United States Department of Agriculture

Forest Service

Northern Region

January 2015

Errata for the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Kootenai National Forest Land Management Plan

Lincoln, Sanders, and Flathead Counties, Montana and Bonner and Boundary Counties, Idaho

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Errata Overview

The following errata to the KNF Land Management Plan final environmental impact statement (EIS) represent corrections related to technical errors, omissions, or clarifications per instructions provided through the pre-decisional review. This documentation, the final EIS, and the planning record provide the documentation of analysis supporting the final record of decision for the KNF Land Management Plan.

Errata maps for all alternatives can be found in the project record and online at: http://www.fs.usda.gov/kootenai.

Summary

Page iv: Comparison of Alternatives

Add the following text to the list of bullets describing the elements that do not change between alternatives:

- **Wild and Scenic Rivers –** Direction for, and allocation of, eligible wild and scenic rivers (MA2) remains constant for all alternatives.

Page v: Comparison of Alternatives

Replace table 1 with the following:

Table 1. Comparison Percent MA Allocation by Alternatives

MA	Alternative A[1]	Alternative B Modified	Alternative C	Alternative D
MA1a – Designated Wilderness	4.2%	4.2%	4.2%	4.2%
MA1b – Recommended Wilderness[4]	3.4%	4.6%	9.7%	1.6%
MA1c – Wilderness Study Area	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%
MA2 – Eligible Wild & Scenic Rivers	n/a	1.8%	1.7%	1.9%
MA3 – Special Areas	0.1%[2]	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%
MA4 – Research Natural Areas		0.4%	0.4%	0.4%
MA5a – Backcountry (Non-motorized Year-round)	15.5%	10.4%	15.2%	5.2%
MA5b – Backcountry (Motorized Year-round (Summer only on designated routes/areas)	--[3]	7.7%	5.5%	2.1%
MA5c – Backcountry (Motorized Winter, Non-motorized Summer)	n/a	3.9%	1.0%	5.3%
MA6 – General Forest	n/a	63.5%	58.9%	75.9%
MA7 – Primary Recreation Area	n/a	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%

[1] Alternative A, the no-action alternative, is included even though it does not use the management areas shown in the revised Forest Plan. See table 4 in chapter 2 for a crosswalk of the 1987 Plan management areas to those used in the revised Plan and the action alternatives
[2] For Alternative A, MA3 and 4 are a combined total, from MA21 in 1987 Plan
[3] For Alternative A, MA5a and 5b are a combined total from MAs 2, 3, and 29 in the 1987 Plan
[4] Does not include overlapped MAs, but only where MA1b is primary (see mapping hierarchy as described in chapter 3 of the revised Forest Plan)

Chapter 1—Purpose of and Need for Action

Page 8: Need for Change; Timber

Replace second "Need for Change" paragraph with the following text:

> The management direction in the 1987 Forest Plan emphasized the production of timber, with the majority of MAs allowing or promoting timber management. In the 1990s, the Forest Service began to focus on ecosystem management and ecological sustainability. This change in planning focus resulted in a decreased emphasis on commercial timber production and an increased emphasis on timber harvest as a tool to restore vegetation or as a means to address other resource requirements or needs. There is a need to reanalyze timber harvest levels and revise them.

Page 11: Relationship to Other Entities

Replace FEIS text with:

> The Planning Rule under 36 CFR §219.7(c) requires the review of planning and land use policies of other Federal Agencies, State and local governments and Indian tribes. This review includes (1) consideration of the objectives of these entities as expressed in their plans and policies; (2) an assessment of the interrelated impacts of these plans and policies; (3) determination of how the Forest revised plan should deal with impacts identified; and (4) where conflicts with Forest Service planning are identified, consideration of alternatives for resolution.
>
> County, State, and Federal plans were reviewed during the plan revision process. These plans are referenced and incorporated in numerous areas of analysis in the FEIS, including social and economic, water, air, wildlife, fire, and vegetation. Direction in the revised Forest Plan incorporates information from these other plans.

Page 12: County Governments

Replace FEIS text with:

> The Forest worked with County Governments in developing the revised plans. Their comments were reviewed during public comment phases. Meetings were held with the counties as needed (see the planning record, volume 1, and volume 2).
>
> Numerous county plans were reviewed during the Forest revision process. The interdisciplinary team did not find conflicts or inconsistencies with Forest Service planning and these county plans. Desired Conditions and Objectives were added to the Forest Plan to strengthen the Forests commitment to work with the counties, and other government agencies, in order to achieve multiple use goals on the IPNF. In addition, the direction found in the county community wildfire protection plans resulted in delineation of the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), which is integral to fire and vegetation management in the revised Plan.

Chapter 2—Alternatives, Including the Proposed Action

Page 18: Effects Common to Alternatives

Add the following bullet to the list of elements that do not change between alternatives:

- **Wild and Scenic Rivers –** Direction for, and allocation of, eligible wild and scenic rivers (MA2) remains constant for all alternatives.

Page 29–30: Alternatives Considered But Eliminated from Detailed Study; Additional Eligible Wild and Scenic River Designation

Replace FEIS text with:

Some commenters wanted to see eligible wild and scenic river designation for those rivers that had been inventoried and found to be eligible by a coalition in support of wild and scenic rivers. Their report (Colburn et al. 2011) describes an inventory they conducted and the resulting eligible wild and scenic rivers. A systematic inventory of named streams and rivers was completed by the KNF as part of the Forest Planning Process, as required by Forest Service Manual policy and the Wild and Scenic River Act. Documentation of this inventory and the resulting eligible wild and scenic rivers is documented in appendix E. To be eligible, a river must be free flowing and possess at least one outstandingly remarkable value that is rare, unique, or exemplary. A comparison was made between the inventories conducted by the KNF and the group's report. Although some of the rivers are the same, the coalition listed several additional rivers that were not determined as eligible wild and scenic rivers by the KNF. Although found to be eligible for wild and scenic rivers by the group, the following rivers are not included in any KNF action alternatives for the following reasons:

> **Granite Creek:** This creek was found by the group to have fisheries, recreation, and scenic outstandingly remarkable values. The KNF recognized some of these same *potential* values, but they were not rare, unique, or exemplary. The fish values of Bull trout can be found across the forest. There are similar recreation opportunities (hiking) and scenery (trail along creek, peaks, and lakes) values on multiple west side trails in the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness (Leigh Lake, Cedar Creek). Paddling opportunities are similar to South Fork Big, Libby, and Ross Creeks, but are not known to be a draw from outside the area. The KNF found no outstandingly remarkable values for this creek. Therefore, this creek is not eligible as a wild and scenic river.
>
> **Libby Creek:** This creek was found by the group to have fisheries and recreation outstandingly remarkable values. The KNF found no *potential* or outstandingly remarkable values for this creek. The fish values of bull trout can be found across the forest. Recreation (paddling with road access) opportunity is not unique on forest. Paddling opportunity is similar to Big and Ross Creeks. Therefore, this creek is not eligible as a wild and scenic river.
>
> **Rock Creek:** This creek was found by the group to have fisheries values. The KNF found scenery, wildlife, and botanical *potential* values, but they were not rare, unique, or exemplary. Fish values of bull trout can be found across the forest. Therefore, this creek is not eligible as a wild and scenic river.
>
> **Star Creek:** This creek was found by the group to have geologic and scenery outstandingly remarkable values. The KNF found no outstandingly remarkable values for this creek. Star Creek slides and falls are not the tallest on the forest, while scenic falls

are not unique or exceptional on the forest. Therefore, this creek is not eligible as a wild and scenic river.

Swamp Creek: This creek was found by the group to have fisheries, recreation, and scenery values. This stream was determined to be free flowing on National Forest lands above private property. Bull trout critical habitat is well distributed across the forest and not unique to Swamp Creek. Westslope Cutthroat trout is also well distributed across the Lower Clark Fork. While Swamp Creek Trail is a popular access into the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness, the recreation and scenery values are not unique or exemplary (compared to Bull River system).Therefore, this creek is not eligible as a wild and scenic river.

Wigwam River: This river was found by the group to have fisheries, recreation, and scenery values. The fisheries value for strong bull trout population, pure genetics, and critical habitat are not rare on the forest. Recreation and scenery values are similar to the surrounding area and not unique (Grave Creek). Therefore, this creek is not eligible as a wild and scenic river.

The number of additional creeks and rivers suggested for designation as eligible wild and scenic rivers supports the determination that these values are not rare, unique, or exemplary features. The KNF has many creeks and rivers that support many of these *potential* values. The additional streams and rivers do not have values that are rare, unique, or exemplary when considered at the forest scale.

Page 37: Comparison of Alternatives

Replace table 5 with the following:

Table 2. Comparisons of Alternatives by Management Area Allocation, Acres*, and Percent

MA	Alternative A		Alternative B Modified		Alternative C		Alternative D	
	Acres	Percent	Acres	Percent	Acres	Percent	Acres	Percent
1a	93,500	4.2%	93,700	4.2%	93,700	4.2%	93,700	4.2%
1b	76,500	3.4%	102,700	4.6%	215,900	9.7%	36,100	1.6%
1c	34,100	1.5%	34,100	1.5%	34,100	1.5%	34,100	1.5%
2	n/a	n/a	41,000	1.8%	38,600	1.7%	42,000	1.9%
3	15,900	0.1%	29,100	1.3%	28,100	1.3%	29,400	1.3%
4	--[1]	--	9,800	0.4%	8,400	0.4%	8,400	0.4%
5a	343,800	15.5%	230,800	10.4%	338,000	15.2%	114,600	5.2%
5b	--[2]	--	169,800	7.7%	122,000	5.5%	47,600	2.1%
5c	n/a	n/a	86,500	3.9%	21,700	0.9%	117,600	5.3%
6	n/a	n/a	1,408,700	63.5%	1,306,200	58.9%	1,683,200	75.9%
7	n/a	n/a	12,900	0.6%	12,400	0.6%	12,400	0.6%
Total Acres	**563,800**		**2,219,100**		**2,219,100**		**2,219,100**	

*Displayed acres are based on a single management area designation. Where management areas overlap (e.g., MA2 within MA1b), the following hierarchy is used in the acre summary: MA1a, MA4, MA1c, MA1b, MA2, MA3, and MA7. There are no overlaps in MA 5 or MA 6

[1] For Alternative A, MA3 and 4 are a combined total, from MA21 in 1987 Plan

[2] For Alternative A, MA5a and 5b are a combined total from MAs 2, 3, and 29 in the 1987 Plan

Chapter 3—Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

Page 48: Vegetation; Legal and Administrative Framework

Replace the Federal Noxious Weeds Act of 1974 with the following:

- **The Plant Protection Act of 2000 (7 U.S.C. 7701 et seq) as amended by the Noxious Weed Control and Eradication Act of 2004 (P.L. 108-412):** the Plant Protection Act authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to prohibit or restrict the importation, entry, exportation, or movement in interstate commerce of any plant, plant product, biological control organism, noxious weed, article, or means of conveyance, if the Secretary determines that the prohibition or restriction is necessary to prevent the introduction into the United States or the dissemination of a plant pest or noxious weed within the United States. The Act defines the term "Noxious Weed".

Page 48: Vegetation; Legal and Administrative Framework; Regulation and Policy:

Replace the first bullet (FSM 2080) with the following:

> **FSM 2900**: Sets forth National Forest System policy, responsibilities, and direction for the prevention, detection, control, and restoration of effects from aquatic and terrestrial invasive species (including vertebrates, invertebrates, plants, and pathogens).

Page 67: Forest Vegetation Condition; Forest Composition

Sentence in middle paragraph reading:

Western white pine, which is not only very unrepresented in the forests of north Idaho relative to historical conditions, but this white pine tree is very productive and is fairly resistant to root diseases.

> Replace reference to north Idaho with western Montana.

Page 70: Forest Vegetation Condition; Broadleaved Species

Second sentence should read:

> These species typically occur in relatively small stands, and are often located in riparian areas or on moist upland sites.

Page 131: Non-native Invasive Plants; Legal and Administrative Framework

Following the Law and Executive Orders section add the following heading and text:

> **Other Policy and Guidance**
>
> **Forest Service Manual 2900 Invasive Species Management**: Sets forth National Forest System policy, responsibilities, and direction for the prevention, detection, control, and restoration of effects from aquatic and terrestrial invasive species (including vertebrates, invertebrates, plants, and pathogens).

Page 131: Non-native Invasive Plants; Affected Environment (Existing Conditions

Replace the affected environment section before table 22 with the following text:

The term “Noxious Weed” is defined for the Federal Government in the Plant Protection Act of 2000 and in some individual State statutes. For purposes of this report, the term has the same meaning as found in the Plant Protection Act of 2000 as follows: The term “noxious weed” means any plant or plant product that can directly or indirectly injure or cause damage to crops (including nursery stock or plant products), livestock, poultry, or other interests of agriculture, irrigation, navigation, the natural resources of the United States, the public health, or the environment. The term typically describes species of plants that have been determined to be undesirable or injurious in some capacity. Federal noxious weeds are regulated by USDA-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service under the Plant Protection Act of 2000, which superseded the Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974. State statues for noxious weeds vary widely, with some States lacking any laws defining or regulating noxious weeds. Depending on the individual State law, some plants listed by a State statute as “noxious” may be native plants which that State has determined to be undesirable. When the species are native, they are not considered invasive species by the Federal Government. However, in most cases, State noxious weed lists include only exotic (non-native) species.

Executive Order 13112 defines an invasive species as “an alien species whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.” The Forest Service relies on Executive Order 13112 to provide the basis for labeling certain organisms as invasive. Based on this definition, the labeling of a species as “invasive” requires closely examining both the origin and effects of the species. The key is that the species must cause, or be likely to cause, harm, and be exotic to the ecosystem it has infested before we can consider labeling it as “invasive”. Thus, native pests are not considered “invasive”, even though they may cause harm. Invasive species infest both aquatic and terrestrial areas and can be identified within any of the following four taxonomic categories: Plants, Vertebrates, Invertebrates, and Pathogens. Additional information on this definition can be found in Executive Order 13112.

Most introduced species never became pests as they could not thrive without special care, or they did not compete well with native vegetation and therefore they remained confined to gardens or agricultural fields. Some even became valuable crop or landscaping plants. However, in the absence of competitors and natural enemies with which they evolved, a few exotic species spread and dominated to the detriment of native vegetation. For example, knapweed came into the United States from Eurasia in clover and alfalfa seed. Oxeye daisy was spread around the northwest in forage grass and legume seed after its introduction in the late 1800s. Intentional introductions have brought invasive plants into the area as well. Common St. John's-wort seed was brought with English and German settlers as seed for gardens. Dalmatian toadflax came from Europe as an ornamental, as did orange hawkweed and absinth wormwood.

Invasive plants that are classified as invaders pose the greatest threat as these plants are capable of becoming established in undisturbed or relatively undisturbed areas and have the ability to spread quickly over large areas. Spotted knapweed, diffuse knapweed, yellow star thistle, leafy spurge, and dyer’s woad are examples of invaders. These infestations can substantially change the biological diversity of areas by influencing the amount and distribution of native plants and animals, and they can negatively affect recreational experiences, forest regeneration, wildlife and livestock forage, soil productivity, fire regimes and riparian and hydrologic function.

Various recreational and management activities that occur on the KNF have the potential to disperse invasive plants or increase the likelihood that they will become established at

a given site. This increase in dispersal and establishment is above what would happen naturally as a result of seed transport by wind, water, or wildlife.

Current control efforts are aimed at eradicating new invaders and containing existing infestations. Every known site occupied by a new invader species is treated and monitored. Logging equipment is cleaned before entering a sale area to reduce the potential for the introduction of weed species not yet present in a sale area. Tactics used to attempt to contain large infestations include spraying roadsides, seeding major disturbances caused by road and skidtrail building and landing piles and treating gravel pits. Biocontrols have been released for spotted knapweed, dalmatian toadflax, St. John's wort, tansy ragwort, and Canada thistle. Infestations in some sites have been reduced by these measures. However, in spite of these control efforts, existing infestations continue to invade disturbed areas and intact plant communities.

On the KNF, it is fairly common to see invasive plants along many roadsides, railroad and power line rights-of-way, and other disturbed areas such as gravel pits. Spotted knapweed, tansy ragwort, rush skeleton weed, and other species have migrated away from the road right-of-way onto undisturbed hillsides, especially within the drier vegetation types. Orange hawkweed has increased a presence on moist habitat types under full canopies and is converging on the edges of the Cabinet Mountain Wilderness. Invasive plants are also becoming established in harvest units where the seeds have been brought by machinery and other vectors such as wildlife, cattle, railcars, and/or wind. In 2007, the KNF completed an integrated weed management plan for the Forest (USDA Forest Service 2007). Table 1 lists the invasive species that are known to occur on the KNF as well as potential invaders. Plants listed in table1 as a potential invader (noted as PI in the table), are those that have not yet been located on the Forest but are assumed to be potential invaders. The management goal for those potential invaders is to prevent them from becoming established, and if found, eradicate them promptly. For the new invaders that are identified in the table (noted as NI in the table), there is a goal of eradicating any small infestations and reducing the larger ones. Lastly, for those plants that are recognized as widespread invasive plants (noted as WS in the table), the goal is to contain them inside areas that are already infested and reduce the plant populations.

Page 136: Non-native Invasive Plants; Environmental Consequences; Management Direction for Alternatives B Modified, C, and D

Replace the text with the following:

Relative to Alternative A, all of these action alternatives contain more management direction related to invasive plants. For example, these alternatives contain forestwide desired condition statements (FW-DC-VEG-10) and objectives (FW-OBJ-VEG-02) that stress the need to treat new invaders and utilize best management practices that limit the introduction and spread from management activities. The integrated pest management approaches and best management practices that are being used in the Region are described in FSM 2900. When the Region One supplement to the FSM 2900 direction is finalized, it will contain more specific direction to the Forest than what is included in the national direction in FSM 2900. In addition to the forestwide direction noted above, these alternatives also contain additional direction for some specific MA's**.** All of the action alternatives contain numerous Forest Plan components (e.g., FW-DC-WTR-01, FW-DC-SOIL-01,02,03, FW-DC-RIP-04, 06, FW-DC-AQH-01, FW-OBJ-SOIL-01, FW-STD-RIP-03, 04, FW-DGL-RIP-03, 05, FW-GDL-ASQ-02) that would serve to protect watershed, soil, riparian and aquatic conditions in ways that would reduce management

caused disturbances in these areas that could otherwise increase invasive plant spread or introduction. Lastly, the monitoring program that is part of each of these alternatives includes monitoring items associated with invasive plant species and effectiveness of treatments (see Chapter 5 of the Revised Forest Plan).

Page 137–139: Non-native Invasive Plants; Environmental Consequences; Consequences to Non-native Invasive Plants from Forest Plan Components Associated with other Resource Programs or Revision Topics

Replace all references to FSM 2081 with the updated FSM 2900.

Page 188: Watershed, Soils, Riparian, Aquatic Habitat; Affected Environment

Add the following sentence to the end of the first paragraph under the **Macroinvertebrate Assemblage (Management Indicator Species (MIS))** heading:

However, macroinvertebrates are not indicators of fish populations or distribution.

Page 209–211 and 257–261: Terrestrial Wildlife

On August 13, 2014, the USFWS withdrew its proposal to list the wolverine under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) so the wolverine returns to the Northern Region's Sensitive Species list. Refer to the updated specialist report in the planning record the wolverine effects determination.

Page 388: Legal and Administrative Framework; Law and Executive Orders

The citation in the last paragraph of this section (just before the Key indicator section) should cite US EPA 1998.

Page 454: Inventoried Roadless Areas; Consequences to Roadless Areas from Forest Plan Components Associated with other Resource Programs or Revision Topics

Add the following text at the beginning of this section:

As stated in the preamble to the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule, "management actions that do not require the construction of new roads will still be allowed, including activities such as timber harvesting for clearly defined, limited purposes, development of locatable minerals, grazing of livestock, and off-highway vehicle use where specifically permitted. Existing classified roads in inventoried roadless areas may be maintained and used for these and other activities as well" (66 Fed. Reg. 3250).

Page 455: Inventoried Roadless Areas; Consequences to Roadless Areas from Forest Plan Components Associated with other Resource Programs or Revision Topics; Effects from Management Area Allocations

Replace table 118 with the following:

Table 318. Acres of Inventory Roadless Area Management Area Allocation by Alternative

MA	Alt A1	Alt B Modified2	Alt C2	Alt D2
MA1a Wilderness	0	0	0	0
MA1b Wilderness Recommended	76,085	100,716	205,334	35,912

MA	Alt A1	Alt B Modified2	Alt C2	Alt D2
MA1c Wilderness Study Area	34,521	33,778	33,778	33,778
MA2 Eligible Wild and Scenic River	0	9,145	9,145	9,145
MA3 Special Areas	7,907	14,186	12,379	13,650
MA4 Research Natural Areas	Included in MA3	6,668	5,855	5,856
MA5a Backcountry - Non-motorized Year-round	234,690	225,382	322,861	110,799
MA5a/5b Combined	27,326	0	0	0
MA5b Backcountry - Motorized Year-round (Summer only on designated routes/areas)	1,349	153,844	33,607	47,759
MA5c Backcountry – Winter Motorized, Summer Non-motorized	0	81,375	9,967	114,582
MA6 General Forest Area	243,788	13,468	6,105	262,926
MA7 Recreation Area	76	0	0	0
Unknown	12,226	0	0	0

[1] The 1987 Forest Plan did not categorize MA by these descriptions, acres are rounded and may not equal total potential wilderness inventory or WSA due to GIS mapping.
[2] Acres do not match forestwide summary acres by MA because of overlapping acres within MA, and acres outside of IRAs included in recommended wilderness are not shown.

Page 474: Wild and Scenic Rivers; Changes between Draft and Final

Replace this text: *Based on public comment, the inventory of potentially eligible wild and scenic rivers was reviewed and changes made to eligible rivers for Alternative B Modified. Under this alternative, the Grave Creek and Quartz Creek systems are no longer considered eligible as wild and scenic rivers* with:

> Based on public comment the inventory of potentially eligible wild and scenic rivers was reevaluated. The values for the Grave Creek and Quartz Creek systems were found not to be rare, exemplary, or unique on the Kootenai National Forest. Therefore the rivers are no longer considered eligible as wild and scenic rivers across all alternatives.

Add this text:

> Additional evaluation conducted per the pre-decisional objection review instructions determined that the following streams do have outstandingly remarkable values; Callahan Creek (history) and Ross Creek (Botany, Recreation, and Scenery). These rivers are added as eligible wild and scenic rivers in all alternatives

Page 477–481: Wild and Scenic Rivers; Environmental Consequences; Alternatives B Modified, C, and D

Replace all text, table 123, and figure 37 with the following:

Alternatives B Modified, C, and D

In addition to the existing eligible rivers identified in the 1987 ROD and subsequent amendments, Alternative B Modified, C and D include the same additional eligible rivers with 37.7 additional miles of river (and the associated corridors containing 9,966 acres) as eligible for study as additions to the National Wild and Scenic River System (see table 123 below).

Table 123 summarizes the additional eligible rivers figure 37 displays their location (use the map code listed in table 123 as a reference to figure 37).

Table 143. KNF Rivers Identified During Plan Revision as Eligible to Add to the Wild, Scenic, and Recreational River System by Alternative

Alt	River/Segments(s)	Map Code	Outstandingly Remarkable Value(s)	Length on all Lands (miles)	Length on NFS Lands (miles)	Preliminary Classification	Acres (on NFS Lands)
	Bull River System						
B Mod, C, D	S - 6 (N.F. of the E. Fork Bull River)	B6	Scenery	2.2	2.2	Recreational	616
B Mod, C, D	S - 7 (N.F. of the E. Fork Bull River)	B7		1.4	1.4	Wild	497
	Callahan Creek System						
B Mod, C, D	C - 1 (Callahan Creek)	C1	History	6.4	6.2	Recreational	1,326
B Mod, C, D	C - 2 (S.F. Callahan Creek)	C2		6.8	6.8	Recreational	971
	Ross Creek System						
B Mod, C, D	R - 1 (Ross Creek)	R1	Botany, Recreation, Scenery	2.6	2.6	Scenic	811
B Mod, C, D	R - 2 (Ross Creek)	R2		4.8	4.8	Wild	1,527
	Vinal Creek System						
B Mod, C, D	S - 1 (Vinal Creek)	VC1	Scenery and Recreation	4.1	3.9	Scenic	1,074
B Mod, C, D	S - 2 (Turner Creek)	VC2		1.0	1.1	Scenic	386
	West Fork Yaak River						
B Mod, C, D	S - 1	YWF 1	Scenery and History	4.3	4.2	Wild	1,330
B Mod, C, D	S - 2	YWF 2		5.6	4.5	Recreational	1,428
	Total			**39.2**	**37.7**		**9,966**

Under Alternatives B Modified, C, and D eligible rivers would be allocated to MA2 and would be managed to protect the outstandingly remarkable values for which these rivers are eligible to the National Wild and Scenic River System. Alternative B Modified, C and

D designates approximately 150.0 miles of streams on NFS lands (and the associated corridors containing 48,086 acres) as eligible wild and scenic rivers.

Figure 37 displays the eligible wild, scenic, and recreational rivers on the Forest. See appendix E for narratives and detailed maps of each eligible wild, scenic, and recreational river.

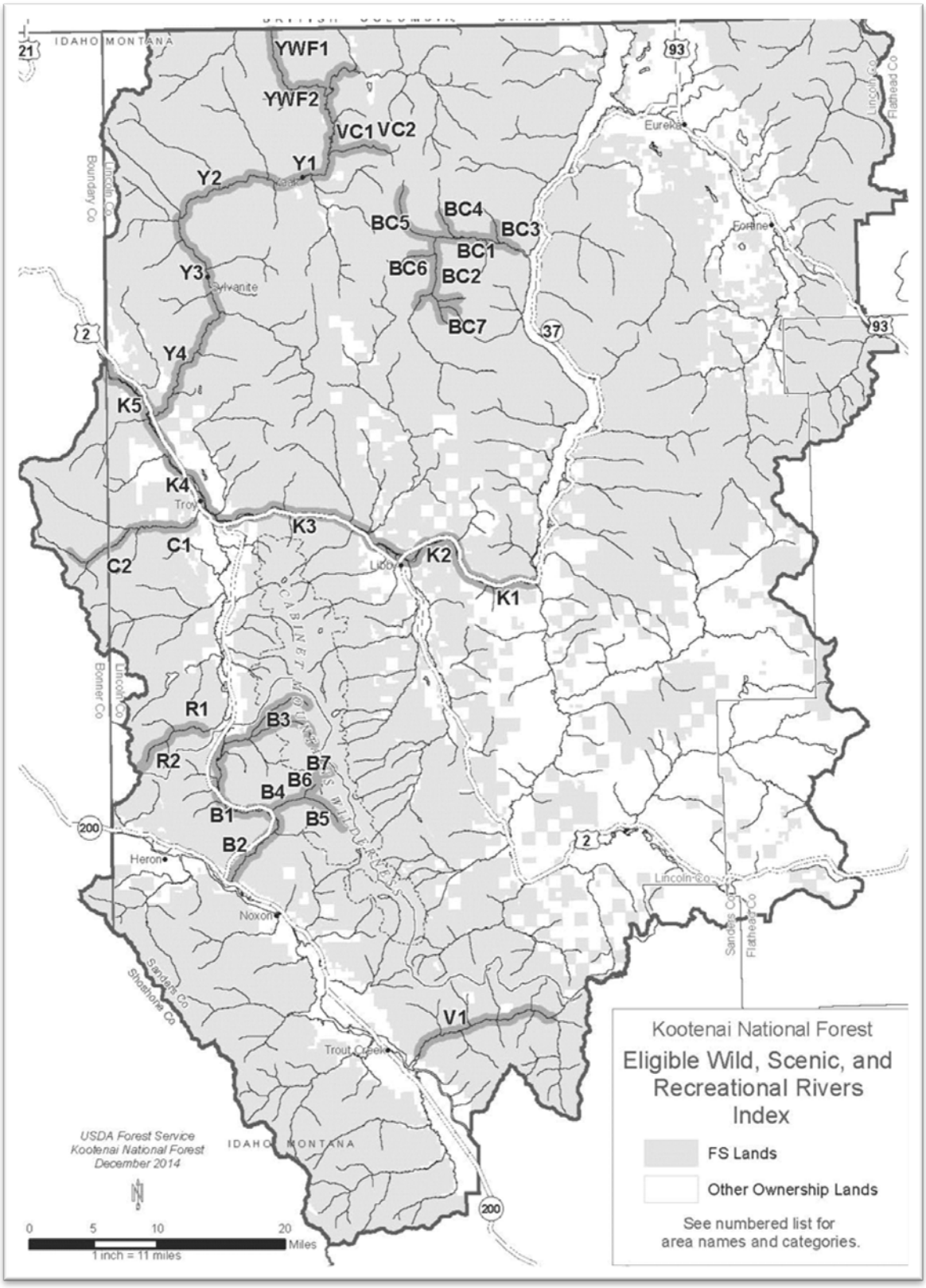

Figure 37. Map of KNF Eligible Wild, Scenic, and Recreation Rivers

Consequences to Wild and Scenic Rivers from Forest Plan Components Associated with other Resource Programs or Revision Topics

Effects from Management Area Prescriptions

The management area prescription for wild and scenic rivers protects the outstandingly remarkable values for which the river was designated as eligible. Alternative B Modified, C, and D protect those rivers with "rare, unique, and exemplary" attributes. Alternative A protects the least amount of rivers as eligible for wild and scenic rivers.

Page 549: Special Forest Products; Environmental Consequences; General Effects

Replace table 139 with the following:

Table 5. Acres of Management Areas where Commercial Use of Special Forest and Botanical Products is Not Allowed by Alternative

Management Area		Alt A	Alt B Modified	Alt C	Alt D
MA1a	Wilderness	93,700	93,700	93,700	93,700
MA1b	Recommended Wilderness	76,500	102,700	214,800	36,100
MA1c	Wilderness Study Area	34,100	34,100	34,100	34,100
MA2	Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers	38,100	41,000	41,000	41,000
MA3	Botanical, Geological, Historical, Recreational, Scenic, or Zoological Areas [1]	15,900	31,400	30,500	31,700
MA4	Established and Recommended Research Natural Areas [2]		9,800	8,400	8,400
Total		**258,300**	**312,700**	**422,500**	**245,00**

[1] Personal use also not allowed in botanical and historical special areas

[2] Personal use also not allowed in this MA

Chapter 6—Glossary

Page 596:

Add the following term and definition:

Hydrological stability	Condition where the potential for road failure and sedimentation is expected to be reduced

Page 597:

Replace the invasive species definition with the following: reference to the noxious weeds definition with the following:

Invasive Species	Executive Order 13112 defines an invasive species as “an alien species whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.” The Forest Service relies on Executive Order 13112 to provide the basis for labeling certain organisms as invasive. Based on this definition, the labeling of a species as “invasive” requires closely examining both the origin and effects of the species. The key is that the species must cause, or be likely to cause, harm and be exotic to the ecosystem it has infested before we can consider labeling it as “invasive”. Thus, native pests are not considered “invasive”, even though they may cause harm. Invasive species infest both aquatic and terrestrial areas and can be identified within any of the following four taxonomic categories: Plants, Vertebrates, Invertebrates, and Pathogens.

Page 597 Invasive Weeds

Remove the invasive weeds definition.

Page 600: Noxious weeds

Replace the noxious weeds definition with:

Noxious weeds	Any plant or plant product that can directly or indirectly injure or cause damage to crops (including nursery stock or plant products), livestock, poultry, or other interests of agriculture, irrigation, navigation, the natural resources of the United States, the public health, or the environment. The term typically describes species of plants that have been determined to be undesirable or injurious in some capacity. Federal noxious weeds are regulated by USDA-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service under the Plant Protection Act of 2000, which superseded the Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974. State statues for noxious weeds vary widely, with some States lacking any laws defining or regulating noxious weeds. Depending on the individual State law, some plants listed by a State statute as “noxious” may be native plants which that State has determined to be undesirable. When the species are native, they are not considered invasive species by the Federal Government. However, in most cases, State noxious weed lists include only exotic (non-native) species.

Chapter 7—Literature Cited

Add the following citations:

Hessburg, P. F., Agee, J. K., & Franklin, J. F. (2005). Dry forests and wildland fires of the inland Northwest USA: contrasting the landscape ecology of the presettlement and modern eras. Forest Ecology and Management, 211(1-2), 117–139.

Appendix C—Wilderness Evaluation

Page150: Barren Peak (No. 01-0183); Summary of Environmental Consequences by Alternative

Replace the first sentence with the following text

This area was evaluated as suitable for recommended wilderness (although all summary ratings were moderate) because it is adjacent to the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness.

Appendix D—Aquatics: Analyses and Methodology

Page 213: Watsed Analysis

Add the following text after the first two paragraphs:

> It is important to note that the WATSED model was not used for the analysis of the watershed condition; however, the coefficients from the WATSED model were used, in part, to determine ECA values.

Page 216: Salmonid Assessment

Heading should read: Salmonid Assessment (V3.5—January 2013)

Page 217: Conservation/Restoration Watersheds; Salmonid Multi-scale Assessment

Replace the first two sentences with the following text:

The Region 1 Salmonid Multi-Scale Assessment was used to evaluate the status of salmonids within the planning area. Risks and threats to native fish species of interest were identified for each subwatershed and tracked in a spreadsheet (V3.5).

Appendix E—Wild, Scenic, and Recreational Rivers

This replaces in its entirety Appendix E of the 2013 Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Kootenai Forest Plan (pages 223-256).

During and following the objection resolution period, the KNF reviewed all steps involved in determining rivers eligible as wild, scenic, or recreational rivers (WSR). The inventory of rivers completed in 2005 was reviewed and validated. This review resulted in changes to the inventory and the determination of eligible rivers. The review resulted in a change in number of additional river or stream segments eligible from 6 to 10, miles of stream eligible from 129.7 to 150.1, and acres from 43,452 to 48,086.

The process used in evaluating the values of rivers or streams in "Step 5" of the Wild and Scenic River eligibility assessment has been corrected and updated in this appendix, specialist reports, and the project record. The changes include clarification of process, additional analysis, documentation of potential values, and identification of outstandingly remarkable values at the forest scale. Differences between the 2005 inventory and current inventory are noted in Table 196-A Summary of changes and corrections in ORVs and eligible rivers, under Step 5 of the inventory.

Introduction

Congress enacted the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA) in 1968 to preserve select river's free-flowing condition, water quality, and outstandingly remarkable values. The most important provision of the WSRA is protecting rivers from the harmful effects of water resources projects. To protect free-flowing character the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (which licenses non-federal hydropower projects) is not allowed to license construction of dams, water conduits, reservoirs, powerhouses, transmission lines, or other project works on or directly affecting wild and scenic rivers. Other federal agencies may not assist by loan, grant, license, or otherwise any water resources project that would have a direct and adverse effect on the values for which a river was designated.

The WSRA also directs that each river in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (National System) be administered in a manner to protect and enhance a river's outstanding natural and cultural values. It allows existing uses of a river to continue and future uses to be considered, so long as existing or proposed use does not conflict with protecting river values. The WSRA also directs building partnerships among landowners, river users, tribal nations, and all levels of government.

Rivers may be identified for suitability studies by an act of Congress under Section 5(a), or through federal agency-initiated study under Section 5(d) (1). By the end of 2002, Congress had authorized 138 rivers for study. Section 5(d) (1) directs federal agencies to consider the potential of wild and scenic rivers in their planning processes; and its application has resulted in numerous individual river designations, and state and area-specific legislation.

Both Sections 5(a) and 5(d) (1) require determinations to be made regarding a river's eligibility, classification, and suitability. Eligibility and classification represent an inventory of existing conditions. Eligibility is an evaluation of whether a river is free-flowing and possesses one or more outstandingly remarkable value. If found eligible, a river is analyzed as to its current level of development and a preliminary classification determination is made as to whether it should be placed into one of three classes: wild, scenic, or recreational.

The final procedural step, a suitability study, provides the basis for determining whether to recommend a river as part of the National System. A suitability study is designed to answer the following questions:

- Should the river's free-flowing character, water quality, and outstandingly remarkable values be protected, or are one or more other uses important enough to warrant doing otherwise?
- Will the river's free-flowing character, water quality, and outstandingly remarkable values be protected through designation? Is it the best method for protecting the river corridor? In answering these questions, the benefits and impacts of wild and scenic rivers designation must be evaluated and alternative protection methods considered.
- Is there a demonstrated commitment to protect the river by any non-federal entities that may be partially responsible for implementing protective management?

Rivers authorized for suitability studies by Congress are protected under the WSRA; specifically,

- Section 7(b) — prevents the harmful effects of water resources projects;
- Section 8(b) — withdraws public lands from disposition under public land laws;
- Section 9(b) — withdraws locatable minerals from appropriation under mining laws; and
- Section 12(a) — directs actions of other federal agencies to protect river values.

These protections last through the suitability study process, including a three-year period following transmittal of the final suitability study report by the President to Congress. The integrity of the identified classification must also be maintained during the protection period.

The identification of a river as eligible through the forest planning process does not trigger any protections under the WSRA. To manage the river for its potential inclusion into the National System, other authorities are cited to protect its free-flowing character, water quality, outstandingly remarkable values, and preliminary or recommended classification.

No suitability studies are being conducted with this revised Forest Plan.

In this evaluation, only eligibility of rivers on the KNF is completed. Suitability is deferred, pending:

1. Public interest or support in wild and scenic river study;
2. Congress expresses interest in a specific river for wild and scenic river designation, or
3. A proposed project would alter the free-flowing character of a stream, such as by impoundment, or adversely affect outstandingly remarkable values, or the river’s inventoried classification (82.5).

Process to Identify and Classify Potentially Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers

The following describes the process used for identifying those rivers and streams on the KNF that are potentially eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System. Maps of existing eligible and potentially eligible Wild, Scenic, and Recreational Rivers are also included.

In order to identify potentially eligible rivers the Forest used:

- Region 1 "Draft Consistency Paper — Wild and Scenic Rivers Assessment";
- Forest Service Handbook 1912.09 Ch.80 for identifying and evaluating potential additions to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System on NFS lands pursuant to the WSRA of October 2, 1968, as amended; and
- Wild and Scenic Rivers Guidelines as published in the Federal Register/Vol.47, No. 173/Tuesday, Septermber7, 1982.

Step 1 — Evaluate the status of eligible wild and scenic rivers in the current Forest Plan.

A review of the 1987 Forest Plan and amendments for the KNF revealed that the Forest addressed eligibility of select rivers, but no forest wide assessments were completed. Therefore, a comprehensive forest wide evaluation of potentially eligible rivers on the Forest was needed.

Step 2 – Complete a systematic forest wide inventory of streams and rivers.

As per the Wild and Scenic River Act at 5(d) (1) and Forest Service Manual policy (FSM 1924.03) a systematic inventory of named streams and rivers was completed on the KNF. The inventory of the named rivers and streams on the KNF was generated from the Forest's GIS coverage of rivers and streams on the Forest.

- The inventory of named rivers and streams on the KNF resulted in the identification of 752 candidates to consider for eligibility. By district there are: Libby District (206), Cabinet District (180), Three Rivers District (189), Rexford District (84), and Fortine District (93).

Step 3 – Determine which of the named rivers and streams are free-flowing.

Initial assessments were accomplished in an interdisciplinary manner by having district and/or supervisor office resource specialists review the listed named rivers and streams and, based on their knowledge, identify if the river or stream is free-flowing. This determination is made by answering the question:

- Is the river segment flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip rapping, or other modification of the waterway? Bridges and culverts are allowed and do not affect the segment's free-flowing nature.

If the river segment is not free-flowing, the river is not eligible.

Step 4 – Identify *potential* eligibility by determining which of the named rivers and streams that is free-flowing, have a *potential* 'outstandingly remarkable value'.

To be eligible for designation, a river must be free flowing and possess one or more outstandingly remarkable value. Thus, the eligibility analysis consists of an examination of the river's hydrology, including any man made alterations; and an assessment of its natural, cultural, and recreational resources. The determination that a river area contains outstandingly remarkable values is a professional judgment on the part of the interdisciplinary team, based on objective, site-specific assessments.

In order to be assessed as outstandingly remarkable, a river related value must be a unique, rare, or exemplary feature that is significant at a comparative regional or national scale. Dictionary definitions of the words "unique" and "rare" indicate that such a value would be one that is a conspicuous example from among a number of similar values that are themselves uncommon or extraordinary. Only one such value is needed for eligibility.

The area, region, or scale of comparison is not fixed, and is defined as that which serves as a basis for meaningful comparative analysis; it may vary depending on the value being considered. Typically, a "region" is defined on the scale of an administrative unit, a portion of a state, or an appropriately scaled physiographic or hydrologic unit. The comparative scale used for this assessment is the individual Forest. That is, the rivers and streams on the KNF were compared one to another.

While the spectrum of resources that may be considered is broad, all values should be directly river related. That is, they should:

a) Be located in the river or on its immediate shore lands (generally within 1/4 mile on either side of the river);

b) Contribute substantially to the functioning of the river ecosystem; and/or

c) Owe their location or existence to the presence of the river.

The following criteria were considered in order to establish whether one or more outstandingly remarkable values are present. This is an illustrative list and is not intended to be all inclusive.

Scenery

- Do the landforms, vegetation type or seasonal variations, watercolor, or related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions?

Recreation

- Are recreational opportunities unique or rare within the region?
- Are recreational opportunities popular enough or have the potential to be popular enough to attract visitors from throughout the region of comparison?
- Are visitors willing to travel long distances to use the river resources for recreational purposes?
- Are interpretive and/or educational opportunities exceptional and unique within the region of comparison?

Geology

- Does the river, or area within the river corridor, contain one or more example of a geologic feature, process, or phenomenon unique or rare within the region of comparison?

Fish Populations

- Is there threatened or endangered species represented?
- Is it an important stronghold for native fish assemblages (diversity)?
- Are there genetically pure strains of native populations?
- Is there a Native American dependence on this fishery?

- Is there a lack of exotic species or non-native species in this river?
- Are there other important wildlife species dependent upon this fishery?

Habitat

- Is there a relationship between this river and the health and vigor of the fishery that would warrant protection of the river?
- Are there natural barriers to fish migration that restrict the distribution of the population?
- Is there high restoration or recovery potential for the habitat?
- Is this an intact system and does the habitat support native or wild stock assemblages?
- Does the habitat represent a pristine river system?

Wildlife

- Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species?
- Does the river or river corridor provide exceptionally high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance?
- Does the river or river corridor provide unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for federal or state listed (or candidate) threatened, endangered, or sensitive species? [Of particular significance is the presence of wild stocks and/or federal or state listed (or candidate) threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Diversity of species is an important consideration and could, in itself, lead to a determination of "outstandingly remarkable."]

Prehistory

- Does the river or river corridor contain a site(s) where there is evidence of occupation or use by Native Americans?
- Do sites have unique or rare characteristics or exceptional human-interest value(s)?
- Do sites represent an area where a culture or cultural period was first identified and described?
- Were sites used concurrently by two or more cultural groups, and/or used by cultural groups for sacred purposes?

History

- Does the river or river corridor contain a site(s) or feature(s) associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that was rare or one-of-a-kind in the region?

Botany/Rare Plants and Plant Communities

- Are there any occurrences of federally threatened or endangered plant species?
- Are there any occurrences of plant species designated as sensitive by the Forest Service?
- Are there any occurrences of other rare plants that are tracked by the state Natural Heritage Program(s)?
- Are there any plant communities or habitats that are unique, rare, or significant, or that are tracked by the state Natural Heritage Programs?

- Are the native plant communities in good ecological conditions (i.e., relatively free of invasive plant species)?

Natural Areas

- Are there any designated research natural areas along the river?
- Are there any special interest areas (Botanical, Geological, Scenic, Zoological, etc.) along the river?
- Are there any other specially designated areas in the corridor (such as National Natural Landmarks)?

Initial assessments were accomplished in an interdisciplinary manner by having district and/or supervisor office resource specialists review the listed named rivers and streams and, based on their knowledge, identify whether a *potential* 'outstandingly remarkable value' exists. In most cases on-the-ground knowledge was used in developing the assessment of *potential* outstandingly remarkable values. Only the botanical resource was assessed using GIS information; this data was populated from on-the-ground surveys. All other assessments were based on direct knowledge of the individual streams.

The initial 2005 assessment, in Step 4, on the free flowing nature, scenery, and recreation was completed by the district recreation specialist. The assessment of geology was completed by the forest geologist. The assessment of fish was completed by the forest fish biologist. The assessment of wildlife was completed by the district wildlife biologist. The assessment of history and prehistory was completed by the forest archaeologist. The assessment of botany was completed by the forest ecologist.

The resulting assessment of the free-flowing nature and *potential* outstandingly remarkable values was documented by named stream (PR# 1855 – Wild and Scenic River Inventory).

Step 5 – Using the Forest as the comparative scale, review the identified *potential* 'outstandingly remarkable values' and determine whether they meet the criteria of being rare, unique, or exemplary.

Values in this step were not considered to be "outstandingly remarkable" until they are found to be rare, unique or exemplary at the forest scale. See **Table 198-A** (WSR Inventory with Potential Values, ORVs, and Determination of Eligibility) for the potential ORVs analyzed, supporting documentation, and final ORV determination. For tracking purposes the *potential* ORVs identified in Step 4 are shown. Final values determined to be outstandingly remarkable values at the forest scale are noted, with further explanation of ORV in the rivers narrative section. Only rivers or streams final ORVs at the forest scale, or presented by the pubic (2011 Montana Headwaters inventory report) are shown in this appendix. For the complete list of streams and the identified *potential* values see project record # 1855 Wild and Scenic River Inventory.

The Forest initially completed an inventory and assessment of rivers eligibility for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System in 2005. The results of this inventory were described in the FEIS (pages 495-505), FEIS Appendix E, and the Specialist Report in the record. In the pre-decisional review for the revised Forest Plan, the KNF reviewed and validated the 2005 inventory and findings of eligible rivers. In conducting the review, values of rivers and streams brought forward by public familiar with the river resources were reviewed.

In March of 2014, the KNF followed FSH 1909.12, chapter 80 in reviewing, validating, and identifying rivers and streams eligible for wild and scenic river designation. A forest team met and reviewed the potential values for the named streams in the 2005 inventory. Values identified by the public were considered. Changes resulting from this review are summarized in **Table 196-A** (Summary of Changes and Corrections in ORVs and Eligible Rivers) and documented in **Table 198-A (**WSR Inventory with Potential Values, ORVs, and Determination of Eligibility).

Table 196-A Summary of Changes and Corrections in ORVs and Eligible Rivers

River	2005 potential ORV	2013 LMP ORV	2014 Validation and Review Findings	2014 Final ORV
Big Creek Big Creek system	B, R, S, W	R	Added “geology” potential value Added “geology” as ORV	R, G
Bull R NFEF	F	S	Correction, added “scenery” potential value and ORV	S
Callahan Creek system	H, R, S		Added “history” as ORV Changed to be eligible river	H
Kootenai River	B, F, H, S, R, W	F, H, S, R	Changed “wildlife” to ORV	F, H, S, R, W
Ross Creek	B		Added “recreation and scenery” potential values and ORV Changed “botany” to ORV Changed to be eligible river	B, R, S
Swamp Creek			Changed to free flowing, on federal lands	
Yaak River	B, R, S, W	H, R, S	Correction added “history” as potential value Changed “botany” to ORV Changed preliminary classification of Seg. 4 to from “Wild” to “Scenic”	B, H, R, S
Yaak River, West Fork	B, W	H, S	Correction, added “history and scenic” potential values and ORV	H, S
Grave Creek			Removed from FEIS Alt. C & D as eligible river, no ORV	
Quartz Creek			Removed from FEIS Alt. C & D as eligible river, no ORV	
Vermilion River	B, H	S, H	Correction, added “Scenic” potential value and ORV	S, H

The following interdisciplinary team completed the review as instructed in the objection response: forest planning and team leader, forest hydrology and geology, forest fish biologist, forest wildlife biologist, district botany, district archaeologist, forest recreation and scenery, GIS specialist. When necessary, the team worked with district specialists to determine values by streams.

The team met and reviewed the potential values for the named streams in the 2005 inventory. Values identified by the public were also included. The team completed the following steps:

1. Reviewed the list of streams that are on the Congressionally Authorized Studies River list (section 5a of the WSR Act). The last public law that added any rivers to this list was March of 2009. The KNF does not have any streams on this list.

2. Reviewed the list of rivers on the National River Inventory (NRI) from the Park Service. There was no change from the 2005 inventory. Big Creek, Bull River, Kootenai River, Vermillion, and Yaak River are the only rivers on the NRI list on the KNF. These rivers were included as eligible under the 1987 Forest Plan.

3. Identified rivers that need to be reviewed based on public input. The report submitted by Campaign for Montana's Headwaters (2011) was included in the inventory of streams.

4. Section 5(d) (1) of the WSR Act requires consideration of potential WSRs in all federal agency planning for "water and land resources." Translated into the Forest Service land management planning process, the Forest conducted a comprehensive evaluation of rivers to determine those with potential for inclusion in the National System (FSH 1909.12, 81.2). The KNF developed a list of all named river and streams. This list was reviewed to identify rivers and streams that were free-flowing. The existence of low dams, diversion works, or other minor structures at the time any river is proposed for inclusion in the National System does not automatically disqualify it from designation, but future construction of such structures is not allowed (FSH 1909.12, 82.12).

   The team reviewed the list of streams that had been identified as not free-flowing. One stream on this list (Swamp Creek) was found to be free-flowing. This stream is actually free flowing on National Forest land, above private land. This overturned the finding of "not free flowing" from 2005. This stream was removed from the list of streams identified as not free-flowing and added to the list of streams to review for potential values.

5. The team reviewed all free-flowing streams for potential values identified either by the forests or by the public to determine which values are unique, rare, or exemplary at a comparative scale. The comparative scale was defined as the Forest. The individual rivers and streams were compared to others on the Forest.

   Each stream was reviewed to determine if the potential values identified in the 2005 inventory or by the public were ORVs based on FSH 1909.19, 82.14. In conducting this review, the Forest confirmed the rivers identified as eligible in the revised Forest Plan. Based on identified values and subsequent discussion, some of the ORVs were changed (added) for the eligible river systems. The classification of one river segment (segment 4 of the Yaak) was found to be incorrect. The proposed classification of this segment will be changed from "wild" to "scenic." This change was made because this section of the Yaak River does have a road and harvest units along it.

   In completing this review, the Forest identified two additional creeks as eligible: Callahan Creek (including a portion of the South Fork of Callahan Creek) and Ross Creek. Callahan Creek has an ORV for history, as it lies within a special area (MA3) and has been determined eligible for National Register listing (Callahan Creek Historic Mining and Logging District 24LN544). This includes the unique aspect of the 1920 timber sale in which logs were transported over a narrow gauge (36") railroad system. The Snow Storm Silver-Lead Mining Company rail was extended specifically to haul timber. The portion of Callahan and South Fork Callahan creek within the special area (13 miles) is eligible.

Ross Creek was found to have ORVs for scenic, recreation, and botany. Ross Creek includes; Ross Creek Cedars RNA, the Ross Creek Scenic Area (MA3) and the Ross Creek Fall Area (MA3). Ross Creek Scenic Area was established in 1959 for its scientific and recreation value. The special area (MA3) is located in the bottom of Ross Creek, containing a stand of large, old western red cedars. The age of these cedars is rare, and Ross Creek Cedars are an exemplary stand on the forest.

Some of the streams with *potential* ORVs, or brought forward by the public were found to not have rare, unique, or exemplary values at the forest comparative scale. For example, some streams were identified, or proposed by the public, with a fish *potential* ORV because they had west slope cut trout or bull trout critical habitat. The Forest has numerous streams that are critical habitat for these species, so this value is not rare, unique, or exemplary and is not an ORV. This also applies to several wildlife *potential* ORVs identified based on lynx, grizzly bear, or wolf species or habitat. These species and habitat occur across the forest and are not unique or rare.

The review considered several recreation potential ORVs identified by public with specific opportunities or areas on forest that are valued by those individuals or groups. This was the case with paddling, or white water class IV-V streams. The wild and scenic river eligibility report provided by Campaign for Montana's Headwaters listed paddling on several streams that they found as having outstanding values. However in order for a recreation value to be outstandingly remarkable it should appeal to a larger community, and draw recreating public to the specific activity or area. Determination of outstanding recreation values for streams or rivers are documented for Ross Creek, Yaak, and Kootenai River.

The review found several botany *potential* ORVs identified where either the plant species or area (Special Area or RNA) identified was not rare or unique on the forest, or that the plant population was not associated with the stream or corridor. For example in Rock Creek a botany *potential* ORV was identified based on the Rock Creek Meadow (meadow and wetland area). However meadows are not unique or rare on the forest, and Rock Creek meadow is not an exemplary feature. Therefore botany is not an outstandingly remarkable value for Rock Creek.

After reviewing the initial assessments and additional analysis the forest team made determination as to whether the potential outstandingly remarkable value was a unique, rare, or exemplary feature that is significant at the selected comparative scale of the forest and meets the other criteria for being directly river-related (as described in a, b, c, Step 4). The outstandingly remarkable values were identified and summarized for each eligible river system. The final outstandingly remarkable value(s) were determined for the entire river system. Narratives were developed for each eligible river system

This review resulted in changes to the inventory of eligible rivers. In addition information was added to clarify the process used and document "Step 5" of the Wild and Scenic River eligibility assessment. This included additional analysis to support eligibility determinations, and documentation of rational used in the final ORV determinations. Differences between the 2005 inventory and 014 review and supporting analysis are summarized in table 196-A and noted in the Project Record (#01504).

Step 6 – Determine preliminary Classification.

The potential classification of a river found to be eligible is based on the condition of the river and the adjacent lands as they currently exist. Section 2(b) of the WSRA of October 2, 1968 specifies and defines three classification categories for eligible rivers:

1. Wild rivers;
2. Scenic rivers; and
3. Recreational rivers.

The USDA and USDI Guidelines for Eligibility, Classification, and Management of River Areas dated September 7, 1982 (USDA-USDI Guidelines) provides the following classification criteria for wild, scenic, and recreational rivers.

Table 6. Classification Criteria for Wild, Scenic, and Recreational River Areas

Attribute	Wild	Scenic	Recreational
Water Resource Development	Free of impoundment.	Free of impoundment.	Some existing impoundment or diversion.
			The existence of low dams, diversions, or other modifications of the waterway is acceptable, provided the waterway remains generally natural and riverine in appearance.
Shoreline Development	Essentially primitive. Little or no evidence of human activity.	Largely primitive and undeveloped. No substantial evidence of human activity.	Some development. Substantial evidence of human activity.
	The presence of a few inconspicuous structures, particularly those of historic or cultural value is acceptable.	The presence of small communities, dispersed dwellings, or farm structures is acceptable.	The presence of extensive residential development and a few commercial structures is acceptable.
	A limited amount of domestic livestock grazing or hay production is acceptable.	The presence of grazing, hay production, or row crops is acceptable.	Lands may have been developed for the full range of agricultural and forestry uses.
	Little or no evidence of past timber harvest. No ongoing timber harvest.	Evidence of past or ongoing timber harvest is acceptable, provided the forest appears natural from the riverbank.	May show evidence of past and ongoing timber harvest.
Accessibility	Generally inaccessible except by trail.	Accessible in places by road.	Readily accessible by road or railroad.
	No roads, railroads, or other provision for vehicular travel within the river area. A few existing roads leading to the boundary of the area are acceptable.	Roads may occasionally reach or bridge the river. The existence of short stretches of conspicuous or longer stretches of inconspicuous roads or railroads is acceptable.	The existence of parallel roads or railroads on one or both banks as well as bridge crossings and other river access points is acceptable.

Attribute	Wild	Scenic	Recreational
Water Quality	Meets or exceeds criteria or federally approved state standards for aesthetics, for propagation of fish and wildlife normally adapted to the habitat of the river, and for primary contact recreation (swimming) except where exceeded by natural conditions.	No criteria are prescribed by the WSRA. The Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 have made it a national goal that all waters of the US are made fishable and swimmable. Therefore, rivers will not be precluded from scenic or recreational classification because of poor water quality at the time of their study, provided a water quality improvement plan exists or is being developed in compliance with applicable federal and state laws.	

(1) Wild River Areas

The rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shoreline essentially primitive and waters unpolluted. These represent vestiges of primitive America.

These criteria are interpreted as follows:

a) "Free of impoundments." Wild river areas shall be free of impoundments.

b) "Watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive." Wild river areas will show little or no evidence of human activity. Shorelines and watersheds within the river area should be essentially free of structures including such things as buildings, pipelines, power lines, dams, pumps, generators, diversion works, rip-rap, and other modifications of the waterway or adjacent land within the river corridor. The existence of a few inconspicuous structures, particularly those of historic or cultural value, at the time of study need not bar wild classification.

c) A limited amount of domestic livestock grazing or hay production may be considered "essentially primitive." There should be no row crops or ongoing timber harvest and the river area should show little or no evidence of past logging activities.

d) "Generally inaccessible except by trail." Wild river areas will not contain roads, railroads, or other provisions for vehicular travel within the river area. The existence of a few inconspicuous roads leading to the boundary of the river area at the time of study will not necessarily bar wild river classification.

e) "Waters unpolluted." The water quality of a wild river will meet or exceed federal criteria or federally approved state standards for aesthetics, for propagation of fish and wildlife normally adapted to the habitat of the stream, and for primary contact recreation except where exceeded by natural conditions.

(2) Scenic River Areas

The rivers, or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads.

These criteria are interpreted as follows:

a) "Free of impoundments." Scenic river areas will be free of impoundments.

b) "Shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive." To qualify for scenic classification, the rivers segment's shorelines and immediate environment should not show substantial

evidence of human activity. The portion of the watershed within the boundary of the scenic river may have some discernible existing development. "Largely primitive" means that the shorelines and the immediate river environment still present an overall natural character, but that in places land may be developed for agricultural purposes. Row crops would be considered as meeting the test of "largely primitive," as would timber harvest and other resource use, providing such activity is accomplished without a substantial adverse effect on the natural appearance of the river or its immediate environment.

c) "Shorelines largely undeveloped," means that any structures or concentration of structures must be limited to relatively short reaches of the total area under consideration for designation as a scenic river area.

d) "Accessible in places by road." Means that roads may reach the river area and occasionally bridge the river. The presence of short stretches of conspicuous or longer stretches of inconspicuous and well-screened roads or railroads will not necessarily preclude scenic river designation. In addition to the physical and scenic relationship of the free-flowing river area to roads or railroads, consideration should be given to the type of use for which such roads or railroads were constructed and the type of use which would occur within the proposed scenic river area.

(3) Recreational River Areas

The rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.

These criteria are interpreted as follows:

a) "Some impoundment or diversion in the past." There may be some existing impoundments, diversions, and other modifications of the waterway having an impact on the river area. Existing low dams, diversion works, rip-rap, and other minor structures will not bar recreational classification, provided the waterway remains generally natural and riverine in appearance.

b) "Some development along their shorelines." Lands may have been developed for the full range of agricultural and forestry uses, may show evidence of past and ongoing timber harvest, and may include some residential, commercial, or similar development.

c) "Readily accessible by road or railroad." River areas classified as recreational may contain existing parallel roads or railroads in close proximity to one or both banks of the river as well as bridge crossings and roads fording or ending at the river.

There are several points to keep in mind when reading and applying the classification criteria:

- It is important to understand each criterion, but it is more important to understand their collective intent. Each river segment and its immediate environment should be considered as a unit. The basis for classification is the degree of naturalness, or stated negatively, the degree of evidence of man's activity in the river area. The most natural rivers will be classified wild; those somewhat less natural, scenic, and those least natural, recreational.
- Generally, only conditions within the river area determine classification; however, occasionally conditions outside the river area, such as developments which could impact air and water quality, noise levels, or scenic views within the river area, may influence classification.

- For the purpose of classification, a river area may be divided into segments. Each segment, considered as a whole, will conform to one of the classifications. In segmenting the river, the assessment should take into account the management strategies necessary to administer the entire river area and should avoid excessive segmentation.
- The WSRA provides no specific guidance on water quality for scenic and recreational rivers. However, the Clean Water Act has made it a national goal that all waters of the United States be made fishable and swimmable, and provides the legal means for upgrading water quality in any river which would otherwise be suitable for inclusion in the system. Therefore, rivers will not necessarily be excluded from the system because of poor water quality at the time of study, provided a water quality improvement plan exists or is being developed in compliance with applicable state and federal laws.
- Although each classification permits certain existing development, the criteria do not imply that additional inconsistent development is permitted in the future.
- The classification criteria provide uniform guidance for professional judgment, but they are not absolutes. It is not possible to formulate criteria so as to mechanically or automatically classify river areas. Therefore, there may occasionally be exceptions to some of the criteria. For example, if the assessment finds that strict application of the classification criteria would not provide the most appropriate classification for a specific river segment, the recommendation may consider an exception to the classification criteria.

Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers

All of the eligible rivers and streams identified in the 1987 Forest Plan and subsequent amendments were found to still be eligible, totaling 112.4 miles on NFS lands and 38,120 acres within the associated corridors. Ten additional river and stream segments were found to be potentially eligible as wild and scenic rivers. The 2014 review identifies as eligible a total of 150.1 miles on NFS lands and 48,086 acres within the associated corridors. Table 197 lists the potentially eligible wild and scenic rivers.

Table 7. Eligible Wild, Scenic, and Recreation Rivers

River System	Status1.	Outstandingly Remarkable Value	Preliminary Classification	NFS Miles	NFS Acres
Kootenai River					
Seg. 1	Existing	Scenery, Fisheries, Recreation, Wildlife and History	Recreational	1.3	737
Seg. 2	Existing		Recreational	1.9	363
Seg. 3	Existing		Recreational	5.0	2,299
Seg. 4	Existing		Recreational	0.5	237
Seg. 5	Existing		Recreational	6.7	2,308
Yaak River					
Seg. 1	Existing	Scenery, Botany, Recreation, and History	Recreational	3.5	1,842
Seg. 2	Existing		Recreational	7.1	2,734

River System	Status1.	Outstandingly Remarkable Value	Preliminary Classification	NFS Miles	NFS Acres
Seg. 3	Existing		Recreational	6.2	2,068
Seg. 4	Existing		Scenic	9.0	2,586
West Fork Yaak River					
Seg. 1	New	Scenery and History	Wild	4.2	1,330
Seg. 2	New		Recreational	4.5	1,428
Vinal Creek System					
Vinal Creek/Seg. 1	New	Scenery and Recreation	Scenic	3.9	1,074
Turner Creek/Seg. 2	New		Scenic	1.1	386
Vermilion River					
Seg. 1	Existing	Scenery and History	Recreational	11.1	3,599
Bull River System					
Bull River/Seg. 1	Existing	Scenery	Recreational	5.7	1,911
Bull River/Seg. 2	Existing		Recreational	3.4	1,608
North Fork and Middle Fork Bull River/Seg.3	Existing		Wild	12.6	4,135
East Fork Bull River/Seg. 4	Existing		Recreational	4.1	1,119
East Fork Bull River/Seg. 5	Existing		Wild	3.0	997
North Fork of the East Fork Bull River/Seg. 6	New		Recreational	2.2	616
North Fork of the East Fork Bull River/Seg. 7	New		Wild	1.4	497
Big Creek System					
Big Creek/Seg.1	Existing	Recreation and Geology	Recreational	7.6	2,261
South Fork Big Creek/Seg. 2	Existing		Recreational	6.7	2,103
Little North. Fork Big Creek/Seg. 3	Existing		Wild	1.6	452
Good Creek/Seg. 4	Existing		Wild	2.4	717
North Fork Big Creek/Seg. 5	Existing		Wild	5.6	1,797
Copeland Creek/Seg 6	Existing		Wild	1.8	564

River System	Status1.	Outstandingly Remarkable Value	Preliminary Classification	NFS Miles	NFS Acres
Lookout Creek/Seg. 7	Existing		Wild	2.4	725
East Fork Lookout Creek/Seg. 7	Existing		Wild	1.5	443
Unnamed Tributary to Lookout Creek/Seg. 7	Existing		Wild	1.7	515
Callahan Creek					
Callahan Creek/Seg. 1	New	History	Recreational	6.2	1,326
South Fork Callahan Creek/Seg. 2	New		Recreational	6.8	971
Ross Creek System					
Ross Creek/Seg. 1	New	Scenery, Recreation, Botany	Scenic	2.6	811
Ross Creek/Seg. 2	New		Wild	4.8	1,527
			Total	**150.0**	**48,086**

[1] Segments found to be eligible as wild and scenic under the 1987 Forest Plan as amended are listed as "existing." Additional segments found to be potentially eligible under the plan revision are listed as "new."

Narratives

Following are narratives for each river system determined to be eligible.

Kootenai River System

The Kootenai River drains the northern portion of the Kootenai Forest from Libby Dam downstream to the Montana-Idaho state line. The Kootenai River is 47 miles long within Montana, with approximately 70 percent of the river mileage in non-national forest landownership. There are 5,940 acres of NFS lands within a ½ mile-wide corridor. The qualities that contribute to its eligibility are; the exceptional scenic values along the entire length including Kootenai Falls, its "blue ribbon" status as a fishery, abundant recreation opportunities, bighorn sheep viewing, as well as the historic and pre-historic values that are related to the early days of northwest exploration and settlement. Natural topographic features, along with the landownership pattern, readily yield five different segments that can be assessed independently. They are:

> **Segment 1:** Recreation river potential from the junction of the Fisher River (three miles downstream of Libby Dam), downstream for nine miles to Tub Gulch, approximately four miles upstream from the town of Libby, Montana. This segment flows through a wide-bottom canyon in a rural setting that is mostly non-national forest ownership (85%). The historic site of Jennings, Montana, a steamboat town, and Jennings Rapids are located within the corridor. Also included are: State Highway 37; the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad; the reclaimed WR Grace vermiculite loading facility; the Canoe Gulch Ranger Station; and the Osprey Landing Forest Service boat ramp. Bald eagle and osprey frequently nest along this segment offering views to recreationists.

Segment 2: Recreation river potential for 10 miles from Tub Gulch to Quartz Creek. This segment flows through a wider valley-setting that is more developed than Segment 1, although open hayfields border the river in many places. Landownership is primarily non-national forest (81%). A portion of the town of Libby, Montana, a major portion of State Highway 37, four miles of US Highway 2, and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad are all located within the corridor. This segment offers river recreationists outstanding views of the snowcapped Cabinet Mountains located to the west.

Segment 3: Recreation river potential for 9 miles from Quartz Creek to Surprise Gulch, two miles below Kootenai Falls. This segment flows at a faster rate through a forested, narrow, valley-bottom, and canyon setting that is primarily NFS land (57%). The China Rapids, Kootenai Falls, Lions Club picnic ground and vista point, Kootenai River canyon, the historic "swinging footbridge," as well as the David Thompson portage trail and Kootenai Falls Cultural Resource District are located within the corridor. US Highway 2, the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad, and the Bonneville Power Association electric transmission line are also included. Much of this segment is bordered on the north by the Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks "Kootenai Falls Wildlife Management Area" with the opportunity to view bighorn sheep. Kootenai Falls forms the upstream barrier for an endangered population of white sturgeon. Each spring male harlequin ducks are frequently observed at Kootenai Falls after females have moved up smaller streams to nest. The Kootenai Falls has become a regional hub for extreme kayakers, especially during spring high flows.

Segment 4: Recreation river potential for 10 miles from Surprise Gulch to a mile below Kootenai Vista Estates. This segment flows through a valley-bottom setting and includes a portion of the town of Troy, Montana, US Highway 2, the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad, and a Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) substation. Landownership is 95 percent non-national forest.

Segment 5: Recreation river potential for 8 miles from Kootenai Vista Estates to the Montana-Idaho State line and the KNF boundary (another five miles of recreation river continues into Idaho with a significant portion of NFS land located within the Idaho Panhandle National Forest). This segment flows through a forested, wide canyon-bottom to the mouth of the historic Yaak River. Downstream of Yaak River, the Kootenai River enters a narrow canyon with little development to the historic town site of Leonia. Landownership is 77 percent NFS land. US Highway 2 and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad are located within the corridor.

Yaak River System

The Yaak River drains the northwest portion of the KNF and merges with the Kootenai River six miles downstream from the town of Troy, Montana. The Yaak is 50 miles long with 52 percent of the river mileage in NFS ownership. There are 9,230 acres of NFS land included within a ½ mile-wide corridor. The qualities that contribute to its eligibility are the scenic values along the entire length; recreational values for canoeing, rafting, and kayaking in the early summer months; and historical values related to the gold-mining and early Forest Service days. The natural topographic features, along with the landownership pattern, readily yield four different segments that can be assessed independently. They are:

Segment 1: Recreation river potential from the junction of the East and West Fork, downstream for 19 miles to Pete Creek. This segment meanders through valley-bottom land in the rural wetland setting that is primarily private ownership (82%). The historical

community of Yaak, Montana and a major portion of the Yaak River Road are located within the corridor. Also included is the Upper Ford work center (Yaak Ranger District). This section has limited public access. On normal flow years the river is navigable by raft, drift boat, canoe, and kayak until early July. River flows after July limit floating opportunities.

Segment 2: Recreation river potential for 10 miles from Pete Creek to Meadow Creek. This segment flows at an increased rate through a heavily forested setting that is primarily NFS ownership (72%). The Pete Creek and Whitetail Creek Campgrounds, as well as the Yaak River Road are located within the corridor. There is good public access. During normal flow years, the river is navigable by raft, drift boat, canoe, and kayak until early July. River flows after July limit floating opportunities.

Segment 3: Recreation river potential for 11 miles from Meadow Creek to the Yaak Falls. This segment flows at a still faster rate through a forested, narrow, valley-bottom setting that is approximately one-half NFS land (54%). The Red Top Campground, historical mining community of Sylvanite, and the Yaak River Road are located within the corridor. Also included is the old Sylvanite Ranger Station.

Segment 4: Scenic river potential begins at the Yaak Falls and cascades downstream for 9 miles through a deep canyon setting and ends at the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) electric transmission corridor paralleling US Highway 2 adjacent to the mouth of the Yaak River. This rugged segment is almost entirely NFS land (97%) and includes the Yaak Falls Campground. This stretch of the Yaak River has limited access, is very steep, remote, and rugged. While there are some guide books showing this portion of the river as raft and or kayakable, it is not a recommended route. This portion of the river should only be navigated by highly experienced individuals only after scouting, checking river levels, and insuring safety. This section of river has some very dangerous falls, rapids, and tight canyon areas.

West Fork Yaak River

The West Fork Yaak River flows into the United States from Canada in lush wet river bottom with limited access. The West Fork Yaak River flows nine miles long with 100 percent of the river mileage in NFS ownership. There are 2,760 acres of NFS land included within a ½ mile-wide corridor. The qualities that contribute to its eligibility are the scenic and historic values along the entire length. The upper and lower West Fork Falls are very scenic and have cultural significance to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes.

Segment 1: Wild river potential from the border with Canada for a length of four miles through a very scenic and remote valley. This portion of the river is very lush, scenic, and has a variety of wildlife that utilizes the river corridor. A non-motorized trail, trail 318, runs along this stretch of the river corridor.

Segment 2: Recreation river potential for five miles where the West Fork joins the main Yaak River. This section of river has several roads that are within ½ mile of the river corridor. The upper and lower West Fork Falls are located in this section and are very popular recreation sites. The Lower West Fork Falls has a trail and viewing platform located at the falls.

Vinal Creek System

The Vinal Creek System flows into the Yaak River at the extreme northeast end of the river. The Vinal Creek System is 5 miles long with 100 percent of the river mileage in NFS ownership. There are 1,460 acres included within a ½ mile-wide corridor. The qualities that contribute to its eligibility are the scenic and recreational values, with several popular trails, including a national recreation trail (part of the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail, Congressionally designated in 2009). Two different creeks make up the two different segments that comprise this system. They are:

> **Segment 1:** Vinal Creek drains a large area that contains the Fish Lakes Canyon located below Mount Henry. Landownership is 100 percent NFS land. Trail 9 follows most of the Vinal Creek drainage. This National Recreation Trail is a popular route for recreationists visiting Fish Lakes and Turner Falls. Trail 9 is also part of the newly designated Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail. A short portion of trail 397, Fish Lakes Trail follows the upper section of Vinal Creek. Vinal Creek flows through portions of magnificent old growth containing western larch and cedar and there is a variety of other plants, mosses, and lichens along the drainage. There are also rocky canyons along the drainage offering scenic views. The drainage has abundant wildlife, birds, and fish along the entire route. Vinal Creek has good access via trails throughout the area and is a popular recreation area. Vinal Creek drains into the Yaak River.
>
> **Segment 2:** Turner Creek drains an area off of the Purcell Summit in the north-west portion of the KNF on the Three Rivers Ranger District. Turner Creek flows into Vinal Creek along the National Recreation Trail #9. Landownership is 100 percent in NFS land. The lower stretch of Turner Creek contains Turner Falls before its connection with Vinal Creek. Turner Falls is a beautiful falls that is adjacent to the Vinal Creek National Recreation Trail and the newly designated Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail. Turner Falls is a highly visited site by recreationists. The clean, cold water that flows through this lower stretch of Turner Creek offers a combination of scenery, vegetation, and wildlife in a remote setting.

Vermilion River System

The Vermilion River drains a southern portion of the Kootenai Forest and merges with the Noxon Reservoir three miles southwest from the town of Trout Creek, Montana. This eligible river system is 13 miles long with 85 percent of the river mileage in NFS ownership. There are 4,000 acres of NFS land included within a ½ mile-wide corridor. The qualities that contribute to its eligibility are the scenic quality (drive along the Vermilion road, Vermilion Falls and the Hog Back Gorge) as well as the historical values related to the gold-mining days. There were three different gold rush periods in the Vermilion, with one of the few regional towns (Twenty Odd) without an important transportation line.

The natural topographic features, along with the landownership pattern, readily yield a continuous Recreation river segment from the junction of Willow Creek, downstream to Noxon Reservoir. The river cascades over the Vermilion Falls located near the upper end of the river segment and down through a narrow, timber-covered canyon. The seasonal, unpaved Vermilion River road parallels the river for the entire length within the study corridor.

Bull River System

The Bull River drains the southwestern corner of the Kootenai Forest and merges with the Cabinet Gorge Reservoir four miles northwest of the town of Noxon, Montana. The Bull River is

49 miles long with 66 percent of the river mileage in NFS ownership. There are 10,900 acres of NFS land included within a ½ mile-wide corridor. The qualities that contribute to its eligibility are outstanding scenic values, including beautiful vistas of the Cabinet Mountains and lush meadows of the river valleys.

The natural topographic features, along with the landownership pattern, readily yield seven different river segments that can be assessed independently. They are:

Segment 1: Recreation river potential from the junction of the North and Middle Forks, downstream for 11 miles to the junction of the East Fork. The river meanders through the upper Bull River valley which is primarily rural wetlands and important riparian areas. Approximately 50 percent of the river mileage is in NFS ownership. The Bull River Highway and Cabinet Mountains Vista Point are included within the corridor.

Segment 2: Recreation river for nine miles from the junction of the East Fork to the Cabinet Gorge Reservoir. This segment flows at a faster rate through a narrow valley-bottom canyon setting that is 37 percent NFS ownership. A major portion of the Bull River Highway is included within the corridor.

Segment 3: Wild river for 17 miles in two sections from the headwaters of the North and Middle Forks to the junction of the North and Middle Forks. These two forks flow at a fast rate out of the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness through a steep canyon into a narrow valley-bottom setting that is 72 percent NFS ownership. Main trails into the Cabinet Wilderness parallel both of these forks.

Segment 4: Recreation river for four miles from the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness boundary on the East Fork to the junction of the Bull River main stem. This segment flows at a moderate rate through a narrow valley-bottom setting that is 91 percent NFS ownership. The historic Bull River Guard Station is included within the corridor.

Segment 5: Wild river for three miles from the headwaters of the East Fork to the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness boundary. This segment flows at a fast rate through a steep canyon into a narrow valley-bottom setting that is 100 percent NFS ownership. The Saint Paul Lake Trail is included within the corridor.

Segment 6: Recreation river for two miles from the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness boundary on the North Fork of the East Fork of the Bull River to the junction of the East Fork Bull River. This segment flows at a fast rate through a steep canyon into the narrow valley of the East Fork Bull River. This is 100 percent NFS ownership and Dad Peak trail parallels the corridor.

Segment 7: Wild river for one mile from the headwaters to the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness boundary on the North Fork of the East Fork of the Bull River. This segment flows at a fast rate through a steep canyon and is 100 percent NFS ownership. The Dad Peak trail is within the corridor and crosses through the headwaters.

Big Creek System

Big Creek drains a significant portion of the north-central portion of the Kootenai Forest and merges with Koocanusa Reservoir, a 90-mile long water storage facility that extends 45 miles into Canada. Big Creek is an important spawning tributary to Lake Koocanusa and is 100 percent in NFS ownership. The qualities that contribute to its eligibility are geology and recreation.

Geology values include Big Creek Face, a glacially scoured face (polished rock outcrops) adjacent to Lake Koocanusa, and the Upper Big Creek Riparian Ecosystem and established special area (MA2), and Big Creek Research and Natural Area (RNA). Upper Big Creek during glacial melt was a glacial lake with outlets to the south and west, on the topographic divide with Everett and Gold Creeks. The Big Creek RNA is located on a series of terraces at the mouth of Big Creek where it joins Koocanusa Reservoir. The main habitat type is Douglas-fir/dwarf huckleberry. This vegetative type is uncommon on the KNF and is generally confined to terraces and benches. Recreation values (potential) include proximity to Lake Koocanusa State of Montana and NF Scenic byway, and National Recreation Trail Little North Fork Falls.

The natural topographic features readily yield a combination of recreation and wild river segments that are currently being managed for recreational opportunities in the KNF Forest Plan. The main stem of Big Creek (Segment 1) and a portion of the South Fork of Big Creek (Segment 2) are a continuous recreational river segment 14 miles in length. Adjoining this 14-mile segment is a series of five separate wild river segments totaling 17 miles, most of which contain existing trail systems readily accessible from the Big Creek road (#336).

Road #336, which parallels all of Big Creek and the South Fork of Big Creek, is a native surface road and provides access to seven trailheads, one serving two trails, as well as numerous dispersed picnic and camp sites. One trail is an interpretive trail leading to Little North Fork Falls. Three trailheads (four trails) access the Big Creek Inventoried Roadless Area.

Callahan Creek System

Callahan Creek drains into the Kootenai River just south of the town of Troy, Montana. This area contains sites related to early-day logging and mining activities along Callahan Creek, including old railroad rail pinned to the canyon walls. The area is eligible for the national register of historic places, and a special area (MA3). The historic district includes the area structures relating to the “Callahan Creek & Southern” railroad. This narrow gauge rail served both the Snowstorm Silver Lead mining Company, and was extended to transport timber for a Forest Service timber sale in the 1920’s to Sandpoint Lumber Company. Use of narrow gauge rail for transport of timber is a unique aspect of a timber sale on the forest.

> **Segment 1: Callahan Creek** from the forest boundary up stream to the confluence with the South Fork Callahan Creek proposed as “recreational”. The district includes evidence of log chutes, logging camps, old railroad grade and rail, and trestles. A portion of the grade from Troy to Three Mile Creek has been developed into a hiking trail with interpretative signs.
>
> **Segment 2: South Fork Callahan Creek** from the confluence with the main Callan Creek through the historic district proposed as “recreational”. This follows the railroad grade and associated log chutes, logging camps, old railroad grade, and rail. While logging did occur during this time in other drainages (Glad Creek), the railroad grade appears to have terminated along the South Fork of Callahan Creek.

Ross Creek System

The Ross Creek system drains into the south end of Bull Lake. This drainage is in the rain shadow of the Scotchman Peaks area of the Cabinet Mountains Range, receiving upwards of 60 inches precipitation yearly. The qualities that contribute to its eligibility are scenery, recreation, and botany.

Segment 1: Ross Creek from the lower boundary of the Ross Creek Falls special area to the recommended wilderness boundary proposed as “scenic”. Ross Creek Scenic Area was established in 1959 for its scientific and recreation value. The special area (MA3) is located in the bottom of Ross Creek, containing a stand of large, old western red cedars. The age of these cedars is rate on the forest. A 1 mile, self-guided trail winds through the stand. The trees are upwards of eight feet in diameter and 175 feet tall. The area includes sites referred to by descriptive names: “Cedar Chimney”, the “Wrestlers”, the “Fairy Den”, and the “Twins.” Ross Falls is located on lower Ross Creek below Ross Creek Cedars. The falls is tucked in a narrow gorge with steep sidewalls and scattered vegetation on the rocky, southerly aspect. Ross Creek Cedars is one of the most visited recreation sites on the Kootenai NF, drawing visitors from outside of the area.

Segment 2: Ross Creek from the recommended wilderness boundary to headwaters “wild”. The Lower Ross RNA contains an extensive stand of large, mature western red cedar. The wind-sheltered position and perpetual moistness of the stream sides have protected the western red cedar from most wildfires. The mature stands generally contain western red cedar, western hemlock, and western white pine. The cedars may be more than 1,000 years old.

Maps

Following are maps of the eligible wild and scenic rivers. Figure 42 displays the eligible wild and scenic rivers forest wide and table 198 indicates the name of the river segment, classification, and page number and figure number for detailed maps.

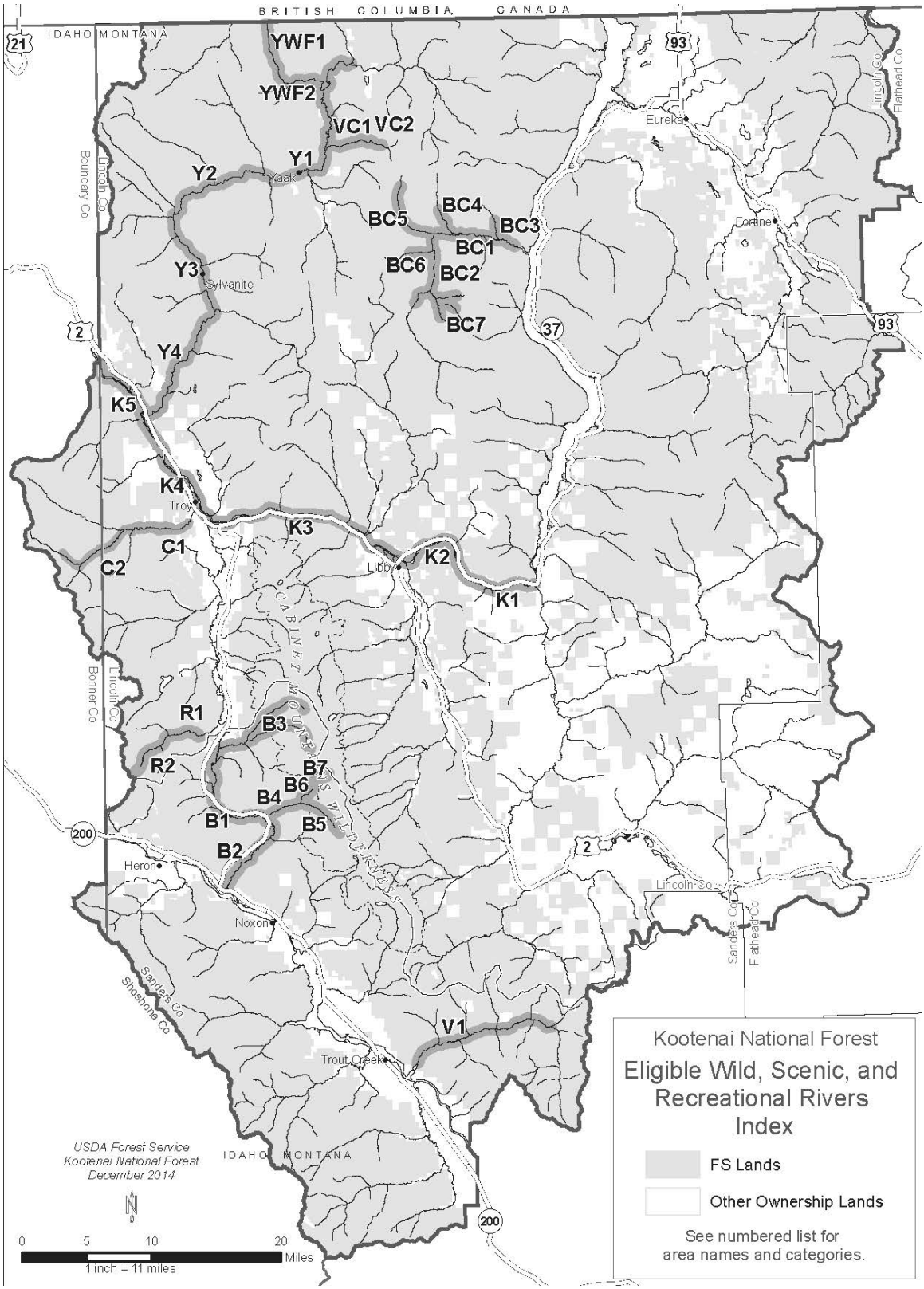

Figure 42. KNF Eligible Wild, Scenic, and Recreational Rivers Index Map

Table 8. KNF Eligible Wild, Scenic, and Recreation Rivers Map Reference List

Figure #	Page Number	Name	Type
43	246	West Fork Yaak River, Seg. 1 & 2	wild/recreation
44	247	Vinal Creek	scenic
44	247	Turner Creek	scenic
44	247	Yaak River, Seg. 1	recreation
45	248	Yaak River, Seg. 2	recreation
46	249	Yaak River, Seg. 3	recreation
47	250	Yaak River, Seg. 4	scenic
47	250	Kootenai River, Seg. 5	recreation
48	251	Kootenai River, Seg. 4	recreation
49	252	Kootenai River, Seg. 3	recreation
50	253	Kootenai River, Seg. 2	recreation
51	254	Kootenai River, Seg. 1	recreation
52	255	Big Creek	recreation
52	255	South Fork Big Creek	recreation
52	255	Little North Fork Big Creek	wild
52	255	Good Creek	wild
52	255	North Fork Big Creek	wild
52	255	Copeland Creek	wild
52	255	Lookout Creek / EF Lookout Creek / Unnamed Trib to Lookout Creek	wild
53	256	Bull River, Seg. 1 & 2	recreation
54	257	North Fork and Middle Fork Bull River	wild
54	257	Lower East Fork Bull River	recreation
54	257	Upper East Fork Bull River	wild
54	257	North Fork of East Fork Bull River	recreation
54	257	North Fork of East Fork Bull River	wild
55	258	Vermilion River	recreation
56	259	Callahan Creek, Seg. 1 & 2	recreation
57	260	Ross Creek, Seg. 1 & 2	scenic/wild

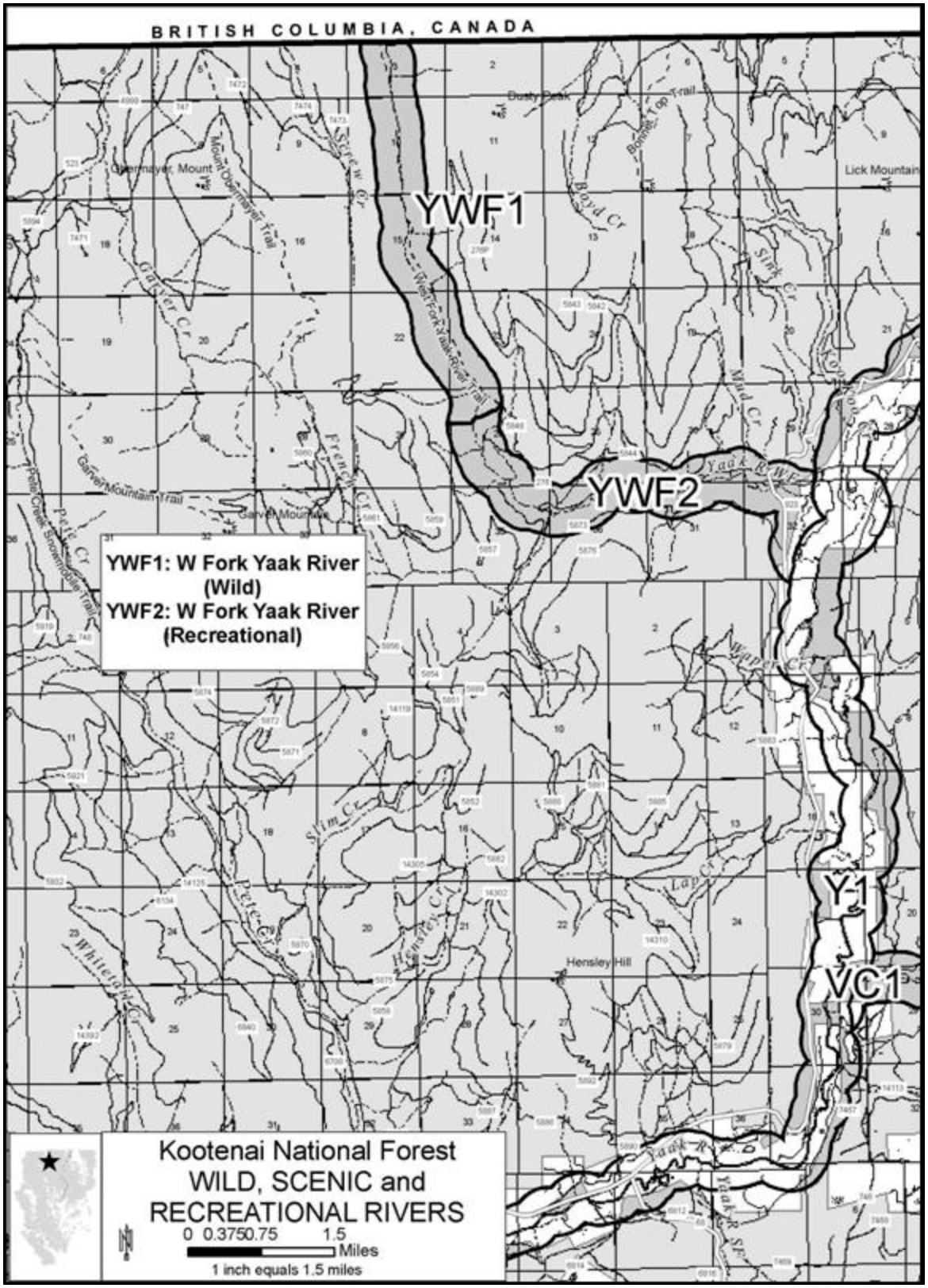

Figure 43. Eligible Wild River: YWF1-West Fork Yaak River, Eligible Recreational River: YWF2-West Fork Yaak River

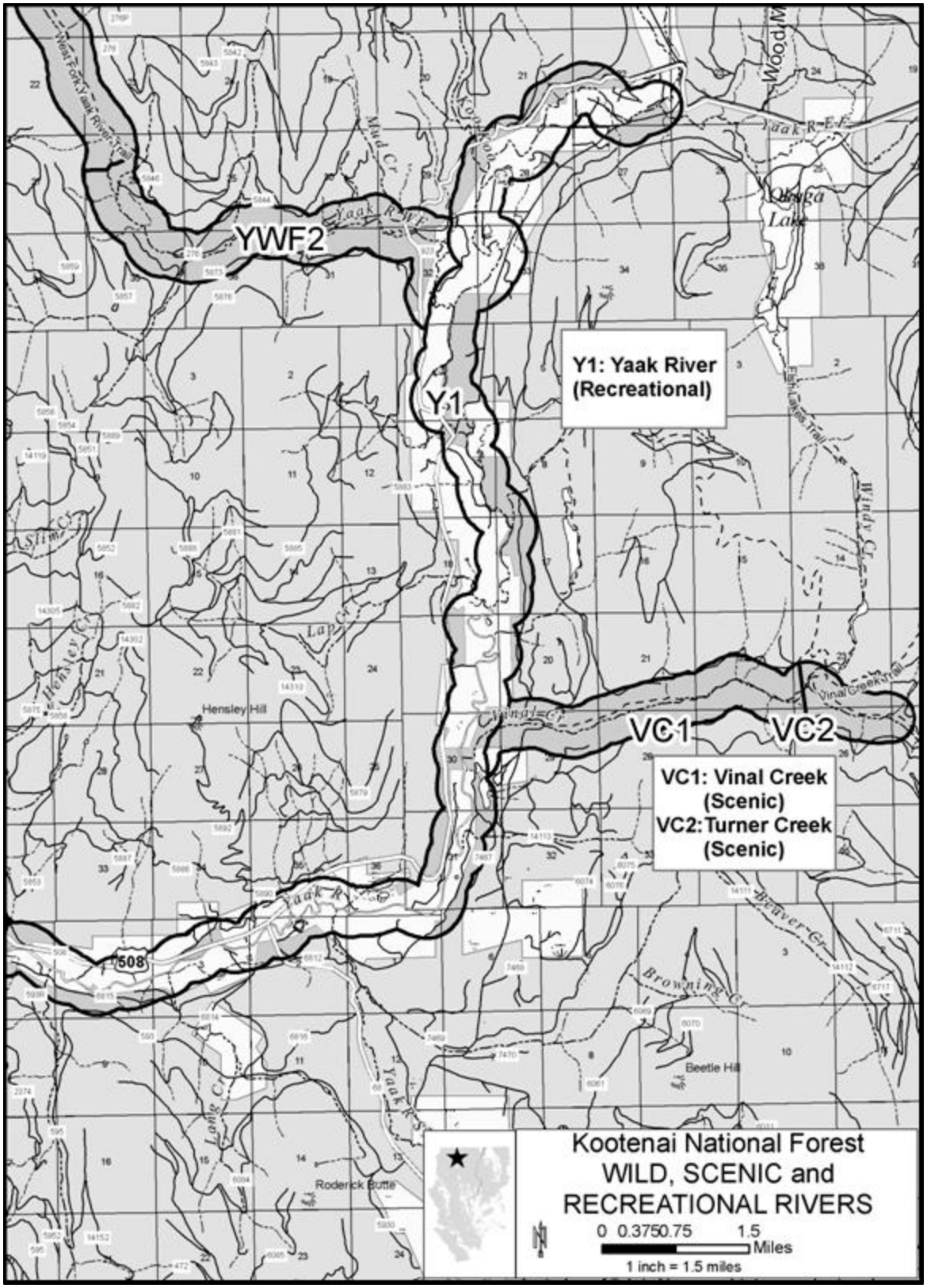

Figure 44. Eligible Scenic River: VC1-Vinal Creek, and VC2-Vinal Creek/Turner Falls, Eligible Recreational River: Y1-Yaak River

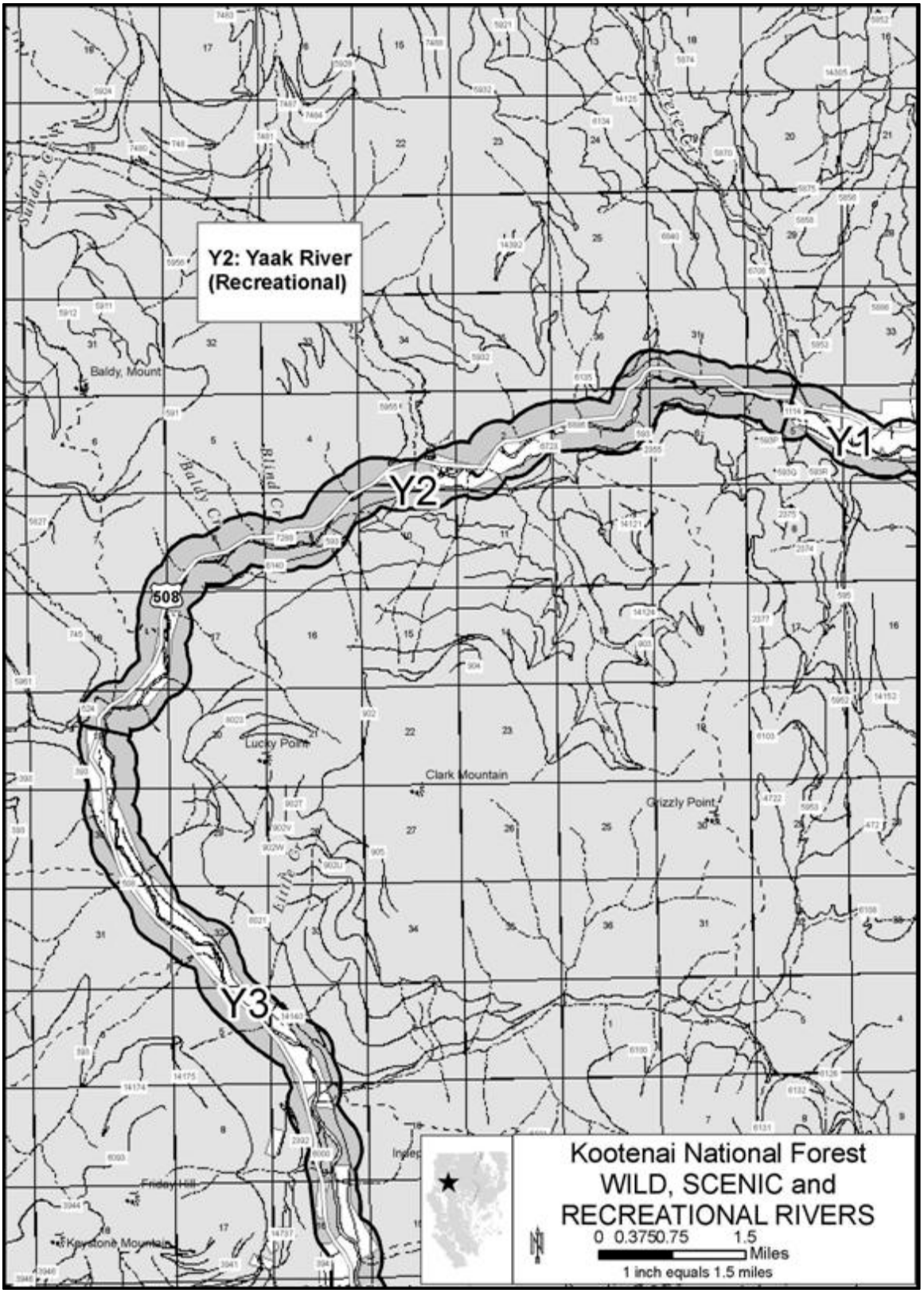

Figure 45. Eligible Recreational River: Y2-Yaak River

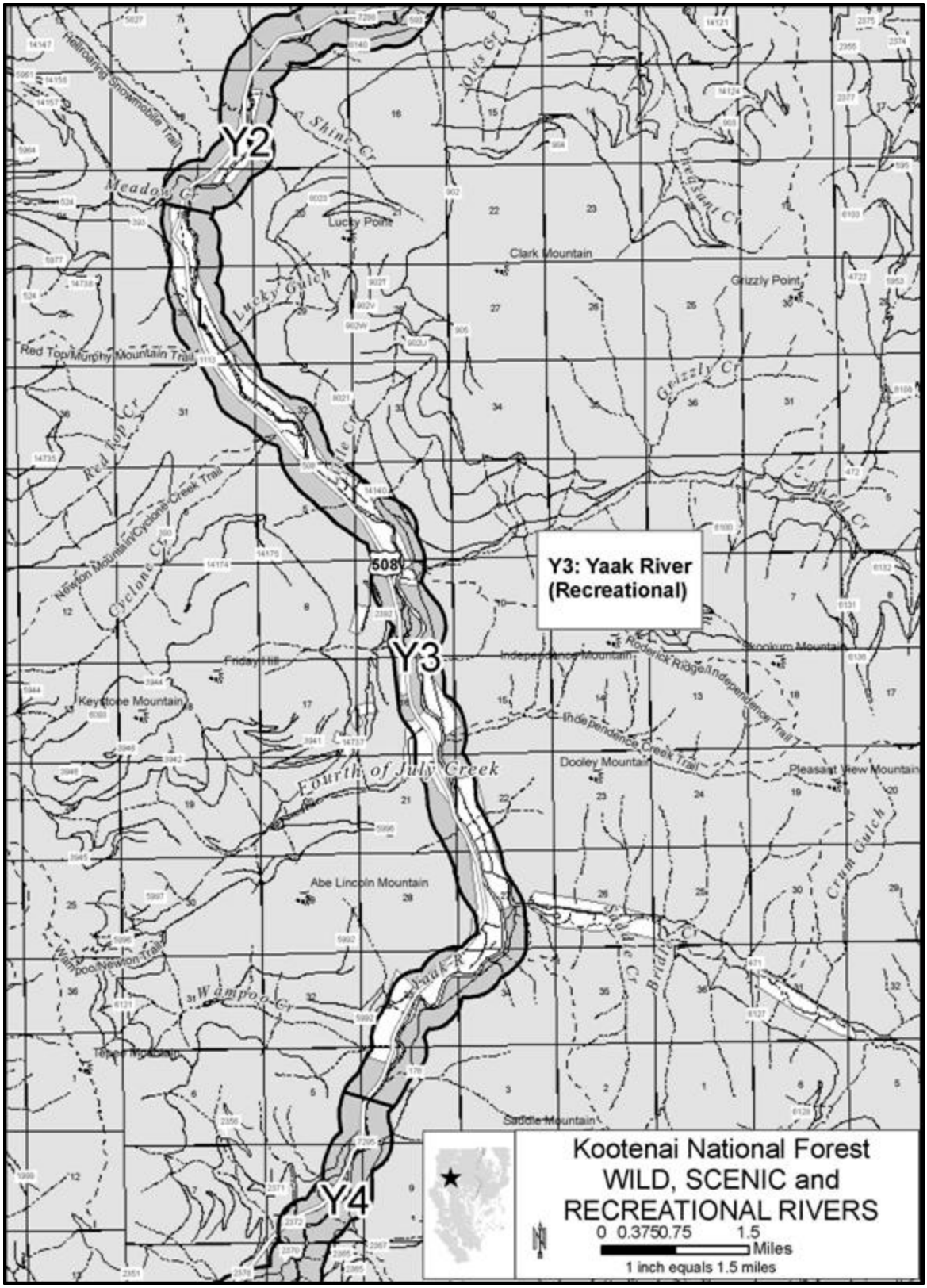

Figure 46. Eligible Recreational River: Y3-Yaak River

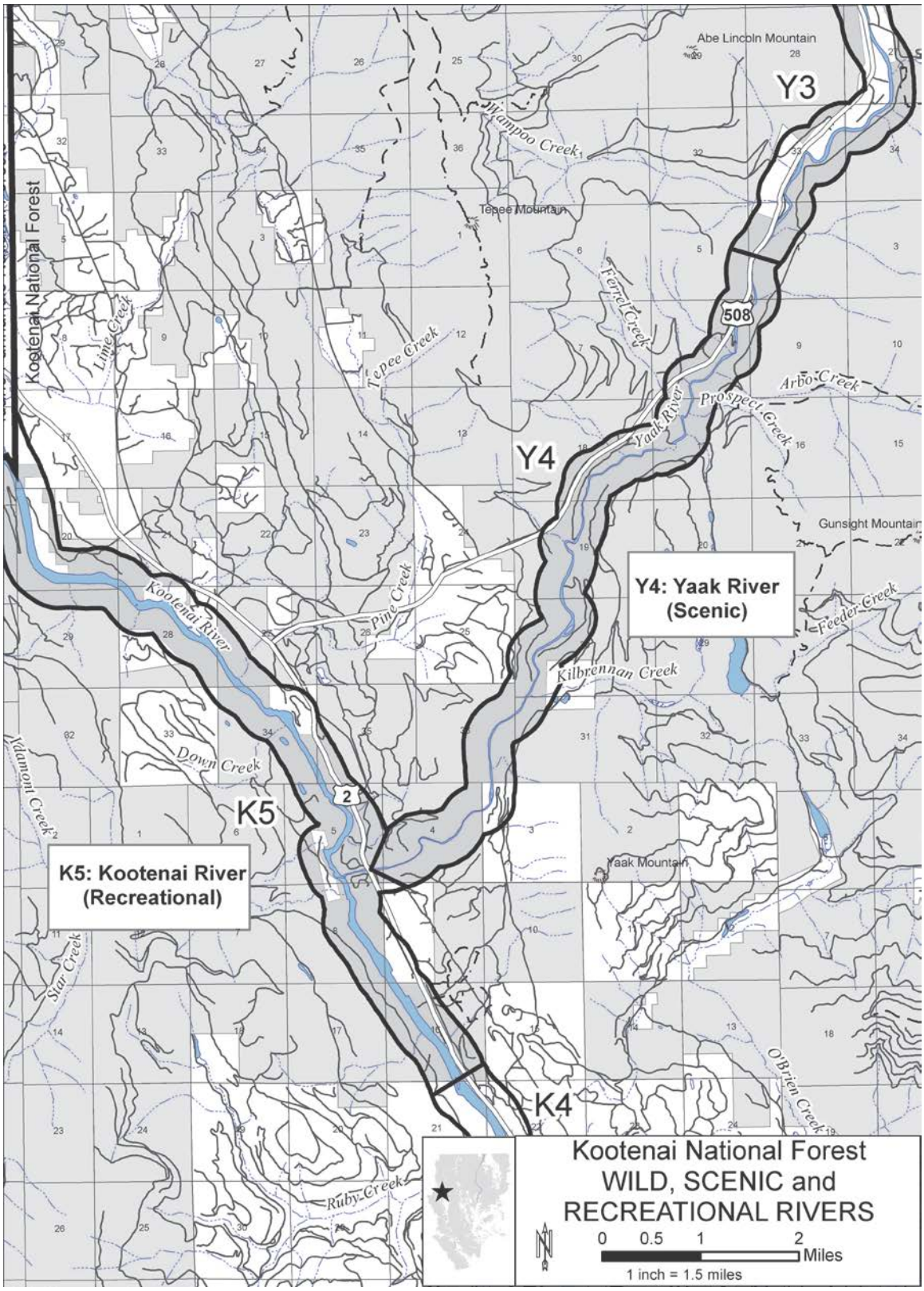

Figure 47. Eligible Scenic River: Y4-Yaak River, Eligible Recreational River: K5-Kootenai River

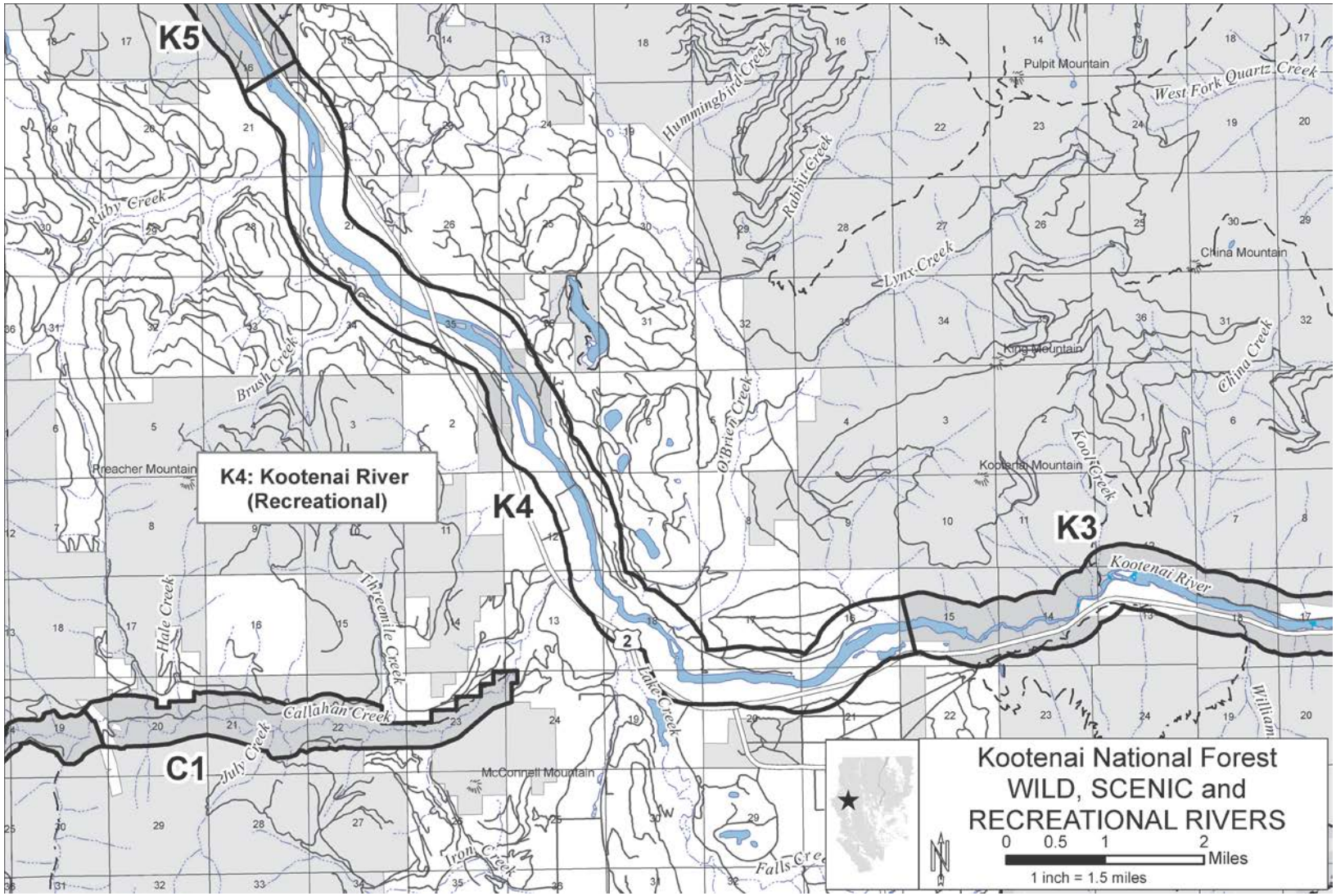

Figure 48. Eligible Recreational River: K4-Kootenai River

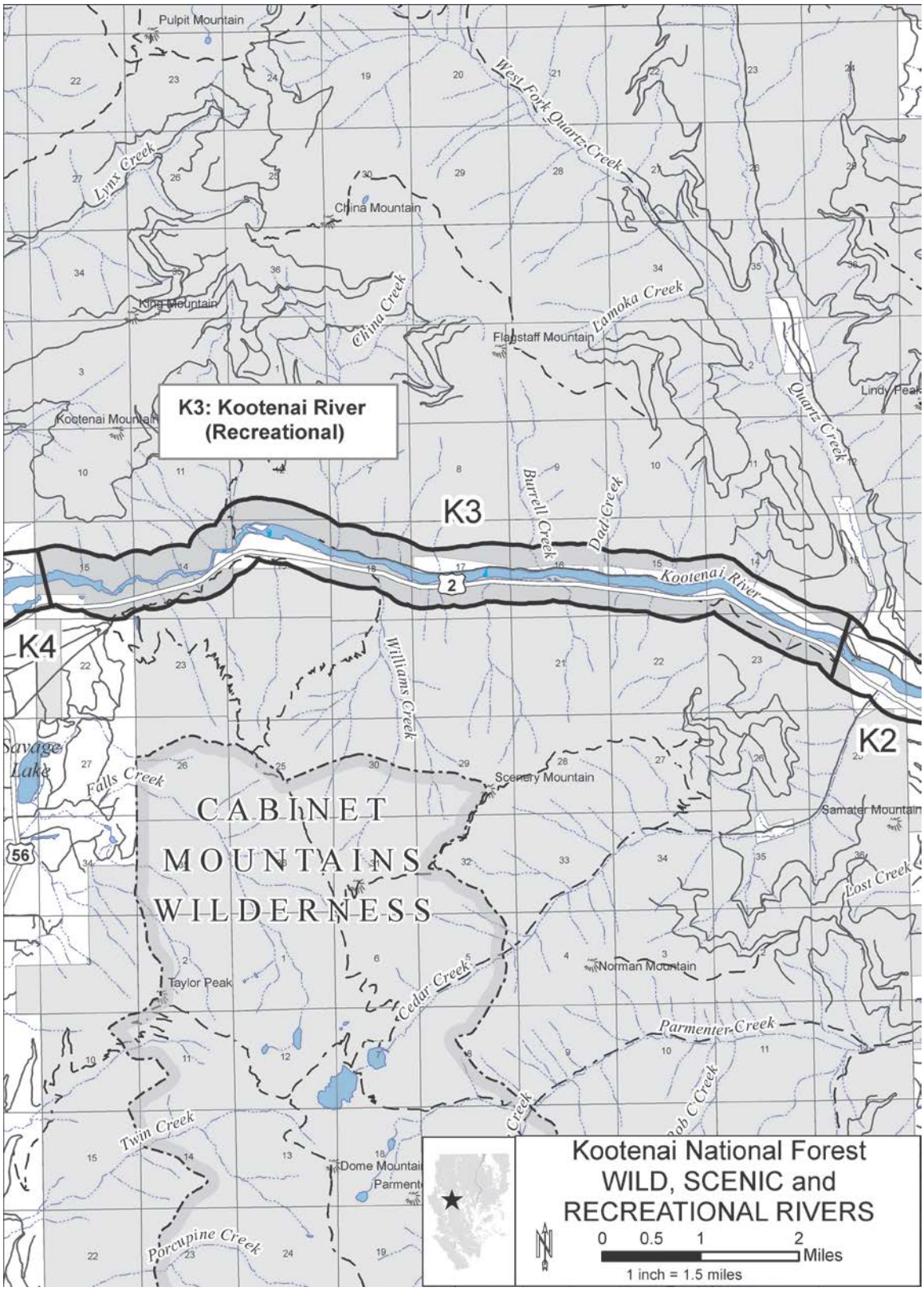

Figure 49. Eligible Recreational River: K3-Kootenai River

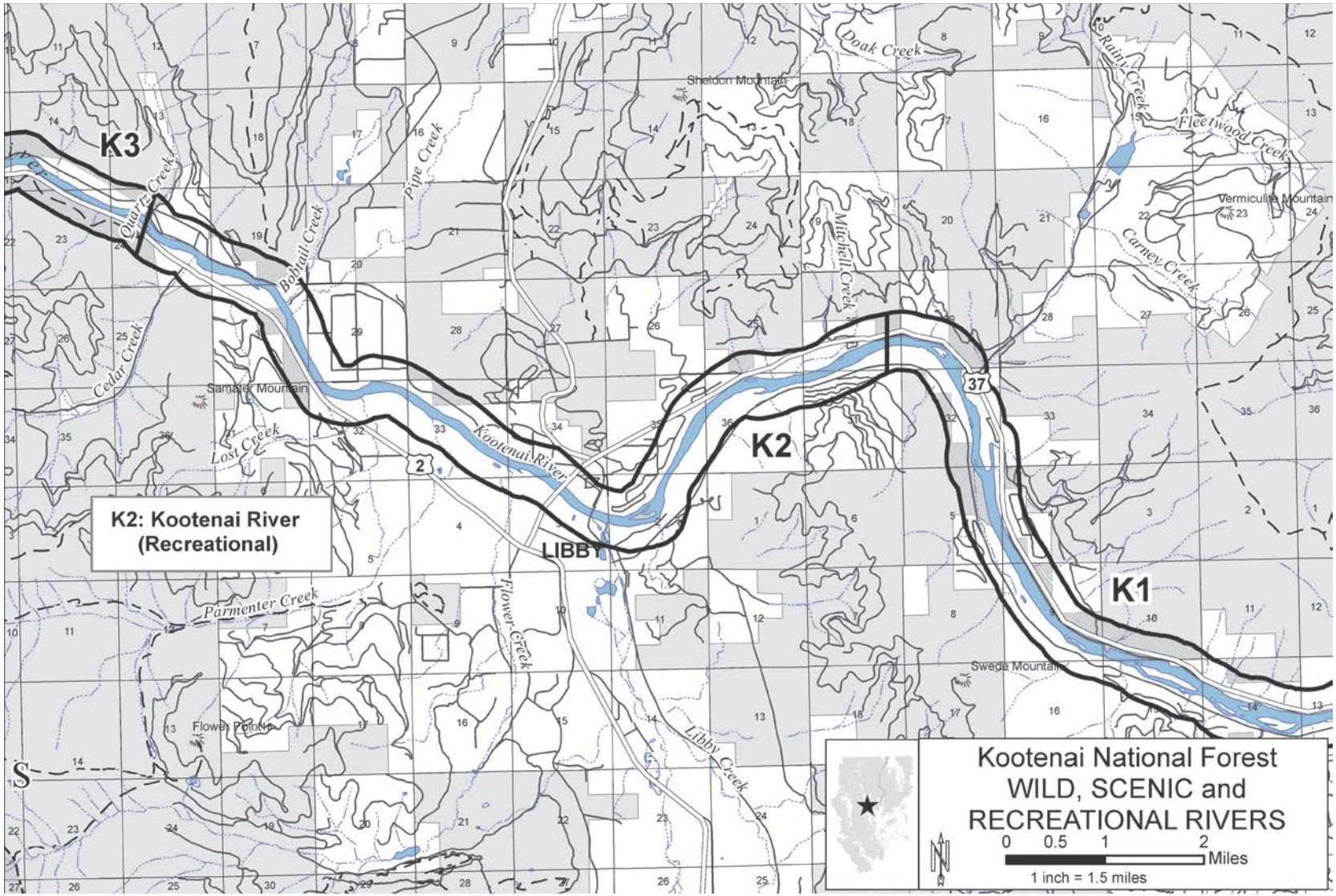

Figure 50. Eligible Recreational River: K2-Kootenai Replace

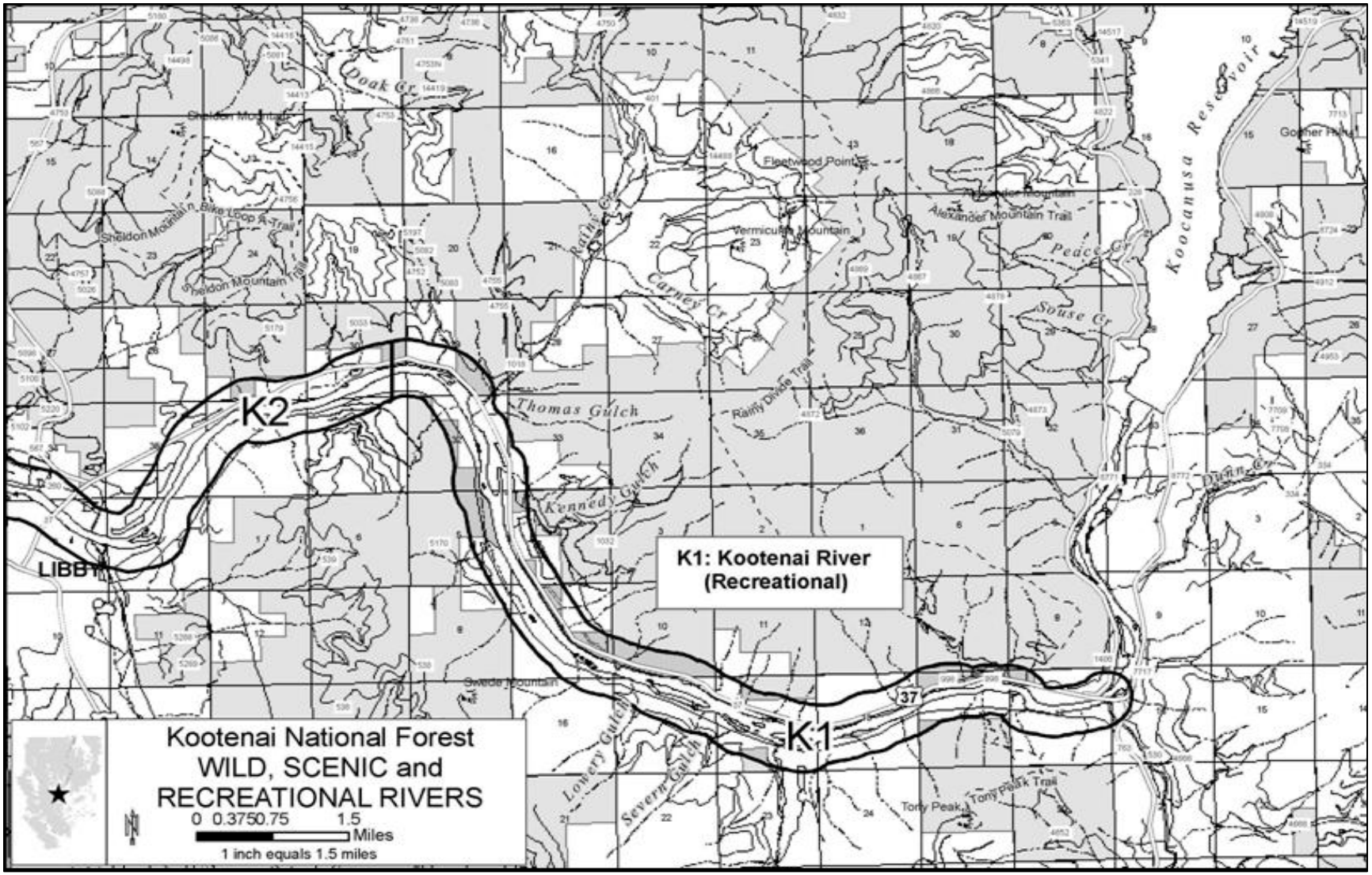

Figure 51. Eligible Recreational River: K1-Kootenai

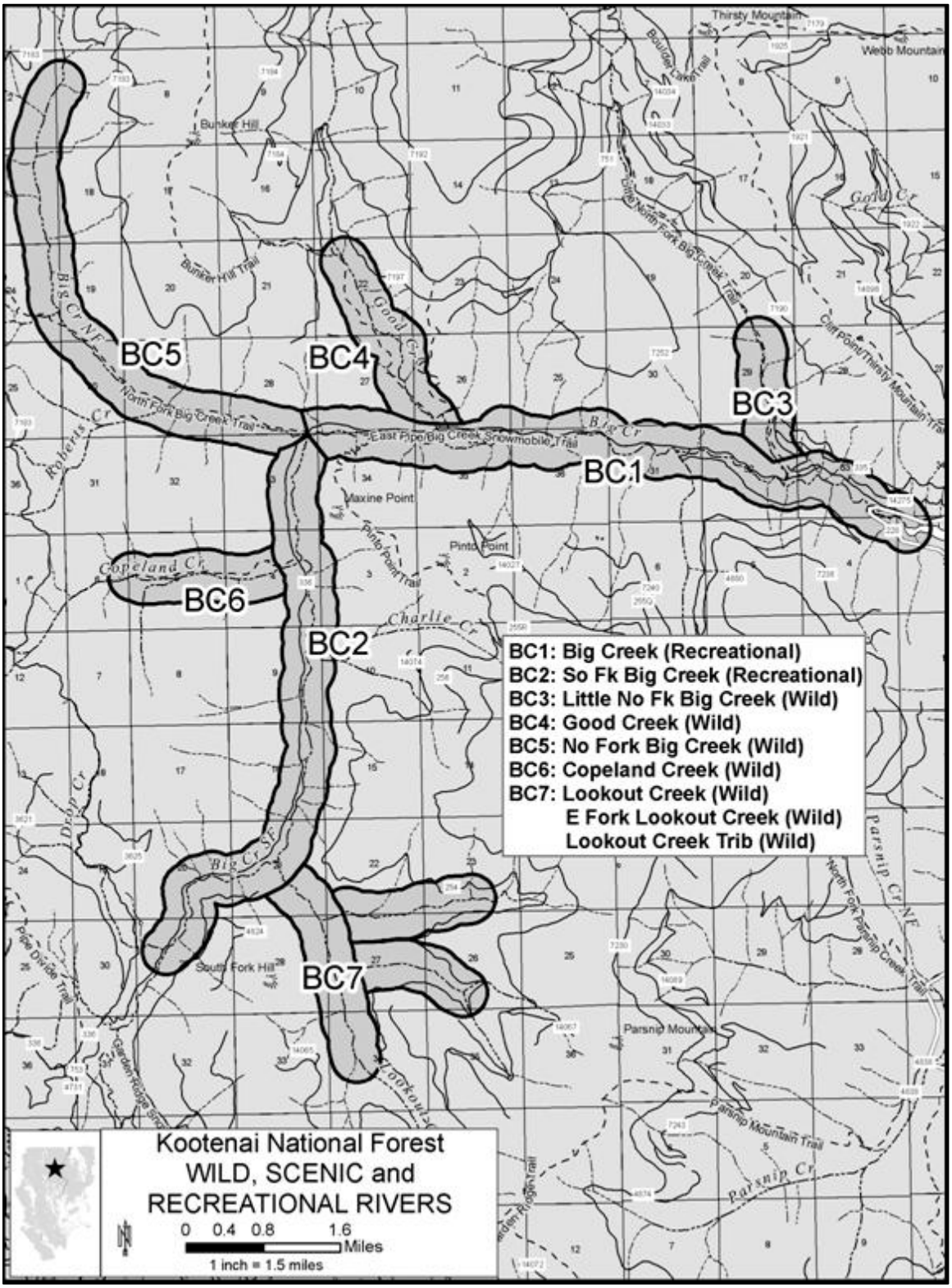

Figure 52. Eligible Recreational River: BC1-Big Cr., BC2-So Fk Big Creek, Eligible Wild River: BC3-Little No Fk Big Creek, BC4-Good Creek, BC5-No Fk Big Creek, BC6-Copeland Creek, and BC7-Lookout Creek

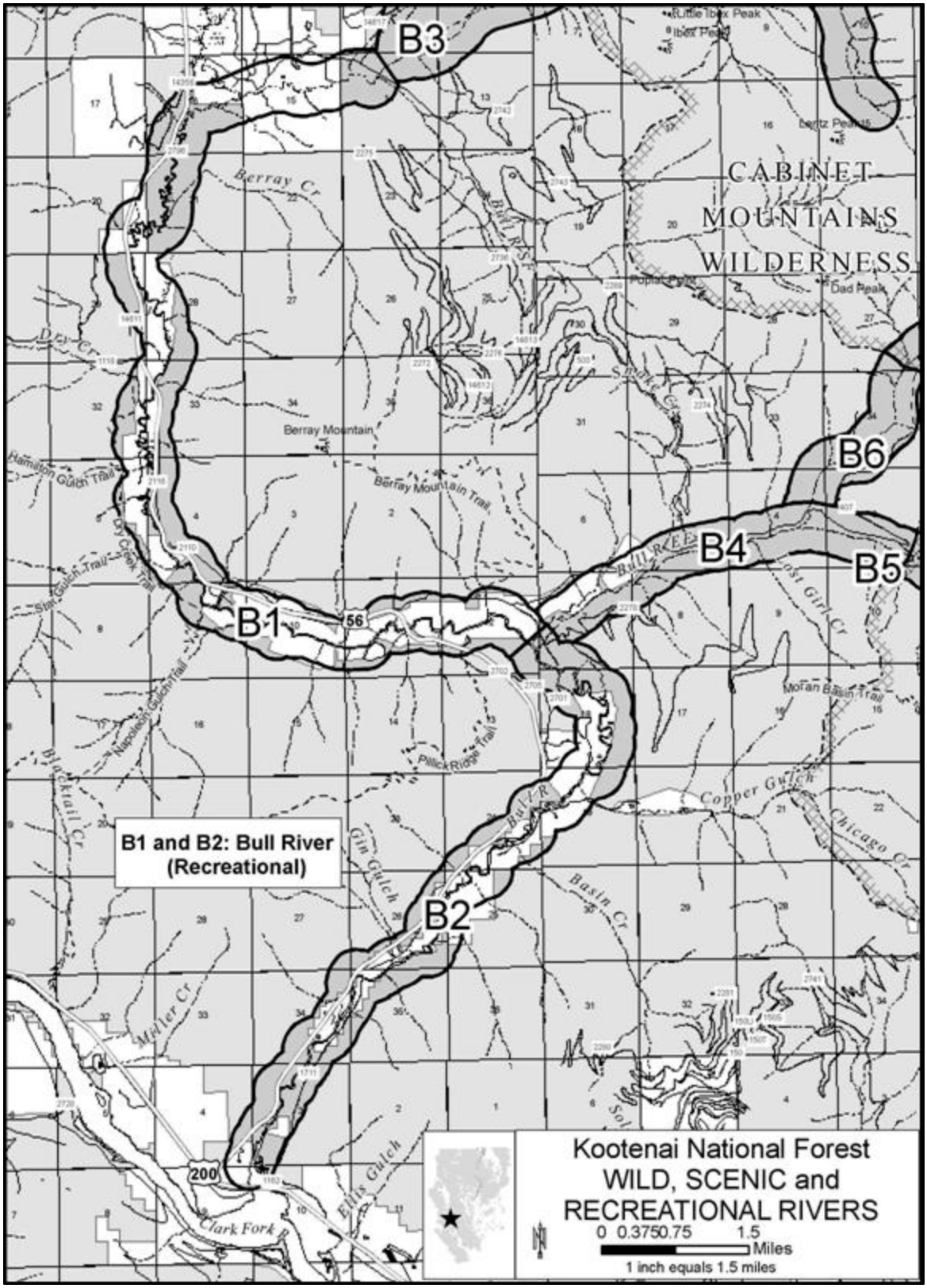

Figure 53. Eligible Recreational River: B1, B2-Bull River

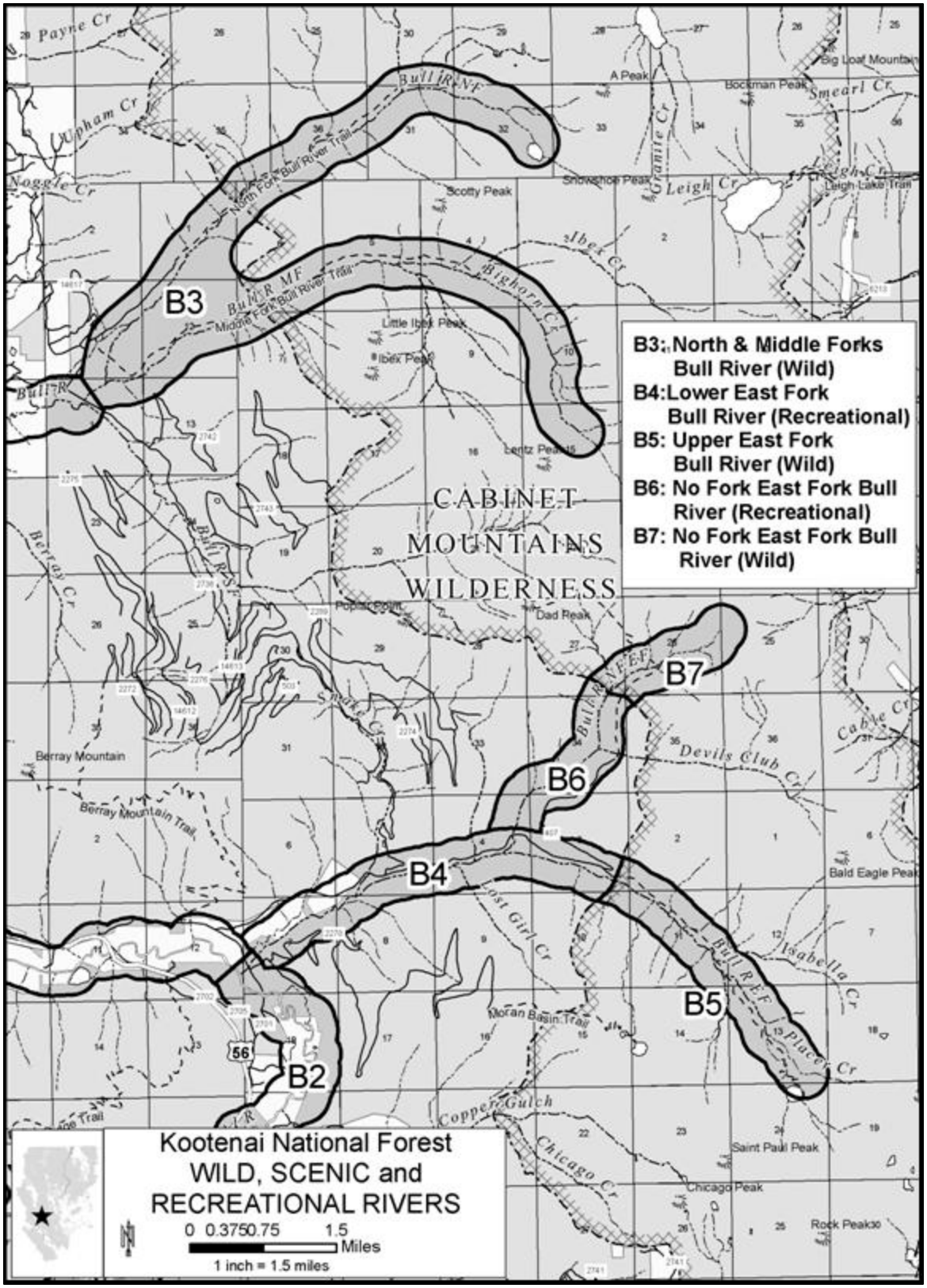

Figure 54. Eligible Wild River: B3-North and Middle Forks Bull River, B5-Upper East Fork Bull River, B7- North Fork East Fk Bull River, Eligible Recreational River: B4-Lower East Fork Bull River, B6-North Fork East Fk Bull River

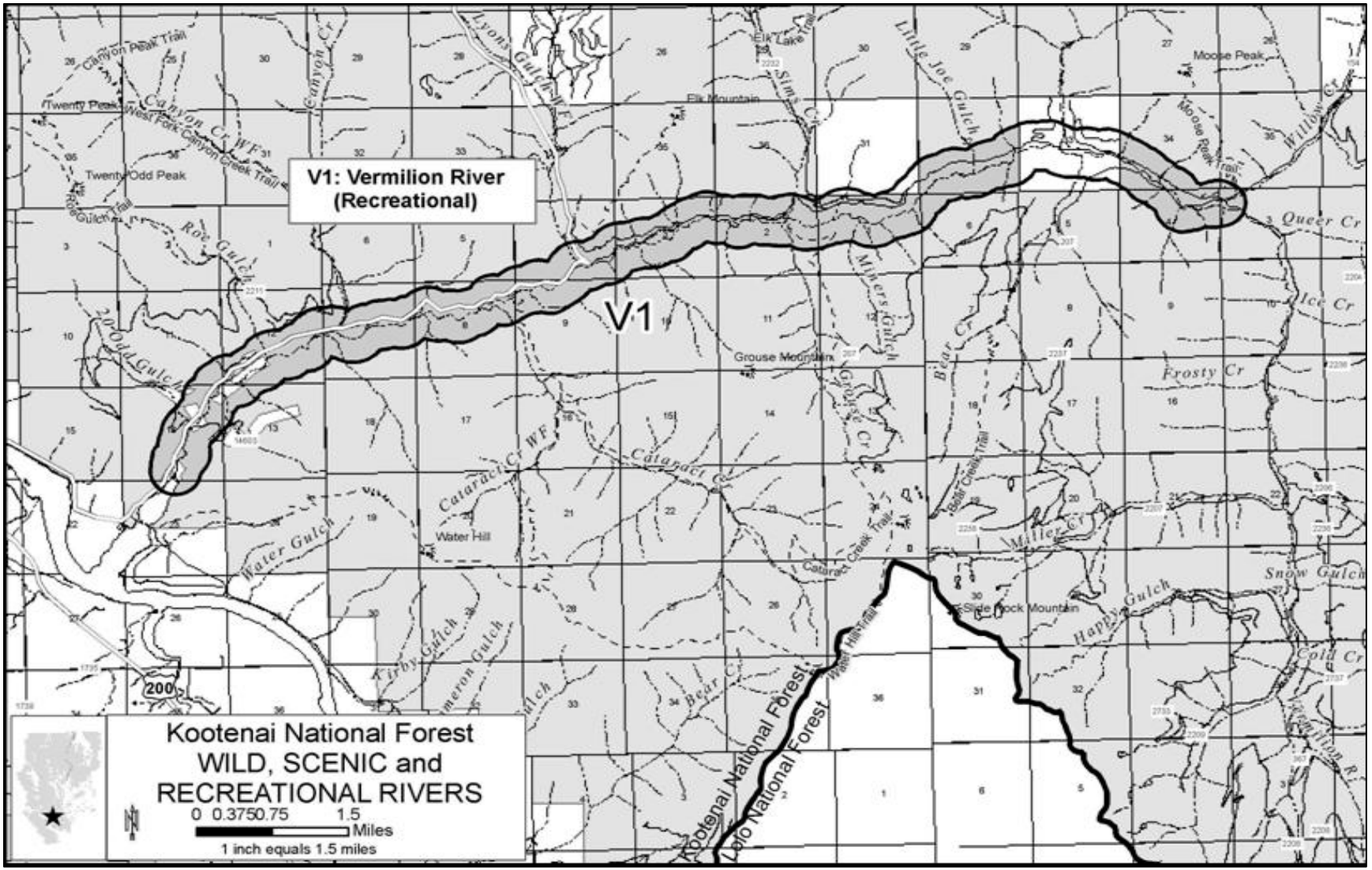

Figure 55. Eligible Recreational River: V1 – Vermilion River

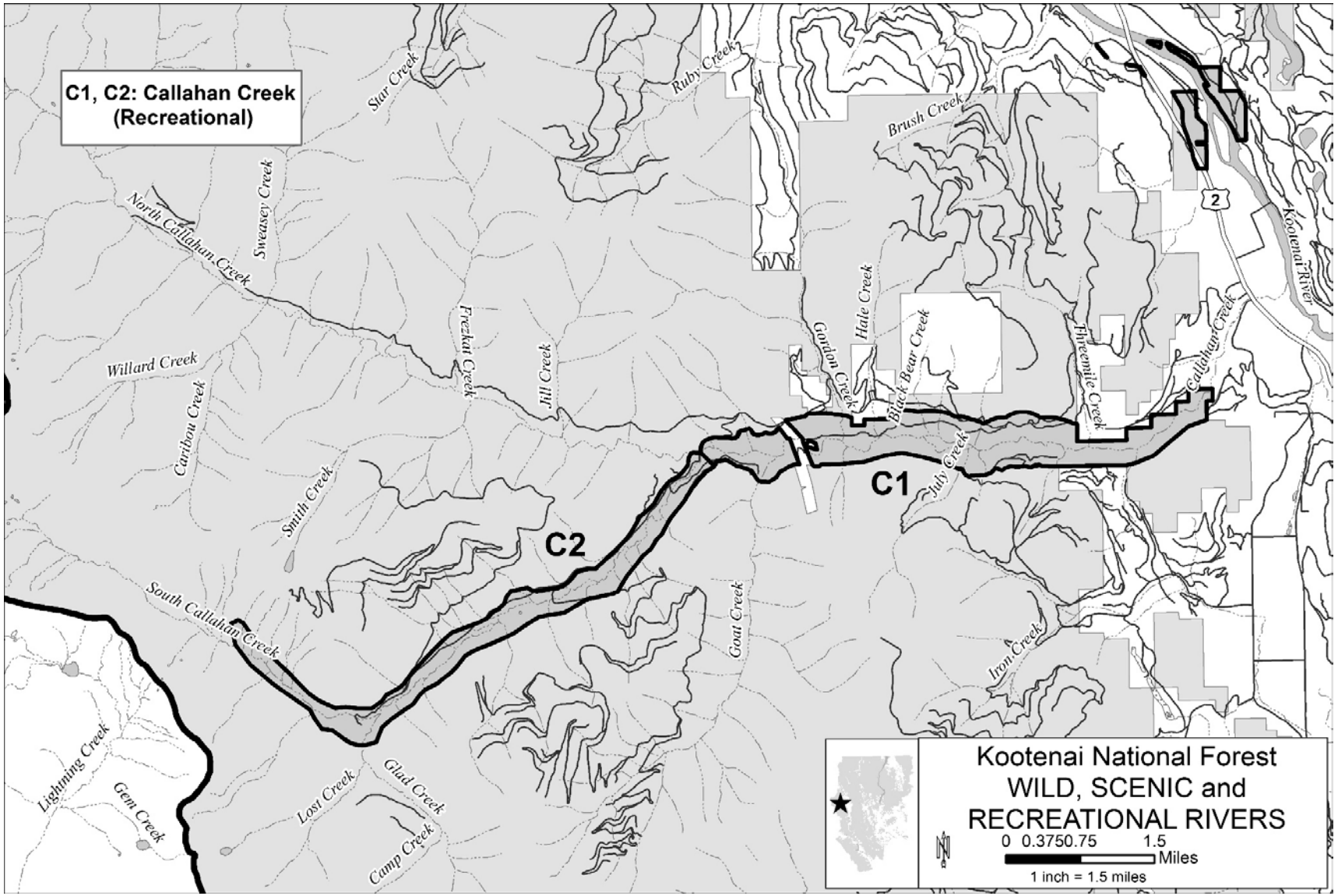

Figure 56. Eligible Recreation River: Callahan Creek: C1- Callahan Creek, C-2 South Fork Callahan

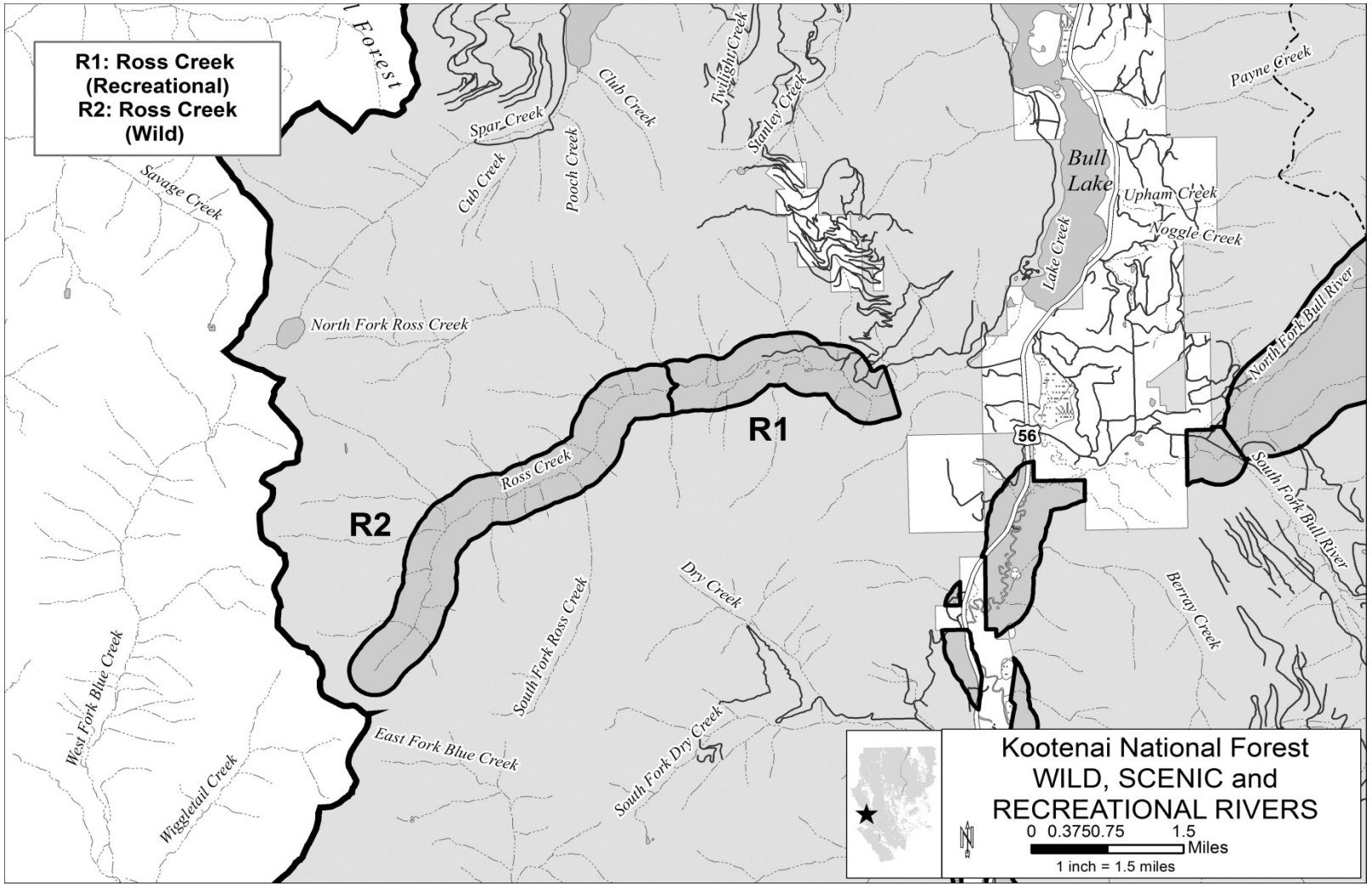

Figure 56-A. Eligible Recreation River Ross Creek: R1 and R2 Ross Creek

WSR Inventory Potential Values, ORVs and Eligibility Determination

Table 198-A WSR Inventory with Potential Values, ORVs, and Eligibility Determination

		Identified Potential ORV													Forest review		
Stream Name	District	Free Flowing	Scenery	Recreation	Geology	Fish	Wildlife	History	Prehistory	Botany	Other	Remarks from 2005 (Step 4/ District)	Public comment	Eligibility determination	2014 Review (Step 5 - Forest)	River System	ORV
Big Cr	D1	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y		Currently listed in Nationwide Rivers Inventory as eligible. Harlequin duck, fisher, w. toad, lynx hab., grizzly bear, recreation, trail, mining. 2 plant E.O. + 1 RNA	Montana Headwaters inventory - F,R,S	Yes - current	ORVs for recreation (potential; Little NF Falls NRT, proximity to Koocanusa State and NF Scenic Byway, large portion in IRA, trail access) and geology (glacially-scoured face adjacent to Koocanusa, Upper Big Creek Riparian Ecosystem Special Area/glacial lake, Big Creek RNA terraces/benches, 50 foot falls) value and ORV added . Other potential values are not ORV (fish/bull trout not unique on KNF, wildlife/lynx-bear habitat not unique on KNF, Scenic/falls but not exemplary on KNF)	Big Creek	R, G

		Identified Potential ORV												Forest review		
Stream Name	District	Free Flowing	Scenery	Recreation	Geology	Fish	Wildlife	History	Prehistory	Botany	Other	Remarks from 2005 (Step 4/ District)	Public comment	Eligibility determination	2014 Review (Step 5 - Forest)	River System	ORV
Big Cr NF	D1	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N		Currently listed in Nationwide Rivers Inventory as eligible. Grizzly bear, lynx, w. toad, fisher.		Yes - current	See Big Creek. ORVs for recreation and geology. Other potential values are not ORV.	Big Creek	R, G
Big Cr SF	D1	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y		Currently listed in Nationwide Rivers Inventory as eligible. Harlequin duck, fisher, w. toad, lynx hab.6 plant E.O. + 1 SIA	Montana Headwaters inventory - F,R,S	Yes - current	See Big Creek. ORVs for recreation and geology. Other potential values are not ORV.	Big Creek	R, G
Copeland Cr	D1	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N		Lower section currently listed in Nationwide Rivers Inventory as eligible. grizzly bear, lynx, fisher hab., mining, trail		Yes - current	See Big Creek. ORVs for recreation and geology. Other potential values are not ORV.	Big Creek	R, G

		Identified Potential ORV												Forest review		
Stream Name	District	Free Flowing	Scenery	Recreation	Geology	Fish	Wildlife	History	Prehistory	Botany	Other	Remarks from 2005 (Step 4/ District)	Public comment	Eligibility determination	2014 Review (Step 5 - Forest)	River System	ORV
Good Cr	D1	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Y		Lower section currently listed in Nationwide Rivers Inventory as eligible. talus rock, trail, incised draw cliffs, lynx. 1 SIA		Yes - current	See Big Creek. ORVs for recreation and geology. Other potential values are not ORV.	Big Creek	R, G
Little North Fork	D1	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N		Lower section currently listed in Nationwide Rivers Inventory as eligible. lynx, Coeur d'ale salamander, Interp trail, bridge, falls		Yes - current	See Big Creek. ORVs for recreation and geology. Other potential values are not ORV.	Big Creek	R, G
Lookout Cr	D1	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N		Lower section currently listed in Nationwide Rivers Inventory as eligible. large O.G. block, lynx		Yes - current	See Big Creek. ORVs for recreation and geology. Other potential values are not ORV.	Big Creek	R, G

		Identified Potential ORV												Forest review		
Stream Name	District	Free Flowing	Scenery	Recreation	Geology	Fish	Wildlife	History	Prehistory	Botany	Other	Remarks from 2005 (Step 4/ District)	Public comment	Eligibility determination	2014 Review (Step 5 - Forest)	River System	ORV
Lookout Cr EF	D1	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N		large O.G. block, lynx		Yes - current	See Big Creek. ORVs for recreation and geology. Other potential values are not ORV.	Big Creek	R, G
Bull R	D7	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y		Currently listed in Nationwide Rivers Inventory as eligible. Bull trout, pure westslope cutthroat, moose. 6 plant E.O. + 3 plant poly's+ 1 SIA	Montana Headwaters inventory - F,R,S	Yes - current	Bull River has exemplary scenic value (Cabinet mountain range backdrop, views into wide valley bottom, outstanding vegetation/fall colors, minimal veg treatment). All other potential values are not ORV on forest (fish/westslope cuttroat common, wildlife/moose not rare, recreation/float not exemplary) or not associated with river (botany not stream related).	Bull River	S

		Identified Potential ORV												Forest review		
Stream Name	District	Free Flowing	Scenery	Recreation	Geology	Fish	Wildlife	History	Prehistory	Botany	Other	Remarks from 2005 (Step 4/ District)	Public comment	Eligibility determination	2014 Review (Step 5 - Forest)	River System	ORV
Bull R EF	D7	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y		Currently listed in Nationwide Rivers Inventory as eligible. Bull trout, pure westslope cutthroat. 5 plant E.O. + 1 plant poly + 1 SIA	Montana Headwaters inventory - F,S	Yes - current	See Bull River. Scenery ORV. All other potential values are not ORV or not associated with river.	Bull River	S
Bull R MF	D7	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y		Currently listed in Nationwide Rivers Inventory as eligible. Westslope cutthroat, 4 plant E.O. + 1 SIA		Yes - current	See Bull River. Scenery ORV. All other potential values are not ORV or not associated with river.	Bull River	S

		Identified Potential ORV												Forest review		
Stream Name	District	Free Flowing	Scenery	Recreation	Geology	Fish	Wildlife	History	Prehistory	Botany	Other	Remarks from 2005 (Step 4/ District)	Public comment	Eligibility determination	2014 Review (Step 5 - Forest)	River System	ORV
Bull R NF	D7	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y		Currently listed in Nationwide Rivers Inventory as eligible. Bull trout, pure westslope cutthroat, 1 plant E.O. + 1 SIA		Yes - current	See Bull River. Scenery ORV. All other potential values are not ORV or not associated with river.	Bull River	S
Bull R NFEF	D7	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N		westslope cutthroat		Yes - addl	See Bull River. Correction, added Scenery value and ORV. All other potential values are not ORV or not associated with river.	Bull River	S

		Identified Potential ORV												Forest review		
Stream Name	District	Free Flowing	Scenery	Recreation	Geology	Fish	Wildlife	History	Prehistory	Botany	Other	Remarks from 2005 (Step 4/ District)	Public comment	Eligibility determination	2014 Review (Step 5 - Forest)	River System	ORV
Callahan Cr	D4	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N		Historic logging and mining sites, currently a historic national register district and a proposed SIA. Scenery in canyons	Montana Headwaters inventory - F,G,H,R,S	Yes - addl	History/prehistory ORV added - eligible historic district along and tied directly to Callahan Creek. Narrow gauge rail unique logging system on forest. Other values not ORV (fish/bull trout common, recreation/white water common, scenic but not exemplary on forest, canyons and gorge not rare)	Callahan Creek	H
Callahan Cr S	D4	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y		South half of drainage only. Historic logging and mining sites, currently a historic national register district and a proposed SIA. 1 plant E.O.		Yes - addl	See Callahan Cr. Botany ORV, not associated with stream or corridor.	Callahan Creek	H

		Identified Potential ORV												Forest review		
Stream Name	District	Free Flowing	Scenery	Recreation	Geology	Fish	Wildlife	History	Prehistory	Botany	Other	Remarks from 2005 (Step 4/ District)	Public comment	Eligibility determination	2014 Review (Step 5 - Forest)	River System	ORV
Kootenai R	D4	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Currently eligible segment, includes the Kootenai Falls Archeological District & David Thompson travel corridor. Floating, fishing, water falls, tribal & heritage. Eagle habitat, , harlequin ducks, white sturgeon 3 plant E.O.	Montana Headwaters inventory - F,H,R,S	Yes - current	ORVs for Scenery, recreation, fish, wildlife and history/pre-history. Wildlife ORV added - contains bighorn sheep, primarily overlooking the Kootenai River, o of the area's main attractions in spring. Value botany/plant not tied to river.	Kootenai River	S, F, R, H, W

		Identified Potential ORV												Forest review		
Stream Name	District	Free Flowing	Scenery	Recreation	Geology	Fish	Wildlife	History	Prehistory	Botany	Other	Remarks from 2005 (Step 4/ District)	Public comment	Eligibility determination	2014 Review (Step 5 - Forest)	River System	ORV
Kootenai R	D5	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y		Currently listed in Nationwide Rivers Inventory as eligible. Includes the Kootenai Falls Archeological District & David Thompson travel corridor. River canyon below Bighorn Terrace. River attracts fishermen from outside region. 3 plant E.O.	Montana Headwaters inventory - F,H,R,S	Yes - current	See Kootenai River, D4. ORVs for Scenery, recreation, fish, wildlife and history/pre-history.	Kootenai River	S, F, R, H, W

		Identified Potential ORV												Forest review		
Stream Name	District	Free Flowing	Scenery	Recreation	Geology	Fish	Wildlife	History	Prehistory	Botany	Other	Remarks from 2005 (Step 4/ District)	Public comment	Eligibility determination	2014 Review (Step 5 - Forest)	River System	ORV
Ross Cr	D4	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y		1 plant E.O. + 1 RNA + 1 SIA	Montana Headwaters inventory, B, F, R, S	Yes - addl	Added scenic and recreation values, and scenic, recreation and botany ORVs - RNA and 2 Special Areas. Age and size of Cedars is unique(scenery and botany), recreation use from out of area, Value of fish/bull trout common. Eligible from source to Ross Falls SA.	Ross Creek	S, R, B
Vermilion R	D7	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y		Currently listed in Nationwide Rivers Inventory as eligible. Historic placer operations, harlequins, bull trout, westslope cutthroat. 10 plant E.O. + 1 plant poly's	Montana Headwaters inventory F,H,R,S	Yes - current	Correctin added scenery value. Scenic and historic values are rare, unique, or exemplary. Scenic values for Vermilion Falls and Hogback Gorge. Historic values for gold mining. Botany EOs not dependent on stream flows. Wildlife/fish - Harlequins, Bull trout and Cutthroat not unique. Recreation angling/paddling common.	Vermillion River	S, H

		Identified Potential ORV												Forest review		
Stream Name	District	Free Flowing	Scenery	Recreation	Geology	Fish	Wildlife	History	Prehistory	Botany	Other	Remarks from 2005 (Step 4/ District)	Public comment	Eligibility determination	2014 Review (Step 5 - Forest)	River System	ORV
Vinal Cr	D4	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N		National Rec trail along creek, old growth		Yes - addl	ORVs for Scenery (old growth stand Larch, fish lakes, Turner Falls) and recreation (NRT and PNNST, existing recreation use).	Vinal Creek	S, R
Yaak R WF	D4	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y		Important wildlife travel corridor, riparian used by grizzly bear, important for moose and big game which provide prey base for wolf - wildlife viewing eagle habitat. Falls. 1 plant E.O. + 1 SIA		Yes - addl	Correctin added Scenery and history values. Added Scenery and history ORV values; Upper and Lower West Fork Falls and cultural significance to CSKT. EO not associated with riparian zo for WF Yaak, Wildlife corridor not unique.	West Fork Yaak River	S, H

		Identified Potential ORV												Forest review		
Stream Name	District	Free Flowing	Scenery	Recreation	Geology	Fish	Wildlife	History	Prehistory	Botany	Other	Remarks from 2005 (Step 4/ District)	Public comment	Eligibility determination	2014 Review (Step 5 - Forest)	River System	ORV
Yaak R	D4	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y		Currently listed in the Nationwide Rivers inventory as eligible. Yaak Falls, Yaak canyon area, 5 plant E.O. + 3 plant polys + 1 SIA	Montana Headwaters inventory F, H, R, S	Yes - current	Correction added history value. ORVs for Scenery, recreation, history, and botany. No ORV for wildlife habitat, Fish/bull trout common. Change wild segment (4) to scenic due to existing roads and plantation.	Yaak River	S, R, H, B
Glad Cr	D4	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N		North half of drainage only. Historic logging and mining sites, currently a historic national register district and a proposed SIA.		No	Lower (north) portion of Glad Creek within SA (MA3), however associated unique narrow gauge rail did not extend up Glad Creek. Associated logging not unique.	Z	

		Identified Potential ORV												Forest review		
Stream Name	District	Free Flowing	Scenery	Recreation	Geology	Fish	Wildlife	History	Prehistory	Botany	Other	Remarks from 2005 (Step 4/ District)	Public comment	Eligibility determination	2014 Review (Step 5 - Forest)	River System	ORV
Granite Cr	D5	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y		outstanding scenic features are Granite Lake, A Peak. Visitors from many states and several foreign countries visit each year. 1 plant E.O.	Montana Headwaters inventory - F,R,S	No	No ORV for botany, fish, recreation or Scenery. Plant not associated with stream. Similar recreation use (hiking) and Scenery (trail along creek, peaks and lakes) values on multiple west side CWM trails (Leigh Lake/Cedar Creek). Paddling opportunity not unique, similar to SF Big, Libby and Ross Creeks. Bull trout not Rare.	Z	
Grave Cr	D3	Y *	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y		* from diversion up, 5 plant E.O. westslope cutthroat, Bull trout - primary bull trout stream below 490 for Kootenai above dam	Montana Headwaters inventory - F	No	No ORV for botany. Strong bull trout population but not outstandingly remarkable. Critical habitat and local population not unique. No fish ORV.	Z	

		Identified Potential ORV												Forest review		
Stream Name	District	Free Flowing	Scenery	Recreation	Geology	Fish	Wildlife	History	Prehistory	Botany	Other	Remarks from 2005 (Step 4/ District)	Public comment	Eligibility determination	2014 Review (Step 5 - Forest)	River System	ORV
Leigh Cr	D5	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y		Outstanding scenic features are Snowshoe Peak, Leigh Lake, Visitors from most states and several foreign countries visit each year. 1 plant E.O.		No	No ORV for botany (plant not associated with corridor), recreation or Scenery. Similar recreation use (hiking) and Scenery (trail along creek, peaks and lakes) values on multiple west side CWM trails (Granite Creek/Cedar Creek).	Z	
Libby Cr	D5	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N		No value identified	Montana Headwaters inventory - F, R,	No	No ORVs. Recreation (paddling with road access) not unique. Paddling opportunity similar to SF Big, Granite and Ross Creeks. Fisheries (bull trout) not unique on forest.	Z	

		Identified Potential ORV												Forest review		
Stream Name	District	Free Flowing	Scenery	Recreation	Geology	Fish	Wildlife	History	Prehistory	Botany	Other	Remarks from 2005 (Step 4/ District)	Public comment	Eligibility determination	2014 Review (Step 5 - Forest)	River System	ORV
Quartz Cr	D5	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N		bull trout - most important population (spawning habitat) this section of Kootenai (between Libby Dam and Kootenay Lake)	Montana Headwaters inventory - F,R	No	Increased spawning and distribution in adjacent tributaries has reduced significance of fisheries value to this Kootenai River core population. Critical habitat and local population not unique. No ORV. No recreation ORV.	Z	
Quartz Cr WF	D5	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y		bull trout - most important population (spawning habitat) this section Kootenai (between Libby Dam and Kootenay Lake), 5 plant E.O.		No	No ORV for botany. Increased spawning and distribution in adjacent tributaries has reduced significance of fisheries value to this Kootenai River core population.	Z	

		Identified Potential ORV												Forest review		
Stream Name	District	Free Flowing	Scenery	Recreation	Geology	Fish	Wildlife	History	Prehistory	Botany	Other	Remarks from 2005 (Step 4/ District)	Public comment	Eligibility determination	2014 Review (Step 5 - Forest)	River System	ORV
Rock Cr	D7	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y		Rock Creek Meadows, harlequins, bull trout, westslope cutthroat: not significant (Carlson), 4 plant E.O. + 1 SIA	Montana Headwaters inventory - F	No	No ORVs for botany (meadow), wildlife/harlequins not unique, scenic but not unique on forest. Bull trout critical habitat not unique or rare.	Z	
Star Cr	D4	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N		No value identified	Montana Headwaters inventory - G, S -	No	No ORVs identified. Star Creek slides and falls were not found to be the largest on the forest (Kootenai), and while scenic falls are not unique or exceptional on the forest.	Z	

		Identified Potential ORV												Forest review		
Stream Name	District	Free Flowing	Scenery	Recreation	Geology	Fish	Wildlife	History	Prehistory	Botany	Other	Remarks from 2005 (Step 4/ District)	Public comment	Eligibility determination	2014 Review (Step 5 - Forest)	River System	ORV
Swamp Cr	D7	N Y	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y		Ditch bill diversion, harlequins, bull trout, westslope cutthroat: not significant (Carlson). 7 plant E.O. + 2 plant poly's	Montana Headwaters inventory - F,R,S	No	Correction - free flowing on National Forest lands above private land. Not outstanding habitat for Harlequin. No riparian-associated rare plants. Bull trout critical habitat is well distributed across the forest and not unique to Swamp Creek. Westslope Cutthroat trout also well distributed across the Lower Clark Fork. No unique recreation or scenic values.	Z	
Wigwam R	D3	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y		10 plant E.O.	Montana Headwaters inventory - F, R, S -	No	No ORVs for botany associated with stream or corridor. Fish value strong Bull Trout, pure genetic, and critical habitat not unique; not an ORV. Fish value identified for this river is in Canada. Recreation and Scenery similar to surrounding, no ORV's.	Z	

Appendix F—Special and Research Natural Areas

Page 258: Special and Research Natural Areas; Established Special Areas

Add the following description of an established special area:

Frank Lake Fishing Access Site: This a 90-acre site located along the south side of Frank Lake and provides recreation access for trout fishing, boating, and picnicking. Frank Lake offers outstanding rainbow trout fisheries and the alkalinity of this lake, unlike others in the area, provides habitat for the boreal toad.

Page 267: Special and Research Natural Areas; Maps

In Table 199 add Frank Lake Fishing Access Site to the index as Map Ref# 51:

Map Ref #	Special Area Name	Figure #	Page #
62	Frank Lake Fishin Access Site	87	299

Page 269 and 299: Special and Research Natural Areas; Maps

Replace Figure 57 and 87 with the following:

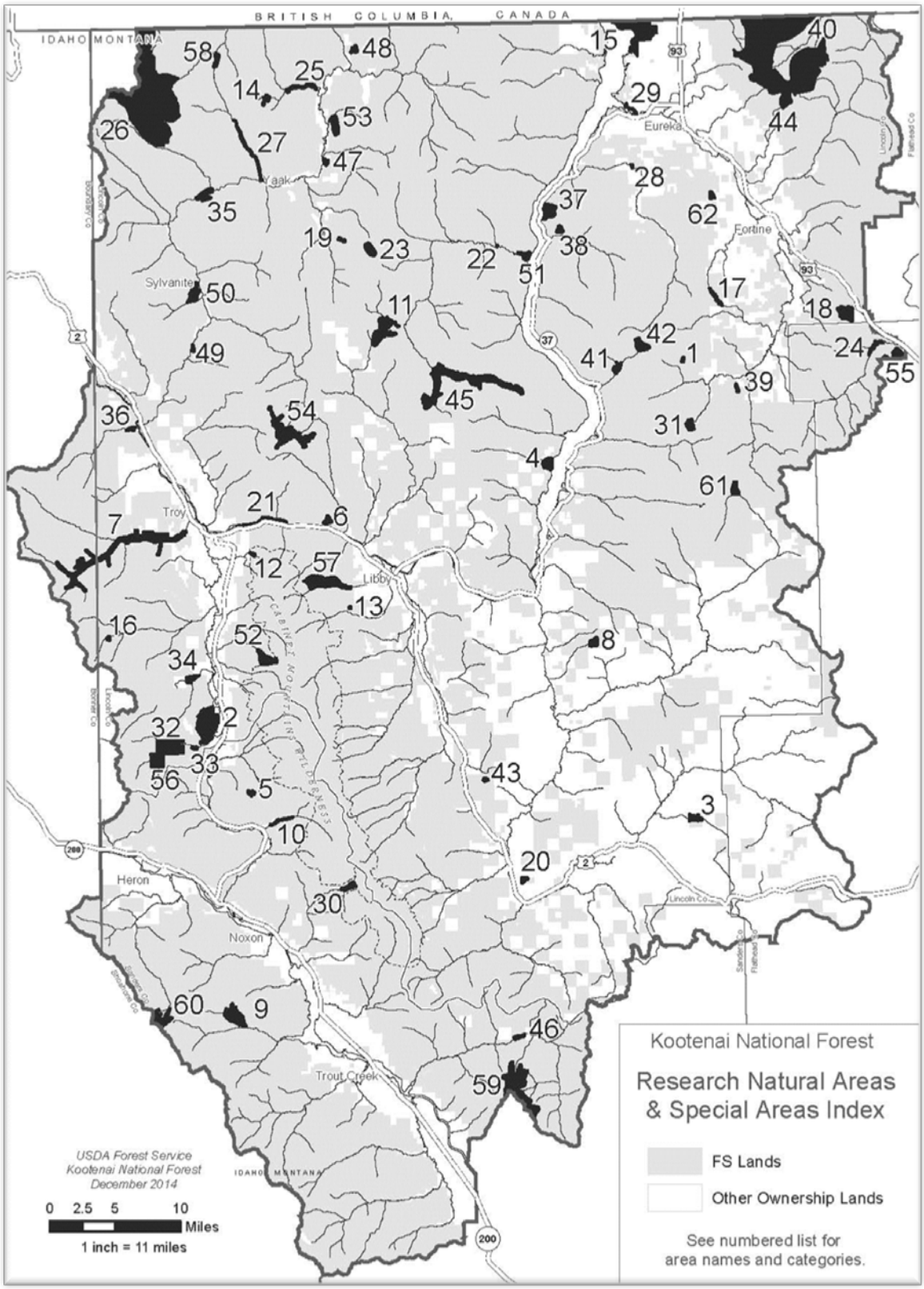

Figure 58. Index of Special Areas & Research Natural Areas Maps

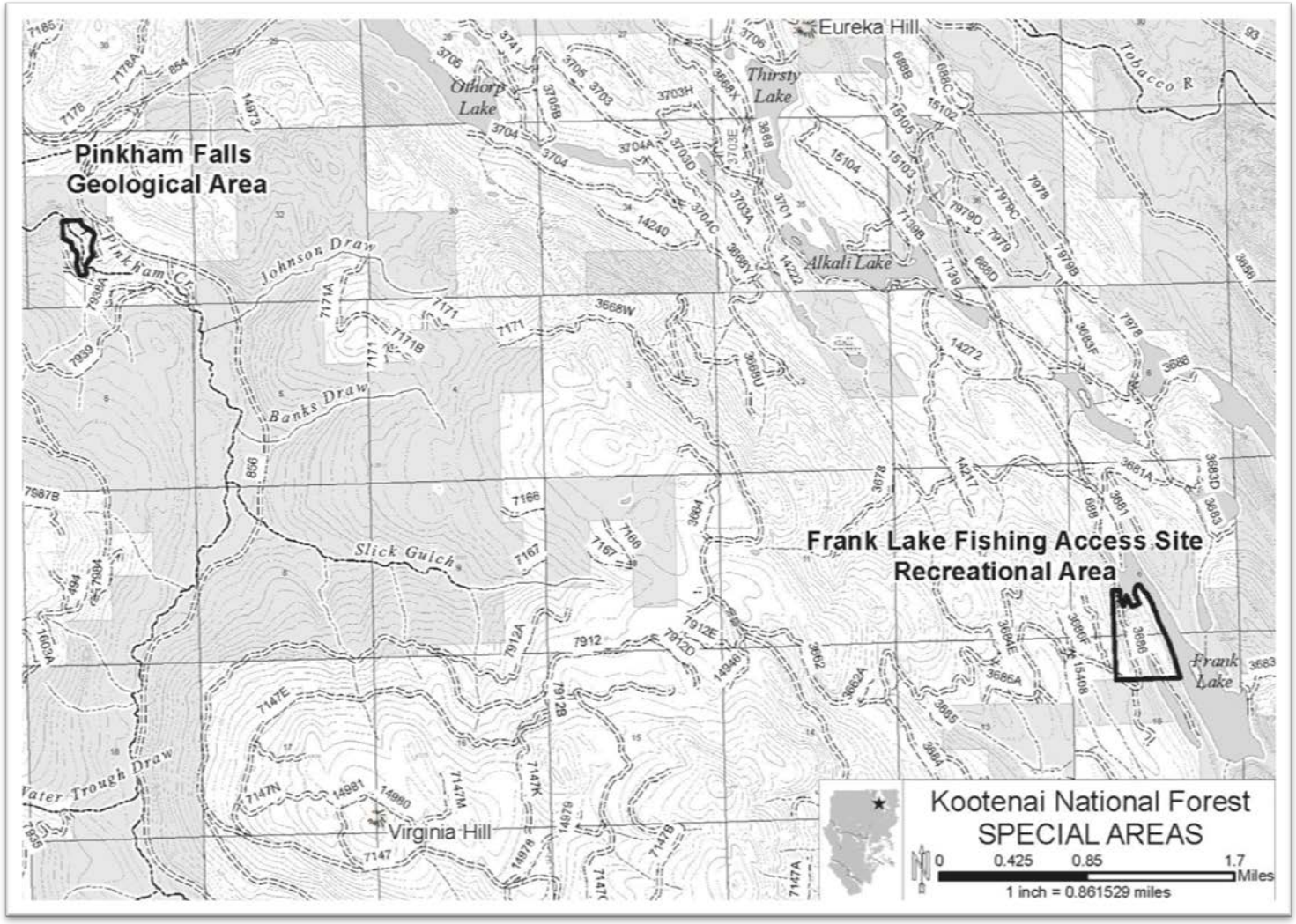

Figure 88. Pinkham Falls Geological Area and Frank Lake Fishing Access Site Recreational Area

Appendix G—Response to Public Comments

Page 371: Public Comment 92

Replace response summary item B-D with the following text:

> B and D.) We agree that restricting motorized or mechanized uses in MA1b recommended wilderness is not based on science related to impacts on physical resources. The restrictions in MA1b were based on the desired conditions (MA1b-DC-AR-01, 02, 03) and the wilderness character and potential for the area to be included in the National Wilderness Preservation system remain intact until Congressional action is taken.
>
> FSM 1923.03 provides direction on management of recommended wilderness "A roadless area being evaluated and ultimately recommended for wilderness or wilderness study is not available for any use or activity that may reduce the area's wilderness potential. Activities currently permitted may continue, pending designation, if the activities do not compromise wilderness values of the roadless area." The FEIS page X discloses how the effects of continuing motorized and mechanized uses would be inconsistent with meeting desired conditions in MA1, 1b, and 4 and may have adverse effects on outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.
>
> A Region 1 white paper provides additional guidance for management of recommended wilderness. It suggests that if it is determined the area is best suited to wilderness designation the desired condition and standards in the revised Forest Plan should support those conclusions by restricting uses that would jeopardize the capability and availability of the area as designated wilderness. If there are existing uses that may threaten the capability and availability of the area, forest should choose to implement one of the following actions[1]:
>
> 1. Eliminate those uses that threaten the capability and availability;
> 2. Adjust the management area boundary to eliminate the area with established uses; or
> 3. Not recommend the area for wilderness designation.
>
> This guidance was considered during the analysis but does not represent binding policy.
>
> In the revised Forest Plan we did not recommend some areas that had been previously recommended wilderness in the 1987 Plan. We also modified boundaries of some areas that had established motorized/mechanized use to exclude them from recommended wilderness. In the areas that are recommended wilderness, the management area direction includes standards to not allow motorized and mechanized uses to maintain the wilderness characteristic including outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.
>
> [1]Regional Consistency for Management of Recommended Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas, 2007

Page 379: Public Comment 97

Replace the response with the following text:

> The draft Forest Plan is consistent with the Three Rivers Challenge and contains many of the proposal's features. Roderick is proposed wilderness in the Three Rivers Challenge and in the draft Forest Plan. Most of the non-motorized areas in the Three Rivers

Challenge are allocated to MA5a in the draft Forest Plan. However, the Three Rivers Challenge resulted in different proposed management areas than those found in the 2006 Proposed Plan and brought forward into the draft Plan. This resulted in some differences in MA allocations between the draft Forest Plan and the Three Rivers Challenge. Northwest Peaks in the draft Forest Plan is a special area, in keeping with its long-held designation as a scenic area. In the Three Rivers Challenge, this area is split into a non-motorized special area and a winter motorized special area. In the Forest Plan, the backcountry MAs are applied primarily to IRAs, whereas the Three Rivers Challenge has a large winter motorized area in the Northwest Peaks area that is outside of an IRA. The draft Forest Plan allocated this area to MA6, which allows snowmobiling and also allows timber production. The identification of winter motorized areas in the Three Rivers Challenge can be used in subsequent site-specific travel management planning in determining areas to be open or closed to snowmobiling (this type of decision is not made in the Forest Plan, with the exception of recommended wilderness and research natural areas).

The draft Forest Plan allows timber harvest as a management tool in the backcountry and special area MAs. Senator Tester's proposed Forest Jobs and Recreation Act (which is based on the Three Rivers Challenge) has been unclear as to timber management within the special areas. A 2011 draft of the bill was worded that timber harvest would be allowed only as allowed under the Wilderness Act. An August 2013 revision in the wording to allow timber harvest in the special area has been controversial so it is unclear how timber would be managed under any final legislation.

Should the bill be enacted in legislation, the forest plan would be amended as necessary to be consistent with the law.

Page 389: Public Comment 124

The last full sentence on the page should be punctuated as follows:

The Roderick and Thompson Seton potential wilderness inventory (or Inventoried Roadless Areas) meet the criteria above. The IRAs do not include NFS roads, and do not have timber harvest in a significant percentage of their area. However, both IRAs have Forest Service system road "cherry stems" excluded from their respective area boundaries. When the Roderick and Whitefish Divide areas were carried forward as wilderness recommendations, the initial inventory boundaries were adjusted for manageability and the 1b allocation includes these roads.

The roads in both areas have been closed (operational maintenance level 1 and motorized travel prohibited) and impassable to motor vehicles for many years. The roads in the Whitefish Divide area have been managed as National Forest System Trails since 1983 (dual road/trail management designation). Travel analysis and future site-specific NEPA project analysis will be required to determine whether the roads will remain as NFS roads or decommissioned.

Page 413: Public Comment 162

Replace response summary item B with the following text:

B) Under Alternative B Modified C and D, Blue Sky Creek is no longer allocated to eligible wild and scenic rivers (MA2).

Page 414: Public Comment 163

Replace response summary item B with the following text:

> B) Allocation of the Grave Creek System as eligible recreational river has been dropped in Alternative B Modified, C and D. Based on public comment, the KNF reviewed the eligible wild, scenic, and recreational river inventory between draft and final. River segments that were found to have only bull trout and sensitive plants as the "outstandingly remarkable value" for which designation was appropriate were determined to ineligible. Grave Creek System was identified as an eligible recreational river because of the presence of bull trout and sensitive plants. Thus, this river system has been removed from the eligible WSR;

Page 446: Public Comment 258

Add the following sentence to response A:

> In addition to providing maps at the open houses, workgroup meetings, and individual group, agency, and local government meetings held as requested throughout the planning process, the forest hosted the Kootenai and Idaho Panhandle Zone (KIPZ) website (http://www.fs.usda.gov/kipz) providing additional access to the planning effort documentation. This site linked to the Kootenai and Idaho Panhandle National Forest webpages with maps and GIS data providing additional detailed information for interested publics.

Page 420: Public Comment 178

Replace comment summary item J with the following text:

> J) Designating the Zulu IRA to MA5a on the Three Rivers District and as MA5c on the Libby and Rexford Districts since a diverse group of participants during the Yaak GA collaborative workgroup meetings that occurred about 5-6 years ago discussed this and tentatively agreed;

Replace the response summary item J with the following text:

> The starting option (released under 2005 planning rule) presented to the public in 2005 showed Zulu IRA as MA5a (passive management). Through several Geographic Area collaborative workgroup meetings, interdisciplinary team meetings, employee, and other public input, the forest changed the concept of two MA5 allocations (5a–passive and 5b–active) to three MA5 allocations 5a–summer and winter non-motorized, 5b–summer and winter motorized, and 5c–winter motorized and summer non-motorized (Vol. 1 #705).
>
> Subsequently, the May 2006 Proposed Land Management Plan allocated the Zulu IRA to MA 5c (winter motorized and summer non-motorized). Collaborative workgroup notes were reviewed (Vol. 1 #705) and discussed by the leadership team (Vol. 1 #654), and as a result Zula IRA management varied by alternative in the FEIS (Alt. B modified and D MA5c, and Alt. C MA5a).
>
> While there were strongly held opinions throughout public engagement efforts between 2003 and 2006, the collaborative working groups didn't reach anything beyond tentative agreements for Zulu IRA management. The discussions were complicated by the fact that Zulu IRA straddles three separate Geographic Areas, so was discussed among three different working groups. Zulu IRA is currently heavily timbered (lodge pole pine) but

lies just south and west of groomed over-snow routes (PR #1595). This area is used by wildlife; however winter connectivity is not an issue in the Zulu IRA (PR #2141). Thus, in order to retain motorized over-snow recreation opportunities, Zulu IRA is allocated to MA5c in the ROD and revised Forest Plan.

Page 457: Public Comment 282

Replace response (A) with the following:

A) The KNF recognizes the importance that monitoring, prevention, and mitigation measures have in an integrated weed management strategy and program. This is clearly acknowledged in the existing 2007 Kootenai National Forest Invasive Plant Management ROD and FEIS. For example, pages 7, 13, 18, 19, and appendix A and D (Design Criteria and Monitoring Plan) in the ROD discuss the importance and commitment to monitoring, prevention, and mitigation. The FEIS for that plan contains additional information on this topic on pages iii, 1-11, 2-5, 2-13, 2-14, 2-16, 2-17, and within appendices A and I. Lastly, since the 2007 Plan was developed, the Forest Service has finalized the development of an internal directive to the Forest Service Manual (FSM) 2900 (Dec 5, 201) providing policy for invasive species management. This final invasive species management directive provides foundational comprehensive guidance for the management of invasive species on aquatic and terrestrial areas of the National Forest System. The purpose of this policy is to bring existing efforts together for a more coordinated management approach. Region 1 is also currently working on best management practices guidance which will be used to help prevent and mitigate the spread and introduction of non-native invasive plants until FSM 2900 handbook direction has been completed. Additional information on the 2007 Kootenai National Forest Invasive Plant Management Plan can be found at: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php/?project=9851. Because there is amply existing direction for the KNF regarding prevention, monitoring, and mitigation, the Forest does not feel it is necessary to include much more direction in the Forest Plan. Regarding monitoring, the draft Forest Plan contained monitoring items related to invasive species;

Page 458: Public Comment 284

Replace response with the following:

Please see the response to Public Comment 282 (item A) for a summary of why the KNF does not feel it is necessary to have other forest plan components (e.g., standards) related to non-native invasive plants. As noted in that response, currently there are numerous prevention and control measures (FSM 2900 and the 2007 Kootenai National Forest Invasive Plant Management ROD and FEIS) already in place that are required. As described in more detail in the response to Public Comment 61, the KNF does not feel it is necessary to reiterate requirements in this Forest Plan that already exist elsewhere. As indicated on page 2 of the draft Forest Plan (under the heading of Implementing the Forest Plan), the Forest Service will follow all existing laws, regulations, and policies relating to the management of the NFS lands, and the forest plan components are generally designed to supplement, not replace, existing direction.

Page 494: Public Comment 369

Remove this sentence: Specifically, pages 3-5 of FSM 2081.2.