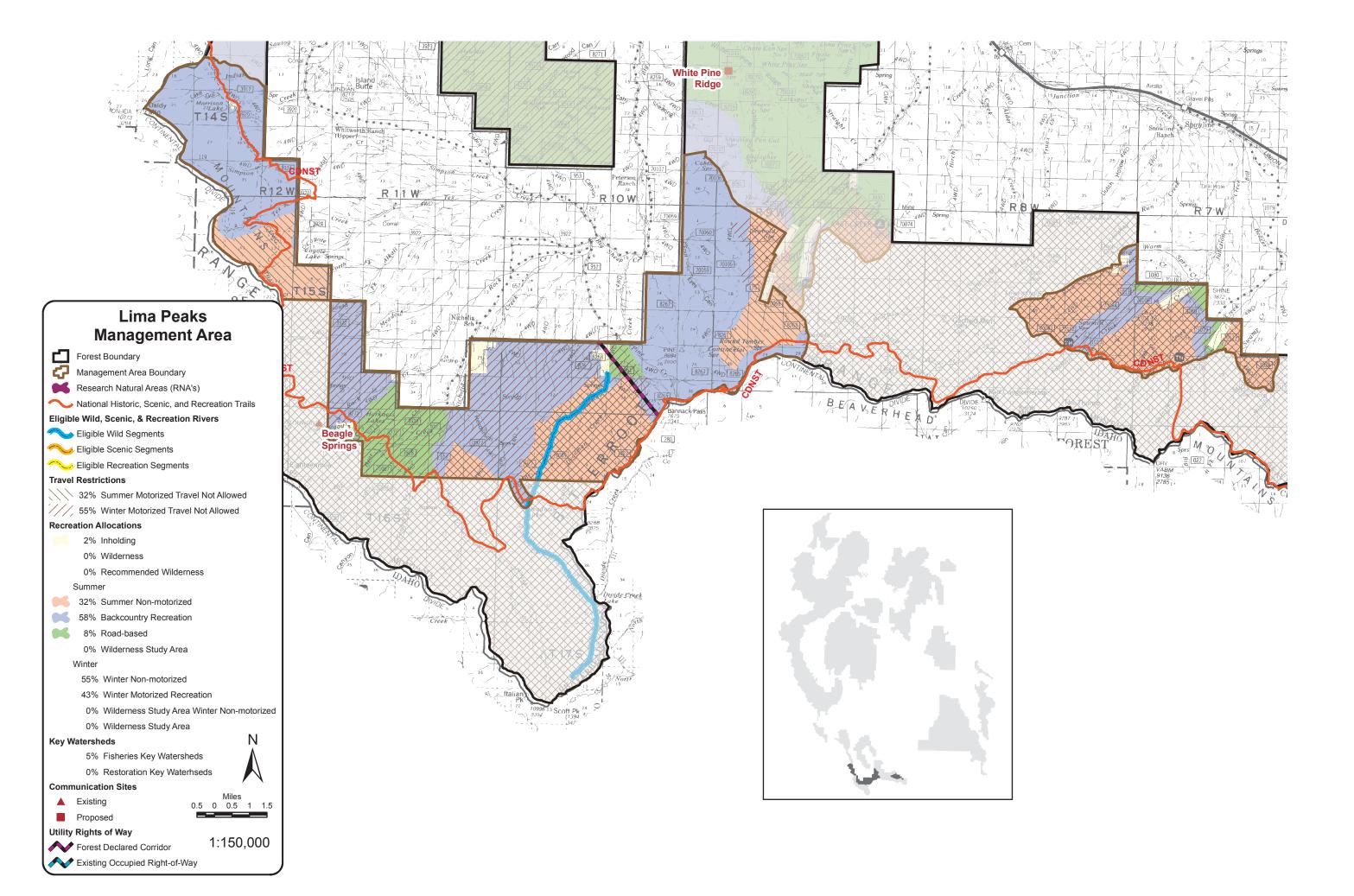
Minimum Scenic Integrity Objective – Very High

Management changes if released from wilderness designation

Semi-primitive non-motorized summer (as mapped in Alternative 1) and winter

Minimum Scenic Integrity Objective - High

Mountain bikes are allowed



Lima Peaks Management Area

This area is managed for livestock grazing, dispersed recreation, and wildlife habitat.

The setting is semi-primitive with predominantly natural appearing scenery. Summer recreation includes light motorized and non-motorized use on roads and trails. The heaviest recreation use is in hunting season. Trailheads on low standard roads provide access to the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail.

Winter non-motorized allocations provide secure winter habitat for big game.

Vegetation may be managed by grazing, timber harvest, or fire. Oil and gas exploration is likely here on lands with moderate potential for these resources.

Lower Nicholia Creek is a fisheries key watershed managed to conserve native fish populations.

Visitors may encounter

Vegetation changes from timber harvest or fire

Motor vehicle and mountain bikers on a variety of roads and trails in the foothills

Dispersed amp sites along roads

Snowmobilers

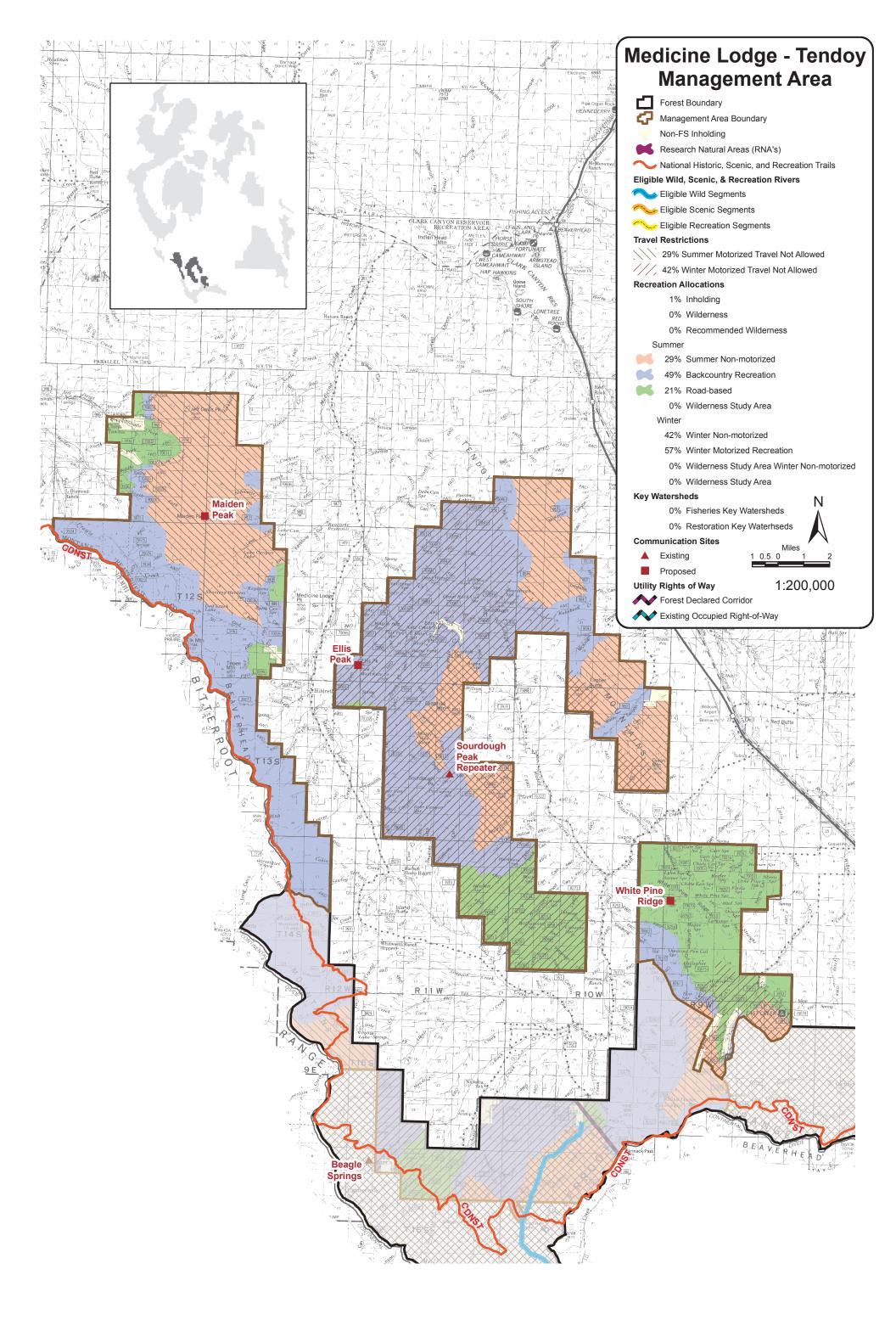
Livestock

Objectives in addition to Forestwide Objectives

Improve access to the Italian Peaks Recommended Wilderness by constructing a trailhead on the Nicholia Creek road

Standards in addition to Forestwide Standards

No net increase in roads. Existing roads may be reconstructed to trailheads



Medicine Lodge - Tendoy Management Area

This area is managed for livestock grazing, dispersed recreation, and wildlife habitat.

The recreation setting is mostly semi-primitive with natural appearing scenery. Most of the area roads are primitive. The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail is located in Idaho rather than in this area for most of this stretch of the Continental Divide. The majority of recreation here occurs in hunting season.

Winter non-motorized allocations provide secure winter habitat for big game.

Timber harvest or fire may be used to achieve vegetation and other resource objectives. Other land uses may include livestock grazing, mining and oil and gas exploration.

Visitors may encounter

Vegetation changes from timber harvest or fire

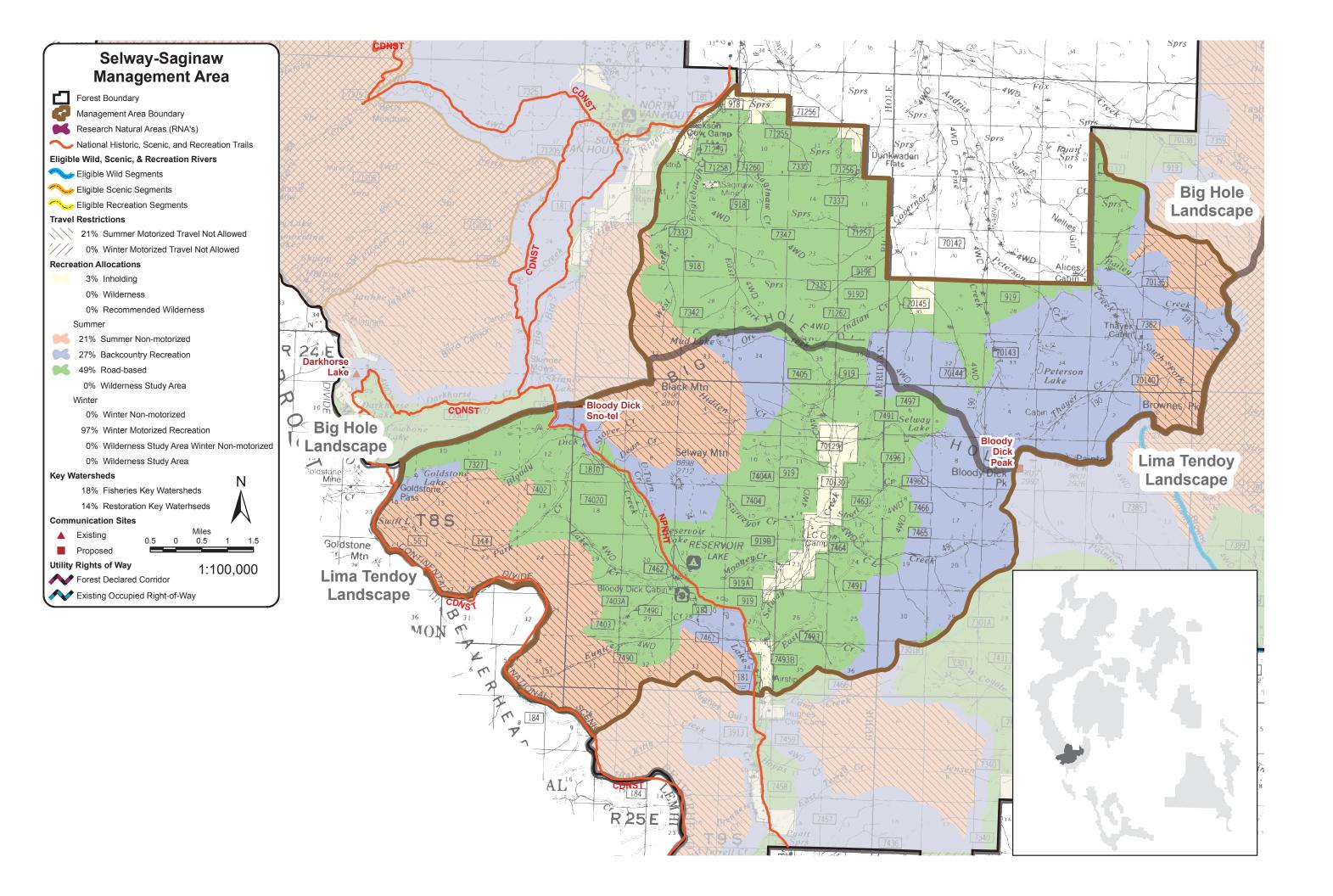
Livestock

Objectives in addition to Forestwide Objectives

None

Standards in addition to Forestwide Standards

None



Selway - Saginaw Management Area

This area is managed for timber production, livestock grazing, and dispersed recreation. The Selway-Saginaw area includes lands in the Big Hole and Lima Tendoy Landscapes. Stringer meadows are included in the mostly forested lands at the headwaters of the Big Hole River.

The setting is a mix of roaded and semi-primitive with altered and natural appearing scenery. Reservoir Lake Campground provides opportunity for boating (non-motorized or electric powered), fishing, and camping. Other recreation activities include motorized and non-motorized travel in summer along roads and trails, and dispersed camping. Hunting takes place in a largely non-motorized setting due to seasonal closures. Snowmobiling is a popular winter day use and is most common on roads.

Saginaw is a restoration key watershed managed to restore desirable watershed conditions. Andrus Creek is a fisheries key watershed managed to conserve native fish populations.

Visitors may encounter

Vegetation changes from timber harvest or fire

Motor vehicle and mountain bike riders on roads and trails in the foothills

Campers dispersed along roads and at developed campgrounds

Snowmobilers

Livestock

Objectives in addition to Forestwide Objectives

None

Standards in addition to Forestwide Standards

None