Appendix C.

Roadless Area Evaluation

APPENDIX C

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I. INTRODUCTION

The Idaho Panhandle National Forests contains 47 roadless areas totaling 853,041 acres. Thirteen of the roadless areas overlap into other National Forests including the Colville, Kootenai and Clearwater. Appendix C includes an evaluation of each roadless area in its entirety. This appendix is intended to supplement the description in Chapter 3 and the analysis in Chapters 2 and 4.

The following areas were not evaluated for wilderness in Appendix C: 1-982, 1-124, 1-156, 1-121. Recent legislation for the State of Washington prohibits consideration of these areas for wilderness.

Each roadless area is discussed as follows: (1) the location and description; (2) the area's capability for wilderness; (3) other resource values of the area;(4) the need for the area in the National Wilderness Preservation System; and (5) the alternatives and consequences of various types of management.

Three tables provide information applicable to all roadless area narratives.

Tables 1 and 2 refer to Section V of each roadless area narrative. Section V discusses the impacts of management activities on the various resource values of a roadless area. Forest management prescriptions were grouped into a "management emphasis" because of similar impacts on the wilderness and roadless resources. These prescriptions and management emphasis are listed in Tables 1 and 2.

Table 3, Parts A and B, shows the proximity of the roadless areas on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests to existing wilderness areas and to population centers in Idaho, western Montana and eastern Washington.

Management emphasis indicates which resource activity is highlighted. If the emphasis is timber, most of the activity on those acres would in tensify roading and timber management. Resource activities that are compatible would continue but in a nonconstraining manner.

All prescriptions on the Forest have been grouped into eight management emphasis groups: wilderness, no timber harvest areas, timber/wildlife, wildlife/visual, special areas and minimum level. A more detailed description of the management prescriptions is contained in the planning records.

TABLE 1

PRESCRIPTION DEFINITIONS

PRESCRIPTION EMPHASIS

Recreation

R1	Developed Recreation
R4	Natural History Area
R5	Classified Historic District
R8	Dispersed Recreation - Essentially Unroaded
R9	St. Joe Wild and Scenic River
R10	Priest Wild and Scenic River
R11	Cultural Sites
R13	Emerald Creek Garnet Area

Wildlife

W1	Elk/Mule Deer Winter Range
W2	Elk Summer Range and Timber Management
W4	Caribou Habitat
W5	Old Growth Ecosystem
W8	Elk/Mule Deer Winter Ranger and Timber Management
W9	Caribou Habitat and Timber Management

Timber

T1	Intensive Timber Management
T2	Moderately Intensive Timber Management
T3	Extensive Timber Management

Riparian

H1	Higher Investment Fisheries Without Timber Management
H2	Higher Investment Fisheries and Timber Management
H3	Lower Investment Fisheries and Timber Management

Visual

V1	Retention VQO and Timber Management
V2	Retention VQO and Wildlife Management
V3	Partial Retention VQO and Timber Management
V4	Partial Retention VQO and Wildlife Management

Wilderness

WI	Designated and Proposed Wilderness Management

Miscellaneous

N1	Research Natural Areas
N2	Experimental Forests
M1	Minimum Level Management
A1	Administrative Sites

TABLE 2

PRESCRIPTION COMBINATIONS USED
TO DETERMINE AREA OF MANAGEMENT EMPHASIS
FOR TABLE 2

Wilderness = WI

No Timber Harvest = W4, W5, R4, R8

Timber/Wildlife = T, W2, W8, W9, H2, H3

Wildlife/Visual = V2, V4, W1, H1

Special Area = R1, R5, R9, R13, N1, N2, A1

Minimum Level = M1

TABLE 3, PART A

REGIONAL WILDERNESS OPPORTUNITIES AND PROXIMITY TO ROADLESS AREAS
IDAHO PANHANDLE NATIONAL FORESTS

Wilderness Name	General Location	M Acres	Proximity to Roadless Areas on IPNF (Miles)
Salmo Priest	Northeastern Washington	41	Contiguous
Cabinet	Western Montana	94	30
Juniper	Southeastern Washington	7	150
Wenaha-Tucanon	Southeastern Washington	111	200
	Northeastern Oregon	66	
Anaconda-Pintler	Western Montana	921	250
Selway Bitterroot	Central Idaho	1,089	125
	Western Montana	251	
Welcome Creek	Western Montana	28	175
Bob Marshall	Western Montana	1,000	225
Rattlesnake	Western Montana	33	150
Lake Chelan-Sawtooth	Central Washington	151	225
Pasayten	North-central Washington	530	225
Alpine Lakes	Central Washington	306	225
Mission	Western Montana	74	225
Hells Canyon	Central Idaho	84	225
Glacier Peak	Central Washington	576	225
Henry M. Jackson	Central Washington	103	225
Norse Peak	Central Washington	51	80
William O. Douglas	Central Washington	166	225
Boulder River	Western Washington	49	250
Clearwater	Western Washington	14	250
Mount Baker	Western Washington	132	250
Gospel Hump	Central Idaho	206	250
Scapegoat	Western Montana	239	250
Buckhorn	Western Washington	46	275
Colonel Bob	Western Washington	12	275
Mt. Skokomish	Western Washington	16	275
The Brothers	Western Washington	17	275
Wonder Mountain	Western Washington	2	275
River of No Return	Central Idaho	2,239	225
Great Bear	Western Montana	287	275
Glacier View	Southern Washington	3	275
Indian Heaven	Southern Washington	21	275
Mt. Adams	Southern Washington	37	275
Tatoosh	Southern Washington	16	275
Goat Rocks	Central Washington	83	300
Eagle Cap	Northeastern Oregon	293	300

	Areas	Acres
Total Wilderness Less than 100 Miles From IPNF Roadless	2	135,000
Total Wilderness 100-200 Miles From IPNF Roadless	3	1,524,000
Total Wilderness 200-300 Miles From IPNF Roadless	28	6,753,000
Total Areas	33	

TABLE 3, PART B

REGIONAL POPULATION CENTERS AND PROXIMITY TO WILDERNESS AREAS
IDAHO PANHANDLE NATIONAL FORESTS

POPULATION CENTERS[1/]	EXISTING WILDERNESS					
	Less than 50 miles		51-100 Miles		101-200 Miles	
	Areas	M Acres	Areas	M Acres	Areas	M Acres
Spokane, Washington	0	0	0	0	20	495
Boise, Idaho	0	0	2	2,446	3	1,378
Missoula, Montana	0	0	11	309	9	186
Great Falls, Montana	0	0	0	0	20	495

1/ "Urbanized Areas" noted in 1980 census of the population.

BLACKTAIL MOUNTAIN ROADLESS AREA (01122)

I. DESCRIPTION

Size	Gross Acres	Net Acres
Idaho - Idaho Panhandle NF	5,140	5,140

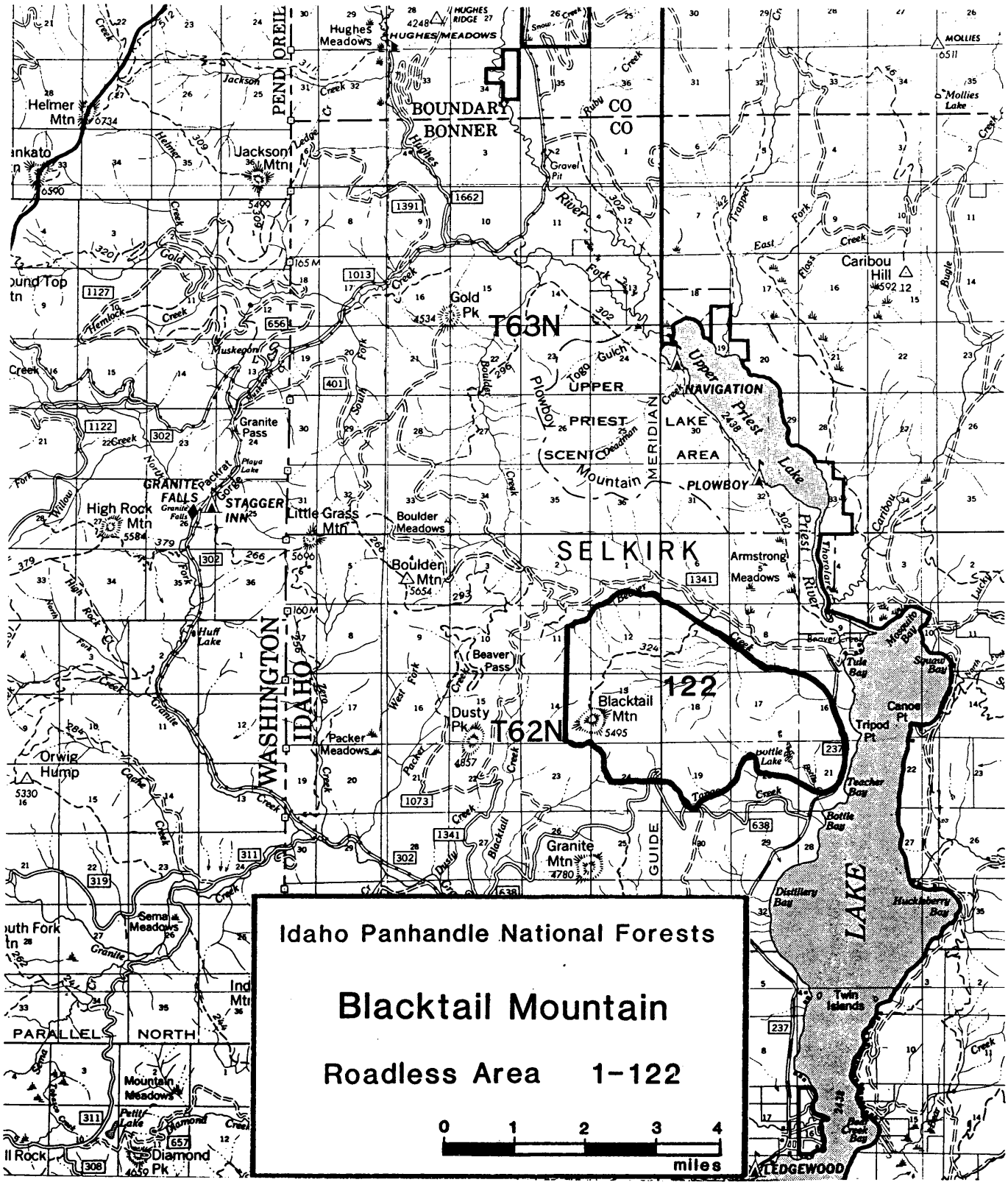
The Blacktail Mountain Roadless Area is located in Bonner County, Idaho, on the northwest side of Priest Lake. It is located entirely on the Priest Lake Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The area is accessed on the east by Forest Road 237, a paved road which forms the boundary of the area. The north is accessed by Forest Road 1341, the south by Forest Road 638. Both are native-surfaced roads.

This oval-shaped area faces, and is visible from, Priest Lake; the eastern boundary lies within 1/4 mile of the lake's shoreline. The area is steep mountainous timberland, with one portion in the northwest characterized by a very steep slope highly dissected with drainages in unstable soils. Elevations range from 2,600 feet near the lakeshore to 5,495 feet at the top of Blacktail Mountain. Drainages within the area include Bottle Creek, Tepee Creek, and tributaries of Beaver Creek and Tango Creek.

Vegetative cover is composed of mixed cedar, hemlock, Douglas-fir, grand fir, larch, and white pine. Habitat types are those most typically found elsewhere on the Priest Lake District--cedar or hemlock/pachistima. In addition, there is a virgin white pine plant community in the Tepee Creek area and a sphagnum bog in the Bottle Lake area.

There are two Research Natural Areas (RNAs) within the boundary. The Tepee Creek RNA encompasses the virgin white pine community, while the Bottle Lake RNA includes Bottle Lake and its unique wetland plant community. Other uses include light amounts of hiking, backpacking, hunting, and scenery viewing. Black Mountain Trail 292, which receives light annual maintenance, provides access for these activities. There are no concentrated areas of use. The area is visible from Priest Lake, a heavy recreational use area. In addition, timber harvest activities outside the roadless area may be visible and audible from within the boundary. The northwest third of the area possesses a moderate mineral potential, although there are no active mining operations.

Wildlife includes whitetail deer, mule deer, elk, moose, black bear, and other smaller mammals. There are no significant fisheries streams in the area.


R. 5 W.
R. 4 W.
Idaho Panhandle National Forests
Blacktail Mountain
Roadless Area 1-122
0 1 2 3 4
miles
T63N
T62N
122
SELKIRK
UPPER PRIEST
SCENIC
AREA
NAVIGATION
LAKE
PLOWBOY
BOUNDARY
BONNER
PENDOREILLE
WASHINGTON
IDAHO
CO
CO
GUIDE
MERIDIAN
PARALLEL
NORTH
Hughes Meadows
Jackson Mtn
Helmer Mtn
Gold Pk
Granite Pass
GRANITE FALLS
STAGGER INN
High Rock Mtn
Little Grass Mtn
Boulder Meadows
Boulder Mtn
Armstrong Meadows
Huff Lake
Beaver Pass
Dusty Pk
Packer Meadows
Blacktail Mtn
Orwig Hump
Granite Mtn
Sema Meadows
Mountain Meadows
Diamond Pk
Caribou Hill
Mollies Lake
Tripod Pt
Canoe Pt
Teacher Bay
Bottle Bay
Distillery Bay
Huckleberry Bay
Twin Islands
LEDGEWOOD

II. CAPABILITY

A. Wilderness Characteristics

1. Natural Integrity. The impact from human activity has been related primarily to foot travel. There were some mining claims in the past, but there was little activity.

2. Natural Appearance. A visitor to the area would feel that he or she is in a natural area away from ordinary human activities and development. Signs of human activity are visible as background only from the higher elevations of the area. Timber harvest areas and Forest roads are the primary activities visible outside the area.

Plant communities in the area include old-growth white pine, cedar, and hemlock stands (Tepee Creek RNA), and a sphagnum bog and lake (Bottle Lake RNA).

Several minor stream tributaries of Beaver Creek and Tango Creek flow in the area. The headwaters of Tepee Creek and Bottle Creek originate in the area.

3. Solitude. The area varies from 2-1/2 to 4 miles wide and 1 to 2-1/2 miles north to south. It offers opportunities for solitude because of the differences in topography (2,800 to 5,400 feet in elevation) and vegetation.

Other than the existing foot trail, there are no areas of concentrated public use.

Logging activity outside the area (to the south) may be heard from the southernmost portion of the area.

4. Primitive Recreation Opportunities. The area offers opportunity for hiking, backpacking, big and small game hunting, and scenery viewing.

The varied topography offers physical challenges related to mountainous terrain.

Trails in the area receive low use. Blacktail Mountain Trail 292 receives some maintenance annually.

The area is of a size that it experiences backpacking activities of 2-3 days duration but also offers day hike opportunities.

The area has two Research Natural Areas (RNAs): Bottle Lake and Tepee Creek. The Teepee Creek NRA, classified in 1935, is reserved for study of the old-growth stands of white pine, cedar, and hemlock. The trees have been determined to be over 300 years old. The Bottle Lake RNA, adjacent to the Tepee Creek RNA, was classified in 1982. Open waters, muskeg islands, and a wet muskeg bog allow for the study of a unique aquatic environment.

Blacktail Mountain is a major vista point for the hiker or backpacker. The area, in turn, can be viewed from Priest Lake, making it highly sensitive visually to any form of land disturbance activity.

5. Other Features

B. Wilderness Managability and Boundaries

The Blacktail Roadless Area was inventoried during the RARE II process. The boundaries remain the same as RARE II.

The eastern boundaries are easily defined, as they follow Forest roads. The northwest, west, and southern boundaries follow minor ridges and topographic features and would be difficult to establish on the ground.

Recreation and other resource uses not requiring surface disturbance can be managed in the Blacktail Mountain area while protecting the wilderness character.

Mineral exploration can be controlled with present Federal regulations, although some impacts can be expected. All of the Tepee Creek RNA has been withdrawn from mineral entry. Only a part of Bottle Lake RNA has been withdrawn. Future hardrock mineral development is the main uncertainty to addressing manageability because existing laws allow for the exploration and development of hardrock minerals.

The Blacktail Mountain area is capable for wilderness. This conclusion is based on an analysis of both manageability and possession of wilderness characteristics.

III. WILDERNESS AVAILABILITY

Table 1

Selected Resource Values

Category	Unit	01122
Gross Acres	Acres	5,140
Net Acres	Acres	5,140
Range		
Existing Obligated		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Existing Vacant		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Proposed		
Suitable	Acres	0
AUMs	No.	0
Timber		
Tentative		
Suitable	Acres	3,318
Standing Volume	MMBF	56
Minerals Potential		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	1,706
Low	Acres	3,434
Mining Claims	No.	0
Oil and Gas Potential*		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	0
Low	Acres	5,140
Oil and Gas Leases		
Leases	No.	0
Leased Area	Acres	0
Corridors		
Existing and Potential	No.	0
Wildlife-Threatened and Endangered-Habitat		
Grizzly Bear		
Situation 1	Acres	0
Situation 2	Acres	0
Situation 3	Acres	0
Bald Eagle	Acres	0
Mountain Caribou	Acres	0
Gray Wolf	Acres	0
Wildlife-Big Game		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Elk		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Deer		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Significant Fisheries		
Stream Miles	Miles	0
Stream Habitat	Acres	0
Lakes	No.	0
Lake Habitat	Acres	0
Water Developments		
Existing	No.	0
Recreation		
Primitive	RVDs	0
Semiprimitive		
Nonmotorized	RVDs	300
Motorized	RVDs	0
Roaded Natural	RVDs	100

*Rating also includes uranium, geothermal, and other energy resources.

A. Resource Values

1. Recreation. Current recreation use is primarily hiking along Trail 324.

2. Wildlife. Most of the game and non-game animals common to northern Idaho are found in this area. No threatened or endangered species habitat is present. Unusual species potentially present include bobcat, lynx, and wolverine.

3. Timber. The area contains approximately 3,300 acres considered suitable for timber management.

4. Minerals. Uranium is the mineral of principal interest, but recent geologic models indicate a potential for porphyry-type deposits. Thirty-three percent of this area has moderate mineral potential; the rest has low potential. The moderate potential is located in the northwest part of the study area.

There are no lease applications for oil and gas in the area and the potential is low.

5. Range. None.

6. Research Natural Areas. This area contains two research natural areas which are administratively classifed areas maintained for non-manipulative research.

B. Other Management Considerations

1. Fire. The number of recent fires has been small; however, the area has a past history of periodic large natural fires.

IV. NEED

A. Contribution to National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS). The contribution to the NWPS would be the Research Natural Areas; additional area near Priest Lake, a heavily used area; and as a scenic backdrop to Priest Lake.

B. Public Interest and Concern. This area has a moderate amount of interest by local and regional individuals. The RARE II environmental impact statement (1979) recommended 5,140 acres for non-wilderness. This recommendation considered public interest in wilderness, timber, and mining interests in the area.

C. Proximity to Designated Wilderness and to Population Centers. Table 3, Parts A and B, display wilderness opportunities and proximity to roadless areas on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The closest wilderness area is the Cabinet Wilderness in western Montana, approximately 100 miles to the northeast. There is access to 1.6 million acres of wilderness located within 200 miles of Coeur d'Alene, as well as an additional 5.8 million acres within 300 miles (northern Idaho, eastern Washington and Oregon, and western Montana).

V. ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

A. Management Emphasis Assignment by Alternatives. Management emphasis indicates which resource activity is highlighted. If the emphasis is timber, most of the activity on those acres would be for timber management. Resource activities which are compatible with the emphasis would continue, but with less intensity. Table 2 lists the acres of each management emphasis by alternative.

Table 2

Blacktail Mountain Roadless Area (01122)
Management Emphasis by Alternative

Management Emphasis	Alternatives[1/] (Thousand Acres) 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Wilderness	0	0	5.1	0	0	5.1	0	0	5.1	5.1	0	0
Non-wilderness												
No Tbr. Harvest	0.1	0.1	0	0.1	0.1	0	0.1	0.1	0	0	0.1	0.1
Timber/Wildlife	2.8	2.8	0	2.9	3.0	0	3.2	3.0	0	0	2.6	2.6
Wildlife/Visual	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Special Areas	0.5	0.5	0	0.5	0.5	0	0.5	0.5	0	0	0.5	0.5
Minimum Level	1.6	1.7	0	1.6	1.5	0	1.3	1.5	0	0	1.9	1.9
Total	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1
Summary of Management Emphasis:												
Developed												
Decade 1	3.0	2.0	0	0.9	1.7	0	1.4	1.2	0	0	0.8	0.4
Decade 5	4.5	4.5	0	4.5	4.5	0	4.5	4.5	0	0	4.5	4.5
Roadless[2/]												
Decade 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Decade 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wilderness	0	0	5.1	0	0	5.1	0	0	5.1	5.1	0	0

1/ Alternative clarification -

1 - Regional Goals
2 - High Market
3 - High Nonmarket
4 - High Timber, Fish
5 - Moderate All Resources
6 - High Timber, Wildlife
7 - High Nonmarket, Stable Timber
8 - Current Program
9 - High Recreation
10 - High Wildlife, Moderate Timber
11 - Preferred Alternative
12 - Preferred w/Departure

2/ Roadless is defined as 5,000 acres or greater in size or any acreage if contiguous to existing wilderness.

B. Impacts

1. Designation: Wilderness

Management Emphasis: Wilderness

This area is designated as wilderness in Alternatives 3, 6, 9, and 10. Wilderness designation would enhance wilderness attributes by eliminating the potential for minerals development. Mining has not been a factor recently, but some evidence of past activity is present. These areas could be rehabilitated. Most other attributes associated with wilderness have been retained. The two Research Natural Areas are compatible with wilderness designation. Under this designation, recreation would continue to be the primary use of the area. The generally undisturbed view from Priest Lake would be retained.

The 56 MMBF of standing timber volume on this roadless area would not be available under this prescription. Minerals, oil, and gas would not be available.

The non-priced benefits or costs would be:

-- Wilderness area would be increased.

-- Visual quality would be retained.

-- Water quality and fisheries would be kept at their present level.

-- Natural ecosystem would be protected.

-- Security for big game would be retained.

-- Diversity would tend toward old growth.

-- Opportunity for primitive recreation would remain the same.

Social and economic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. Since wilderness precludes timber harvest and mineral development, the related industries would not be supported by this emphasis. From a social aspect, the publics valuing wilderness would be supported as well as those people who desire to view the area in its unaltered state.

2. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: No Timber Harvest

Approximately 2 percent of the area is assigned to this management emphasis in Alternatives 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, and 12. This represents 100 acres of old-growth management prescription.

The 100 acres would remain unroaded under this management emphasis.

Approximately 3 to 4 million board feet of standing timber would be unavailable, assuming an average of 30 to 40 thousand board feet per acre for old-growth stands. Mineral, oil, or gas developments would be excluded, although impact would be minimal since potential for such development is generally low throughout the area.

Non-priced benefits or costs would be:

-- Retention of habitat for old-growth and large-snag-dependent wildlife species would be realized on the 100 acre area.

-- Security for big game species will be preserved on the 100 acres.

-- The natural ecosystem will be maintained.

-- The 100 acre area would not adversely impact fisheries or water quality.

-- Visual quality would not be affected.

-- There will be no impacts on opportunities for non-manipulative research in the Research Natural Areas.

-- The potential for semi-primitive recreation would be retained on the 100 acre portion of old growth although affected by surrounding management activities.

The social and economic effects primarily center on the value of timber harvest opportunities foregone; this will affect the local wood products industry. Minerals development would be precluded, with a possible impact on the minerals industry, although potential for such development on the 100 acre portion is low. Opportunities will be preserved for persons utilizing the area for wildlife viewing or semi-primitive recreation.

3. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Timber/Wildlife

Approximately 50 to 60 percent of the area is designated for this management emphasis in Alternatives 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, and 12. At the low end of the range are Alternatives 11 and 12; the high end is represented by Alternatives 5, 7, and 8; while Alternatives 1, 2, and 4 comprise the mid-range.

This emphasis would preclude future wilderness designation due to timber harvest and associated road construction. Wilderness and roadless opportunities would essentially be foregone by the end of the first 10 years in all areas with this management emphasis since even moderate acreage impacts reduce the size of the area to less than 5,000 acres. Because of the smaller first-decade acreage impacts, however, Alternatives 4, 11, and 12 would retain many characteristics of roadless or wilderness designations such as opportunity for solitude and retention of visual quality. By the end of the fifth decade these characteristics would be minimized in all alternatives.

Approximately 3,318 acres of tentatively suitable timber would be available for harvest under this emphasis. A reduced harvest level with an expected higher cost per acre would be realized in Alternatives 5, 7, 11, and 12 due to constraints resulting from visual quality protection. Although potential for mineral, oil, or gas development is low to moderate, such developments would be available on lands with this management emphasis.

Non-priced benefits or costs include:

-- Habitat for old-growth dependent wildlife species will be reduced on lands managed under this emphasis. Habitat for snag-dependent species would be reduced though impacts can be minimized through snag retention and recruitment practices. Habitat to support minimum viable populations of old-growth-dependent species is retained.

-- Security for big game species would reduced in terms of thermal and hiding cover due to timber stand manipulation, though such reductions would be localized to specific harvest units and roads, and impacts caused by roads would be temporary in nature due to vegetative regrowth.

-- Water quality would decrease due to increased sedimentation resulting from road construction and harvest activities within stream drainages. Expected impacts to the fisheries resource are not significant; State law prevents serious injury to fisheries.

-- Visual quality of the area would be reduced to retention and partial retention in Alternatives 1, 2, 4, and 8, particularly as viewed from Priest Lake and the eastern shore residences. Impacts from Alternatives 5, 7, 11, and 12 may be reduced through design of cutting units and silvicultural practices in order to meet partial retention or retention visual quality objectives.

-- There would be no impact on opportunity for non-manipulative research in the Research Natural Areas.

-- The semi-primitive recreation opportunity setting would be modified to one of roaded, natural appearing on lands managed under this emphasis; roaded natural activities would increase.

This management emphasis would be socially and economically supportive of industry through employment and product flow resulting from timber harvest. Although potential for mineral developments is low to moderate, such developments would be available for the minerals industry. This management emphasis would not suport individuals or groups desiring wilderness or semi-primitive recreation opportunities. Alternatives 5, 7, 11, and 12 would support the segment of the public desiring higher visual quality, particularly as viewed from Priest Lake.

4. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Special Areas

Approximately 10 percent of the area is designated for this management emphasis in each alternative, reflecting the Tepee Creek and Bottle Lake Research Natural Areas. Table 2 does not reflect the acreage in the wilderness alternatives due to the higher nature of the wilderness classification, but each wilderness alternative would retain the Research Natural Areas.

The 500 acres of this management emphasis would remain unroaded in each alternative. The wilderness characteristics of Alternatives 3, 6, 9, and 10 would not be impacted by this emphasis. The same management emphasis would be employed for the same 500 acres in the remaining alternatives, but wilderness characteristics would be impacted by surrounding management activities. Therefore, this management emphasis is irrelevant in terms of wilderness enhancement for Alternatives 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, and 12.

The 500 acres would be unavailable for timber harvest, minerals development, oil and gas development, or other extractive uses. Impact on the mineral, oil, and gas industries would be low since potential for each development is primarily low to moderate. Approximately 10 million board feet of standing timber would be lost to the timber industry.

Non-priced benefits and costs include:

-- Habitat for old-growth and large-snag-dependent species would be maintained on the 500 acres.

-- Security for big game species would be retained on the 500 acres.

-- There will be no impact on water quality from the 500 acres of this management emphasis.

-- There will be no impact on visual quality.

-- Opportunities for non-manipulative research on the 500 acres would be preserved.

-- The 500 acres would remain unroaded, providing an opportunity for semi-primitive recreation on that area, though such recreation would be affected by surrounding management activities of each alternative.

This management emphasis does not socially or economically directly support either the timber or minerals industry. Members of the public engaged in research activities (universities, Forest Service Research Stations, etc.) are supported by this management emphasis. Such research indirectly supports the timber industry. Those desiring natural stands for semi-primitive recreation or scenic values are supported.

5. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Minimum Level

Approximately 25 to 37 percent of the ara is assigned to this management emphasis in Atlernatives 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, and 12. The minimum level management emphasis would be imapcted by road access for the timber/wildlife management emphasis. The environmental consequences would, therefore, be similar to those of the timber/wildlife management emphasis.

UPPER PRIEST ROADLESS AREA (01123)

I. DESCRIPTION

Size	Gross Acres	Net Acres
Idaho - Idaho Panhandle NF	13,833	13,533

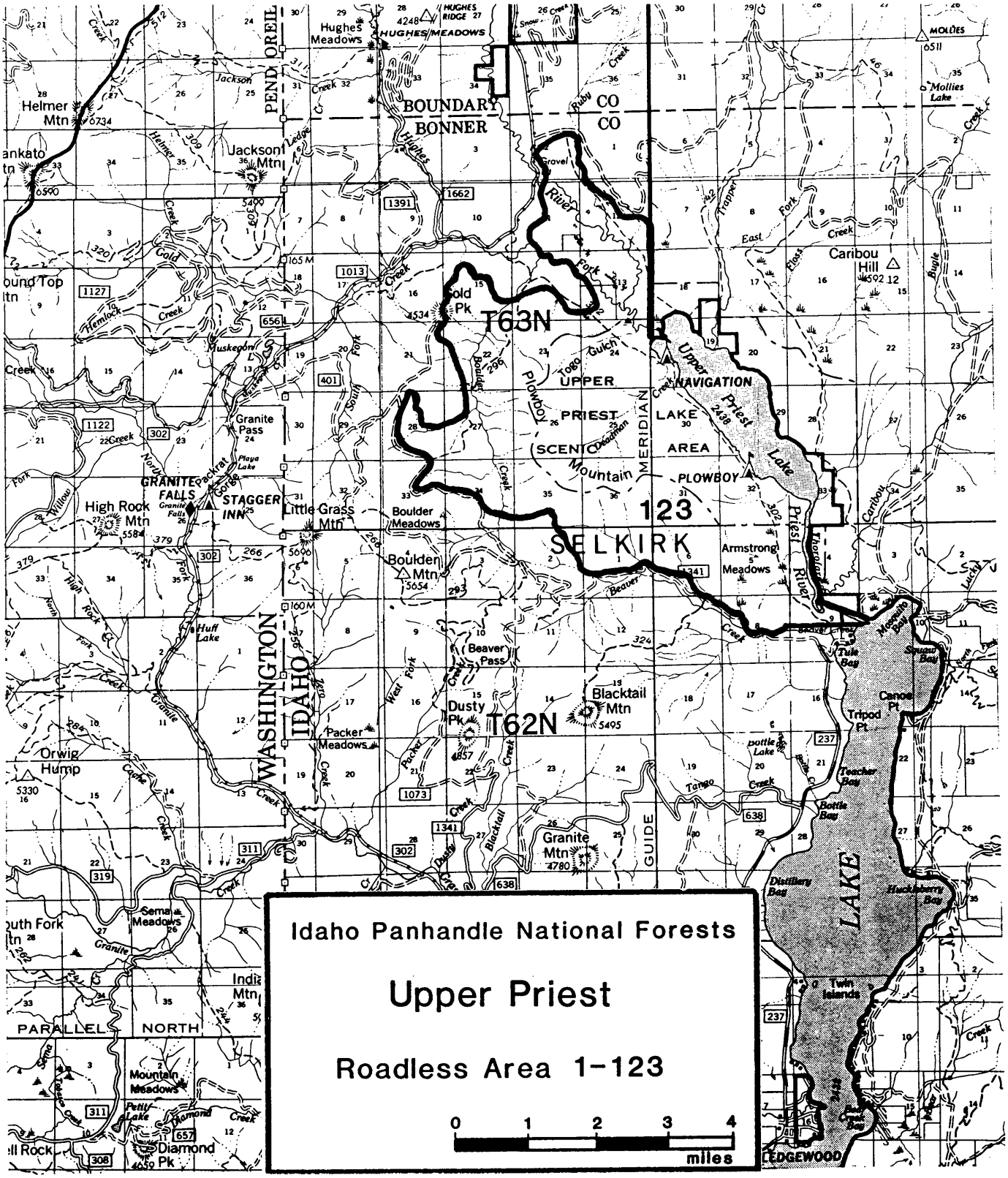
The Upper Priest Roadless Area is located about 50 miles north of Priest River, Idaho, within Bonner County and the Priest Lake Ranger District, Idaho Panhandle National Forests. Primary access is provided by paved Forest Road 237 and native-surfaced Roads 401, 1013, and 1341. The area may also be accessed by boat from Priest Lake.

The somewhat triangularly-shaped area includes a portion of Priest River, all of Upper Priest Lake, and the surrounding mountainous forestland. Slopes to the lake are mostly moderate to gentle. Elevations range from 2,440 feet at lake level to the 5,000 foot ridge of Plowboy Mountain. Gold Peak and Armstrong Meadows are other topographical features of the area. About 25 percent of the area is rockland or flat stream bottoms. Drainage is provided by Beaver Creek, Boulder Creek, Hughes Fork, Ruby Creek, Deadman Creek, and Upper Priest River. About 300 acres of private land are included within the boundary of the roadless area.

Mixed conifer forest of fairly recent fire origin (since 1880) covers most of the land area. Old-growth stands are found in the southern part of the area, while cedar, cottonwood, and brush are common along Priest River. Habitat types are generally hemlock or cedar/pachistima.

The primary human use of the roadless area focuses on the river and Upper Priest Lake, visited by thousands of boaters and hikers annually. Unique values of the area include the administratively designated scenic area (3,800 acres) surrounding the lake, part of which is State land managed under complementary objectives. The entire eastern slope of Plowboy Mountain is visible from the lake and is included in the scenic area. There is also a proposed Research Natural Area in the Priest River flood plain north of the lake and a Wild River segment of the Priest, also north of the lake. Two trails, Navigation 291 and Plowboy 295, provide access for hikers and backpackers. The Thorofare, a 2-mile channel separating the upper and lower lakes, provides access for boating, fishing, and camping activities on the Upper Lake.

Wildlife species in the area include a threatened species, the grizzly bear, and other big game and non-game animals common to northern Idaho (moose, deer, elk, black bear). Unusual non-game species include wolverine (possibly), bobcat, lynx, and fisher. Old-growth stands in the area provide habitat for species dependent upon such conditions. The streams tributary to the river and lake constitute important spawning and rearing habitat for Dolly Varden and cutthroat trout.


R. 5 W.
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Idaho Panhandle National Forests
Upper Priest
Roadless Area 1-123
0 1 2 3 4
miles
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UPPER PRIEST LAKE SCENIC AREA
NAVIGATION
SELKIRK
BOUNDARY
BONNER
PEND OREIL
WASHINGTON
IDAHO
MERIDIAN
GUIDE
PARALLEL NORTH
LAKE
Hughes Meadows
Jackson Mtn
Helmer Mtn
Caribou Hill
Granite Pass
GRANITE FALLS
STAGGER INN
High Rock Mtn
Little Grass Mtn
Boulder Meadows
Boulder Mtn
Armstrong Meadows
Huff Lake
Beaver Pass
Dusty Pk
Blacktail Mtn
Packer Meadows
Orwig Hump
Granite Mtn
Sema Meadows
Mountain Meadows
Diamond Pk
Canoe Pt
Tripod Pt
Twin Islands
LEDGEWOOD

II. CAPABILITY

A. Wilderness Characteristics

1. Natural Integrity. The impact from human activity has been related primarily to foot trails, campsites, and mineral exploration activities (tunnel entrances and two old log cabins). A Forest Service fire lookout and cabin were once located in the area, but all that remain are the foundation of the cabin and the footings and other incidental evidence of the tower.

2. Natural Appearance. A visitor to the area would feel that he or she is in a natural area away from ordinary human activity. Signs of human activity are visible primarily as background from higher elevations. A timber harvest area can be viewed adjacent to a foot trail at the northern end of the area, yet a screen of trees keeps much of it from the view of the hiker. Forest roads and timber harvest areas outside the area are visible from the higher elevations. Mineral exploration evidence can be noted inside the area by one of the two old log cabins which are adjacent to a foot trail.

Upper Priest Lake is fed by Upper Priest River, plus several smaller streams. The upper river is a significant fisheries habitat. A 3 mile long thoroughfare connects Upper and Lower Priest Lakes and is also protected fisheries water.

3. Solitude. The area varies from 1 to 7 miles wide and 3 to 6 miles north to south. It offers opportunities for solitude because of the differences in topography (2,500 to 5,000 feet elevation) and vegetation. There are four specific areas which have concentrated public use, but they are several miles from each other. The foot trails also receive high use during the summer months.

The Thorofare is calm and winding, with boaters seldom seeing anyone ahead or behind them throughout parts of the summer. Upper Priest Lake, 3 miles long and up to 1 mile wide in spots, stretches before the hiker and boater, providing a feeling of solitude with few visible camping spots. The nearest State highway is 15 miles from the area. Forest roads provide access to the boundaries of the area, but the only means of access into the area is by hiking or boating. This is due to the fact that a large portion of the area surrounding Upper Priest Lake was designated as a Scenic Area by the Regional Forester in 1968.

4. Primitive Recreation Opportunities. The area offers opportunities for hiking, backpacking, boating, canoeing, huckleberry picking, lake fishing, and scenery viewing. The topography and vegetation offer variety to the recreation experience.

The area is of a size that it experiences backpacking activities of 2-4 days duration but also offers day hike opportunities. Overnight use is frequent at either of the two campgrounds on the west side of the upper lake or the two campgrounds on the east side of the upper lake.

Two trails into the area, Navigation Trail 291 and Plowboy Trail 295, are maintained annually. Navigation Trail parallels the Thorofare to the upper lake then parallels the shoreline of the lake to the northern end. The trail continues northwest and out of the area. Plowboy Trail leads over Plowboy Mountain then joins with the Navigation Trail near Navigation Campground. Boulder Creek Trail 296 was a fire access trail many years ago but it receives very low use today. At the southeast border, outside the Scenic Area, is Beaver Creek Recreation Site (currently under construction) adjacent to the Navigation Trailhead, which leads to the upper lake. It is a popular site for launching small boats and camping.

Fishing is permitted only in the lake due to the important Dolly Varden and cutthroat trout spawning habitat of the tributaries into Upper Priest River and other streams flowing into Upper Priest Lake.

The remains of an old fire lookout tower and cabin on Plowboy Mountain offer visitors a historical perspective of past forest fire detection methods of the Forest Service.

5. Other Features. Upper Priest River at the northern end of the upper lake is unique in that it has been recommended to Congress for Wild and Scenic River status under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968

Armstrong Meadows is located at the southeast boundary. Navigation Trail runs adjacent to it. Wildlife frequent the meadow, making it an interesting area for a side trip. Grizzly bear habitat extends through Armstrong Meadows, borders the southern end of the Scenic Area, crosses Boulder Creek, and continues east to the area boundary.

B. Wilderness Manageability and Boundaries. Upper Priest Roadless Area was inventoried in the RARE II process. The changes since RARE II are:

Gross Acres	Net NF Acres	Explanation
14,680	14,140	RARE II
- 847	- 607	FY 1984 Timber Sale
13,833	13,533	1983 Inventory

The boundary around the area follows along several Forest roads, topographic features, draws, timber harvest areas, and Forest boundaries.

There is a parcel of private land, 300 acres in size, which is owned by Plum Creek Timberlands. Land disturbing activities on the private land would be visible from the higher elevations in the area. An area on the lower end of Upper Priest River has been proposed to be a Research Natural Area (RNA). This area would encompass the private land. Conflicts could be avoided by an exchange of this land. Boundary adjustments to exclude the private land is possible, yet there would still be the conflict over the RNA and, possibly, the Wild and Scenic River recommendation, since a portion of Upper Priest River flows through the private parcel.

The Upper Priest area is capable for wilderness. This conclusion is based on the area's manageability and possession of wilderness characteristics.

III. WILDERNESS AVAILABILITY

Table 1

Selected Resource Values

Category	Unit	01123
Gross Acres	Acres	13,833
Net Acres	Acres	13,533
Range		
Existing Obligated		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Existing Vacant		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Proposed		
Suitable	Acres	0
AUMs	No.	0
Timber		
Tentative		
Suitable	Acres	10,805
Standing Volume	MMBF	128
Minerals Potential		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	13,533
Low	Acres	0
Mining Claims	No.	0
Oil and Gas Potential*		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	0
Low	Acres	13,533
Oil and Gas Leases		
Leases	No.	0
Leased Area	Acres	0
Corridors		
Existing and Potential	No.	1
Wildlife-Threatened and Endangered-Habitat		
Grizzly Bear		
Situation 1	Acres	9,896
Situation 2	Acres	0
Situation 3	Acres	0
Bald Eagle	Acres	0
Mountain Caribou	Acres	0
Gray Wolf	Acres	0
Wildlife-Big Game		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Elk		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Deer		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Significant Fisheries		
Stream Miles	Miles	3
Stream Habitat	Acres	13
Lakes	No.	1
Lake Habitat	Acres	1,400
Water Developments		
Existing	No.	0
Recreation		
Primitive	RVDs	0
Semiprimitive		
Nonmotorized	RVDs	1,200
Motorized	RVDs	3,800
Roaded Natural	RVDs	0

*Rating also includes uranium, geothermal, and other energy resources.

A. Resource Values

1. Timber. The allowable timber harvest will depend on land use designations to be determined by the planning process. Current timber plans indicate an annual allowable harvest of 6 MMBF per year. The scenic area is not included in harvest base because of the administrative designation.

2. Minerals. The area contains uranium belts trending northeasterly that have been identified by Bendix Corporation under contract from the Department of Energy. There are several old prospects in the area, one of which produced a small amount of lead, zinc, copper, silver, and gold. Over 3,000 acres of this area are withdrawn from mineral entry as the Upper Priest Lake Scenic Area. The area has a moderate mineral potential. There are no oil and gas lease applications in the unit and the potential is low.

The Bonneville Power Administration has identified a potential east-west energy corridor that may cross a portion of this roadless area. Generally, the corridor is located a few miles south of the Canadian Border, across Idaho.

3. Recreation. Water quality is currently high, the current uses being boating, fishing, and swimming.

4. Wildlife. The area contains habitat for a wide variety of animals, including the grizzly bear--a threatened and endangered species.

5. Range. None.

B. Other Management Considerations

1. Fire. The annual fire occurrence is low.

A. Resource Values

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5. Range. None.

B. Other Management Considerations

1. Fire. The annual fire occurrence is low.

IV. NEED

A. Contribution to National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS). The main attributes and contributions of this area are the Upper Priest Lake Scenic Area and Upper Priest River. The Scenic Area will allow the area to remain in a natural state. Upper Priest River is a free flowing stream and has been recommended for Wild and Scenic Rivers classification.

The result of successional changes of vegetation since the 1926 fire, which burned much of the area, is also an attribute.

The area provides habitat components to the grizzly bear, which is a threatened species.

B. Public Interest and Concern. The Upper Priest area has very high local, regional, and national interest. The RARE II environmental impact statement (1979) recommended 10,316 acres for non-wilderness and 3,903 acres for further planning. Furthermore, approximately 278 acres was recommended for Wild and Scenic River designation (1979), following the Priest River Wild and Scenic River Environmental Impact Statement.

These recommendations considered public interest in wilderness, wild rivers, timber, mining interests, and wildlife in the area.

A determination has been made since RARE II that the area contains grizzly bear habitat and that issue has national significance relative to the Threatened and Endangered Species Act.

C. Proximity to Designated Wilderness and to Population Centers. Table 3, Parts A and B, displays wilderness opportunities and proximity to roadless areas on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The closest wilderness area is the Cabinet Wilderness in western Montana, approximately 100 miles to the northeast. There is access to 1.6 million acres of wilderness located within 200 miles of Coeur d'Alene, as well as an additional 5.8 million acres within 300 miles (northern Idaho, eastern Washington and Oregon, and western Montana).

V. ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

A. Management Emphasis Assignment by Alternatives. Management emphasis indicates which resource activity is highlighted. If the emphasis is timber, most of the activity on those acres would be for timber management. Resource activities which are compatible with the emphasis would continue, but with less intensity. Table 2 lists the acres of each management emphasis by alternative.

Table 2

Upper Priest Roadless Area (01123)
Management Emphasis by Alternative

Management Emphasis	Alternatives[1/] (Thousand Acres) 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Wilderness	0	0	13.5	0	0	13.5	0	0	13.5	13.5	0	0
Non-wilderness												
No Tbr. Harvest	5.3	5.2	0	4.9	4.6	0	9.2	5.8	0	0	4.6	4.6
Timber/Wildlife	4.3	4.1	0	6.4	6.1	0	1.3	6.1	0	0	4.3	4.1
Wildlife/Visual	1.3	1.3	0	0.2	0.6	0	0.1	0	0	0	0	0
Special Areas	0.3	0.3	0	0.3	0.3	0	0.3	0.3	0	0	0.3	0.3
Minimum Level	2.3	2.6	0	1.7	1.9	0	2.6	1.3	0	0	4.3	4.5
Total	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5
Summary of Management Emphasis:												
Developed												
Decade 1	7.3	3.8	0	5.4	2.4	0	0.6	0	0.6	0	9.7	0.4
Decade 5	13.2	9.5	0	12.0	13.5	0	5.0	0	8.7	0	9.7	11.5
Roadless[2/]												
Decade 1	6.2	9.7	0	8.1	5.7	0	12.9	13.5	12.9	0	0	13.1
Decade 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	8.5	13.5	0	0	0	0
Wilderness	0	0	13.5	0	0	13.5	0	0	13.5	13.5	0	0

1/ Alternative clarification -
1 - Regional Goals
2 - High Market
3 - High Nonmarket
4 - High Timber, Fish
5 - Moderate All Resources
6 - High Timber, Wildlife
7 - High Nonmarket, Stable Timber
8 - Current Program
9 - High Recreation
10 - High Wildlife, Moderate Timber
11 - Preferred Alternative
12 - Preferred w/Departure

2/ Roadless is defined as 5,000 acres or greater in size or any acreage if contiguous to existing wilderness.

B. Impacts

1. Alternative: Wilderness

Management Emphasis: Wilderness

This management emphasis is assigned to 100 percent of the roadless area in Alternatives 3, 6, 9, and 10.

This management emphasis would preserve wilderness values such as natural integrity, solitude, primitive recreation opportunities, etc. A potential conflict exists with the existing motorized use, primarily boaters. Wilderness legislation could allow this to continue.

Under this management emphasis, 128 MMBF of standing timber on 10,805 acres of suitable timberland would be unavailable. Mineral development, including gas and oil development, would not occur on the 13,533 acres, all of which are classified as moderate for minerals potential and low for oil and gas potential.

The non-priced benefits or costs would be as follows:

-- It is probable that, as a minimum, viable populations of all existing vertebrates would be preserved.

-- Security for big game animals would be preserved, though the opportunity to manipulate forage:cover ratios to benefit such populations would be lost. Grizzly bear habitat would be protected.

-- Species that find optimum habitat in early successional stages would be found in lower numbers as compared to areas which would be harvested; there exists considerable habitat for these species Forest-wide. Some of this habitat may become available through wildfire or managed fire.

-- Species which find optimum habitat in old-growth stages will increase over time as this stage is reached.

-- Visual quality would be preserved in its present high state.

-- Water quality and fisheries quality would remain high.

-- The potential Research Natural Area may be protected, depending on the future status of private land.

-- Opportunities for primitive and semi-primitive recreation would be retained.

Social and economic effects include the impact on the wood products and minerals industries; these industries would not be supported under this management emphasis. Segments of the public desiring primitive and semi-primitive recreation opportunities would be supported, as would those desiring habitat for threatened wildlife species. This management emphasis would support individuals and groups involved in research opportunities, such as universities and Forest Service research units, depending upon the future status of the private land within the area.

2. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: No Timber Harvest

This management emphasis occurs in all alternatives but Alternatives 3, 6, 9, and 10. Approximately 34 to 43 percent of the area would be under this emphasis in Alternatives 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 11, and 12. Alternative 7 calls for designation of 68 percent of the area to this emphasis. Approximately 3,800 acres are included in the Upper Priest Scenic Area, representing 28 percent of the area. The remaining percentages by alternatives in this emphasis are attributable to management prescriptions for roadless recreation areas of various sizes.

The effect of this management emphasis would be the retention of wilderness-related values, on lands where the emphasis is designated, through the first decade of the planning period. Such characteristics as isolation, primitive recreation opportunity, and natural appearance would be retained. The Upper Priest Scenic Area is withdrawn from mineral entry but minerals development could affect these qualities on surrounding land managed under a roadless recreation prescription. These qualities could also be affected by the allowable motorized boat access from Priest Lake to the Upper Priest.

Under this emphasis, approximately 55 to 70 MMBF of standing timber would be unavailable in Alternatives 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 11, and 12. Under Alternative 7 approximately 100 MMBF would be unavailable. Minerals, if located, would be available for development on 800 to 2,000 acres of all alternatives with this emphasis, except Alternative 7 where 5,400 acres would be open for such development. Approximately 3,800 acres of each alternative with this emphasis are withdrawn from mineral entry due to the administratively-designated scenic area.

Non-priced benefits and costs would be similar to those of the wilderness management emphasis for lands managed under the roadless recreation prescriptions, with the exception that this management emphasis will not affect the Research Natural Areas. In addition, possible future minerals development could have an impact on the listed benefit and cost items on the lands that are not withdrawn from mineral entry.

The wood products and mineral industries would not be supported by this management emphasis, although some minerals developments outside the withdrawn scenic area are possible. Segments of the public desiring primitive and semi-primitive recreation opportunities would be supported, as would those desiring habitat for threatened species. Individuals and groups desiring motorized boat access to the Upper Priest Lake would be supported by this management emphasis.

3. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Timber/Wildlife

This management emphasis is assigned to 30 to 47 percent of the roadless area in Alternatives 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 11, and 12. Alternatives 4, 5, and 8 represent the high end of the range, while Alternatives 1, 2, 11, and 12 represent the low end. Approximately 10 percent of the area under Alternative 7 contains this emphasis.

Wilderness values would not be maintained on lands managed under this emphasis due to road construction and timber harvest activities.

Approximately 50 to 75 MMBF of standing timber would be available in Alternatives 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 11, and 12. Under Alternative 7, about 15 MMBF would be available. Minerals development would continue to be available on lands managed under this emphasis, as would oil and gas development. Probability of the former is considered to be moderate; probability of the latter is low.

Non-priced benefits and costs would be as follows:

-- Populations of some existing vertebrates could be reduced on lands managed under this emphasis, particularly those species that find optimum habitat in old growth as opposed to early successional stages. Species that find optimum habitat in early successional stages would probably increase population levels.

-- Security for big game animals would be reduced, though the opportunity to manipulate forage:cover ratios to benefit such populations would be retained. Although there could be an impact to grizzly habitat on lands managed under this emphasis, such impact, by law, would not interfere with the maintenance and recovery of the grizzly bear population.

-- Visual quality may decline from Retention visual quality objective to a Partial Retention or Modification objective on some areas under this emphasis due to road and harvest activities.

-- There would be an adverse impact on water quality and fisheries through increased sediment resulting from development activities. The greatest impact would be on Alternatives 4, 5, and 8, and the least impacted would be Alternative 7. The adverse impact would not be significant due to State law prohibiting serious injury to the fisheries resource.

-- There would be no imapcts on the Research Natural Area designations.

-- Recreation opportunities would change from primitive and semi-primitive to roaded-type opportunities.

Socioeconomic effects include the support of the wood products and mineral industries, as these commodities would be available on lands managed under this emphasis. Segments of the public desiring wilderness, primitive/semi-primitive recreation opportunities, or maintenance of natural visual quality would not be supported. Those desiring continued motorized boat access to the Upper Priest Lake would be supported, as would those desiring maintenance and recovery of threatened wildlife species.

4. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Wildlife/Visual

This management emphasis is assigned to 1 percent of the area in Alternatives 4 and 7, 4 percent in Alternative 5, and 10 percent in Alternatives 1 and 2. The management emphasis reflects the prescription for maintaining Retention or Partial Retention visual quality objectives.

The small acreage of this management emphasis renders it irrelevant in terms of most wilderness characteristics, such as isolation and natural integrity. Activities are possible on these areas, subject to the visual resource, so the areas may or may not be roaded.

Under this management emphasis, timber harvest would be allowable but only if such harvest would meet assigned visual quality objectives; a significantly reduced harvest would probably be necessary.

Non-priced benefits and costs, as well as socioeconomic effects, would be similar to those found under the timber/wildlife management emphasis. Impacts on most wildlife species and on water quality and fisheries would not be as severe due to the nature of silvicultural systems employed to retain visual quality. The visual quality would be maintained at its present level. This management emphasis would primarily support segments of the public desiring a view of a natural landscape.

5. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Special Areas

This management emphasis is assigned to 2 percent of the roadless area in Alternatives 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, and 12, reflecting the proposed Research Natural Area. Table 2 does not reflect the acreage in the wilderness alternatives due to the higher nature of the wilderness classification, but each wilderness alternative would retain the Research Natural Areas.

The 300 acres of this management emphasis would remain unroaded. The wilderness characteristics of Alternatives 3, 6, 9, and 10 would not be impacted by this emphasis; wilderness characteristics of the remaining alternatives depend upon surrounding activities rather than this emphasis. Due to the small acreage, this emphasis is irrelevant in terms of wilderness enhancement for Alternatives 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, and 12.

The 300 acres would be unavailable for timber harvest, oil and gas development, or other extractive uses. Impacts on related industries would be low since potential for mineral, oil, and gas development is low to moderate and less than 3 percent (3.6 MMBF) of standing timber on the area is included.

Non-priced benefits and costs would be similar to those of the wilderness management emphasis, though the area of this management emphasis is so small that its effects would be negligible. The value of this emphasis on the qualities of each alternative would be highly dependent upon the surrounding management activities of each alternative. This management emphasis would provide opportunities for nonmanipulative research that might otherwise be lost.

This management emphasis does not socially or economically support either the timber or minerals industry. Members of the public engaged in research activites (universities, Forest Service research units, etc.) are supported. Those desiring natural stands of semi-primitive recreation or scenic values are supported in part since such values would be affected by surrounding management activities.

6. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Minimum Level

Approximatley 10 to 19 percent of the area is assigned this management emphasis, with Alternatives 4, 5, and 8 representing the low end of the range and Alternatives 1, 2, and 7 representing the high end. Alternatives 11 and 12 designate 33 percent of the area to this emphasis. The minimum level management emphasis areas would possibly be impacted by road access to areas designated for the timber/wildlife management emphasis. In these cases, impacts would be similar to those listed under that management emphasis.

SELKIRK ROADLESS AREA (01125)

I. DESCRIPTION

Size	Gross Acres	Net Acres
Idaho - Idaho Panhandle NF	103,040	101,996

This is the largest roadless area on the Kaniksu National Forest. It is located in the north-central portion of the Idaho Panhandle. The area begins roughly 4 miles south of the Canadian border and continues in a southerly direction for approximately 30 miles. The area includes roadless areas previously delineated in the RARE process as Selkirk Creek (RARE 159) and Long Canyon (RARE 156). Selkirk Crest RARE 159 is presently a special management area administered jointly under a cooperative agreement between the State of Idaho and the Forest Service.

The primary drainages in the area are Smith Creek, Long Canyon Creek, Trout Creek, Ball Creek, Myrtle Creek, and Snow Creek, all of which empty into the Kootenai River. The southernmost portion of the area drains into Pack River, which empties into Lake Pend Oreille. Terrain is very rugged, with steep slopes, many exceeding 70 percent. The highest mountains in northern Idaho are found in this roadless area. There are numerous peaks in the 7,000-feet elevation range, the highest being Parker Peak at 7,670 feet. Lowest point is around 2,000 feet along the east side close to Kootenai River.

The area is heavily forested with various species on bottomlands and mid-slopes in Long Canyon, Smith Creek, Trout Creek, and Ball Creek and has barren, rocky ridges at higher elevations. There is an abundance of subalpine vegetation over the entire area.

Habitat exists for elk, moose, mountain goat, deer, black bear, grouse, and both grizzly bear and mountain caribou, and potential habitat exists for white-tailed ptarmigan. Some deer winter range exists at lower elevations. Unique features include the numerous alpine lakes, snowy peaks, geologic formations, and glacial effects. There is also a lookout tower on Roman Nose Mountain.

Primary usage includes hiking, backpacking, fishing, and rock climbing. Use is moderate to heavy along the Selkirk Divide and light in Long Canyon. There is presently no grazing, due to low potential.

Water quality is high.

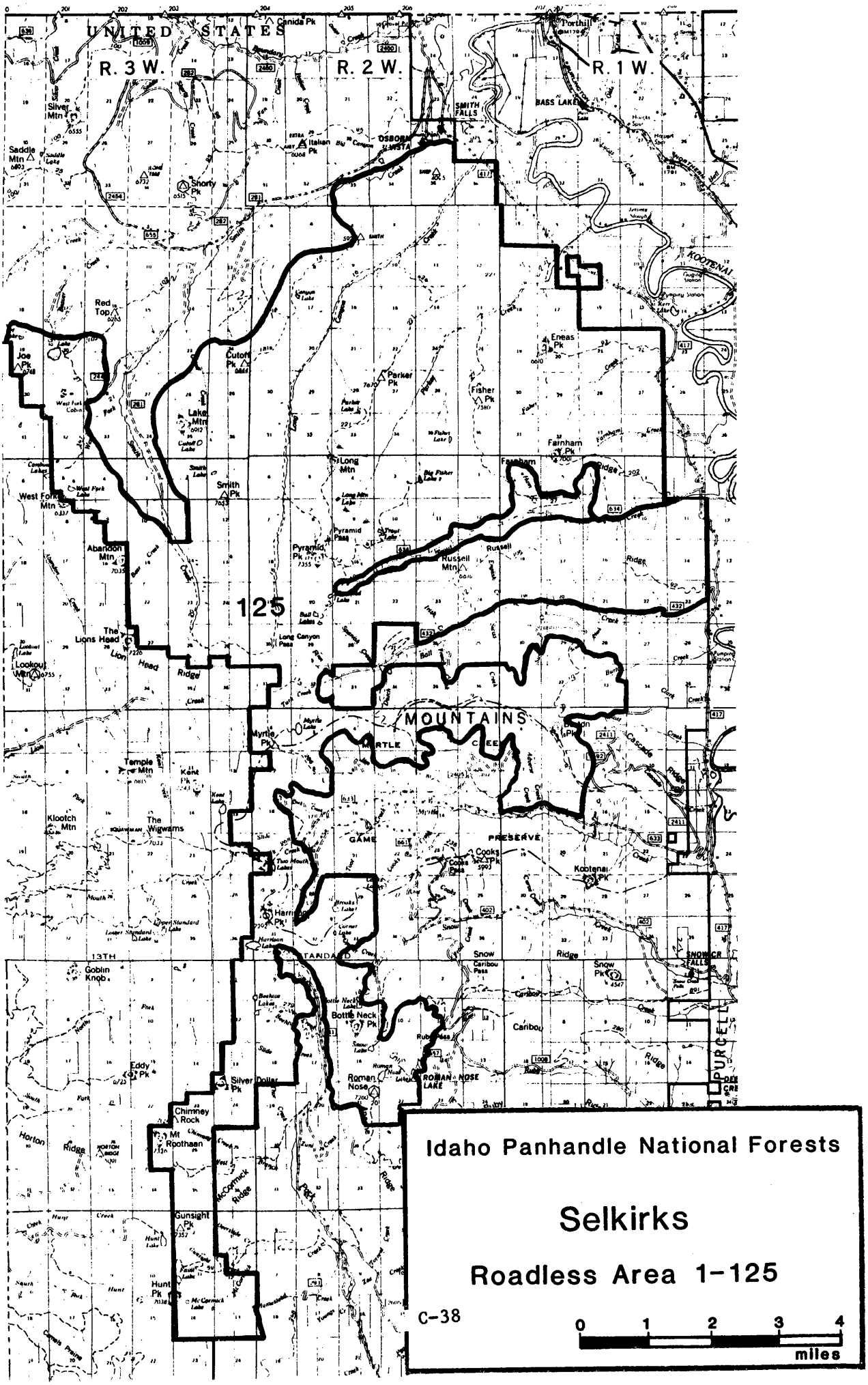
The study area is underlain primarily by intrusive igneous rocks, including those of the Selkirk Crest complex. These intrude metamorphosed sediment of the Belt Supergroup and an older gneiss. The igneous units of the Selkirk Crest complex appear to be bounded by large faults on the east and west sides.

The area is accessible from a number of trails, some of which originate on blacktop roads and others from poorer 4-wheel-drive roads.

The area is about 2,000 acres smaller than RARE II due to timber sales.

The Selkirks were once well known for their mountain goat population, but during the late 1950s the goats all bur disappeared. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game has recently transplanted several goats on nearby State land.

Myrtle Creek drainage is a state-designated game preserve and is also the source of water for the city of Bonners Ferry.


UNITED STATES
R. 3 W.
R. 2 W.
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125
MOUNTAINS
GAME
PRESERVE
Idaho Panhandle National Forests
Selkirks
Roadless Area 1-125
0 1 2 3 4
miles

II. CAPABILITY

A. Wilderness Characteristics

1. Natural Integrity. The impact from human activity has been minor and scattered. Impacts include pack trails for fire control access, remnants of old lookout towers, a few trapper/prospector cabins, and some old mine tunnels and mine waste dumps in the lower end of Long Canyon Creek. Recent human activity is most evident where campers have camped near the shores of the high mountain lakes. These sites are sensitive because of short growing seasons, vegetation type, and wet conditions; they heal slowly once trampled or otherwise disturbed.

2. Natural Appearance. Two situations exist in this roadless area. The large block of land that encompasses Long Canyon, Parker Creek, Fisher Creek, and Farnham Creek is such that persons in the area would feel they are in a natural area. Once inside this area there are very few locations where human activity outside the area can be seen or heard. These are generally confined to views from some of the highest peaks or from trails as they approach the Kootenai Valley and traverse rather open hillsides.

The remainder of the area resembles octopus tentacles, with stringers of land running out unroaded ridges on down the Selkirk Crest. These stringers are as narrow as one-half mile and none are over two miles wide; they are on high ridges where it is quite easy to look down on roads, timber harvest area, and farmland.

3. Solitude. The ability to find solitude in this area is likewise affected by its configuration. In this large block of land it would be quite easy to find complete solitude. Since a high proportion of this is densely timbered, the solitude is accentuated. There are also large granite domes from which expansive vistas are possible in complete solitude.

Solitude is to be found in the stringers, but it can be interrupted very easily and frequently due to the proximity to management activities and motorized recreation.

4. Primitive Recreation Opportunities. The area offers a variety of terrain types and physical and biotic features to challenge visitors. It offers hiking, hunting, mountain lake fishing, rugged cross-country travel through dense timber on steep slopes, open ridgetop walking, technical climbing opportunities on Chimney Rock, and rugged mountaineering skiing.

5. Other Features. The Sundance Fire roared across the southern end of the Selkirk Crest in 1967. The large, open snowfield created by this burn has become one of the most popular snowmobile play areas in northern Idaho. The Selkirk Crest, with its rugged granite domes and peaks, is a popular hiking area, particularly in the vicinity of the numerous small lakes in the cirque basins.

Long Canyon is the last large drainage (20,000+ acres) on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests which remains unroaded. Long Canyon offers a potential for scientific study of undisturbed watersheds. For example, it is being used to determine natural rates of erosion for granitic soils for the Forest.

A proposed Research Natural Area exists within the northwest arm of this area.

B. Wilderness Manageability and Boundaries. This area was inventoried during the RARE II process. The area is about 2,000 acres smaller than RARE II due to timber sales.

In this large block of land several easily identified and manageable boundaries could be drawn, depending on the size and location where a wilderness might be placed. Ridgetop boundaries could protect the integrity of that area to include a 1-, 2-, 3-, or 4-drainage wilderness or combination thereof.

A manageable boundary around any of the stringers would be hard to locate. All would be mid-slope boundaries or straight-line boundaries along section lines.

Snowmobile and trail bike use is well established in several parts of the area. Wilderness designation would create an enforcement job for several years until the use pattern could be broken. Some heli-skiing has occurred also.

Heavy use of the mountain lakes is also well established. Management of campers to allow the evidence of man's activities to heal would be very difficult.

Boundaries could be redefined to exclude most private lands and the remainder may be acquirable by purchase or exchange.

Table 1

Selected Resource Values

Category	Unit	01125
Gross Acres	Acres	103,040
Net Acres	Acres	101,996
Range		
Existing Obligated		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Existing Vacant		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Proposed		
Suitable	Acres	0
AUMs	No.	0
Timber		
Tentative		
Suitable	Acres	46,501
Standing Volume	MMBF	518
Minerals Potential		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	12,800
Low	Acres	89,196
Mining Claims	No.	3
Oil and Gas Potential*		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	0
Low	Acres	101,996
Oil and Gas Leases		
Leases	No.	0
Leased Area	Acres	0
Corridors		
Existing and Potential	No.	1
Wildlife-Threatened and Endangered-Habitat		
Grizzly Bear		
Situation 1	Acres	70,076
Situation 2	Acres	31,520
Situation 3	Acres	0
Bald Eagle	Acres	0
Mountain Caribou	Acres	50,640
Gray Wolf	Acres	0
Wildlife-Big Game		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Elk		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Deer		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Significant Fisheries		
Stream Miles	Miles	29
Stream Habitat	Acres	48
Lakes	No.	19
Lake Habitat	Acres	410
Water Developments		
Existing	No.	0
Recreation		
Primitive	RVDs	203
Semiprimitive		
Nonmotorized	RVDs	1,584
Motorized	RVDs	1,393
Roaded Natural	RVDs	190

*Rating also includes uranium, geothermal, and other energy resources.

A. Resource Values

1. Recreation. This is a large area which receives a large variety of recreation use; most of the use in the summer is concentrated around the cirque lakes and the trails to these lakes. On some summer weekends this use is heavy. During the winter the use focuses on snowmobiling in the southern portion of the area.

2. Wildlife. A large variety of wildlife is found in this area, including two threatened or endangered species--mountain caribou and grizzly bear. Unusual species potentially present include bobcat, lynx, and wolverine. Cutthroat and, to a lesser extent, brook trout are both present in the many lakes and streams of this roadless area.

3. Timber. About 46,500 acres are tentatively suitable for timber production. The timber resource ranges from large old-growth white pine, cedar, and spruce in Long Canyon to small lodgepole pine on Parker Ridge. Higher elevations contain subalpine fir and a few subalpine larch.

4. Minerals and Energy Corridors. The U.S. Bureau of Land Management recently stated that the Selkirks RARE II areas have no identified mineral deposits. Although there have been 37 placer claims and 152 lode claims located since 1903, sample assays from the claimed areas revealed no significant mineral values. A wilderness designation would probably limit the development of any mineral resource that might be discovered.

Oil and gas lease applications are being processed (except for the RARE II Wilderness and Further Planning areas). Only three valid claims exist at this time.

The Bonneville Power Administration has identified a potential east-west energy corridor that may cross a portion of this roadless area. Generally, the corridor is located a few miles south of the Canadian Border, across Idaho.

5. Range. None.

B. Other Management Considerations

1. Fire. The annual number of fires is low; however, northern Idaho has a history of periodic large fires, including the Sundance Fire which burned over the southern portion of this area in 1967.

IV. NEED

A. Contribution to National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS). This area would increase the ecosystem acres of (1) Douglas-fir, (2) spruce/fir, (3) cedar/hemlock/white pine, and (4) high elevation rockland. The Selkirks offer a wide variety of recreational experiences from alpine peaks and lakes to stream bottoms with large old-growth trees. It also offers habitat for grizzly bear and caribou. The area's contribution to the NWPS would also include the last large unroaded drainage on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The area would add two scientific study opportunities--totally unroaded drainages and a Research Natural Area.

B. Public Interest and Concerns. The Administration recommended in RARE II (1979) that a wilderness area encompassing the Selkirk Crest be created. Locally, Statewide, and nationally, Long Canyon has been the focus of a continuing controversy. There are significant numbers of people who favor timber harvest, people who favor roadless management but not wilderness, and people who favor wilderness.

Governor Evans recently endorsed a wilderness designation for this area including Long Canyon.

C. Proximity to Designated Wilderness and to Population Centers. Table 3, Parts A and B, displays wilderness opportunities and proximity to roadless areas on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The closest wilderness area is the Cabinet Wilderness in western Montana, approximately 100 miles to the northeast. There is access to 1.6 million acres of wilderness located within 200 miles of Coeur d'Alene, as well as an additional 5.8 million acres within 300 miles (northern Idaho, eastern Washington and Oregon, and western Montana).

V. ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

A. Management Emphasis Assignment by Alternatives. Management emphasis indicates which resource activity is highlighted. If the emphasis is timber, most of the activity on those acres would be for timber management. Resource activities which are compatible with the emphasis would continue, but with less intensity. Table 2 lists the acres of each management emphasis by alternative.

Table 2

Selkirk Roadless Area (01125)
Management Emphasis by Alternative

Management Emphasis	Alternatives[1/] (Thousand Acres) 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Wilderness	24.5	0	102.0	24.5	41.1	67.5	37.5	24.5	67.5	102.0	26.6	26.6
Non-wilderness												
No Tbr. Harvest	39.5	25.5	0	0.9	10.9	0.8	11.2	1.0	11.2	0	32.7	32.7
Timber/Wildlife	14.9	27.4	0	30.9	18.6	13.7	11.4	15.3	11.6	0	14.9	14.9
Wildlife/Visual	5.6	10.4	0	10.4	7.2	5.5	4.4	6.0	4.4	0	0	0
Special Areas	1.3	1.3	0	1.3	1.3	0	0	1.3	0	0	1.3	1.3
Minimum Level	16.2	37.4	0	34.0	22.9	14.5	7.5	53.9	7.3	0	26.5	26.5
Total	102.0	102.0	102.0	102.0	102.0	102.0	102.0	102.0	102.0	102.0	102.0	102.0
Summary of Management Emphasis:												
Developed												
Decade 1	5.5	11.3	0	12.0	9.9	4.0	7.9	3.7	3.9	0	15.0	15.0
Decade 5	22.5	30.3	0	87.5	41.1	27.9	21.9	23.1	20.2	0	25.0	25.0
Roadless[2/]												
Decade 1	72.0	90.7	0	65.5	51.0	30.5	26.6	73.8	30.6	0	60.4	60.4
Decade 5	55.0	71.7	0	0	19.8	6.6	12.6	54.4	14.3	0	50.4	50.4
Wilderness	24.5	0	102.0	24.5	41.1	67.5	67.5	24.5	67.5	102.0	26.6	26.6

1/ Alternative clarification -
- 1 - Regional Goals
- 2 - High Market
- 3 - High Nonmarket
- 4 - High Timber, Fish
- 5 - Moderate All Resources
- 6 - High Timber, Wildlife
- 7 - High Nonmarket, Stable Timber
- 8 - Current Program
- 9 - High Recreation
- 10 - High Wildlife, Moderate Timber
- 11 - Preferred Alternative
- 12 - Preferred w/Departure

2/ Roadless is defined as 5,000 acres or greater in size or any acreage if contiguous to existing wilderness.

B. Impacts

1. Designation: Wilderness

Management Emphasis: Wilderness

This area is designated entirely or partly as wilderness in all alternatives except Alternative 2. Alternatives 3 and 10 designate the entire area to wilderness; Alternatives 1, 4, and 8 designate the Crest as wilderness. Alternatives 6, 7, and 9 designate the Crest, Long Canyon, and Parker Canyon as wilderness. Alternative 5 designates the Crest and Long Canyon as wilderness. Alternatives 3 and 10 would enhance wilderness values by eliminating mining and off-road vehicle activities. The 46,500 acres of land tentatively suitable for timber production would not be available under this prescription. This would remove about 5 MMBF annually of timber from future sales, including a significant area of old growth. Big game habitat would not change much over time, except as influenced by fire. The Special Management Area would be recognized by Congressional action rather than its present status as an administrative action. That portion of the area which is State-designated game preserve (the Bonners Ferry water supply) or a proposed Research Natural Area would benefit from this designation by guaranteeing a minimum amount of human interference in the natural tendency toward old growth. Evidence of past wildfire activity would gradually give way to natural succession in plant communities.

The impacts to the non-priced components would be:

-- Visual quality would be preserved.

-- The National Wilderness System area would increase.

-- Existing habitat for grizzly bear and caribou would be preserved.

-- Security for animals would be preserved.

-- Water quality, lake habitat, and fisheries would be maintained at their present levels.

-- Diversity would be toward old growth.

-- Natural ecosystem would be protected.

-- Opportunity for primitive recreation would remain the same.

-- Mineral activities would be eliminated.

-- Long Canyon, Parker Canyon, and several other completely unroaded drainage ecosystems would be preserved.

-- Indicator species that would be favorbly impacted include cutthroat trout and pileated woodpecker.

-- The largest unroaded area on the Kaniksu National Forest would be entirely preserved.

Alternatives 1, 4, 8, 11, and 12 forego timber management on 32,000 acres of tentatively suitable land. Minerals activities would not occur. These alternatives would preserve the scenic high country and most of the alpine lakes. Solitude would be adversely impacted as compared to Alternatives 3, 6, 9, and 10; however, good screening exists around the lakes where most of the current and projected use is likely to occur.

The impacts to the non-priced components would be:

-- Added protection would be given to the current administrative designation.

-- Grizzly bear habitat and caribou habitat within the Crest would be preserved.

-- Most of hte lakes within the ara would not be affected by timber sales; however, water quality will probably decline due to increased recreation use.

-- Old growth will be preserved.

Alternatives 6, 7, and 9 preserve the several important wilderness values, including the last large unroaded drainages in northern Idaho (Long Canyon and Parker Canyon); old-growth stands, especially those in Long Canyon, are preserved; water quality in Parker and Long Canyon is maintained (except for recreation use impacts); grizzly bear and caribou habitat is preserved; minerals activities would be prohibited; a wilderness corridor from the Kootenai River to Hunt Peak is preserved; potential hydro/power development is prevented.

These alternatives forego timber management on approximately 32,000 acres of suitable timberland.

The impacts to the non-priced components are:

-- Most of the important wilderness values are preserved.

-- The Wilderness system is expanded.

-- The natural ecosystem is preserved.

-- The areas of public concern are protected as wilderness.

Alternative 5 is similar to Alternatives 6, 7, and 9, except Parker Canyon is not designated as wilderness.

This designation consists primarily of areas designated for roadless recreation. Alternatives 1, 11, and 12 designate Parker and Long Canyons as roadless recreation. Alternative 5 designates Parker Canyon as roadless; Alternative 2 designates the Crest as roadless. The effects are similar to a wilderness designation except for:

(1) Roadless designation is viewed by some members of the public as more subject to change than a Congressional designation.

(2) Minerals development is generally prohibited--at least at some point in time.

The designation would adversely impact the potential energy corridor identified in a BPA/FS study. However, even without this designation this corridor may be found to be in conflict with threatened and endangered habitat needs.

2. Designation: Non-Wilderness

Management Emphasis: No Timber Harvest

From 1 to 39 percent of the area is designated for this emphasis in all alternatives except Alternatives 3 and 11.

Timber volume under this emphasis would not be available for harvest.

Minerals, oil and gas, if discovered, remain available.

The non-priced benefits and costs are:

-- Wilderness values are preserved.

-- Water quality and fisheries would be maintained.

-- Caribou and grizzly bear habitat is protected.

-- Visual quality would be retained.

-- Diversity would tend toward old growth.

-- The natural ecosystem would be maintained.

-- Opportunities for primitive and semi-primitive recreation would decline.

Social and economic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation and wilderness. Mineral resources would be available, thus supporting a possible minerals industries. The change in recreation setting could be disruptive to those publics using the area for primitive recreation.

3. Designation: Non-Wilderness

Management Emphasis: Timber/Wildlife

From 11 to 30 percent of the area is designated for this emphasis in all alternatives except Alternatives 3 and 10. In both the short and long term, the roadless character of the area would be foregone in all alternatives with this emphasis. Where the area is most usually sensitive, the natural landscape would be retained to the extent possible.

Approximately 17,500 acres of tentatively suitable timberland would not be available for timber management.

Minerals, oil, and gas, if discovered, remain available. The potential powerline corridor would not be affected.

The non-priced benefits and costs are:

-- Wilderness values are eventually foregone.

-- The roadless-primitive values affected include development of the last large unroaded drainage ecosystem on the IPNF; development of other unroaded drainage ecosystems; loss of quality semi-primitive recreation opportunities; decline in water quality, fisheries habitat, and visual quality; and loss of solitude (Alternatives 2, 4, and 8).

-- Grizzly bear and mountain caribou habitat would be managed to support a recovered population. The potential adverse impact of road disturbance would be mitigated by road closures. Higher levels of law enforcement may be necessary.

-- Diversity would tend towards old growth on about 70 percent of the area; the area management for timber would tend towards younger, even-aged stands.

-- Indicator species adversely impacted include cutthroat trout and pileated woodpecker.

Social and economic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. Timber and mineral resources would be available, thus supporting the wood products and minerals industries. The change in recreation setting could be disruptive to those publics using the area for primitive or semi-primitive recreation as well as publics viewing the area.

4. Designation: Non-Wilderness

Management Emphasis: Wildlife/Visual

From 4 to 10 percent of the area is designated for this emphasis in Alternatives 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, and 9. In both the short and long term, the wilderness and roadless character of the area would be foregone in all alternatives with this option.

The timber resource under this emphasis would not be available for specific timber management.

Minerals, oil, and gas ,if discovered, remain available.

The potential powerline corridor would be affected.

The effects of non-priced components would be:

-- Wilderness values may eventually be foregone.

-- Caribou and grizzly bear habitat is maintained and enhanced.

-- Diversity would tend toward old growth.

-- The natural ecosystem would be maintained.

-- Opportunities for primitive and semi-primitive recreation would decline.

-- Visual quality would be retained.

-- Water quality and fisheries would be maintained.

Social and economic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. Mineral resources would be available, thus supporting a potential minerals industries. The change in recreation setting could be disruptive to those publics using the area for primitive or semi-primitive recreation as well as publics viewing the area.

5. Designation: Non-Wilderness

Management Emphasis: Special Areas

All alternatives designate 1,300 acres for the Smith Creek Research Area.

The special management emphasis would preclude market resource development.

The emphasis would protect the non-priced resources. Generally, it would:

-- Preserve visual quality.

-- Preserve existing habitat for mountain caribou and grizzly bear.

-- Preserve animal security.

-- Diversity would tend toward old growth.

-- Maintain water quality and existing fisheries.

-- Maintain the existing primitive recreation opportunity setting.

Socially, wilderness advocates would be partially supported. Recreationists, supporting roaded natural recreational activities, would not be served.

6. Designation: Non-Wilderness

Management Emphasis: Minimum Level

From 7 to 53 percent of the area is designated for this emphasis in all alternatives except Alternatives 3 and 10.

Lands in this category have been defined as being unavailable for timber or within their other resource investment purposes because of either biophysical conditions or identified economic constraints. Acre variances between alternatives are created by other resource constraints imposed by alternative resource emphasis items. Management would be custodial with no investments occurring.

Depending on their size and spatial relationship with other resource designations, these areas could either support wilderness characteristics or mirror developed area characteristics. Overall, the wilderness resource would not be supported. Because of their definition, they would not impact timber production. Discovered minerals would be available.

Non-priced resource impacts and socioeconomic effects within these areas would mirror those of the resource designations of surrounding areas.

KOOTENAI PEAK ROADLESS AREA (01126)

I. DESCRIPTION

Size	Gross Acres	Net Acres
Idaho Panhandle NF	5,974	5,974

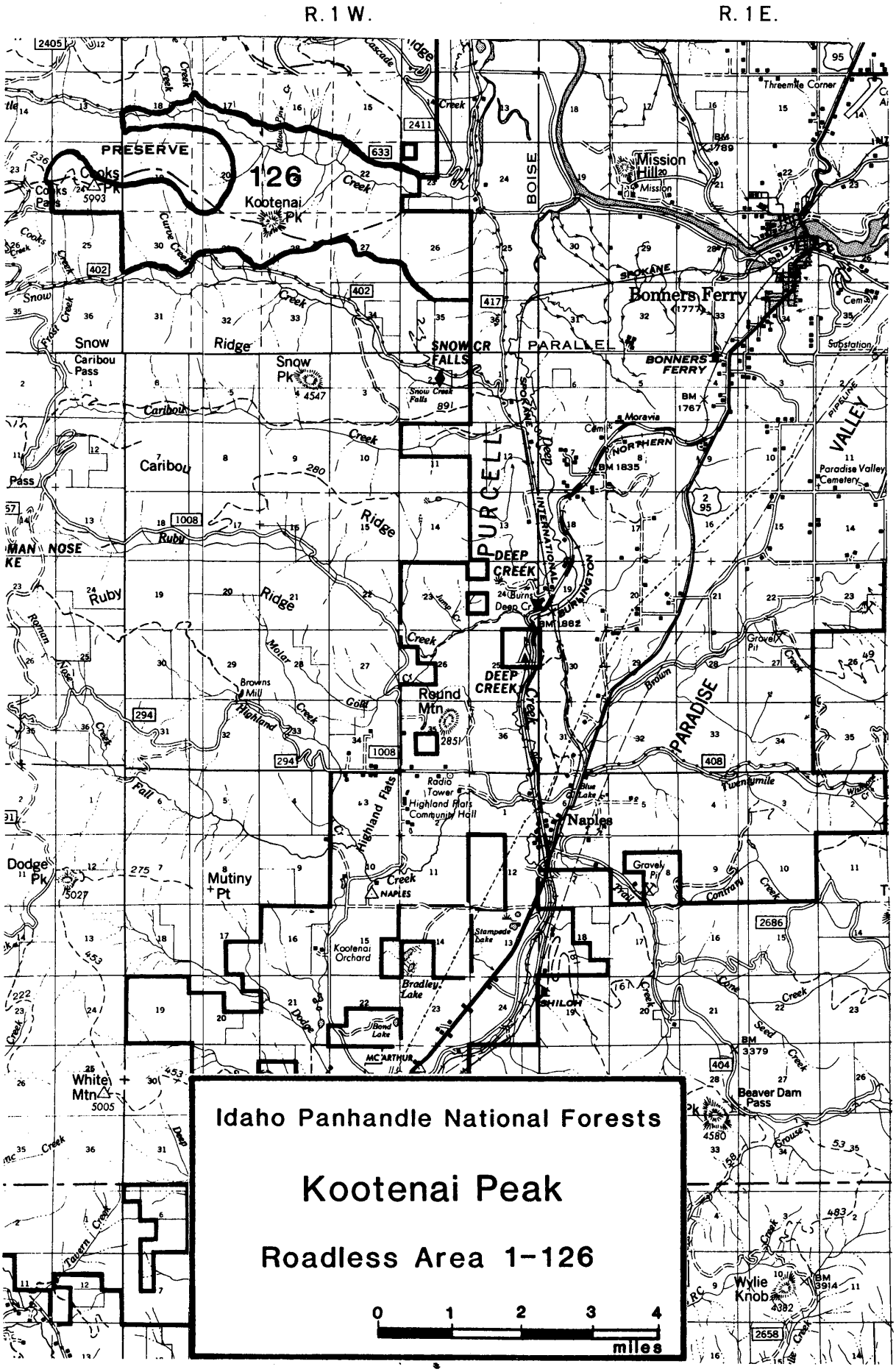
This roadless area is located five miles west of Bonners Ferry in Boundary County on the Bonners Ferry Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The area is accessible from the Myrtle Creek/Snow Creek Road, which is maintained for automobile traffic.

The Kootenai Peak Roadless Area encompasses both sides of a long ridge extending from Cooks Pass to the Kootenai River Valley. There are no lakes or outstanding topographic features in this area.

This ridge is generally covered by heavy timber on the Snow Creek side, the timber is young; on the Myrtle Creek side, much of the timber is very old and ranges from cedar/hemlock at lower elevations to spruce/fir at higher elevations.

A portion of the area facing east into the Kootenai River Valley is visible from the city of Bonners Ferry and at numerous points along U.S. Highway 95, as well as from secondary roads in the valley. The Myrtle Creek drainage, the domestic water source for the city of Bonners Ferry, is a State-designated game preserve.

Wildlife species include mule deer, elk, moose, black bear, grouse, and many small mammals and birds. The area includes mapped habitat for grizzly bear and mountain caribou, an endangered species.


R. 1 W.
R. 1 E.
PRESERVE
126
Kootenai Pk
Cooks Pk
5093
Mission Hill
Bonners Ferry
SNOW CR FALLS
PARALLEL
BONNERS FERRY
Snow Pk
4547
Caribou Pass
Caribou
Ruby
Ridge
PURCELL
DEEP CREEK
Round Mtn
2851
Naples
Highland Flats
Mutiny Pt
Dodge Pk
5027
White Mtn
5005
Kootenai Orchard
Bradley Lake
SHILOH
MC ARTHUR
Beaver Dam Pass
4580
Wylie Knob
4382
PARADISE
VALLEY
Paradise Valley Cemetery
Idaho Panhandle National Forests
Kootenai Peak
Roadless Area 1-126
0 1 2 3 4
miles

II. CAPABILITY

A. Wilderness Characteristics

1. Natural Integrity. Within this area the impacts of human activity are limited to an old cabin and a foot trail along the ridgetop. The trail may have established off-road vehicle use.

2. Natural Appearance. This ridge is heavily timbered, but all locations along this ridge are within view of and in close proximity to roads and timber harvest activities.

3. Solitude. At its widest point this roadless is two miles wide. There is little topographic screening, so timber stands are the only barriers to the impacts of roads and other activities nearby.

4. Primitive Recreation Opportunities. This area provides opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, hunting, and berrypicking. Hunting and fishing opportunities are not available in Myrtle Creek because of the Game Preserve Status.

5. Other Features. The Myrtle Creek watershed has been designated a State Game Preserve, primarily to protect the water supply of the community of Bonners Ferry.

B. Wilderness Manageability and Boundaries. Boundaries of this roadless area are not well defined. They cross slopes, follow private land boundaries, or parallel roads. The area is 1,800 acres smaller than the RARE II inventory size; this reduction is due to timber sales.

III. WILDERNESS AVAILABILITY

Table 1

Selected Resource Values

Category	Unit	01126
Gross Acres	Acres	5,974
Net Acres	Acres	5,974
Range		
Existing Obligated		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Existing Vacant		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Proposed		
Suitable	Acres	0
AUMs	No.	0
Timber		
Tentative		
Suitable	Acres	5,596
Standing Volume	MMBF	65
Minerals Potential		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	0
Low	Acres	5,974
Mining Claims	No.	0
Oil and Gas Potential*		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	0
Low	Acres	5,974
Oil and Gas Leases		
Leases	No.	0
Leased Area	Acres	0
Corridors		
Existing and Potential	No.	0
Wildlife-Threatened and Endangered-Habitat		
Grizzly Bear		
Situation 1	Acres	0
Situation 2	Acres	5,974
Situation 3	Acres	0
Bald Eagle	Acres	0
Mountain Caribou	Acres	400
Gray Wolf	Acres	0
Wildlife-Big Game		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Elk		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Deer		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Significant Fisheries		
Stream Miles	Miles	4
Stream Habitat	Acres	8
Lakes	No.	0
Lake Habitat	Acres	0
Water Developments		
Existing	No.	0
Recreation		
Primitive	RVDs	0
Semiprimitive		
Nonmotorized	RVDs	0
Motorized	RVDs	0
Roaded Natural	RVDs	0

*Rating also includes uranium, geothermal, and other energy resources.

A. Resource Values

1. Recreation. Current recreation use is very light due in part to the Myrtle Creek Game Preserve Status. This closure is intended to discourage recreation use to protect municipal water quality. The Snow Creek watershed does receive light hunting and berrypicking.

2. Wildlife. The area contains habitat for the wide variety of animals found in northern Idaho; grizzly bear and mountain caribou habitat is also present.

3. Timber. About 5,600 acres of tentatively suitable timberland are present.

4. Mineral. This area contains a uranium anomalous belt, as mapped by Bendix Corporation for the Department of Energy. The contact areas have the potential for vein-type sulfide deposits. No mining claims are known to be in the area.

The potential for oil and gas is low. Oil and gas lease applications are filed for about one-half of the area.

5. Range. None.

B. Other Management Considerations

1. Fire. The number of fires occurring annually is low; however, northern Idaho has a history of periodic large fires.

IV. NEED

A. Contribution to National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS). The main contribution this area would be increased acreages of the cedar/hemlock ecosystem and habitat for grizzly bear and mountain caribou.

B. Public Interest and Concerns. No local, regional, or national interest in this area as a wilderness is known. There is strong local opposition to wilderness designation in this area.

C. Proximity to Designated Wilderness and to Population Centers. Table 3, Parts A and B, displays wilderness opportunities and proximity to roadless areas on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The closest wilderness area is the Cabinet Wilderness in western Montana, approximately 100 miles to the northeast. There is access to 1.6 million acres of wilderness located within 200 miles of Coeur d'Alene, as well as an additional 5.8 million acres within 300 miles (northern Idaho, eastern Washington and Oregon, and western Montana).

V. ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

A. Management Emphasis Assignment by Alternatives. Management emphasis indicates which resource activity is highlighted. If the emphasis is timber, most of the activity on those acres would be for timber management. Resource activities which are compatible with the emphasis would continue, but with less intensity. Table 2 lists the acres of each management emphasis by alternative.

Table 2

Kootenai Peak Roadless Area (01126)
Management Emphasis by Alternative

Management Emphasis	Alternatives[1/] (Thousand Acres) 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Wilderness	0	0	6.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non-wilderness												
No Tbr. Harvest	0	0.3	0	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.3
Timber/Wildlife	5.0	4.7	0	4.8	4.8	4.9	5.0	4.9	5.1	4.8	4.4	4.8
Wildlife/Visual	0.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Special Areas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minimum Level	0.7	1.0	0	0.9	0.6	0.8	0.4	0.8	0.3	0.6	1.0	0.9
Total	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
Summary of Management Emphasis:												
Developed												
Decade 1	1.6	0.8	0	0.7	1.5	0.9	1.6	0.6	1.6	1.2	1.0	1.7
Decade 5	6.0	6.0	0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	4.0	6.0
Roadless[2/]												
Decade 1	0	5.2	0	5.3	0	5.0	0	5.4	0	0	0	0
Decade 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wilderness	0	0	6.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

1/ Alternative clarification -
1 - Regional Goals
2 - High Market
3 - High Nonmarket
4 - High Timber, Fish
5 - Moderate All Resources
6 - High Timber, Wildlife
7 - High Nonmarket, Stable Timber
8 - Current Program
9 - High Recreation
10 - High Wildlife, Moderate Timber
11 - Preferred Alternative
12 - Preferred w/Departure

2/ Roadless is defined as 5,000 acres or greater in size or any acreage if contiguous to existing wilderness.

B. Impacts

1. Designation: Wilderness

Management Emphasis: Wilderness

This area is designated as wilderness under Alternative 3. This emphasis would enhance the area's attributes if the off-road vehicle use were eliminated from the ridgetops. Old structures could be removed and the area allowed to return to its natural vegetative cover. It would maintain the small area identified as caribou habitat, as well as the much larger area identified as grizzly bear habitat. The area containing the headwaters of the Bonners Ferry water supply would be protected, as well as the game preserve--both located partially within the roadless area.

The 65 MMBF of standing timber volume on this roadless area would not be available under this prescription. Minerals, oil, and gas would not be available.

The non-priced benefits or costs would be:

-- Visual quality would be maintained.

-- The National Wilderness System area would be increased.

-- Diversity would tend toward old growth.

-- Water quality and fisheries would be maintained.

-- The caribou and grizzly bear area would continue to be undisturbed.

-- Visual quality would be retained.

-- Opportunity for primitive recreation would remain the same.

-- Mineral activities would be restricted.

-- Most wildlife species would be favorably or neutrally affected. Species requiring disturbances may be adversely impacted; however, periodic wildfire could produce this habitat type.

Social and economic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. Since wilderness precludes timber harvest and mineral development, the related industries would not be supported by this emphasis. From a social aspect, the publics valuing wilderness would be supported as well as those people who desire to view the area in its unaltered state.

2. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: No Timber Harvest

From 5 to 10 percent of the area is designated for this emphasis in Alternatives 2 and 4-12. The wilderness and roadless character of the area would be retained.

Timber volume under this emphasis would not be available for harvest.

Minerals, oil, and gas, if discovered remain available.

The non-priced benefits and costs are:

-- Water quality and fisheries should be maintained.

-- Caribou and grizzly bear habitat is protected.

-- Visual quality would be retained.

-- Opportunity for primitive recreation would be preserved.

-- Diversity would tend toward old growth.

Social and ecomonic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. Mineral resources would be available, thus supporting possible minerals industries. The change in recreation setting could be disruptive to those publics using the area for primitive recreation.

3. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Timber/Wildlife

About 80 percent of the area is designated for this emphasis in Alternatives 1, 2, and 4-12.

This emphasis would preclude future wilderness designation on areas where roads are extended or wood products are removed. In the short term, 10 years' wilderness options would be foregone in Alternatives 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, and 12. At the end of 50 years, the wilderness and roadless character of the area would be foregone in all alternatives with this emphasis. Where the area is most visually sensitive, the natural landscape would be retained.

Under these alternatives, 65 MMBF of timber is available. Oil, gas, and mineral resources could be developed.

The non-priced benefits or costs would be:

-- Visual quality would decline.

-- Caribou and grizzly bear habitat will be managed to support a recovered population. Road disturbance will be mitigated by road closure. The level of law enforcement may increase.

-- Semi-primitive recreation opportunities would be modified and eventually foregone as development takes place.

-- Water quality and fisheries will decline, but not significantly.

-- Diversity would tend toward younger, even-aged stands.

-- Opportunities for solitude would decline.

-- Indicator species adversely impacted include cutthroat trout and pileated woodpecker.

Social and economic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. Timber and mineral resources would be available, thus supporting the wood products and minerals industries. The change in recreation setting could be disruptive to those publics using the area for primitive or semi-primitive recreation as well as publics viewing the area.

4. Designation: Non-Wilderness

Management Emphasis: Minimum Level

Lands in this category have been defined as being unavailable for timber or within their other resource investment purposes because of either biophysical conditions or identified economic constraints. Acre variances between alternatives are created by other resource constraints imposed by alternative resource emphasis items. Management would be custodial with no investments occurring.

Eleven of the twelve alternatives would contain lands (12 to 17 percent) designated under this category.

Depending on their size and spatial relationship with other resource designations, these areas could either support wilderness characteristics or mirror developed area characteristics. Overall, the wilderness resource would not be supported. Because of their definition, they would not impact timber production. Discovered minerals would be available.

Non-priced resource impacts and socioeconomic effects within these areas would mirror those of the resource designations of surrounding areas.

WHITE MOUNTAIN ROADLESS AREA (01127)

I. DESCRIPTION

Size	Gross Acres	Net Acres
Idaho - Idaho Panhandle NF	10,024	7,764

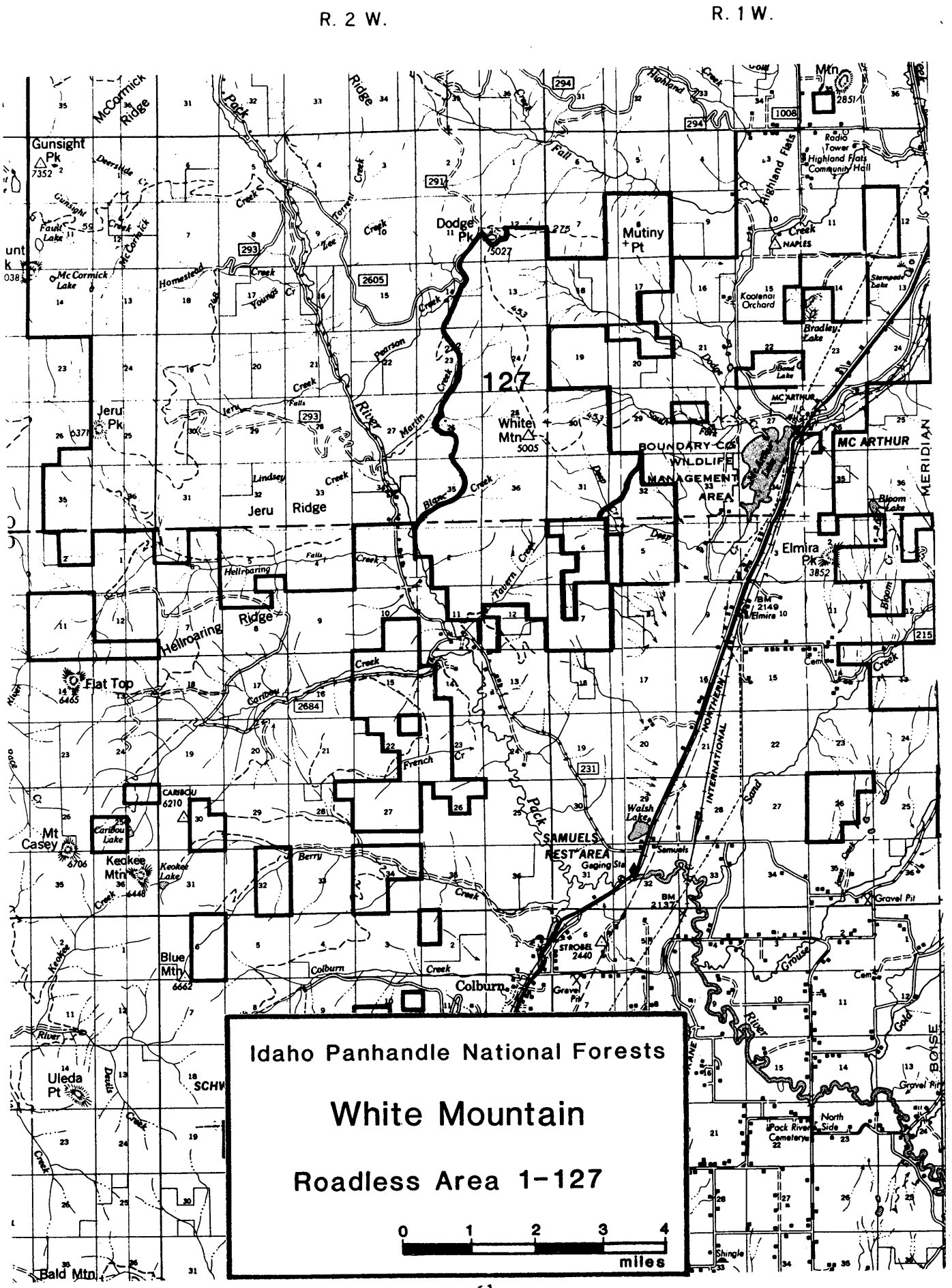
This roadless area is located approximately 15 air miles north of Sandpoint, Idaho, and lies southeast of the Selkirk Crest area. The roadless area is divided in two by Boundary County to the north and Bonner County to the south. It is within the Sandpoint Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests and is accessible by the Pack River Road along the west boundary.

The area is irregular in shape, averaging 6 miles long and 2 miles wide. The roadless area rises from the Pack River Valley on the west side and the Purcell Trench on the east side. Three prominent landmarks exist within the area: Dodge Peak, White Mountain, and Mutiny Point. Topography changes from 2,200 feet in Pack River Valley to 5,027 feet at the top of Dodge Peak. No unique features or mountain lakes exist within the area.

Vegetation is diverse within the area, ranging from lodgepole pine, alpine fir, and engelmann spruce in the higher elevations to grand fir, Douglas-fir, and some cedar in the lower elevations. Scattered ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir are also present. Very little old growth exists within the area due to logging activity and fires which occurred near the turn of the century. The area is generally forested, with a few occasional brushfields.

The area's activities center on the use of White Mountain Trail 453, which bisects the roadless area. The trail runs down the ridgeline from Dodge Peak south to White Mountain. Views from along this trail include the Selkirk Crest to the north, the Cabinet Mountain range to the far east, and immediate viewing of the Purcell Trench and Pack River Valley, U.S. Highway 95, rural farms, and small communities such as Elmira and Naples. The heaviest use of the trail occurs during the fall from big game hunters. Local residents also use the area for berrypicking.

The wildlife species of most interest to visitors include moose, elk, mule deer, whitetail deer, and grouse. The area does not contain habitat for threatened and endangered species.


R. 2 W.
R. 1 W.
Idaho Panhandle National Forests
White Mountain
Roadless Area 1-127
0 1 2 3 4
miles
127
Gunsight Pk
McCormick Ridge
Dodge Pk
Mutiny Pt
Highland Flats
Jeru Pk
White Mtn
Jeru Ridge
Hellroaring Ridge
Flat Top
Mt Casey
Keokee Mtn
Blue Mtn
Uleda Pt
Bald Mtn
Elmira Pk
MC ARTHUR
BOUNDARY CO WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA
SAMUELS REST AREA
Colburn
Walsh Lake
Caribou Lake
Keokee Lake
Bradley Lake
Bloom Lake
Stampede Lake
Kootenai Orchard
Highland Flats Community Hall
Radio Tower
NAPLES
Pack River Cemetery
North Side
Gravel Pit
Shingle
BOISE MERIDIAN

II. CAPABILITY

A. Wilderness Characteristics

1. Natural Integrity. The impacts of human activity in this area are relatively light and consist of pack trails (constructed mainly for fire control access), old lookout sites, some very old logging, and some old plantations of conifer trees.

2. Natural Appearance. Two major railroads and U.S. Highway 95 are within 2 miles of this roadless area. In addition, numerous other roads surround the area and provide access for area residents, logging, and roaded recreation. There is vegetative screening but very little topographic screening from these developments and the sounds that emanate from such uses.

3. Solitude. It is difficult to get a sense of solitude in this area due to its proximity to so much development and the lack of any real topographic screening from activities that occur on the surrounding developments.

4. Primitive Recreation Opportunities. This area provides opportunities for hiking, berrypicking, and hunting.

5. Other Features. There are no other significant features identified in this area.

B. Wilderness Manageability and Boundaries. This area was inventoried during RARE II; no boundary changes have occurred since RARE II. As presently defined, the boundaries would not make a manageable wilderness boundary. This is due to the fact that they follow property lines or are located midslope on non-defined topographic features. If exchanges and/or purchases could be made, better boundary locations might be available. Regardless of boundary location, human activities occurring outside the area will always be visible or heard from inside the area.

Established off-road vehicle use of trails would require management attention under wilderness classification. Other recreation uses would continue under that classification.

Future hardrock mineral development is the main uncertainty in addressing manageability because existing laws allow for the exploration and development of hardrock minerals.

III. WILDERNESS AVAILABILITY

Table 1

Selected Resource Values

Category	Unit	01127
Gross Acres	Acres	10,024
Net Acres	Acres	7,764
Range		
Existing Obligated		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Existing Vacant		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Proposed		
Suitable	Acres	0
AUMs	No.	0
Timber		
Tentative		
Suitable	Acres	6,860
Standing Volume	MMBF	81
Minerals Potential		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	0
Low	Acres	7,764
Mining Claims	No.	0
Oil and Gas Potential*		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	
Low	Acres	7,764
Oil and Gas Leases		
Leases	No.	0
Leased Area	Acres	0
Corridors		
Existing and Potential	No.	0
Wildlife-Threatened and Endangered-Habitat		
Grizzly Bear		
Situation 1	Acres	0
Situation 2	Acres	0
Situation 3	Acres	0
Bald Eagle	Acres	0
Mountain Caribou	Acres	0
Gray Wolf	Acres	0
Wildlife-Big Game		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Elk		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Deer		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Significant Fisheries		
Stream Miles	Miles	0
Stream Habitat	Acres	0
Lakes	No.	0
Lake Habitat	Acres	0
Water Developments		
Existing	No.	0
Recreation		
Primitive	RVDs	0
Semiprimitive		
Nonmotorized	RVDs	0
Motorized	RVDs	30
Roaded Natural	RVDs	30

*Rating also includes uranium, geothermal, and other energy resources.

A. Resource Values

1. Recreation. Current recreation use in the area is primarily hiking and hunting along White Mountain Trail 453. The trail runs along the ridgeline from Dodge Peak south to White Mountain and offers views of the Selkirk Crest and Cabinet Mountain Range. Heaviest use occurs during the fall from big game hunters.

2. Wildlife. Wildlife inhabitants include moose, elk, mule deer, whitetail deer, and grouse. Brushfields within this area are well browsed by the small local population of deer and big game. The roadless area has no large streams with fisheries value.

3. Timber. About 6,860 acres of the area are estimated as tentatively suitable for timber production. The area has a moderate to high timber production value, with much of the present area in immature sawtimber. The relatively moderate slopes make harvest activities feasible.

4. Minerals. There is minor potential for contact-type vein deposits. The potential of this area is mostly unknown. No mining claims are located in the area. Oil and gas potential is low, with approximately two sections under lease application.

5. Range. Cattle and sheep have not used the White Mountain area for many years and there are no cattle and sheep allotments at this time.

B. Other Management Considerations

1. Fire. Although large fires have occurred in the area, the number of fires occurring annually is low.

IV. NEED

A. Contribution to National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS). This area would contribute additional acreages of the Douglas-fir and cedar/hemlock ecosystems.

B. Public Interest and Concerns. There is no known local, regional, or national interest in this area as a wilderness. There has been strong local feeling that areas like this be open for development.

C. Proximity to Designated Wilderness and to Population Centers. Table 3, Parts A and B, displays wilderness opportunities and proximity to roadless areas on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The closest wilderness area is the Cabinet Wilderness in western Montana, approximately 100 miles to the northeast. There is access to 1.6 million acres of wilderness located within 200 miles of Coeur d'Alene, as well as an additional 5.8 million acres within 300 miles (northern Idaho, eastern Washington and Oregon, and western Montana).

V. ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

A. Management Emphasis Assignment by Alternatives. Management emphasis indicates which resource activity is highlighted. If the emphasis is timber, most of the activity on those acres would be for timber management. Resource activities which are compatible with the emphasis would continue, but with less intensity. Table 2 lists the acres of each management emphasis by alternative.

Table 2

White Mountain Roadless Area (01127)
Management Emphasis by Alternative

Management Emphasis	Alternatives[1/] (Thousand Acres) 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Wilderness	0	0	7.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non-wilderness												
No Tbr.Harvest	0.1	0.1	0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Timber/Wildlife	6.7	6.4	0	6.4	6.4	6.5	6.4	5.8	6.4	6.4	4.9	5.3
Wildlife/Visual	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Special Areas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minimum Level	1.0	1.3	0	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.9	1.3	1.3	2.8	2.4
Total	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8
Summary of Management Emphasis:												
Developed												
Decade 1	7.2	7.3	0	7.7	5.0	6.2	5.3	4.1	4.8	5.2	1.0	2.1
Decade 5	7.7	7.7	0	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.8	7.7
Roadless[2/]												
Decade 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6.8	5.7
Decade 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wilderness	0	0	7.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

1/ Alternative clarification -
1 - Regional Goals
2 - High Market
3 - High Nonmarket
4 - High Timber, Fish
5 - Moderate All Resources
6 - High Timber, Wildlife
7 - High Nonmarket, Stable Timber
8 - Current Program
9 - High Recreation
10 - High Wildlife, Moderate Timber
11 - Preferred Alternative
12 - Preferred w/Departure

2/ Roadless is defined as 5,000 acres or greater in size or any acreage if contiguous to existing wilderness.

B. Impacts

1. Designation: Wilderness

Management Emphasis: Wilderness

This area is designated as wilderness under Alternative 3. This designation would enhance the area's attributes if the State-owned lands within the boundary were acquired. In addition, old lookout sites could be rehabilitated. The elimination of off-road vehicle use would also enhance the area's desirability. Evidence of past timber sales as well as plantations would, over time, blend in with the natural regeneration that occurred after wildfires burned most of the area. Human activity on adjacent areas such as roads, railroads, and privately-owned lands would be difficult to conceal.

The non-priced benefits or costs would be:

-- The National Wilderness System area would increase.

-- Visual quality would be preserved.

-- Diversity would tend toward old growth.

-- Wildlife species would benefit from continued security.

-- Water quality and fisheries would be maintained.

-- Moose habitat would be maintained.

-- Natural ecosystem would be protected.

-- Opportunity for primitive recreation would remain the same.

-- Mineral activities would be restricted.

Social and economic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. Since wilderness precludes timber harvest and mineral development, the related industries would not be supported by this emphasis. From a social aspect, the publics valuing wilderness would be supported as well as those people who desire to view the area in its unaltered state.

2. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: No Timber Harvest

This management emphasis calls for 100 acres (1 percent) of the area to be managed for no timber harvest on all Alternatives except Alternative 3 (Wilderness).

The area included in this management emphasis is so small that the impacts would not be significantly different than the other emphasis items for this roadless area.

3. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Timber/Wildlife

This management emphasis call for a range of from 4,900 to 6,700 acres (63 to 86 percent) of the roadless area to be managed for timber/wildlife in all alternatives except Alternative 3 (Wilderness).

Such emphasis would preclude wilderness designation for this area. Wilderness would be precluded for this area in the first decade in all alternatives except Alternative 3 (Wilderness), 11 (Preferred), and 12 (Preferred with Departure). Alternative 11 proposed 1,000 acres to be managed for timber/wildlife, leaving 6,800 acres which would still have a roadless condition. Alternative 12 proposes 2,100 acres for timber/wildlife management, leaving 5,700 acres in a roadless condition. All alternatives would have the entire area in a managed condition at the fifth decade of the planning period, precluding wilderness designation.

The market resources, particularly timber, would be provided to local communities, as about 6,900 acres (88 percent) is designated as tentatively suitable for timber production. Other market resources, such as minerals, have low potential in this roadless area.

The non-priced benefits and costs would be:

-- Wilderness potential would be lost.

-- Visual quality would change, although visual quality objectives for the area would be met through project design.

-- Vegetative diversity would increase.

-- Wildlife security would be impacted, although closures of roads would help maintain security.

-- Wildlife habitat would change benefitting species that depend on diversity.

-- Old-growth dependant species would decline, as old-growth forests would be connected to younger stands.

-- Water quality would be impacted due to roading development.

-- Natural ecosystems would be lost and converted to a managed state.

-- Opportunities for primitive recreation will be lost.

Social and economic effects of this management emphasis will impact both commodity- and amenity-oriented publics. Products from national forests would be more available, maintaining the local economy. Roaded recreation uses such as fuelwood, berrypicking, and recreational driving would increase, while those publics favoring primitive type uses and values would lose those opportunities.

4. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Minimum Level

The Minimum Level management emphasis proposes 1,000 to 2,800 acres (13 to 36 percent) of the area to be managed at a maintenance condition with little to no investments.

Wilderness values and potential designation would be essentially lost from this roadless area, as the area is too small for wilderness consideration. During the first decade, however, the wilderness values would be maintained under Alternatives 11, 12, and 3 (the Wilderness alternative). All alternatives except Alternative 3 propose that the entire roadless area be under management by the fifth decade of the planning period.

Market resources would not be available for the first decade on the lands proposed for this emphasis. This, however, is not a loss, as costs of management exceed values at this time. The resources would be available later during the planning period when values increase.

The non-priced benefits and costs would be:

-- Visual quality would be maintained on the lands proposed for this emphasis.

-- Vegetative diversity would be unaltered.

-- Wildlife security would be maintained.

-- Water quality would be unaltered.

-- Primitive recreation and opportunities for solitude would decline due to activities surrounding these lands in this emphasis area.

-- Natural ecosystems would be maintained.

-- Forage for big game would not be improved.

The social and economic effects would not be significantly impacted, as values are far below costs of management in these lands at the present time. The social values associated with primitive recreation would not be significantly impacted, as the area receives minimal use at the present time.

HELLROARING ROADLESS AREA (01128)

I. DESCRIPTION

Size	Gross Acres	Net Acres
Idaho - Idaho Panhandle NF	12,223	11,746

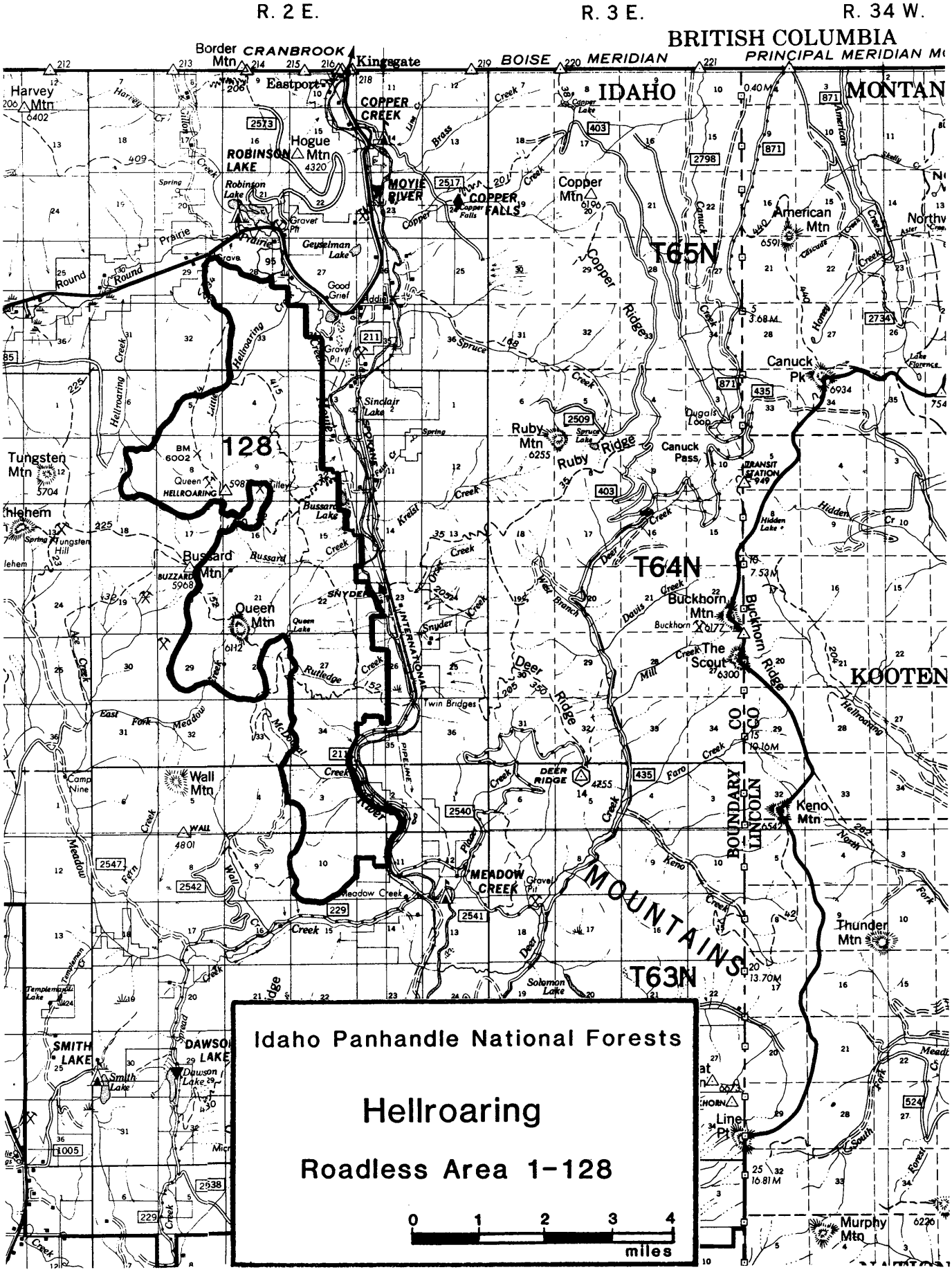
This roadless area is located 12 miles northeast of Bonners Ferry, Idaho, within Boundary County. The area is within the Bonners Ferry Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The area is accessed by driving north from Bonners Ferry on US 2 to Forest Road 2503 and then on Forest Road 211 to one of several trailheads along Forest Road 211. Several trails access the interior of the area.

The area consists of a moderately high north-south ridge sloping rather sharply into the surrounding Moyie and Kootenai River Valleys. The slopes are rather rocky.

Vegetation ranges from larch/Douglas-fir/white pine at lower elevations to higher elevation spruce/fir. The trees are about 100 years old.

Current recreation use consists of hiking, horseback riding, and hunting. The trails are well used by local residents.

The area is habitat for animals found in northern Idaho. No threatened or endangered species habitat is present.


R. 2 E.
R. 3 E.
R. 34 W.
BRITISH COLUMBIA
BOISE MERIDIAN
PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN
IDAHO
MONTANA
T65N
T64N
T63N
128
Idaho Panhandle National Forests
Hellroaring
Roadless Area 1-128
0 1 2 3 4
miles

II. CAPABILITY

A. Wilderness Characteristics

1. Natural Integrity. For the most part, evidence of man's past activities in this area are fairly minimal. Exceptions to this are evidences of considerable mineral exploration near some of the ridgetops where bulldozers were used to excavate long, deep trenches with attendant high spoil banks, or shaft-type exploration with waste piles. Other evidence of man includes pack trails built for fire control access, old lookout sites, and structures for mining activities.

2. Natural Appearance. U.S. Highway 95 skirts immediately adjacent to the northern boundary of this unit. The old Spokane International Railroad and a main County road parallel within one-quarter mile for some nine miles of the eastern border. The western perimeter is formed by logging roads. The area ranges from one mile to three miles wide and is some ten miles long. There is very little topographic screening from these human activity areas.

3. Solitude. Due to the close proximity to developments and the steepness of the terrain, it is difficult to feel a sense of solitude in this area, particularly along the slopes above the Moyie River where the sights and sounds of human activity are present.

4. Primitive Recreation Opportunities. This area provides opportunity to hike, ride horses, hunt, fish, and pick berries. Limited camping exists at Queen Lake. The trails are among the most popular in the county for hiking and horseback riding. The other primitive recreation opportunities are very similar to those on surrounding roaded areas.

5. Other Features. There are no other outstanding features in this area.

B. Wilderness Manageability and Boundaries. The Hellroaring Roadless Area was first inventoried and evaluated for wilderness during the RARE II process. About 2,500 acres since have developed.

Private lands define the eastern boundary, while the western boundary irregularly follows past cutting units and logging roads. These factors would make boundary definition and maintenance relatively difficult.

There are 53 existing mining claims in the area which could create conflicts with wilderness management. Oil and gas leases are presently being processed for this area and, if issued, could further complicate wilderness management.

III. WILDERNESS AVAILABILITY

Table 1

Selected Resource Values

Category	Unit	01128
Gross Acres	Acres	12,223
Net Acres	Acres	11,746
Range		
Existing Obligated		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Existing Vacant		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Proposed		
Suitable	Acres	0
AUMs	No.	0
Timber		
Tentative		
Suitable	Acres	8,969
Standing Volume	MMBF	136
Minerals Potential		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	11,746
Low	Acres	0
Mining Claims	No.	53
Oil and Gas Potential*		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	
Low	Acres	11,746
Oil and Gas Leases		
Leases	No.	0
Leased Area	Acres	0
Corridors		
Existing and Potential	No.	1
Wildlife-Threatened and Endangered-Habitat		
Grizzly Bear		
Situation 1	Acres	0
Situation 2	Acres	0
Situation 3	Acres	0
Bald Eagle	Acres	0
Mountain Caribou	Acres	0
Gray Wolf	Acres	0
Wildlife-Big Game		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Elk		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Deer		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Significant Fisheries		
Stream Miles	Miles	0
Stream Habitat	Acres	0
Lakes	No.	0
Lake Habitat	Acres	20
Water Developments		
Existing	No.	0
Recreation		
Primitive	RVDs	0
Semiprimitive		
Nonmotorized	RVDs	30
Motorized	RVDs	50
Roaded Natural	RVDs	100

*Rating also includes uranium, geothermal, and other energy resources.

A. Resource Values

1. Recreation. Current recreation use is primarily hiking and horseback riding on the existing trail system.

2. Wildlife. Wildlife species common to northern Idaho are found in the area; no habitat for threatened and endangered species exists in this roadless area.

3. Timber. About 9,000 acres are estimated to be tentatively suitable for timber management.

4. Minerals. This area contains 53 unpatented mining claims and approximately 10 older prospects, of which 3 had past production. Ten miles northwest of the area a major mining company is conducting an exploration program which is in the same geologic environment as this area.

Potential for oil and gas is low, even though 100 percent of the area is under lease application. The potential of the area is low due to lack of information.

5. Range. None.

B. Other Management Considerations

1. Fire. Fire occurrence is low; however, northern Idaho has a history of periodic large fires.

IV. NEED

A. Contribution to National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS). As wilderness, this area would add to the acreages of the larch/Douglas-fir, cedar/hemlock, and spruce/alpine fir ecosystems.

B. Public Interest and Concerns. No known local, regional, or national interest has been expressed in this area for wilderness designation. Strong local feelings exist for this type of area to be developed for timber and other resource outputs.

C. Proximity to Designated Wilderness and to Population Centers. Table 3, Parts A and B, displays wilderness opportunities and proximity to roadless areas on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The closest wilderness area is the Cabinet Wilderness in western Montana, approximately 100 miles to the northeast. There is access to 1.6 million acres of wilderness located within 200 miles of Coeur d'Alene, as well as an additional 5.8 million acres within 300 miles (northern Idaho, eastern Washington and Oregon, and western Montana).

V. ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

A. Management Emphasis Assignment by Alternatives. Management emphasis indicates which resource activity is highlighted. If the emphasis is timber, most of the activity on those acres would be for timber management. Resource activities which are compatible with the emphasis would continue, but with less intensity. Table 2 lists the acres of each management emphasis by alternative.

Table 2

Hellroaring Roadless Area (01128)
Management Emphasis by Alternative

Management Emphasis	Alternatives[1/] (Thousand Acres) 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Wilderness	0	0	11.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non-wilderness												
No Tbr. Harvest	0.3	0.3	0	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Timber/Wildlife	8.8	8.1	0	8.2	8.7	8.8	8.8	7.9	8.7	8.7	7.9	7.6
Wildlife/Visual	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Special Areas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minimum Level	2.6	3.3	0	3.2	2.7	2.6	2.6	3.5	2.7	2.7	3.5	3.8
Total	11.7	11.7	11.7	11.7	11.7	11.7	11.7	11.7	11.7	11.7	11.7	11.7
Summary of Management Emphasis:												
Developed												
Decade 1	2.9	2.6	0	3.6	1.7	3.3	2.8	1.7	2.4	1.8	1.5	1.2
Decade 5	11.7	11.7	0	11.7	11.7	11.7	11.7	11.7	11.7	11.7	9.0	11.7
Roadless[2/]												
Decade 1	8.8	9.1	0	8.1	10.0	8.4	8.9	10.0	9.3	9.9	10.2	10.5
Decade 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wilderness	0	0	11.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

1/ Alternative clarification -

1 - Regional Goals
2 - High Market
3 - High Nonmarket
4 - High Timber, Fish
5 - Moderate All Resources
6 - High Timber, Wildlife
7 - High Nonmarket, Stable Timber
8 - Current Program
9 - High Recreation
10 - High Wildlife, Moderate Timber
11 - Preferred Alternative
12 - Preferred w/Departure

2/ Roadless is defined as 5,000 acres or greater in size or any acreage if contiguous to existing wilderness.

B. Impacts

1. Designation: Wilderness

Management Emphasis: Wilderness

The entire area is designated as wilderness in Alternative 3. This emphasis would enhance the wilderness attributes of the area if the privately-owned lands adjacent to the Moyie River were acquired. The naturalness of the area would remain and the few oportunities for solitude would be available. This designation would guarantee the continued visual quality of the area to water recreationists on the Moyie River in addition to the community of Good Grief and motorists along U.S. Highway 95.

Mining activities would likely be prohibited.

The 135 MMBF of standing timber volume on this roadless area would not be available for harvest under this emphasis.

The non-priced benefits or costs would be:

-- The area contains no known habitat for threatened and or endangered species.

-- The natural ecosystem would be protected.

-- Water quality and fisheries would be maintained at their present natural levels.

-- Scenic views and primitive recreation opportunities would be unchanged.

-- Big game hunting and semi-primitive recreation would remain the same. Security for big game would be retained.

-- The National Wilderness System area would increase.

-- Diversity would tend toward old growth.

Social and economic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. Since wilderness precludes timber harvest and mineral development, the related industries would not be supported by this emphasis. From a social aspect, the publics valuing wilderness would be supported as well as those people who desire to view the area in its unaltered state.

2. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: No Timber Harvest

About 3 percent of the area is designated for this emphasis in all alternatives except Alternative 3.

Minerals, oil, and gas would be available if discovered.

The non-priced benefits or costs would be:

-- The area contains no known habitat for threatened and or endangered species. This designation would insure that the area would continue to be managed without outside influence.

-- The natural ecosystem would be protected.

-- Diversity would tend towards old growth.

-- Water quality and fisheries would be maintained at their present natural levels.

-- Security for big game would be retained.

Social and economic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. Mineral resources would be available, thus supporting a potential minerals industry.

3. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Timber/Wildlife

About 75 percent of the area is designated for this emphasis in all alternatives except Alternative 3.

This emphasis would preclude future wilderness designation on areas where roads are extended or wood products are removed. At the end of 50 years, the wilderness and roadless character of the area would be foregone in all alternatives with this emphasis. Where the area is the most visually sensitive the natural landscape would be managed to meet a retention visual quality objective.

The non-priced benefits or costs would be:

-- Visual quality will be affected by road building and timber sale activities.

-- Wilderness and semi-primitive characteristics will be compromised.

-- Diversity of timber stands would tend toward even-aged, younger stands.

-- Water quality and fisheries will be adversely affected.

-- Security for big game annimals would be compromised.

-- Indicator species adversely impacted are; cutthroat trout and pileated woodpecker.

-- Opportunities for solitude would decline.

-- Opportunities for high quality fisheries and hunting may be compromised.

Social and economic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. Timber and mineral resources would be available, thus supporting the wood products and minerals industries. The change in recreation setting could be disruptive to those publics using the area for primitive or semi-primitive recreation as well as publics viewing the area.

4. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Minimum Level

Lands in this category have been defined as being unavailable for timber or within their other resource investment purposes because of either biophysical conditions or identified economic constraints. Acre variances between alternatives are created by other resource constraints imposed by alternative resource emphasis items. Management would be custodial, with no investments occurring.

Eleven of the twelve alternatives would contain lands designated under this category (Alternative 3 is exempt). From 22 to 33 percent of the area is designated for this emphasis. These parcels are scattered through out the area.

Depending on their size and spatial relationship with other resource designations, these areas could either support wilderness characteristics or mirror developed area characteristics. Overall, the wilderness resource would not be supported. Because of their definition, they would not impact timber production. Discovered minerals would be available.

Non-priced resource impacts and socioeconomic effects within these areas would mirror those of the resource designations of surrounding areas.

TRESTLE PEAK ROADLESS AREA (01129)

I. DESCRIPTION

Size	Gross Acres	Net Acres
Idaho - Idaho Panhandle NF	6,097	6,097

This roadless area is located 10 miles east of Sandpoint, Idaho, and 3 miles northeast of Lake Pend Oreille within the Cabinet Mountains. It is within Bonner County and is on the Sandpoint Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The area is accessible from several trailheads originating from State Highway 200 to the south, the Trestle Creek Road to the west and north, and the Lightning Creek Road from the east.

This long, narrow roadless area includes the mountain range from Roundtop Mountain (elevation 6,149 feet) to Trestle Peak (elevation 6,032 feet). It is approximately 7 miles long and averages 1-1/2 miles wide. The ridge is mostly shaped by continental glaciation. Elevation varies from 3,800 to 6,348 feet. The headwaters of three small streams are also included. Alpine glaciation has created several cirque basins within this area, but no mountain lakes exist.

Most of this area is high alpine forest type with interspersed rocky and grassy openings near the ridgetops. Diversity of vegetative type is most pronounced near the high elevation ridgetops. Forest types include mixed conifer stands common to northern Idaho in the lower elevations to alpine fir, lodgepole pine, and an occasional whitebark pine in the higher elevations.

The ridgetop is the location for Roundtop Trail 120, a popular hiking trail which bisects numerous alpine openings. Scenic views of Lake Pend Oreille can be experienced from Roundtop Mountain and the Cabinet Mountain Range to the east can also be seen. Trails within this area are used for hunting during the fall. Some berrypicking also occurs within this area. The southern end of this area contains part of the Strong Creek municipal watershed (community of Hope, Idaho). The community has vigourously protested Forest Service timber sale proposals in the watershed, fearing these activities would lower water quality.

Wildlife species of most interest to visitors include elk, moose, black bear, grizzly bear, whitetail deer, mule deer, and grouse. No streams have fisheries existing within the roadless area.

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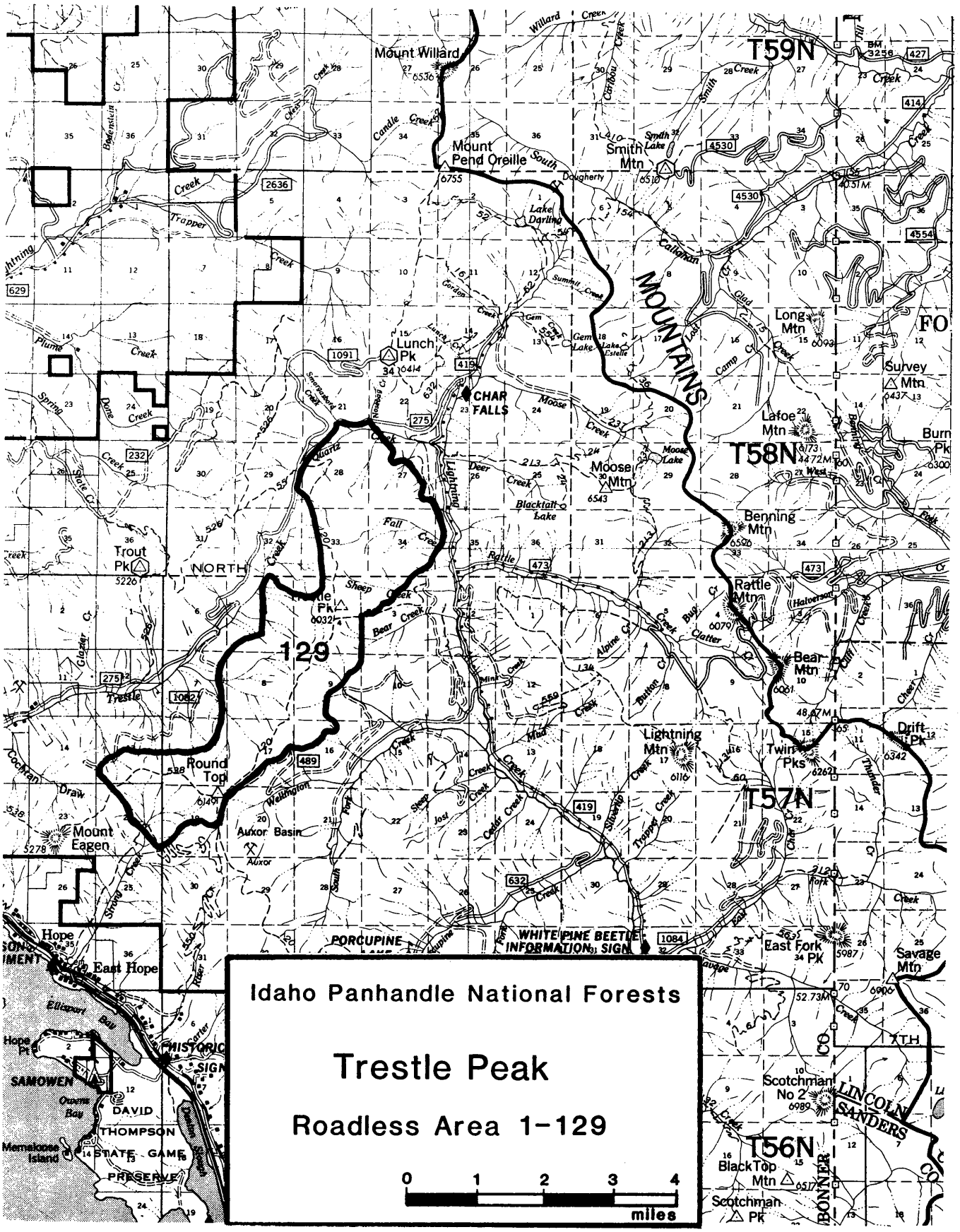
Idaho Panhandle National Forests
Trestle Peak
Roadless Area 1-129
0 1 2 3 4
miles
T59N
T58N
T57N
T56N
129
MOUNTAINS
Mount Willard
Mount Pend Oreille
Smith Mtn
Lake Darling
Lunch Pk
CHAR FALLS
Long Mtn
Survey Mtn
Lafoe Mtn
Moose Mtn
Benning Mtn
Rattle Mtn
Bear Mtn
Lightning Mtn
Twin Pks
Drift Pk
Trout Pk
Round Top
Mount Eagen
Auxor Basin
Hope
East Hope
PORCUPINE
WHITE PINE BEETLE INFORMATION SIGN
East Fork Pk
Savage Mtn
Scotchman No 2
BlackTop Mtn
Scotchman Pk
LINCOLN
SANDERS
BONNER
SAMOWEN
DAVID THOMPSON STATE GAME PRESERVE
Memaloose Island
HISTORIC SIGN

II. CAPABILITY

A. Wilderness Characteristics

1. Natural Integrity. Impacts from human activity in this area have been relatively minor. In the past, some hardrock mining exploration occurred, but evidence of these diggings has been reduced substantially by weathering processes. Trails, where not maintained, quickly become overgrown with trees and shrubs.

2. Natural Appearance. Since the area is narrow and encompasses a high ridge, persons visiting can generally view human activities and development near the periphery of this roadless area. Roads, timber harvest areas, and activities along Lake Pend Oreille are some of the activities viewed from this area.

3. Solitude. The Trestle Peak area possesses very little opportunity for solitude because of its size and location with respect to developed areas. The topography is not unique to northern Idaho. It does possess diversity in vegetation because of the substantial differences in elevation. Distant viewing into the Cabinet Mountain Range provides for unique views of high alpine, rugged mountainous terrain.

The southwest boundary is only 2-1/2 miles from State Highway 200 and the shores of Pend Oreille Lake. The northwest boundary follows within 1/2 miles of Trestle Creek Road, which is a very heavily used road on the Sandpoint District. Sounds from logging and recreational activities have the potential of penetrating throughout the roadless area.

4. Primitive Recreation Opportunities. This area offers only limited challenge to the visitor because of its size, lack of streams and lakes, and lack of topographic diversity. Although big game species frequent the area it is not noted for an abundance of wildlife.

Trail 120 is a popular hiking trail, providing numerous opportunities to experience scenic views of the surrounding area. Pend Oreille Lake and the Cabinet Mountain Range make up the most unique scenic views. Trail 120 is currently being used by backpackers, horseback riders, and motorbikers. It has been recommended for inclusion into the National Recreational Trail System.

5. Other Features. Almost the entire area was burned by fires in the early 1900s. The result of these fires was a uniform coniferous forest which is approximately 70-80 years old. An occasional old-growth tree which survived these fires can be seen protruding above the primary forest canopy.

Roundtop Mountain has several Indian cairns (small depressions outlined by rock) which are believed to be used by the Indians in their religious ceremonies.

B. Wilderness Manageability and Boundaries. This area was inventoried during RARE II; the area is approximately 1,800 acres smaller due to timber sale development. The Trestle Creek area is a long and narrow unit. None of the boundaries follow major terrain or other recognizable ground features. Boundaries will be difficult to locate on the ground. In almost all instances there are no distinct natural terrain features which the boundary could follow.

This area is not considered remote and free of external influences. There are no private lands within this area.

Recreation and other resource uses not requiring surface disturbance can be managed in the Trestle Creek area while protecting the wilderness character.

Mineral exploration can be controlled with present Federal regulations, although some impacts can be expected. Future hardrock mineral development is the main uncertainty in addressing manageability because the existing laws allow for the exploration and development of hardrock minerals. There is no existing minerals inventory for this area.

Continued fire protection and no harvesting within this area will reduce summer forage for big game ungulates. The result would be substantially less big game populations than presently exist within the Trestle Peak area.

III. WILDERNESS AVAILABILITY

Table 1

Selected Resource Values

Category	Unit	01129
Gross Acres	Acres	6,097
Net Acres	Acres	6,097
Range		
Existing Obligated		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Existing Vacant		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Proposed		
Suitable	Acres	0
AUMs	No.	0
Timber		
Tentative		
Suitable	Acres	2,776
Standing Volume	MMBF	74
Minerals Potential		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	6,097
Low	Acres	0
Mining Claims	No.	3
Oil and Gas Potential*		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	
Low	Acres	6,097
Oil and Gas Leases		
Leases	No.	0
Leased Area	Acres	0
Corridors		
Existing and Potential	No.	0
Wildlife-Threatened and Endangered-Habitat		
Grizzly Bear		
Situation 1	Acres	0
Situation 2	Acres	6,115
Situation 3	Acres	0
Bald Eagle	Acres	0
Mountain Caribou	Acres	0
Gray Wolf	Acres	0
Wildlife-Big Game		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Elk		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Deer		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Significant Fisheries		
Stream Miles	Miles	1
Stream Habitat	Acres	2
Lakes	No.	0
Lake Habitat	Acres	0
Water Developments		
Existing	No.	0
Recreation		
Primitive	RVDs	0
Semiprimitive		
Nonmotorized	RVDs	400
Motorized	RVDs	0
Roaded Natural	RVDs	0

*Rating also includes uranium, geothermal, and other energy resources.

A. Resource Values

1. Recreation. Current recreation use in the area is primarily hiking and horseback riding along Roundtop Trail 120. Local residents also enjoy huckleberry picking and hunting opportunities within this area. Primitive camping use is low.

2. Wildlife. Wildlife inhabitants include elk, moose, black bear, grizzly bear, whitetail deer, mule deer, and grouse. Portions of grizzly bear habitat are present within this area. No streams having fisheries exist in the roadless area.

3. Timber. Suitable timberlands include about 46 percent of this total roadless area. The unsuitable timberlands are almost entirely along the top of the main ridge between Roundtop Mountain and Trestle Peak. To access suitable timberlands, a number of roads on steep terrain would need to be built.

4. Minerals. Mineral potential for the area is considered to be medium. There are three unpatented claims in this area. Although there are no known mineral occurrences in this area, there are many old prospects nearby. This area is within the Clark Fork Mining District and approximately 12 miles from the mines which were major past producers of the district. Oil and gas potential is low due to lack of information. All of the area is under application for oil and gas lease.

5. Range. While sheep grazed this area before the 1960s, there are no cattle and sheep allotments at this time. This situation will probably not change.

B. Other Management Considerations

1. Fire. Although large fires have occurred in the area, the number of fires occurring annually is low.

IV. NEED

1. Contribution to National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS). This area would contribute grizzly bear habitat, subalpine habitat, and scenic views from a proposed National Recreational Trail.

2. Public Interest and Concern. There has been a low amount of interest by local and regional individuals concerning this area. The RARE II environmental impacts statement (1979) recommended that this area be managed for non-wilderness uses. This recommendation considered public interest in wilderness as well as timber and mining interests in the area. The RARE II process recognized the lack of solitude and lack of unique wilderness attributes within this roadless area.

3. Proximity to Designated Wilderness and to Population Centers. Table 3, Parts A and B, display wilderness opportunities and proximity to roadless areas on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The closest wilderness area is the Cabinet Wilderness in western Montana, approximately 100 miles to the northeast. There is access to 1.6 million acres of wilderness located within 200 miles of Coeur d'Alene, as well as an additional 5.8 million acres within 300 miles (northern Idaho, eastern Washington and Oregon, and western Montana).

V. ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

A. Management Emphasis Assignment by Alternatives. Management emphasis indicates which resource activity is highlighted. If the emphasis is timber, most of the activity on those acres would be for timber management. Resource activities which are compatible with the emphasis would continue, but with less intensity. Table 2 lists the acres of each management emphasis by alternative.

Table 2

Trestle Peak Roadless Area (01129)
Management Emphasis by Alternative

Management Emphasis	Alternatives[1/] (Thousand Acres) 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Wilderness	0	0	6.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non-wilderness												
No Tbr. Harvest	0.1	0.1	0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	3.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Timber/Wildlife	2.5	2.6	0	2.6	2.9	3.2	2.9	2.0	2.9	2.9	2.3	2.0
Wildlife/Visual	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Special Areas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minimum Level	3.5	3.4	0	3.4	3.1	2.8	3.1	0.7	3.1	3.1	3.7	4.0
Total	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1
Summary of Management Emphasis:												
Developed												
Decade 1	1.5	2.2	0	1.2	2.6	2.0	1.7	0.7	1.3	2.2	1.0	1.0
Decade 5	6.1	6.1	0	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	4.0	6.1
Roadless[2/]												
Decade 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5.4	0	0	5.1	5.1
Decade 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wilderness	0	0	6.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

1/ Alternative clarification -
1 - Regional Goals
2 - High Market
3 - High Nonmarket
4 - High Timber, Fish
5 - Moderate All Resources
6 - High Timber, Wildlife
7 - High Nonmarket, Stable Timber
8 - Current Program
9 - High Recreation
10 - High Wildlife, Moderate Timber
11 - Preferred Alternative
12 - Preferred w/Departure

2/ Roadless is defined as 5,000 acres or greater in size or any acreage if contiguous to existing wilderness.

B. Impacts

1. Designation: Wilderness

Management Emphasis: Wilderness

This area is designated as wilderness in Alternative 3. This designation would enhance the wilderness attributes of the area by guaranteeing the roadless characteristics, eliminating mining activities, and preserving the Indian cairns. Nearly half the area is listed as tentatively suitable for timber production. This 74 MMBF of timber would not be available under this prescription.

The non-priced benefits or costs would be:

-- Natural ecosystem would be protected.

-- The National Wilderness System area would increase.

-- Visual quality would be preserved.

-- Water quality would remain at its present level.

-- Grizzly bear habitat and security would be protected.

-- Diversity would be toward old growth.

-- Natural surroundings of the National Recreation Trail would be maintained.

-- Recreation opportunities would remain semi-primitive.

Social and economic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. Since wilderness precludes timber harvest and mineral development, the related industries would not be supported by this emphasis. From a social aspect, the publics valuing wilderness would be supported as well as those people who desire to view the area in its unaltered state.

2. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: No Timber Harvest

The No Timber Harvest emphasis for this roadless area provides for 100 acres (less than 1 percent) for all alternatives except Alternatives 3 (wilderness) and 8 (current program) to be managed for no timber harvest. Alternative 8 identifies 3,400 acres of this area to be managed for no timber harvest.

Wilderness designation would not be available in this emphasis. The area would not be of sufficient size nor is it adjacent to other wilderness areas to be designated as wilderness. Alternative 8, which calls for 3,400 acres to be managed for no timber harvest, would much better protect the wilderness values of this roadless area; however, size would limit its potential for wilderness designation also.

The market resource values are not significant in this management emphasis as such a small percentage of the area is protected. Alternative 8, which calls for 3,400 acres to be managed for no timber, would limit timber harvest on 30 percent of the area; however, the timber producing capability on these lands is very low.

The non-priced benefits and costs for this emphasis, again, are not significant as the area is so small. Impacts would be similar to the other management emphasis areas identified for this roadless area.

Social and economic impacts would not be very different than the other emphasis areas except on Alternative 8, which would maintain the wilderness-related values on 30 percent of this roadless area.

3. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Timber/Wildlife

This management emphasis calls for a range of 2,000 acres (32 percent) to 3,200 acres (52 percent) of this roadless area to be managed for timber/wildlife. Alternative 3 is the alternative proposing the entire roadless area 6,100 acres to be managed as wilderness.

The wilderness designation would be precluded under this emphasis during the first decade for all alternatives except Alternatives 3, 8, 11, and 12 where approximately 5,000 acres would remain roadless at the end of the first decade. Wilderness designation would be lost on all alternatives except Alternative 3 at the end of the fifth decade. The core of this roadless could be managed in a roadless condition, although the size of the area would be limiting to be designated wilderness.

This emphasis area would provide timber products to the local economy. Two timber sales are scheduled for this area at the present time. Minerals, oil, and gas resources would be available. There has been a recent interest in leasing the oil and gas rights for this area. Approximately one-half of this roadless area has been identified as having suitable timber producing lands.

The non-priced benefits and costs for this roadless area are:

-- Natural ecosystems will be altered to a managed state.

-- Visual quality will decline as development progresses.

-- Opportunities for primitive recreation will decline.

-- Water quality may be impacted with increased development.

-- Diversity of vegetation types will increase with increased harvest.

-- Security for big game animals will decline although road closures will maintain some security.

-- Grizzly bear habitat will be changed although through road closures and habitat management the quality of this habitat will be protected.

-- Hunting opportunities will change from an unroaded type to more of a roaded type, declining in quality.

-- Opportunities for solitude will decline.

-- Forage for big game animals will increase as mature forests are converted to younger age classes.

Social and economic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, recreation, wildlife, and wilderness. The timber and mineral products oriented publics will be supported by this emphasis. Publics interested in the amenity oriented resources will not be supported in this emphasis in areas of development.

4. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Minimum Level

This emphasis proposes 700 to 4,000 acres (11 to 61 percent) of the area to be managed in a maintenance condition, with no investment.

Minimum Level emphasis would not preclude wilderness designation during the first decade, as most alternatives would maintain a roadless area of sufficient size for wilderness considerations. All alternatives except Alternative 3 (wilderness) would eliminate the potential for wilderness at the end of the fifth decade.

The market resources of timber, minerals, oil, and gas would be unavailable in these lands under this emphasis. Those lands designated for this emphasis are difficult and costly to manage and at the present time have low resource values.

The non-priced benefits and costs for this area are:

-- Visual quality will be maintained.

-- Opportunities for primitive recreation will be protected.

-- Water quality will be protected.

-- Diversity will be unchanged.

-- Grizzly bear habitat and security will be maintained.

-- Security for big game will be maintained.

-- Opportunities for solitude will be maintained.

-- The scene from high quality Trail 120 will be protected for the foreground but will be altered for middle ground viewing. The visual quality will be partially retained.

-- Roadless hunting will be maintained.

-- Wildlife habitat will be unaltered.

The social and economic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. The commodity resources would not be as available for this emphasis, while the amenity oriented publics will benefit from this emphasis for this area.

BEETOP ROADLESS AREA (01130)

I. DESCRIPTION

Size	Gross Acres	Net Acres
Idaho	11,615	11,180

This roadless area is located 12 miles east of Sandpoint, Idaho, and 5 miles north of where the Clark Fork River enters into Lake Pend Oreille. It is within the Cabinet Mountain Range between Hope and Clark Fork, Idaho, in Bonners County on the Sandpoint Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The area is accessible by several trails originating from well maintained gravel roads or from a paved road.

The area is rectangular in shape, averaging 5 miles long and 3 miles wide. The most prominent mountain peak is Beetop Mountain (elevation 6,060 feet). The lowest elevation is in the southernmost portion, which is 2,400 feet. This area includes one primary ridge which has been shaped by continental and alpine glaciation. The headwaters of numerous small streams are included within the area. Porcupine and Still Lakes are within this area.

The vegetation in this area is primarily high alpine forest type with interspersed rocky and grassy openings near the ridgetops. Forest types range from mixed conifer stands common to northern Idaho in the lower elevations to alpine fir, lodgepole pine, and an occasional whitebark pine and mountain hemlock in the higher elevations. Occasional beargrass meadows are also present.

Roundtop Trail 120 follows the entire length of the roadless area and offers splendid views of the forested slopes and beargrass meadows. Backdrops of Lake Pend Oreille to the southwest and the Scotchman Peak area to the east also add to the scenic quality. The portion of the area facing Lake Pend Oreille has high aesthetic value from the Lake Pend Oreille recreational boating public. Roundtop Trail 120 has been nominated for the National Recreational Trail System. Activities other than hiking include canoeing and fishing at Porcupine Lake, berrypicking, and hunting.

Wildlife species of most interest to visitors include elk, moose, black bear, grizzly bear, whitetail deer, mule deer, mountain goat, and grouse.

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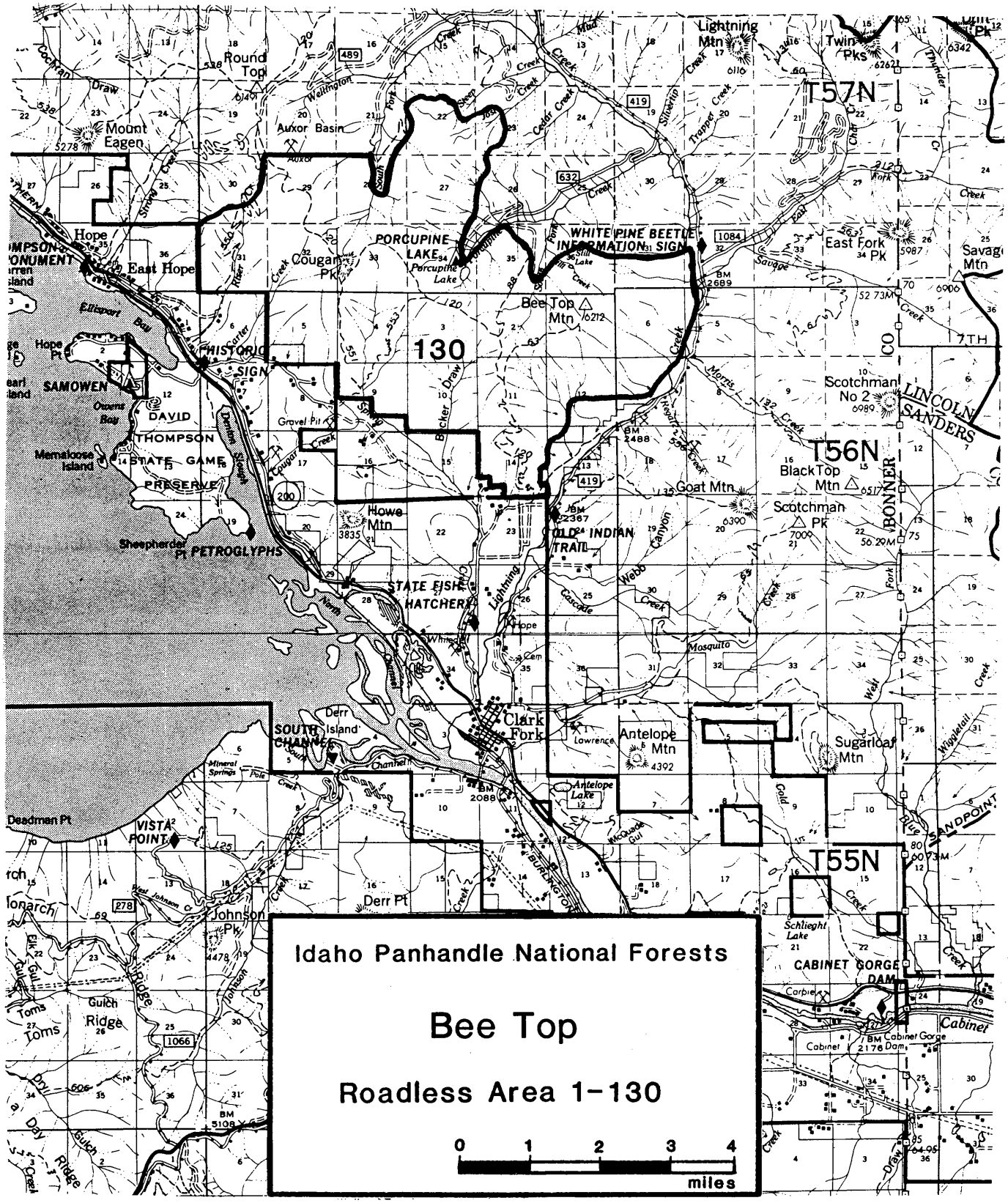
T57N
T56N
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130
Idaho Panhandle National Forests
Bee Top
Roadless Area 1-130
0 1 2 3 4
miles
Round Top
Mount Eagen
Auxor Basin
Hope
East Hope
PORCUPINE LAKE
WHITE PINE BEETLE INFORMATION SIGN
Cougar Pk
Bee Top Mtn
East Fork Pk
Savage Mtn
Lightning Mtn
Twin Pks
HISTORIC SIGN
SAMOWEN
DAVID THOMPSON STATE GAME PRESERVE
Memaloose Island
Sheepherder Pt
PETROGLYPHS
Scotchman No 2
LINCOLN
SANDERS
BONNER
BlackTop Mtn
Scotchman Pk
Goat Mtn
Howe Mtn
OLD INDIAN TRAIL
STATE FISH HATCHERY
Clark Fork
Antelope Mtn
Sugarloaf Mtn
SOUTH CHANNEL
Derr Island
Derr Pt
VISTA POINT
Deadman Pt
Johnson Pk
Schlieght Lake
CABINET GORGE DAM
Cabinet
Toms Gulch Ridge
Dry Gulch Ridge

II. CAPABILITY

A. Wilderness Characteristics

1. Natural Integrity. Impacts from human activity in this area have been relatively minor. In the past, some hardrock mining exploration occurred, but evidence of these diggings has been reduced substantially by weathering processes. Trails which are not maintained quickly become overgrown with trees and shrubs. Porcupine Lake, which is adjacent to the north boundary of this roadless area, receives substantial recreational use which has taken away from the natural integrity of this specific site. Since most of the area includes high mountain ridges overlooking the populated valley to the southwest, individuals visiting can generally view human activities. Logging and road development can also be viewed from much of the periphery of this area.

2. Natural Appearance. The area itself is natural in appearance; views of activities outside the area appear unnatural.

3. Solitude. The Beetop area possesses very little opportunity for solitude because of its size and location with respect to developed areas. The topography is not unique to northern Idaho. It does possess diversity in vegetation because of the substantial differences in elevation. Distant viewing into the Cabinet Mountain Range to the east provides for unique views of high alpine, rugged, mountainous terrain.

The southwest boundary is only 2-1/2 miles from State Highway 200 and the shores of Pend Oreille Lake. The southeast boundary comes within 1/4 mile of Lightning Creek Road, which is a heavily used system road on the Sandpoint District. The southwest boundary adjoins private lands along its entire length, with one 80-acre tract included within the present roadless boundary. The north boundary generally falls adjacent to existing roads built for timber harvest activities. Sounds from logging and recreational activities have the potential of penetrating throughout this roadless area. Also, man's activities can be viewed from most areas within this roadless area.

4. Primitive Recreation Opportunities. This area offers only limited challenge to the visitor because of its size and lack of topographic diversity. Streams do not support catchable size fish. Porcupine Lake is a popular fishing area, but the trails and campsites around it show signs of over-use. This lake has road access almost to its shores. Although big game species frequent the area, it is not noted for an abundance of wildlife.

Trail 120 is a popular hiking trail and provides numerous opportunities to experience scenic views of the surrounding areas. Pend Oreille Lake and the Cabinet Mountain Range make up the most unique scenic viewsheds. Trail 120 is currently being used by backpackers, horseback riders, and motorbikers. Four other trails branch off from Trail 120 and access the periphery of the roadless area. Three of these trails have trailheads on private land with no Forest Service right-of-way access. At this time, Trail 120 has no Forest Service right-of-way access where it enters this roadless area in the Spring Creek drainage.

5. Other Features. Most of this roadless area was burned by the early 1900 fires. The result of this burn was a uniform coniferous forest which is approximately 70-80 years old. An occasional old-growth tree which survived these fires can be seen protruding above the primary forest canopy. There are also some pockets of old growth which apparently escaped the fire and are scattered throughout this roadless area. This area has had no archeological review. Because of its proximity to Pend Oreille Lake and known Indian artifacts, the potential for finding evidence of Indian cultures may be high.

This area contains many steep, rocky sideslopes. It is considered by the locals as quite rugged terrain and is more typical of the Scotchman Peak area than the terrain to the north of this roadless area.

B. Wilderness Manageability and Boundaries. This area was inventoried during RARE II; no boundary changes have occurred since then. Boundaries are not well defined by major terrain or other recognized features. Private lands dictated the location of the entire south boundary. Other boundaries had to contour the slope in a random manner in order to exclude existing roads and harvest areas. Only the interior core is fairly remote and free of most external influences. An 80-acre private tract lies within the unit boundary along the southern edge. Boundary adjustment to exclude the private land is possible. It is doubtful that conflict with private land development could be avoided by purchase or trade from the private sector. The adjoining private lands are high value due to their proximity to Pend Oreille Lake, State Highway 200, and the population centers of Clark Fork and East Hope. Much of this private land is already subdivided.

Recreation and other resource uses not requiring surface disturbance can be managed in the Beetop area while protecting the wilderness character.

Mineral exploration can be controlled with present Federal regulations, although some impacts can be expected. Future hardrock mineral development is the main uncertainty in addressing manageability because the existing laws allow for the exploration and development of hardrock minerals. The small streams draining towards Pend Oreille Lake have the potential for developing small hydroelectric power plants because of their substantial drop in elevation over a short distance.

Table 1

Selected Resource Values

Category	Unit	01130
Gross Acres	Acres	11,615
Net Acres	Acres	11,180
Range		
Existing Obligated		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Existing Vacant		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Proposed		
Suitable	Acres	0
AUMs	No.	0
Timber		
Tentative		
Suitable	Acres	3,333
Standing Volume	MMBF	100
Minerals Potential		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	11,615
Low	Acres	0
Mining Claims	No.	18
Oil and Gas Potential*		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	
Low	Acres	11,615
Oil and Gas Leases		
Leases	No.	0
Leased Area	Acres	0
Corridors		
Existing and Potential	No.	0
Wildlife-Threatened and Endangered-Habitat		
Grizzly Bear		
Situation 1	Acres	0
Situation 2	Acres	11,615
Situation 3	Acres	0
Bald Eagle	Acres	0
Mountain Caribou	Acres	0
Gray Wolf	Acres	0
Wildlife-Big Game		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Elk		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	1,197
Specific-Deer		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Significant Fisheries		
Stream Miles	Miles	0
Stream Habitat	Acres	0
Lakes	No.	0
Lake Habitat	Acres	0
Water Developments		
Existing	No.	1
Recreation		
Primitive	RVDs	0
Semiprimitive		
Nonmotorized	RVDs	200
Motorized	RVDs	0
Roaded Natural	RVDs	400

*Rating also includes uranium, geothermal, and other energy resources.

A. Resource Values

1. Recreation. Current recreational uses within this area include hiking, camping, and fishing. Roundtop Trail 120 is a popular hiking trail with scenic views of Lake Pend Oreille and the Scotchman Peak area. A Forest Service campground is located at Porcupine Lake, a popular canoeing and fishing area. Local residents also enjoy hunting opportunities.

2. Wildlife. Wildlife inhabitants include elk, moose, black bear, grizzly bear, whitetail deer, mule deer, mountain goat, and grouse. Porcupine Lake and a few of the larger creeks have catchable populations of trout. Elk winter range and grizzly bear habitat are present within this area.

3. Timber. Approximately 70 percent of the area within this roadless area is considered unsuitable for timber harvest because of poor growing sites and the inability to reforest these areas. Access to many of the suitable acres is considered very difficult due to the steep, rocky terrain and limited existing right-of-way easements across private land. Viewing constraints from Lake Pend Oreille make it difficult to place roads which will meet visual management constraints. There are timber harvest opportunities around the entire perimeter of this roadless area.

4. Minerals. There has been no detailed inventory of mineral potential within this roadless area. The potential is estimated to be medium to high. The Auxor Mine, a hardrock mine located in the headwaters of Wellington Creek, has been operating in recent years. This area contains 18 unpatented mining claims and is part of the Clark Fork Mining District. The potential for economic development is moderate. Oil and gas potential is low due to lack of information. All of the area is covered by lease applications.

5. Range. Domestic sheep have grazed this area in past years. At this time, there are no cattle or sheep using the Beetop area. This situation will probably not change.

B. Other Management Considerations

1. Fire. Although large fires have occurred in the area, the number of fires occurring annually is low.

IV. NEED

A. Contribution to National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS). This area could contribute grizzly bear habitat, scenic views from a proposed National Recreational Trail, and high elevation habitat.

B. Public Interest and Concern. There has been a limited amount of interest by local and regional individuals concerning this area. The RARE II Environmental Impact Statement (1979) recommended that the entire area be managed for non-wilderness uses. This recommendation considered public interest in wilderness as well as timber and mining interests in the area. It also recognized that a significant area is unsuitable for timber harvest and would most likely be retained in a roadless condition. The most significant concern by the public was preservation of Trail 120. Also, local individuals have expressed a concern regarding retaining high quality viewing from the lake into the Beetop area.

C. Proximity to Designated Wilderness and to Population Centers. Table 3, Parts A and B, displays wilderness opportunities and proximity to roadless areas on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The closest wilderness area is the Cabinet Wilderness in western Montana, approximately 100 miles to the northeast. There is access to 1.6 million acres of wilderness located within 200 miles of Coeur d'Alene, as well as an additional 5.8 million acres within 300 miles (northern Idaho, eastern Washington and Oregon, and western Montana).

V. ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

A. Management Emphasis Assignment by Alternatives. Management emphasis indicates which resource activity is highlighted. If the emphasis is timber, most of the activity on those acres would be for timber management. Resource activities which are compatible with the emphasis would continue, but with less intensity. Table 2 lists the acres of each management emphasis by alternative.

Table 2

Beetop Roadless Area (01130)
Management Emphasis by Alternative

Management Emphasis	Alternatives[1/] (Thousand Acres) 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Wilderness	0	0	11.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non-wilderness												
No Tbr. Harvest	0.1	0.1	0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	5.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Timber/Wildlife	2.8	2.9	0	2.9	3.0	2.8	3.0	2.2	3.0	2.8	3.3	2.4
Wildlife/Visual	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Special Areas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minimum Level	8.3	8.2	0	8.2	8.1	8.3	8.1	3.8	8.1	8.3	7.8	8.7
Total	11.2	11.2	11.2	11.2	11.2	11.2	11.2	11.2	11.2	11.2	11.2	11.2
Summary of Management Emphasis:												
Developed												
Decade 1	1.3	1.5	0	1.4	2.1	1.3	2.2	0.8	2.1	2.3	0.8	0.2
Decade 5	6.6	8.0	0	6.6	6.3	6.5	6.9	3.9	6.1	6.5	6.2	3.8
Roadless[2/]												
Decade 1	9.9	9.7	0	9.8	9.1	9.9	9.0	10.4	9.1	8.9	9.4	11.0
Decade 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7.3	0	0	5.0	7.4
Wilderness	0	0	11.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

1/ Alternative clarification -
1 - Regional Goals
2 - High Market
3 - High Nonmarket
4 - High Timber, Fish
5 - Moderate All Resources
6 - High Timber, Wildlife
7 - High Nonmarket, Stable Timber
8 - Current Program
9 - High Recreation
10 - High Wildlife, Moderate Timber
11 - Preferred Alternative
12 - Preferred w/Departure

2/ Roadless is defined as 5,000 acres or greater in size or any acreage if contiguous to existing wilderness.

B. Impacts

1. Designation: Wilderness

Management Emphasis: Wilderness

This emphasis would enhance the wilderness attributes of the area by curtailing mining activities and repairing the evidence of past mineral activities. The naturalness of the area would remain and the few opportunities for solitude would be available. This designation would guarantee the visual sensitivity of the area associated with the boating public on Lake Pend Oreille, the community of Hope, and Highway 200. Trail 120, potentially part of the National Recreation Trail System, would retain its present natural surroundings.

The 100 MMBF of standing timber volume on this roadless area would not be available under this prescription. Minerals, oil, and gas would also not be available since the area would be withdrawn from mineral entry.

The non-priced benefits or costs would be:

-- The National Wilderness System area would increase.

-- Natural ecosystem would be protected.

-- Visual quality would be retained.

-- Water quality would remain at its present high quality level.

-- Grizzly bear habitat would be retained.

-- Security for big game would be maintained.

-- Diversity would tend toward old growth.

-- Recreation opportunities would remain semi-primitive.

Social and economic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. Since wilderness precludes timber harvest and mineral development, the related industries would not be supported by this emphasis. From a social aspect, the public valuing wilderness would be supported as well as those people who desire to view the area in its unaltered state.

2. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: No Timber Harvest

Under this management emphasis approximately 100 acres or less than 1 percent of this roadless area is designated for No Timber Harvest in all the alternatives except Alternatives 3 (wilderness) and 8 (current program). Alternative 8 proposes 5,200 acres (46 percent) to be managed for No Timber Harvest.

This emphasis would not have impacts significantly different than those other management emphasis items for this roadless area.

3. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Timber/Wildlife

This management emphasis proposes a range of 2,200 to 3,300 acres (20 to 29 percent) to be managed for timber wildlife.

Management for this emphasis would not preclude wilderness for the core area of this roadless area, as sufficient acreage with wilderness characteristics would be available after the first decade under all alternatives. The alternatives range from 3,800 acres to 8,000 acres (34 to 71 percent) to be under this management emphasis in the fifth decade. Alternatives 8, 11, and 12 would have sufficient acreage for wilderness designation even at the end of the fifth decade of the planning period.

This emphasis would provide timber resources to the local economy and would also make minerals, oil, and gas available.

The non-priced benefits and costs would be:

-- Natural ecosystems would change to a managed state on those lands proposed for management.

-- The visual resource would change although, due to high visual concerns on a large portion of the area, the visual scene would be managed for retention or partial retention of the visual character.

-- Water quality would be altered on areas of development.

-- The view from the high value Trail 120 may change but the visual quality objectives for the area would be met.

-- Grizzly bear habitat and security would be impacted although road closures and habitat management would either maintain or protect habitat quality.

-- Security for big game animals will decline although road closures would be instigated.

-- Vegetative diversity will increase.

-- Primitive recreation opportunities will decline on areas of management.

Social and economic effects related to this emphasis area pertain to the commodity resources of timber and minerals and also the amenity resources of recreation and wildlife. This emphasis area provides for a timber supply on approximately one quarter of the area. The remaining area has low timber values with very high management costs, making management difficult and costly for the short term. Minerals would provide economic benefits to the local economy if found in the area. Oil and gas leasing has shown recent interest for this area and would be available for use.

4. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Minimum Level

This management emphasis provides for 3,800 to 8,000 acres (34 to 78 percent) of the area to be managed at a maintenance level with no investments.

All of the alternatives except Alternatives 3 (wilderness) and 8 (current program) propose approximately 75 percent of the area for this emphasis. This is due to the low values in relation to the costs of management in the area. Wilderness would still be an option for this roadless area in the first decade for all alternatives and for alternatives 8, 11, and 12 at the fifth decade of the planning period.

This management emphasis would not have a very significant impact on the market resources of this area because of the very high management costs in relation to the values of those resources at the present time. Depending on the findings in ongoing oil and gas exploration, this emphasis may impact the development of those resources.

The non-priced benefits and costs of this emphasis are:

-- Natural ecosystems would be protected.

-- The visual scene would remain unaltered.

-- Water quality would be protected on these lands and adjacent streams.

-- The view and the experiences of visitors to Trail 120 would be maintained.

-- Grizzly bear habitat and security would be unchanged.

-- Security for big game animals would be maintained.

-- Vegetative diversity would tend toward old growth.

-- Primitive recreation opportunities would be maintained.

-- Future wilderness options would be maintained.

Social and economic effects of this management emphasis would not have a very significant impact to local economies due to the costs of managing the commodity resources, and those publics interested in the amenity resources would still retain the use or value of their interests. Those lands identified

for maintenance level management with no investment are very poor for the production of timber products; this emphasis provides for that characteristic. The entire area is designated as wilderness in Alternative 3.

EAST CATHEDRAL PEAK ROADLESS AREA (01131)

I. DESCRIPTION

Size	Gross Acres	Net Acres
Idaho - Idaho Panhandle NF	22,338	22,338

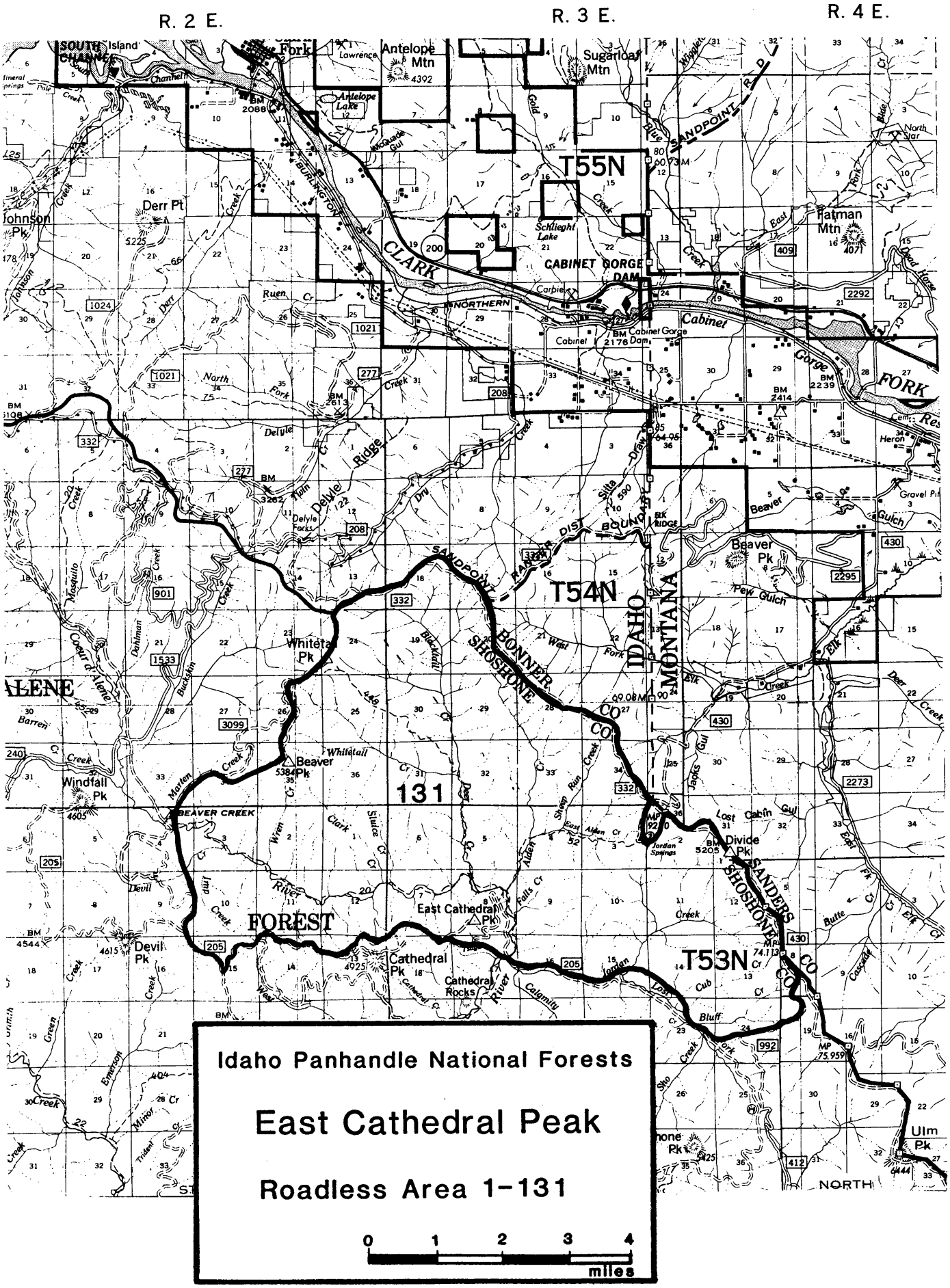
This roadless area is located about 38 air miles northeast of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, along the Idaho-Montana border. It is within Shoshone County on the Wallace Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The area is accessible by dirt roads which form most of the boundary of the area.

A variety of vegetation and terrain elements characterize the area. The Coeur d'Alene River is the primary drainage; others include Deer and Alden Creeks. Attractive features include the river bottom and rock outcroppings along its course. Elevation ranges from 3,400 feet on the river to 5,400 feet on Whitetail Peak. This area is underlain by the Libby and Striped Peak formations of the Belt Supergroup. These argillites and quartzites compose the two upper members of the Belt rocks.

Large forest fires in 1910 and 1919 were major factors in vegetation development. Seral tree species, including Douglas-fir, western white pine, and western larch, dominate the landscape. Where fires did not burn, small pockets of old-growth hemlock, Douglas-fir, and grand fir are present. Mountain hemlock, subalpine fir, and lodgepole pine forests are found on north slopes and high elevation ridges. Where fires were more severe, brushfields are found, especially on south facing slopes. Plantations started in the mid-1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) are found in the East Fork of Alden Creek and Sheep Run Creek. Species include Douglas-fir and western white pine. Plantation success is varied due to brush competition and blister rust mortality in the white pine.

Wildlife species include elk, whitetail and mule deer, black bear, cougar, moose, bobcat, marten, beaver, coyote, river otter, pileated woodpecker, grouse, various hawks and owls, and numerous other non-game species. Nearly one-quarter of the area is designated critical elk winter range and the remaining acres are considered regular elk summer range.

The area is considered a high quality hunting area and receives heavy hunting use. All major streams provide important spawning and rearing habitat as well as low access, high quality fishing. The Coeur d'Alene River is managed under special regulations by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to provide quality cutthroat trout fishing. Three main trails provide access to the area. Visitor use amounts to 3,000 recreation visitor days (RVDs) per year.


R. 2 E.
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131
Idaho Panhandle National Forests
East Cathedral Peak
Roadless Area 1-131
0 1 2 3 4
miles
IDAHO
MONTANA
CLARK FORK
CABINET GORGE DAM
BONNER CO
SHOSHONE CO
SANDERS CO
BEAVER CREEK
FOREST
NORTH

II. CAPABILITY

A. Wilderness Characteristics

1. Natural Integrity. The impact of human activity in this area has been minor. CCC plantations established in the 1930s were accessed by horse and pack trails.

2. Natural Appearance. The area is large enough and the topography such that individuals visiting the area feel they are in a natural area away from ordinary human activites and development. Some timber harvest areas and their associated roads are visible outside the roadless area from roads that form much of its boundaries.

3. Solitude. The area has high opportunities for solitude based on the size of the area and variety of topography and vegetation. Approximately 15 drainages are found within this roadless area. With the size and diversity found here, human activity will not be concentrated in any one area. Access is primarily from the south and west. From the end of the paved Coeur d'Alene River Road (208) it is about 13 miles to the southwest corner of the area. The area is within 5 miles of a highway on the north via dirt roads. Sounds from vehicles along peripheral roads have potential of penetrating the roadless area.

4. Primitive Recreation Opportunities. Opportunities for primitive recreation are varied and include horseback riding, hiking, fishing, hunting, and camping. The area offers a variety of vegetation and terrain, from the Coeur d'Alene River and creek bottoms, to both forested and brush covered mid-slopes and high points on Whitetail and Beaver Peaks.

The Coeur d'Alene River Trail (20) passes through the area; it is a National Recreational Trail. Other major trails go from Deer Creek to Whitetail Peak and from Alden Creek to Jordan Springs near the Montana Divide. Other primitive pack trails which are not maintained exist in the area. No other facilities are available in the area.

5. Other Features. The East Cathedral Roadless Area shows the results of the large fires which swept portions of northern Idaho in the early 1900s. A mosaic of brushfields, pockets of old growth, large even-aged seral stands, and scattered remnant snags attest to the power and influence of fire in this area.

Some sources have suggested that much of the area is potentially suitable habitat for grizzly bear.

B. Wilderness Manageability and Boundaries. The East Cathedral area has roads which are peripheral to the area, forming most of the boundary. Small portions have the boundary along ridgelines which are less prominent and could make on-the-ground location more difficult.

A small timber harvest and associated roads occurred in the late 1970s near East Cathedral Peak in the south end of the roadless area. The current boundary includes this area, but adjustments could be made to exclude it without disrupting the integrity of the rest of the area.

No other substantial limitations are present to preclude management for wilderness, should it be so designated.

III. WILDERNESS AVAILABILITY

Table 1

Selected Resource Values

Category	Unit	01131
Gross Acres	Acres	22,338
Net Acres	Acres	22,338
Range		
Existing Obligated		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Existing Vacant		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Proposed		
Suitable	Acres	0
AUMs	No.	0
Timber		
Tentative		
Suitable	Acres	20,288
Standing Volume	MMBF	208
Minerals Potential		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	0
Low	Acres	22,338
Mining Claims	No.	26
Oil and Gas Potential*		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	
Low	Acres	22,338
Oil and Gas Leases		
Leases	No.	0
Leased Area	Acres	0
Corridors		
Existing and Potential	No.	0
Wildlife-Threatened and Endangered-Habitat		
Grizzly Bear		
Situation 1	Acres	0
Situation 2	Acres	0
Situation 3	Acres	0
Bald Eagle	Acres	0
Mountain Caribou	Acres	0
Gray Wolf	Acres	0
Wildlife-Big Game		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Elk		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	5,312
Specific-Deer		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Significant Fisheries		
Stream Miles	Miles	16
Stream Habitat	Acres	32
Lakes	No.	0
Lake Habitat	Acres	0
Water Developments		
Existing	No.	2
Recreation		
Primitive	RVDs	0
Semiprimitive		
Nonmotorized	RVDs	1,000
Motorized	RVDs	1,000
Roaded Natural	RVDs	1,000

*Rating also includes uranium, geothermal, and other energy resources.

A. Resource Values

1. Recreation. Current recreation use in the area is primarily hiking and horseback riding along the Coeur d'Alene River Trail. The area is also considered a high quality hunting area and receives heavy hunting use. All major streams provide important spawning and rearing habitat as well as low access, high quality fishing. The Coeur d'Alene River is managed under special regulations by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to provide quality cutthroat trout fishing. Three main trails provide access to the area. Visitor use amounts to 3,000 Recreation Visitor Days per year.

2. Wildlife. Wildlife inhabitants include elk, whitetail and mule deer, black beer, cougar, moose, bobcat, marten, beaver, coyote, river otter, pileated woodpecker, grouse, various hawks and owls, and numerous other non-game species. Nearly one-quarter of the area is designated critical elk winter range and the remaining acreage is considered regular summer range.

3. Timber. Future development of the timber resource would involve the management of 20,300 acres suitable for timber management.

4. Minerals. Mineral potential is rated low because historically the Libby and Striped Peak members have not contained many economic ore deposits. Exploration activity is low even though there are 26 mining claims in the study unit.

With a wilderness designation, access for mineral exploration and development would be restrictive and regulated. This area is currently under application for an oil and gas lease. Potential for oil and gas in this area is unknown. Wilderness designation could prohibit exploration and development.

5. Range. The area is not suited for cattle grazing due to the steepness of the terrain.

B. Other Management Considerations

1. Fire. Although large fires occurred in the area, the number of fires occuring annually is low.

IV. NEED

A. Contribution to National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS). The East Cathedral Peak Roadless Area is close to the City of Coeur d'Alene and would provide local populations with opportunities for roadless recreation, including elk hunting and trout fishing.

B. Public Interest and Concerns. Public response during RARE II indicated that among respondents 76 percent expressed interest in wilderness designation and 22 percent chose non-wilderness.

C. Proximity to Designated Wilderness and to Population Centers. Table 3, Parts A and B, display wilderness opportunities and proximity to roadless areas on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The closest wilderness area is the Cabinet Wilderness in western Montana, approximately 100 miles to the northeast. There is access to 1.6 million acres of wilderness located within 200 miles of Coeur d'Alene, as well as an additional 5.8 million acres within 300 miles (northern Idaho, eastern Washington and Oregon, and western Montana).

V. ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

A. Management Emphasis Assignment by Alternatives. Management emphasis indicates which resource activity is highlighted. If the emphasis is timber, most of the activity on those acres would be for timber management. Resource activities which are compatible with the emphasis would continue, but with less intensity. Table 2 lists the acres of each management emphasis by alternative.

Table 2

East Cathedral Roadless Area (01131)
Management Emphasis by Alternative

Management Emphasis	Alternatives[1/] (Thousand Acres) 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Wilderness	0	0	22.3	0	0	22.3	0	0	22.3	22.3	0	0
Non-wilderness												
No Tbr. Harvest	0.1	0.1	0	0.1	0.1	0	3.1	0.2	0	0	6.1	6.0
Timber/Wildlife	18.7	19.2	0	19.9	19.1	0	8.8	19.8	0	0	12.3	12.1
Wildlife/Visual	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.9	0	0	0	0	0
Special Areas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minimum Level	3.5	3.0	0	2.3	3.1	0	8.5	2.3	0	0	3.9	4.2
Total	22.3	22.3	22.3	22.3	22.3	22.3	22.3	22.3	22.3	22.3	22.3	22.3
Summary of Management Emphasis:												
Developed												
Decade 1	11.7	7.3	0	6.5	11.6	0	3.2	11.5	0	0	8.0	6.9
Decade 5	22.3	22.3	0	22.3	22.3	0	14.6	22.3	0	0	20.0	22.3
Roadless[2/]												
Decade 1	10.6	15.0	0	15.8	10.7	0	19.1	10.8	0	0	14.3	15.4
Decade 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wilderness	0	0	22.3	0	0	22.3	0	0	22.3	22.3	0	0

1/ Alternative clarification -
1 - Regional Goals
2 - High Market
3 - High Nonmarket
4 - High Timber, Fish
5 - Moderate All Resources
6 - High Timber, Wildlife
7 - High Nonmarket, Stable Timber
8 - Current Program
9 - High Recreation
10 - High Wildlife, Moderate Timber
11 - Preferred Alternative
12 - Preferred w/Departure

2/ Roadless is defined as 5,000 acres or greater in size or any acreage if contiguous to existing wilderness.

B. Impacts

1. Designation: Wilderness

Management Emphasis: Wilderness

This prescription designates all the area as wilderness in Alternatives 3, 6, 9, and 10.

The 208 MMBF of timber, on slightly more than 20 M acres of this roadless area, would not be available under this prescription.

The non-priced benefits or costs would be:

-- The National Wilderness System area would increase.

-- Visual quality would be preserved.

-- Water quality and fisheries would remain at their present high level.

-- Security for big game animals and fish would be maintained.

-- Diversity would tend slowly toward old growth.

-- Recreation opportunities would remain mostly semi-primitive.

-- Opportunities for solitude would be preserved.

-- Quality hunting and fishing would be maintained at the present level.

-- Natural ecosystem would be protected.

Social and economic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. Since wilderness precludes timber harvest and mineral development, the related industries would not be supported by this emphasis. From a social aspect, the publics valuing wilderness would be supported as well as those people who desire to view the area in its unaltered state.

2 Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: No Timber Harvest

All non-wilderness alternatives would designate some portion of the East Cathedral area to the No Timber Harvest emphasis.

Alternatives 1, 2, 4, 5, and 8 would designate less than 1 percent of the area for this emphasis. This designation would consist of areas designated for old-growth retention.

Alternative 7 would include 14 percent of the area in this emphasis, consisting of old growth retention and 3,000 acres to be maintained for roadless recreation.

Alternatives 11 and 12 are similar to 7 except acreage for roadless recreation would be increased to 6,000 acres or 27 percent of the area.

Alternatives 11 and 12 provide an opportunity for future consideration for wilderness after the first decade, inasmuch as sufficient acreage would be maintained in an unroaded state, and managed accordingly. As addressed in previous discussion, the mineral potential for the area is rated low. Significant roading for mineral access is not anticipated.

Impacts to market resources would be minimal under most non-wilderness alternatives. Under alternatives 11 and 12, approximately 6 MMBF of standing timber volume would not be available to the wood products market. This volume however, is represented by mostly immature pole size stands.

The non-priced benefits or costs, dependent upon alternative selection, would be:

-- Some portion(s) of the existing roadless area may be available for further wilderness consideration.

-- A significant portion of big game security area could be retained.

-- Some area may still be available for quality hunting and fishing experiences.

-- Desired level of old-growth retention would be maintained.

Impacts to the socioeconomic component are addressed in the Timber/Wildlife emphasis discussion.

3. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Timber/Wildlife

All non-wilderness alternatives would designate a significant portion of the East Cathedral Roadless Area for the Timber/Wildlife emphasis.

Alternatives 7, 11, and 12 would designate from 39 to 55 percent of the area for this emphasis.

Alternatives 1, 2, 4, 5, and 8 would assign from 80 to 90 percent of the area to the Timber/Wildlife management emphasis.

Under all non-wilderness alternatives, wilderness availability may be foregone during the first decade due to the physiographic nature of the area and access networks that would be necessary to reach productive areas. As discussed in the No Timber Harvest alternative, some alternatives would retain roadless recreation areas of sufficient size to meet the minimum criteria for wilderness designation at the end of decade one.

Impacts to market resources would center on the availability of wood products to the market. The availability of wood products would have a greater impact on the market in the later decades of the planning cycle. Standing timber in the East Cathedral area is predominately immature, and in light of current market demands, generally considered unmerchantable. In later decades, however, the 20,000 acres of land within the area identified as tentatively suitable for timber management could provide a steady flow of wood products to meet future market demands.

The non-priced benefits or costs would be:

-- Visual quality would be adversely affected on specific areas.

-- Water quality and fisheries will be adversely impacted.

-- Security for big game species will be adversely affected.

-- Diversity would tend toward younger, managed stands.

-- Some primitive recreational opportunities would be foregone.

-- Opportunity for solitude would be compromised.

-- Opportunities for high quality fisheries and hunting will decline.

-- Habitat for elk should improve slightly, given ideal cover/forage ratios.

-- Indicator species adversely impacted would be cutthroat trout and pileated woodpecker.

-- The experience level along the National Recreation Trail could be compromised.

Utilization of this emphasis in the management of the area would involve a negative impact to persons interested in a primitive or a semi-primitive recreation experience, and have a negative effect on local businesses engaged in catering to hunters, fishermen, backpacking, etc. Those persons involved with the wood products industries would experience some benefit, at least after the end of the first planning cycle.

4. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Wildlife/Visual

Only Alternative 7 would designate any portion of this area for this emphasis. Alternative 7 designates 8 percent of the total area to Wildlife/Visual. The effects of this emphasis would be similar to the effects discussed in the Timber/Wildlife emphasis. Harvest would take place on these acres in a manner which would partially retain the visual quality of the area.

5. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Minimum Level

All non-wilderness alternatives would designate a portion of the East Cathedral area to this emphasis. Percentages designated range from 10 to 38 percent, dependent on alternative. Areas designated for this management emphasis under the different alternatives are predominately high elevation areas and rock outcrops which are unproductive sites. These areas could be impacted, dependent upon alternative selection by the need to access other adjacent productive areas. Consequently, impacts would be similar to those described in the previous discussion on Timber/Wildlife management emphasis.

MAGEE ROADLESS AREA (01132)

I. DESCRIPTION

Size	Gross Acres	Net Acres
Idaho - Idaho Panhandle NF	34,800	34,747

This roadless area is located 32 air miles northeast of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. It is within Shoshone County and on the Fernan Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. It is paralleled by Trail 22, a National Recreational Trail. In addition, Trails 3, 56, 323, 404, 413, 416, and 418 complete access of the area.

The area consists of mountainous terrain with elevations ranging from 2,900 feet at the mouth of Independence Creek to 5,200 feet at Faset Peak. The study area is underlain by quartzites and argillities of the Precambrian Belt Supergroup. The lower members of the Belt--Prichard, Burke, Revett, and St. Regis--are present in limited amounts. The area is very highly faulted, with a general north-south trend apparent.

Large wildfires burned over most of the area in 1910 and 1926. Currently, second-growth coniferous vegetation dominates the north and east aspects, with grass and brush occupying most south and west slopes. Independence Creek flows through the entire area and is characterized by a broad, flat valley bottom with many open grass parks along its lower reaches.

Semi-primitive motorized and nonmotorized recreation use, primarily in the form of dispersed camping, trail hiking, trail biking, hunting, and fishing in a natural setting along the open valley bottom and ridges, attracted an estimated 2,500 visitor days use in 1983. Access for recreation use is provided by road to top, bottom, and middle trailheads where camping and other activities disperse throughout the area over 36 miles of system trail.

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game has established special fishing regulations for the upper Coeur d'Alene River to promote quality fishing. Independence Creek and its tributaries support a catchable resident cutthroat fishery. The area supports big game populations of elk, mule deer, whitetail deer, black bear, and an occasional moose and cougar. The area does not provide habitat for any threatened or endangered species.

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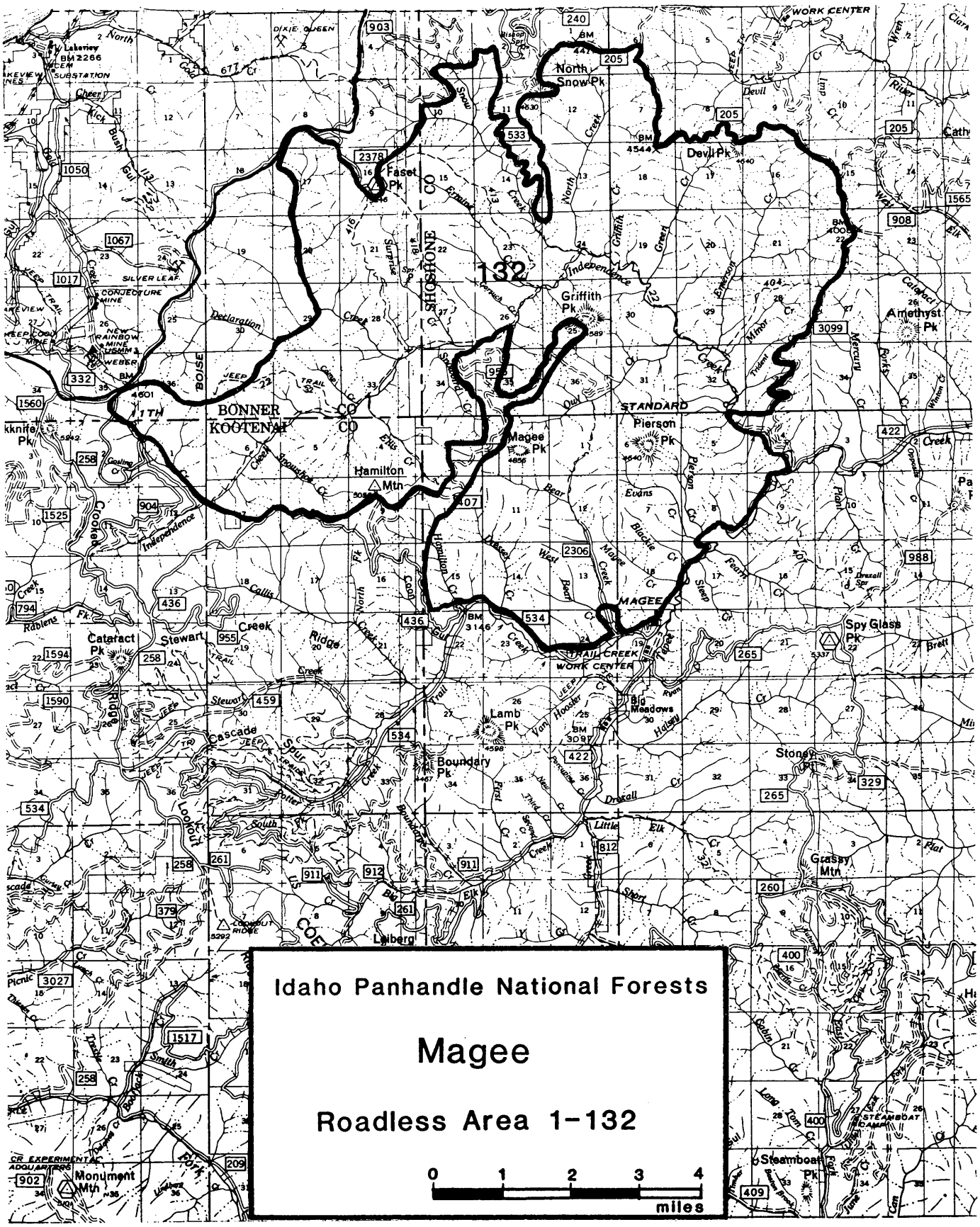
Idaho Panhandle National Forests
Magee
Roadless Area 1-132
0 1 2 3 4
miles
132
BONNER
KOOTENAI
SHOSHONE
BOISE
STANDARD
MAGEE
North Snow Pk
Devil Pk
Faset Pk
Griffith Pk
Amethyst Pk
Pierson Pk
Magee Pk
Hamilton Mtn
Cataract Pk
Spy Glass Pk
Lamb Pk
Boundary Pk
Grassy Mtn
Steamboat Pk
Monument Mtn
Lookout Ridge
Big Meadows
Stonet
Lakeview
Cascade
Stewart
Lolberg
WORK CENTER
SILVER LEAF
CONJECTURE MINE
NEW RAINBOW MINE
WEBER
DIXIE QUEEN
STEAMBOAT DAM

II. CAPABILITY

A. Wilderness Characteristics

1. Natural Integrity. The impact from human activity in the area is moderate, consisting of 36 miles of system trail used by motorcycles, horse, and foot traffic. Remnants of an old wagon road, two rest stations associated with the wagon road, an old splash dam constructed at the turn of the century, and some hardrock mining exploration are contained in the area, but evidence of these few sites is historical and not readily evident.

2. Natural Appearance. Topography of the area permits visitors engaged in activities at lower elevations of the drainage to feel they are in a natural setting away from human activities and development. Views of roads and logging activities can occasionally be seen from higher elevations of the area.

3. Solitude. The area offers moderate opportunities for solitude because of occasional sights and sounds of off- and on-site activities over roads bordering and trails within the area. The area is currently open to motorcycle use.

4. Primitive Recreation Opportunities. With the exception of access trails along Independence Creek and its tributaries, there are no facilities within the area for shelter or other conveniences. The area offers moderate opportunities to get away from man-influenced environments to experience such activities as camping, scenic viewing, hiking, big game hunting, and fishing.

B. Wilderness Manageability and Boundaries

1. Effect of Size and Boundary Change. The area encompasses portions of two larger watersheds. Boundaries are mostly well defined, being major roads or ridgetops; however, several system and non-system road intrusions into the area result in use of minor land features to designate the boundary in these areas, making it difficult to identify on the ground. There are approximately 50 acres of private ownership within the area. Boundary changes since the RARE II inventory have deleted 3,200 acres.

Table 1

Selected Resource Values

Category	Unit	01132
Gross Acres	Acres	34,800
Net Acres	Acres	34,747
Range		
Existing Obligated		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Existing Vacant		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Proposed		
Suitable	Acres	0
AUMs	No.	0
Timber		
Tentative		
Suitable	Acres	32,328
Standing Volume	MMBF	354
Minerals Potential		
Very High	Acres	1,600
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	0
Low	Acres	33,147
Mining Claims	No.	64
Oil and Gas Potential*		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	2
Low	Acres	34,747
Oil and Gas Leases		
Leases	No.	0
Leased Area	Acres	0
Corridors		
Existing and Potential	No.	0
Wildlife-Threatened and Endangered-Habitat		
Grizzly Bear		
Situation 1	Acres	0
Situation 2	Acres	0
Situation 3	Acres	0
Bald Eagle	Acres	0
Mountain Caribou	Acres	0
Gray Wolf	Acres	0
Wildlife-Big Game		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Elk		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	6,057
Specific-Deer		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Significant Fisheries		
Stream Miles	Miles	29
Stream Habitat	Acres	47
Lakes	No.	0
Lake Habitat	Acres	0
Water Developments		
Existing	No.	0
Recreation		
Primitive	RVDs	0
Semiprimitive		
Nonmotorized	RVDs	1,500
Motorized	RVDs	500
Roaded Natural	RVDs	500

*Rating also includes uranium, geothermal, and other energy resources.

A. Resource Values

1. Recreation. Current recreation use in the area includes backpacking, hiking, trail hiking, hunting, and fishing. No developed recreation facilities are planned.

2. Wildlife. Wildlife inhabitants include elk, mule deer, whitetail deer, black bear, and an occasional moose and cougar.

3. Timber. The area has potential for timber resource development. Timber values present consist of 60- to 70-year age classes. Timber values foregone would be relatively larger than in many roadless areas due to size and preponderance of good timber sites.

4. Minerals. Hardrock mineral potential is low; however, oil and gas lease applications are currently on file for the entire area. Approximately 5 percent of this area has a very high mineral potential rating. This area is in the southwestern portions of the study area and is part of the Lakeview Mining District. Within this mining district are numerous old properties, several of which are still producing. The district supports one operating mill which used folation and vat leaching. The principal metal produced is silver. Fifty-five percent of the area has a medium mineral potential and the remaining 40 percent is low. There are oil and gas lease applications covering the entire area. Potential for the occurrence of oil and gas in the area is low due to lack of information.

5. Range. The area is not suited for cattle grazing due to the steepness of the terrain.

B. Other Management Considerations

1. Fire. The area has a low fire occurrence.

IV. NEED

A. Contribution to National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS). This area can contribute quality hunting and fishing in an undeveloped setting where travel time from Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, is less than two hours.

B. Public Interest and Concerns. The area has low regional interest and moderate local interest. The RARE II environmental impact statement recommended the entire area for non-wilderness uses.

C. Proximity to Designated Wilderness and to Population Centers. Table 3, Parts A and B, display wilderness opportunities and proximity to roadless areas on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The closest wilderness area is the Cabinet Wilderness in western Montana, approximately 100 miles to the northeast. There is access to 1.6 million acres of wilderness located within 200 miles of Coeur d'Alene, as well as an additional 5.8 million acres within 300 miles (northern Idaho, eastern Washington and Oregon, and western Montana).

V. ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

A. Management Emphasis Assignment by Alternatives. Management emphasis indicates which resource activity is highlighted. If the emphasis is timber, most of the activity on those acres would be for timber management. Resource activities which are compatible with the emphasis would continue, but with less intensity. Table 2 lists the acres of each management emphasis by alternative.

Table 2

Magee Roadless Area (01132)
Management Emphasis by Alternative

Management Emphasis	Alternatives[1/] (Thousand Acres) 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Wilderness	0	0	34.7	0	0	34.7	0	0	34.7	34.7	0	0
Non-wilderness												
No Tbr. Harvest	0.5	0.5	0	0.5	22.5	0	28.3	0.5	0	0	22.0	21.8
Timber/Wildlife	30.1	31.5	0	32.4	8.5	0	3.0	32.3	0	0	8.6	9.0
Wildlife/Visual	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Special Areas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minimum Level	4.1	2.7	0	1.8	3.7	0	3.4	1.9	0	0	4.1	3.9
Total	34.7	34.7	34.7	34.7	34.7	34.7	34.7	34.7	34.7	34.7	34.7	34.7
Summary of Management Emphasis:												
Developed												
Decade 1	24.8	16.0	0	16.7	4.4	0	1.3	15.1	0	0	6.0	3.5
Decade 5	34.7	34.7	0	34.7	11.7	0	5.0	34.7	0	0	13.3	12.7
Roadless[2/]												
Decade 1	9.9	19.5	0	18.0	30.3	0	33.4	19.6	0	0	28.7	31.2
Decade 5	0	0	0	0	23.0	0	29.7	0	0	0	21.4	22.0
Wilderness	0	0	34.7	0	0	34.7	0	0	34.7	34.7	0	0

1/ Alternative clarification -

1 - Regional Goals
2 - High Market
3 - High Nonmarket
4 - High Timber, Fish
5 - Moderate All Resources
6 - High Timber, Wildlife
7 - High Nonmarket, Stable Timber
8 - Current Program
9 - High Recreation
10 - High Wildlife, Moderate Timber
11 - Preferred Alternative
12 - Preferred w/Departure

2/ Roadless is defined as 5,000 acres or greater in size or any acreage if contiguous to existing wilderness.

B. Impacts

1. Designation: Wilderness

Management Emphasis: Wilderness

This area is designated as wilderness in Alternatives 3, 6, 9, and 10. This designation would enhance the wilderness attributes of the area since there are existing uses on the area not usually associated with wilderness. The use of motorized vehicles in the area would be prohibited. Evidence of the old wagon road, rest stations, and the splash dam, as well as mining evidence, could be eliminated, provided they were of no historical importance. Most of the area is classed as tentatively suitable for wood fiber production, with an estimated 354 MMBF of timber. This volume would not be available under wilderness designation.

The non-priced benefits or costs would be:

-- The National Wilderness System area would increase.

-- Natural ecosystem would be protected.

-- Visual quality would be retained.

-- Water quality and fisheries would remain at their present high level.

-- Security for big game and elk winter range would be retained.

-- Diversity would tend toward old growth.

-- Opportunity for primitive and semi-primitive recreation would remain the same.

-- Quality fishing and hunting opportunities would be retained.

-- Most wildlife species would be favorably or neutrally impacted. Species requiring disturbance could be adversely impacted depending on the degree and timing of natural disturbance.

Social and economic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. Since wilderness precludes timber harvest and mineral development, the related industries would not be supported by this emphasis. From a social aspect, the publics valuing wilderness would be supported as well as those people who desire to view the area in its unaltered state.

2. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Timber

This designation occurs in Alternatives 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, and 12. Alternatives 1, 2, 4, and 8 designate approximately 89 percent of the area to this management emphasis. Alternatives 5, 11, and 12 designate approximately 26 percent of the area to this management emphasis. Alternative 7 designates 9 percent of the area to this management emphasis. Suitable timberland available for harvest is proportional to these percentages.

Minerals, oil, and gas would remain available, if discovered.

The non-priced benefits or costs would be:

-- Visual quality will decline.

-- Water quality and fisheries will decline, but not significantly.

-- Security for big game animals would be compromised; road closures will be used to mitigate this adverse impact.

-- Diversity would tend toward younger, even-aged stands on areas where harvests take place.

-- Some primitive recreational opportunities would be foregone.

-- Opportunities for solitude would decline.

-- Opportunities for high quality fisheries and hunting will decline and will eventually be foregone.

-- Indicator species adversely impacted include cutthroat trout and pileated woodpecker.

-- The natural ecosystem will be disturbed.

-- The National Recreation Trail may be affected by road construction and background noise levels.

Social and economic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. Timber and mineral resources would be available, thus supporting the wood products and minerals industries. The change in recreation setting could be disruptive to those publics using the area for primitive or semi-primitive recreation as well as publics viewing the area.

3. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Roadless Recreation

This management emphasis is found in Alternatives 5, 7, 11, and 12. These alternatives differ slightly. Alternative 7 designated 6,000 more acres as roadless recreation than did Alternatives 5, 11, and 12.

About 18,000 acres of suitable timberland would not be available. Minerals, oil, and gas would continue to be available.

The non-priced benefits or costs would be:

-- A large majority of the area will remain unroaded until at least the next scheduled wilderness review.

-- Visual quality will be preserved at a high level.

-- Water quality and fisheries habitat will be only slightly affected.

-- Most wildlife species will be favorably or neutrally impacted. Species requiring disturbance may be adversely impacted, depending on the degree and timing of natural disturbances.

-- Opportunities for solitude will remain.

-- Quality fishing and hunting opportunities will be preserved.

-- Diversity will tend towards old growth.

-- Natural ecosystems will be retained.

-- The experience level on the National Recreation Trail will be essentially maintained at the current level.

-- Elk security area will be maintained.

Social and economic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. Timber and mineral resources would be available, thus supporting the wood products and minerals industries. The change in recreation setting could be disruptive to those publics using the area for primitive or semi-primitive recreation as well as publics viewing the area.

4. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Minimum Level

All alterantives except Alternatives 3, 9, and 10 designate from 1,800-4,100 acres to this management emphasis. This management emphasis is found in scattered small areas throughout the area; therefore, the impacts are similar to the Timber/Wildlife management emphasis.

TEPEE CREEK ROADLESS AREA (01133)

I. DESCRIPTION

Size	Gross Acres	Net Acres
Idaho - Idaho Panhandle NF	5,294	5,100

This roadless area is located 35 air miles northeast of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. It is within Shoshone County and on the Wallace Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The area is accessible from a maintained gravel road; Trail 407 provides access to the center of the area. It is within two hours drive from Coeur d'Alene.

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game has established special fishing regulations for the upper Coeur d'Alene River drainage to promote quality fishing.

The Tepee Creek area is of mountainous terrain; elevations range from 2,850 feet on the North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River to 4,970 feet under Spyglass Lookout. Exposed in this area are metasediments of the Striped Peak and Libby formations (Belt Supergroup). Faults in the area are generally north-south trending and are more abundant in the western part of the area. The area consists of four smaller entire drainages which form the northeast half of a ridge. The topography is moderately steep--typical of the surrounding area.

Large wildfires burned over most of the area in 1910 and 1926. Currently, second-growth coniferous vegetation dominates the area.

The area supports big game populations of elk, mule deer, whitetail deer, black bear, and an occasional moose and cougar. The area does not provide habitat for any threatened or endangered species.

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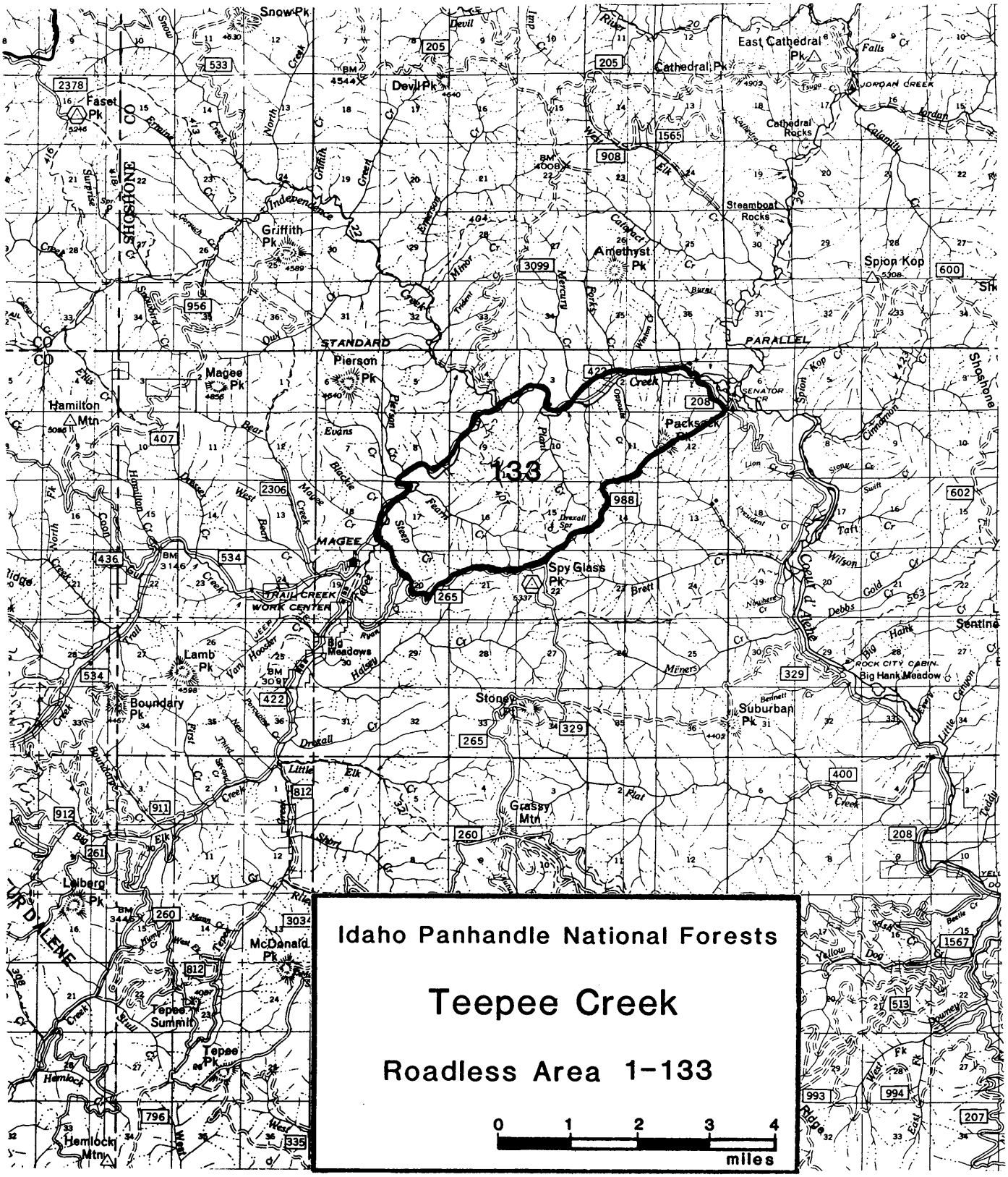

Idaho Panhandle National Forests
Teepee Creek
Roadless Area 1-133
0 1 2 3 4
miles
133
Snow Pk
Devil Pk
East Cathedral Pk
Cathedral Pk
Cathedral Rocks
Steamboat Rocks
Amethyst Pk
Griffith Pk
Spion Kop
Faset Pk
Pierson Pk
Magee Pk
Hamilton Mtn
Packsack Pk
Spy Glass Pk
Lamb Pk
Big Meadows
Boundary Pk
Stoney
Suburban Pk
Grassy Mtn
Leiberg Pk
McDonald Pk
Tepee Summit
Tepee Pk
Hemlock Mtn
MAGEE
TRAIL CREEK WORK CENTER
STANDARD
PARALLEL
SHOSHONE CO
CO
Big Hank Meadow
ROCK CITY CABIN
Senator Cr
Coeur d' Alene
Shoshone
Jordan Creek
Calamity
Independence
Griffith Creek
Mercury
Rocks
Burst
Lion Cr
Stony Cr
Swift
Taft Cr
Wilson Cr
Gold Cr
Debbs
Hank
Big Hank
Little Canyon
Brett
Drexall
Miners
Nowhere
Little Elk
Big Elk
Elk
Flat
Slate
Yellow Dog
Downey
Beetle Cr
West Fk
East Fk
Ridge
Hemlock
Trail
Van Hooker
Jeep
Haley
Ryan
Fourth
Steep
Blackie
Mouse Creek
Evans
Bear
Dorset
West Fork
Hamilton
Cool
North Fk
Ellis
Surprise
Snowbird
Cornell
Owl
Minor
Trident
Emerson
Orphan
Plant
Pierson
Snow
Devil
Riley
Falls
Jordan
Calamity
Cinnamon
Spion Kop
Sentinel
Boundary
Third
Second
New
Pennsylvania
Dry
Little Canyon
Beetle
Yellow Dog
Downey
Hemlock
Strull
Mann
Hump
West Fk
Fork
Bear

II. CAPABILITY

A. Wilderness Characteristics

1. Natural Integrity. Impact from human activity in the area is very low. A single trail, Trail 407, climbs through the center of the area from Tepee Creek to Spyglass Mountain. Evidence of the 1910 and 1926 fires occurs throughout the area in the form of charred stumps, snags, and young age class timber.

2. Natural Appearance. With the exception of the trail, the entire area appears natural.

3. Solitude. The area offers moderate opportunities for solitude because of its relatively small size and some off-site intrusions.

4. Primitive Recreation Opportunities. Dense vegetative screening and some topographic screening offer the only barriers to off-site intrusions, which would allow a moderate primitive recreation experience to users.

B. Wilderness Manageability and Boundaries. The area is small. Boundaries are well defined on major ridges or existing system roads. No boundary modifications have occurred since RARE II.

Table 1

Selected Resource Values

Category	Unit	01133
Gross Acres	Acres	5,294
Net Acres	Acres	5,100
Range		
Existing Obligated		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Existing Vacant		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Proposed		
Suitable	Acres	0
AUMs	No.	0
Timber		
Tentative		
Suitable	Acres	5,064
Standing Volume	MMBF	58
Minerals Potential		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	0
Low	Acres	5,100
Mining Claims	No.	0
Oil and Gas Potential*		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	0
Low	Acres	5,100
Oil and Gas Leases		
Leases	No.	0
Leased Area	Acres	0
Corridors		
Existing and Potential	No.	0
Wildlife-Threatened and Endangered-Habitat		
Grizzly Bear		
Situation 1	Acres	0
Situation 2	Acres	0
Situation 3	Acres	0
Bald Eagle	Acres	0
Mountain Caribou	Acres	0
Gray Wolf	Acres	0
Wildlife-Big Game		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Elk		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	448
Specific-Deer		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Significant Fisheries		
Stream Miles	Miles	1
Stream Habitat	Acres	1
Lakes	No.	0
Lake Habitat	Acres	0
Water Developments		
Existing	No.	0
Recreation		
Primitive	RVDs	0
Semiprimitive		
Nonmotorized	RVDs	300
Motorized	RVDs	50
Roaded Natural	RVDs	200

*Rating also includes uranium, geothermal, and other energy resources.

A. Resource Values

1. Recreation. Current recreation use in the area includes hiking, horseback riding, and hunting. No developed recreation facilities are planned.

2. Wildlife. Wildlife inhabitants include elk, mule deer, whitetail deer, black bear, and an occasional moose and cougar.

3. Timber. Timber values foregone under wilderness management would be relatively large because the entire area is essentially suitable, with a preponderance of high-site land. Timber values present consist of 60- to 70-year age classes.

4. Minerals. Hardrock mineral potential is low because it is underlain by members of the Belt Supergroup which are not generally known to contain economic deposits. Just outside this area to the southeast is the Rock City Mine, which has had production but is presently inactive. There are presently no mining claims in the area.

All of the subject land is under oil and gas lease application, but the potential for the occurrence of oil and gas is low due to the lack of information.

5. Range. The area is not suited for cattle grazing due to the steepness of the terrain.

B. Other Management Considerations

1. Fire. The area has low fire occurrence.

IV. NEED

A. Contribution to National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS). This area can contribute quality elk hunting and examples of high-site forests.

B. Public Interest and Concerns. The area has low regional interest and moderate local interest. The RARE II environmental impact statement recommended the entire area for non-wilderness uses.

C. Proximity to Designated Wilderness and to Population Centers. Table 3, Parts A and B, displays wilderness opportunities and proximity to roadless areas on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The closest wilderness area is the Cabinet Wilderness in western Montana, approximately 100 miles to the northeast. There is access to 1.6 million acres of wilderness located within 200 miles of Coeur d'Alene, as well as an additional 5.8 million acres within 300 miles (northern Idaho, eastern Washington and Oregon, and western Montana).

V. ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

A. Management Emphasis Assignment by Alternatives. Management emphasis indicates which resource activity is highlighted. If the emphasis is timber, most of the activity on those acres would be for timber management. Resource activities which are compatible with the emphasis would continue, but with less intensity. Table 2 lists the acres of each management emphasis by alternative.

Table 2

Tepee Creek Roadless Area (01133)
Management Emphasis by Alternative

Management Emphasis	Alternatives[1/] (Thousand Acres) 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Wilderness	0	0	5.1	0	0	5.1	0	0	5.1	5.1	0	0
Non-wilderness												
No Tbr. Harvest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.2	0	0	0	0	0
Timber/Wildlife	4.5	4.8	0	5.0	4.7	0	3.0	5.0	0	0	4.1	5.0
Wildlife/Visual	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0	0
Special Areas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minimum Level	0.6	0.3	0	0.1	0.4	0	1.8	0.1	0	0	1.0	0.1
Total	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1
Summary of Management Emphasis:												
Developed												
Decade 1	1.5	5.1	0	5.1	2.2	0	0.4	4.3	0	0	2.5	2.4
Decade 5	5.1	5.1	0	5.1	5.1	0	5.1	5.1	0	0	4.0	5.1
Roadless[2/]												
Decade 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Decade 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wilderness	0	0	5.1	0	0	5.1	0	0	5.1	5.1	0	0

1/ Alternative clarification -
1 - Regional Goals
2 - High Market
3 - High Nonmarket
4 - High Timber, Fish
5 - Moderate All Resources
6 - High Timber, Wildlife
7 - High Nonmarket, Stable Timber
8 - Current Program
9 - High Recreation
10 - High Wildlife, Moderate Timber
11 - Preferred Alternative
12 - Preferred w/Departure

2/ Roadless is defined as 5,000 acres or greater in size or any acreage if contiguous to existing wilderness.

B. Impacts

1. Designation: Wilderness

Management Emphasis: Wilderness

This area is designated as wilderness in Alternatives 3, 6, 9, and 10. This designation would enhance the wilderness attributes of the area since there are existing uses on the area not usually associated with wilderness. The use of motorized vehicles in the area would be prohibited. Most of the area is classed as tentatively suitable for wood fiber production, with an estimated 58 MMBF of standing timber. This volume would not be available under wilderness designation. Minerals, oil, and gas would not be available.

The non-priced benefits or costs would be:

-- The National Wilderness System area would increase.

-- Natural ecosystem would be protected.

-- Visual quality would be retained.

-- Water quality would be retained.

-- Water quality and fisheries would remain at their present high level, contributing to the Idaho Fish and Game Department's goal of a high quality fishery for the Coeur d'Alene River.

-- Security for big game and elk winter range would be retained.

-- Diversity would tend toward old growth.

-- Opportunity for semi-primitive recreation would remain the same.

-- Most wildlife species would be favorably or neutrally impacted. Species requiring disturbance may be adversely impacted, depending on the degree and timing of natural disturbance.

Social and economic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. Since wilderness precludes timber harvest and mineral development, the related industries would not be supported by this emphasis. From a social aspect, the publics valuing wilderness would be supported as well as those people who desire to view the area in its unaltered state.

2. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: No Timber Harvest

Under this management emphasis 200 acres, or 4 percent of the area, in Alternative 7 would be managed for roadless recreation.

Under this emphasis 4 percent of the area would be managed to allow for high levels of recreation opportunities and fish and wildlife. Impact on the wilderness resource would be minimal. The roadless character would remain essentially the same.

Impact on market resources would be minimal due to small acreage.

Non-priced benefits or costs would be:

-- The wilderness option will be foregone on this 200 acres.

-- Visual quality, water quality and fisheries, and big game security will be minimally affected.

Social and economic effects of this management emphasis are negligable due to the small area affected.

3. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Timber/Wildlife

Under this management emphasis from 80 to 98 percent of the area would be managed under Alternatives 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 11, and 12 for timber, range, and wildlife outputs while protecting fish and water values. Emphasis under Alternative 7 is for 59 percent of the area to be managed for high levels of recreation opportunities with maintenance of fish and wildlife habitat and a stable timber supply.

Under this emphasis the roadless character would be foregone.

Impact on market resources would be significant for all alternatives, with the majority of the 5,100 acres being managed for yield of timber products in Alternatives 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 11, and 12; or high recreation outputs in Alternative 7. Mineral exploration and extraction would be benefitted by road construction.

The non-priced benefits or costs would be:

-- The wilderness option will be foregone prior to the next required wilderness review.

-- Visual quality will decline.

-- Water quality and fisheries will decline, but not significantly.

-- Security for big game animals will decline; road closures will mitigate this adverse impact.

-- Diversity would tend toward younger, even-aged stands on areas where harvests take place.

-- Semi-primitive recreational opportunities would be foregone.

-- Opportunities for solitude would decline.

-- Opportunities for high quality fisheries and hunting will be compromised.

-- Indicator species adversely impacted are cutthroat trout and pileated woodpecker.

This emphasis has positive economic benefits in allowing marketable outputs of timber, wildlife, and recreation. The change in recreation setting from unroaded to developed will be disruptive to those publics using the area for primitive forms of recreation, and views of the area from the road in Tepee Creek will change from pristine to developed.

4. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Wildlife/Visual

This emphasis indicates 100 acres, or 2 percent of the area, will have high wildlife output in Alternative 7.

Its effect on wilderness, market resources, non-priced items, and socioeconomic impact is negligible.

5. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Minimum Level

This management emphasis affects from 100 acres (2 percent) to 1,800 acres (35 percent) of the area for all alternatives. These minimum level acres are scattered throughout Tepee Creek, with the majority located along the steeper slopes above Tepee Creek.

Entry into these areas is permissible and probable in accessing adjacent Timber/Wildlife management emphasis acres; therefore, the consequences would be similar to those already stated for the Timber/Wildlife management emphasis effects.

SKITWISH RIDGE ROADLESS AREA (01135)

I. DESCRIPTION

Size	Gross Acres	Net Acres
Idaho - Idaho Panhandle NF	6,330	6,330

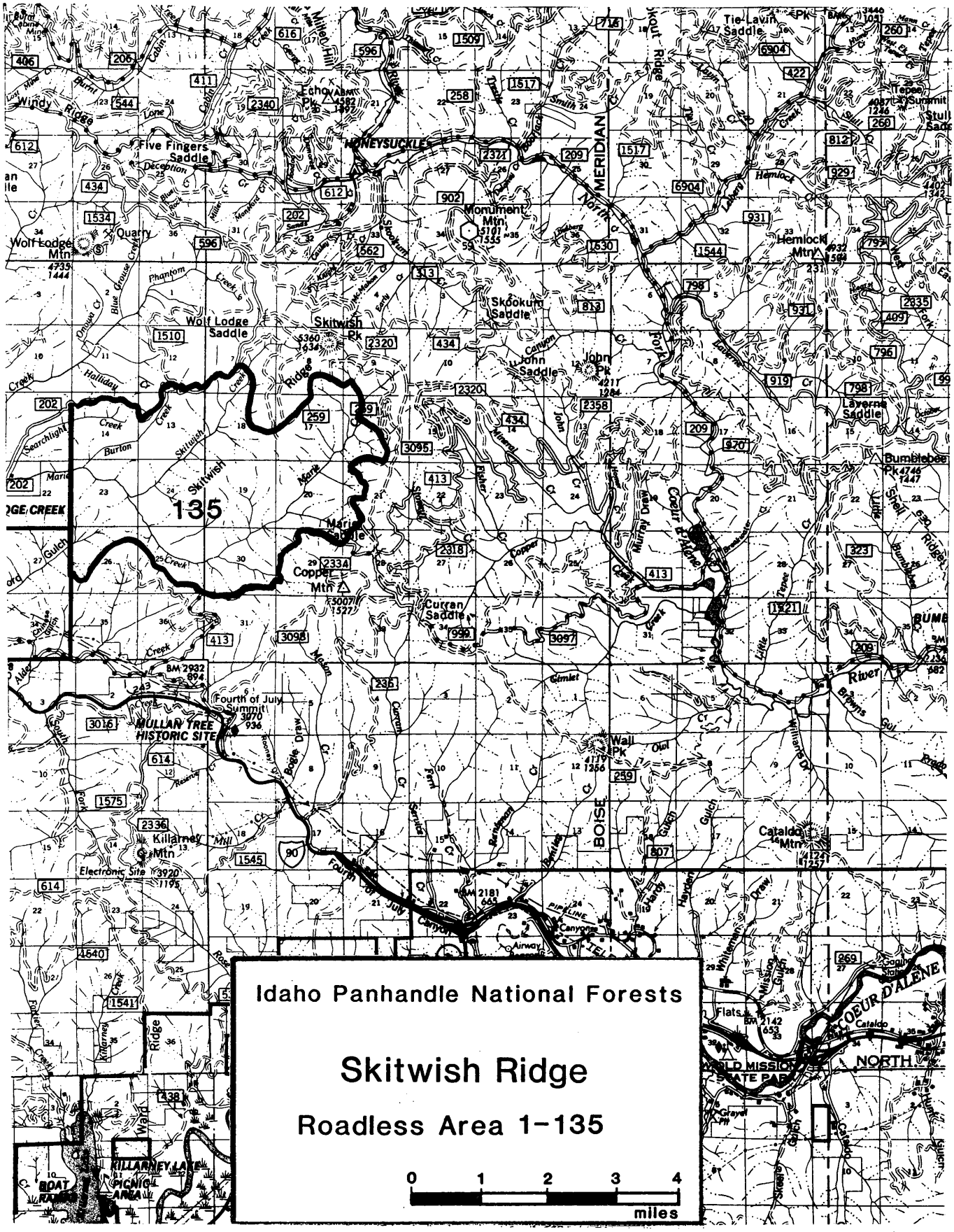
The Skitwish Ridge area is located 12 air miles east of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. It is within Kootenai County and on the Fernan Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. The area consists of mountainous terrain with elevations ranging from 2,400 feet at the mouth of Marie Creek to 4,800 feet on Skitwish Ridge. This area's bedrock exposures consist mostly of Prichard and Burke formations, with minor outcrops of the Revett. These argillites and quartzites are metasediments of the Precambrian Belt rocks. The area has numerous northwest-trending faults which are the loci for mineralizations in the Coeur d'Alene Mining District.

Large wildfires burned over most of the area in approximately 1880. Currently, second-growth coniferous vegetation dominates the area.

A non-system Forest Service trail enters the area at the mouth of Marie Creek, follows the creek upstream past Skitwish Creek, and up Skitwish Ridge, where it exits the area. A second non-system trail used and maintained by a grazing permittee enters the area from Rutherford Gulch and drops into Marie Creek in Section 23.

The area supports big game populations of elk, mule deer, whitetail deer, black bear, and an occasional moose and cougar. Marie Creek supports a resident cutthroat fishery and has been identified as the major spawning stream for cutthroat trout from the northern part of Lake Coeur d'Alene. The area does not provide habitat for any threatened or endangered species.

R. 2 W. R. 1 W. R. 1 E.


Idaho Panhandle National Forests
Skitwish Ridge
Roadless Area 1-135
0 1 2 3 4
miles
135
HONEYSUCKLE
BOISE MERIDIAN
MULLAN TREE HISTORIC SITE
Five Fingers Saddle
Wolf Lodge Mtn
Wolf Lodge Saddle
Skitwish Pk
Skookum Saddle
John Saddle
John Pk
Monument Mtn
Hemlock Mtn
Tie-Lavin Saddle
Layerne Saddle
Bumblebee Pk
Copper Mtn
Curran Saddle
Fourth of July Summit
Wall Pk
Cataldo Mtn
Killarney Mtn
Tepee Summit
COEUR D'ALENE
NORTH

II. CAPABILITY

A. Wilderness Characteristics

1. Natural Integrity. Impact from human activity within the area is moderate, consisting of two trails, unpatented mining claims with some recent surface disturbing work, and an active grazing allotment. Evidence of the old burn is apparent only to the trained eye.

2. Natural Appearance. The impact of cattle grazing along Marie Creek and adjacent open hillsides would be readily seen by the untrained eye. The two trails and recent mineral development work would also be apparent. Other more inaccessible portions of the unit appear natural.

Boundary changes would not delete incompatible activities or improve manageability.

3. Solitude. The area offers moderate opportunities for solitude because of its relative small size and some off-site intrusions.

4. Primitive Recreation Opportunities. The area offers moderate opportunities for a primitive recreation experience. It has good topographic screening and vegetation is dense. It has little diversity which would offer a variety of primitive recreation experience or challenge.

5. Other Features. The area provides important spawning habitat for trout from Lake Coeur d'Alene.

B. Wilderness Manageability and Boundaries. The area is small and boundaries are not well defined on ridgetops or other major topographic features because of man's activities surrounding the area.

The RARE II boundary remains unchanged.

III. WILDERNESS AVAILABILITY

Table 1

Selected Resource Values

Category	Unit	01135
Gross Acres	Acres	6,330
Net Acres	Acres	6,330
Range		
Existing Obligated		
Suitable	Acres	6,330
Allotments	No.	1
AUMs	No.	185
Existing Vacant		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Proposed		
Suitable	Acres	0
AUMs	No.	0
Timber		
Tentative		
Suitable	Acres	6,187
Standing Volume	MMBF	60
Minerals Potential		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	6,330
Low	Acres	0
Mining Claims	No.	0
Oil and Gas Potential*		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	0
Low	Acres	6,330
Oil and Gas Leases		
Leases	No.	0
Leased Area	Acres	0
Corridors		
Existing and Potential	No.	0
Wildlife-Threatened and Endangered-Habitat		
Grizzly Bear		
Situation 1	Acres	0
Situation 2	Acres	0
Situation 3	Acres	0
Bald Eagle	Acres	0
Mountain Caribou	Acres	0
Gray Wolf	Acres	0
Wildlife-Big Game		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Elk		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	2,022
Specific-Deer		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Significant Fisheries		
Stream Miles	Miles	10
Stream Habitat	Acres	15
Lakes	No.	0
Lake Habitat	Acres	0
Water Developments		
Existing	No.	0
Recreation		
Primitive	RVDs	0
Semiprimitive		
Nonmotorized	RVDs	500
Motorized	RVDs	0
Roaded Natural	RVDs	200

*Rating also includes uranium, geothermal, and other energy resources.

A. Resource Values

1. Recreation. Current use consists of biking, motorbiking, hunting, and fishing. No developed recreation facilities are planned.

2. Wildlife. The area supports big game populations of elk, mule deer, whitetail deer, black bear, and an occasional moose and cougar. Marie Creek supports a resident cutthroat fishery and has been identified as the major spawning stream for cutthroat trout from the northern part of Lake Coeur d'Alene.

3. Timber. Timber values consist of mature, second-growth conifers.

4. Minerals. Hardrock mineral potential is moderate, with several old prospects near the area. The Revett outcrops may have some potential for stratabound gold and silver. Oil and gas potential is low due to lack of information; however, lease applications are currently on file for the west half of the area.

5. Range. The area contains an active grazing allotment.

B. Other Management Considerations

1. Fire. The area has a history of low fire occurrence.

IV. NEED

A. Contribution to National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS). This area can contribute a roadless recreation setting very close to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. It also provides important habitat to support Lake Coeur d'Alene.

B. Public Interest and Concerns. The area has low regional interest and moderate local interest. The RARE II environmental impact statement recommended the entire area for non-wilderness.

3. Proximity to Designated Wilderness and to Population Centers. Table 3, Parts A and B, displays wilderness opportunities and proximity to roadless areas on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The closest wilderness area is the Cabinet Wilderness in western Montana, approximately 100 miles to the northeast. There is access to 1.6 million acres of wilderness located within 200 miles of Coeur d'Alene, as well as an additional 5.8 million acres within 300 miles (northern Idaho, eastern Washington and Oregon, and western Montana).

V. ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

A. Management Emphasis Assignment by Alternatives. Management emphasis indicates which resource activity is highlighted. If the emphasis is timber, most of the activity on those acres would be for timber management. Resource activities which are compatible with the emphasis would continue, but with less intensity. Table 2 lists the acres of each management emphasis by alternative.

Table 2

Skitwish Ridge Roadless Area (01135)
Management Emphasis by Alternative

Management Emphasis	Alternatives[1/] (Thousand Acres) 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Wilderness	0	0	6.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non-wilderness												
No Tbr. Harvest	0	0	0	0	0	0	4.1	0	4.1	0	0	0
Timber/Wildlife	5.8	5.8	0	6.0	6.0	5.7	1.3	4.7	1.3	5.6	5.3	5.8
Wildlife/Visual	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Special Areas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minimum Level	0.5	0.5	0	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.9	1.6	0.9	0.7	0.9	0.5
Total	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3.	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3
Summary of Management Emphasis:												
Developed												
Decade 1	2.0	0.6	0	0.6	1.8	0	1.2	0.3	0.9	0.8	2.0	4.8
Decade 5	6.3	6.3	0	6.3	6.3	0	2.8	6.3	3.0	6.3	4.0	6.6
Roadless[2/]												
Decade 1	0	5.7	0	5.7	5.9	0	5.1	6.0	5.4	5.5	0	0
Decade 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wilderness	0	0	6.3	0	0	6.3	0	0	0	0	0	0

1/ Alternative clarification -

1 - Regional Goals
2 - High Market
3 - High Nonmarket
4 - High Timber, Fish
5 - Moderate All Resources
6 - High Timber, Wildlife
7 - High Nonmarket, Stable Timber
8 - Current Program
9 - High Recreation
10 - High Wildlife, Moderate Timber
11 - Preferred Alternative
12 - Preferred w/Departure

2/ Roadless is defined as 5,000 acres or greater in size or any acreage if contiguous to existing wilderness.

B. Impacts

1. Designation: Wilderness

Management Emphasis: Wilderness

This area is designated as wilderness only in Alternative 3. This designation would preserve and enhance the wilderness attributes by restricting the use of motorized vehicles within the area. The existing range allotment, which covers the entire area, could eventually be terminated. This would enhance the attributes by removing evidence of the animals' use of the area. The approximately 60 MMBF of timber would not be available for production. The spawning stream for cutthroat would benefit when the competition of livestock is eventually removed.

The non-priced benefits or costs would be:

-- The National Wilderness System area would increase.

-- Natural ecosystem would be protected.

-- Water quality, scenic views, and primitive recreation opportunities would remain unchanged and fisheries would eventually increase.

-- Security for big game would be retained.

-- Diversity would tend toward old growth.

-- Opportunities for solitude would be retained.

-- Minerals, oil, and gas may not be available if entry is restricted or exploratory activities are prohibited.

Social and economic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. Since wilderness precludes timber harvest and mineral development, the related industries would not be supported by this emphasis. From a social aspect, the publics valuing wilderness would be supported as well as those people who desire to view the area in its unaltered state.

2. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: No Timber Harvest

Under this management emphasis 65 percent of the area under Alternatives 7 and 9 would be designated for semi-primitive recreation opportunities. There would be no change under this emphasis to the existing roadless state for 4,100 acres under both alternatives.

The negative impact on market resources would be minimal due to the small size of unentered ground. The Searchlight/Alder/Marie grazing allotment would continue.

The non-priced benefits or costs would be:

-- The natural ecosystem would be protected.

-- Security for big game would be retained.

-- Diversity would tend toward old growth.

-- Semi-primitive recreation opportunities would be available.

-- Water quality and fisheries would be protected.

-- Visual lquality would be retained.

-- Grazing would continue.

The social and economic impacts under this management emphasis are minimal due to the small size of the affected area. The economic contribution to the wood fiber industry would be lost from 4,100 acres. No roads would be constructed which could benefit mineral exploration. The Searchlight/Alder/Marie grazing allotment would continue. The fact that there will be no change in the existing recreation setting on these acres will positively affect those publics seeking a more primitive recreation opportunity.

3. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Timber/Wildlife

Under this emphasis, from 75 to 95 percent of the acres under Alternatives 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, and 12 would be managed for production of timber, range, and wildlife outputs. Under Alternatives 7 and 9, 21 percent of the acres would be managed for timber/wildlife outputs.

This management emphasis would eliminate the roadless character and wilderness value under Alternatives 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, and 12. The emphasis under Alternatives 7 and 9 would leave approximately 5,000 acres in a roadless state.

The impact of this emphasis on market resources would maximize timber growth and production of wood fiber. Mineral exploration would be benefitted from road construction, and forage within the Searchlight/Alder/Marie allotment would increase under Alternatives 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, and 12. Under Alternatives 7 and 9, only 1,300 acres would be developed and contribute market resource outputs.

The non-priced benefits or costs would be:

-- The wilderness values would be foregone.

-- Visual quality would be adversely affected by road construction.

-- Water quality and fisheries will decline.

-- Diversity would tend toward even-aged, younger stands.

-- Semi-primitive recreation opportunities would be foregone.

-- Opportunity for solitude would decline.

-- Security for big game animals would be compromised.

The social and economic impacts of this emphasis for Alternatives 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, and 12 support the wood products, mineral, and grazing industries. The change in recreation setting would be disruptive to those publics using the area for primitive-type recreation experiences. The positive and negative impacts under Alternatives 7 and 9 would be reduced by 50 percent.

4. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Minimum Level

From 50 to 25 percent of the area under this emphasis is designated under all alternatives for a minimum level of management.

These 500 to 1,600 acres are located primarily along the steep sideslopes of Marie Creek and high elevation alpine habitat type along Skitwish Ridge.

Since these acres represent a small percentage of the whole and are spread from the bottom to the top of the area, the impact of this emphasis would be the same as the Timber/Wildlife emphasis due to the crossing of these areas by roads.

SPION KOP ROADLESS AREA (01136)

I. DESCRIPTION

Size	Gross Acres	Net Acres
Idaho - Idaho Panhandle NF	23,234	23,234

The Spion Kop Roadless Area is located about 22 miles north of Kellogg, Idaho, encompassing the Shoshone Range from Little Guard to Spion Kop. It is within Shoshone County on the Wallace Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The area is accessible by road from every side.

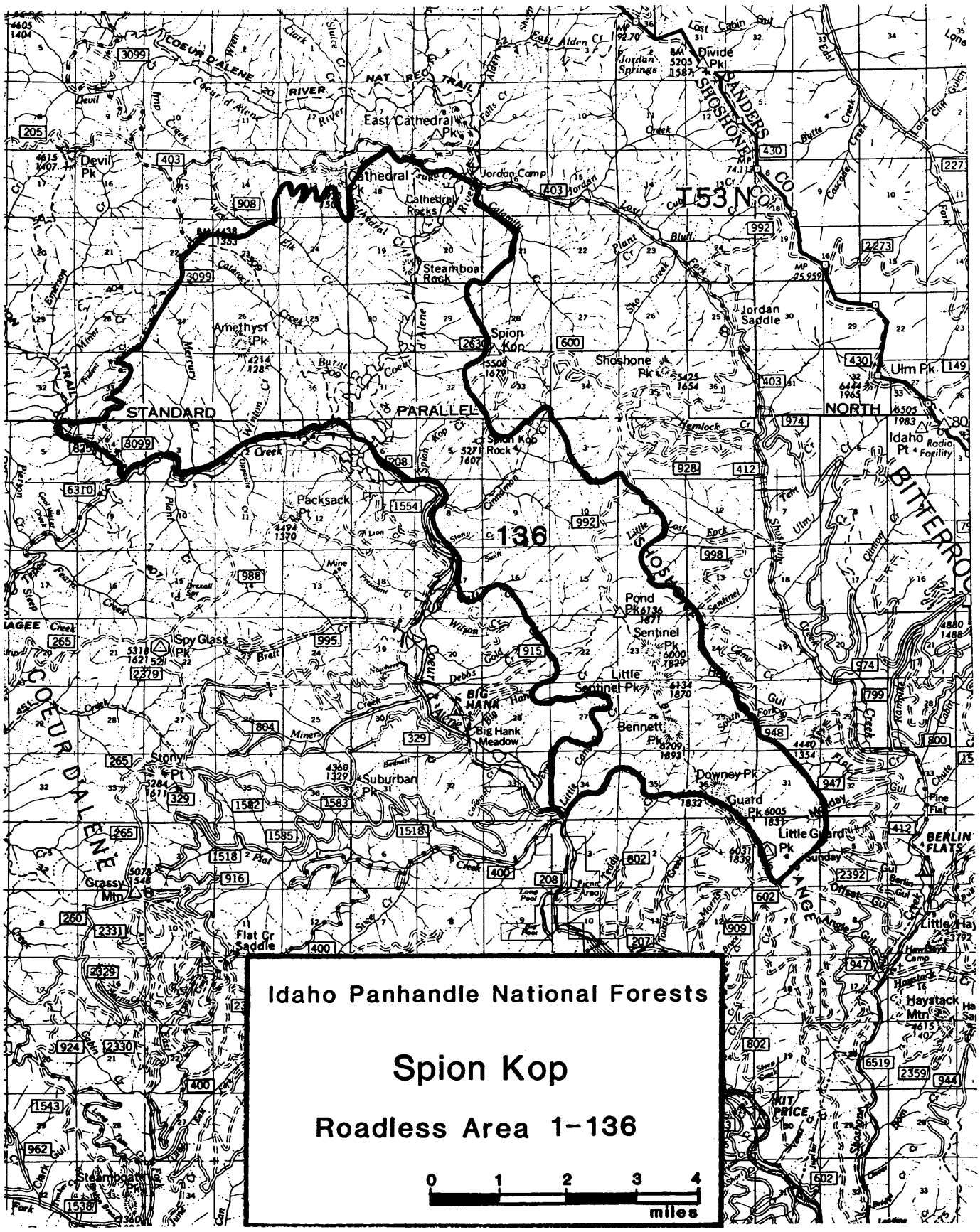
The highest elevation in the area is 6,210 feet at Bennett Peak and the lowest is 2,700 feet near the mouth of Little Canyon Creek. Other major peaks include Guard, Pond, Sentinel, and Amethyst. Major drainages include the Coeur d'Alene River, Cinnamon Creek, Calamity Creek, and Cataract Creek. The area is underlain by metasediments of the Belt Supergroup. The Wallace and Striped Peak Formations are the prevalent units, with only minor amounts of the Libby Formation. Two major northwest-trending faults have been mapped in the area.

About 85 percent of the area burned in 1935. As a result, the vegetation on the area includes about 15 percent mature western white pine and grand fir, 40 percent brushfields, and several thousand acres of western white pine plantations created by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) between 1936 and 1940. There are some old-growth mountain hemlock stands on the east side of the Shoshone Range in the south end of the roadless area. The remaining area consists of natural, pole-size stands.

The unit is heavily used for hunting elk, deer, and bear. Other forms of recreation include hiking, backpacking, and primitive camping along the Coeur d'Alene River National Recreation Trail, which runs through the Spion Kop Roadless Area from Jordan Creek to the main river road. Another trail that is heavily used by hunters and backpackers is the Shoshone Ridge Trail from Pond Peak to Little Guard Peak. Rafting, canoeing, and fishing are also popular sports on the Coeur d'Alene River. The area receives an estimated 4,500 recreation visitor days use annually.

Wildlife found in the area includes elk, whitetail deer, mule deer, black bear, moose, cougar, coyote, bobcat, pine marten, pileated woodpecker, and other small animals. The Coeur d'Alene River is rated as a low access, high quality sport fishing stream for westslope cutthroat and rainbow trout for its entire length within this roadless area. The State has special regulations to preserve and promote this quality fishing. Cinnamon, Jordan, West Elk, and Cataract Creeks are rated as important spawning and rearing streams for westslope cutthroat and rainbow trout.

R. 2 E. R. 3 E. R. 34 W.


Idaho Panhandle National Forests
Spion Kop
Roadless Area 1-136
0 1 2 3 4
miles
136
T53N
STANDARD
PARALLEL
NORTH
BITTERROOT
COEUR D'ALENE
SHOSHONE
SANDERS CO
NAT REC TRAIL
Divide Pk
East Cathedral Pk
Cathedral Pk
Cathedral Rocks
Jordan Camp
Steamboat Rock
Jordan Saddle
Spion Kop
Shoshone Pk
Ulm Pk
Idaho Pt
Amethyst Pk
Packsack Pt
Spy Glass Pk
Pond Pk
Sentinel Pk
Little Sentinel Pk
Bennett Pk
Big Hank Meadow
Downey Pk
Guard Pk
Little Guard Pk
Stony Pt
Suburban Pk
Grassy Mtn
Flat Cr Saddle
Steamboat Pk
Haystack Mtn
BERLIN FLATS
KIT PRICE

II. CAPABILITY

A. Wilderness Characteristics

1. Natural Integrity. The Spion Kop Roadless Area has, with minor exceptions, retained qualities formed by nature without human disruption. Intrusions into the unit include roads to Steamboat Rocks, Spion Kop, Spion Kop Rock, and Pond Peak. There is an active lookout tower at Little Guard Peak.

2. Natural Appearance. The landscape within the roadless area is natural appearing; however, views from higher elevations such as from Shoshone Range are subject to ordinary human activities and development.

3. Solitude. Feelings of solitude for individuals are induced under a wide array of stimulii and vary greatly among persons of different backgrounds. Given the size of the area and its location, opportunities for solitude for a significant number of visitors is hampered by the ruggedness of terrain which tends to concentrate use on a few trails.

4. Primitive Recreation Opportunities. Recreation opportunities would continue to include hiking; backpacking; primitive camping; big game hunting, either on day trips or extended trips; and, occasionally, rock climbing. The trails are the only man-made recreational developments in the area.

5. Other Features. Portions of the Spion Kop area are within the Coeur d'Alene River Scenic Corridor.

Little Guard Lookout is one of the earliest on the Wallace District, originally constructed in 1919, with subsequent constructions taking place in the late 1920s and again in the early 1930s. This is the only continually manned lookout on the District.

A historic Forest Service administrative trail was established along the Shoshone Range during the late 1920s and 1930s to service a lookout network consisting of Little Guard Lookout, Downey Peak Patrol Point, Pond Peak Lookout, and Spion Kop Rock Lookout Point. Remnants of this network are still present, with the section of Shoshone Range Trail between Pond Peak and Little Guard still being used for recreation.

A possible prehistoric stone monument exists on Spion Kop Rock. This consists of a vertical shale slab set upright in a crevice. This type of monument was used in hunting rituals by Indians of the region; however, the authenticity of this monument has not yet been documented.

Some sources have suggested that much of the area is potentially suitable habitat for grizzly bear.

B. Wilderness Manageability and Boundaries. The entire roadless area is composed of National Forest land. The northern boundary of this roadless area follows Jordan Creek and the southern boundary follows Tepee Creek, but the remaining boundary follows less noticeable landforms and even cuts across drainages. This could make on-the-ground boundaries difficult to locate.

The Spion Kop area is contiguous with the 22,000-acre Cathedral Peak Roadless Area and the 15,000-acre Tepee Creek Roadless Area.

This area does not pose any substantial limitations in regard to management for wilderness, should it be so designated.

Boundary changes have deleted 6,000 acres from the RARE II inventoried area.

III. WILDERNESS AVAILABILITY

Table 1

Selected Resource Values

Category	Unit	01136
Gross Acres	Acres	23,234
Net Acres	Acres	23,234
Range		
Existing Obligated		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Existing Vacant		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Proposed		
Suitable	Acres	0
AUMs	No.	0
Timber		
Tentative		
Suitable	Acres	20,763
Standing Volume	MMBF	274
Minerals Potential		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	0
Low	Acres	23,234
Mining Claims	No.	0
Oil and Gas Potential*		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	0
Low	Acres	23,234
Oil and Gas Leases		
Leases	No.	0
Leased Area	Acres	0
Corridors		
Existing and Potential	No.	0
Wildlife-Threatened and Endangered-Habitat		
Grizzly Bear		
Situation 1	Acres	0
Situation 2	Acres	0
Situation 3	Acres	0
Bald Eagle	Acres	0
Mountain Caribou	Acres	0
Gray Wolf	Acres	0
Wildlife-Big Game		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Elk		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	7,443
Specific-Deer		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Significant Fisheries		
Stream Miles	Miles	7
Stream Habitat	Acres	17
Lakes	No.	0
Lake Habitat	Acres	0
Water Developments		
Existing	No.	0
Recreation		
Primitive	RVDs	0
Semiprimitive		
Nonmotorized	RVDs	1,500
Motorized	RVDs	500
Roaded Natural	RVDs	2,500

*Rating also includes uranium, geothermal, and other energy resources.

A. Resource Values

1. Recreation. Hiking along the Shoshone Range Trail provides a panoramic view of the surrounding landscape and affords a view of the rugged Cabinet Mountains in Montana.

The Coeur d'Alene River Trail provides excellent views of Steamboat and Cathedral Rocks--massive metasedimentary rock outcrops that rise 300 feet above the river bottom. These are probably the most scenic rock formations found on the Coeur d'Alene National Forest.

2. Wildlife. Wildlife found in the area includes elk, whitetail deer, mule deer, black bear, moose, cougar, coyote, bobcat, pine marten, pileated woodpecker, and other small animals. The Coeur d'Alene River is rated as a low access, high quality sport fishing stream for westslope cutthroat and rainbow trout for its entire length within this roadless area. The State has special regulations to preserve and promote this quality fishing. Cinnamon, Jordan, West Elk, and Cataract Creeks are rated as important spawning and rearing streams for westslope cutthroat and rainbow trout.

3. Timber. Future development of the timber resource would involve the management of 21,000 acres within the area.

4. Minerals. The Spion Kop area is currently under application for an oil and gas lease. Mineral potential for oil and gas in this area is unknown.

There are presently no mining claims in this area nor are there any old prospects. However, the Wallace Formation has numerous prospects 5 miles to the southeast in the Coeur d'Alene Mining District. Potential at this time has been rated low.

5. Range. The area is not suitable for cattle grazing due to the steepness of the terrain.

B. Other Management Considerations

5. Fire. Although large fires have occurred in the area, the number of fires occurring annually is low.

IV. NEED

A. Contribution to National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS). The Spion Kop area could provide a wilderness area near the Coeur d'Alene population area. It would also provide quality hunting and fishing, and scenic views from the National Recreational Trail.

B. Public Interest and Concerns. Public responses during RARE II Public responses during RARE II indicated that among respondents, more than 76 percent favored inclusion in the Wilderness System and less than 22 percent favored a non-wilderness designation.

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game has identified the Spion Kop area as one which provides unique roadless hunting opportunities which should be protected.

C. Proximity to Designated Wilderness and to Population Centers. Table 3, Parts A and B, displays wilderness opportunities and proximity to roadless areas on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The closest wilderness area is the Cabinet Wilderness in western Montana, approximately 100 miles to the northeast. There is access to 1.6 million acres of wilderness located within 200 miles of Coeur d'Alene, as well as an additional 5.8 million acres within 300 miles (northern Idaho, eastern Washington and Oregon, and western Montana).

V. ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

A. Management Emphasis Assignment by Alternatives. Management emphasis indicates which resource activity is highlighted. If the emphasis is timber, most of the activity on those acres would be for timber management. Resource activities which are compatible with the emphasis would continue, but with less intensity. Table 2 lists the acres of each management emphasis by alternative.

Table 2

Spion Kop Roadless Area (01136)
Management Emphasis by Alternative

Management Emphasis	Alternatives[1/] (Thousand Acres) 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Wilderness	0	0	23.2	0	0	23.2	0	0	23.2	23.2	0	0
Non-wilderness												
No Tbr. Harvest	0.8	0.8	0	0.8	6.7	0	6.2	0.8	0	0	4.0	4.2
Timber/Wildlife	17.1	17.5	0	17.8	11.8	0	10.4	17.4	0	0	11.5	11.7
Wildlife/Visual	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Special Areas	0.2	0.2	0	0.2	0.3	0	0.3	0.2	0	0	0.2	0.2
Minimum Level	5.1	4.7	0	4.4	4.4	0	6.3	4.8	0	0	7.5	7.1
Total	23.2	23.2	23.2	23.2	23.2	23.2	23.2	23.2	23.2	23.2	23.2	23.2
Summary of Management Emphasis:												
Developed												
Decade 1	16.8	19.0	0	16.1	8.3	0	10.9	12.4	0	0	4.0	5.5
Decade 5	23.2	23.2	0	23.2	16.2	0	18.1	23.2	0	0	18.0	23.2
Roadless[2/]												
Decade 1	6.4	0	0	7.1	14.9	0	12.3	10.8	0	0	19.2	17.7
Decade 5	0	0	0	0.	7.0	0	5.1	0	0	0	0	0
Wilderness	0	0	23.2	0	0	23.2	0	0	23.2	23.2	0	0

1/ Alternative clarification -

1 - Regional Goals
2 - High Market
3 - High Nonmarket
4 - High Timber, Fish
5 - Moderate All Resources
6 - High Timber, Wildlife
7 - High Nonmarket, Stable Timber
8 - Current Program
9 - High Recreation
10 - High Wildlife, Moderate Timber
11 - Preferred Alternative
12 - Preferred w/Departure

2/ Roadless is defined as 5,000 acres or greater in size or any acreage if contiguous to existing wilderness.

B. Impacts

1. Designation: Wilderness

Management Emphasis: Wilderness

This area is designated as wilderness in Alternatives 3, 6, 9, and 10. This designation would enhance the wilderness attributes of the area. The use of motorized vehicles would be prohibited. The National Recreation Trail and the Coeur d'Alene River Scenic Corridor, both located partly inside this roadless area, would benefit from wilderness designation since they would be preserved in their natural state. Other attributes would also be preserved. The estimated 274 MMBF of timber would not be available for wood fiber production. Quality fishing streams located within the area would continue to be managed as a primary recreation resource.

The non-priced benefits or costs would be:

-- The National Wilderness System area would increase.

-- Natural ecosystem would be protected.

-- Water quality, fisheries, scenic views, and primitive recreation opportunities would remain at their present high level.

-- Security for big game animals, as well as the elk winter game range, would be retained.

-- Diversity would tend toward old growth.

-- An area having a low potential for minerals would not be available if entry is restricted or exploratory activities are prohibited.

Social and economic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. Since wilderness precludes timber harvest and mineral development, the related industries would not be supported by this emphasis. From a social aspect, the publics valuing wilderness would be supported as well as those people who desire to view the area in its unaltered state.

2. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: No Timber Harvest

Alternatives 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, and 12 designate portions of the Spion Kop roadless area for the No Timber Harvest management emphasis.

In Alternatives 1, 2, 4, and 8 approximately 6 percent of the total roadless area is designated for this emphasis. These areas are characterized by small patches of mature white pine and grand fir identified for old-growth retention.

Alternatives 11 and 12 would designate approximately 18 percent for this emphasis. Predominately, this acreage would include the old-growth retention areas previously discussed and additional acreage identified for dispersed recreation, essentially unroaded. This would include the area surrounding the Coeur d'Alene River National Recreation Trail.

Alternatives 5 and 7 would involve a similar designation as in Alternatives 11 and 12, although acreages designated would increase for dispersed recreation and old growth to account for 30 percent of the Spion Kop Roadless Area.

The No Timber Harvest emphasis, when applied to the Spion Kop area, would not forego future wilderness consideration under implementation of Alternatives 1,4, 5, 7, 8, 11, and 12, at the end of the first decade. Wilderness values would be foregone under Alternative 2 prior to the end of the first decade. However, all non-wilderness alternatives could, due to access for timber management, render further reconsideration impractical through loss of natural integrity.

The impact on market resources under this emphasis would be minimal. Under all non-wilderness alternatives less than 30 percent of the standing timber volume would not be available to the market. Much of this volume would otherwise be unavailable due to access limitations. The availability of wood fiber would be most impacted following the first decade. The Spion Kop Area is rated low for mineral potential and would likely not significantly impact the availability of mineral resources.

The non-priced benefits and costs would be:

-- The wilderness values described in Section II and supported by 76 percent of the public could be foregone.

-- Visual quality would be reduced by road construction.

-- Security for big game animals, in the absence of road closures, would decline.

-- Diversity by species and age class would increase.

-- Semi-primitive recreational opportunities could be reduced significantly.

-- Opportunities for solitude would be decreased.

-- Quality of hunting and fishing opportunity would decrease.

-- Water and air quality would be compromised.

Social and economic impacts, under this emphasis for all non-wilderness alternatives, would center on the loss of income for those who make their livelihood from the wood products industry and those that derive the same from the recreation industry. In previous discussion in this section, timber volumes lost to the market under this emphasis were shown to be insignificant. However, the North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River is a very popular recreation area and the perpetuation of the roadless character of an area which comprises a large part of this river's headwaters could have a positive effect on recreation. The magnitude of these positive impacts would be directly proportional to the size of the area left unroaded.

3. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Timber/Wildlife

This management emphasis is found in all non-wilderness alternatives (1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, and 12).

Alternatives 5, 7, 11, and 12 would designate around 50 percent of the Spion Kop area for the Timber/Wildlife emphasis.

Greater than 75 percent of the area would be designated for this emphasis under Alternatives 1, 2, 4, and 8.

Essentially all non-wilderness alternatives would forego any future consideration for the Spion Kop area as wilderness under this emphasis, as most areas left unroaded following the first decade would be discontinuous or bisected by access roads to timber harvest areas. As discussed earlier, the initial public involvement process in conjunction with RARE II identified this area as having the most support on the Wallace Ranger District for inclusion in the Wilderness System (76 percent of respondents favored inclusion). In addition, the value perceived by the State of Idaho for this roadless area as a high quality fisheries would certainly be diminished by this emphasis.

In the short term, the availability of market resources would not be significantly impacted under this emphasis, due to the low volume per acre and the size of timber available within the areas designated for this emphasis. In the long term, however, the area could provide a substantial flow of wood products to the market. Mineral resources would be available for development, although potential is low.

The non-priced benefits and costs would be:

-- The wilderness values described in Section II would be foregone.

-- Visual quality would be adversely affected by road construction.

-- Security for big game animals would decline.

-- Opportunities for solitude would be less.

-- Opportunities for quality fisheries and hunting will be compromised.

-- Water quality will decline.

Social and economic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. Timber and mineral resources would be available, thus supporting the wood products and minerals industries. The change in recreation setting could be disruptive to those publics using the area for primitive or semi-primitive recreation as well as publics viewing the area.

4. Designation: Non-Wilderness

Management Emphasis: Special Areas

All non-wilderness alternatives designated a small portion (200-300 acres) for this management emphasis.

This area is intended for a Research Natural area consisting of an old-growth stand of mountain hemlock. The intent of a Research Natural Area is to allow the area to remain in its natural state for future non-manipulative scientific research.

Due to the size of the area, no significant impacts are foreseen to market resources, non-priced items, or socioeconomic concerns.

5. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Minimum Level

All non-wilderness alternatives have designated between 19 and 32 percent of the Spion Kop Roadless Area to this emphasis.

Areas designated for this management emphasis under the above alternatives are predominately high elevation areas and rock outcrops which are unproductive sites. These areas could be impacted, dependent upon alternative selection, by access needs to other adjacent productive areas. Consequently, impacts would be similar to those described in the Timber/Wildlife discussion previous.

LOST CREEK ROADLESS AREA (01137)

I. DESCRIPTION

Size	Gross Acres	Net Acres
Idaho - Idaho Panhandle NF	11,308	11,308

The Lost Creek Roadless Area is located near the Idaho-Montana Divide approximately 17 miles north of Wallace, Idaho. The entire area is located in Shoshone County on the Wallace Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests.

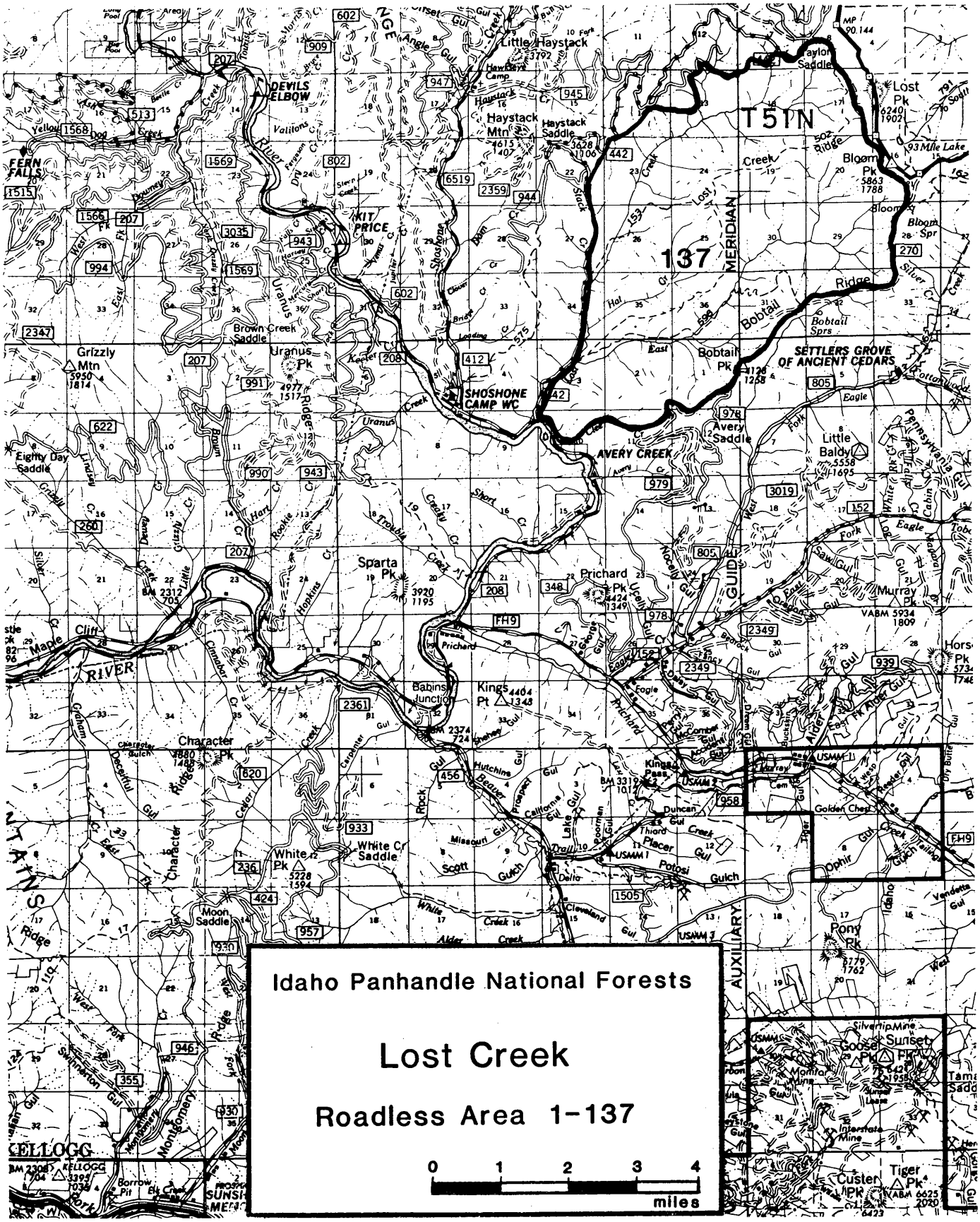
Elevations range from 5,860 feet at Bloom Peak to about 2,400 feet near the Coeur d'Alene River. Major drainages include Lost Creek and the East Fork of Lost Creek. The general aspect is southwest. Quartzites and argillites of the Precambrian Belt rocks are exposed in this study area. Two persistent faults are the only structures mapped in the area and they are parallel, striking north-northwest.

Vegetative cover is predominately Douglas-fir, western larch, western white pine, and grand fir. Most of Lost Creek was burned in 1910. The vegetation is mostly pole-size trees or brushfields. Burning to improve big game winter range has occurred on about 3,000 acres since 1970.

Elk hunting is the predominant public use of the area. Other uses include deer and bear hunting, fishing, camping, and hiking. The area receives some 4,500 recreation visitor days use annually. Three trails into the area provide access.

The area is quite heavily staked with unpatented mining claims. Two tunnels, which were dug about the turn of the century, are known to exist, but no commercial production has occurred.

Wildlife species include elk, deer, black bear, grouse, and numerous non-game species. Both Lost Creek and the East Fork of Lost Creek support catchable size populations of trout.


R. 3 E.
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T51N
137
Idaho Panhandle National Forests
Lost Creek
Roadless Area 1-137
0 1 2 3 4
miles
DEVILS ELBOW
KIT PRICE
SHOSHONE CAMP WC
AVERY CREEK
SETTLERS GROVE OF ANCIENT CEDARS
Little Haystack
Haystack Mtn
Haystack Saddle
Lost Pk
Bloom Pk
93 Mile Lake
Bobtail Pk
Bobtail Ridge
Grizzly Mtn
Uranus Pk
Brown Creek Saddle
Eighty Day Saddle
Avery Saddle
Little Baldy
Sparta Pk
Prichard Pk
Murray Pk
Cliff
Maple
RIVER
Babins Junction
Kings Pt
Character Pk
White Pk
White Cr Saddle
Moon Saddle
Pony Pk
Custer Pk
Tiger Pk
Goose Pk
Sunset Pk
KELLOGG
Borrow Pit
Elk Creek
Golden Chest
Ophir
Duncan
Thiard Placer
Potosi Gulch
Kings Pass
Fern Falls
Yellow Dog Creek
Downey
Valiton Cr
Dry Fk
Pensylvania Gul
Cabin Gul
Eagle Fork
Saw Gul
Alder Creek
Idaho
Vendetta Gul
Silver Mine
Montana Mine
Interstate Mine
Tama Sadd
Montgomery
Shimmerton Gul
Scott Gulch
Missouri Gul
Hutchins Gul
Beaver
Prospect
California Gul
Lake Gul
Rock
Cedar
Carpenter
Hopkins
Rookie
Hart
Trouble Creek
Short Creek
Grizzly Cr
Little Maple Cr
Graham
Character Ridge
Deceitful Gul
Cimarron
Silver Creek
Bobtail Ridge
Lost Creek
Stack Cr
Shoshone Dam
Angle Gul
Sunset Gul
Haystack Camp
Taylor Saddle
Bloom Spr
Bobtail Sprs
Cotton Wood
Eagle
Prichard
Ucello Gul
Acorn Gul
Eagle Gul
Pony Gul
McCormick Gul
Beaver Gul
Thiard Creek
Tiger
Auxiliary
Guid
Meridian
Range
Mountains
Silver
West Fork
East Fork
Uranus Creek
Keefer Cr
Loading Cr
Bridge Cr
Clover Cr
Hal Cr
Lost Cr
Bloom Cr
Pensylvania Gul
Cabin Gul
Eagle Fork
Saw Gul
Alder Creek
Idaho
Vendetta Gul
Silver Mine
Montana Mine
Interstate Mine
Tama Sadd
Montgomery
Shimmerton Gul
Scott Gulch
Missouri Gul
Hutchins Gul
Beaver
Prospect
California Gul
Lake Gul
Rock
Cedar
Carpenter
Hopkins
Rookie
Hart
Trouble Creek
Short Creek
Grizzly Cr
Little Maple Cr
Graham
Character Ridge
Deceitful Gul
Cimarron
Silver Creek
Bobtail Ridge
Lost Creek
Stack Cr
Shoshone Dam
Angle Gul
Sunset Gul
Haystack Camp
Taylor Saddle
Bloom Spr
Bobtail Sprs
Cotton Wood
Eagle
Prichard
Ucello Gul
Acorn Gul
Eagle Gul
Pony Gul
McCormick Gul
Beaver Gul
Thiard Creek
Tiger
Auxiliary
Guid
Meridian
Range
Mountains
Silver
West Fork
East Fork
Uranus Creek
Keefer Cr
Loading Cr
Bridge Cr
Clover Cr
Hal Cr
Lost Cr
Bloom Cr

II. CAPABILITY

A. Wilderness Characteristics

1. Natural Integrity. Mining activities have caused some modification of the Lost Creek area. For the most part, however, the area has retained qualities formed by nature without human disruption.

2. Natural Appearance. Physiographically, the Lost Creek area enables the visitor to feel he is within a natural area away from ordinary human activities and development. Views from the higher elevations may reveal distant roads and timber harvest units.

3. Solitude. Opportunities for solitude are available for visitors in the Lost Creek area. Three trails into the area allow visitors to disperse, facilitating more opportunity for solitude.

4. Primitive Recreation Opportunities. As the Lost Creek area has no developments other than trails for access, opportunities for primitive recreation are limited only by the size of the area.

Types of primitive recreation that could be and are pursued would include, but are not limited to, backpacking, hunting, and fishing.

5. Other Features. Lost Creek Trail (No. 502) is very popular for elk hunting. The trail travels through several open brushy areas which provide impressive scenic views. Vegetation along the trail is both varied and interesting. In moist areas, mountain ash, Rocky Mountain maple, willows, trillium, violets, and honeysuckle can be found. In season, hikers can treat themselves to strawberries, thimbleberries, and huckleberries.

B. Wilderness Manageability and Boundaries. This areas was inventoried during the RARE II process; boundary adjustments since RARE II have excluded 300 acres. The Lost Creek Roadless Area is bordered on three sides by roads. The southern boundary consists of a road and Trail 598.

The Lost Creek area does not pose any substantial limitations in regard to management for wilderness, should it be so designated.

III. WILDERNESS AVAILABILITY

Table 1

Selected Resource Values

Category	Unit	01137
Gross Acres	Acres	11,308
Net Acres	Acres	11,308
Range		
Existing Obligated		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Existing Vacant		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Proposed		
Suitable	Acres	0
AUMs	No.	0
Timber		
Tentative		
Suitable	Acres	8,621
Standing Volume	MMBF	111
Minerals Potential		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	2,240
Low	Acres	7,413
Mining Claims	No.	194
Oil and Gas Potential*		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	0
Low	Acres	11,308
Oil and Gas Leases		
Leases	No.	0
Leased Area	Acres	0
Corridors		
Existing and Potential	No.	0
Wildlife-Threatened and Endangered-Habitat		
Grizzly Bear		
Situation 1	Acres	0
Situation 2	Acres	0
Situation 3	Acres	0
Bald Eagle	Acres	0
Mountain Caribou	Acres	0
Gray Wolf	Acres	0
Wildlife-Big Game		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	2,624
Specific-Elk		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Deer		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Significant Fisheries		
Stream Miles	Miles	7
Stream Habitat	Acres	12
Lakes	No.	0
Lake Habitat	Acres	0
Water Developments		
Existing	No.	0
Recreation		
Primitive	RVDs	0
Semiprimitive		
Nonmotorized	RVDs	3,000
Motorized	RVDs	1,000
Roaded Natural	RVDs	500

*Rating also includes uranium, geothermal, and other energy resources.

A. Resource Values

1. Recreation. Roadless elk hunting is the predominant recreation use.

2. Wildlife. Wildlife species include elk, deer, black bear, grouse, and numerous non-game species. Both Lost Creek and the East Fork of Lost Creek support catchable size populations of front.

The Idaho Department of Fish an Game has identified this area as one of 13 areas where retention of the roadless character is desirable.

3. Timber. Future development of the timber resource would involve the management of 8,600 acres within the area.

4. Minerals. Hardrock mineral potential for the area is moderate. Under wilderness designation, access for hardrock mineral exploration and development would be restrictive and regulated.

The Lost Creek area is currently under application for an oil and gas lease. Mineral potential for oil and gas in this area is unknown. Wilderness designation could prohibit exploration and development.

The western and eastern borders of this area contain exposures of the Revett formation, which currently is an exploration target for stratabound copper and silver mineralization. The 23 percent rated as having moderate potential are the acres in the Revett rocks. The low potential of the remaining 77 percent is due to lack of geologic criteria, but the area contains 194 mining claims.

5. Range. The area is unsuited for cattle grazing due to the steepness of the terrain.

B. Other Mangement Considerations

1. Fire. Although large fires occurred in the area, the number of fires occurring annually is low.

IV. NEED

A. Contribution to National Wilderness Preservation System. The inclusion of Lost Creek in the National Wilderness System would increase the number of acres available for the local population to experience varying forms of roadless recreation.

B. Public Interest and Concerns. Public responses during RARE II indicated that among respondents, less than 8 percent favored inclusion in the National Wilderness System and 91 percent favored a non-wilderness designation.

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game has identified the Lost Creek area as one which provides unique roadless hunting opportunities which should be protected.

C. Proximity to Designated Wilderness and to Population Centers. Table 3, Parts A and B, displays wilderness opportunities and proximity to roadless areas on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The closest wilderness area is the Cabinet Wilderness in western Montana, approximately 100 miles to the northeast. There is access to 1.6 million acres of wilderness located within 200 miles of Coeur d'Alene, as well as an additional 5.8 million acres within 300 miles (northern Idaho, eastern Washington and Oregon, and western Montana).

V. ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

A. Management Emphasis Assignment by Alternatives. Management emphasis indicates which resource activity is highlighted. If the emphasis is timber, most of the activity on those acres would be for timber management. Resource activities which are compatible with the emphasis would continue, but with less intensity. Table 2 lists the acres of each management emphasis by alternative.

Table 2

Lost Creek Roadless Area (01137)
Management Emphasis by Alternative

Management Emphasis	Alternatives[1/] (Thousand Acres) 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Wilderness	0	0	11.3	0	0	11.3	0	0	11.3	11.3	0	0
Non-wilderness												
No Tbr. Harvest	0.1	0.1	0	0.1	0.1	0	9.9	0.1	0	0	7.5	7.4
Timber/Wildlife	9.7	9.8	0	10.0	9.8	0	0.6	10.0	0	0	2.8	2.9
Wildlife/Visual	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Special Areas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minimum Level	1.5	1.4	0	1.2	1.4	0	0.8	1.2	0	0	1.0	1.0
Total	11.3	11.3	11.3	11.3	11.3	11.3	11.3	11.3	11.3	11.3	11.3	11.3
Summary of Management Emphasis:												
Developed												
Decade 1	8.6	6.0	0	3.9	6.0	0	0.2	3.1	0	0	1.5	1.8
Decade 5	11.3	11.3	0	11.3	11.3	0	0.8	11.3	0	0	4.0	4.0
Roadless[2/]												
Decade 1	0	5.3	0	7.4	5.3	0	11.1	8.2	0	0	9.8	9.5
Decade 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	10.5	0	0	0	7.3	7.3
Wilderness	0	0	11.3	0	0	11.3	0	0	11.3	11.3	0	0

1/ Alternative clarification -
1 - Regional Goals
2 - High Market
3 - High Nonmarket
4 - High Timber, Fish
5 - Moderate All Resources
6 - High Timber, Wildlife
7 - High Nonmarket, Stable Timber
8 - Current Program
9 - High Recreation
10 - High Wildlife, Moderate Timber
11 - Preferred Alternative
12 - Preferred w/Departure

2/ Roadless is defined as 5,000 acres or greater in size or any acreage if contiguous to existing wilderness.

B. Impacts

1. Designation: Wilderness

Management Emphasis: Wilderness

Lost Creek is designated as wilderness in Alternatives 3, 6, 9, and 10. These alternatives consider the entire area for inclusion in the National Wilderness System.

Wilderness designation can enhance the area's wilderness attributes since there are existing uses and facilities not usually associated with wilderness allocation. The administrative exclusion of motorized vehicles would be made permanent.

The 8,621 acres of pole-size timber containing 111 MMBF classed as tentatively suitable would not be available under the prescription.

Minerals, oil, and gas development is prohibited.

The non-priced benefits or costs would be:

-- The wilderness values are preserved and enhanced.

-- The National Wilderness System area would be increased.

-- Elk security would be maintained or slightly increased.

-- Diversity would slowly trend toward old growth as well as smaller volumes of browse for wildlife.

-- Natural ecosystem would be protected.

-- Water quality, fisheries, scenic views, and primitive recreation opportunities would remain at their present high level.

Social and economic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. Since wilderness precludes timber harvest and mineral development, the related industries would not be supported by this emphasis. From a social aspect, the publics valuing wilderness would be supported as well as those people who desire to view the area in its unaltered state.

2. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: No Timber Harvest

Alternatives 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, and 12 would designate a portion of Lost Creek Roadless Area for a No Timber harvest management emphasis.

In alternatives 1, 2, 4, 5, and 8, less than one per cent of the area is to be managed for this emphasis. These are predominately areas designed as old growth retention.

Alternatives 7, 11, and 12 would manage greater than 60 percent of the area for this emphasis by designation of varying portions of the area to roadless recreation.

The No Timber Harvest emphasis would not preclude future consideration of the area for wilderness designation, dependent upon the alternative selected and the amount of the area designated for this emphasis. In addition, designation for this emphasis would not reduce development of the area by forms of utilization other than timber management. The Lost Creek Roadless Area possesses a moderate potential for mineral development and such development could occur under this emphasis, subject to restrictions.

Impacts on market resouces would be minimal under this emphasis. Timber volumes in the area average only 13 MBF/acre. The area is characterized by islands of old-growth timber surrounded by relatively young stands of second-growth timber. Under Alternative 2, significant timber management would only occur towards the end of the fifth decade. There are no other market resources impacted by this emphasis.

Assuming a significant portion of the area is designated for this emphasis, the non-priced benefits or costs would be:

-- The wilderness valves could be maintained for future consideration under this alternative.

-- Visual qualities could be maintained at a high level.

-- Elk security and winter range could be maintained.

-- Semi-primitive recreation opportunities could be retained.

-- Water quality and fisheries could be maintained.

-- The natural ecosystem would be protected.

-- Diversity would tend toward old growth.

The social and economic impacts due to designation of a significant portion of the area to this emphasis would involve the maintenance of a very popular unroaded area for the benefit of hunters, fishermen, and other natural enthusiasts. Costs of this designation would involve removal of a portion of the timber base, which could adversely affect the livelihood of persons involved in the timber industries. This impact is felt to be minimal.

3. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Timber/Wildlife

Alternatives 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, and 12 designate portions of the area for this emphasis.

Approximately 25 percent of the area is designated for Timber/Wildlife under Alternatives 11 and 12. Alternative 7 designates less than 5 percent for this emphasis.

Alternatives 1, 2, 4, 5, and 8 include greater than 85 percent of Lost Creek Roadless Area in this emphasis. These alternatives would involve the most alteration of this roadless area.

Significant implementation of this emphasis will forego the possibility of reconsideration of this area as wilderness. Extensive roading that would occur in conjunction with pre-commercial and commercial timber harvesting would significantly alter the natural characteristics of the area and greatly reduce its value as a popular primitive recreational area.

Market resources would be most affected following the first decade, as most stands in the area are young second growth and include many brushfields. Harvests could be scheduled to supply wood fiber demands by local wood processing plants. The area under this emphasis would remain available for minerals development.

Assuming a significant portion of the area is designated for this emphasis, the non-priced benefits or costs would be:

-- Semi-primitive recreation opportunities would be foregone, possibly within 10 years.

-- Wilderness characteristics would be compromised within 10 years.

-- Elk security could be decreased rapidly, barring mitigation by road closures.

-- Water quality could be adversely affected.

-- Visual quality would decline.

-- Opportunities for solitude would decline.

-- Opportunity for high quality fisheries and hunting would be compromised.

Utilization of this emphasis in the management of the area would involve a negative impact to persons interested in a primitive or a semi-primitive recreation experience and have a negative effect on local businesses engaged in catering to hunters, fishermen, backpackers, etc. Those persons involved with timber industries would experience some benefit, at least after the end of the first planning cycle.

4. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Minimum Level

Alternatives 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, and 12 would designate approximately 10 percent of the total area for this management emphasis.

Areas designated for this management emphasis under the above alternatives are predominately high elevation areas and rock outcrops which are unproductive sites. These areas could be impacted, dependent upon alternative selection, by the need to access other adjacent productive areas. Consequently, impacts would be similar to those described in the previous timber/wildlife discussion.

TROUBLE CREEK ROADLESS AREA (01138)

I. DESCRIPTION

Size	Gross Acres	Net Acres
Idaho - Idaho Panhandle NF	6,100	6,100

The Trouble Creek Roadless Area is located about 10 miles north of Osburn, Idaho, along the Coeur d'Alene River. It is within Shoshone County and on the Wallace Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The area is characterized by steep rock bluffs facing the Coeur d'Alene River, which dominate the view along Forest Highway 9 and Forest System Road 208. Major drainages include Trouble, Creaky, and Hopkins Creeks. Topography changes from 4,320 feet at the east end of Uranus Ridge to about 2,400 feet along the Coeur d'Alene River. Medisedimentary rocks of the Precambrian Belt Supergroup are exposed in the Trouble Creek Roadless Area. Several north- to northwest-trending faults have been mapped .

About 60 percent of the area burned in 1890 and the rest in 1910. About 90 percent of the trees are pole size. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) planted trees extensively in the unit in the late 1930s. Oak, chestnut, and maple plantations are still identifiable.

The area is considered to be good for elk hunting and receives some deer hunting. The Coeur d'Alene River along the boundary is the only fishable stream. Trouble Creek Trail provides limited access to the unit. Due to access and topography, visitor use is light and probably less than 1,000 days annually. The south end of the unit received fairly heavy mineral exploration more than 10 years ago. As a result, the area includes several exploration pits and non-travelable roads. No recent mineral activity has taken place.

Wildlife species include elk, black bear, whitetail deer, mule deer, cougar, bobcat, pileated woodpecker, martin, grouse, and numerous non-game species. The area also possesses quality mountain goat habitat and has historically been considered a prime mountain goat location. The lack of recent sightings may be due to poaching. Much of the area is considered prime big game winter range.

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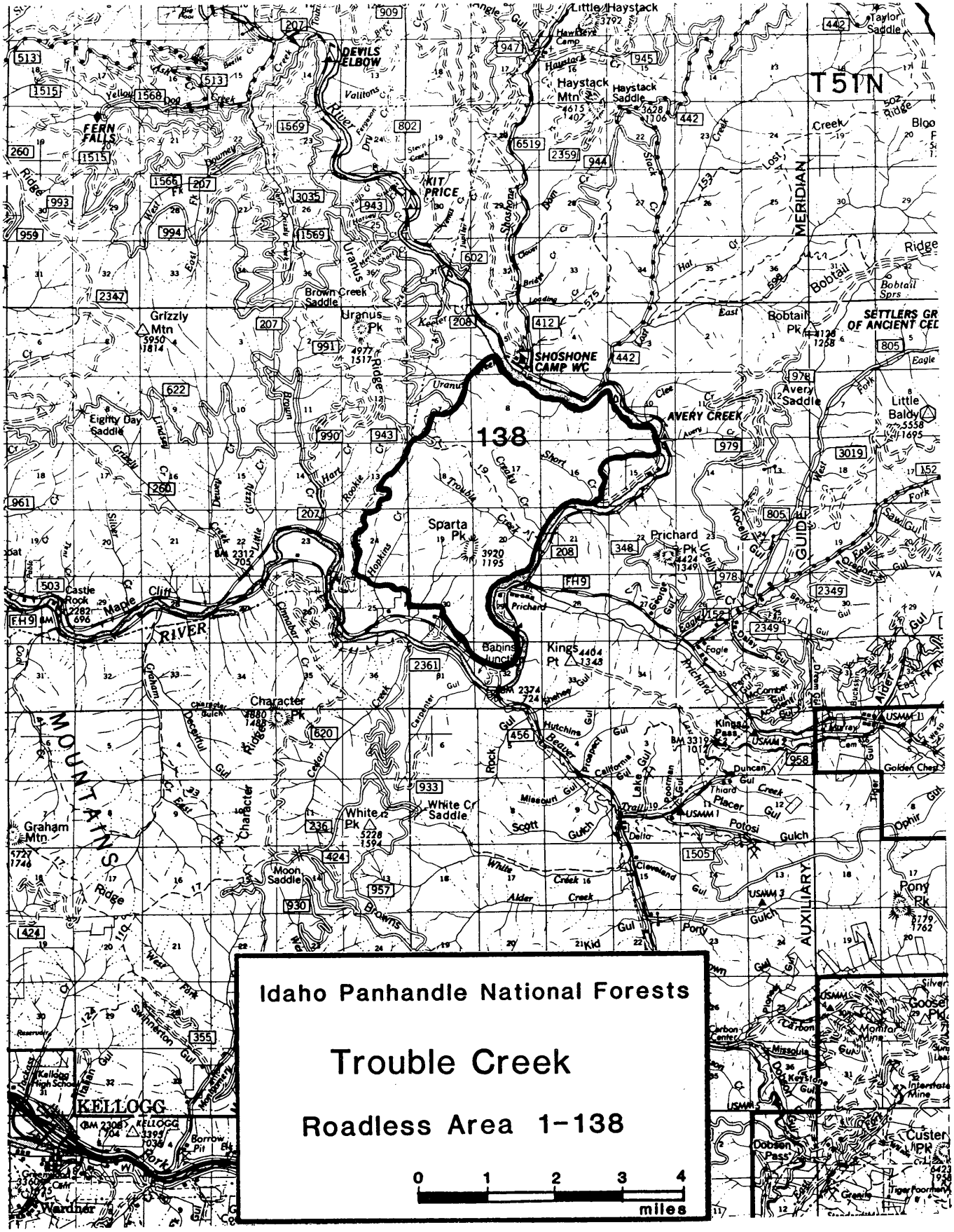
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138
DEVILS ELBOW
FERN FALLS
KIT PRICE
SHOSHONE CAMP WC
AVERY CREEK
Little Haystack
Haystack Mtn
Haystack Saddle
Taylor Saddle
Grizzly Mtn
Uranus Pk
Brown Creek Saddle
Eighty Day Saddle
Sparta Pk
Prichard Pk
Little Baldy
Avery Saddle
Bobtail Pk
Castle Rock
Babins Junction
Kings Pt
Character Pk
White Pk
White Cr Saddle
Moon Saddle
Graham Mtn
Pony Pk
Custer Pk
Dobson Pass
KELLOGG
Wardner
MOUNTAINS
AUXILIARY
GUIDE
MERIDIAN
Idaho Panhandle National Forests
Trouble Creek
Roadless Area 1-138
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miles

II. CAPABILITY

A. Wilderness Characteristics

1. Natural Integrity. With some exceptions in the more accessible lower reaches of the area due to limited past prospecting activity, the Trouble Creek area has, for the most part, retained qualities formed by nature without human disruption.

2. Natural Appearance. The size of the area results in a relatively limited opportunity to view large areas of natural appearing landscape.

Views from the higher elevations reveal areas subject to ordinary human activities and development.

3. Solitude. Given the size of the area and its location, opportunities for solitude for a significant number of visitors is hampered by the ruggedness of terrain, which tends to concentrate use.

4. Primitive Recreation Opportunities. Recreation opportunities on the area would involve camping; backpacking; big game hunting, either on a daily or an extended trip basis; and the occasional rock climber. The Trouble Creek Trail bisects the area and provides limited access. No other developments exist in the area.

5. Other Features. Portions of the Trouble Creek area are within the Coeur d'Alene River Scenic Corridor. Massive Precambrian-aged metasediments which have weathered to a steep, broken face are exposed along the Coeur d'Alene River, providing habitat capable of supporting Rocky Mountain goat.

The Prichard Ranger Station, consisting of a log cabin and a barn, was constructed at the mouth of Trouble Creek in 1907. It was utilized as a Ranger Station until 1936 when it was dismantled and the lumber was used elsewhere.

Trouble Creek Trail follows the ridge between Trouble and Creaky Creeks for 2-1/2 miles. The trail offers good hunting access and scenic views to the south.

B. Wilderness Manageability and Boundaries. This area was inventoried during the RARE II process; no boundary changes have occurred since then. The Trouble Creek Roadless Area is bordered on less prominent ridge lines, which could make on-the-ground boundaries difficult to locate.

Private land is included in the area, peripherally only, and consists of homesteads and recreational residences. Resolution of private in-holdings within the area could easily be accomplished by a boundary adjustment, as these are peripheral.

The Trouble Creek area does not pose any substantial limitations in regard to management for wilderness, should it be so designated.

III. WILDERNESS AVAILABILITY

Table 1

Selected Resource Values

Category	Unit	01138
Gross Acres	Acres	6,100
Net Acres	Acres	6,100
Range		
Existing Obligated		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Existing Vacant		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Proposed		
Suitable	Acres	0
AUMs	No.	0
Timber		
Tentative		
Suitable	Acres	5,902
Standing Volume	MMBF	60
Minerals Potential		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	5,460
Low	Acres	640
Mining Claims	No.	220
Oil and Gas Potential*		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	0
Low	Acres	6,100
Oil and Gas Leases		
Leases	No.	0
Leased Area	Acres	0
Corridors		
Existing and Potential	No.	1
Wildlife-Threatened and Endangered-Habitat		
Grizzly Bear		
Situation 1	Acres	0
Situation 2	Acres	0
Situation 3	Acres	0
Bald Eagle	Acres	0
Mountain Caribou	Acres	0
Gray Wolf	Acres	0
Wildlife-Big Game		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	3,200
Specific-Elk		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Deer		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Significant Fisheries		
Stream Miles	Miles	0
Stream Habitat	Acres	0
Lakes	No.	0
Lake Habitat	Acres	0
Water Developments		
Existing	No.	0
Recreation		
Primitive	RVDs	0
Semiprimitive		
Nonmotorized	RVDs	500
Motorized	RVDs	500
Roaded Natural	RVDs	500

*Rating also includes uranium, geothermal, and other energy resources.

A. Resource Values

1. Recreation. Hunting is the predominant recreation use.

2. Wildlife. Wildlife species include elk, black bear, whitetail deer, mule deer, cougar, bobcat, pileated woodpecker, martin, grouse, and numerous non-game species. The area also possesses quality mountain goat habitat and has historically been considered a prime mountain goat location. The lack of recent sightings may be due to poaching. Much of the area is considered prime big game winter range.

3. Timber. Future development of the timber resource would involve the management of 5,900 acres within the area.

4. Minerals. Hardrock mineral potential for the area is medium. The Revett Formation, which is being actively exploited for stratabound copper and silver, crops out in this unit. About 5 to 6 miles away in Eagle Creek, a deposit of this type has been delineated within the Revett Formation. Presently located in this area are 220 mining claims. Its mineral potential has been rated moderate, with 10 percent of the area having a low rating.

The potential for oil and gas in this area is unknown, but 100 percent of the area is under application for oil and gas leases.

5. Range. The area is unsuitable for cattle grazing due to the steepness of the terrain.

B. Other Management Considerations

1. Fire. Although large fires occurred in the area, the number of fires occurring annually is low. Fire management objectives under wilderness management would be to maintain ecosystem diversity. This could include prescribed burning with unplanned (lightning) ignition.

2. Powerlines. A BPA powerline closely follows the area boundary on the west.

IV. NEED

A. Contribution to National Wilderness Preservation System. The Trouble Creek Roadless Area could contribute acres for Rocky Mountain goat habitat and provide local populations with opportunities for roadless recreation.

B. Public Interest and Concerns. Public responses during RARE II indicated that among respondents, less than 7 percent favored inclusion in the National Wilderness System and over 92 percent favored a non-wilderness designation.

C. Proximity to Designated Wilderness and to Population Centers. Table 3, Parts A and B, displays wilderness opportunities and proximity to roadless areas on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The closest wilderness area is the Cabinet Wilderness in western Montana, approximately 100 miles to the northeast. There is access to 1.6 million acres of wilderness located within 200 miles of Coeur d'Alene, as well as an additional 5.8 million acres within 300 miles (northern Idaho, eastern Washington and Oregon, and western Montana).

V. ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

A. Management Emphasis Assignment by Alternatives. Management emphasis indicates which resource activity is highlighted. If the emphasis is timber, most of the activity on those acres would be for timber management. Resource activities which are compatible with the emphasis would continue, but with less intensity. Table 2 lists the acres of each management emphasis by alternative.

Table 2

Trouble Creek Roadless Area (01138)
Management Emphasis by Alternative

Management Emphasis	Alternatives[1/] (Thousand Acres) 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Wilderness	0	0	6.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non-wilderness												
No Tbr. Harvest	0.2	0.2	0	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2
Timber/Wildlife	5.1	5.5	0	5.6	1.9	5.4	5.3	5.6	5.1	5.6	4.5	4.6
Wildlife/Visual	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.3	0	0.4	0	0	0
Special Areas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minimum Level	0.8	0.4	0	0.3	4.0	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	1.4	1.3
Total	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1
Summary of Management Emphasis:												
Developed												
Decade 1	6.1	6.1	0	6.1	3.2	5.3	5.4	2.2	4.4	2.9	2.1	1.2
Decade 5	6.1	6.1	0	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	4.0	6.1
Roadless[2/]												
Decade 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Decade 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wilderness	0	0	6.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

1/ Alternative clarification -
1 - Regional Goals
2 - High Market
3 - High Nonmarket
4 - High Timber, Fish
5 - Moderate All Resources
6 - High Timber, Wildlife
7 - High Nonmarket, Stable Timber
8 - Current Program
9 - High Recreation
10 - High Wildlife, Moderate Timber
11 - Preferred Alternative
12 - Preferred w/Departure

2/ Roadless is defined as 5,000 acres or greater in size or any acreage if contiguous to existing wilderness.

B. Impacts

1. Designation: Wilderness

Management Emphasis: Wilderness

This area is designated as wilderness in Alternative 3. This designation would enhance the wilderness attributes if the exploratory evidence of mining activities and old roads were repaired or allowed to revert to natural vegetation. Under wilderness designation, mining, as well as oil and gas exploration, activities could be severely restricted. The estimated 60 MMBF of timber would not be available under wilderness designation.

The non-priced benefits or costs would be:

-- Wilderness values identified in Section II are preserved and enhanced.

-- The National Wilderness System area would increase.

-- Natural ecosystem would be protected.

-- Water quality, fisheries, scenic views, and primitive recreational opportunities would be retained.

-- Big game security would be maintained.

-- Diversity would tend toward old growth.

-- Mineral exploration activities could be restricted.

Social and economic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. Since wilderness precludes timber harvest and mineral development, the related industries would not be supported by this emphasis. From a social aspect, the publics valuing wilderness would be supported as well as those people who desire to view the area in its unaltered state.

2. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: No Timber Harvest

All non-wilderness alternatives would designate a small portion (2 to 3 percent) of the Trouble Creek area for this management emphasis. This percentage represents the portion of the area designated as old-growth retention.

Due to the relative size of the area designated for this emphasis, impacts to further consideration for wilderness, market resources, non-priced components, or socioeconomic concerns are considered insignificant.

3. Designation: Non-Wilderness

Management Emphasis: Timber/Wildlife

Alternative 5 would designate 31 percent of the area for this emphasis. All other non-wilderness alternatives for the Trouble Creek area would designate a significant portion (74-92 percent) of the area to this emphasis. These alternatives differ only in harvest techniques.

Implementation of any of the non-wilderness alternatives will render the Trouble Creek area unsuitable for further consideration for wilderness at the end of the first decade.

Average timber volume per acre on the portion of the area designated as suitable for timber harvest is approximately 10 MBF/acre. In the previous discussion, 90 percent of the standing timber was classified as pole-sized. Current trends in the wood products industry are toward the harvest of timber in the larger size classes. Therefore, it is questionable, in light of current market conditions, that impacts to the timber market will be significant until after the first decade. Alternatives 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, and 9 would harvest a signifcant portion of the area during the first decade. Alternatives 5, 8, 10, 11, and 12, on the other hand, would conduct most harvesting after the first decade. Minerals would be available under this emphasis. Potential is low to moderate.

The non-priced benefits or costs would be:

-- Visual quality would be adversely affected.

-- Security for big game animals would be adversely affected.

-- Water quality and fisheries would decline.

-- Diversity would tend toward younger, even-aged stands on areas where harvests take place.

-- Primitive recreational opportunities would be foregone.

-- Wilderness values would be foregone.

-- Opportunities for solitude disappear.

-- Opportunities for high quality fisheries and hunting would be compromised.

-- An unroaded setting for reestablishment of Rocky Mountain goat population would not be available.

Social and economic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. Timber and mineral resources would be available, thus supporting the wood products and minerals industries. Negative impacts to recreationists and those deriving their income from recreation could be expected.

4. Designation: Non-Wilderness

Management Emphasis: Minimum Level

Due to physiographic nature of the area, all non-wilderness alternatives would designate some acreage for the minimum level emphasis.

Areas designated for this management emphasis under the above alternatives are predominately high elevation areas and rock outcrops, which are unproductive sites. These areas could be impacted, dependent upon alternative selection, by need to access other adjacent productive areas. Consequently, impacts would be similar to those described in the Timber/Wildlife discussion previous.

GRAHAM COAL ROADLESS AREA (01139)

I. DESCRIPTION

Size	Gross Acres	Net Acres
Idaho Panhandle NF	11,319	10,832

The Graham Coal Roadless Area is located about four miles north of Kellogg, Idaho, along the Coeur d'Alene River. It is within Shoshone County on the Wallace Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. Access to the area is provided by the Graham Creek and Coal Creek Trails. Both of these trails originate at Forest Highway 9 on the Coeur d'Alene River.

Graham Peak, at 5,730 feet, is the most prominent feature. The southern aspect of this peak is visible from Interstate 90. The lowest elevation is about 2,400 feet at the mouth of Coal Creek. Major drainages include Graham Creek, Coal Creek, and Deceitful Gulch. Aspect is generally north. The Coal Creek drainages offer a pristine riparian area with many scenic waterfalls. Exposed in the study area are metasediments of the Precambrian Belt Supergroups. Although close to the Osburn Fault, few faults have been mapped in this area. The southern portion of this area is part of the Coeur d'Alene Mining District.

Vegetative cover consists primarily of white pine, western hemlock, western red cedar, Douglas-fir, and lodgepole pine. Most trees occurring below 4,000 feet are immature. However, 325 acres of old-growth timber have been identified in Graham Creek.

Annual recreation use in the Graham Coal area is approximately 2,000 visitor days annually. The area is commonly used as a non-roaded big game hunting area. The trail from Graham Ridge to Moon Saddle receives considerable motorcycle and equestrian use. Seventeen valid mining claims exist in the area. Past evidence of mineral exploration is apparent in the area. Little recent activity has taken place.

Wildlife species present in the area include elk, whitetail and mule deer, black bear, cougar, bobcat, moose, coyote, wolverine, marten, great-horned owls, pileated woodpeckers, hawks, and beaver. Numerous other non-game species are also present. Most of the area is considered critical elk summer range. Graham Creek is listed as an important spawning and rearing stream for fisheries.

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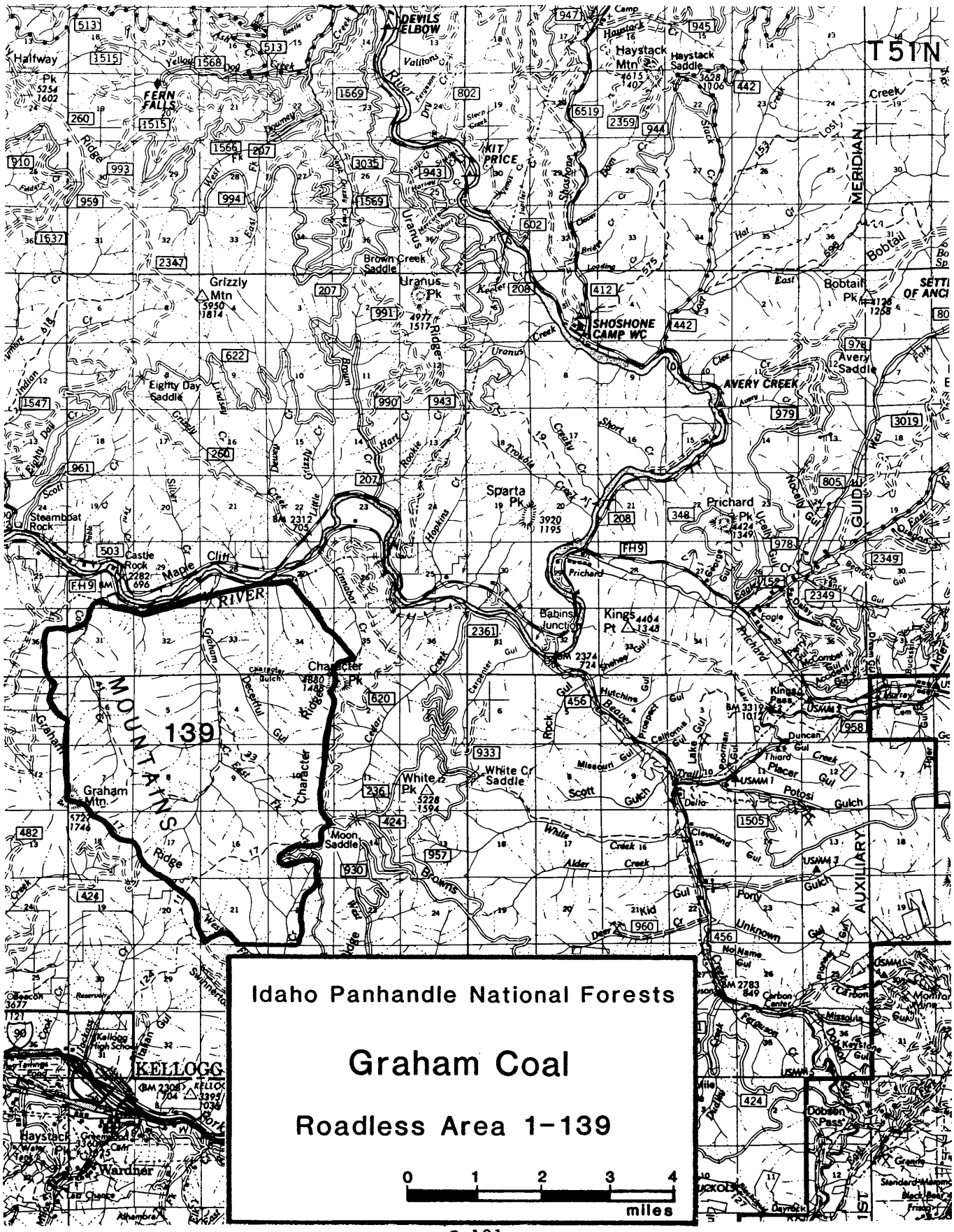
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Idaho Panhandle National Forests
Graham Coal
Roadless Area 1-139
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MOUNTAINS
DEVILS ELBOW
FERN FALLS
KIT PRICE
SHOSHONE CAMP WC
AVERY CREEK
Haystack Mtn
Haystack Saddle
Grizzly Mtn
Uranus Pk
Brown Creek Saddle
Eighty Day Saddle
Avery Saddle
Bobtail Pk
Sparta Pk
Prichard Pk
Steamboat Rock
Castle Rock
Babins Junction
Kings Pt
Character Pk
Graham Mtn.
White Pk
White Cr Saddle
Moon Saddle
Kings Pass
Duncan
Potosi Gulch
Dobson Pass
KELLOGG
Wardner
Haystack
Greenhorn
Carbon Center
Missoula
Kellogg High School
Reservoir
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II. CAPABILITY

A. Wilderness Characteristics

1. Natural Integrity. Other than historical activity (mining, homesteads), the effects of smelter kill, and current off-road vehicle use, the Graham Coal area has substantially retained the qualities formed solely by natural processes without human disruption.

2. Natural Appearance. A visitor keeping to the lower elevations can maintain a landscape which appears natural. Travel to the higher elevations, however, can reveal landscapes that are undoubtedly the result of man's activities, such as the City of Kellogg and Interstate 90.

3. Solitude. Opportunity for solitude would be most available in the Graham Creek and Coal Creek drainages.

4. Primitive Recreation Opportunities. Recreation opportunities on the area would involve camping; backpacking; big game hunting, either on a daily basis or an extended trip; and fishing.

The opportunity to experience a primitive visit to the area could be hampered by the existing off-road vehicle motorcycle use in the area.

5. Other Features. The Graham Mountain Lookout was constructed in the 1930s for fire protection. The lookout has since been dismantled and little evidence of its existence remains.

During the 1910 fire a camp was established on the ridge between Cedar Creek and Graham Creek.

In the early 1900s homesteaders in the area cut timber in the lower elevations.

The Jackass Ridge Trail, which constitutes the southern boundary of the area, was constructed in the mid-1880s to facilitate travel to the Murray gold fields from the Kellogg area.

B. Wilderness Manageability and Boundaries. The Graham Coal area is bounded on two sides by ridge lines--on the north side by an indistinguishable, meandering boundary and on the south side by a surveyed subdivision line.

Private property is included in the area peripherally. Some State land is included. Boundary manipulation could remedy these inclusions.

The most significant impairment to wilderness manageability is control of access. As the area is bordered on three sides by lands held in private ownership, unauthorized access would be difficult to control.

This area has been reduced by 500 acres since RARE II.

II. WILDERNESS AVAILABILITY

Table 1

Selected Resource Values

Category	Unit	01139
Gross Acres	Acres	11,319
Net Acres	Acres	10,832
Range		
Existing Obligated		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Existing Vacant		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Proposed		
Suitable	Acres	0
AUMs	No.	0
Timber		
Tentative		
Suitable	Acres	9,954
Standing Volume	MMBF	112
Minerals Potential		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	10,832
Low	Acres	0
Mining Claims	No.	17
Oil and Gas Potential*		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	0
Low	Acres	10,832
Oil and Gas Leases		
Leases	No.	0
Leased Area	Acres	0
Corridors		
Existing and Potential	No.	1
Wildlife-Threatened and Endangered-Habitat		
Grizzly Bear		
Situation 1	Acres	0
Situation 2	Acres	0
Situation 3	Acres	0
Bald Eagle	Acres	0
Mountain Caribou	Acres	0
Gray Wolf	Acres	0
Wildlife-Big Game		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	992
Specific-Elk		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Deer		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Significant Fisheries		
Stream Miles	Miles	3
Stream Habitat	Acres	4
Lakes	No.	0
Lake Habitat	Acres	0
Water Developments		
Existing	No.	2
Recreation		
Primitive	RVDs	0
Semiprimitive		
Nonmotorized	RVDs	500
Motorized	RVDs	100
Roaded Natural	RVDs	500

*Rating also includes uranium, geothermal, and other energy resources.

A. Resource Values

1. Recreation. The area is commonly used as a non-roaded big game hunting area. The trail from Graham Ridge to Moon Saddle receives considerable motorcycle and equestrian use.

2. Wildlife. Wildlife species present in the area include elk, whitetail and mule deer, black bear, cougar, bobcat, moose, coyote, wolverine, marten, great-horned owls, pileated woodpeckers, hawks, and beaver. Numerous other non-game species are also present. Most of the area is considered critical elk summer range. Graham Creek is listed as an important spawning and rearing stream for fisheries.

3. Timber. Vegetative cover consists primarily of white pine, western hemlock, western red cedar, Douglas-fir, and lodgepole pine. Most trees occurring below 4,000 feet are immature. However, in Graham Creek 325 acres of old-growth timber have been identified. Future development of the timber resource would involve the management of 10,000 acres within the area.

4. Minerals. Although there are no known prospects in this area and only 17 mining claims, approximately 50 percent of the Graham Coal Roadless Area is underlain by the Revett Formation. The Revett is presently being explored for stratabound copper and silver. This area is also partially within the Coeur d'Alene Mining District, which is located primarily to the south and east. This District is one of the largest silver producers in the world.

This area is practically all under application for oil and gas leases. The potential for oil and gas is low due to lack of information.

5. Range. The area is unsuitable for cattle grazing due to the steepness of the terrain.

IV. NEED

A. Contribution to National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS). Inclusion of the Graham Coal Roadless Area in the Wilderness Preservation System would result in protection of a significant number of acres of elk summer range and the scenic Coal Creek riparian area, and would provide roadless elk hunting opportunities near the Wallace/Kellogg/Coeur d'Alene area.

A. Public Interest and Concerns. Public responses during RARE II indicated that among respondents 11.2 percent favored inclusion into the Wilderness System and 90 percent favored a non-wilderness designation.

B. Proximity to Designated Wilderness and to Population Centers. Table 3, Parts A and B, displays wilderness opportunities and proximity to roadless areas on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The closest wilderness area is the Cabinet Wilderness in western Montana, approximately 100 miles to the northeast. There is access to 1.6 million acres of wilderness located within 200 miles of Coeur d'Alene, as well as an additional 5.8 million acres within 300 miles (northern Idaho, eastern Washington and Oregon, and western Montana).

V. ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

A. Management Emphasis Assignment by Alternatives. Management emphasis indicates which resource activity is highlighted. If the emphasis is timber, most of the activity on those acres would be for timber management. Resource activities which are compatible with the emphasis would continue, but with less intensity. Table 2 lists the acres of each management emphasis by alternative.

Table 2

Graham Coal Roadless Area (01139)
Management Emphasis by Alternative

Management Emphasis	Alternatives[1/] (Thousand Acres) 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Wilderness	0	0	10.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non-wilderness												
No Tbr. Harvest	0	0	0	0	0.2	0	0.2	0	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Timber/Wildlife	9.3	9.5	0	9.7	9.3	9.3	3.8	9.6	3.5	9.6	8.1	8.8
Wildlife/Visual	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.0	0	1.3	0	0	0
Special Areas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minimum Level	1.5	1.3	0	1.1	1.3	1.5	5.8	1.2	5.8	1.0	2.5	1.8
Total	10.8	10.8	10.8	10.8	10.8	10.8	10.8	10.8	10.8	10.8	10.8	10.8
Summary of Management Emphasis:												
Developed												
Decade 1	9.0	10.8	0	10.8	9.0	5.5	3.2	10.8	2.9	9.0	6.0	3.0
Decade 5	10.8	10.8	0	10.8	10.8	10.8	5.8	10.8	5.6	10.8	8.8	10.8
Roadless[2/]												
Decade 1	0	0	0	0	0	5.3	7.6	0	7.9	0	0	7.8
Decade 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	5.0	0	5.2	0	0	0
Wilderness	0	0	10.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

1/ Alternative clarification -
- 1 - Regional Goals
- 2 - High Market
- 3 - High Nonmarket
- 4 - High Timber, Fish
- 5 - Moderate All Resources
- 6 - High Timber, Wildlife
- 7 - High Nonmarket, Stable Timber
- 8 - Current Program
- 9 - High Recreation
- 10 - High Wildlife, Moderate Timber
- 11 - Preferred Alternative
- 12 - Preferred w/Departure

2/ Roadless is defined as 5,000 acres or greater in size or any acreage if contiguous to existing wilderness.

B. Impacts

1. Designation: Wilderness

Management Emphasis: Wilderness

This area is designated as wilderness in Alternative 3. This designation would enhance the wilderness attributes of the area since there are existing uses and facilities not usually associated with wilderness. Evidence of mineral exploration is visible. Trails within the area are used by motorcyclists. The 325 acres of old-growth timber would be preserved. The estimated 112 MMBF of timber would not be available for wood fiber production under wilderness designation.

The non-priced benefits or costs would be:

-- Wilderness values would be protected and enhanced.

-- The National Wilderness System area would increase.

-- Natural ecosystem would be protected.

-- Water quality, fisheries, scenic views, and opportunities for primitive recreation would remain at their present level.

-- Security for big game, as well as the elk winter range, would be retained.

-- Diversity would tend toward old growth.

Social and economic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. Since wilderness precludes timber harvest and mineral development, the related industries would not be supported by this emphasis. From a social aspect, the publics valuing wilderness would be supported as well as those people who desire to view the area in its unaltered state.

2. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: No Timber Harvest

Alternatives 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, and 12 would designate 200 acres (or 2 percent) of the area for this emphasis.

The No Timber Harvest emphasis designation in these alternatives is utilized for the protection of old-growth retention areas along Graham Creek.

Due to the size of these designations, significant impacts to the wilderness character, market resources, non-priced items, or socioeconomic concerns are not anticipated.

3. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Timber/Wildlife

This management emphasis occurs in all alternatives with the exception of Alternative 3, the wilderness alternative.

Alternatives 7 and 9 would designate approximately 34 percent of the Graham Coal area for this emphasis.

Approximately 80 percent of the study area would be designated for the Timber/Wildlife emphasis under Alternatives 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, and 12.

Due to the vegetative situation on the Graham Coal Area (mature timber occurring only above 4,000 feet and along streams), implementation of this emphasis in all non-wilderness alternatives would negate any further considerations for wilderness after the first decade.

On the portion of this area that has been determined suitable for timber management (9,954 acres) only 112 MMBF of standing timber is estimated. This indicates that an average volume per acre is only approximately 11 MBF/acre. This is indicative of an area with substantially immature stands. Therefore, in the short term (first decade), large marketable volumes will not be available. In the long term, the area could provide production of wood products to the market. Minerals, if present, would be available under this emphasis.

The non-priced benefits or costs would be:

-- Visual quality would decline.

-- Water quality, fisheries, and scenic views would decline.

-- Elk winter range could be maintained

-- Security for big game animals would be compromised.

-- Diversity would tend toward younger, even-aged stands on areas where harvests take place.

-- Wilderness values would be foregone.

-- Opportunities for solitude and high quality hunting and fishing would be foregone.

Social and economic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. Timber and mineral resources would be available, thus supporting the wood products and minerals industries. The change in recreation setting could be disruptive to those publics using the area for primitive or semi-primitive recreation as well as publics viewing the area.

4. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Wildlife/Visual

Alternatives 7 and 9 would designate less than 12 percent of the area for this emphasis. This acreage consists of existing brushfields that would be maintained under this emphasis as elk/mule deer winter range.

Future consideration for wilderness would not be signficantly affected under this emphasis. However, impacts as discussed in Timber/Wildlife would still hold true.

Impacts to market resources under this emphasis would be minimal in this planning period, as these sites are currently unproductive for timber.

The non-priced costs and benefits would be:

-- The visual component of these areas would be maintained.

-- Key big game winter habitat would be maintained.

-- An insignificant portion of the area would not be available for timber production.

-- Species diversity would be enhanced.

Impacts to the socioeconomic components would be minimal.

5. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Minimum Level

All non-wilderness alternatives would designate a portion of the area to this emphasis. Most alternatives would designate between 9 and 23 percent.

Alternatives 7 and 9 would apply this emphasis to 54 percent of the Graham Coal area.

Areas designated for this managment emphasis under the above alternatives are predominately high elevation areas and rock outcrops which are unproductive sites. These areas could be impacted, dependent upon alternative selection, by the need to access other adjacent productive areas. Consequently, impacts would be similar to those described in the Timber/Wildlife discussion above.

MAPLE PEAK ROADLESS AREA (01141)

I. DESCRIPTION

Size	Gross Acres	Net Acres
Idaho		
Idaho Panhandle NF	8,952	8,434
Montana		
Lolo NF	6,960	6,960
Kootenai NF	900	900
Total	16,812	16,294

This roadless area is located about 10 miles north of Mullan, Idaho, in Shoshone County, Idaho, and Sanders County, Montana. This roadless area is shared by three National Forests: the Idaho Panhandle, Kootenai, and Lolo National Forests. Access to the Idaho side is gained by exiting I-90 at Kingston, Idaho; traveling the paved Coeur d'Alene River Road to Prichard; then following Forest Highway 9 to the periphery of the area where access to the area is gained by trails. Access to the Montana side is gained by exiting State Highway 200 at the Thompson Pass road (maintained gravel road) which leads to trailhead access to the area.

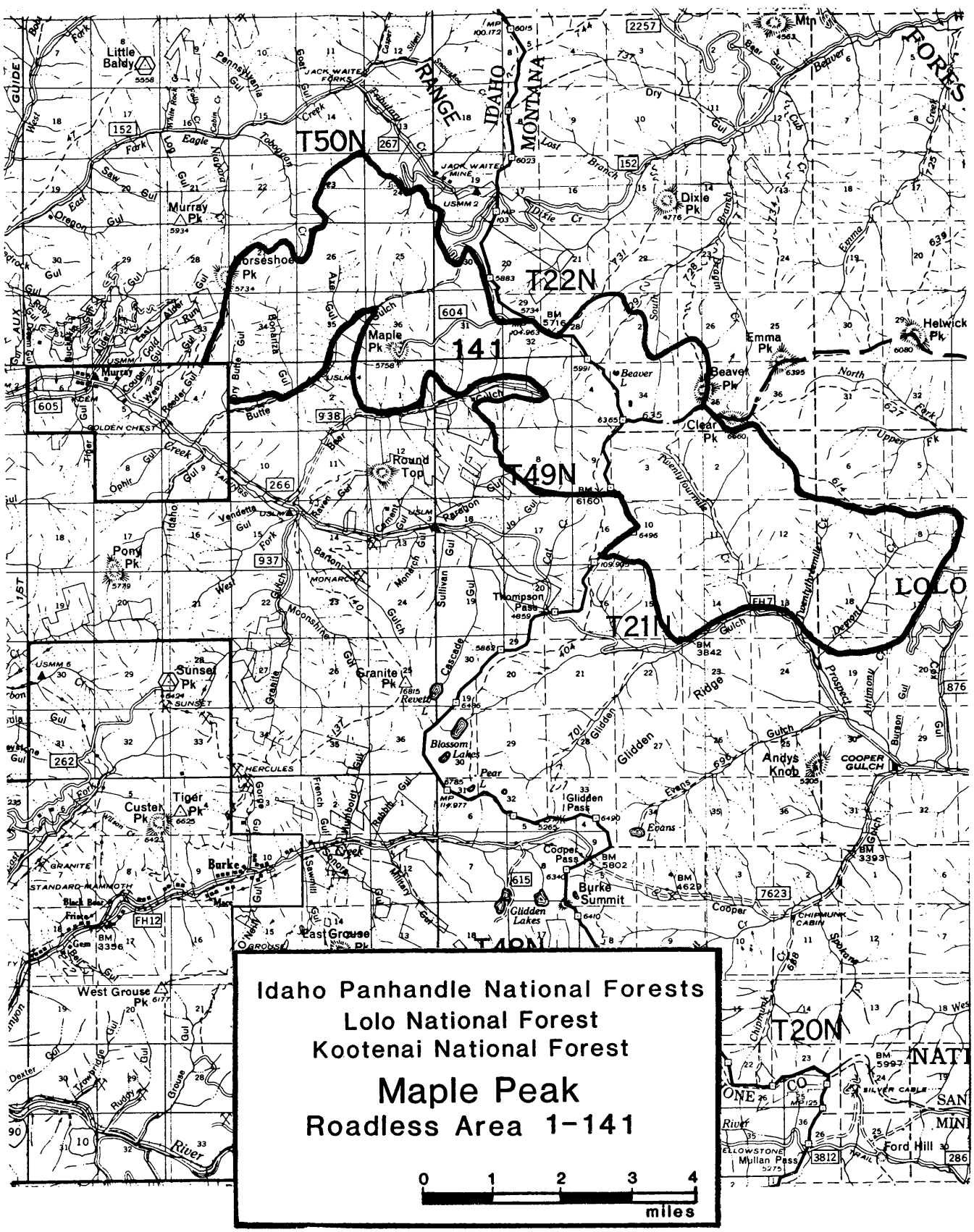
Topographically, the area consists of an east-west ridge which crosses the drainages. Slopes are moderate, except near the State divide. Smaller drainages are wholly included. The boundary irregularly traverses ridges, streams, and cross slopes. Two small lakes are found within this area; neither is considered a significant fishery.

About 90 percent of the vegetation is a result of the 1910 fire which left large areas of brushfields and timber stands which are now pole-size lodgepole, Douglas-fir, larch, and white pine. Subalpine vegetation is found at the highest elevations .

Hunting big game during September and October is the current predominant use. The area also receives light use by berrypickers, hikers, and stream fishing enthusiasts.

Most wildlife species found in northern Idaho also find habitat in this area. Unusual species include bobcat and lynx.

R. 5 E. R. 6 E.


T50N
T22N
T49N
T21N
T20N
141
IDAHO
MONTANA
LOLO
Little Baldy
Murray Pk
Horseshoe Pk
Maple Pk
Dixie Pk
Emma Pk
Helwick Pk
Beaver Pk
Clear Pk
Round Top
Pony Pk
Sunset Pk
Granite Pk
Tiger Pk
Custer Pk
Andys Knob
Burke
Burke Summit
Cooper Pass
Glidden Pass
Thompson Pass
Blossom Lakes
Glidden Lakes
East Grouse Pk
West Grouse Pk
Ford Hill
Idaho Panhandle National Forests
Lolo National Forest
Kootenai National Forest
Maple Peak
Roadless Area 1-141
0 1 2 3 4
miles

II. CAPABILITY

A. Wilderness Characteristics

1. Natural Integrity. Impacts from human activity in the Maple Peak area have resulted primarily from mining. This activity will probably continue into the future, further modifying the natural integrity.

2. Natural Appearance. A person visiting this area would find it difficult to view any substantially large areas of natural appearing landscape.

3. Solitude. Opportunity for solitude in the Maple Peak area will be greatly influenced by the level of mining activity in the area on patented and unpatented claims.

4. Primitive Recreation Opportunities. Private inholdings in the form of patented mining claims cover most of the lower elevations in Butte Gulch. The only opportunities for recreation associated with water are in Bear Gulch. An existing mining road accesses all of Bear Gulch, precluding any primitive recreation experience.

Opportunities for primitive recreation in the Maple Peak area would primarily consist of hunting and hiking along the Idaho-Montana Divide, use of two alpine lakes, rock climbing, and cross-country travel. These opportunities are more prevalent in the Montana portion due to the absence of mining there.

5. Other Features. In 1904 the Idaho-Montana boundary was resurveyed. Rock cairns and chiseled rock mile markers can be found along the divide.

In the 1930s the Maple Peak Lookout was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). This was removed in the mid-1950s.

Some sources have suggested that much of the area is potentially suitable habitat for grizzly bear.

B. Wilderness Manageability and Boundaries. This area was inventoried during RARE II; boundary changes since RARE II have added 6,700 acres. Due to the present and expected future mineral activity in the Maple Peak area, maintenance of an essentially roadless character will be difficult. Boundaries will be hard to manage, as they currently follow clearcuts and roads.

III. WILDERNESS AVAILABILITY

Table 1

Lolo, Idaho Panhandle, and Kootenai National Forests Total

Selected Resource Values

Category	Unit	01141
Gross Acres	Acres	16,812
Net Acres	Acres	16,294
Range		
Existing Obligated		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Existing Vacant		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Proposed		
Suitable	Acres	0
AUMs	No.	0
Timber		
Tentative		
Suitable	Acres	10,321
Standing Volume	MMBF	114
Minerals Potential		
Very High	Acres	7,599
High	Acres	9,001
Moderate	Acres	0
Low	Acres	0
Mining Claims	No.	792
Oil and Gas Potential*		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	0
Low	Acres	16,294
Oil and Gas Leases		
Leases	No.	3
Leased Area	Acres	3,480
Corridors		
Existing and Potential	No.	1
Wildlife-Threatened and Endangered-Habitat		
Grizzly Bear		
Situation 1	Acres	0
Situation 2	Acres	0
Situation 3	Acres	0
Bald Eagle	Acres	0
Mountain Caribou	Acres	0
Gray Wolf	Acres	0
Wildlife-Big Game		
Summer Habitat	Acres	900
Winter Habitat	Acres	141
Specific-Elk		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Deer		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Significant Fisheries		
Stream Miles	Miles	0
Stream Habitat	Acres	0
Lakes	No.	0
Lake Habitat	Acres	0
Water Developments		
Existing	No.	1
Recreation		
Primitive	RVDs	270
Semiprimitive		
Nonmotorized	RVDs	4,872
Motorized	RVDs	1,000
Roaded Natural	RVDs	1,000

*Rating also includes uranium, geothermal, and other energy resources.

Table 1

Idaho Panhandle National Forests Portion

Selected Resource Values

Category	Unit	01141
Gross Acres	Acres	8,952
Net Acres	Acres	8,434
Range		
Existing Obligated		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Existing Vacant		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Proposed		
Suitable	Acres	0
AUMs	No.	0
Timber		
Tentative		
Suitable	Acres	4,851
Standing Volume	MMBF	74
Minerals Potential		
Very High	Acres	7,460
High	Acres	1,280
Moderate	Acres	0
Low	Acres	0
Mining Claims	No.	663
Oil and Gas Potential*		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	0
Low	Acres	8,434
Oil and Gas Leases		
Leases	No.	0
Leased Area	Acres	0

Category	Unit	01141
Corridors		
Existing and Potential	No.	0
Wildlife-Threatened and Endangered-Habitat		
Grizzly Bear		
Situation 1	Acres	0
Situation 2	Acres	0
Situation 3	Acres	0
Bald Eagle	Acres	0
Mountain Caribou	Acres	0
Gray Wolf	Acres	0
Wildlife-Big Game		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	141
Specific-Elk		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Deer		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Significant Fisheries		
Stream Miles	Miles	0
Stream Habitat	Acres	0
Lakes	No.	0
Lake Habitat	Acres	0
Water Developments		
Existing	No.	1
Recreation		
Primitive	RVDs	0
Semiprimitive		
Nonmotorized	RVDs	500
Motorized	RVDs	0
Roaded Natural	RVDs	500

*Rating also includes uranium, geothermal, and other energy resources.

Table 1

Lolo National Forest Portion

Selected Resource Values

Category	Unit	01141
Gross Acres	Acres	6,960
Net Acres	Acres	6,960
Range		
Existing Obligated		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Existing Vacant		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Proposed		
Suitable	Acres	0
AUMs	No.	0
Timber		
Tentative		
Suitable	Acres	5,470
Standing Volume	MMBF	40
Minerals Potential		
Very High	Acres	139
High	Acres	6,821
Moderate	Acres	0
Low	Acres	0
Mining Claims	No.	129
Oil and Gas Potential*		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	0
Low	Acres	6,960
Oil and Gas Leases		
Leases	No.	3
Leased Area	Acres	3,480

Category	Unit	01141
Corridors		
Existing and Potential	No.	1
Wildlife-Threatened and Endangered-Habitat		
Grizzly Bear		
Situation 1	Acres	0
Situation 2	Acres	0
Situation 3	Acres	0
Bald Eagle	Acres	0
Mountain Caribou	Acres	0
Gray Wolf	Acres	0
Wildlife-Big Game		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Elk		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Deer		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Significant Fisheries		
Stream Miles	Miles	0
Stream Habitat	Acres	0
Lakes	No.	0
Lake Habitat	Acres	0
Water Developments		
Existing	No.	0
Recreation		
Primitive	RVDs	0
Semiprimitive		
Nonmotorized	RVDs	4,872
Motorized	RVDs	1,000
Roaded Natural	RVDs	0

*Rating also includes uranium, geothermal, and other energy resources.

Table 1

Kootenai National Forest Portion

Selected Resource Values

Category	Unit	01141
Gross Acres	Acres	900
Net Acres	Acres	900
Range		
Existing Obligated		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Existing Vacant		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Proposed		
Suitable	Acres	0
AUMs	No.	0
Timber		
Tentative		
Suitable	Acres	0
Standing Volume	MMBF	0
Minerals Potential		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	900
Moderate	Acres	0
Low	Acres	0
Mining Claims	No.	0
Oil and Gas Potential*		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	0
Low	Acres	900
Oil and Gas Leases		
Leases	No.	0
Leased Area	Acres	0
Corridors		
Existing and Potential	No.	0
Wildlife-Threatened and Endangered-Habitat		
Grizzly Bear		
Situation 1	Acres	0
Situation 2	Acres	0
Situation 3	Acres	0
Bald Eagle	Acres	0
Mountain Caribou	Acres	0
Gray Wolf	Acres	0
Wildlife-Big Game		
Summer Habitat	Acres	900
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Elk		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Deer		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Significant Fisheries		
Stream Miles	Miles	0
Stream Habitat	Acres	0
Lakes	No.	0
Lake Habitat	Acres	0
Water Developments		
Existing	No.	0
Recreation		
Primitive	RVDs	270
Semiprimitive		
Nonmotorized	RVDs	0
Motorized	RVDs	0
Roaded Natural	RVDs	0

*Rating also includes uranium, geothermal, and other energy resources.

A. Resource Values

1. Recreation. Current recreation use is light--mostly hunting. Light off-road vehicle use is present.

2. Wildlife. Most species found in northern Idaho are also found here. There is no habitat for threatened and endangered species. Water from this area feeds into Big Beaver Creek, a well known fishery.

3. Timber. About 10,000 acres are tentatively suitable for timber management. Some of these suitable sites are now brushfields which may be costly to reforest.

4. Minerals. Hardrock mineral potential is high. There are several patented mining claims and 792 unpatented mining claims. Minerals have been and are currently being extracted. Most of the area is under oil and gas lease application.

5. Range. None

B. Other Management Considerations

1. Fire. The number of fires occurring annually is small; the 1910 fire is an example of the potential for a periodic large fire.

IV. NEED

A. Contribution to National Wilderness Preservation System. Maple Peak can contribute opportunities for solitude in an alpine lake setting, roadless elk hunting, rugged cross-country travel, and watershed protection for downstream fisheries.

B. Public Interest and Concerns. Public response during RARE II indicated that among respondents 10 percent favored inclusion into the National Wilderness System; 90 percent favored a non-wilderness designation.

C. Proximity to Designated Wilderness and to Population Centers. Table 3, Parts A and B, displays wilderness opportunities and proximity to roadless areas on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The closest wilderness area is the Cabinet Wilderness in western Montana, approximately 100 miles to the northeast. There is access to 1.6 million acres of wilderness located within 200 miles of Coeur d'Alene, as well as an additional 5.8 million acres within 300 miles (northern Idaho, eastern Washington and Oregon, and western Montana).

V. ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

A. Management Emphasis Assignment by Alternatives. Management emphasis indicates which resource activity is highlighted. If the emphasis is timber, most of the activity on those acres would be for timber management. Resource activities which are compatible with the emphasis would continue, but with less intensity. Table 2 lists the acres of each management emphasis by alternative.

Table 2

Maple Peak Roadless Area (01141)
Management Emphasis by Alternative

Management Emphasis	Alternatives 1/											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
IPNF	(D)	(A)	(H)	(B)	(E)	(C)	(E)	(I)	(C,O)	(G,H)	(J)	(K)
Kootenai	(A)	(C)	(G)	(C)	(D,E,F)	(-)	(D,E,F,G)	(-)	(G)	(D,E,F)	(D,E,F)	(D,E,F)
Lolo												
	(Thousand Acres)											
Wilderness	0	0	16.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non-wilderness												
No Tbr. Harvest	0.6	0.6	0	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.3
Timber/Wildlife	8.0	8.0	0	8.0	8.0	8.0	4.0	8.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Wildlife/Visual	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Special Areas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minimum Level	7.7	7.7	0	7.7	7.7	7.7	12.0	7.7	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0
Total	16.3	16.3	16.3	16.3	16.3	16.3	16.3	16.3	16.3	16.3	16.3	16.3
Summary of Management Emphasis:												
Developed												
Decade 1	3.0	1.0	0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	2.0	2.0	4.0	6.0
Decade 5	14.0	14.0		14.0	14.0	14.0	5.0	12.0	5.0	14.0	14.0	12.0
Roadless 2/												
Decade 1	13.3	15.3	0	14.3	14.3	14.3	14.3	15.3	14.3	14.3	12.3	11.3
Decade 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	11.3	0	11.3	0	0	0
Wilderness	0	0	16.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

1/ Alternative clarification -

1 - Regional Goals
2 - High Market
3 - High Nonmarket
4 - High Timber, Fish
5 - Moderate All Resources
6 - High Timber, Wildlife
7 - High Nonmarket, Stable Timber
8 - Current Program
9 - High Recreation
10 - High Wildlife, Moderate Timber
11 - Preferred Alternative
12 - Preferred w/Departure

2/ Roadless is defined as 5,000 acres or greater in size or any acreage if contiguous to existing wilderness.

B. Impacts

1. Designation: Wilderness

Management Emphasis: Wilderness

This management emphasis occurs in Alternative 3.

Low standard roads could be obliterated and mining activities would be curtailed--both would enhance wilderness values. Land exchange or purchase would consolidate ownership control and also improve wilderness values.

The 10,000 acres of suitable timberland would not be available. Minerals, oil, and gas, if found, may not be available.

Motorized use would likely be curtailed.

The non-priced benefits or costs would be:

-- Most wildlife species would be favorably or neutrally impacted. Species found in disturbed areas could be adversely impacted, depending on the degree and timing of natural disturbances.

-- The National Wilderness System area would increase.

-- Visual quality would be retained.

-- Water quality and fisheries would be preserved.

-- Natural ecosystem would be protected.

-- Opportunity for solitude would increase.

-- Diversity would tend toward old growth.

-- Big game security would increase.

-- Recreational opportunities would be mostly semi-primitive.

-- Off-road vehicle use would be eliminated.

Social and economic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. Since wilderness precludes timber harvest and mineral development, the related industries would not be supported by this emphasis. From a social aspect, the publics valuing wilderness would be supported as well as those people who desire to view the area in its unaltered state.

2. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: No Timber Harvest

All alternatives would designate from 2 to 4 percent of the Maple Peak area for this emphasis. This proportion of the area is characterized by islands of old-growth timber left from the great 1910 fire.

Due to the size of designations for this emphasis, no significant impacts to wilderness suitability, market resources, non-priced components, or socioeconomic concerns are anticipated.

3. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Timber/Wildlife

All non-wilderness alternatives would designate some portion of this area for the Timber/Wildlife management emphasis.

Alternatives 7, 9, 10, 11, and 12 designate 24 percent of the area for Timber/Wildlife.

Alternatives 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, and 8 would designate approximately 49 percent of the area for this emphasis. These alternatives would differ only in the methodology utilized for timber harvest.

The Timber/Wildlife emphasis, in itself, would not preclude further consideration of the Maple Peak area for wilderness designation at the end of the first decade. In all non-wilderness alternatives the area would be open to minerals exploration. Recent interest in the area for strata-bound deposits of gold and copper will probably result in extensive roading for exploration prior to entry for timber management, rendering the area unsuitable for further wilderness consideration. As demonstrated in the previous narrative discussion, opportunities for wilderness experience, even at the present time, are marginal at best.

Impacts on market resources, in the area of wood products, would be more significant in the later decades of the planning cycle. Predominately much of the tenatively suitable timber areas are presently in the pole-size class. The availability of minerals in the area could have a significant impact on these markets.

The non-priced benefits or costs would be:

-- Wilderness values would eventually be foregone.

-- Visual quality will decline.

-- On 50 percent of the area diversity would tend toward younger, even-aged stands; the balance would tend towards old-growth.

-- Security for big game animals would decline.

-- Semi-primitive recreation opportunities would decline.

-- Water quality and fisheries would decline.

-- Opportunities for solitude will decline.

-- Quality hunting experiences will decline.

Social and economic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. Timber and mineral resources would be available, thus supporting the wood products and minerals industries. The change in recreation setting could be disruptive to those publics using the area for primitive or semi-primitive recreation as well as publics viewing the area.

4. Designation: Non-Wilderness

Management Emphasis: Minimum Level

All non-wilderness alternatives would designate a significant portion of the area for the Minimum Level emphasis.

Alternatives 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, and 8 would designate 47 percent of the area for this emphasis.

Alternatives 7, 9, 10, 11, and 12 would designate 74 percent to the Minimum Level emphasis.

Areas designated for this management emphasis under the above alternatives are predominately high elevation areas and rock outcrops which are unproductive sites. These areas could be impacted, dependent upon alternative selection, by the need to access other adjacent productive areas and mineral exploration. Consequently, impacts would be similar to those described in the Timber/Wildlife discussion previous.

STEVENS PEAK ROADLESS AREA (01142)

I. DESCRIPTION

Size	Gross Acres	Net Acres
Idaho - Idaho Panhandle NF	4,831	4,370
Montana - Lolo NF	700	600
Totals	5,531	4,970

The Stevens Peak Roadless Area is situated on both sides of the Idaho-Montana state line about four miles south of Mullan, Idaho, and nine air miles north of Avery, Idaho. The Idaho portion lies within Shoshone County on the Avery and Wallace Ranger Districts of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests; the Montana portion lies in Mineral County on the Superior Ranger District of the Lolo National Forest. Approximately 600 acres of private land are included within the area--all patented mining claims. The most popular access is on trails which originate at the Lookout Pass overpass on Interstate 90. Other access is provided by low standard mining roads entering at several locations into the unit.

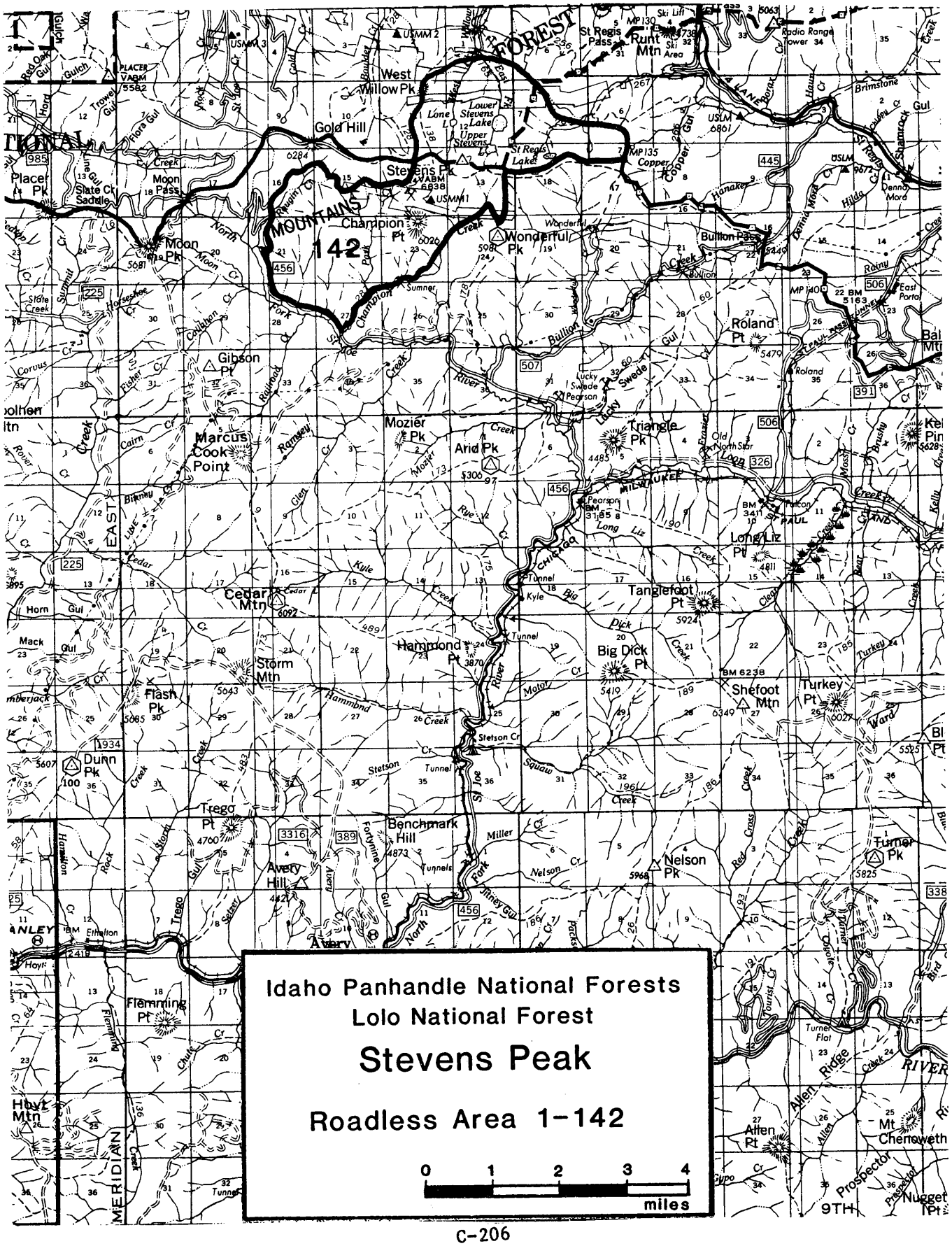
Stevens Peak, with an elevation of 6,838 feet, dominates the topography of this irregularly-shaped unit. Several features of alpine glaciation, including cirques, alpine lakes, and moraines, typify the area lying north of Stevens Peak. Steep slopes dissected by tributaries of the North Fork of the St. Joe characterize the southern half. The lowest elevation of the unit is 3,600 feet along the North Fork of the St. Joe River.

A majority of the area burned in 1910 and reburned in 1928. One area of old-growth mountain hemlock remains in the upper reaches of Rougin and Park Creek drainages, with isolated residual trees scattered elsewhere in the unit. The lower elevations on both the St. Joe and Lolo portions were planted following the 1928 fire with off-site ponderosa pine or eastern white pine. Several areas, however, remain in a nonstocked brushfield condition. The higher elevations now support relatively sparse vegetation, generally subalpine, with some rockland and talus slopes present. The more productive slopes generally are covered by pole-sized stands of mixed species composition. Habitat-types range from cedar/clitonia at the lower elevations to mountain hemlock/menziesia or mountain hemlock/beargrass at the higher elevations.

The area provides summer range for a variety of big game, including elk, whitetail deer, mule deer, and black bear. Cougar, bobcats, lynx, pine marten, and several small mammals also inhabit the area.

The Stevens Peak area exists as a popular recreational area, receiving about 6,500 recreation visitor days use per year. The greatest attractions are the alpine lakes--Upper and Lower Stevens and Lone Lake on the Idaho side and the St. Regis Lakes on the Montana portion--which provide fishing, swimming, and floating opportunities. The St. Regis Basin is an especially popular destination for both cross-country skiers in the winter and backpackers and hikers in the summer. Other forms of outdoor recreation include horseback riding, mountain climbing (limited), and pleasure driving with motorbikes or four-wheel drive vehicles on several of the mining access roads. The area also receives moderate hunting pressure in the fall.

R. 5 E. R. 6 E.


Idaho Panhandle National Forests
Lolo National Forest
Stevens Peak
Roadless Area 1-142
0 1 2 3 4
miles
142
Placer Pk
Moon Pk
Gibson Pt
Marcus Cook Point
Cedar Mtn
Storm Mtn
Flash Pk
Dunn Pk
Trego Pt
Avery Hill
Flemming Pt
Hoyt Mtn
Gold Hill
West Willow Pk
Stevens Pk
Champion Pt
Wonderful Pk
Mozier Pk
Arid Pk
Triangle Pk
Roland Pt
Long Liz Pt
Tanglefoot Pt
Hammond Pt
Big Dick Pt
Shefoot Mtn
Turkey Pt
Benchmark Hill
Nelson Pk
Turner Pk
Allen Pt
Mt Chenoweth
Nugget Pt
St Regis Pass
Runt Mtn
Bullion Pass
Paul Pass
Avery

II. CAPABILITY

A. Wilderness Characteristics

1. Natural Integrity. With the exception of a few old mining roads, the area has qualities predominantly influenced by nature rather than by man.

2. Natural Appearance. The size of the area results in a relatively limited opportunity to view large areas of natural appearing landscape; however, the landscape within the area is virtually all natural appearing. Views from some of the higher elevations reveal logging activities such as clearcuts and roads outside the Stevens Peak Roadless Area.

3. Solitude. Opportunities for solitude for a significant number of visitors are hampered by the rugged terrain and high elevations which tend to concentrate use around the lakes during July and August.

4. Primitive Recreation Opportunities. Opportunities for a primitive recreation experience in the Stevens Peak Roadless area are fairly good. Most of the lakes in the area have suitable sites for primitive camping; however, some of these sites are showing signs of over-use. There is a good system of trails in the area, but many of them are in need of reconstruction.

5. Other Features. During the 1910 fires, one person is known to have perished within this roadless area. Cultural sites related to this event may still exist.

The area provides opportunities to view glaciated peaks, cirques, and cirque lakes, affording the viewer a high degree of visual quality which is unavailable in the more or less uniform landscape in the surrounding areas.

Though none have been located, there is a strong possibility that remains of single dwelling miners' cabins, primitive rock monuments and cairns, and rock markers from the 1904-1905 resurvey of the Idaho-Montana border may exist in the area.

The Stevens Peak Roadless Area is contiguous with the 5,070-acre Wonderful Peak Roadless Area to the southeast.

This area is also one of the few roadless areas where high elevation winter access is relatively easy. The area can be reached from Interstate 90 within one hour when traveling on cross-country skis. This value is offset somewhat by the high natural avalanche hazard in the St. Regis Basin.

On the Lolo, there are old mining cabins, two lookout sites, and two mineral development areas. There also is a 1,200-acre plantation of off-site species of eastern white pine and ponderosa pine, an old mining road, and 4-wheel drive roads along ridges that all impact the area.

Some sources have suggested that much of the area is potentially suitable habitat for grizzly bear.

B. Wilderness Manageability and Boundaries. This area was inventoried during RARE II; no boundary changes have occurred since then. The boundaries of the Coeur d'Alene portion would be somewhat indistinguishable in the north end of the area. Boundaries on the south end follow Champion Creek and the North Fork of the St. Joe River.

The Stevens Peak area does not pose any substantial limitations in regard to management for wilderness, should it be so designated, with the exception of private land inholdings.

The area would be highly accessible to the public, since it lies adjacent to Interstate 90 about halfway between Spokane and Missoula.

III. WILDERNESS AVAILABILITY

Table 1

Total Stevens Peak Roadless Area

Category	Unit	01142
Gross Acres	Acres	5,531
Net Acres	Acres	4,970
Range		
Existing Obligated		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Existing Vacant		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Proposed		
Suitable	Acres	0
AUMs	No.	0
Timber		
Tentative		
Suitable	Acres	2,538
Standing Volume	MMBF	19
Minerals Potential		
Very High	Acres	3,200
High	Acres	1,770
Moderate	Acres	0
Low	Acres	0
Mining Claims	No.	347
Oil and Gas Potential*		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	0
Low	Acres	4,970
Oil and Gas Leases		
Leases	No.	2
Leased Area	Acres	600
Corridors		
Existing and Potential	No.	0
Wildlife-Threatened and Endangered-Habitat		
Grizzly Bear		
Situation 1	Acres	0
Situation 2	Acres	0
Situation 3	Acres	0
Bald Eagle	Acres	0
Mountain Caribou	Acres	0
Gray Wolf	Acres	0
Wildlife-Big Game		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Elk		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Deer		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Significant Fisheries		
Stream Miles	Miles	0
Stream Habitat	Acres	0
Lakes	No.	0
Lake Habitat	Acres	0
Water Developments		
Existing	No.	0
Recreation		
Primitive	RVDs	0
Semiprimitive		
Nonmotorized	RVDs	0
Motorized	RVDs	5,500
Roaded Natural	RVDs	1,000

*Rating also includes uranium, geothermal, and other energy resources.

Idaho Panhandle Portion

Category	Unit	01142
Gross Acres	Acres	4,831
Net Acres	Acres	4,370
Range		
Existing Obligated		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Existing Vacant		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Proposed		
Suitable	Acres	0
AUMs	No.	0
Timber		
Tentative		
Suitable	Acres	2,390
Standing Volume	MMBF	18
Minerals Potential		
Very High	Acres	3,200
High	Acres	1,170
Moderate	Acres	0
Low	Acres	0
Mining Claims	No.	300
Oil and Gas Potential*		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	0
Low	Acres	4,370
Oil and Gas Leases		
Leases	No.	0
Leased Area	Acres	0

Category	Unit	01142
Corridors		
Existing and Potential	No.	0
Wildlife-Threatened and Endangered-Habitat		
Grizzly Bear		
Situation 1	Acres	0
Situation 2	Acres	0
Situation 3	Acres	0
Bald Eagle	Acres	0
Mountain Caribou	Acres	0
Gray Wolf	Acres	0
Wildlife-Big Game		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Elk		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Deer		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Significant Fisheries		
Stream Miles	Miles	0
Stream Habitat	Acres	0
Lakes	No.	0
Lake Habitat	Acres	0
Water Developments		
Existing	No.	0
Recreation		
Primitive	RVDs	0
Semiprimitive		
Nonmotorized	RVDs	150
Motorized	RVDs	1,000
Roaded Natural	RVDs	1,000

*Rating also includes uranium, geothermal, and other energy resources.

Lolo Portion

Category	Unit	01142
Gross Acres	Acres	700
Net Acres	Acres	600
Range		
Existing Obligated		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Existing Vacant		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Proposed		
Suitable	Acres	0
AUMs	No.	0
Timber		
Tentative		
Suitable	Acres	148
Standing Volume	MMBF	1
Minerals Potential		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	600
Moderate	Acres	0
Low	Acres	0
Mining Claims	No.	47
Oil and Gas Potential*		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	0
Low	Acres	600
Oil and Gas Leases		
Leases	No.	2
Leased Area	Acres	600

Category	Unit	01142
Corridors		
Existing and Potential	No.	0
Wildlife-Threatened and Endangered-Habitat		
Grizzly Bear		
Situation 1	Acres	0
Situation 2	Acres	0
Situation 3	Acres	0
Bald Eagle	Acres	0
Mountain Caribou	Acres	0
Gray Wolf	Acres	0
Wildlife-Big Game		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Elk		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Deer		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Significant Fisheries		
Stream Miles	Miles	0
Stream Habitat	Acres	0
Lakes	No.	0
Lake Habitat	Acres	0
Water Developments		
Existing	No.	0
Recreation		
Primitive	RVDs	0
Semiprimitive		
Nonmotorized	RVDs	0
Motorized	RVDs	3,000
Roaded Natural	RVDs	1,000

*Rating also includes uranium, geothermal, and other energy resources.

A. Resource Values

1. Recreation. This area receives a wide variety of year-round use. Use is concentrated on the trails which access the lakes and areas near the lakes.

2. Wildlife. The wide variety of animals found in northern Idaho is also found in this area.

3. Timber. Future development of the timber resource would involve the management of 2,500 acres within the area.

4. Minerals. This roadless area contains 347 mining claims, both patented and unpatented. Numerous old prospects are prevalent. A major exploration company has an active diamond drill program on both patented and unpatented claims. Seventy-three percent of the area is rated as having very high mineral potential, with the remainder rated as high.

Oil and gas potential is estimated to be low. In Idaho, the entire area is covered by a lease application. In Montana, the entire area is presently under lease.

5. Range. None.

B. Other Management Considerations

1. Fire. Although the entire area burned in the catastrophic 1910 fire, the number of fires occurring annually is low.

IV. NEED

A. Contribution to National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS). The main attributes and contributions of this area are the display of successional vegetative changes resulting from the 1910 fire and the alpine characteristics of the peaks and lakes associated with the Idaho-Montana Divide. It would also provide winter recreation opportunities.

B. Public Interest and Concerns. Public responses during RARE II indicated that among respondents less than 9 percent favored inclusion in the wilderness system and over 91 percent favored a non-wilderness designation.

C. Proximity to Designated Wilderness and to Population Centers. Table 3, Parts A and B, displays wilderness opportunities and proximity to roadless areas on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The closest wilderness area is the Cabinet Wilderness in western Montana, approximately 100 miles to the northeast. There is access to 1.6 million acres of wilderness located within 200 miles of Coeur d'Alene, as well as an additional 5.8 million acres within 300 miles (northern Idaho, eastern Washington and Oregon, and western Montana).

V. ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

A. Management Emphasis Assignment by Alternatives. Management emphasis indicates which resource activity is highlighted. If the emphasis is timber, most of the activity on those acres would be for timber management. Resource activities which are compatible with the emphasis would continue, but with less intensity. Table 2 lists the acres of each management emphasis by alternative.

Table 2

Stevens Peak Roadless Area (01142)
Management Emphasis by Alternative

Management Emphasis	Alternatives 1/											
IPNF	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Kootenai	(D)	(A)	(H)	(B)	(E)	(C)	(E)	(I)	(C,O)	(G,H)	(J)	(K)
Lolo	(A)	(C)	(G)	(C)	(D,E,F)	(-)	(D,E,F,G)	(-)	(G)	(D,E,F)	(D,E,F)	(D,E,F)
	(Thousand Acres)											
Wilderness	0	0	5.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non-wilderness												
No Tbr. Harvest	0.9	0	0	0	1.0	0	1.0	0.9	1.0	0	1.1	1.1
Timber/Wildlife	1.1	1.4	0	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.4	1.0	1.4	0.7	0.7
Wildlife/Visual	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.2	0	0	0	0	0
Special Areas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minimum Level	3.0	3.6	0	3.6	2.8	3.8	2.7	2.7	3.0	3.6	3.2	3.2
Total	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Summary of Management Emphasis												
Developed												
Decade 1	3.5	0.3	0	0.2	0	0	0	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Decade 5	4.4	1.4	0	1.0	1.2	2.1	2.4	0.5	1.7	0.8	0.1	0.1
Roadless 2/												
Decade 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Decade 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wilderness	0	0	4.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

1/ Alternative clarification -

1 - Regional Goals
2 - High Market
3 - High Nonmarket
4 - High Timber, Fish
5 - Moderate All Resources
6 - High Timber, Wildlife
7 - High Nonmarket, Stable Timber
8 - Current Program
9 - High Recreation
10 - High Wildlife, Moderate Timber
11 - Preferred Alternative
12 - Preferred w/Departure

2/ Roadless is defined as 5,000 acres or greater in size or any acreage if contiguous to existing wilderness.

B. Impacts

1. Designation: Wilderness

Management Emphasis: Wilderness

This area is designated wilderness in Alternative 3. This designation would preserve the existing attributes as well as enhance others since there are uses and facilities on the area not usually associated with wilderness. The activities associated with mining have had the greatest impact. Patented claims, exploration disturbances, mining roads, and cabins are known to exist in this area. The entire area is highly mineralized. Recreational uses such as snowmobiling, motorbiking, and four-wheel pleasure driving are now permitted on the area. Under wilderness designation all or most of these activities would be restricted or prohibited. The estimated 19 MMBF of standing timber would not be available for processing.

The non-priced benefits or costs would be:

-- The National Wilderness System area would increase.

-- Visual quality would be retained.

-- Natural ecosystem would be protected.

-- Water quality and fisheries would be preserved.

-- Opportunities for solitude would increase.

-- Diversity would tend toward old growth.

-- Big game security would be assured.

-- Recreational opportunities would remain mostly primitive.

-- Off-road vehicle use would be eliminated.

Social and economic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. Since wilderness precludes timber harvest and mineral development, the related industries would not be supported by this emphasis. From a social aspect, the publics valuing wilderness would be supported as well as those people who desire to view the area in its unaltered state.

2. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: No Timber Harvest

Alternatives 1, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, and 12 would designate approximately 20 percent of the area to this emphasis. These alternatives would manage this area for roadless recreation.

As these areas comprise only 1,000 acres, more or less, leaving these in an unroaded state would not affect future consideration of the area for wilderness designation.

The areas designated for roadless recreation are mostly unproductive (high elevation, rocky) and would not significantly affect the availability of wood products to the market. This emphasis would not materially affect the availability of mineral resources.

The non-priced benefits and costs would be:

-- Visual quality for these areas could be maintained, in the absence of further mineral activity.

-- Species diversity for the overall area could increase.

-- Some security for big game in the area would be maintained.

-- Some semi-primitive recreation would be maintained.

-- Quality hunting and fishing opportunities would be lessened due to overcrowding.

-- A very popular winter sports destination area could be protected.

The effects on the socioeconomic component would be similar to those outlined in the discussion of same in the Timber/Wildlife emphasis, which follows.

3. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Timber/Wildlife

In all non-wilderness alternatives some designation is made for this emphasis. Percentages range from a low of 14 percent for Alternatives 11 and 12 to a high of 28 percent in Alternatives 2, 4, 8, and 10.

Any designation for this emphasis will forego a wilderness designation in time. Barring any additional roading for minerals access, Alternatives 5, 6, and 7 would allow reconsideration at the end of the first decade. As the Stevens Peak area is contiguous to the Wonderful Peak Roadless Area (01152), any adjacent areas left unroaded could be included in the Wonderful Peak Roadless Area, regardless of size, should it be designated as wilderness.

On the acres classified as suitable for timber management, a very low volume figure (7.5 MBF/acre) is estimated. Ths maximum designated for this emphasis (under all alternatives) is 1,400 acres. Given the average volume and the number of acres designated, approximately 10 MMBF will be made available to the market during this planning cycle; therefore, a significant impact on the timber market is not expected. This emphasis would not affect the availability of mineral resources under any non-wilderness alternative.

The non-priced benefits and costs would be:

-- Visual quality may decline, proportionate to harvest level.

-- Diversity would tend toward younger, even-aged stands where timber harvest takes place.

-- Security for big game animals would be slightly lower.

-- Recreation opportunities would continue to be semi-primitive.

-- Water quality and fisheries may be adversely affected.

-- Opportunities for solitude will be less.

-- Quality hunting experiences will decline.

Social and economic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. Timber and mineral resources would be available, thus supporting the wood products and minerals industries. The change in recreation setting could be disruptive to those publics using the area for primitive or semi-primitive recreation as well as publics viewing the area.

4. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Minimum Level

All non-wilderness alternatives would designate a significant portion of the area to this emphasis. No alternative would have less than 54 percent of the Stevens Peak area designated for the minimum level emphasis.

Areas designated for this management emphasis under the above alternatives are predominately high elevation areas and rock outcrops which are unproductive sites. These areas could be impacted, dependent upon alternative selection, by the need to access other adjacent productive areas. Consequently, impacts would be similar to those described in the Timber/Wildlife discussion previous.

BIG CREEK ROADLESS AREA (01143)

I. DESCRIPTION

Size	Gross Acres	Net Acres
Idaho - Idaho Panhandle NF	81,342	74,940

The Big Creek Roadless Area is located 26 air miles east of St. Maries, and four miles south of Wallace, Idaho. The area is in Shoshone County on the Avery and St. Maries Districts of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. Approximately 1,480 acres of small private ownerships, 320 acres of State of Idaho ownership, and 2,160 acres administered by the Bureau of Land Management are included. These lands are concentrated on the western end of the roadless area. Several of the low standard roads constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps or mining interests and a series of maintained trails provide access within the unit.

This irregularly-shaped area is characterized by narrow drainages separated by high, steep ridges. Prominent peaks include Bad Tom Mountain, Lemonade Peak, Spooky Butte, Mastodon Mountain, Foolhen Mountain, and Elsie Peak. Topography is steep and dissected by numerous small drainages with elevations ranging from 2,400 feet on Big and Slate Creeks to over 6,000 feet on the St. Joe-Coeur d'Alene Divide. With the exception of two small areas which drain northward into the Coeur d'Alene River system, the majority of the unit flows in a southerly direction via Big Creek, Slate Creek, and their tributaries into the St. Joe River. Numerous bedrock outcrops are typical, especially in the lower reaches of the major streams.

In 1910, fire consumed nearly the entire unit, with much of the area reburning between 1919 and 1929. The present vegetative pattern reflects this past fire history as exhibited by extensive brushfields on the southern aspects and seedling/sapling stands on the more cool northerly aspects. Remnants of plantations of ponderosa pine, eastern and western white pine, and spruce which followed the 1910 fire and escaped subsequent reburns also exist throughout the unit. Small patches of old-growth timber remain, with the largest concentration in the southeastern corner. Habitat-types vary with the Douglas-fir and grand fir occupying the drier and western hemlock and cedar the more moist lower sites, grading at higher elevations into the mountain hemlock or alpine fir series.

The two primary uses of the Big Creek Roadless Area revolve around big game hunting and fishing. Both Big Creek and Slate Creek support important recreational fisheries. Big Creek is a significant migratory spawning stream for the St. Joe River and Coeur d'Alene Lake.

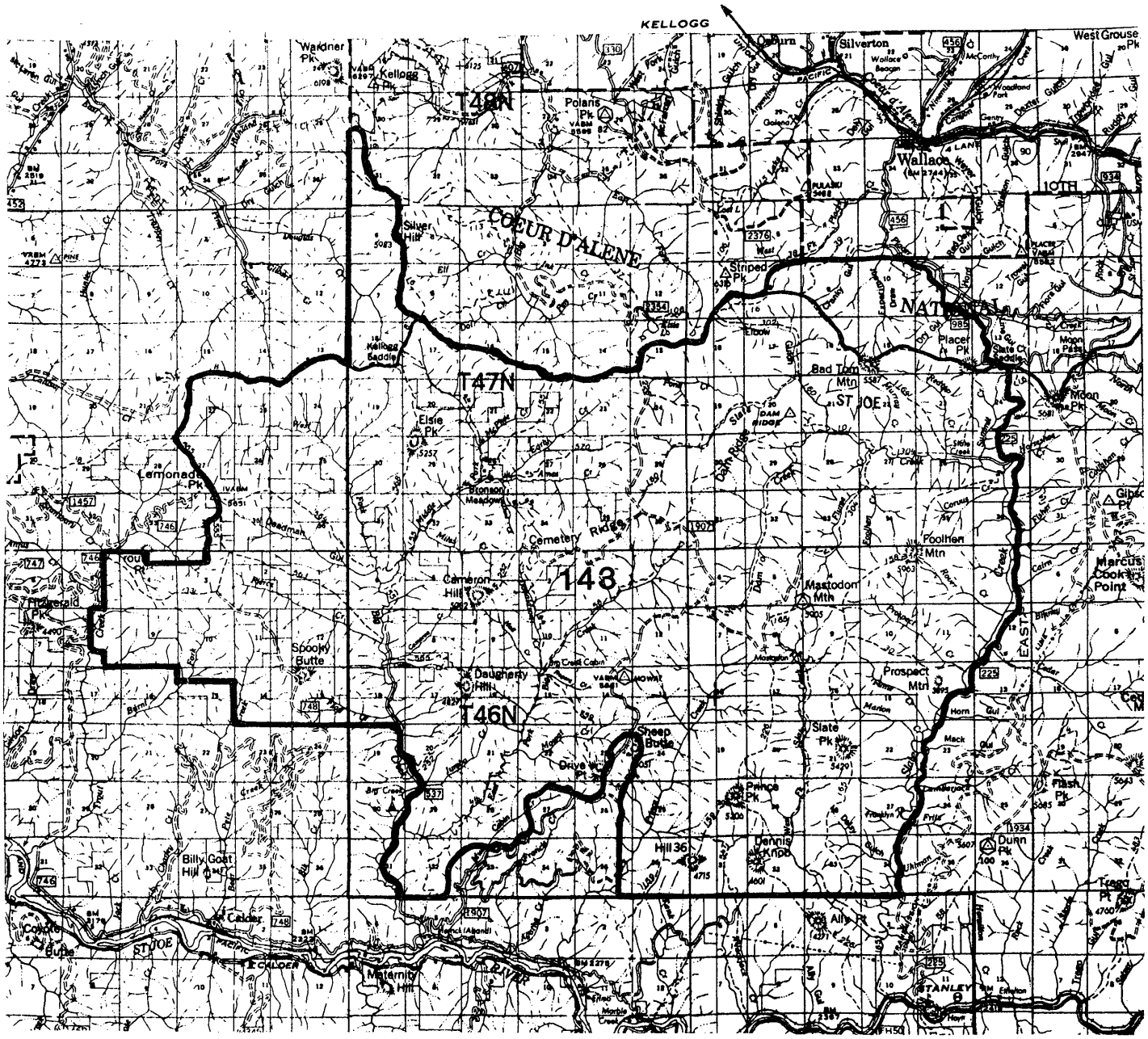
Pleasure driving with motorbikes, four-wheel drive vehicles, and off-road vehicles has increased on the several trails and roads within the unit. Other common uses of the area include hiking/backpacking, horseback riding, and snowmobiling.

Wildlife species include elk, whitetail deer, mule deer, black bear, grouse, and numerous species of non-game animals and birds. Big Creek and Slate Creek are considered to be important recreational fisheries. Big Creek is also an important migratory spawning stream for the St. Joe River and Coeur d'Alene Lake.

The area is accessible from a large number of points from both poor quality roads and paved roads.

Low standard roads access Mastodon Mountain, Cemetery Ridge, and Spooky Butte.

R. 2 E. R. 3 E. R. 4 E.



Idaho Panhandle National Forests

Big Creek

Roadless Area 1-143

0 1 2 3 4 miles

II. CAPABILITY

A. Wilderness Characteristics

1. Natural Integrity. Developments in the area include cabins, adits, drifts, tailings, and other signs of mining activity; remnants of several lookouts, including Lemonade Peak, Mastodon Mountain, Bad Tom Mountain, Hill 36, Cemetery Ridge, and Elsie Peak; and a number of roads and trails. Salvage logging occurred through most of the unit following the 1910 fire, with several dams, chutes, and fumes in the Slate Creek drainage. The Big Creek area was railroad logged following the 1910 fire. Attempts were made to reforest the area, but these plantations were destroyed by subsequent fires in the 1920s.

2. Natural Appearance. Timber harvest areas and associated roads outside the roadless area are visible from some of the prominent peaks and ridges within the area. Past mining activities, cabins, and roads are obvious within the immediate vicinity of the developments and, in some instances, from a distance. Evidences of old railroad grades and early logging activities are essentially unnoticeable.

3. Solitude. The Big Creek area is approximately 74,900 acres in size. The area is 10.4 miles long north to south and 16 miles across. Topography and vegetation provide screening which separates users from one another in short distances over most of the area. Dense, continuous brushfields tend to concentrate use along the bottoms of major drainages. Noise from vehicles on roads which intrude into the area is obvious to non-motorized users. Sounds from logging activities outside the area can sometimes be heard from within the area.

4. Primitive Recreation Opportunities. There are no developed recreation facilities within the area except for approximately 120 miles of trails. The area provides the opportunity to participate in such activities as fishing, hunting, hiking, horseback riding, and camping.

5. Other Features. During the 1910 fires, 18 people perished on the West Fork of Big Creek in Deadman Gulch. Another 10 died on the Middle Fork near Bronson Meadows. Cultural sites related to these events may exist within this roadless area.

The Big Creek National Recreational Trail System is located within the area. The system includes approximately 41 miles of trail. Trail 304 and Trail 30, which forms a loop from Slate Creek to Mastodon Mountain and back to Slate Creek via Prospect Creek, has been designed and reconstructed as an off-road vehicle (ORV) trail for motorized use. The ORV trail is approximately 9 miles in length.

The area is considered to be important elk habitat. The lower elevation southern exposures provide winter range while the higher elevations provide summer forage and security.

B. Wilderness Manageability and Boundaries. This area was inventoried during RARE II; no boundary changes have occurred since then. The eastern boundary of the area is generally defined by Forest Road 225, which follows the Slate Creek drainage to the St. Joe-Coeur d'Alene Divide. Approximately 60 percent of the northern boundary follows the St. Joe-Coeur d'Alene Divide. These portions of the area are generally well defined. Boundaries of the remainder of the roadless area are located to avoid development activities or on property lines and are difficult to identify or locate on the ground in a manner that is readily apparent to the forest user.

III. WILDERNESS AVAILABILITY

Table 1

Selected Resource Values

Category	Unit	01143
Gross Acres	Acres	81,342
Net Acres	Acres	74,940
Range		
Existing Obligated		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Existing Vacant		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Proposed		
Suitable	Acres	0
AUMs	No.	0
Timber		
Tentative		
Suitable	Acres	60,182
Standing Volume	MMBF	394
Minerals Potential		
Very High	Acres	3,840
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	42,660
Low	Acres	28,440
Mining Claims	No.	586
Oil and Gas Potential*		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	0
Low	Acres	74,940
Oil and Gas Leases		
Leases	No.	0
Leased Area	Acres	0
Corridors		
Existing and Potential	No.	0
Wildlife-Threatened and Endangered-Habitat		
Grizzly Bear		
Situation 1	Acres	0
Situation 2	Acres	0
Situation 3	Acres	0
Bald Eagle	Acres	0
Mountain Caribou	Acres	0
Gray Wolf	Acres	0
Wildlife-Big Game		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	9,907
Specific-Elk		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Deer		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Significant Fisheries		
Stream Miles	Miles	26
Stream Habitat	Acres	49
Lakes	No.	0
Lake Habitat	Acres	0
Water Developments		
Existing	No.	0
Recreation		
Primitive	RVDs	0
Semiprimitive		
Nonmotorized	RVDs	0
Motorized	RVDs	3,700
Roaded Natural	RVDs	1,000

*Rating also includes uranium, geothermal, and other energy resources.

A. Resource Values

1. Recreation. Current recreation use in the area includes hiking, horseback and motorcycle riding, fishing, hunting, sightseeing, and berrypicking from the various trails and roads which access the area. The Big Creek National Recreation Trail System is located in the western half of the unit. Big Creek, East Fork Big Creek, and Slate Creek are important recreational fisheries. The area receives considerable use by hunters during the fall elk and deer hunting seasons and during the spring bear hunting season.

2. Wildlife. Wildlife inhabitants include elk, black bear, and whitetail and mule deer, as well as a variety of small and non-game species. The area provides important elk summer and winter range as well as security area because of generally poor access. Cutthroat trout are found in most streams in the area. Big Creek and Slate Creek are important spawniong streams for Lake Coeur d'Alene and the St. Joe River. There are no threatened or endangered species occupying the area.

3. Timber. Approximately 60,000 acres of the area are estimated as tentatively suitable for timber production. Much of the ara was burned over by wildfires in 1910, 1919, and 1929. As a result, much of the area is dominated by brushfields.

4. Minerals. Mineral potential is categorized as low for hardrock minerals, oil, and gas. However, there has been minerals-related activity at various locations within the area in the past. Bedrock geology of this area contains argillites and quartzites of the Revett, St. Regis, Wallace, and Striped Peak formations. These are metasediments of the Precambrian Age Belt rocks. Numerous northwest-trending faults and associated cross faults are present. This area lies directly south of and adjoins the Silver Belt, which includes the Crescent, Sunshine, Silver Summit, Coeur, and Galena Mines. These mines have been and are the most prolific silver producers in the world.

5. Range. Cattle or sheep have not used the Big Creek area in recent years.

B. Other Management Considerations

1. Fire. Although large fires have occurred in the area in the past, the number and size of fires occuring annually is low.

IV. NEED

A. Contribution to National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS). The Big Creek area is an example of the long-term ecological effects of a catastrophic fire. Vegetation and low productivity of the area are evidences of the long-term effects of a severe fire. The area would provide an opportunity for quality elk hunting.

B. Public Interest and Concerns. The RARE II Environmental Impact Statement (1979) recommended the area for non-wilderness uses. This recommendation considered public interest and concern for wilderness as well as other concerns and interests. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game remains interested in the area because of the high quality elk habitat which the area provides and the potential for maintaining quality habitat conditions.

C. Proximity to Designated Wilderness and to Population Centers. Table 3, Parts A and B, displays wilderness opportunities and proximity to roadless areas on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The closest wilderness area is the Cabinet Wilderness in western Montana, approximately 100 miles to the northeast. There is access to 1.6 million acres of wilderness located within 200 miles of Coeur d'Alene, as well as an additional 5.8 million acres within 300 miles (northern Idaho, eastern Washington and Oregon, and western Montana).

V. ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

A. Management Emphasis Assignment by Alternatives. Management emphasis indicates which resource activity is highlighted. If the emphasis is timber, most of the activity on those acres would be for timber management. Resource activities which are compatible with the emphasis would continue, but with less intensity. Table 2 lists the acres of each management emphasis by alternative.

Table 2

Big Creek Roadless Area (01143)
Management Emphasis by Alternative

Management Emphasis	Alternatives[1/] (Thousand Acres) 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Wilderness	0	0	75.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	75.0	0	0
Non-wilderness												
No Tbr. Harvest	1.4	1.4	0	1.4	27.7	1.4	49.8	19.3	49.8	0	42.1	42.1
Timber/Wildlife	45.8	42.6	0	43.8	26.0	47.5	15.0	35.7	13.8	0	12.9	13.6
Wildlife/Visual	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Special Areas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minimum Level	27.8	31.0	0	29.8	21.3	26.1	10.2	20.0	11.4	0	19.9	19.3
Total	75.0	75.0	75.0	75.0	75.0	75.0	75.0	75.0	75.0	75.0	75.0	75.0
Summary of Management Emphasis:												
Developed												
Decade 1	4.4	7.6	0	10.3	6.6	5.2	5.2	5.8	4.5	0	5.0	5.0
Decade 5	73.1	71.4	0	37.6	25.0	71.0	25.0	18.2	22.0	0	34.2	13.2
Roadless[2/]												
Decade 1	70.6	67.7	0	64.7	68.4	69.8	69.8	69.2	70.5	0	70.0	70.0
Decade 5	0	0	0	37.4	44.8	0	50.0	56.8	53.0	0	40.7	61.8
Wilderness	0	0	75.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	75.0	0	0

1/ Alternative clarification -
- 1 - Regional Goals
- 2 - High Market
- 3 - High Nonmarket
- 4 - High Timber, Fish
- 5 - Moderate All Resources
- 6 - High Timber, Wildlife
- 7 - High Nonmarket, Stable Timber
- 8 - Current Program
- 9 - High Recreation
- 10 - High Wildlife, Moderate Timber
- 11 - Preferred Alternative
- 12 - Preferred w/Departure

2/ Roadless is defined as 5,000 acres or greater in size or any acreage if contiguous to existing wilderness.

B. Impacts

1. Designation: Wilderness

Management Emphasis: Wilderness

The Big Creek Roadless Area would be designated as wilderness in Alternatives 3 and 10.

Alternatives 3 and 10 would enlarge the wilderness system by creating new wilderness. The wilderness designation would impact timber production and mining. Lands suited to timber harvest and management would be included in thedesignation, as would lands suited to mineral exploration and development. Timber harvest is precluded in classified wilderness. Mineral exploration and development are, at best, constrained and may be excluded. Under Alternatives 3 and 10, approximately 394 MMBF of standing timber volume would not be available for harvest.

The non-priced costs and benefits would be:

-- The natural visual quality of the area would be retained.

-- Security for big game would be maintained.

-- The high water quality of streams within the area would be protected.

-- Recreational opportunities would remain primitive.

-- Motorized recreational activities would be eliminated.

-- The Big Creek National Recreation Trail System would be protected.

-- Opportunities to manipulate and improve important elk winter range would be foregone.

-- Important migratory spawning streams, such as Big Creek, would be protected from degradation.

-- The natural ecosystem would be protected and natural vegetative succession allowed to occur on those areas burned over by the 1910 fire.

Alternatives 3 and 10 would provide high levels of non-priced resource values. These alternatives would provide optimum wildlife habitat security conditions for big game. Publics valuing wilderness and those desiring areas of solitude and natural scenic quality would be supported by this management emphasis. On the negative, lands suited to economic development would remain undeveloped. Under the Wilderness management emphasis the local timber industry would not be supported.

2. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: No Timber Harvest

Portions of the Big Creek Roadless Area would be designated for a No Timber Harvest management emphasis under all alternatives except Alternatives 3 and 10. The proportion of the area designated aor a No Timber Harvest emphasis varies from a low of approximately 2 percent in Alternatives 1, 2, 4, and 6 to approximately 26 percent in Alternative 8, 37 percent in Alternative 5, approximately 56 percent in Alternatives 11 and 12, and a high of approximately 66 percent in Alternatives 7 and 9.

Under Alternatives 1, 2, 4, and 6, the No Timber Harvest areas would be designated as old-growth wildlife habitat. In Alternatives 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, and 12, the greatest portion of the area included in the No Timber Harvest emphasis would be designated for roadless recreation. Lands designated for this management emphasis would retain their wilderness characteristics under Alternatives 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, and 12. Wilderness characteristics would be foregone under Alternatives 1, 2, 4, and 6 because of the relatively small acreages involved. Under this management emphasis more than 85 percent of the Big Creek Roadless Area would remain roadless at the end of the first decade.

Timber management activities would generally be precluded under the No Timber Harvest management emphasis, although not prohibited by legislation or regulation. Approximately 60,200 acres of the Big Creek Area is estimated to be tentatively suitable for timber production. These acres contain an estimated 394 MMBF of standing timber volume. A portion of this volume would not be available under this management emphasis. The impact would be expected to be greatest under Alternatives 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, and 12 and least under Alternatives 1, 2, 4, and 6 because of the relative acreages involved.

The area to which the No Timber Harvest management emphasis is applied is available for minerals exploration and development, should valuable mineral deposits be discovered.

The non-priced costs and benefits would be:

-- The natural visual quality of the area would be retained. The greatest benefits would occur in Alternatives 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, and 12.

- -Habitat would be provided for old-growth habitat dependent wildlife species.

-- Security areas would be provided for big game.

-- Recreational opportunities would remain primitive.

-- The Big Creek National Recreation Trails System would be protected in Alternatives 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, and 12.

-- The natural ecosystem would be protected and natural vegetative succession allowed to occur on those areas burned over by the 1910 fires.

The emphasis would, in practice, augment the wilderness resource. The lands would remain roadless and vegetatively unaltered. The emphasis, particularly in Alternatives 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, and 12, would satisfy a segment of the public desiring to have roadless areas and those supporting wilderness. Recreationists seeking roaded natural recreation experiences would not be supported. A portion of the acreage within the Big Creek Area that is suitable for timber production would be unavailable under this management emphasis, although the impact would be slight under Alternatives 1, 2, 4, and 6. Overall, under this management emphasis, the local timber industry would not be supported.

3. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Timber/Wildlife

A portion of the Big Creek Roadless Area would be designated for a Timber/Wildlife management emphasis in all alternatives except Alternatives 3 and 10. The proportion of the area designated for this management emphasis varies from approximately 58 percent of the roadless area in Alternative 4 to 15 percent of the roadless area in Alternative 9. Designations for Timber/Wildlife management emphasis ranges between these extremes in the other alternatives.

Lands on which the Timber/Wildlife emphasis is implemented would be disqualified for wilderness consideration. The natural landscape would be changed to a landscape of roads and artificial openings. The solitude of the existing roadless area would be lost. Under this management emphasis, greater than 85 percent of the Big Creek Area would remain roadless at the end of the first decade. By the end of the fifth decade, roadless and wilderness values would be foregone under Alternatives 1, 2, and 6 because of roading and timber harvest activities.

Approximately 60,200 acres (80 percent) of the Big Creek Roadless Area are considered to be suitable for timber production. Under the Timber/Wildlife management emphasis, approximately 67 percent of the suitable acres would be treated under Alternatives 1, 2, 4, and 6. The emphasis in Alternatives 1 and 6 would be on maintaining or improving elk summer range through timber management activities. Approximately 50 percent of the suitable acres would be treated under Alternative 8. Approximately 40 percent of the acres suitable for timber production would be treated in Alternative 5, with the emphasis on maintaining visual quality values. Alternatives 7, 11, and 12 would treat approximately 20 percent of the suitable acres, with the emphasis on maintaining or improving elk summer range while maintaining the visual quality of the areas treated. Under the Timber/Wildlife management emphasis, greater than 85 percent of the Big Creek Roadless Area would remain roadless at the end of the first decade. However, under this management emphasis, wilderness values would eventually be foregone.

The Timber/Wildlife management emphasis is in support of market resource development. Alternatives 2 and 4 would offer the greatest opportunity. Alternatives 7, 11, and 12 would have the greatest impact on market resources because only about one-fifth of the suitable timber lands would be developed.

The timber/wildlife management emphasis would generally degrade the non-priced resources. As a result, non-priced costs and benefits would be:

-- Visual quality would decline as the area becomes roaded and timber harvest occurs. The impact would be less under Alternatives 5, 7, 9, 11, and 12 where visual quality retention receives greater emphasis.

-- Vegetative diversity would tend towards seral successional stages and species as timber stands are treated.

-- Water quality and fisheries habitat would be expected to decline but would stay within minimum management requirements.

-- Security for big game animals would be expected to decline because of roading and timber management activities. The management emphasis under Alternatives 1 and 6 is to maintain or enhance elk summer ranges. These alternatives would provide for retention of big game security areas.

-- In the long term, elk summer range would be expected to improve because of improved cover-forage ratios and a management emphasis on providing security. The greatest benefit would be expected to occur under Alternatives 1 and 6.

-- The existing semi-primitive/primitive recreational setting would be modified to a roaded natural setting.

The Timber/Wildlife management emphasis would have mixed social and economic effects. In general terms, it would have positive social and economic effects in terms of timber industry employment. It would also have negative social effects in terms of amenity values. Alternatives 7, 9, 11, and 12 would have the greatest economic impact because a majority of the lands with timber management potential would not be developed under these alternatives. At the same time, the negative impacts on the amenity values would be minimized under these alternatives, which would best support those publics favoring primitive recreational opportunities, natural visual quality retention, and unroaded conditions. Those individuals favoring wilderness would not be supported under the timber/Wildlife management emphasis.

4. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Wildlife/Visual

Portions of the Big Creek Roadless Area would be designated for the Wildlife/visual management emphasis in Alternatives 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 12. The proportion of the Big Creek Area included in this management emphasis varies from less than 1 percent under Alternatives 5 and 12 to approximately 9 percent under Alternative 6. The other alternatives range between these extremes.

In the Big Creek Roadless Area, the Wildlife/Visual management emphasis includes lands within identified big game winter range which are available for the management of winter range without regulated timber harvest. Lands on which this management emphasis is implemented would be disqualified for wilderness consideration because of roading and treatments applied to maintain

forage areas for wintering big game. Under this management emphasis, greater than 90 percent of the Big Creek Area would remain roadless at the end of the first decade.

The management emphasis would have little impact on the market resources. Productive timber loads are classed as unsuitable. In the short term, market resources would be enhanced, as some timber harvest would occur to develop big game forage. Acreages involved are relatively small and tend to occupy the harsher sites, such as the drier, low elevation south- and west-facing slopes.

Non-priced costs and benefits would be:

-- Natural visual quality would be altered by treatment activities which may range from timber harvest to prescribed burning.

-- Big game winter range habitat conditions would be improved.

-- Recreation opportunities would range from primitive to roaded natural.

-- Water quality would be reduced in the immediate vicinity of treatment areas but would remain within minimum management requirements.

Social and economic effects center on the resource values of timber, wildlife, and wilderness. There would be some minor short-term positive and long-term negative benefits to the local timber industry. Elk numbers would be anticipated to increase as winter range is better able to sustain populations. Improved hunting would be an indirect benefit. However, the overall effect would be viewed as insignificant in the context of the roadless area because it represents such a small part of the total acreage. Wilderness advocates would not be supported.

5. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Minimum Level

Portions of the Big Creek Roadless Area are designated for the Minimum Level management emphasis in all alternatives except Alternatives 3 and 10. The proportion of the Big Creek Area designated for this management emphasis varies from approximately 14 percent in Alternative 7 to approximately 41 percent in Alternative 2. The proportion designated in the other alternatives ranges between these extremes.

Lands under this management emphasis have been defined as those areas of nonforest, noncommercial, and forest lands where management is currently uneconomical or environmentally unfeasible. Acre variances between alternatives are created by other resource constraints imposed by alternative resource emphasis items.

Lands managed at the minimum level would not support wilderness consideration because of their relatively small contiguous acreage. Because of the definition of Minimal Level management emphasis lands, they would not impact timber production. Discovered minerals would be available for development.

Non-priced resource impacts and socioeconomic effects within these areas would be similar to those of the various resource management emphases of surrounding areas.

STORM CREEK ROADLESS AREA (01144)

I. DESCRIPTION

Size	Gross Acres	Net Acres
Idaho - Idaho Panhandle NF	9,502	8,211

The Storm Creek Roadless Area borders the north side of the St. Joe River approximately one mile west of Avery, Idaho. The area is situated entirely within Shoshone County on the Avery Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. Maintained roads encircle the area, with the Trego Point Road intruding 3 miles into the unit from the east.

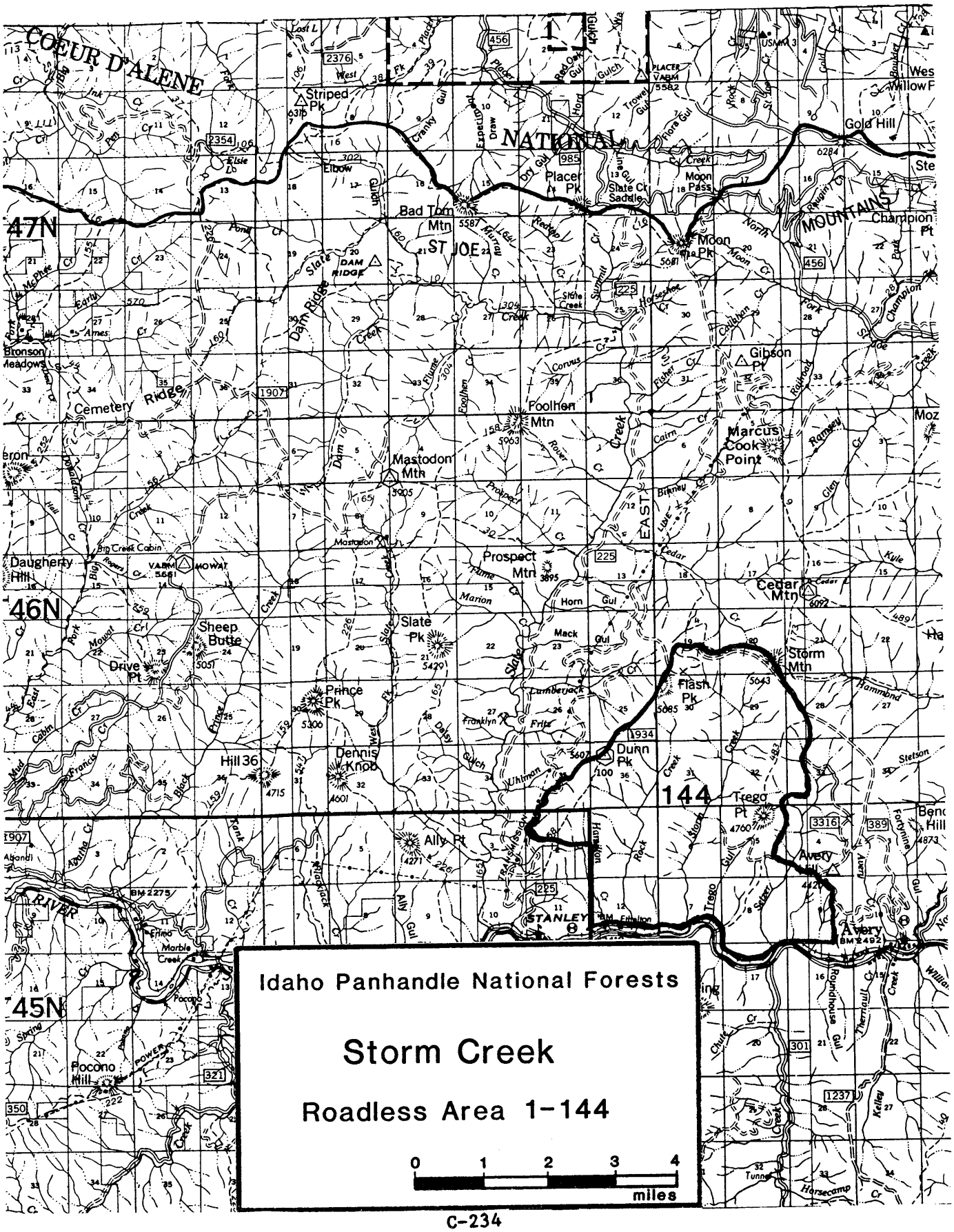
Steep, rugged slopes transected by several small drainages characterize the topography of this rectangular-shaped unit. Elevation ranges between 2,400 and 5,700 feet, with Dunn Peak, Storm Mountain, and Flash Peak being the most prominent landscape features.

The entire unit burned in 1910 and reburned in 1934, creating a mosaic of pole-sized timber and brushfields. Reforestation efforts followed the fires, with ponderosa pine being the primary planted species. Natural stands of lodgepole and Douglas-fir also occur throughout the area. A major portion of the unit, however, remains non-stocked. Primary habitat types are western hemlock/clintonia and cedar/clintonia.

There exists little concentrated use within the roadless area. Primary activities within the unit include big game hunting and viewing scenery. Primary usage centers on Dunn Peak Road 1934 on the northern boundary of the unit, which provides an excellent vista of the surrounding countryside. Few opportunities exist for hiking/backpacking, horseback-riding, or other recreational pursuits because of the rugged terrain and existing extensive brushfield vegetation.

The Storm Creek Roadless Area serves as an important winter and summer range for big game species, including elk, whitetail deer, mule deer, and black bear. Other game and non-game mammals and birds also inhabit the area, including beaver, grouse, martens, goshawks, and pileated woodpeckers. The fisheries resource, however, is limited.

R. 3 E. R. 4 E. R. 5 E.


COEUR D'ALENE
NATIONAL
ST JOE
MOUNTAINS
47N
46N
45N
144
Striped Pk
Bad Tom Mtn
Placer Pk
Moon Pass
Moon Pk
Gold Hill
Champion Pt
Gibson Pt
Foolhen Mtn
Marcus Cook Point
Mastodon Mtn
Prospect Mtn
Cedar Mtn
Storm Mtn
Flash Pk
Slate Pk
Sheep Butte
Drive Pt
Prince Pk
Hill 36
Dennis Knob
Dunn Pk
Trego Pt
Ally Pt
Avery Hill
Avery
STANLEY
Pocono Hill
Daugherty Hill
Cemetery Ridge
DAM RIDGE
EAST
RIVER
Idaho Panhandle National Forests
Storm Creek
Roadless Area 1-144
0 1 2 3 4
miles

II. CAPABILITY

A. Wilderness Characteristics

1. Natural Integrity. The impact of past human activities in this area has been relatively minor even though those activities have been extensive. The area is essentially encircled by road systems. One existing road enters the area for a distance of approximately three miles from the eastern boundary below Trego Point. This road is currently on our trail system (Trail 58). Remnants of several old trails that are no longer being maintained can be found in several locations. Along the western boundary the Dunn Peak lookout tower (which can be seen from many places within the roadless area) receives sporadic use as a manned fire detection lookout. Dunn Peak has also been classified as an electronic site and is currently being used by the Forest Service and the Shoshone County Sheriff's Office as a communications relay station.

There has been recent logging activity on adjacent private lands in the southwest corner of the area.

2. Natural Appearance. The Storm Creek area, although it is not exceedingly large, does offer most persons visiting the area a feeling that they are in a natural area. The steep topography of its three major drainages (Setzer, Storm, and Rock Creeks) contributes to this feeling by helping to isolate people from the evidence of nearby human activity and development. The extensive brushfields which occurred as a result of the 1910 fire cover such large areas that the periodic burning of some of those fields to maintain big game habitat appears to most people as a natural situation.

3. Solitude. The area offers limited opportunities for solitude. The 9,500 acres included in the Storm Creek area occur in an irregular shape that is approximately 4 miles long and 4-1/2 miles wide (at its widest point). The deeply dissected topography, while providing screening between people, also tends to concentrate their use of the area to ridgetop trails. At no place within this area is a person more than two miles from a road (even though topography may dictate a longer walk than that). The expanses of dense brush gives an appearance of openness from above while actually concealing many of the area's features (inhabitants).

4. Primitive Recreation Opportunities. Opportunities for primitive recreation experiences are generally limited. The size and shape of this area (2 miles from perimeter to core) provide few opportunities to actually be isolated from the evidence of man and his activities. With much of the area having similar topographic and vegetative features, there is little diversity of recreation opportunities. Primitive recreation experiences are further limited by motorized use of the trail system. Opportunities do exist for big game hunting (elk, deer, bear, mountain lion), horseback riding, hiking, and backpack camping.

5. Other Features. The entire area was burned during the 1910 fire. The greatest number of casualties occurred in the 1910 fire when twenty-eight people perished in the fire at the head of Storm Creek (Sec. 29, T. 46 N., R. 5 E.). Cultural sites related to that event are known to exist within this roadless area.

B. Wilderness Manageability and Boundaries. This area was inventoried during RARE II; no boundary changes have occurred since then. The area contains slightly more than 9,500 acres, of which 950 acres are in ownership other than National Forest. Approximately 300 acres are under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The remaining 650 acres are in either corporate or private ownership. Area boundaries are readily identified by roads and topographic features.

Future hardrock mineral development seems unlikely at this time. There are no known mining claims within this area.

III. WILDERNESS AVAILABILITY

Table 1

Selected Resource Values

Category	Unit	01144
Gross Acres	Acres	9,502
Net Acres	Acres	8,211
Range		
Existing Obligated		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Existing Vacant		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Proposed		
Suitable	Acres	0
AUMs	No.	0
Timber		
Tentative		
Suitable	Acres	2,000
Standing Volume	MMBF	5
Minerals Potential		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	1,920
Low	Acres	6,640
Mining Claims	No.	0
Oil and Gas Potential*		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	0
Low	Acres	8,211
Oil and Gas Leases		
Leases	No.	0
Leased Area	Acres	0
Corridors		
Existing and Potential	No.	0
Wildlife-Threatened and Endangered-Habitat		
Grizzly Bear		
Situation 1	Acres	0
Situation 2	Acres	0
Situation 3	Acres	0
Bald Eagle	Acres	0
Mountain Caribou	Acres	0
Gray Wolf	Acres	0
Wildlife-Big Game		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	5,466
Specific-Elk		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Deer		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Significant Fisheries		
Stream Miles	Miles	0
Stream Habitat	Acres	0
Lakes	No.	0
Lake Habitat	Acres	0
Water Developments		
Existing	No.	0
Recreation		
Primitive	RVDs	0
Semiprimitive		
Nonmotorized	RVDs	0
Motorized	RVDs	0
Roaded Natural	RVDs	1,000

*Rating also includes uranium, geothermal, and other energy resources.

A. Recreation Values

1. Recreation. Recreation use is light and occurs mostly as elk hunting in the fall. Occasional use of the Dunn Peak road, which forms the northern boundary of the area, also occurs. The road south of Trego Point is now closed to 4-wheel vehicles; cycle use probably occurs.

2. Wildlife. The most significant wildlife feature is the area's importance as summer and winter elk habitat. Most of the animals found in northern Idaho are also found here; unusual species likely present are bobcat and wolverine. No threatened and endangered species habitat exists in this area. Prescribed burning is considered important to maintain elk winter range.

3. Timber. About 2,000 acres are considered suitable for timber; however, many of these acres are now brush covered and difficult to reforest.

4. Minerals. The geology of this area is mainly composed of the metamorphic equivalent of the Wallace Formation of the Belt rocks. This area is almost totally sandwiched between two persistent northwest-striking faults.

There are no mining claims in the area at present although some old prospects are in evidence. About 22 percent of the area is rated as having moderate potential and 78 percent low.

Lack of information makes the area rate low for oil and gas; about 50 percent of this area is under lease application.

5. Grazing. Grazing use followed the 1910 and 1934 fires but was discontinued by 1950. Little potentail exists.

B. Other Management Considerations

1. Fire. Annual fire occurence is moderate, the area has a history of periodic severe fires. Prescribed fire is used frequently to improve elk winter range.

III. NEED

A. Contribution to National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS). The main attribute and contribution of this area is its display of successional vegetative changes resulting from the 1910 and 1934 fires which burned most of the area. The area would provide quality elk hunting.

B. Public Interest and Concerns. This area has received a moderate level of interest by local and regional groups and individuals, particularly in regard to its provision of roadless elk hunting opportunities. This information is based on public input received for the RARE II assessment. Public response to RARE II indicates that approximately 3 percent of those replying favored a wilderness designation and 97 percent a non-wilderness designation for this area.

C. Proximity to Designated Wilderness and to Population Centers. Table 3, Parts A and B, displays wilderness opportunities and proximity to roadless areas on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The closest wilderness area is the Cabinet Wilderness in western Montana, approximately 100 miles to the northeast. There is access to 1.6 million acres of wilderness located within 200 miles of Coeur d'Alene, as well as an additional 5.8 million acres within 300 miles (northern Idaho, eastern Washington and Oregon, and western Montana).

V. ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

A. Management Emphasis Assignment by Alternatives. Management emphasis indicates which resource activity is highlighted. If the emphasis is timber, most of the activity on those acres would be for timber management. Resource activities which are compatible with the emphasis would continue, but with less intensity. Table 2 lists the acres of each management emphasis by alternative.

Table 2

Storm Creek Roadless Area (01144)
Management Emphasis by Alternative

Management Emphasis	Alternatives[1/] (Thousand Acres) 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Wilderness	0	0	8.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	8.2	0	0
Non-wilderness												
No Tbr. Harvest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.5	0	0	0	0
Timber/Wildlife	3.5	3.5	0	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.6	1.8	2.9	0	2.7	2.7
Wildlife/Visual	2.8	0	0	0	0.4	2.8	0.8	3.2	3.6	0	0	0
Special Areas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minimum Level	1.9	4.7	0	4.7	4.2	1.9	3.8	2.7	1.7	0	5.5	5.5
Total	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.2
Summary of Management Emphasis:												
Developed												
Decade 1	0.7	1.0	0	1.2	1.0	0.7	0.9	1.2	0.9	0	2.0	2.3
Decade 5	2.1	6.2	0	2.2	2.6	2.1	5.8	1.5	3.1	0	4.0	3.7
Roadless[2/]												
Decade 1	7.5	7.2	0	7.0	7.2	7.5	7.3	7.0	7.3	0	6.2	5.9
Decade 5	6.1	0	0	6.0	5.6	6.1	0	6.7	5.1	0	0	0
Wilderness	0	0	8.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	8.2	0	0

1/ Alternative clarification -

1 - Regional Goals
2 - High Market
3 - High Nonmarket
4 - High Timber, Fish
5 - Moderate All Resources
6 - High Timber, Wildlife
7 - High Nonmarket, Stable Timber
8 - Current Program
9 - High Recreation
10 - High Wildlife, Moderate Timber
11 - Preferred Alternative
12 - Preferred w/Departure

2/ Roadless is defined as 5,000 acres or greater in size or any acreage if contiguous to existing wilderness.

B. Impacts

1. Designation: Wilderness

Manangement Emphasis: Wilderness

The entire area is designated as wilderness for Alternatives 3 and 10.

Wilderness attributes would be preserved under this designation. Existing uses and facilities not compatible with wilderness philosophy will be eliminated so that naturalness will be restored over time. Specific actions would include closure of the Trego Point road, and a slight boundary adjustment on Dunn Peak.

The harvest of 5 MMBF of marketable timber would be foregone under the wilderness designation. Minerals, oil, and gas would be unavailable for development if discovered, since the area would be withdrawn from mineral entry.

Non-priced benefits and costs would be:

-- The National Wilderness System area would increase.

-- Visual quality would be improved.

-- Natural ecosystem would be protected.

-- Water quality would be preserved.

-- Opportunities for solitude would be preserved.

-- Diversity would tend toward growth.

-- Recreation opportunities would tend to be semi-private, non-motorized.

-- Big game security would be improved.

The effect of the wilderness designation on the non-priced resource of wildlife is more complex. The quality of elk summer and winter range will be dependent on the administrative policy concerning the use of fire in wilderness. Other species of animals requiring disturbed habitat may decline as habitats approach climax through natural succession.

Social and economic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. Since wilderness precludes timber harvest and mineral development, the related industries would not be supported by this emphasis. From a social aspect, the publics valuing wilderness would be supported, as well as those people who desire to view the area in its natural state.

2. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: No Timber Harvest

Only 6 percent of this area is designated for this emphasis in Alternative 8. No land is designated for this management emphasis under any other alternatives. Significant impacts would not be present for wilderness values, market resources, non-priced resources or socioeconomic factors.

3. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Timber/Wildlife

All non-wilderness alternatives (1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, and 12) designate from 22 to 44 percent of the Storm Creek area to this emphasis.

Wilderness values would be adversely impacted by this emphasis. During the first decade, 10-30 percent of the area would be committed to timber harvest activities for all non-wilderness alternatives. After the fifth decade, 25-40 percent of the area would be developed for timber harvesting under Alternatives 1, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 9. After the fifth decade, Alternatives 2, 7, 10, 11, and 12 preclude designation of the entire area as wilderness, because the majority of the area is roaded or logged.

The market resource of timber will be developed on lands designated for this emphasis. A volume of 5 MMBF of standing sawtimber could be harvested during the planning period. Minerals, oil, and gas, if discovered, could be developed.

Non-priced benefits and costs are:

-- Wilderness values are foregone.

-- Visual quality will decline.

-- Diversity would tend toward younger, even-aged stands on areas where harvests take place and old-growth on minimum management areas.

-- Semi-primitive recreational opportunities would be foregone.

-- Water quality may decline slightly.

-- Quality roadless hunting opportunities may decline.

Social and economic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. Timber and mineral resources would be available, thus supporting the wood products and minerals industries. The change in recreation setting could be disruptive to those publics using the area for primitive or semi-primitive recreation as well as publics viewing the area from viewpoints on the St. Joe River and from surrounding peaks.

4. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Wildlife/Visual

The main thrust of the Wildlife/Visual emphasis in the Storm Creek Area is management of elk winter range. Alternatives 1, 6, 8, amd 9 designate 35-40 percent of the area for this emphasis. Alternatives 5 and 7 designate 5-10 percent of the area to this emphasis. All other non-wilderness alternatives do not designate land for this emphasis.

The wilderness resource would be impacted moderately, in the short run, for lands designated for this emphasis. Prescribed fire or mechanical treatment of vegetation would interrupt natural processes. Over the long run, the vegetative changes caused by man would not be distinguishable from the openings and vegetation caused by natural forces.

The market resource of timber would be enhanced, in the short run, if harvest is needed to create big game forage areas. However, no attempts would be made to reforest the area and operating constraints may be necessary to protect elk security, so some adverse impact may be realized. Minerals, oil, and gas, if discovered, could be developed.

None-priced benefits and costs would be:

-- Elk winter range would be enhanced.

-- Big game security would increase.

-- Diversity of habitat types will tend to be skewed to early successional stages.

-- Water quality and visual quality will be maintained.

-- Quality roadless hunting opportunities will increase.

-- Recreational motorized vehicle use may be curtailed for elk security.

Social and economic effects relate to timber, wildlife, minerals, and recreation. The timber industry may be either positively or negatively affected. The public which values wildlife, specifically elk, will benefit in both consumptive and non-consumptive uses of the resource.

5. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Minimum Level

Greater than 50 percent of the area is designated for minimum level (custodial) management in Alternatives 2, 4, 5, 11, and 12. From 25-50 percent of the area is designated for this emphasis in Alternatives 1, 6, 7, 8, and 9.

Lands designated for this emphasis are distributed throughout the Storm Creek area, primarily on ridgetops and non-forested areas. The Minimum Level management emphasis will be impacted by road access to areas being utilized for timber management. Consequently, the indirect impacts will be the same as those described for the Timber/Wildlife management emphasis for this roadless area. .

HAMMOND CREEK ROADLESS AREA (01145)

I. DESCRIPTION

Size	Gross Acres	Net Acres
Idaho - Idaho Panhandle NF	18,634	18,634

The Hammond Creek Roadless Area is located on the west side of the North Fork of the St. Joe River drainage beginning approximately 1 mile north of Avery, Idaho. The area lies entirely within Shoshone County on the Avery Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. Primary access exists from the North Fork Road 456 on the east and Bonneville Power Administration roads on the northwest. The Cedar Mountain, Kyle Creek, and Hammond Creek trail systems provide access into the interior.

The Hammond Creek Roadless Area roughly resembles an inverted triangle with a long finger of excluded land penetrating from the east. Elevation changes from 2,600 feet in the North Fork drainage to 6,100 feet on Cedar Mountain and Marcus Cook Point along the Slate Creek-North Fork Divide, the dominant geographic feature. Glacial activity typifies the higher elevations, with Cedar Lake occupying a glacial cirque at the head of Kyle Creek. Slopes are generally steep with numerous rock outcrops, especially characterizing the stretch along the North Fork of the St. Joe River. The unit contains several major tributaries of the North Fork of the St. Joe and Slate Creek.

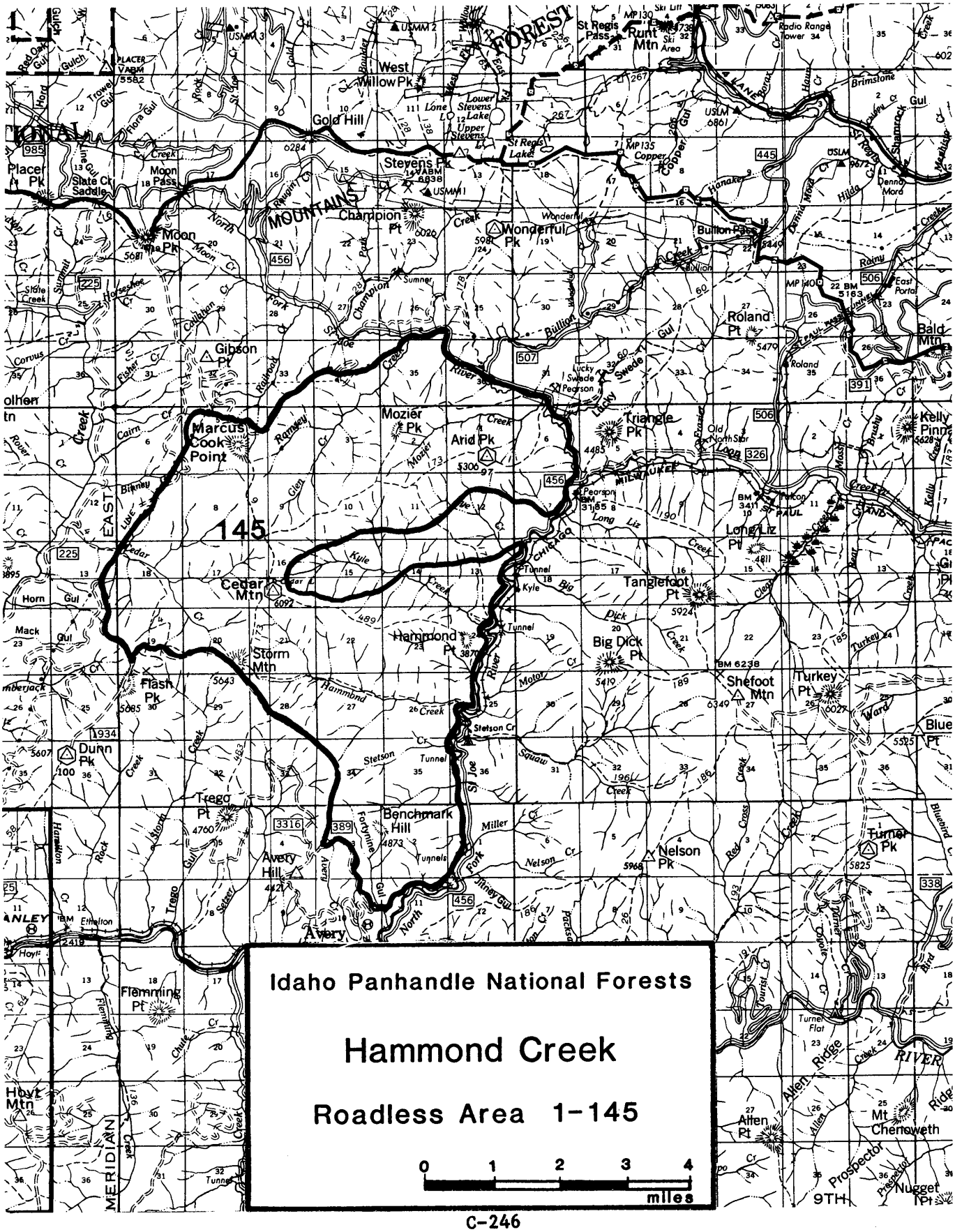
The 1910 Fire burned the majority of the area, leaving only small, isolated, parcels of old-growth trees at scattered locations through the unit.

The area contains important big game summer and winter range, supporting a normal component of Idaho big game, including elk, mule deer, whitetail deer, and black bear. Burning of brushfields for wildlife habitat improvement has occurred periodically through the past two decades. Habitat for species such as martens, goshawks, and pileated woodpeckers is also contained within the unit.

Recreational use occurring within the roadless area is concentrated on the existing trail system. Hiking, overnight camping, big game hunting, and berrypicking are common activities. A special use permit has been issued to an outfitter-guide.

The 1934 fire burned the southern half of the unit, generating large areas of non-stocked brushfields or seedling/sapling stands. Extensive stands of pure lodgepole pine or mixed species composition cover the remaining area. Mountain hemlock habitat types cover the high elevation areas, with western hemlock and cedar series occupying primarily the lower altitudes.

R. 5 E. R. 6 E.


Idaho Panhandle National Forests
Hammond Creek
Roadless Area 1-145
0 1 2 3 4
miles
145
Marcus Cook Point
Cedar Mtn
Storm Mtn
Flash Pk
Dunn Pk
Trego Pt
Avery Hill
Benchmark Hill
Hammond Pt
Mozier Pk
Arid Pk
Triangle Pk
Tanglefoot Pt
Big Dick Pt
Shefoot Mtn
Turkey Pt
Long Liz Pt
Nelson Pk
Turner Pk
Roland Pt
Bald Mtn
Champion Pt
Wonderful Pk
Stevens Pk
Gold Hill
West Willow Pk
Runt Mtn
Moon Pk
Placer Pk
Gibson Pt
Flemming Pt
Hoyt Mtn
Allen Pt
Mt Chenoweth
Nugget Pt
Avery
Wallace
St Joe River
Copper Gul
Bullion Pass
Pearson
Tunnel
Stetson Cr
Miller Cr
Nelson Cr
Long Liz Creek
Big Dick Creek
Turkey Creek
Hammond Creek
Cedar Creek
Kyle Creek
Mozier Creek
Ramsey Cr
Bitney Cr
Fisher Cr
Corus Cr
Horse Shoe Cr
Moon Cr
Slate Cr
Placer Creek
Red Oak Gul
Trawel Gul
Victor Gul
Rock Cr
Gold Creek
Boulder Cr
Lone Stevens Lake
Lower Stevens Lake
Upper Stevens
St Regis Lake
St Regis Pass
Radio Range Tower
Brimstone
Shamrock Gul
Hanaka
Wonderful Creek
Bullion Creek
Swede Creek
Lucky Swede
Roland
East Portal
Denno Mora
Horn Gul
Mack Gul
Turner Flat
Allen Ridge
Prospector
9TH
MERIDIAN
EAST
MOUNTAINS
FOREST
RIVER
Avery
Ethelton
Hoyt

II. CAPABILITY

A. Wilderness Characteristics

1. Natural Integrity. The impact of past human activity in this area has been relatively minor even though those activities have been extensive. The existing trail system includes a well defined route which once served as a main transportation corridor between Avery and the County seat in Wallace, Idaho. The remainder of this system was constructed to provide access for fire control. Several fire lookouts had been constructed within this area. The Arid Peak lookout still exists and has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

2. Natural Appearance. The Hammond Creek area is large enough and has topography such that persons visiting the area feel that they are in a natural area away from ordinary human activity and development. Some distant roads, timber activities, fire lookouts, and a Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) powerline which borders the western and northern edge of this area are visible from the higher points.

3. Solitude. The area offers moderate opportunities for solitude. The 18,634 acres included in the Hammond Creek area occur in an irregular shape that is approximately 8 miles long and 5 miles wide (at its widest point). The 7 principal drainages (of which Hammond Creek is the largest) that make up this area contain deeply dissected topography and vegetative cover which may easily screen people from one another in short distances. Human use of the area is generally concentrated along the ridgetop trail system.

4. Primitive Recreation Opportunities. Opportunities for primitive recreation experiences are generally limited. The size and shape of this area (1-3 miles from perimeter to core) provide few opportunities to actually be isolated from the evidence of man and his activities. With much of the area having similar topographic and vegetative features there is little diversity of recreation opportunities. Primitive recreation experiences are further limited by motorized use of the trail system. Opportunities do exist for big game hunting (elk, deer, bear, mountain lion), horseback riding, hiking, and backpack camping.

5. Other Features. Most of the Hammond Creek area was involved in the 1910 fire. Vegetative conditions which developed as a result of that fire have created habitat which is nearly ideal for big game species. There is a high level of public interest in roadless elk hunting as evidenced by the survival of a commercial outfitter guide operation in the area.

Since the RARE II study was completed, the Milwaukee, Chicago, St. Paul, and Pacific Railroad has abandoned its line running along the North Fork of the St. Joe River on the eastern edge of the Hammond Creek area. Even though trains no longer travel this route it is likely that many of the impacts associated with the railroad will continue, as serious consideration is being given to the use of the railroad grade as an arterial transportation route from Avery to Montana.

B. Wilderness Manageability and Boundaries. This area was inventoried during RARE II; approximately 2,500 acres have been developed since then. Existing boundaries are reasonably well defined, with the exception of a portion of the western boundary between Storm Mountain and Binney Creek which does not follow topographic features. All of the land within this area is in National Forest ownership, with the only exception being part of the railroad right-of-way and a portion of a patented mining claim near the mouth of Mozier Creek.

The long history of motorized trail use within the area would make enforcement of non-motorized wilderness regulations time consuming and costly, given the potential number of access points.

Future hardrock mineral development seems unlikely at this time. There are no known unpatented mining claims within this area.

III. WILDERNESS AVAILABILITY

Table 1

Selected Resource Values

Category	Unit	01145
Gross Acres	Acres	18,634
Net Acres	Acres	18,634
Range		
Existing Obligated		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Existing Vacant		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Proposed		
Suitable	Acres	0
AUMs	No.	0
Timber		
Tentative		
Suitable	Acres	14,790
Standing Volume	MMBF	123
Minerals Potential		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	640
Moderate	Acres	0
Low	Acres	17,994
Mining Claims	No.	185
Oil and Gas Potential*		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	0
Low	Acres	18,634
Oil and Gas Leases		
Leases	No.	0
Leased Area	Acres	0
Corridors		
Existing and Potential	No.	0
Wildlife-Threatened and Endangered-Habitat		
Grizzly Bear		
Situation 1	Acres	0
Situation 2	Acres	0
Situation 3	Acres	0
Bald Eagle	Acres	0
Mountain Caribou	Acres	0
Gray Wolf	Acres	0
Wildlife-Big Game		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	3,654
Specific-Elk		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Deer		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Significant Fisheries		
Stream Miles	Miles	2
Stream Habitat	Acres	2
Lakes	No.	0
Lake Habitat	Acres	0
Water Developments		
Existing	No.	0
Recreation		
Primitive	RVDs	0
Semiprimitive		
Nonmotorized	RVDs	0
Motorized	RVDs	1,700
Roaded Natural	RVDs	1,500

*Rating also includes uranium, geothermal, and other energy resources.

A. Resource Values

1. Recreation. The primary existing recreational use of this area is elk hunting. One outfitter/guide uses this area. Motorized use is extensive and occurs mostly during the hunting season. Roadless hunting experience is also the greatest future use of this area.

2. Wildlife. The important elk summer and winter range are the key wildlife values of this area. Most animals found in northern Idaho are also found here. Unusual species likely present are bobcat, lynx, and wolverine.

3. Timber. About 14,800 acres are classed as tentatively suitable for timber management. Timber stands are the result of the 1910 fire and consist of pole/small sawtimber-sized mixed species and pure lodgepole types. The lodgepole could become susceptible to serious mountain pine beetle epidemics in 10-20 years. Some of the suitable timberland is currently brushfield.

4. Minerals. Striped Peak is the major rock formation of the area; minor Wallace rocks outcrop near the North Fork of the St. Joe River. These formations belong to the Belt Supergroups of Precambrian Age.

This area is rated mostly as having low potential except for about a 640-acre area in the northeast quarter which has a high rating. The area has 185 unpatented mining claims, about half of which are in the northeast quarter of the area. Oil and gas potential is low but all of the area is under lease application.

5. Grazing. Sheep grazing has occurred in the past but was discontinued about 1950. Future use is not expected.

B. Other Management Considerations

1. Fire. Annual fire occurrence is moderate; periodic large fires have occurred.

IV. NEED

A. Contribution to National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS). The main attribute and contribution of this area is its display of successional vegetative changes resulting from the 1910 fire which burned most of the area. The area would provide roadless elk hunting.

B. Public Interest and Concern. This area has received a moderately high level of interest by local and regional groups and individuals, particularly in regard to its provision of roadless elk hunting opportunities. This information is based on public input received for the Cedar Mountain Environmental Assessment. Public response to the RARE II assessment indicated that 3-4 percent of those expressing a preference favored a wilderness designation while 96-97 percent favored a non-wilderness designation.

C. Proximity to Designated Wilderness and to Population Centers. Table 3, Parts A and B, displays wilderness opportunities and proximity to roadless areas on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The closest wilderness area is the Cabinet Wilderness in western Montana, approximately 100 miles to the northeast. There is access to 1.6 million acres of wilderness located within 200 miles of Coeur d'Alene, as well as an additional 5.8 million acres within 300 miles (northern Idaho, eastern Washington and Oregon, and western Montana).

V. ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

A. Management Emphasis Assignment by Alternatives. Management emphasis indicates which resource activity is highlighted. If the emphasis is timber, most of the activity on those acres would be for timber management. Resource activities which are compatible with the emphasis would continue, but with less intensity. Table 2 lists the acres of each management emphasis by alternative.

Table 2

Hammond Creek Roadless Area (01145)
Management Emphasis by Alternative

Management Emphasis	Alternatives[1/] (Thousand Acres) 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Wilderness	0	0	18.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	18.6	0	0
Non-wilderness												
No Tbr. Harvest	0.6	0.6	0	0.6	17.3	0.6	17.6	2.0	17.6	0	0.6	0.6
Timber/Wildlife	11.1	11.5	0	11.8	0.4	11.0	0.2	11.4	0.2	0	8.7	8.3
Wildlife/Visual	2.2	0	0	0	0	2.2	0	0.3	0	0	0	0.3
Special Areas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minimum Level	4.7	6.5	0	6.2	0.9	4.8	0.8	4.9	0.8	0	9.3	9.4
Total	18.6	18.6	18.6	18.6	18.6	18.6	18.6	18.6	18.6	18.6	18.6	18.6
Summary of Management Emphasis:												
Developed												
Decade 1	0	0.5	0	2.2	0	0.2	0	0.9	0	0	3.0	1.6
Decade 5	18.1	18.6	0	12.7	0.9	4.4	0.7	7.3	0.6	0	8.6	6.0
Roadless[2/]												
Decade 1	0	18.1	0	16.4	18.6	18.4	18.6	17.7	18.6	0	15.6	17.0
Decade 5	0	0	0	5.9	17.7	14.2	17.9	11.3	18.0	0	10.0	12.6
Wilderness	0	0	18.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	18.6	0	0

1/ Alternative clarification -
1 - Regional Goals
2 - High Market
3 - High Nonmarket
4 - High Timber, Fish
5 - Moderate All Resources
6 - High Timber, Wildlife
7 - High Nonmarket, Stable Timber
8 - Current Program
9 - High Recreation
10 - High Wildlife, Moderate Timber
11 - Preferred Alternative
12 - Preferred w/Departure

2/ Roadless is defined as 5,000 acres or greater in size or any acreage if contiguous to existing wilderness.

B. Impacts

1. Designation: Wilderness

Mangement Emphasis: Wilderness

The entire area is designated as wilderness in Alternatives 3 and 10.

Wilderness designation will preserve and enhance wilderness values. Existing uses and facilities not compatible with wilderness philosophy will be eliminated so that naturalness would be restored over time. Motorized recreation use would be prohibited. The Arid Peak Lookout would remain as a cultural resource.

Harvest of 123 MMBF of standing sawtimber would be foregone under a designation of wilderness. Minerals oil, and gas would not be available for development since the area would be withdrawn from mineral entry.

Non-priced benefits or costs would be:

-- The National Wilderness System area would increase.

-- Visual quality would be retained.

-- Natural ecosystem would be protected.

-- Water quality would be preserved.

-- Diversity would tend toward old growth.

-- Recreation opportunities would tend to be semi-primitive, non-motorized.

-- Big game security would be maintained at its present level.

-- Most wildlife species would be favorably or neutrally impacted. Species requiring disturbance may be adversely impacted depending on the rate and timing of natural disturbances.

Social and economic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. Since wilderness precludes timber harvest and mineral development, the related industries would not be supported by this emphasis. From a social aspect, the publics valuing wilderness would be supported as well as those people who desire to view the area in its unaltered state. The public with established use of the area for motorized recreation will be displaced.

2. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: No Timber Harvest

Approximately 95 percent of the land is designated for this emphasis for Alternatives 5, 7, and 9. About 11 percent of the area is designated for this emphasis under Alternative 8. Under 3 percent of the area is designated for this emphasis for all other non-wilderness alternatives.

Wilderness attributes will be preserved under this emphasis for Alternatives 5, 7, and 9. The lands designated for no timber harvest under those three alternatives will primarily be used for roadless recreation. The lands would remain roadless and essentially natural in character. Motorized recreation would continue and would detract from the wilderness integrity in the short run. However, the effects of this would be negligible after a few years if the area is closed to motorized use. Under Alternative 8, land designated for this emphasis will be managed for old growth as well as roadless recreation. Impacts would be essentially the same, but only 2,000 acres of the area is involved.

The market resource of 123 MMBF of standing sawtimber would be foregone on lands dedicated to the No Timber Harvest management emphasis. Minerals, oil, and gas could be developed if discovered.

The non-priced benefits and costs would be:

-- The natural ecosystem and wilderness characteristics will be protected.

-- Water quality will be preserved.

-- Opportunities for solitude will be preserved.

-- Visual quality will be retained.

-- Recreation opportunities in the semi-primitive motorized category will be increased.

-- Diversity will tend toward old growth.

-- Big game security will be maintained.

-- Quality roadless hunting opportunities will be maintained.

Social and economic effects center on the values of timber, minerals, and recreation. The timber industry will not be supported by this emphasis. The minerals industry will not be significantly affected. Publics desiring roadless recreation in a non-wilderness area, such as motorcyclists, will be supported.

3. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Timber/Wildlife

About 60-65 percent of the area is designated for this emphasis for Alternatives 1, 2, 4, 6, and 8. About 45 percent of the area is designated for this emphasis under Alternatives 11 and 12. Less than 2 percent of the area is designated for this emphasis under Alternatives 5, 7, and 9.

The wilderness resource will be reduced or eliminated on the areas designated for this emphasis. The effect is minimal after the first decade, with less than 15 percent of the area roaded and developed. After the fifth decade, wilderness is foregone for the entire area in Alternatives 1 and 3, and 70 percent is foregone for Alternative 4. However, for Alternatives 6, 8, 11, and 12 only 20-45 percent of the area would be roaded and developed after the fifth decade. The acreage designated for the timber/wildlife emphasis under Alternatives 5, 7, and 9 is only 200-400 acres and could not significantly alter the wilderness attributes of the Hammond Creek area.

The market resource of timber will be somewhat available under this emphasis, but a higher priority is placed on big game summer and winter range. Minerals, oil, and gas would be available if disovered.

The non-priced benefits and costs would be:

-- Wilderness values are compromised by the different alternatives to various levels.

-- Visual quality would not be maintained.

-- Security for big game animals will be adversely impacted in timber harvest areas.

-- Diversity would tend toward younger, even-aged stands on areas where harvests take place, although significant areas of old-growth will develop over time.

-- Semi-primitive recreational opportunities would be foregone.

-- Water quality will decline slightly.

-- Opportunities for solitude will be less.

-- Quality roadless hunting opportunities.

Social and economic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. Timber and mineral resources would be available, thus supporting the wood products and minerals industries. The change in recreation setting could be disruptive to those publics using the area for primitive or semi-primitive recreation as well as publics viewing the area from the North Fork of the St. Joe River and from surrounding mountain peaks.

4. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Wildlife/Visual

About 12 percent of the land is designated for this emphasis by Alternatives 1 and 6. About 2 percent of the land is designated for this emphasis by Alternatives 8 and 12.

Wilderness values will be mostly protected by this emphasis, in which elk winter range is the prime management consideration. Prescribed fire to improve forage would have a negative short-term impact, but a negligible long-term impact.

Market resources of timber and minerals would be available but infeasible to develop under this emphasis, due to elk security and visual constraints.

The non-priced costs and benefits are:

-- The natural ecosystem would be protected.

-- Visual quality would be retained.

-- Water quality would be maintained.

-- Diversity would be maximized from early successional stages (brush fields) to old growth timber.

-- Semi-primitive recreation opportunities will be maintained.

-- Quality roadless hunting opportunities will be preserved.

Social and economic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, recreation, wildlife, and wilderness. This emphasis will have little effect on social and economic factors since 2,000 acres or less are affected, but in general, the timber and minerals industry would not be supported. Publics favoring motorized recreation may be displaced, but other recreationists valuing roadless semi-primitive recreation opportunities will be supported.

5. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Minimum Level

Approximately 25-50 percent of the land is designated for this emphasis by Alternatives 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 11, and 12. Less than 5 percent of the land is designated for this emphasis by Alternatives 7 and 9.

Areas designated for this emphasis are scattered throughout the Hammond Creek Area, primarily on ridgetops and non-forested areas. The Minimum Level management emphasis would be impacted mainly by road access to areas being utilized for timber management. Consequently, the indirect impacts will be the same as those described for Timber/Wildlife management emphasis.

NORTH FORK ROADLESS AREA (01147)

I. DESCRIPTION

Size	Gross Acres	Net Acres
Idaho - Idaho Panhandle NF	32,100	32,100

The North Fork Roadless Area is located immediately northeast of Avery, Idaho, and 20 miles southeast of Wallace, Idaho. It lies entirely within Shoshone County on the Avery Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. Primary access includes the St. Joe River Road 218 and the North Fork Road 456. A poorly maintained secondary road constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) extends approximately 3 miles into the center of the unit at Shefoot Mountain. A network of trails, including the Nelson Ridge National Recreation Trail system, provides interior access.

The rectangular-shaped unit is an area of rugged, mountainous timberland. Elevations sharply rise from 2,800 feet on the North Fork and main St. Joe Rivers to 6,300 feet at Shefoot Mountain, the highest peak within the unit.

Several major tributaries of the St. Joe, the North Fork, and Loop Creek drain the area, with the largest being Skookum Creek. Steep, incised draws typified by breakland topography and numerous bedrock outcrops cover roughly half of the North Fork Roadless Area. Glacial topography is evidenced in the Shefoot Mountain area.

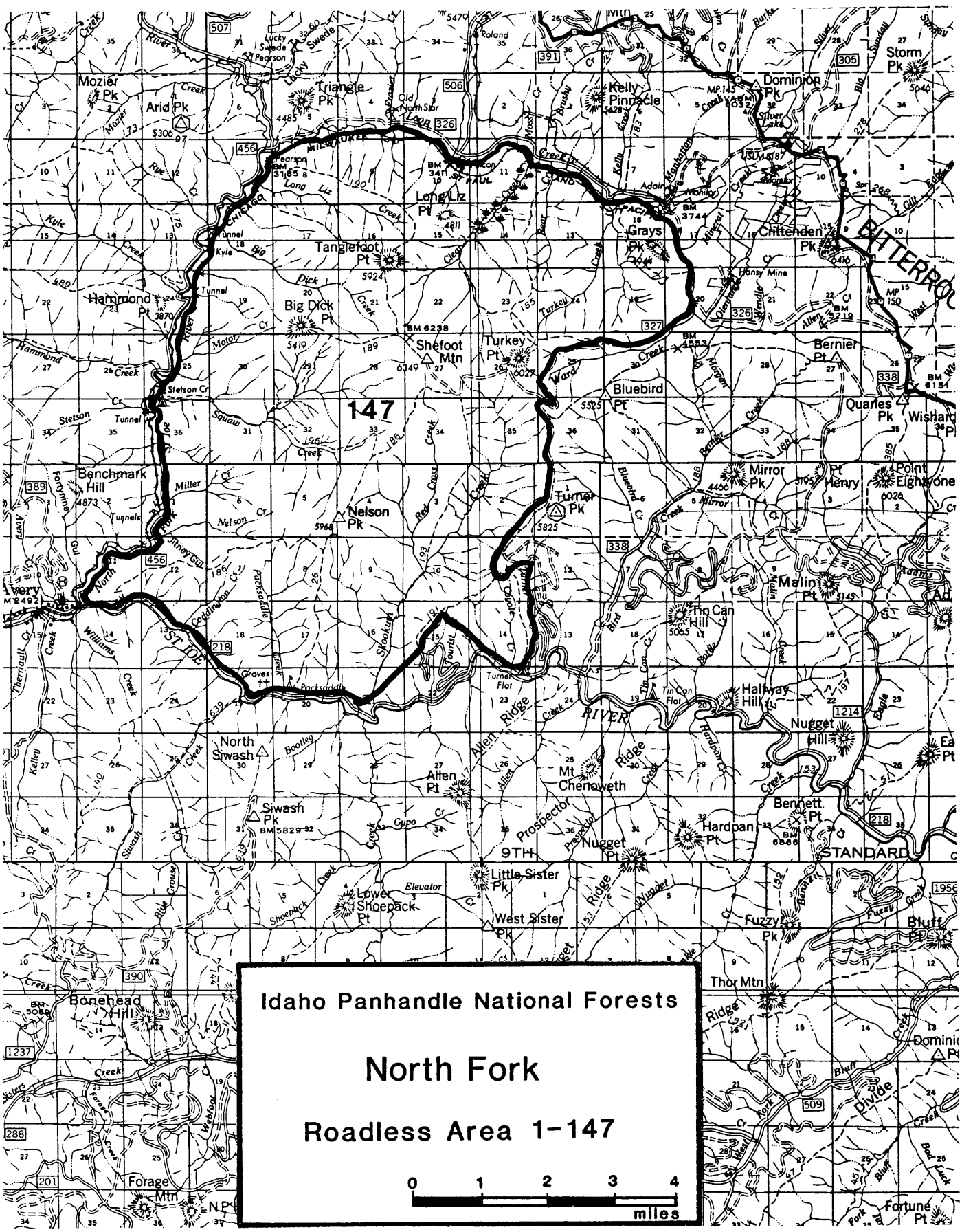
The 1910 Fire and subsequent reburns created a patch-work of vegetative cover. A few islands of old growth which escaped the 1910 fire remain scattered throughout the unit, with the largest contained in the Skookum Creek drainage. A large portion of the southern one-third of the unit reburned in 1934 leaving large areas of non-stocked brushfields. Extensive stands of lodgepole pine occupy much of the remaining area as well as mixed stands of larch, Douglas-fir, and grand fir. Habitat types are Douglas-fir/ninebark, western hemlock/clintonia, and cedar/clintonia at the lower elevations, graduating to mountain hemlock/menziesia or beargrass at the higher elevations.

The area is best known for its prime elk habitat, having both key winter and summer ranges. It has been identified by the Department of Fish and Game as one of the five quality elk habitat areas on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests which they desire to have remain roadless for quality hunting experiences. A variety of other wildlife common to northern Idaho also inhabit the unit. Other species of interest include goshawk, marten, bobcat, lynx, and pileated woodpecker. No threatened and/or endangered species are known to exist.

This roadless area also contains cutthroat spawning and rearing habitat for the St. Joe River, which is managed as a quality fisheries by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

The southern edge of the North Fork area is part of the St. Joe Wild and Scenic River corridor, which is managed under a recreational designation. Two small campgrounds, Packsaddle and Turner Flat, are adjacent to the area on the river corridor.

R. 5 E R. 6 E. R. 7 E.


147
Idaho Panhandle National Forests
North Fork
Roadless Area 1-147
0 1 2 3 4
miles
Mozier Pk
Arid Pk
Triangle Pk
Kelly Pinnacle
Dominion Pk
Storm Pk
Long Liz Pt
Tanglefoot Pt
Grays Pk
Chittenden Pk
Hammond Pt
Big Dick Pt
Shefoot Mtn
Turkey Pt
Bluebird Pt
Bernier Pt
Quarles Pk
Benchmark Hill
Nelson Pk
Turner Pk
Mirror Pk
Pt Henry
Point Eighty one
Malin Pt
Tin Can Hill
Halfway Hill
Nugget Hill
North Siwash
Allen Pt
Mt Chenoweth
Siwash Pk
Bennett Pt
Hardpan Pt
Nugget Pt
Little Sister Pk
Lower Shoepack Pt
West Sister Pk
Fuzzy Pk
Bluff Pt
Thor Mtn
Bonehead Hill
Forage Mtn
Fortune Pt
Ivery
Graves
Parkadale
Tourist
Turner Flat
Tin Can Flat
Adair
Monitor
Silver Lake
Hansy Mine
Stetson Cr
Tunnel
Tunnels
Miller
Nelson Cr
Squaw
Turkey
Bluebird
Mirror
Allen
Ridge
Prospector
9TH
STANDARD
ST JOE
RIVER
BITTERROOT
DIVIDE
Elevator
Shoepack
Bootleg
Cupo
Williams
Coddington
Kelley
Webfoot
Forest
Fuzzy
Bluff
Bad Luck
Fork
Wonder
Crouse
Skookum
Red Cross
Bird
Battle
Hardpan
Eagle
Adams
Burke
Silver
Sunday
Sunset
Gill
Allen
Manhattan
Mineral
Wendle
Olevilage
Morgan
Bertier
Kyle
Big
Dick
Motor
Hammond
Stetson
Long Liz
Lucky Swede
Pearson
Roland
Old North Star
Brushy
Kelly
Moss
Mozier
Rye
Chicago
Milwaukee
St Paul
Pacific
Thernault
Fortynine
Avery
North
Miner Gul
Gul
Joe
Parkadale
Tunnel
Creek
River
Cr
Pt
Pk
Mtn
Ridge
Divide
Fork
West
Bluff
Bad Luck
Fuzzy
Bernell
Wonder
Elevator
Shoepack
Bootleg
Cupo
Williams
Coddington
Kelley
Webfoot
Forest

II. CAPABILITY

A. Wilderness Characteristics

1. Natural Integrity. The impact of past human activity in this area has been relatively minor even though those activities have been extensive. A system of existing roads nearly encircles the area. One road intrudes into the area for a distance of approximately three miles, providing access to Turkey Point and Shefoot Mountain. An extensive trail system, which includes 19 miles of the Nelson Ridge National Recreation Trail, provides access to most of the area. Much of this trail system has a long history of motorized use. One trail, between Shefoot Mountain and Big Dick Point, is actually a two-wheel track 4x4 road (such use is currently illegal but difficult to control). Several fire lookouts had been constructed within this area (Shefoot, Nelson, and Turner Peaks) but foundations are all that remain.

2. Natural Appearance. The North Fork area is large enough and the topography and vegetation are such that persons visiting the area feel that they are in a natural area away from ordinary human activity and development. Distant roads, timber harvest activities, and fire lookouts may be seen from the higher points within this area. The rugged cliffs and alpine meadows just north of Shefoot Mountain reinforce a feeling of naturalness.

3. Solitude. The area offers high opportunities for solitude. The 32,100 acres included occur in a slightly irregular shape that is approximately 8-1/2 miles long and 17 miles wide (at its widest point). The 8 principal drainages (of which Skookum Creek is the largest) that make up this area contain deeply dissected topography and vegetative cover which easily screen people from one another at short distances.

4. Primitive Recreation Opportunities. Opportunities for primitive recreation experiences are moderately high. The size of this area, its relative diversity, and the absence of facilities contribute to the primitive character of the area.

In spite of the good access afforded by roads on the periphery and the trail system within the area, there are ample opportunities for big game hunting (elk, deer, bear, mountain lion), horseback riding, hiking, backpack camping, and scenic viewing.

B. Wilderness Manageability and Boundaries. The North Fork Roadless Area is bounded on the west by the North Fork St. Joe Road No. 456, on the north by the Loop Creek Road No. 326, and on the south by the St. Joe River Road No. 218. These roads all follow prominant geographic features and are easy to locate on the ground. The east boundary follows various logging roads and trails in a meandering fashion, so it is somewhat difficult to locate on the ground.

The road to Shefoot Mountain is primitive and would revert to a trail-like appearance after closure. The west and north boundary roads now receive only recreational traffic, but the abandoned railroad right-of-way is being considered as an arterial transportation route for logging traffic. This would increase the sights and sounds of human intrusion in the area.

Approximately 900 acres on the southern boundary of the area are within the St. Joe Wild and Scenic River corridor. Existing and future recreation associated with the river can be managed to protect the existing wilderness character.

No boundary or acreage adjustments have occurred since RARE II.

III. WILDERNESS AVAILABILITY

Table 1

Selected Resource Values

Category	Unit	01147
Gross Acres	Acres	32,100
Net Acres	Acres	32,100
Range		
Existing Obligated		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Existing Vacant		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Proposed		
Suitable	Acres	0
AUMs	No.	0
Timber		
Tentative		
Suitable	Acres	24,933
Standing Volume	MMBF	161
Minerals Potential		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	10,600
Low	Acres	21,500
Mining Claims	No.	163
Oil and Gas Potential*		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	0
Low	Acres	32,100
Oil and Gas Leases		
Leases	No.	0
Leased Area	Acres	0
Corridors		
Existing and Potential	No.	0
Wildlife-Threatened and Endangered-Habitat		
Grizzly Bear		
Situation 1	Acres	0
Situation 2	Acres	0
Situation 3	Acres	0
Bald Eagle	Acres	0
Mountain Caribou	Acres	0
Gray Wolf	Acres	0
Wildlife-Big Game		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Elk		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Deer		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Significant Fisheries		
Stream Miles	Miles	0
Stream Habitat	Acres	0
Lakes	No.	0
Lake Habitat	Acres	0
Water Developments		
Existing	No.	0
Recreation		
Primitive	RVDs	0
Semiprimitive		
Nonmotorized	RVDs	0
Motorized	RVDs	4,500
Roaded Natural	RVDs	2200

*Rating also includes uranium, geothermal, and other energy resources.

A. Resource Values

1. Recreation. This area is heavily used in the fall by elk hunters and has the potential to provide for a significant portion of the demand for this type of recreation. Current use is limited by the number of developed sites along the periphery of the area.

2. Wildlife. The high quality elk summer and winter range is the key wildlife value of this area. Extensive use of prescribed fire has improved big game winter range. Most animals found in northern Idaho are also found here. No threatened and endangered species habitat exists in this area. Unusual species include bobcat, lynx, and wolverine.

The area's streams may provide spawning habitat for the St. Joe River, a portion of which is managed by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game as quality trout water.

3. Timber. About 25,000 acres of the area are classed as tentatively suitable; however, some of this land now supports brushfields which will be difficult to reforest.

The existing stands are lodgepole or mixed species; the lodgepole is estimated to 10-20 years away from a potential mountain pine beetle epidemic.

4. Minerals. The principal bedrock is the metamorphic equivalent of the Wallace formation; the overlying Striped Peak formation is found only in the southwest quarter of the area.

The northeast third of the area has moderate mineral potential; the remainder of the area has low potential.

5. Range. Sheep grazing occurred prior to 1950; future use is not anticipated.

B. Other Management Considerations

1. Fire. Annual fire occurrence is low; periodic large fires have occurred.

IV. NEED

A. Contribution to National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS). The main attribute and contribution of this area is its display of successional vegetative changes resulting from the 1910 fire, which burned most of the area. The area will also provide high quality roadless elk hunting opportunities.

B. Public Interest and Concern. This area has received a moderately high level of interest by local and regional groups and individuals, particularly in regard to its provision of roadless elk hunting opportunities. This information is based on public input received for the Turner Nelson Mountain Environmental Assessment. Public response to the RARE II Environmental Impact Statement indicated that 3-4 percent of those expressing a preference favored a wilderness designation while 96-97 percent favored a non-wilderness designation.

C. Proximity to Designated Wilderness and to Population Centers. Table 3, Parts A and B, displays wilderness opportunities and proximity to roadless areas on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The closest wilderness area is the Cabinet Wilderness in western Montana, approximately 100 miles to the northeast. There is access to 1.6 million acres of wilderness located within 200 miles of Coeur d'Alene, as well as an additional 5.8 million acres within 300 miles (northern Idaho, eastern Washington and Oregon, and western Montana).

V. ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

A. Management Emphasis Assignment by Alternatives. Management emphasis indicates which resource activity is highlighted. If the emphasis is timber, most of the activity on those acres would be for timber management. Resource activities which are compatible with the emphasis would continue, but with less intensity. Table 2 lists the acres of each management emphasis by alternative.

Table 2

North Fork Roadless Area (01147)
Management Emphasis by Alternative

Management Emphasis	Alternatives[1/] (Thousand Acres) 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Wilderness	0	0	32.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	32.1	0	0
Non-wilderness												
No Tbr. Harvest	17.4	0.3	0	0.4	18.7	0.4	26.9	0.3	26.8	0	10.2	10.1
Timber/Wildlife	9.0	21.2	0	21.4	8.4	20.7	2.0	21.6	1.9	0	14.4	14.1
Wildlife/Visual	0.4	0	0	0	0.2	2.8	0.3	0.4	0.3	0	0	0
Special Areas	0.9	0.9	0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0	0.9	0.9
Minimum Level	4.4	9.7	0	9.4	3.9	7.3	2.0	8.9	2.2	0	6.6	7.0
Total	32.1	32.1	32.1	32.1	32.1	32.1	32.1	32.1	32.1	32.1	32.1	32.1
Summary of Management Emphasis:												
Developed												
Decade 1	0.8	3.0	0	10.3	2.1	2.9	0.8	3.5	0.8	0	6.0	6.0
Decade 5	19.8	32.1	0	32.1	16.8	32.1	3.9	30.1	6.5	0	20.0	11.2
Roadless[2/]												
Decade 1	31.3	29.1	0	21.8	31.6	29.2	31.3	28.6	31.3	0	26.1	26.1
Decade 5	12.3	0	0	0	15.3	0	25.2	0	25.6	0	12.0	20.9
Wilderness	0	0	32.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	32.1	0	0

1/ Alternative clarification -
1 - Regional Goals
2 - High Market
3 - High Nonmarket
4 - High Timber, Fish
5 - Moderate All Resources
6 - High Timber, Wildlife
7 - High Nonmarket, Stable Timber
8 - Current Program
9 - High Recreation
10 - High Wildlife, Moderate Timber
11 - Preferred Alternative
12 - Preferred w/Departure

2/ Roadless is defined as 5,000 acres or greater in size or any acreage if contiguous to existing wilderness.

B. Impacts

1. Designation: Wilderness

Management Emphasis: Wilderness

The entire area will be designated as wilderness in Alternatives 3 and 10.

A wilderness designation will enhance wilderness values. Existing uses and facilities not compatible with wilderness philosophy will be eliminated so that naturalness is restored over time. The road to Shefoot Mountain will be closed and motorized use will be prohibited on all other primitive roads and trails.

The market resource of 161 MMBF of timber would be foregone under a wilderness designation. Minerals, oils, and gas will be unavailable for development, since it would be withdrawn from mineral entry.

Non-priced benefits and costs would be:

-- Wilderness values are retained and enhanced.

-- Visual quality is preserved.

-- The National Wilderness System area would increase.

-- Quality roadless elk hunting opportunities would be retained.

-- Diversity would tend toward old-growth.

-- The current quality of the Nelson Ridge National Recreation Trail System would be preserved.

-- The St. Joe Wild and Scenic River corridor will be enhanced where it is contiguous to the North Fork area.

-- Water quality and fisheries habitat would be preserved.

-- Elk habitat may be favorably or adversely impacted, depending on forage production, primarily winter range. Use of wildire and/or man-caused ignition would improve or maintain elk habitat.

-- Most wildlife species would be favorably or neutrally impacted. Species requiring disturbance may be adversely impacted, depending on the rate and timing of disturbance.

Social and economic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. Since wilderness precludes timber harvest and mineral development, the related industries would not be supported by this emphasis. From a social aspect, the publics valuing wilderness would be supported as well as those people who desire to veiw the area in its unaltered state. Recreationists that have historically driven to Shefoot Mountain and Turkey Point will be adversely impacted by the closure of the area to motorized vehicles.

2. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: No Timber harvest

In Alternatives 7 and 9 about 86 percent of the area is designated for this emphasis. For Alternatives 1 and 5 about 56 percent of the area is designated for this emphasis. About 34 percent of Alternatives 11 and 12 is designated for this emphasis. Only 2 percent is designated for this emphasis under Alternatives 2, 4, 6, and 8.

The wilderness resource would be protected under this emphasis. Alternatives 7, 9, 1, 5, 11, and 12 designate the land to be managed for roadless recreation. Use of motorized vehicles would continue, and their use is incompatible with wilderness philosophy. However, the effects of motorized use would be negligible in the long run if the area was set aside for wilderness at a later date. Land designated for this emphasis under Alternatives 2, 4, 6, and 8 would not be significant due to the low acreage involved (600 acres), but in this case it is compatible with wilderness; the land will be managed for old growth.

The market resource of timber will be foregone by the No Timber Harvest emphasis. The resources of roadless recreation and old growth are incompatible with timber harvesting. Minerals, oil, and gas could be developed if discovered.

Non-priced benefits and costs are:

-- Visual quality is preserved.

-- Wilderness values would not be diminished.

-- The quality of the Nelson Ridge National Recreation Trail System will be preserved.

-- Quality roadless hunting opportunities would be retained.

-- Wildlife species favoring old growth will be enhanced.

-- Diversity would tend toward old growth.

-- Water quality and fisheries habitat will be preserved.

-- Elk habitat will be benefitted by this emphasis. Prescribed fire for the increase of forage production could occur.

-- Existing motorized recreation will continue.

-- St. Joe Wild and Scenic River corridor will be enhanced where it is contiguous with the North Fork Area.

Social and economic benefits center around the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. The timber industry would not be supported by this emphasis. The minerals, oil, and gas industry will not be impacted by this emphasis. Recreationists desiring quality roadless hunting opportunities will be benefitted. Publics who wish to see the area remain in its natural state will be benefitted.

3. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Timber/Wildlife

Approximately 65 percent of the area is designated for this emphasis by Alternatives 2, 4, 6, and 8. Approximately 45 percent of the area is designated for this emphasis by Alternatives 11 and 12. Approximately 25 percent of the area is designated for this emphasis by Alternatives 7 and 9.

The wilderness resource will be foregone in lands dedicated to the Timber/Wildlife emphasis. After the first decade, 32 percent of the area would be removed from wilderness availability by Alternative 5, and 3-15 percent of the area would be removed from wilderness availability by all other non-wilderness alternatives. After the fifth decade the entire area would be unsuitable as wilderness for Alternatives 1, 5, and 11, and 20-35 percent of the area would be unsuitable as wilderness for Alternatives 7, 9, and 12.

Under this management emphasis 161 MMBF of timber would be available for harvest. Timber harvesting activities would occur primarily on the northern two-thirds of the area. Minerals, oil, and gas could be developed if discovered.

The non-priced benefits or costs would be:

-- Wilderness values would be retained on 35 percent of the area and foregone for the northern 65 percent of the area.

-- About two-thirds of the roadless area desired by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game for quality hunting is eliminated.

-- Elk habitat is retained at about the present level; elk habitat benefits due to harvesting are offset by adverse effects of roading. Road closures would be essential to mitigating road impacts.

-- Visual quality would be reduced to partial retention, modification, and maximum modification.

-- Water quality and fisheries would be adversely impacted.

-- The Nelson Ridge National Recreation Trail may be adversely impacted by development--mainly the sights and sounds of logging. The degree of impact is dependent on season and user perceptions.

-- The integrity of the St. Joe Wild and Scenic River corridor could be compromised.

-- Off-road vehicle use on new roads will increase, unless closures are strictly enforced.

-- Semi-primitive recreation opportunities, especially elk hunting, are foregone on 20,000 acres.

-- Diversity will be skewed toward the early successional stages and away from old-growth.

Social and economic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. Timber and mineral resources would be available, thus supporting the wood products and minerals industries. The change in recreation setting could be disruptive to those publics using the area for primitive or semi-primitive recreation as well as publics viewing the area from the Nelson Ridge National Recreation Trail and the St. Joe Wild and Scenic River. Motorized recreation enthusiasts would be benefitted.

4. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Wildlife/Visual

Only 9 percent of the area is designated for this management emphasis by Alternative 6. All other alternatives designated less than 1 percent for this emphasis.

Wilderness values, market resources, non-priced resources, and socioeconomic factors cannot be significantly affected by activities occurring on such tiny units of land (100 acres) within the area. The primary activity that would occur would be prescribed fire or mechanical treatment of vegetation to enhance forage for elk herds. Some short-term effects (visual quality, air quality) would be involved for Alternative 6, but they would be negligible in the long run.

5. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Special Areas

Approximately 3 percent of the area is designated for Special Area management of the St. Joe Wild and Scenic River corridor.

Wilderness values will not be significantly affected by this emphasis since only 900 acres are involved. The St. Joe Wild and Scenic River corridor will be beneficial to the wilderness resource by acting as a buffer zone from roaded recreation on the St. Joe River road.

The market resources of timber and minerals will be constrained under this emphasis. Their development is allowed but visual quality restraints make access for timber harvest or mineral development infeasible.

Non-priced costs and benefits would be minimal, due to the small amount of acreage involved.

Social and economic benefits will be insignificant since only 900 acres of the area is under this emphasis. Recreationists in the Wild and Scenic River corridor will be benefitted.

6. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Minimum Level

Alternatives 2, 4, 6, 8, 11, and 12 designate 20-30 percent of the area for this emphasis. Alternatives 1, 5, 7, and 9 designate 15 percent or less for this emphasis.

Depending on their size and spatial relationship with other resource management emphases, these areas could either support wilderness characteristics or mirror developed activities on the surrounding land. The only development that would occur is road access to adjacent timber harvest areas. Therefore, indirect impacts will be essentially the same as those described for the Timber/Wildlife Management Emphasis.

GRANDMOTHER MOUNTAIN ROADLESS AREA (01148)

I. DESCRIPTION

Size	Gross Acres	Net Acres
Idaho - Idaho Panhandle NF	38,890	14,792

The Grandmother Mountain Roadless Area is located in Shoshone County, Idaho, approximately 30 miles southeast of St. Maries, Idaho. The area lies on the St. Maries and Avery Ranger Districts of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. Several well maintained roads surround the area, allowing access at several points. The most popular entry points begin from Fishhook-Gold Center Road 301, Marble Creek Road 321, and the Little North Fork Road 760. A series of maintained trails access the interior.

The amoeba-shaped unit includes a U-shaped ridge as its center, consisting of Grandfather Mountain, Grandmother Mountain, Marks Butte, Crater Peak, Widow Mountain, and Lookout Mountain. Several cirques, cirque lakes, and moraines along the ridgeline remain as evidence of past glacial activity, especially in the area of Lookout Mountain. The headwaters of Marble Creek, a major tributary of the St. Joe River, flow northward from the ridgeline. Flowing to the east are the headwaters of the Little North Fork of the Clearwater Rivers. The southwest corner is drained by Placer Creek into the St. Maries River system. Elevations range from 6,800 feet at Widow Mountain to 3,400 feet at Marble Creek.

Vegetation patterns reflect the high elevation, glacial activity, and past fire history of the area. Nearly half of the unit consists of immature pole or sawtimber stands of mixed composition resulting from wildfires in 1910 and 1923. The remaining forested area consists of mature or overmature stands largely composed of mountain hemlock, Engelmann spruce, and subalpine fir. Much of the high elevation areas support relatively sparse subalpine vegetation and contain numerous rockland or talus slopes. Habitat-types graduate from cedar/clintonia to either a mountain hemlock or subalpine fir series as elevation rises.

The Grandmother Mountain unit provides a variety of recreational pursuits. The current major uses of this area include big game hunting, backpacking, hiking, horseback riding, and fishing. The Freezeout area and the lakes contained in the eastern portion of the unit are popular recreational destinations. Snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, and off-road vehicle motorized use continue to increase in popularity, especially on roads contiguous to the unit.

Most of the game and non-game species common to northern Idaho inhabit the unit. Big game species present include elk, whitetail and mule deer, black bear, and moose. Lynx, bobcat, and cougar also are likely to be present. The majority of streams and lakes contain populations of westslope cutthroat trout. A population of grayling additionally occupies Crater Lake on the southern fringe of the unit.

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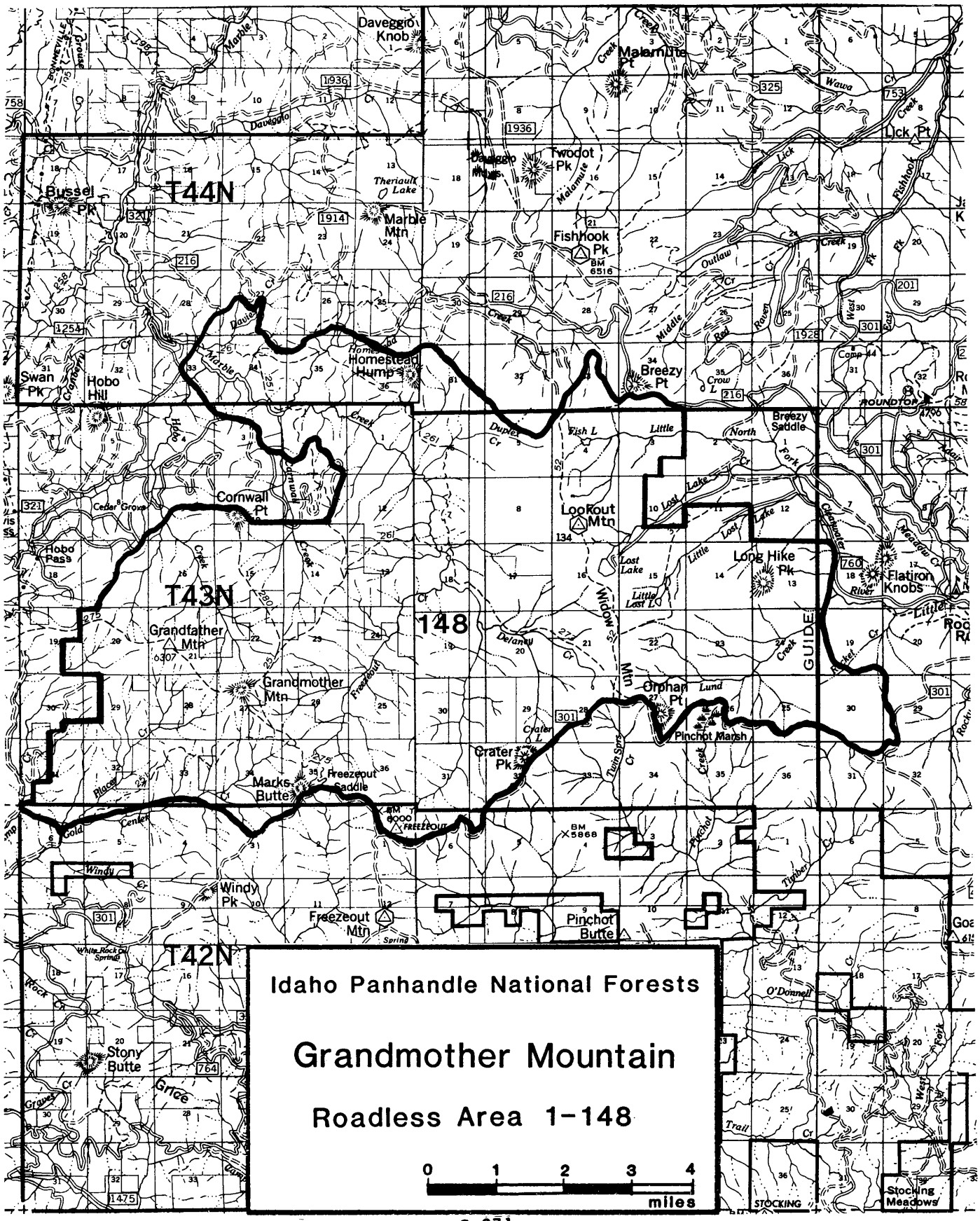
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148
Idaho Panhandle National Forests
Grandmother Mountain
Roadless Area 1-148
0 1 2 3 4
miles
Daveggio Knob
Malamute Pt
Twodot Pk
Bussel Pk
Marble Mtn
Fishhook Pk
Lick Pt
Homestead Hump
Breezy Pt
Swan Pk
Hobo Hill
Cornwall Pt
Lookout Mtn
Long Hike Pk
Flatiron Knobs
Hobo Pass
Grandfather Mtn
Grandmother Mtn
Orphan Pt
Pinchot Marsh
Crater Pk
Marks Butte
Freezeout Saddle
Windy Pk
Freezeout Mtn
Pinchot Butte
Stony Butte
Stocking Meadows

II. CAPABILITY

A. Wilderness Characteristics

1. Natural Integrity. Developments include remnants of early day logging, a lookout, and more than 30 miles of trails. Except for the remnants of some cabins, flumes, and splash dams, the logging which was done during the early twenties is essentially unnoticeable.

2. Natural Appearance. Timber harvest areas and associated roads outside the roadless area are visible from most of the prominent peaks and from some portions of ridgeline trails within the roadless area. In the immediate vicinity of historical logging structure remnants it is obvious that there has been past human activity in the area.

3. Solitude. The Grandmother Mountain area is approximately 39,400 acres in size. The area is 7.5 miles long north to south and 12.3 miles across. Topography and vegetation provide screening which separates visitors from one another in short distances. Opportunities for solitude are enhanced by the light visitor use the area receives. There are points of relatively concentrated use in the vicinity of Freezeout Saddle, on Trail 275 near the southern boundary of the area, and in the Lost Lake area near the eastern boundary. Sounds from logging activities adjacent to the area can, at times, be heard from within the area.

4. Primitive Recreation Opportunities. There are no developed recreation facilities within the area except for trails. The area provides the opportunity to participate in such activities as fishing, hunting, hiking, horseback riding, camping, and viewing scenery.

5. Other Features. The Grandmother Mountain area contains elements of the proposed Marble Creek National Recreation Trail Systems. There are approximately 20 miles of National Recreation Trail within the area, including the Marble Creek Trail, Delaney Creek Trail, and Lookout Mountain Trail.

B. Wilderness Management and Boundaries. The southern boundary of the area is well defined by a road which follows a major ridgeline. The remaining boundary will be difficult to locate on the ground because it generally does not follow any identifiable topographic features. These lines are generally located to avoid development activities or follow landownership lines.

Table 1

Selected Resource Values

Category	Unit	01148
Gross Acres	Acres	38,890
Net Acres	Acres	14,792
Range		
Existing Obligated		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Existing Vacant		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Proposed		
Suitable	Acres	0
AUMs	No.	0
Timber		
Tentative		
Suitable	Acres	14,280
Standing Volume	MMBF	99
Minerals Potential		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	0
Low	Acres	14,792
Mining Claims	No.	0
Oil and Gas Potential*		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	0
Low	Acres	14,792
Oil and Gas Leases		
Leases	No.	0
Leased Area	Acres	0
Corridors		
Existing and Potential	No.	0
Wildlife-Threatened and Endangered-Habitat		
Grizzly Bear		
Situation 1	Acres	0
Situation 2	Acres	0
Situation 3	Acres	0
Bald Eagle	Acres	0
Mountain Caribou	Acres	0
Gray Wolf	Acres	0
Wildlife-Big Game		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	480
Specific-Elk		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Deer		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Significant Fisheries		
Stream Miles	Miles	14
Stream Habitat	Acres	20
Lakes	No.	3
Lake Habitat	Acres	15
Water Developments		
Existing	No.	0
Recreation		
Primitive	RVDs	0
Semiprimitive		
Nonmotorized	RVDs	0
Motorized	RVDs	1,100
Roaded Natural	RVDs	0

*Rating also includes uranium, geothermal, and other energy resources.

A. Resource Values

1. Recreation. Current recreation use in the area is primarily hiking, horseback riding, and motorcycle riding on the various trails that dissect the area. A majority of the trails that comprise the Marble Creek National Recreation Trails system lie within the boundaries of the Grandmother Mountain Area. Lakes in the eastern portion of the area are popular for fishing. Some fall big game hunting occurs in the area.

2. Wildlife. Wildlife inhabitants include elk, black bear, whitetail deer and mule deer, as well as a variety of small and non-game species. The area is important summer range for elk and important security area during the hunting seasons. Many of the streams contain cutthroat, and grayling are found in Crater Lake. There are no threatened or endangered species occupying the area.

3. Timber. Approximately 14,300 acres of the area is estimated as tentatively suitable for timber production.

4. Minerals. Mineral potential in the area is categorized as low for hardrock minerals, oil, and gas.

5. Range. Cattle or sheep have not used the Grandmother Mountain area in recent years.

B. Other Management Considerations

1. Fire. Although large fires have occurred in the area, the number of fires occurring annually is low.

IV. NEED

A. Contribution to National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS). The main attribute of this area is that it represents an unroaded enclave in an area that is generally heavily developed on both private and public ownerships.

B. Public Interests and Concerns. There has been national, State, and local interest in maintaining the area in a roadless condition. The RARE II Environmental Impact Statement (1979) recommended the area for non-wilderness uses. This recommendation considered public interest and concern for wilderness as well as other concerns and interests.

The Grandmother Mountain area has been listed as a priority area by a number of environmental organizations. It is part of State-wide wilderness coalition recommendation for wilderness.

C. Proximity to Designated Wilderness and to Population Centers. Table 3, Parts A and B, displays wilderness opportunities and proximity to roadless areas on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The closest wilderness area is the Cabinet Wilderness in western Montana, approximately 100 miles to the northeast. There is access to 1.6 million acres of wilderness located within 200 miles of Coeur d'Alene, as well as an additional 5.8 million acres within 300 miles (northern Idaho, eastern Washington and Oregon, and western Montana). The area is close to Moscow, Idaho.

V. ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

A. Management Emphasis Assignment by Alternatives. Management emphasis indicates which resource activity is highlighted. If the emphasis is timber, most of the activity on those acres would be for timber management. Resource activities which are compatible with the emphasis would continue, but with less intensity. Table 2 lists the acres of each management emphasis by alternative.

Table 2

Grandmother Mountain Roadless Area (01148)
Management Emphasis by Alternative

Management Emphasis	Alternatives[1/] (Thousand Acres) 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Wilderness	0	0	14.8	0	0	14.8	14.8	0	14.8	14.8	0	0
Non-wilderness												
No Tbr. Harvest	0.5	0.5	0	0.5	6.2	0	0	7.6	0	0	6.1	6.2
Timber/Wildlife	11.1	11.3	0	11.8	6.2	0	0	5.2	0	0	5.2	5.2
Wildlife/Visual	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Special Areas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minimum Level	3.2	3.0	0	2.5	2.4	0	0	2.0	0	0	3.5	3.4
Total	14.8	14.8	14.8	14.8	14.8	14.8	14.8	14.8	14.8	14.8	14.8	14.8
Summary of Management Emphasis:												
Developed												
Decade 1	1.3	9.1	0	8.0	0	0	0	1.2	0	0	0.5	0.1
Decade 5	14.8	14.8	0	14.8	14.8	0	0	10.2	0	0	7.8	6.4
Roadless[2/]												
Decade 1	13.5	5.7	0	6.8	14.8	0	0	13.6	0	0	14.3	14.7
Decade 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7.0	8.4
Wilderness	0	0	14.8	0	0	14.8	14.8	0	14.8	14.8	0	0

1/ Alternative clarification -

1 - Regional Goals
2 - High Market
3 - High Nonmarket
4 - High Timber, Fish
5 - Moderate All Resources
6 - High Timber, Wildlife
7 - High Nonmarket, Stable Timber
8 - Current Program
9 - High Recreation
10 - High Wildlife, Moderate Timber
11 - Preferred Alternative
12 - Preferred w/Departure

2/ Roadless is defined as 5,000 acres or greater in size or any acreage if contiguous to existing wilderness.

B. Impacts

1. Designation: Wilderness

Management Emphasis: Wilderness

All or portions of the Grandmother Mountain Roadless Area would be designated for wilderness in Alternatives 3, 6, 7, 9, and 10.

One hundred percent of the area would be designated for wilderness under Alternatives 3, 9, and 10. Approximately 96 percent of the area would be designated for wilderness under Alternatives 6 and 7. These alternatives would enlarge the wilderness system by creating new wilderness. They would maintain the solitude and naturalness that is characteristic of the area now, assuming that lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management, Department of Interior, are maintained in a natural condition.

Wilderness designation would impact timber production and mining activity, although the impact would be slightly less under Alternatives 6 and 7 than under the other alternatives. Lands suited to timber management would be included in the designation. Timber management would be precluded under the wilderness designation. Approximately 99 MMBF of standing timber would not be available for harvest. Minerals exploration and development would be constrained and may be excluded.

The Grandmother Mountain Roadless Area contains several tracts of land in private or State of Idaho ownership. Wilderness designation may impact anagement of these lands by constraining or restricting access.

The non-priced resource costs and benefits would be:

-- The natural visual quality of the area would be retained.

-- Water quality of the area's streams would be maintained.

-- Fisheries values for westslope cutthroat in a majority of the streams would be maintained near their present levels.

-- Summer elk habitat and big game security would be maintained.

-- Over the long term, wildlife and plant species for which optimum habitat conditions occur in early succession, vegetation may be adversely impacted while those that are favored by late succession vegetation types will tend to flourish. Vegetative diversity will tend towards old-growth wildlife habitat conditions. The rate and amount of natural vegetative disturbance, such as fires, insect or disease infestions, will determine the extent of these impacts.

-- Recreational opportunities will remain primitive.

-- Motorized recreational activities will be eliminated.

-- The Marble Creek National Recreation Trails System would be protected.

-- Alternatives 3, 6, 7, 9, and 10 would provide high levels of non-priced resource values. Assuming that Bureau of Land Management-administered lands are maintained in a natural condition, the area provides a large area for big game security, primitive recreation, and visual quality retention. Publics valuing wilderness and those desiring to view the area in its unaltered state would be supported by this management emphasis. On the other hand, lands suitable for timber harvest and management would remain undeveloped and unavailable for management activities. The social and economic impacts of this management emphasis do not support the local timber industry.

2. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: No Timber Harvest

Portions of the Grandmother Mountain Roadless Area would be designated for a No Timber Harvest management emphasis under Alternatives 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 11, and 12. The proportion of the area designated for a this management emphasis ranges from a low of 3 percent of the area under Alternatives 1, 2, and 4 to a high of 51 percent of the area under Alternative 8. Alternatives 5, 11, and 12 designate approximately 42 percent of the area to a this management emphasis.

Under Alternatives 1, 2, and 4 the No Timber Harvest areas would be designated for old-growth wildlife habitat. Under Alternatives 5, 8, 11, and 12, the greatest portion of the area included in the No Timber Harvest management emphasis would be designated for roadless recreation. Land designated for this management emphasis would retain its wilderness characteristics under Alternatives 5, 8, 11 and 12. Wilderness characteristics would be foregone under Alternatives 1, 2, and 4 because of the small acreages involved. Under this emphasis 100 percent of the Grandmother Mountain Roadless Area would remain roadless at the end of the first decade under Alternative 5, while approximately 91 percent would remain roadless under Alternatives 1, 2, and 8; 88 percent under Alternatives 11 and 12; 46 percent under Alternative 4; and 39 percent under Alternative 2.

Timber management activities would generally be precluded under the No Timber Harvest management emphasis, although not prohibited by legislation or regulation. Approximately 14,300 acres of the Grandmother Mountain Area is estimated to be tentatively suited for timber production. These acres contain an estimated 99 MMBF of standing timber volume. A portion of this volume would not be available for harvest under this management emphasis. The impact would be greatest under Alternatives 5, 8, 11, and 12 and least under Alternatives 1, 2, and 4.

The area to which the No Timber Harvest management emphasis is applied is available for minerals exploration and development, should valuable mineral deposits be discovered.

The non-priced resource costs and benefits would be:

-- The natural visual quality of the area would be retained. The greatest benefits would occur in Alternatives 5, 8, 11, and 12.

-- Water quality of the area's streams would be maintained, particularly the Marble Creek drainage, in Alternatives 5, 6, 11, and 12.

-- Habitat would be provided for old-growth habitat dependent wildlife species.

-- Security areas would be provided for big game.

-- Recreational opportunites will remain primitive.

-- The Marble Creek National Recreation Trails System will be protected in Alternatives 5, 8, 11, and 12.

The No Timber Harvest management emphasis in Alternatives 5, 6, 11, and 12 would favor that segment of the public desiring to have roadless areas. This emphasis would, in practice, augment the wilderness resource. Wilderness advocates would be largely supported in these alternatives, while recreationists seeking roaded natural recreation experience would not be served. Alternatives 5, 8, 11 and 12 do not favor the local timber industry because approximately 40 to 50 percent of the acreage suitable for timber production in the Grandmother Mountain Roadless Area is included in the No Timber Harvest management emphasis.

3. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Timber/Wildlife

All of the alternatives except Alternatives 3, 9, and 10 would designate portions of the Grandmother Mountain Roadless Area for a Timber/Wildlife management emphasis. The proportion of the area designated for this emphasis varies from a high of 80 percent of the area under Alternative 4 to a low of 3 percent under Alternative 6. Alternatives 1 and 2 would designate approximately 75 percent of the area for a Timber/Wildlife emphasis, while Alternative 5 would designate 42 percent of the area; Alternatives 8, 11, and 12 would designate 35 percent of the area; and Alternative 7 would designate 4 percent of the area.

Lands on which the Timber/Wildlife emphasis is implemented would be disqualified for wilderness consideration. The natural landscape would be changed to a landscape of roads and artificial openings. The solitude of the existing roadless area would be lost. Under this emphasis 100 percent of the Grandmother Mountain Area would remain roadless at the end of the first decade under Alternative 5, while approximately 91 percent of the area would remain roadless at the end of the first decade under Alternatives 1 and 8, 88 percent under Alternatives 11 and 12, 46 percent under Alternative 4, and 39 percent under Alternative 2. By the end of the fifth decade, roadless and wilderness values would be foregone under Alternatives 1, 2, and 4 because of roading and timber harvest activities.

Approximately 14,300 acres (97 percent) of the Grandmother Mountain Roadless Area are estimated to be suitable for timber production. Under the Timber/Wildlife management emphasis, 75 to 80 percent of these acres would eventually be treated under Alternatives 1, 2 and 4. Alternative 1 would place emphasis on maintaining or enhancing elk summer range through timber management. Approximately 35 to 42 percent of the suitable acres would be treated under Alternatives 5, 8, 11, and 12, with harvest tempered by an increased consideration of visual quality values. Only 3 to 4 percent of the suitable acres would be treated under Alternatives 6 and 7.

The non-priced resource costs and benefits would be:

-- Visual quality would decline as the acres included under the Timber/Wildlife management emphasis are roaded and timber harvest occurs. The impact on visual quality would be less under Alternatives 5, 8, 11, and 12, where retention of visual quality receives greater consideration.

-- Vegetative diversity would tend towards younger managed stands as timber stands are treated. The greatest diversity would be expected to occur under Alternatives 1, 2, and 4.

-- Water quality in the Marble Creek drainage would be expected to decline slightly.

-- Security for big game animals would be expected to decline because of roading and timber management activities. The emphasis under Alternative 1 is to maintain or enhance elk summer range. Alternative 1 would provide for retention of elk security areas.

-- Wildlife species which are favored by early successional vegetative habitat conditions would tend to flourish, while species that require old-growth habitat types would decline.

-- The existing semi-primitive/primitive recreational setting would be modified to a roaded natural setting over those acres where timber/management activities occur.

Social and economic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. The social and economic effects under the Timber/Wildlife management emphasis would favor the local timber industry, particularly in Alternatives 2, 4, and 8. Those publics favoring wilderness or roadless conditions would be better served by Alternatives 6 and 7 because relatively few acres would be treated under this management emphasis. Alternatives 1, 5, 11, and 12 provide some mix of market and non-market values by providing for visual quality and wildlife considerations in timber management activities. Overall, the change in recreation setting would be disruptive to those publics favoring use of the area for primitive or semi-primitive recreation and those favoring wilderness would not be supported.

4. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Minimum Level

Portions of the Grandmother Mountain Roadless Area are designated for minimum level or custodial management in Alternatives 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 11, and 12. The proportion of the area designated varies from a high of approximately 24 percent in Alternative 11 to a low of approximately 16 percent in Alternative 5.

-- Lands in this category have been defined as being unavailable for timber or other resource investment purposes because of either biophysical conditions or identified economic constraints. Acre variances between alternatives are created by other resource constraints imposed by alternative resource emphasis items.

-- Lands managed at the minimum level would not support wilderness consideration because of their relatively small contiguous acreage. Because of definition of Minimum Level management emphasis lands, they would not impact timber production. Discovered minerals would be available for development.

Non-priced resource impacts and socio-economic effects within these areas would be similar to those of the resource allocations of surrounding areas.

PINCHOT BUTTE ROADLESS AREA (01149)

I. DESCRIPTION

Size	Gross Acres	Net Acres
Idaho - Idaho Panhandle NF	12,860	7,011

The Pinchot Butte Roadless Area is located approximately 36 miles southeast of St. Maries, Idaho. The area is in Shoshone County, Idaho, on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The area includes approximately 1,080 acres of State of Idaho lands and 80 acres of private ownership. The remainder is administered by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The BLM administers approximately 2,480 acres in the northern part of the area.

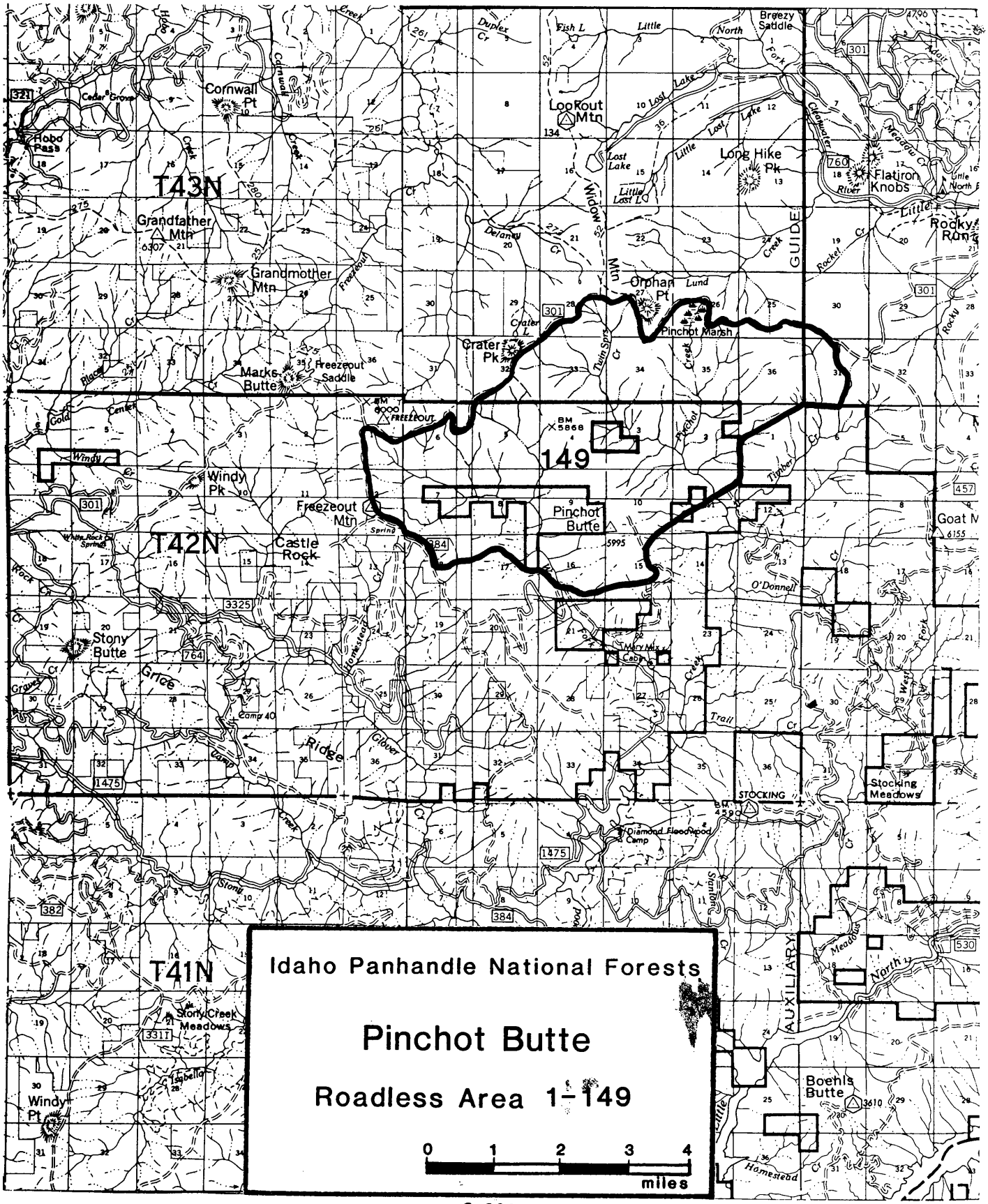
The area lies along the south side of the divide between the North Fork of the Clearwater River and the St. Joe River. Pinchot Butte is the highest point in the area with an elevation of 5,995 feet. The lowest point in the area is approximately 3,400 feet in Floodwood Creek on the southern boundary. The entire area drains into the Little North Fork of the Clearwater River. Topography is characterized by narrow ridges which drop off into steep, narrow draws. Several areas of rock outcrops appear along the slopes of Pinchot Butte and the tops of ridges. This unit has very complex geology and structure. The area is highly folded and faulted with numerous intrusions of granitic igneous rock. Contact metamorphism from the igneous rocks has altered the surrounding sediments to schists, quartzites, and garnetiferous amphibolites.

Vegetation in the area is composed of overmature, scattered hemlock and alpine fir interspersed with brushfields. Northerly and easterly facing slopes include denser patches of timber. Vegetation in the area has been influenced by fires which burned over the area in 1910 and again in 1923. Pinchot Marsh, a high elevation wetland, is a unique area characterized by wetlands vegetation.

The area receives little recreational use because of its relative remoteness from population centers and lack of access routes into the interior of the unit. Some fall big game hunting does occur and sightseers, hikers, and berrypickers utilize fringe areas from roads which form the north and west boundaries.

Wildlife species found in the area are those common to the region and include elk, whitetail deer, black bear, mule deer, grouse, and numerous species of non-game animals and birds. Streams in the area are marginal recreational fisheries, although some spawning may occur.

R. 3 E. R. 4 E.


Idaho Panhandle National Forests
Pinchot Butte
Roadless Area 1-149
0 1 2 3 4
miles
T43N
T42N
T41N
149
Cornwall Pt
Hobo Pass
Grandfather Mtn
Grandmother Mtn
Marks Butte
Freezeout Saddle
Crater Pk
Lookout Mtn
Long Hike Pk
Flatiron Knobs
Orphan Pt
Pinchot Marsh
Windy Pk
Freezeout Mtn
Castle Rock
Pinchot Butte
Stony Butte
Stocking Meadows
Stony Creek Meadows
Boehls Butte
Goat M
Rocky Run
Breezy Saddle
Lost Lake
Little Lost L
Fish L
Crater L
Cedar Grove
Camp 40
Diamond Flood Pond Camp
Isabella
Widow Mtn
GUIDE
AUXILIARY
Ridge
Grice
Stony
Gold Center
Duplex Cr
Delaney Cr
Twin Spring Cr
Pinchot Cr
Timber Cr
O'Donnell
Trail
Homestead
Rocket Cr
Little North Fork
Clearwater River
Meadow Cr
Rocky Cr
Cornwall Creek
Hobo Creek
Freezeout Cr
Placer Cr
Gravel Cr
Rock Cr
Stanton Cr
Pond Cr
Little Cr
Meadow Cr
North Fork
West Fork
Adair
Lund
Little
North
Fork
Creek
Cr
Spring
White Rock Cr Spring
Windy Cr
Clover
Camp
Stony
Creek
Pinchot
Mary Mix Cabin
STOCKING
FREEZEOUT
BM 5868
BM 4590
5995
6155
3610
3311
3325
1475
382
384
457
530
301
321
760
764
280
275
261
52
36

II. CAPABILITY

A. Wilderness Characteristics

1. Natural Integrity. Developments in the area are few; however, a road was at one time constructed from Crater Peak along the northern boundary south to the vicinity of Pinchot Butte. A road was also constructed from the south toward Pinchot Butte. It was planned to connect these to provide fire control access. The road was never completed and has since been closed to traffic. Although the road was constructed to a low standard, it virtually bisects the roadless area.

2. Natural Appearance. Timber harvest areas and associated roads outside the roadless area are visible from the high ridge that forms the northern boundary of the area. These timber activities are also visible from Pinchot Butte. The road which bisects the area is an obvious sign of past human activity; however, it only has an effect from immediately upon or adjacent to its location.

3. Solitude. The area is approximately 4.5 miles long north to south and 5.5 miles across. Topography and vegetation provide screening which separates visitors from one another in short distances over most of the area. Some ridges are open. Opportunities for solitude are enhanced by the very light visitor use the area receives. Sounds from logging activity south and east of the area are, at times, obvious from within the area.

4. Primitive Recreation Opportunities. There are no developed recreation facilities within the area. The area provides the opportunity to participate in such activities as fishing, hunting, hiking, horseback riding, and camping.

5. Other Features. The area contains a large wet area on BLM land known as Pinchot Marsh. The marsh is an outstanding high elevation wet meadow/sedge marsh/sphagnum bog area. The marsh has a number of interesting plant species, possibly including carex species that are rare in Idaho.

B. Wilderness Manageability and Boundaries. This area was inventoried during RARE II; no boundary changes have occurred since then. The northern and western boundaries of the area are well defined by roads which generally follow major ridgelines. The remaining boundary is difficult to locate on the ground because it generally does not follow any identifiable topographuic features. These lines are generally located to avoid development activities.

III. WILDERNESS AVAILABILITY

Table 1

Selected Resource Values

Category	Unit	01149
Gross Acres	Acres	12,860
Net Acres	Acres	7,011
Range		
Existing Obligated		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Existing Vacant		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Proposed		
Suitable	Acres	0
AUMs	No.	0
Timber		
Tentative		
Suitable	Acres	5,873
Standing Volume	MMBF	16
Minerals Potential		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	0
Low	Acres	7,011
Mining Claims	No.	1
Oil and Gas Potential*		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	0
Low	Acres	7,011
Oil and Gas Leases		
Leases	No.	0
Leased Area	Acres	0
Corridors		
Existing and Potential	No.	0
Wildlife-Threatened and Endangered-Habitat		
Grizzly Bear		
Situation 1	Acres	0
Situation 2	Acres	0
Situation 3	Acres	0
Bald Eagle	Acres	0
Mountain Caribou	Acres	0
Gray Wolf	Acres	0
Wildlife-Big Game		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Elk		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Deer		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Significant Fisheries		
Stream Miles	Miles	0
Stream Habitat	Acres	0
Lakes	No.	0
Lake Habitat	Acres	0
Water Developments		
Existing	No.	0
Recreation		
Primitive	RVDs	0
Semiprimitive		
Nonmotorized	RVDs	0
Motorized	RVDs	250
Roaded Natural	RVDs	0

*Rating also includes uranium, geothermal, and other energy resources.

A. Resource Values

1. Recreation. Current recreation use in the area is low, limited primarily to some fall big game hunting. Sightseers and berrypickers utilize the roads adjacent to the area. Fishing is limited because of a lack of any significant streams.

2. Wildlife. Wildlife inhabitants include elk, black bear, whitetail deer, and mule deer, as well as a variety of small and non-game species. The area provides important summer range for elk and is important security area during the hunting seasons. Cutthroat trout may be found in the West Fork of Floodwood Creek. There are no threatened or endangered species occupying the area.

3. Timber. Approximately 5,900 acres of the area are estimated as tentatively suitable for timber production.

4. Minerals. Mineral potential in the area is categorized as low for hardrock minerals and oil and gas.

5. Range. Cattle or sheep have not used the Pinchot Butte area in recent years.

B. Other Management Considerations

1. Fire. Although large fires have occurred in the area, the number and size of fires occurring annually is low.

IV. NEED

A. Contribution to National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS). The main attribute of this area is that it represents an unroaded enclave in an area that is generally heavily developed on both private and public ownerships. This area would also contribute a unique wet marsh habitat type if BLM land were included.

B. Public Interests and Concerns. The RARE II Environmental Impact Statement (1979) recommended the area for non-wilderness uses. This recommendation considered public interest and concern for wilderness as well as other concerns and interests.

C. Proximity to Designated Wilderness and to Population Centers. Table 3, Parts A and B, displays wilderness opportunities and proximity to roadless areas on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The closest wilderness area is the Cabinet Wilderness in western Montana, approximately 100 miles to the northeast. There is access to 1.6 million acres of wilderness located within 200 miles of Coeur d'Alene, as well as an additional 5.8 million acres within 300 miles (northern Idaho, eastern Washington and Oregon, and western Montana).

V. ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

A. Management Emphasis Assignment by Alternatives. Management emphasis indicates which resource activity is highlighted. If the emphasis is timber, most of the activity on those acres would be for timber management. Resource activities which are compatible with the emphasis would continue, but with less intensity. Table 2 lists the acres of each management emphasis by alternative.

Table 2

Pinchot Butte Roadless Area (01149)
Management Emphasis by Alternative

Management Emphasis	Alternatives[1/] (Thousand Acres) 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Wilderness	0	0	7.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non-wilderness												
No Tbr. Harvest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Timber/Wildlife	4.4	4.8	0	5.0	5.0	4.3	4.9	5.0	4.4	4.7	3.6	3.8
Wildlife/Visual	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0
Special Areas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minimum Level	2.6	2.2	0	2.0	2.0	2.7	2.1	2.0	2.6	2.2	3.4	3.2
Total	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0
Summary of Management Emphasis:												
Developed												
Decade 1	0.3	2.3	0	6.4	0.6	1.1	0.7	2.4	0.8	1.7	1.0	0.9
Decade 5	7.0	7.0	0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	5.1	5.5	7.0	3.0	3.2
Roadless[2/]												
Decade 1	6.7	4.7	0	0	6.4	5.9	6.3	0	6.2	5.3	6.0	6.1
Decade 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wilderness	0	0	7.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

1/ Alternative clarification -
1 - Regional Goals
2 - High Market
3 - High Nonmarket
4 - High Timber, Fish
5 - Moderate All Resources
6 - High Timber, Wildlife
7 - High Nonmarket, Stable Timber
8 - Current Program
9 - High Recreation
10 - High Wildlife, Moderate Timber
11 - Preferred Alternative
12 - Preferred w/Departure

2/ Roadless is defined as 5,000 acres or greater in size or any acreage if contiguous to existing wilderness.

B. Impacts

1. Designation: Wilderness

Management Emphasis: Wilderness

The Pinchot Butte Roadless Area would be designated as wilderness under Alternative 3.

Alternative 3 would enlarge the wilderness system by creating new wilderness. The solitude and naturalness that is now characteristic of the area would be maintained, although timber harvest areas, roads, and sounds outside of the area would remain evident from certain locations within the area.

Wilderness designation would impact timber production and mining activity should minerals values exist. Lands suited to timber harvest and management would be included in the designation. Lands suited to mineral exploration and development would also be included in the designation. Timber harvest would be precluded under the wilderness designation. Approximately 16 MMBF of standing timber volume would not be available for harvest. Minerals exploration and development would be constrained and may be excluded.

The non-priced costs and benefits would be:

-- Natural visual quality of the area would be retained.

-- Water quality and fisheries would be maintained.

-- The natural ecosystem, including the Pinchot Marsh, would be protected from any developmental impacts.

-- Vegetative diversity would tend towards old growth.

-- Big game security would be maintained.

-- Recreational opportunities would remain primitive. Recreational off-road vehicle use would be eliminated.

Social and economic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. Alternative 3 would provide the optimum situation for retention of those non-priced benefits such as big game security, primitive recreation, and retention of visual quality. However, lands suitable for development or exploitation of existing resources, especially timber production and harvest, would remain undeveloped. Publics valuing wilderness and those who desire to view the area in its unaltered state would be supported by this management emphasis. The local timber industry would not be supported.

2. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Timber/Wildlife

All of the alternatives except Alternative 3 would designate portions of the Pinchot Butte Roadless Area for this management emphasis. The proportion of the area designated for a Timber/Wildlife emphasis varies from a high of approximately 71 percent of the area in Alternatives 4, 5, and 8 to a low of approximately 51 percent of the area in Alternative 11.

Lands on which the Timber/Wildlife emphasis is implemented would be disqualified for wilderness consideration. The natural landscape would be changed to a landscape with roads and artificial openings. The solitude of the existing roadless area would be lost. By the end of the first decade, roadless and wilderness values would be foregone because of roading and timber harvest.

Approximately 5,900 acres (84 percent) of the Pinchot Butte Roadless Area are estimated as tentatively suitable for timber production. Under the Timber/Wildlife management emphasis a majority of the suitable acres would eventually be treated. Under Alternatives 2, 4, 8, and 10, timber production would receive the greatest emphasis. Under Alternatives 5, 7, 9, 11, and 12, timber production and harvest would be tempered by an increased consideration of visual quality values. Alternatives 1 and 6 would place the emphasis on maintaining or enhancing elk summer range through timber management.

The Timber/Wildlife management emphasis would generally degrade the non-priced resources. As a result, non-priced resource costs and benefits would be:

-- Visual quality would decline as the area becomes roaded and timber harvest occurs. The impact on visual quality would be less under Alternatives 5, 7, 9, 11, and 12 when retention of visual quality receives greater emphasis.

-- Vegetative diversity would tend towards younger managed stands as timber stands are treated. The greatest diversity would be expected to occur under those alternatives where the greatest number of acres are treated.

-- Security for big game animals would be expected to decline because of roading and timber management activities. The emphasis under Alternative 1 would be to enhance or maintain elk summer range. Alternative 1 would provide for retention of elk security areas.

-- The existing semi-primitive/primitive recreational setting would be modified to a roaded natural setting. More motorized recreational activities would occur.

-- Water quality could be reduced to minimum management requirement levels.

The social and economic effects under a Timber/Wildlife management emphasis would favor the local timber industry. It would have negative social effects in terms of amenity values. Alternatives 11 and 12 would have the least favorable economic impact because the least amount of those lands considered to have timber management potential would be developed. Conversely, Alternatives 4, 5, and 8 would develop most of those lands with potential for timber

management. The change in recreation setting would be disruptive to those publics favoring use of the area for primitive or semi-primitive recreation. Those individuals favoring wilderness would not be supported.

3. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Minimum Level

All of the alternatives except Alternative 3 would designate portions of the Pinchot Butte Roadless Area for Minimum Level (or custodial) management. The proportion of the area designated for custodial management varies from a high of approximately 49 percent in Alternative 11 to a low of approximately 29 percent under Alternatives 4, 5, and 8.

Lands in this category have been defined as being unavailable for timber or other resource investment purposes because of either biophysical conditions or identified economic constraints. Acre variances between alternatives are created by other resource constraints imposed by alternative resource emphasis items. For example, Alternative 11 places emphasis on maintaining Retention or Partial Retention visual quality objectives. Because of the constraints imposed by the visual quality objectives, it becomes uneconomical to access and manage the timber resource over approximately 49 percent of the Pinchot Butte Roadless Area.

Lands managed at the minimum level would not support wilderness consideration because of their relatively small contiguous acreage. Because of their definition, they would not impact timber production. Discovered minerals would be available for exploitation.

Non-priced resource impacts and socioeconomic effects within these areas would mirror those of the resource designations for surrounding areas.

MOSQUITO-FLY ROADLESS AREA (01150)

I. DESCRIPTION

Size	Gross Acres	Net Acres
Idaho - Idaho Panhandle NF	21,270	15,267

The Mosquito-Fly Roadless Area lies in Shoshone County approximately 20 air miles southeast of Avery, Idaho, on the Avery Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The area lies within the checkerboard landownership pattern, with Burlington Northern, Inc., owning the odd-numbered sections in the eastern two-thirds of the unit.

Access to the roadless area is provided by the St. Joe River Road, a paved road which forms the eastern boundary, and the Beaver, Avery Timber Creek, and Junction Ridge Roads which form the remaining perimeter. A network of trails follow the major ridgelines and drainage bottoms. A historical resource, the Old Montana Trail, follows the northwestern perimeter but lies abandoned along most of its route.

Steep, rugged terrain with sharp ridges dissected by several drainages marks the topography, with elevations rising sharply from 3,300 feet along the St. Joe River to over 6,500 feet along the ridgelines. Rock outcrops and shallow soils typify a large proportion of this squarish-shaped roadless area. Three major tributaries--Mosquito, Fly, and Beaver Creeks--flow northeastward into the St. Joe River. Several major peaks, including Conrad Peak, Junction Peak, and Peggy Peak, are located within the area. Two small pond-like lakes--Twin Lakes--are situated along the western boundary at a major trailhead near Peggy Peak.

The 1910 Fire burned a majority of the area, with a portion reburning in 1924. Scattered stands of old-growth timber are intermixed with partially stocked or non-stocked brushfields or immature stands of dominantly lodgepole pine, larch, or Douglas-fir. In 1940, portions of Beaver Creek were planted with ponderosa pine and cedar. Remnants of these plantations still exist. Habitats range greatly, with grand fir or Douglas-fir types on the more exposed slopes and cedar dominating the moister sites. Mountain hemlock and subalpine fir series dominate the higher elevations.

The eastern portion of the Mosquito-Fly Roadless Area is included within the St. Joe Wild and Scenic River Corridor under a recreational designation. Three improved campgrounds--Fly Flat, Conrad Crossing, and Beaver Creek--and several unimproved campsites border the roadless area in this section. Other unimproved campsites exist at other locations along the perimeter, with Twin Lakes being one of the more popular. A primitive road intrudes into the roadless area to access the eastern Twin Lake and nearby trailhead. The trail system is utilized by hikers, backpackers, horses, and motorbikes occasionally through the summer, with heavier use occurring during big game hunting season.

Big game, including elk, deer, moose, cougar, and black bear and a variety of other mammals and birds, make their homes in the area. Threatened or endangered species have not been inventoried, but populations of gray wolf and grizzly bear may exist. Mosquito, Fly, and Beaver Creeks also contain important fisheries habitat. To promote a quality fisheries resource, the Idaho Fish and Game Department has adopted special regulations on the upper St. Joe River and its tributaries, including this area.

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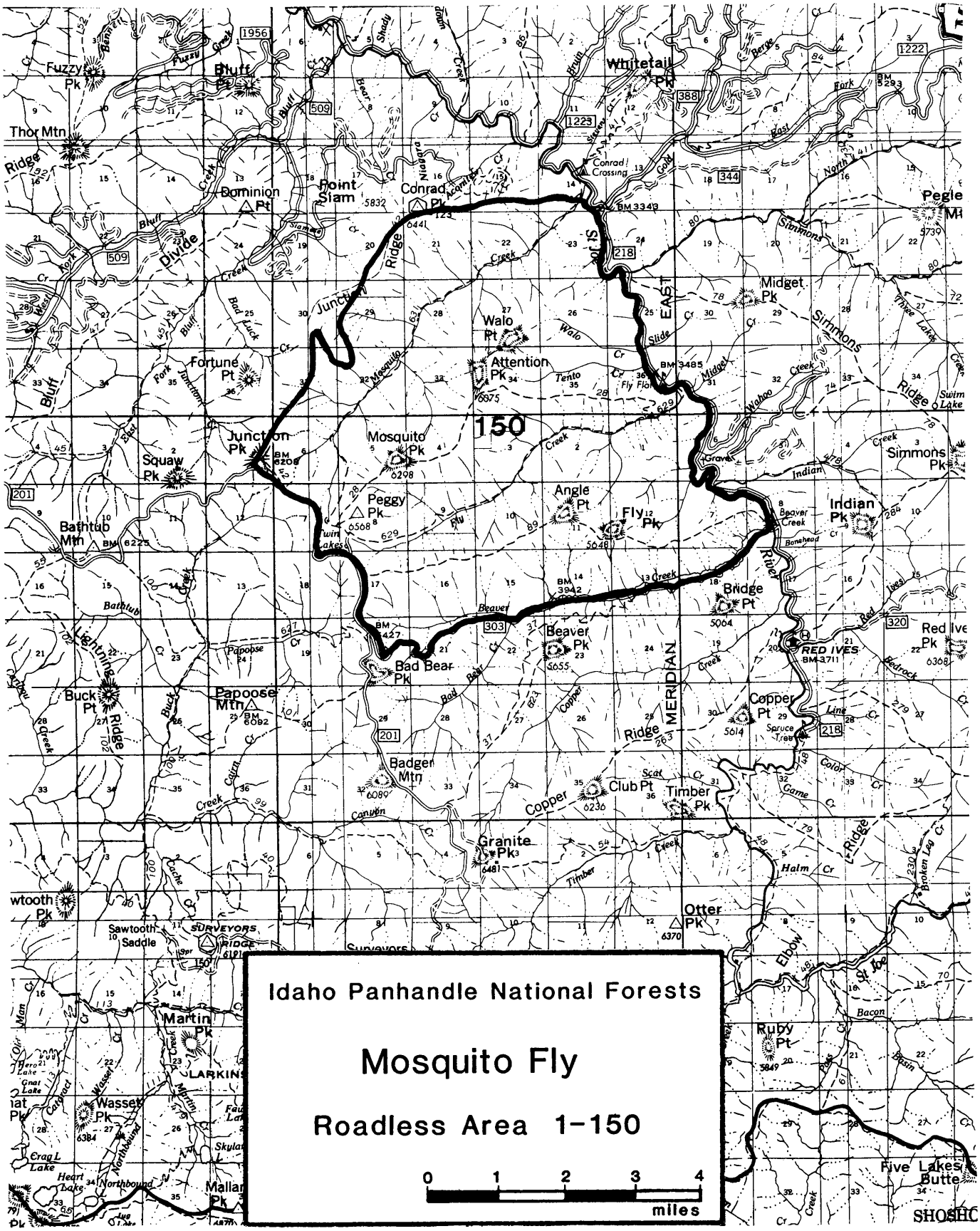
Idaho Panhandle National Forests
Mosquito Fly
Roadless Area 1-150
0 1 2 3 4
miles
150
Fuzzy Pk
Bluff
Thor Mtn
Dominion Pt
Point Siam
Conrad Pk
Whitetail Pk
Conrad Crossing
Pegle
Midget Pk
Walo Pt
Attention Pk
Fortune Pt
Junction Pk
Squaw Pk
Mosquito Pk
Peggy Pk
Angle Pt
Fly Pk
Indian Pk
Simmons Pk
Bathtub Mtn
Bridge Pt
Beaver Pk
Red Ives Pk
RED IVES
Bad Bear Pk
Buck Pt
Papoose Mtn
Copper Pt
Badger Mtn
Club Pt
Timber Pk
Granite Pk
Otter Pk
Sawtooth Saddle
SURVEYORS RIDGE
Martin Pk
Ruby Pt
Wasset Pk
Five Lakes Butte
SHOSHO
EAST
MERIDIAN
Ridge
Divide
Junction
Simmons
Lightning
Copper
Elbow
St Joe
Bad Bear
Beaver
Indian
Bedrock
Broken Leg
Bacon
Basin
Cache
Northbound
Heart Lake
Craig Lake
Gnat Lake
Hero Lake
Skylar
LARKINS
Mallard Pk

II. CAPABILITY

A. Wilderness Characteristics

1. Natural Integrity. The impact from human activity in this area is extremely low. The only improvements are two lookout sites and one cabin that were used in the early part of the century. Little evidence remains of these features. Two helispots used for fire suppression have patches of timber cleared for safety.

Thirty miles of National Forest System Trail provide the access within the Mosquito-Fly area. These trails are primitive in character and do not adversely influence the area's natural integrity.

Two minor developments exist along the area's perimeter. A recreation residence is located on private land on the Beaver Creek Road. An unimproved camping area and trailhead lies on the west side of the area at Twin Lakes. The only adverse impact of the camp area is 1/4 mile of primitive access road.

2. Natural Appearance. Visitors to the area feel they are in a natural area. The topography is steep and dissected by many drainages, so screening by landforms is very high. The screening by vegetation is also high. Few outside activities would be visible from within the Mosquito-Fly area.

3. Solitude. The opportunity to experience solitude is high in the Mosquito-Fly area. Good visual screening by topography and vegetation is a factor in this, as well as the small amount of off-site intrusions. The further a visitor gets from the perimeter the greater the chance of solitude. Hunting season in October brings many people to the area, lowering the opportunity for solitude.

4. Primitive Recreation Opportunities. The Mosquito-Fly area offers a variety of primitive recreation opportunities. Forest visitors can choose to hike or ride horseback on a wide selection of trails. Hunting, backpacking, nature study, scenery viewing, and fishing opportunities are also found in the area.

B. Wilderness Manageability and Boundaries. This area was inventoried during RARE II; the inventoried area is now 250 acres smaller due to a road easement granted to Burlington Northern, Inc. The road has not yet been constructed. The Mosquito-Fly area is bounded on the southwest by the Avery Timber Creek Road. The northwest boundary partially follows a major ridge with a primitive road but skirts around existing roads and easements making this a difficult boundary to locate on the ground. The eastern boundary is the St. Joe River, with a road next to it. The southeast boundary follows the road along Beaver Creek.

The road to Twin Lakes undeveloped camping area is also a primitive road and would revert to a trail-like appearance after closure.

There are 5,700 acres of private land in a checkerboard pattern within this area. All 5,700 acres are owned by Burlington Northern Railroad Company. There are no patented mining claims within the area.

A portion of the area is managed as part of the St. Joe Wild and Scenic River as a recreation river. Existing and future recreation associated with the river and all other recreation could be managed to protect the existing wilderness character.

There are pending oil and gas leases throughout the area. Future mineral development could alter the wilderness character of the area.

Table 1

Selected Resource Values

Category	Unit	01150
Gross Acres	Acres	21,270
Net Acres	Acres	15,267
Range		
Existing Obligated		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Existing Vacant		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Proposed		
Suitable	Acres	0
AUMs	No.	0
Timber		
Tentative		
Suitable	Acres	10,586
Standing Volume	MMBF	93
Minerals Potential		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	0
Low	Acres	15,267
Mining Claims	No.	0
Oil and Gas Potential*		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	0
Low	Acres	15,267
Oil and Gas Leases		
Leases	No.	0
Leased Area	Acres	0
Corridors		
Existing and Potential	No.	0
Wildlife-Threatened and Endangered-Habitat		
Grizzly Bear		
Situation 1	Acres	0
Situation 2	Acres	0
Situation 3	Acres	0
Bald Eagle	Acres	0
Mountain Caribou	Acres	0
Gray Wolf	Acres	0
Wildlife-Big Game		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	461
Specific-Elk		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Deer		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Significant Fisheries		
Stream Miles	Miles	17
Stream Habitat	Acres	26
Lakes	No.	0
Lake Habitat	Acres	0
Water Developments		
Existing	No.	0
Recreation		
Primitive	RVDs	0
Semiprimitive		
Nonmotorized	RVDs	0
Motorized	RVDs	1,480
Roaded Natural	RVDs	865

*Rating also includes uranium, geothermal, and other energy resources.

A. Resource Values

1. Recreation. Roads border the area on the east, west, and south sides and lie adjacent to the north end. Potential access is feasible from any portion of the perimeter. Fall elk hunting is the predominant recreation use.

2. Wildlife. A variety of animals found in northern Idaho are found in this area; however, it is the elk herd which draws public attention.

3. Timber. The Mosquito-Fly area contains sites ranging from low to high in timber production potential, with the majority being rated medium. Roughly 35 percent of the area is considered unsuitable for commercial timber production due to high elevations and poorly developed soil. Mosquito-Fly could sustain an annual average harvest of less than 1 million board feet.

4. Minerals. There are no mining claims located in this area and mineral potential is low. The oil and gas potential is low due to lack of information but the unit is 100 percent covered by oil and gas lease application. This area contains about eight sections of private land. Creeks in the area have potential for placer gold.

5. Range. Range values are very limited and are not currently being managed for. No change is anticipated under any land allocation decision.

B. Other Management Considerations

1. Fire. Fire history includes the catastrophic burn of 1910. Advanced fire suppression has significantly reduced the number and acreage of annual fires over the years. Correspondingly, the amount of potential fire fuel is increasing annually.

2. Insects and Disease. The lodgepole pine stands may be susceptible to a mountain pine beetle epidemic 10-20 years from the present.

IV. NEED

A. Contribution to National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS). Mosquito-Fly area is representative of the vast acreages burned by the 1910 fire. Although it has no prominent views, outstanding scenery, or unique vegetation, it is bordered by the St. Joe Wild and Scenic River. The area would provide roadless elk hunting opportunities.

B. Public Interest and Concerns. To date, scant public interest or concerns have been brought forth concerning the Mosquito-Fly area. Interest and concerns are usually aroused as management plans are proposed. No active management has occurred on public and private land within this area since the 1910 burn. Land ownership is mixed, with Burlington Northern Railroad Company owning many of the odd-numbered sections. Future timber management on private lands would disrupt the wilderness characteristics now existing.

C. Proximity to Designated Wilderness and to Population Centers. Table 3, Parts A and B, displays wilderness opportunities and proximity to roadless areas on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The closest wilderness area is the Cabinet Wilderness in western Montana, approximately 100 miles to the northeast. There is access to 1.6 million acres of wilderness located within 200 miles of Coeur d'Alene, as well as an additional 5.8 million acres within 300 miles (northern Idaho, eastern Washington and Oregon, and western Montana).

V. ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

A. Management Emphasis Assignment by Alternatives. Management emphasis indicates which resource activity is highlighted. If the emphasis is timber, most of the activity on those acres would be for timber management. Resource activities which are compatible with the emphasis would continue, but with less intensity. Table 2 lists the acres of each management emphasis by alternative.

Table 2

Mosquito-Fly Roadless Area (01150)
Management Emphasis by Alternative

Management Emphasis	Alternatives[1/] (Thousand Acres) 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Wilderness	0	0	15.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non-wilderness												
No Tbr. Harvest	0.3	0.3	0	0.3	0.3	0.3	12.0	0.3	12.0	0.3	0.3	0.3
Timber/Wildlife	9.0	9.1	0	9.6	9.0	9.0	1.1	9.5	0.9	9.3	5.6	5.9
Wildlife/Visual	0.2	0.2	0	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.6	0	0.6	0.6	0	0.1
Special Areas	1.6	1.6	0	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6
Minimum Level	4.2	4.1	0	3.6	4.2	4.2	0	3.9	0.2	3.5	7.8	7.4
Total	15.3	15.3	15.3	15.3	15.3	15.3	15.3	15.3	15.3	15.3	15.3	15.3
Summary of Management Emphasis:												
Developed												
Decade 1	0.1	3.2	0	4.6	2.1	0.8	0	2.4	0	1.4	1.3	2.3
Decade 5	15.3	15.3	0	15.3	14.9	15.3	2.0	12.2	0.6	14.8	9.2	2.4
Roadless[2/]												
Decade 1	15.2	12.1	0	10.7	13.2	14.5	15.3	12.9	15.3	13.9	14.0	13.0
Decade 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	13.3	0	14.7	0	6.0	12.9
Wilderness	0	0	15.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

1/ Alternative clarification -
1 - Regional Goals
2 - High Market
3 - High Nonmarket
4 - High Timber, Fish
5 - Moderate All Resources
6 - High Timber, Wildlife
7 - High Nonmarket, Stable Timber
8 - Current Program
9 - High Recreation
10 - High Wildlife, Moderate Timber
11 - Preferred Alternative
12 - Preferred w/Departure

2/ Roadless is defined as 5,000 acres or greater in size or any acreage if contiguous to existing wilderness.

B. Impacts

1. Designation: Wilderness

Management Emphasis: Wilderness

The entire Mosquito-Fly area is designated wilderness in Alternative 3.

Wilderness designation would perserve the existing attributes as well as enhance others since there are uses and facilities on the area not usually associated with wilderness. The 6,000 acres of private land must be acquired through purchase or exchange since it is scattered throughout the area in a checkerboard pattern and development by the landowner (a timber company) could abolish the wilderness attributes for the entire area. The two helispots and the primitive road to Twin Lakes could be abandoned. Given time, they would revert to natural appearing areas.

The 93 MMBF of timber within the area would not be available for harvest under a wilderness designation. Minerals, oil, and gas would not be available since the area will be withdrawn from mineral entry under the general mining laws.

The non-priced benefits or costs would be:

-- The National Wilderness System area would increase.

-- Water quality, fisheries, scenic views, and opportunities for primitive recreation would be preserved.

-- Natural ecosystem would be protected.

-- Opportunity for solitude would increase.

-- Diversity would tend toward old growth.

-- Big game security would increase.

-- The St. Joe Wild and Scenic River corridor will be enhanced.

-- Recreational off-road vehicle use would be eliminated.

-- Twin Lakes camping area will be closed to camping.

Social and economic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. Since wilderness precludes timber harvest and mineral development, the related industries would not be supported by this emphasis. From a social aspect, publics valuing wilderness will be supported, but established recreationists who use motorized vehicles at Twin Lakes and on the local trails will be displaced.

2. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: No Timber Harvest

About 80 percent of the land is designated for this emphasis under Alternatives 7 and 9. Only 2 percent is designated for this emphasis under all the other non-wilderness alternatives.

In Alternatives 7 and 9, the wilderness character of the area would be retained. The No Timber Harvest emphasis would result in the majority of the areas being managed for roadless recreation. In the short term, recreational use of motorized equipment would reduce the opportunities for a natural experience, but this would not be a significant impact in the long run. In all the other non-wilderness alternatives only 300 acres would be preserved; this small acreage will not significantly affect the character of the entire area.

Management of market resources would be largely foregone by Alternatives 7 and 9. Approximately 93 MMBF of timber would not be available for harvest. The impact of this emphasis on market values for Alternatives 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, and 12, would be insignificant. Minerals, oil, and gas, if discovered, would be available for development.

The non-priced benefits or costs would be:

-- Wilderness values of the area would be essentially retained.

-- Water quality, fisheries, scenic views, and opportunities for primitive recreation will be preserved.

-- The natural ecosystem would be protected.

-- Opportunity for solitude and big game security would be maintained.

-- Off-road vehicle use would continue.

-- Diversity would tend toward old growth.

-- The Wild and Scenic River corridor would be enhanced where it is contiguous with this emphasis.

Social and economic effects center around the resource values of minerals, timber, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. The No Timber Harvest emphasis precludes logging activity, so the timber industry would not be supported. Little mineral potential is known to exist in the area, so the effect of this emphasis on the industry would be minimal. Roadless recreation use would likely increase over time.

3. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Timber/Wildlife

All non-wilderness alternatives designate a portion of this area for Timber/Wildlife management. Alternatives 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 10 designate 60-65 percent of the Fly-Mosquito area to this emphasis. Alternatives 11 and 12 designate approximately 37-39 percent of the area for this emphasis. Alternatives 7 and 9 designate 6-7 percent of the area for this emphasis.

This emphasis would preclude future wilderness designation on areas where roads are constructed or wood products are removed. In the first decade, a range of 1-30 percent of the area would no longer be suitable for wilderness for all alternatives. At the end of five decades, the wilderness character of the area would be reduced on a maximum of 15 percent of the area under Alternatives 7, 9 and 12. An important factor to take into consideration is that 6,000 acres of private land is contained within the Mosquito Fly area. Development by the landowner for timber harvest has the potential to eliminate the potential wilderness resource.

In Alternatives 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 10, lands dedicated to this emphasis would allow 85-95 percent of the acres with suitable timber to be harvested over the planning horizon--an approximate volume of 93 MMBF. In Alternatives 11 and 12 approximately 50 percent of the suitable timber would be available for harvest. In Alternatives 7 and 9 only 10 percent of the suitable timber will be available for harvest.

The non-priced benefits and costs would be:

-- Wilderness values would be foregone.

-- Diversity would tend toward even-aged stands less that 100 years of age.

-- Security area for wildlife would decline.

-- Water quality, fisheries, and scenic views would decline slightly.

-- Motorized recreation would continue.

-- Opportunities for solitude would decline.

-- Quality roadlesss hunting experiences would decline.

Social and economic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. Timber and mineral resources would be available, thus supporting the wood products and minerals industries. The change in recreation setting could be disruptive to those publics using the area for primitive or semi-private recreation as well as publics viewing the area from the river corridor.

4. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Wildlife/Visual

About 12 percent of the area is designated for this emphasis by Alternative 2, of which 10 percent lies in the St. Joe Wild and Scenic River corridor. All other alternatives designate from 0-4 percent of the area to this emphasis.

Due to the small amount of acreage involved, wilderness values will be affected very minimally. Slight impacts may be realized from elk winter range improvement activities, such as burning, in the short term, but its effect would be negligible after a few years. Alternative 2 offers the addition of visual quality preservation on the Wild and Scenic River corridor.

The market resources of timber and minerals would be affected minimally by this management emphasis. Management actions under this emphasis would take place primarily in the Wild and Scenic River corridor, which is not designated for intensive timber management due to limitations imposed by visual management. A small amount of timber harvest may occur outside the river corridor under this emphasis to promote elk forage.

Non-priced benefits or costs would be:

-- The wilderness resource will not be affected.

-- Scenic views from the St. Joe River corridor will be preserved.

-- Elk habitat will be enhanced.

Social and economic impacts will be minimal due to this emphasis. Improved hunting may be an indirect benefit of elk habitat management. Recreationists will benefit from the preservation of visual quality.

5. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Special Areas

Under this emphasis approximately 10 percent of all alternatives except Alternative 2 will be designated for special area management of the St. Joe Wild and Scenic River corridor. Alternative 2 manages the Wild and Scenic River corridor under the wildlife/visual emphasis.

Wilderness suitability will be minimally affected by this emphasis. The 1,600 acres within the river corridor lie along the north edge of the area. The 1/4-mile wide corridor will enhance the wilderness resource by acting as a buffer for the road which runs adjacent to the river across the entire northern border of the Mosquito-Fly area.

The market resource of timber will largely be foregone by this emphasis. A small amount of harvesting may occur, but the visual quality objective of retention in the highly visible river corridor will limit the methods available for harvest and the economic feasibility. Mineral, oil, and gas exploration is limited for this emphasis, because the Wild and Scenic River corridor is withdrawn from mineral entry.

Non-priced benefits or costs would be:

-- Visual quality will be protected.

-- Water quality would be maintained.

-- Recreation opportunities and elk habitat would remain the same.

Social and economic effects would not be significant. The timber industry would probably be impacted slightly. Recreation on the St. Joe River corridor would have the benefit of protected visual qaulity.

6. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Minimum Management

Alternatives 11 and 12 designate 50 percent of the area for this emphasis. Alternatives 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 10 designate 25-30 percent of the area for this emphasis. Alternatives 7 and 9 designate less than 1 percent for this emphasis.

Areas designated for this emphasis under all the alternatives are scattered on patches throughout the Mosquito Fly Area, mainly ridgetops and non-forested slopes. For this roadless area, the Minimum Level management emphasis would be impacted by road access for the timber harvest activities; therefore, the indirect consequences will be essentially the same as those described in Timber/Wildlife.

MIDGET PEAK ROADLESS AREA (01151)

I. DESCRIPTION

Size	Gross Acres	Net Acres
Idaho - Idaho Panhandle NF	6,693	6,693

Situated on the Avery Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests, the Midget Peak Roadless Area lies in Shoshone County approximately 22 air miles southeast of Avery, Idaho. A paved road, the St. Joe River Road, forms the eastern boundary and provides primary road access to the area. Several trails, including the Simmons Creek and Simmons Ridge systems, traverse the interior. A short quarter-mile road to the trailhead for the Simmons Creek Trail extends into the unit from the west.

Steep, rugged terrain with numerous rock outcrops, especially in the drainage bottoms, characterizes the topography of this triangular-shaped unit. Elevations range from 3,500 along the St. Joe River to over 6,000 feet along Simmons Ridge. Portions of several watersheds feed westward into the St. Joe River, with the most important being Simmons Creek.

The vegetation reflects past fire history. Fires in 1910, 1924, and 1931 burned most of the area leaving only scattered patches of older timber, with the largest component present in the Gold Creek drainage. In the burned portion, lodgepole pine predominates, with significant amounts of larch, Douglas-fir, grand fir, and subalpine fir intermixed in the canopy. Remnants of off-site ponderosa pine planted in 1939 occur at several locations along the St. Joe River corridor and Simmons Creek. Large acreages on the more exposed sites in the Simmons, Midget, and Slide Creek drainages still remain in a brushfield condition.

Habitats through the area range from cedar series in the lower elevations to mountain hemlock or subalpine fir on the ridgelines.

Recreational use is concentrated along the eastern boundary of the area, which includes a segment of the St. Joe Wild and Scenic Rvier corridor. The Fly Flat Campground borders the Midget Peak Roadless Area along this stretch. The St. Joe watershed through this area is managed under special regulations to promote quality fisheries, with Simmons Creek existing as an important spawning habitat. Major use of the roadless area and trail system occurs seasonally during hunting season, with only sporadic use recorded by hikers, backpackers, packstock, and motorbike enthusiasts during the summer months.

Elk, deer, moose, black bear, and a variety of small mammals and birds inhabit the area. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game has identified portions of the unit as quality elk habitat which the agency would prefer to remain roadless. Burning to promote habitat has occurred at several locations along the river corridor. Threatened and endangered species have not been inventoried, but populations of grizzly bear, gray wolf, and bald eagle may exist.

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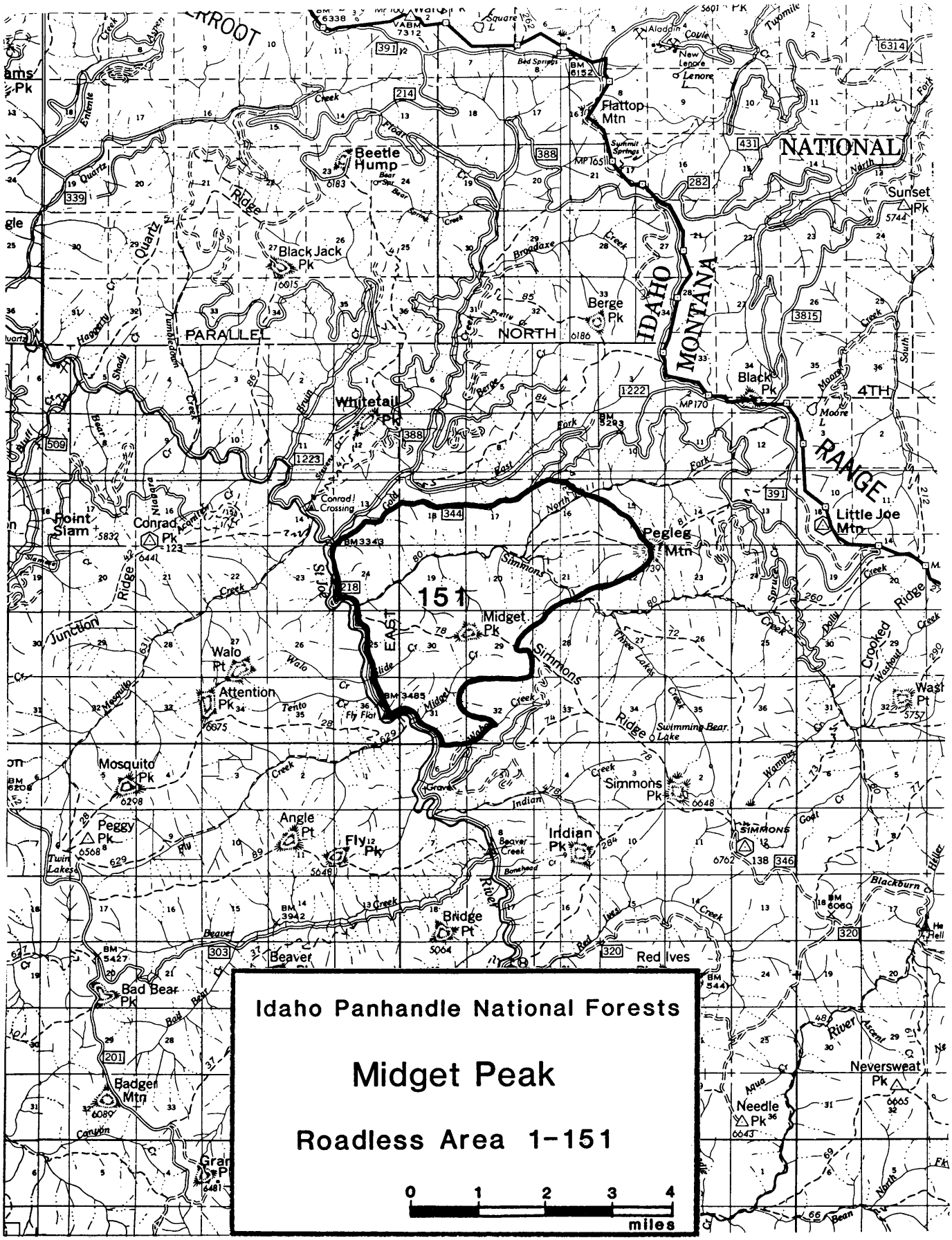
Idaho Panhandle National Forests
Midget Peak
Roadless Area 1-151
0 1 2 3 4
miles
151
EAST
PARALLEL
NORTH
4TH
RANGE
IDAHO
MONTANA
NATIONAL
Flattop Mtn
Beetle Hump
Black Jack Pk
Berge Pk
Sunset Pk
Black Pk
Whitetail Pk
Point Slam
Conrad Pk
Conrad Crossing
Pegleg Mtn
Little Joe Mtn
Midget Pk
Walo Pt
Attention Pk
Mosquito Pk
Peggy Pk
Angle Pt
Fly Pk
Simmons Pk
Indian Pk
Bridge Pt
Red Ives
Bad Bear Pk
Badger Mtn
Neversweat Pk
Needle Pk
Crooked Ridge
Junction Ridge
Simmons Ridge
Swimming Bear Lake
Twin Lakes
Fly Flat
Beaver Creek
Bonehead
Indian Creek
Graves Creek
Three Lakes Creek
Wampus Creek
Dolly Creek
Spruce Creek
Moore Creek
Broadaxe Creek
Pretty Creek
Bear Spring Creek
Bed Springs
Summit Springs
Aladdin Cove
New Lenore
Lenore
Moore L
Tumbledown Creek
Haggerty Cr
Shady Cr
Quartz Cr
Entiote Creek
Aspen Creek
Bluff Cr
Blackburn Cr
Hellier
Bean Cr
Ascent Cr
Aqua Cr
Canyon Cr
Goat Cr
Bad Bear Cr
Beaver Cr
Red Ives Cr
Fly Cr
Tento Cr
Walo Cr
Mosquito Cr
Twomile Cr
Fork
North Fork
East Fork
South Fork
Clark Fork
Pend Oreille River
Clark Fork River
Ascent River
Bear River
Beaver River
Red Ives River
Bad Bear River
Bear River
Bear River

II. CAPABILITY

A. Wilderness Characteristics

1. Natural Integrity. Impact from human activity in this area is low to moderate. Existing improvements include remains of a cabin and a lookout site (Pegleg Mountain) that have various debris associated with them.

Eleven miles of Forest Service System Trails exist within the Midget Peak area. Several miles of temporary logging roads enter the area on the northeast side. These roads are revegetated but the roadcut is still evident.

Approximately 350 acres of ponderosa pine, which is not natural to the area, were planted at several locations in the Midget Peak Roadless Area. The impact of this is extremely low since most visitors to the area would not recognize the tree as a non-native.

2. Natural Appearance. The Midget Peak area is natural appearing due to a high level of visual screening by vegetation and topography. Logging activities outside the area can be seen occasionally.

3. Solitude. The opportunity for solitude is moderate due to the small size of the area. Vegetation and topography provide screening from others; however, visitors from the St. Joe Wild and Scenic River Corridor may be encountered frequently and hunting season in October each year brings many people to the area.

4. Primitive Recreation Opportunities. Hiking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, and berry gathering are probably the main primitive recreation opportunities available in this area. No lakes, scenic views, or popular destination points exist that would strongly attract the camper or backpacker.

B. Wilderness Manageability and Boundaries. This area was inventoried during RARE II; approximately 600 acres have been excluded since RARE II. The 600-acre area has been developed for timber sales. The Midget Creek area is bounded on the west side by the St. Joe River Road and on the north by Gold Ridge Road. The boundary on the east has been drawn to exclude the existing activities and does not follow any identifiable topographic feature. This would be difficult to locate on the ground.

There are approximately three miles of logging roads that intrude into the area. These roads access an existing cutting area below Pegleg Mountain. There is also a small system of interconnected roads that access an old cutting area inside the north boundary. The boundaries could easily be adjusted to exclude these logged areas and roads.

Other existing developments are all along the boundaries and include the developed campground at Fly Flat (outside the roadless area) and the cabin at Midget Creek used by the Idaho Fish and Game Department through a Special Use Permit. Since these uses are on the boundary they could be compatible with the roadless character of the area.

Part of the area is managed under the St. Joe River Wild and Scenic River Management Plan. Recreation associated with the river corridor can be managed to protect the roadless character of the area.

There are pending oil and gas leases throughout the area. Future mineral development could alter the roadless character of the area.

III. WILDERNESS AVAILABILITY

Table 1

Selected Resource Values

Category	Unit	01151
Gross Acres	Acres	6,693
Net Acres	Acres	6,693
Range		
Existing Obligated		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Existing Vacant		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Proposed		
Suitable	Acres	0
AUMs	No.	0
Timber		
Tentative		
Suitable	Acres	4,829
Standing Volume	MMBF	48
Minerals Potential		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	0
Low	Acres	6,693
Mining Claims	No.	0
Oil and Gas Potential*		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	0
Low	Acres	6,693
Oil and Gas Leases		
Leases	No.	0
Leased Area	Acres	0
Corridors		
Existing and Potential	No.	0
Wildlife-Threatened and Endangered-Habitat		
Grizzly Bear		
Situation 1	Acres	0
Situation 2	Acres	0
Situation 3	Acres	0
Bald Eagle	Acres	0
Mountain Caribou	Acres	0
Gray Wolf	Acres	0
Wildlife-Big Game		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	640
Specific-Elk		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Deer		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Significant Fisheries		
Stream Miles	Miles	6
Stream Habitat	Acres	10
Lakes	No.	0
Lake Habitat	Acres	0
Water Developments		
Existing	No.	0
Recreation		
Primitive	RVDs	0
Semiprimitive		
Nonmotorized	RVDs	0
Motorized	RVDs	415
Roaded Natural	RVDs	60

*Rating also includes uranium, geothermal, and other energy resources.

A. Resource Values

1. Recreation. Horseback riding and fall elk hunting are the predominant recreation uses of this area. Current use is light due to the lack of attractions.

2. Wildlife. Most aninmals found in northern Idaho are also found in this area; no habitat for threatened and endangered species exists.

3. Timber. The area suitable for timber management is 4,800 acres. The remaining area is unsuitable due to poor, rocky soils and other high elevation site factors. The timber is predominantly 6- to 10-inch lodgepole pine which occurs in contiguous even-aged stands. The trees were established after the wildfires in the area. Timber production potential is medium to high on the suitable acres. Potential for economical timber harvest is medium in today's market.

4. Minerals. Mineral potential for this area is low and no mining claims are known to exist. Oil and gas potential is low although 100 percent of the area is under lease application. Creeks in the area have potential for placer gold.

5. Range. None.

B. Other Management Considerations

1. Fire. Although large fires have occurred in the area in the past, the number of fires occurring annually is low.

2. Insect and Disease. Mountain pine beetle infestation in lodgepole pine stands is possible within the next 10 to 15 years.

IV. NEED

A. Contribution to National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS). This area could contribute roadless elk hunting opportunities.

2. Public Interest and Concerns. The Midget Peak area has recently had some public input in response to the 1979 Environmental Assessment Report for the proposed Deception Grove Timber Sale, which lies immediately adjacent to its boundary. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game expressed concern with road construction in this high quality elk area. Fears expressed were that increased access would increase hunting pressure, resulting in overharvest and decline of the elk herd; and displacement by logging would lower elk production and survival. Industry felt that elk were overemphasized in this area. The sale was advertised but received no bidders.

Another proposed timber sale, for which the Environmental Assessment Report has not been completed, is Simmons Bugle. This sale lies in and adjacent to the Midget Peak area, specifically, around Pegleg Mountain. Public involvement sessions are in progress.

C. Proximity to Designated Wilderness and to Population Centers. Table 3, Parts A and B, displays wilderness opportunities and proximity to roadless areas on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The closest wilderness area is the Cabinet Wilderness in western Montana, approximately 100 miles to the northeast. There is access to 1.6 million acres of wilderness located within 200 miles of Coeur d'Alene, as well as an additional 5.8 million acres within 300 miles (northern Idaho, eastern Washington and Oregon, and western Montana).

V. ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

A. Management Emphasis Assignment by Alternatives. Management emphasis indicates which resource activity is highlighted. If the emphasis is timber, most of the activity on those acres would be for timber management. Resource activities which are compatible with the emphasis would continue, but with less intensity. Table 2 lists the acres of each management emphasis by alternative.

Table 2

Midget Peak Roadless Area (01151)
Management Emphasis by Alternative

Management Emphasis	Alternatives[1/] (Thousand Acres) 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Wilderness	0	0	6.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non-wilderness												
No Tbr. Harvest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Timber/Wildlife	4.4	4.3	0	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.0	4.2	4.3	3.6	3.2
Wildlife/Visual	0.5	0	0	0	0.3	0.5	0.5	0	0.5	0.5	0	0.3
Special Areas	0.8	0.8	0	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
Minimum Level	1.0	1.6	0	1.5	1.3	1.0	1.0	1.9	1.2	1.1	2.3	2.4
Total	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7
Summary of Management Emphasis:												
Developed												
Decade 1	0	0.5	0	0.4	1.1	0	0.6	0	0.4	1.0	1.0	0.8
Decade 5	6.7	6.7	0	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.4	6.4	6.7	2.0	2.8
Roadless[2/]												
Decade 1	6.7	6.2	0	6.3	5.6	6.7	6.1	6.7	6.3	5.7	5.7	5.9
Decade 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wilderness	0	0	6.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

1/ Alternative clarification -

1 - Regional Goals
2 - High Market
3 - High Nonmarket
4 - High Timber, Fish
5 - Moderate All Resources
6 - High Timber, Wildlife
7 - High Nonmarket, Stable Timber
8 - Current Program
9 - High Recreation
10 - High Wildlife, Moderate Timber
11 - Preferred Alternative
12 - Preferred w/Departure

2/ Roadless is defined as 5,000 acres or greater in size or any acreage if contiguous to existing wilderness.

B. Impacts

1. Designation: Wilderness

Management Emphasis: Wilderness

The entire area is designated as wilderness in Alternative 3.

Wilderness attributes would be preserved. Existing use facilities not conforming to wilderness standards would be reduced so that naturalness is restored over time. Roads would be closed and allowed to revegetate naturally. Logging areas would revert to natural succession.

The 48 MMBF of standing sawtimber would be foregone by designation of the area as wilderness. Minerals, oil, and gas would not be available since the area would be withdrawn from mineral entry.

The non-priced benefits or costs would be:

-- The National Wilderness System area would increase.

-- Water quality, fisheries, senic views, and opportunities for primitive recreation would be preserved.

-- Natural ecosystem would be protected.

-- Opportunity for solitude would increase.

-- Diversity would tend toward old growth.

-- Big game security would increase.

-- Recreational motorized vehicle use would be eliminated.

-- The St. Joe Wild and Scenic River corridor will be enhanced.

Social and econimic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. Since wilderness precludes timber harvest and mineral development, the related industries would not be supported by this emphasis. From a social aspect, the publics valuing wilderness would be supported as well as those people who desire to view the area in its unaltered state. Publics using the area for motorized recreation would be displaced.

2. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Timber/Wildlife

For all non-wilderness alternatives, approximately 50-65 percent of the area is designated for this emphasis.

The wilderness resource would be foregone under this emphasis. During the first decade, 10-20 percent of the area would be removed from roadless status. By the end of the fifth decade, the entire area will be roaded and developed; therefore, it will no longer be suitable for wilderness designation.

The 48 MMBF of timber located within this roadless area would be available under this emphasis. This alternative accesses 80 percent of the acres capable of producing timber. Minerals, oil, and gas have not been discovered in the area and the potential for this is low. However, should they be discovered they would be available for development.

The non-priced benefits and costs would be:

-- Wilderness values would be foregone.

-- Diversity would tend toward younger, managed stands.

-- Security for big game animals would decline slightly.

-- Water quality, fisheries, and scenic views would decline slightly. Water quality and fisheries must remain below the serious injury level set by State standards.

-- Opportunities for solitude would be fewer.

-- Motorized recreation use would be continue and possibly increase.

-- Quality roadless hunting experiences will decline.

Social and economic effects of this emphasis include a positive effect on the woods products and minerals industries and a negative effect on the recreationists using the area for roadless recreation.

3. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Wildlife/Visual

Only about 5-7 percent of the Midget Peak area is designated for this emphasis in Alternatives 1, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, and 12. No acreage is designated for this emphasis in Alternatives 2, 3, 4, 8, and 10.

Wilderness values will not be significantly affected since only 300-500 acres of land is included in this management emphasis.

Market values of timber and minerals will not be altered due to the small amount of acreage in this emphasis.

Non-priced costs and benefits are:

-- Big game habitat will be enhanced.

-- Visual quality will be maintained.

-- Recreation opportunities, water quality, fisheries, and species deversity will not be altered.

Social and economic effects will not be significant due to the small amount of acreage involved.

4. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management emphasis: Special Areas

Under this emphasis approximately 12 percent of the area will be designated for special area management of the St. Joe Wild and Scenic River corridor.

Wilderness suitability will be minimally affected by this emphasis. The river corridor is designated as Recreational River and contains a road adjacent to the river. The 1/4-mile corridor would essentially act as a buffer zone.

The market resource of timber may be negatively impacted by this emphasis. A minor amount of harvesting may occur, but the visual quality objective of retention will limit the methods available for harvest and the economic feasibility. Mineral, oil, and gas exploration could occur if ground disturbing activities were mitigated.

Non-priced benefits or costs could be:

-- Visual quality will be protected.

-- Water quality would be maintained.

-- Recreation opportunities and elk habitat will be preserved.

Social and economic effects will not be significant. The timber industry may have a slightly negative impact. Recreation on the St. Joe River corridor would have the benefit of protected visual quality.

5. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Minimum Management

All non-wilderness alternatives contain some acreage designated for this emphasis. From 15-35 percent of the Midget Peak area contains land in custodial care.

Lands desiganted for this emphasis are scattered throughout the area, mainly on ridge tops and non-forested side slopes. For this roadless area, the minimum level management emphasis will be impacted by road access to timber harvest areas. Therefore the indirect consequences will be essentially the same as those described in the Timber/Wildlife section.

WONDERFUL PEAK ROADLESS AREA (01152)

I. DESCRIPTION

Size	Gross Acres	Net Acres
Idaho - Idaho Panhandle NF	5,549	5,070
Montana - Lolo	1,600	1,600
Total	7,149	6,670

The Wonderful Peak Roadless Area is located on both sides of the Idaho-Montana border about four air miles southeast of Mullan, Idaho, and nine air miles north of Avery, Idaho. The Idaho portion lies within Shoshone County on the Avery Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests, with the Montana portion contained in Mineral County on the Superior Ranger District of the Lolo National Forest.

About 500 acres of patented mining claims are contained within the unit. Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) tower-access roads, the Bullion Creek Road, and Hanakar Creek Road provide motorized access to the eastern and southern boundaries. Low standard mining roads, the Stateline Trail, Wonderful Peak Trail, and Copper Gulch Trail offer interior access.

The roughly diamond-shaped unit rises in elevation from 3,400 feet on the North Fork of the St. Joe River to over 6,500 feet on the Bitterroot Divide. Terrain is precipitous with generally steep, rocky slopes. Alpine glaciation occurred along the stateline, being most evident on the Montana portion. The Montana portion contains one alpine lake, Copper Lake, and drains northward via Copper Gulch and Hanakar Creek into the St. Regis River. The Idaho segment flows southward into the St. Joe River system.

Existing vegetation resulted from the 1910 and successive fires which consumed the entire unit. Extensive nonstocked brushfields remain on the more exposed southern aspects, with immature sapling or small saw timber stands of mixed composition on the cooler north aspects. Additionally, portions of the area were planted with off-site ponderosa pine or western white pine. Little old-growth timber remains anywhere within the unit.

The Bitterrot Divide is characterized by open subalpine vegetation. Habitat varies from cedar/clintonia at the lower elevations to mountain hemlock or subalpine fir types on the higher slopes.

The unit receives only light recreational use, with Copper Lake being the most popular destination, providing water-oriented activities. The primary activity throughout the unit however, centers upon big game hunting. Pleasure-driving with motorbikes and 4-wheel-drive vehicles also occurs on existing mining roads and maintained trails. Hiking/backpacking, horseback riding, and other activities remain limited.

The area serves as big game summer and winter range for elk, whitetail deer, mule deer, and black bear. Other game and non-game species common to northern Idaho and western Montana also populate the unit. Little fisheries resources, however, exist within the unit.

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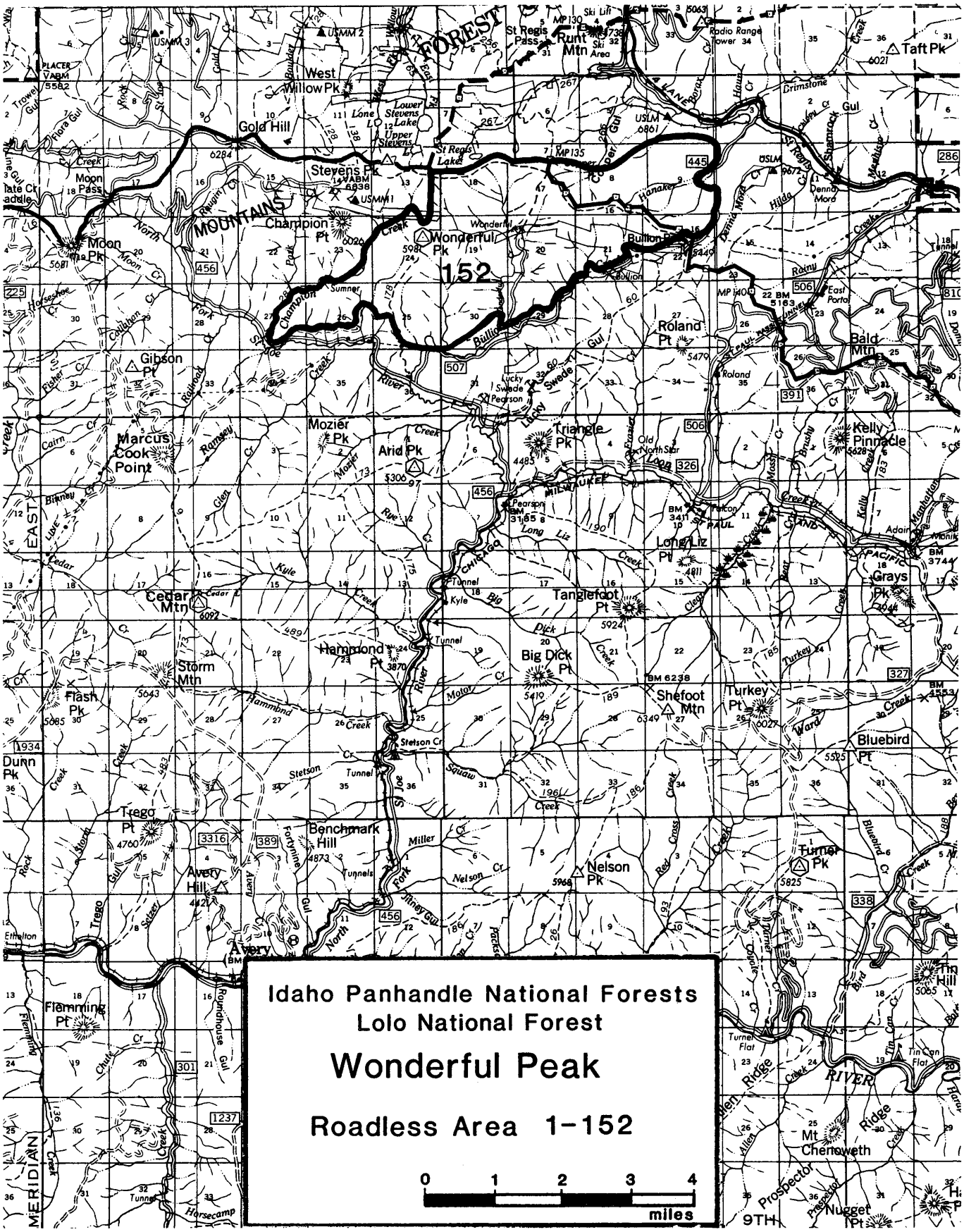

Idaho Panhandle National Forests
Lolo National Forest
Wonderful Peak
Roadless Area 1-152
0 1 2 3 4
miles
152
Wonderful Pk
Champion Pt
Stevens Pk
Gold Hill
West Willow Pk
Moon Pk
Gibson Pt
Marcus Cook Point
Mozier Pk
Arid Pk
Triangle Pk
Roland Pt
Bald Mtn
Kelly Pinnacle
Cedar Mtn
Storm Mtn
Flash Pk
Hammond Pt
Big Dick Pt
Tanglefoot Pt
Long Liz Pt
Grays Pk
Shefoot Mtn
Turkey Pt
Bluebird Pt
Dunn Pk
Trego Pt
Benchmark Hill
Avery Hill
Nelson Pk
Turner Pk
Flemming Pt
Mt Cherrywoth
Nugget Pt
Taft Pk
Runt Mtn
St Regis Pass
Moon Pass
Bullion
Avery
Tunnel
Stetson Cr
Horsecamp
Tin Can Flat
Turner Flat
Prospector
Ridge
Allen Ridge
RIVER
9TH
MERIDIAN
EAST
MOUNTAINS
FOREST

II. CAPABILITY

A. Wilderness Characteristics

1. Natural Integrity. In the Idaho portion, the impact of past human activity in this area is moderate. Mining activity first began in the early 1900s. Nearly 500 acres are patented and under private ownership. Anaconda Mineral Company has leased a number of patents and is pesently carrying out exploratory operations. There are numerous unpatented claims scattered throughout the planning area. There is a road accessing the Old Wonderful Mine. An existing trail accesses Wonderful Peak. Existing roads completely encircle the Wonderful Peak area. On the Montana portion, impacts include a developed road with earthworks, cut and fill slopes, the quarter mile long Copper Lake Road, a dam which forms Copper Lake, a mining excavation area, dozer trenches and trails, exploratory pits, and 140 acres of thinning and pruning on a white pine plantation.

2. Natural Appearance. The Wonderful Peak area does not lend itself to the solitude normally attributed to natural or wilderness areas because of the topography. The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) powerline and surrounding roads and activity become dominant features of the landscape. Interstate 90 is visible from some places. The Milwaukee Road Railroad, which is now abandoned, is partially visible and a BPA powerline will be constructed within 3 miles of the northeast corner of the area.

3. Solitude. The area offers little opportunity for solitude because of its size and surrounding developments. There is little in terms of topographic or vegetative screening. The distance from its core to the perimeter is 1.5 miles from east to west and less than 1 mile from north to south. The area consists of the Bitterroot Crest to the north with two major ridgelines radiating southward. Wonderful Creek is the only well defined creek which would screen any of the surrounding intrusions. Human use is concentrated along the surrounding road system.

4. Primitive Recreation Opportunities. Opportunities for primitive recreation experiences are greatly limited. The size and shape of this area provide little opportunity to actually be isolated from evidence of man and his activities. With much of the area having similar topographic and vegetative features, there is little diversity of recreation opportunities. Primitive recreation experiences are further limited by motorized use of the trail and road intruding into the area. Opportunities do exist for big game and hunting (elk, deer, bear, and mountain lion), while horseback riding, hiking, and backpacking experiences are limited.

5. Other Features. A high percentage of the Wonderful Peak area was influenced by the 1910 fire. Eight firefighters perished inside the Bullion Mine just outside the boundary of the unit where they had taken refuge from the fire. They were eventually buried in the Wallace Cemetery.

Vegetative conditions which developed as a result of that fire have created the sort of habitat which is ideal for big game species. There is a high level of public interest in roadless elk hunting as evidenced by the survival of a commercial outfitter/guide operation in this general area.

B. Wilderness Manageability and Boundaries. This area was inventoried during RARE II; no boundary changes have occurred since then. Existing boundaries are not well defined. The southern and eastern boundaries do not follow topographic features but, rather, are located so that roads and powerline corridors would not be incorporated within the boundaries. Approximately 15 percent of the area is in private ownership under patented mining claims. There is active exploration being carried out at three locations within the area boundary. The road accessing the Wonderful Mine is being used for this activity. Additional road construction will continue to be required for access to future drill sites.

This area will be difficult to manage as wilderness because of the continuous minerals exploration work and the associated required access.

III. Wilderness Availability

Table 1

Selected Resource Values

Total Wonderful Peak Roadless Area

Category	Unit	01152
Gross Acres	Acres	7,149
Net Acres	Acres	6,670
Range		
Existing Obligated		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Existing Vacant		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Proposed		
Suitable	Acres	0
AUMs	No.	0
Timber		
Tentative		
Suitable	Acres	4,796
Standing Volume	MMBF	38
Minerals Potential		
Very High	Acres	80
High	Acres	6,590
Moderate	Acres	0
Low	Acres	0
Mining Claims	No.	425
Oil and Gas Potential*		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	0
Low	Acres	6,670
Oil and Gas Leases		
Leases	No.	1
Leased Area	Acres	1,600

Category	Unit	01152
Corridors		
Existing and Potential	No.	0
Wildlife-Threatened and Endangered-Habitat		
Grizzly Bear		
Situation 1	Acres	0
Situation 2	Acres	0
Situation 3	Acres	0
Bald Eagle	Acres	0
Mountain Caribou	Acres	0
Gray Wolf	Acres	0
Wildlife-Big Game		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Elk		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Deer		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Significant Fisheries		
Stream Miles	Miles	1
Stream Habitat	Acres	1
Lakes	No.	0
Lake Habitat	Acres	0
Water Developments		
Existing	No.	0
Recreation		
Primitive	RVDs	0
Semiprimitive		
Nonmotorized	RVDs	0
Motorized	RVDs	850
Roaded Natural	RVDs	16,150

*Rating also includes uranium, geothermal, and other energy resources.

Table 1

Idaho Portion

Category	Unit	01152
Gross Acres	Acres	5,549
Net Acres	Acres	5,070
Range		
Existing Obligated		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Existing Vacant		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Proposed		
Suitable	Acres	0
AUMs	No.	0
Timber		
Tentative		
Suitable	Acres	3,828
Standing Volume	MMBF	30
Minerals Potential		
Very High	Acres	80
High	Acres	4,990
Moderate	Acres	0
Low	Acres	0
Mining Claims	No.	362
Oil and Gas Potential*		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	0
Low	Acres	5,070
Oil and Gas Leases		
Leases	No.	0
Leased Area	Acres	0

Category	Unit	01152
Corridors		
Existing and Potential	No.	0
Wildlife-Threatened and Endangered-Habitat		
Grizzly Bear		
Situation 1	Acres	0
Situation 2	Acres	0
Situation 3	Acres	0
Bald Eagle	Acres	0
Mountain Caribou	Acres	0
Gray Wolf	Acres	0
Wildlife-Big Game		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Elk		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Deer		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Significant Fisheries		
Stream Miles	Miles	1
Stream Habitat	Acres	1
Lakes	No.	0
Lake Habitat	Acres	0
Water Developments		
Existing	No.	0
Recreation		
Primitive	RVDs	0
Semiprimitive		
Nonmotorized	RVDs	0
Motorized	RVDs	850
Roaded Natural	RVDs	150

*Rating also includes uranium, geothermal, and other energy resources.

Table 1

Montana Portion

Category	Unit	01152
Gross Acres	Acres	1,600
Net Acres	Acres	1,600
Range		
Existing Obligated		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Existing Vacant		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Proposed		
Suitable	Acres	0
AUMs	No.	0
Timber		
Tentative		
Suitable	Acres	968
Standing Volume	MMBF	8
Minerals Potential		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	1,600
Moderate	Acres	0
Low	Acres	0
Mining Claims	No.	63
Oil and Gas Potential*		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	0
Low	Acres	1,600
Oil and Gas Leases		
Leases	No.	1
Leased Area	Acres	1,600

Category	Unit	01152
Corridors		
Existing and Potential	No.	0
Wildlife-Threatened and Endangered-Habitat		
Grizzly Bear		
Situation 1	Acres	0
Situation 2	Acres	0
Situation 3	Acres	0
Bald Eagle	Acres	0
Mountain Caribou	Acres	0
Gray Wolf	Acres	0
Wildlife-Big Game		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Elk		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Deer		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Significant Fisheries		
Stream Miles	Miles	0
Stream Habitat	Acres	0
Lakes	No.	0
Lake Habitat	Acres	0
Water Developments		
Existing	No.	0
Recreation		
Primitive	RVDs	0
Semiprimitive		
Nonmotorized	RVDs	0
Motorized	RVDs	0
Roaded Natural	RVDs	16,000

*Rating also includes uranium, geothermal, and other energy resources.

A. Resource Values

1. Recreation. Elk hunting and driving old mining roads are the predominant recreation uses of this area. Current use is light.

2. Wildlife. Most animals found in northern Idaho are also found here. No habitat for threatened and endangered species exists. It is the elk herd existing in this general area which catches public attention.

3. Timber. The area contains 4,800 acres of suitable timberland supporting 38 MMBF. The low volume reflects the fact that much of suitable acreage is presently poorly stocked brushfield.

4. Minerals. This unit is underlain primarily by argillites and quartzites of the Wallace Formation, a unit of the Precambrian Belt Supergroup. The Ravalli Group crops out to the north and northeast. The northwest-striking Placer Creek fault, which is the southern boundary of the silver belt of the Coeur d'Alene Mining District, is located within the northern half of the unit.

Two percent of the unit is rated as having very high mineral potential and the remaining 98 percent as high. The Idaho Panhandle side of the unit has 362 unpatented mining claims and 479 acres of patented mining claims. In Montana there are 63 claims. There are many prospects in the area and exploration is ongoing, with a current diamond drilling project underway.

There is presently a gas and oil lease application on file covering the area.

5. Range. Neither cattle or sheep have used the Wonderful Peak area since the 1930s. This situation will probably not change under either a wilderness or non-wilderness form of management.

B. Other Management Considerations

1. Fire. Although large fires have occurred in the area, the number of fires occurring annually is low.

IV. NEED

A. Contribution to National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS). The main attribute and contribution of this area is its display of successional vegetative changes resulting form the 1910 fire, which burned most of the area.

B. Public Interest and Concerns. Public response to the RARE II assessment indicated that 9.5 percent of those expressing a preference favored a wilderness designation while 90.5 percent favored a non-wilderness designation.

C. Proximity to Designated Wilderness and to Population Centers. Table 3, Parts A and B, displays wilderness opportunities and proximity to roadless areas on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The closest wilderness area is the Cabinet Wilderness in western Montana, approximately 100 miles to the northeast. There is access to 1.6 million acres of wilderness located within 200 miles of Coeur d'Alene, as well as an additional 5.8 million acres within 300 miles (northern Idaho, eastern Washington and Oregon, and western Montana).

V. ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

A. Management Emphasis Assignment by Alternatives. Management emphasis indicates which resource activity is highlighted. If the emphasis is timber, most of the activity on those acres would be for timber management. Resource activities which are compatible with the emphasis would continue, but with less intensity. Table 2 lists the acres of each management emphasis by alternative.

Table 2
Wonderful Peak Roadless Area (01152)
Management Emphasis by Alternative

Management Emphasis	Alternatives 1/											
IPNF	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Lolo	(A)	(C)	(G)	(C)	(D,E,F)	(-)	(D,E,F,G)	(-)	(G)	(D,E,F)	(D,E,F)	(D,E,F)
	(Thousand Acres)											
Wilderness	0	0	6.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nonwilderness												
No Tbr. Harvest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.8	0	0	0	0
Timber/Wildlife	3.0	3.4	0	3.5	3.4	3.0	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.2	2.2	2.2
Wildlife/Visual	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.2	0	0
Special Areas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mimimum Level	3.7	3.3	0	3.2	3.3	3.7	3.2	2.4	3.2	3.3	4.3	4.3
Total	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7
Summary of Management Emphasis:												
Developed												
Decade 1	0	0	0	0.3	0	0	0	0	0.3	0	0.8	0.2
Decade 5	5.1	3.9	0	2.3	1.6	5.0	3.0	0.7	1.9	1.5	2.0	0.3
Roadless 2/												
Decade 1	5.1	5.1	0	0	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	0	5.1	0	0
Decade 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wilderness	0	0	5.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

1/ Alternative clarification -

1 - Regional Goals
2 - High Market
3 - High Nonmarket
4 - High Timber, Fish
5 - Moderate All Resources
6 - High Timber, Wildlife
7 - High Nonmarket, Stable Timber
8 - Current Program
9 - High Recreation
10 - High Wildlife, Moderate Timber
11 - Preferred Alternative
12 - Preferred w/Departure

2/ Roadless is defined as 5,000 acres or greater in size or any acreage if contiguous to existing wilderness.

B. Impacts

1. Designation: Wilderness

Management Emphasis: Wilderness

The entire area would be designated wilderness under Alternative 3.

A wilderness designation would protect existing wilderness attributes and enhance ones that have been compromised, largely due to mining. Existing uses not compatible with wilderness philosophy would have to be mitigated. The 500 acres of patented mining claims would have to be excluded from the area. Existing roads would be closed and allowed to revegetate and motorized uses would be prohibited.

Harvest of 38 MMBF of timber will be foregone by designation of the Wonderful Peak area as wilderness. Minerals, oil, and gas would not be available since the area would be withdrawn from mineral entry.

The non-priced benefits or costs would be:

-- The National Wilderness System area would increase.

-- Water quality, fisheries, scenic views, and primitive recreational opportunities would remain at their present high level.

-- Natural ecosystem would be protected.

-- Opportunity for solitude would increase.

-- Diversity would tend toward old growth.

-- Big game security would increase.

-- Recreational off-road vehicle use would be eliminated.

Social and economic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. The timber industry would not be supported by this designation. The minerals industry would not be supported by this designation. The minerals industry would be negatively impacted by this designation due to loss of high mineral potential area as well as loss of the time and money already invested in exploration of the area. Publics valuing wilderness will be supported. Recreationists with established motorized use of the area would be displaced.

2. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Timber/Wildlife

A range of 30-50 percent of the area is designated for this management emphasis by all the non-wilderness alternatives.

Wilderness attributes will be negatively impacted for lands designated for this emphasis. After the first decade, approximately 20 percent of the area will be roaded and developed for all alternatives. After the fifth decade, the entire area will be foregone as wilderness for all non-wilderness alternatives.

The market resource of 38 MMBF will be available under this emphasis. Minerals, oil, and gas will be available for development, which is likely since the area has high to very high mineral potential.

The non-priced benefits or costs would be:

-- Wilderness values will be foregone.

-- Visual quality will decline.

-- Diversity would tend toward younger, managed stands.

-- Security for big game animals would decline.

-- Semi-primitive recreation opportunities would decline.

-- Water quality and fisheries would decline slightly.

-- Opportunities for solitude would be fewer.

-- Quality hunting experiences will decline.

Social and economic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. Timber and mineral resources would be available, thus supporting the wood products and minerals industries. The change in recreation setting could be disruptive to those publics using the area for primitive or semi-primitive recreation as well as publics viewing the area from the Bitterroot Divide.

3. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Minimum Level

For all non-wilderness alternatives, a range of 35-65 percent of the area is designated for the minimum level or custodial management emphasis.

Lands designated for this emphasis are located primarily along the state line, on ridgetops throughout the area, and on non-forested sideslopes. Market resources, non-priced resources, and socioeconomic factors will not be significantly affected by this emphasis. The only impacts that would likely occur would be roads across these custodial areas to gain access to timber harvest or mineral development areas. Consequently, the indirect impacts will be the same as those described in the section on Timber/Wildlife management emphasis.

CONTINENTAL MOUNTAIN ROADLESS AREA (X01153)

I. DESCRIPTION

Size	Gross Acres	Net Acres
Idaho - Idaho Panhandle NF	6,974	6,850

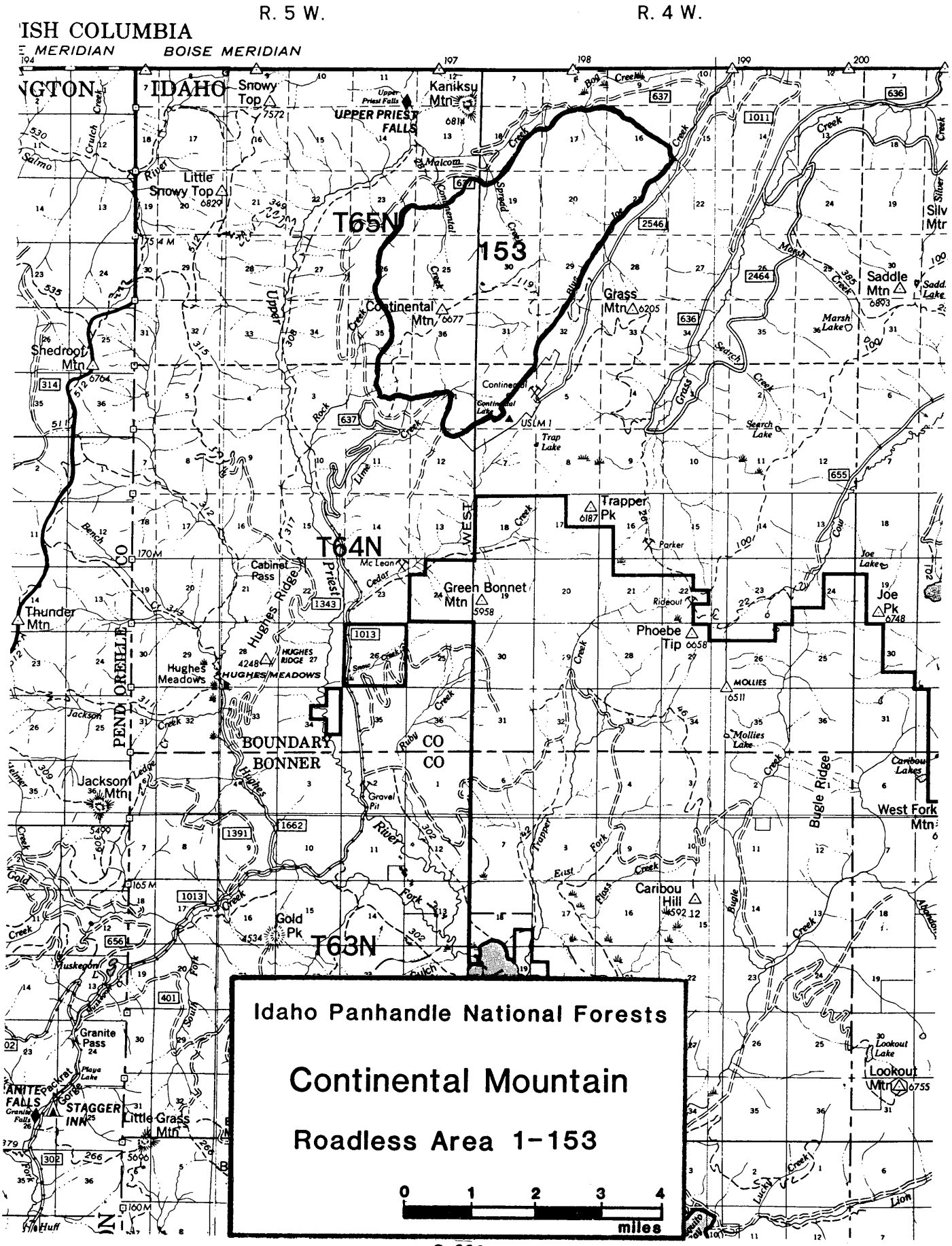
The Continental Mountain Roadless Area is located approximately 20 miles north of Nordman, Idaho, just south of the Canadian border. It lies within Boundary County and the Priest Lake and Bonners Ferry Ranger Districts of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The northwest and south boundaries are accessed by Roads 637 and 638, while the eastern boundary parallels Road 2546. Road 2546 and the portion of Road 637 east of Continental Creek are gated to prevent motorized vehicle access due to grizzly bear habitat. Road 538 is planned for closure following the Continental Mountain timber sale.

This somewhat oval-shaped roadless area is largely mountainous timberland dominated by the most prominent feature--Continental Mountain (elevation 6,677 feet). Elevation ranges from the high on Continental Peak to a low of about 4,200 feet at the north end of the area. Drainage is provided by Spread, Continental, Rock Bog, Lime, and Blue Joe Creeks.

The area contains subalpine vegetative components in the vicinity of the summit of Continental Mountain. Old-growth spruce, fir, and pine are common to the higher elevations, with hemlock, cedar, Douglas-fir, and pine at the lower elevations.

Use of the area is not concentrated and consists primarily of hiking, backpacking, hunting, and scenery viewing. The summit of Continental Mountain affords scenic views of the Upper Priest River drainage (a steep, glacier-carved V-shaped valley) and the Shedroof Divide. Access to the summit is provided by Trail 119 which originates from Forest Road 2546 on the Bonners Ferry Ranger District. This trail also provides access for the other activities mentioned. The roadless area is adjacent to the once active Continental Mine and there are 15 mining claims in the unit. About 19 percent of the roadless area has a high mineral potential.

Wildlife species include one threatened and one endangered species--the grizzly bear and mountain caribou, respectively. The roadless area is considered to be critical habitat for both species. In addition, the area supports the normal complement of northern Idaho big game species such as black bear and deer. There are no important fisheries streams within the roadless area boundary.


R. 5 W.
R. 4 W.
ISH COLUMBIA
E MERIDIAN
BOISE MERIDIAN
NGTON
IDAHO
Snowy Top
Kaniksu Mtn
UPPER PRIEST FALLS
Little Snowy Top
T65N
153
Continental Mtn
Grass Mtn
Saddle Mtn
Shedroot Mtn
Trapper Pk
T64N
Cabinet Pass
Green Bonnet Mtn
Thunder Mtn
Hughes Meadows
Phoebe Tip
Joe Pk
BOUNDARY
BONNER
CO
CO
Jackson Mtn
West Fork Mtn
Caribou Hill
Gold Pk
T63N
Granite Pass
STAGGER INN
Little Grass Mtn
Lookout Mtn
Idaho Panhandle National Forests
Continental Mountain
Roadless Area 1-153
0 1 2 3 4
miles

II. CAPABILITY

A. Wilderness Characteristics

1. Natural Integrity. The impact from human activity has been related primarily to foot trails. Mining activity has occurred in the past just outside the boundary.

2. Natural Appearance. A visitor to the area would feel that he or she is in a natural area away from ordinary human activity. Signs of human activity inside the area give the appearance of a timber harvest area. Outside the area, remnants of past mining are visible. Forest roads and timber harvest areas can be seen from higher elevations.

Continental Mountain is composed, to a great extent, of rock. Continental Creek, Bog Creek, Lime Creek, and Rock Creek are the major streams flowing through the area. Several minor tributaries can also be found throughout the area.

The area provides habitat for grizzly bear and caribou, both listed as threatened and endangered species.

3. Solitude. The area offers opportunities for solitude because of the differences in topography (4,400 to 6,600 feet in elevation) and vegetation.

Use of the area is not concentrated in any one area. The view from the higher elevations attracts visitors to the area. Continental Mountain is the main topographic feature in the area and is accessible only by trail. A Forest road somewhat borders the western side of the area. The closest State highway is approximately 25 miles away.

4. Primitive Recreation Opportunities. The area offers opportunities for hiking, backpacking, big/small game hunting, and viewing scenery. The varied topography offers physical challenge related to mountainous terrain.

The area is of a size that offers backpacking opportunities of 2- to 3-day duration. Day hikes are also available. Trail 119 originates off Forest Road 2546 on the Bonners Ferry District. The trail leads over Continental Mountain and terminates outside the southwest end of the area on a Forest road.

From the top of Continental Mountain the visitor can look north into Canada and south down a U-shaped valley formed by glacial activity. Mountaintops complete the view from east to west.

Big game hunting is popular in the area. Protected wildlife in this area are the grizzly bear and caribou.

B. Wilderness Manageability and Boundaries. This area was inventoried in the Smith Creek Unit Plan process; approximately 500 acres have been excluded since the Unit Plan was approved. The 500 acres were developed for a timber sale. The western and eastern boundaries are easily defined by Forest roads. The northeast portion follows topographic features, while the southeastern portion follows the boundary of the Continental Mine and would be difficult to establish on the ground.

Recreation and other resource uses not requiring surface disturbance can be managed in the Continental Mountain area while protecting the wilderness character.

Mineral exploration can be controlled with present Federal regulations, although some impacts can be expected. Future hardrock mineral development is the main uncertainty in addressing manageability because existing laws allow for the exploration and development of hardrock minerals.

The Continental Mountain area is capable for wilderness. This conclusion is based on an analysis of both manageability and possession of wilderness characteristics.

Table 1

Selected Resource Values

Category	Unit	X01153
Gross Acres	Acres	6,974
Net Acres	Acres	6,850
Range		
Existing Obligated		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Existing Vacant		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Proposed		
Suitable	Acres	0
AUMs	No.	0
Timber		
Tentative		
Suitable	Acres	2,891
Standing Volume	MMBF	36
Minerals Potential		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	1,280
Low	Acres	5,570
Mining Claims	No.	15
Oil and Gas Potential*		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	0
Low	Acres	6,850
Oil and Gas Leases		
Leases	No.	0
Leased Area	Acres	0

Category	Unit	X01153
Corridors		
Existing and Potential	No.	0
Wildlife-Threatened and Endangered-Habitat		
Grizzly Bear		
Situation 1	Acres	6,850
Situation 2	Acres	0
Situation 3	Acres	0
Bald Eagle	Acres	0
Mountain Caribou	Acres	6,850
Gray Wolf	Acres	0
Wildlife-Big Game		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Elk		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Deer		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Significant Fisheries		
Stream Miles	Miles	0
Stream Habitat	Acres	0
Lakes	No.	0
Lake Habitat	Acres	0
Water Developments		
Existing	No.	0
Recreation		
Primitive	RVDs	0
Semiprimitive		
Nonmotorized	RVDs	200
Motorized	RVDs	0
Roaded Natural	RVDs	200

*Rating also includes uranium, geothermal, and other energy resources.

A. Resource Values

1. Recreation. Current recreation use is very light.

2. Wildlife. The most significant wildlife value is the critical habitat for grizzly and caribou--threatened and endangered species. Most animals found in northern Idaho are also found here. Some people believe the gray wolf, a threatened species, may be found here.

3. Timber. The area has 2,891 acres with a standing volume of 36 MMBF.

4. Minerals. This area is adjacent to the Continental Mine on the southeast side, resulting in 19 percent of the area having a high mineral potential. The Continental Mine, although now idle, has been a major producer of silver, zinc, and some gold. The property presently has some low grade ore blocked out.

There are 15 mining claims in the unit. The remaining 81 percent has a low mineral potential.

5. Range. Neither cattle nor sheep have used the Continental Mountain area in the past. This situation will probably not change.

B. Other Management Considerations

1. Fire. Although large fires have occurred in the area, the number of fires occurring annually is low.

IV. NEED

A. Contribution to National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS). The area could contribute habitat for the grizzly bear and mountain caribou.

B. Public Interest and Concerns. The area was not evaluated during RARE II. The area has grizzly bear and caribou habitat. This issue has national significance relative to the Threatened and Endangered Species Act.

C. Proximity to Designated Wilderness and to Population Centers. Table 3, Parts A and B, displays wilderness opportunities and proximity to roadless areas on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The closest wilderness area is the Cabinet Wilderness in western Montana, approximately 100 miles to the northeast. There is access to 1.6 million acres of wilderness located within 200 miles of Coeur d'Alene, as well as an additional 5.8 million acres within 300 miles (northern Idaho, eastern Washington and Oregon, and western Montana).

V. ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

A. Management Emphasis Assignment by Alternatives. Management emphasis indicates which resource activity is highlighted. If the emphasis is timber, most of the activity on those acres would be for timber management. Resource activities which are compatible with the emphasis would continue, but with less intensity. Table 2 lists the acres of each management emphasis by alternative.

Table 2

Continental Mountain Roadless Area (X01153)
Management Emphasis by Alternative

Management Emphasis	Alternatives[1/] (Thousand Acres) 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Wilderness	0	0	6.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	6.8	0	0
Non-wilderness												
No Tbr. Harvest	0.9	1.2	0	1.2	0.9	0.9	3.5	0.5	3.5	0	0.9	0.9
Timber/Wildlife	1.9	1.9	0	1.9	1.9	1.9	0.7	2.2	0.7	0	2.1	1.9
Wildlife/Visual	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Special Areas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minimum Level	4.0	3.7	0	3.7	4.0	4.0	2.6	4.1	2.6	0	3.8	4.0
Total	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8
Summary of Management Emphasis:												
Developed												
Decade 1	1.8	1.4	0	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.0	1.5	0.4	0	1.8	1.2
Decade 5	5.1	5.4	0	4.9	4.4	5.1	1.3	5.8	0.8	0	3.0	3.2
Roadless[2/]												
Decade 1	5.0	5.4	0	5.4	5.3	5.2	5.8	5.3	6.4	0	5.0	5.6
Decade 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	5.5	0	6.0	0	0	0
Wilderness	0	0	6.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	6.8.	0	0

1/ Alternative clarification -

1 - Regional Goals
2 - High Market
3 - High Nonmarket
4 - High Timber, Fish
5 - Moderate All Resources
6 - High Timber, Wildlife
7 - High Nonmarket, Stable Timber
8 - Current Program
9 - High Recreation
10 - High Wildlife, Moderate Timber
11 - Preferred Alternative
12 - Preferred w/Departure

2/ Roadless is defined as 5,000 acres or greater in size or any acreage if contiguous to existing wilderness.

B. Impacts

1. Designation: Wilderness

Management Emphasis: Wilderness

The entire area is designated for this emphasis in Alternatives 3 and 10. This emphasis would enhance wilderness attributes of the area if future activities associated with hard rock mineral, oil, and gas exploration and extraction are prohibited. The naturalness of the area would remain, along with opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

Grizzly Bear and Mountain Caribou habitat would be maintained under this emphasis.

The 36 MMBF of standing timber volume in this roadless area would not be available for harvest.

Under this emphasis recreational use would continue to be the dominate use of the area.

The non-priced benefits or costs would be:

-- Visual quality would be preserved.

-- The National Wilderness System area would be increased.

-- Water quality and fisheries would be left at their present level.

-- Threatened and endangered species habitat would be maintained while further studies take place.

-- Natural ecosystems would be protected.

-- Security for big game animals would be retained.

-- Diversity would tend towards old growth.

-- Opportunity for primitive recreation would remain the same.

-- Mineral activities would be eliminated.

Social and economic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation and wilderness. Since wilderness precludes timber harvest and mineral development, the related industries would not be suported by this emphasis. From a social aspect, the publics valuing wilderness would be supported as well as those people who desire to view the area in its unaltered state.

2. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: No Timber Harvest

Portions of this roadless area (7 to 51 percent) are designated in this emphasis in Alternatives 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, and 12. This emphasis would preserve existing old-growth stands and encourage progression toward old growth in younger stands. Recreational activites would be managed to permit only primitive and non-motorized oppertunities.

The timber volume within this management emphasis would not be available for harvest.

The non-priced benefits would be the same as described in the wilderness prescription. An additional benefit would be the flexibility in manipulating vegetation if future research recommendations indicate that new or improved techniques could enhance the habitat required for Mountain Caribou.

The non-priced benefits or costs would be:

-- Visual quality would be preserved.

-- Water quality and fisheries would be left at thir present level.

-- Threatened and endangered species habitat would be maintained.

-- Natural ecosystems would be protected.

-- Security for big game animals would be retained.

-- Diversity would tend toward old growth.

-- Opportunity for primitive recreation would remain the same.

-- Mineral activity could be restricted.

Social and economic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. Mineral resources would be available, thus supporting a possible minerals industry. The change in recreation setting could be disruptive to those publics using the area for primitive recreation.

3. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Timber/Wildlife

From 10 to 32 percent of the area is designated for this emphasis in all alternative except 3 and 10. At the end of 50 years, the wilderness and roadless character or the area would be foregone in all Alternatives except Alternatives 7 and 9. Where the area is most visually sensitive the natural landscape would be retained to the extent possible.

Minerals, oil, and gas would be available for exploration and extraction.

This emphasis would maintain and or enhance caribou habitat. It would provide for caribou travel corridors through established old-growth stands and restrict off-road vehicle use during critical winter and spring months. Local roads would be managed for closures under the district plan.

The non-priced benefits or costs would be:

-- Visual quality would decline.

-- Caribou habitat would be maintained.

-- Recreation opportunities, primarily primitive, would be foregone.

-- Wilderness charcteristics would be foregone.

-- Wildlife security would be adversely impacted.

-- Water quality and fisheries would be adversely affected, but not significantly.

-- The opportunities for solitude would decline.

-- Diversity would tend toward younger, even-aged stands on areas where harvest takes place.

-- Opportunities for quality hunting would be compromised.

-- Mineral exploration, presently at a low level, would continue to be managed under existing laws and regulations.

Social and economic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. Timber and mineral resources would be available, thus supporting the wood products and minerals industries. The change in recreation setting could be disruptive to those publics using the area for primitive or semi-primitive recreation.

4. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Minimum Level

Lands in this category have been defined as being available for timber or within their other resource investment purposes because of either biophysical conditions or identified economic constraints. Acre variances between alternatives are created by other resource constraints imposed by alternative resource emphasis items. Management would be custodial with no investments occurring.

Eleven of the twelve alternatives would contain lands (38-59 percent) designated under this category.

Depending on their size and spatial relationship with other resource designations these areas could either support wilderness characteristics or mirror developed area characteristics. Overall, the wilderness resource would not be supported. Because of their definition, they would not impact timber production. Discovered minerals would be available.

Non-priced resource impacts and socioeconomic effects within these areas would mirror those of the resource designations of surrounding areas.

SADDLE MOUNTAIN ROADLESS AREA (X01154)

I. DESCRIPTION

Size	Gross Acres	Net Acres
Idaho - Idaho Panhandle NF	8,589	8,589

The Saddle Mountain Roadless Area is located in the northwest corner of the Bonners Ferry Ranger District on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests in Boundary County. The area is accessed by Forest roads originating in the Smith Creek and Boundary Creek drainages. The interior may be accessed by travelling one of several trails which traverse this area.

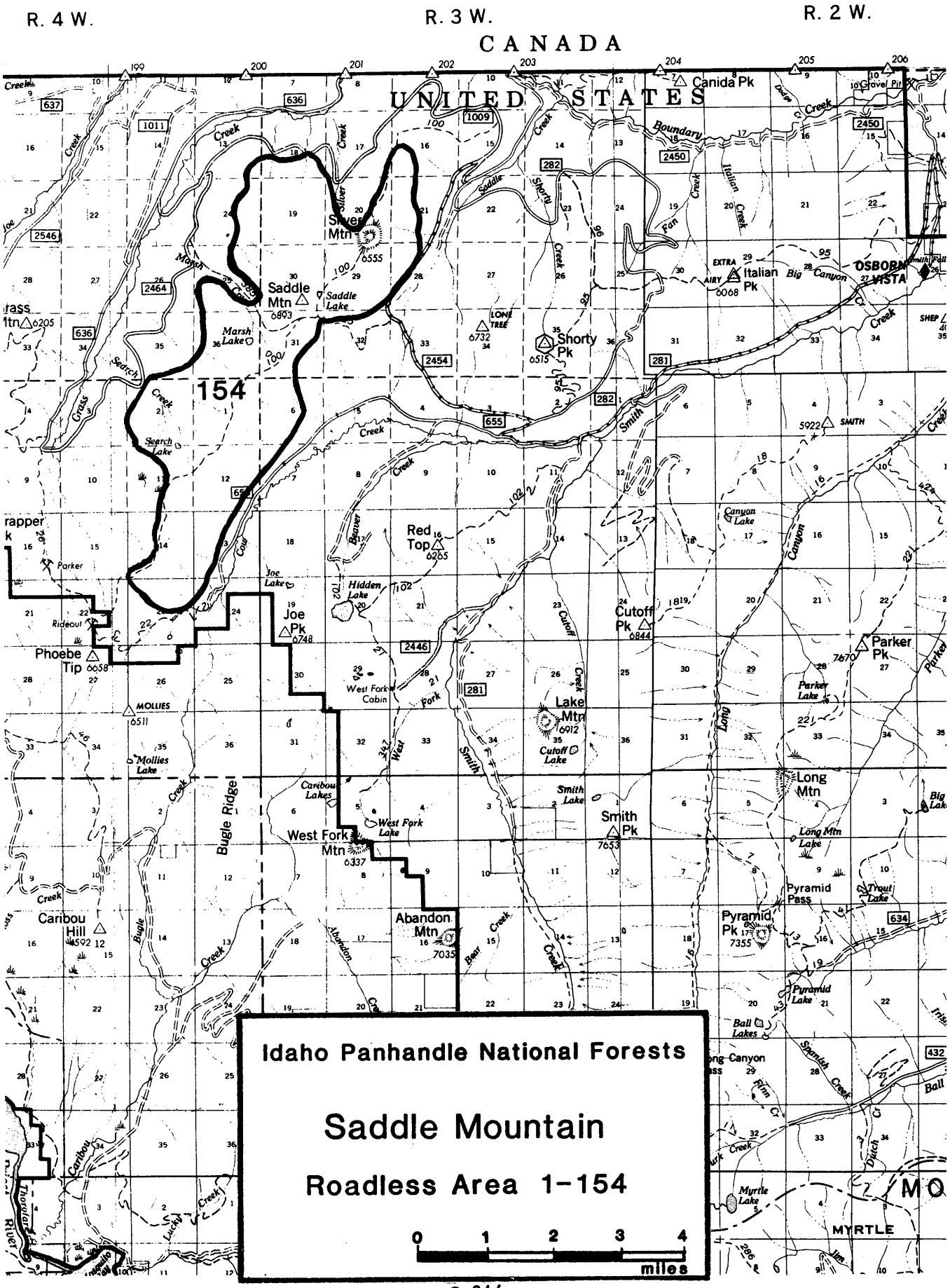
The area is narrow and somewhat rectangular in shape, occupying the ridge between Grass and Cow Creeks. Prominent features are Saddle Mountain (6,983 feet) and Silver Mountain (6,555 feet). Three small lakes are found in this area. Slopes from the ridge to stream bottoms are moderate to steep.

Approximately 3,000 acres were burned in 1967. The area is densely forested with cedar, spruce, hemlock, larch, white pine, and subalpine fir. Some old-growth timber is present.

Recreation use of the area is light. Hunting is the major use.

One grazing allotment uses part of the transitory range created by the Trapper Peak Fire.

The area is habitat for grizzly bear and mountain caribou, an endangered species. The gray wolf may also be present. Most wildlife species found in northern Idaho are found in this area.


R. 4 W.
R. 3 W.
R. 2 W.
CANADA
UNITED STATES
Canida Pk
Silver Mtn
Saddle Mtn
Saddle Lake
Marsh Lake
Shorty Pk
Italian Pk
OSBORN VISTA
154
Red Top
Hidden Lake
Joe Pk
Joe Lake
Phoebe Tip
Rideout
Parker
Cutoff Pk
Parker Pk
Parker Lake
West Fork Cabin
Lake Mtn
Cutoff Lake
Smith Lake
Smith Pk
Long Mtn
Long Mtn Lake
Caribou Lakes
West Fork Lake
West Fork Mtn
Bugle Ridge
Abandon Mtn
Pyramid Pass
Pyramid Pk
Pyramid Lake
Trout Lake
Caribou Hill
Ball Lakes
Myrtle Lake
MYRTLE
Idaho Panhandle National Forests
Saddle Mountain
Roadless Area 1-154
0 1 2 3 4
miles

II. CAPABILITY

A. Wilderness Characteristics

1. Natural Integrity. The southern end and eastern third of this area were impacted by the Trapper Peak Fire. Evidence of dozer fireline construction and salvage logging operations are plainly evident today. Roads and recently logged areas form the periphery of almost this entire unit. Evidence of human activity within the northern half of the area is limited to an old steel lookout tower.

2. Natural Appearance. At its widest point this area is 2-1/2 miles wide; consequently, roads and clearcuts are visible from many locations in the area.

3. Solitude. This is a long, narrow roadless area. Much of it is timbered, making one feel immersed in the forest. However, a sense of solitude may be difficult to achieve since there is not much topographic screening available and not much distance between user and activity.

4. Primitive Recreation Opportunities. The area offers a long, high elevation ridge suitable for hiking, hunting, and berrypicking. There are three small mountain lakes at the headwaters of the major streams draining the area that provide camping area.

5. Other Features. All of the area is in grizzly bear and mountain caribou habitat.

B. Wilderness Manageability and Boundaries. This area was inventoried in the Smith Creek Unit Plan process; approximately 2,200 acres have been developed since the Unit Plan was approved. Boundaries for this area are not well defined except where they fall on roads because, for the most part, the boundaries are mid-slope.

III. WILDERNESS AVAILABILITY

Table 1

Selected Resource Values

Category	Unit	X01154
Gross Acres	Acres	8,589
Net Acres	Acres	8,589
Range		
Existing Obligated		
Suitable	Acres	720
Allotments	No.	1
AUMs	No.	67
Existing Vacant		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Proposed		
Suitable	Acres	0
AUMs	No.	0
Timber		
Tentative		
Suitable	Acres	5,447
Standing Volume	MMBF	58
Minerals Potential		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	8,589
Low	Acres	0
Mining Claims	No.	0
Oil and Gas Potential*		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	0
Low	Acres	8,589
Oil and Gas Leases		
Leases	No.	0
Leased Area	Acres	0

Category	Unit	X01154
Corridors		
Existing and Potential	No.	1
Wildlife-Threatened and Endangered-Habitat		
Grizzly Bear		
Situation 1	Acres	8,589
Situation 2	Acres	0
Situation 3	Acres	0
Bald Eagle	Acres	0
Mountain Caribou	Acres	8,589
Gray Wolf	Acres	0
Wildlife-Big Game		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Elk		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Deer		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Significant Fisheries		
Stream Miles	Miles	0
Stream Habitat	Acres	0
Lakes	No.	1
Lake Habitat	Acres	10
Water Developments		
Existing	No.	0
Recreation		
Primitive	RVDs	0
Semiprimitive		
Nonmotorized	RVDs	0
Motorized	RVDs	40
Roaded Natural	RVDs	0

*Rating also includes uranium, geothermal, and other energy resources.

A. Resource Values

1. Recreation. The area use is now light; potential exists for hunting, day hikes, and overnight trips.

2. Wildlife. The area is situated in habitat for the only endangered resident caribou in the lower 48 states and for the threatened grizzly bear. Use by grizzlies has recently been recorded, while caribou may have historically used the area. The area contains habitat to support a recovered population for both animals.

Most animals found in northern Idaho are also found here.

3. Timber. About 5,500 acres of this area are classed as tentatively suitable for timber management.

4. Minerals/Energy Right-of-Way. The entire area has a low mineral potential. There are no mining claims in the area.

The Bonneville Power Administration has identified a potential east-west powerline corridor that may cross southern portions of this area.

5. Range. One small allotment uses the transitory range created by the Trapper Peak Fire.

B. Other Management Considerations

1. Fire. Annual fire occurrence is low; periodic large fires have occurred in the past.

IV. NEED

A. Contribution to National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS). The area would contribute grizzly bear and mountain caribou habitat.

B. Public Interest and Concerns. There is public concern about threatened and endangered species; some people believe all roadless areas should be preserved.

C. Proximity to Designated Wilderness and to Population Centers. Table 3, Parts A and B, displays wilderness opportunities and proximity to roadless areas on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The closest wilderness area is the Cabinet Wilderness in western Montana, approximately 100 miles to the northeast. There is access to 1.6 million acres of wilderness located within 200 miles of Coeur d'Alene, as well as an additional 5.8 million acres within 300 miles (northern Idaho, eastern Washington and Oregon, and western Montana).

V. ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

A. Management Emphasis Assignment by Alternatives. Management emphasis indicates which resource activity is highlighted. If the emphasis is timber, most of the activity on those acres would be for timber management. Resource activities which are compatible with the emphasis would continue, but with less intensity. Table 2 lists the acres of each management emphasis by alternative.

Table 2

Saddle Mountain Roadless Area (X01154)
Management Emphasis by Alternative

Management Emphasis	Alternatives[1/] (Thousand Acres) 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Wilderness	0	0	8.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	8.6	0	0
Non-wilderness												
No Tbr. Harvest	4.0	4.0	0	3.9	4.3	4.0	4.3	3.4	4.3	0	4.3	4.3
Timber/Wildlife	1.1	1.0	0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.4	1.0	0	1.3	1.0
Wildlife/Visual	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Special Areas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minimum Level	3.5	3.6	0	3.7	3.3	3.6	3.3	3.8	3.3	0	3.0	3.4
Total	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6
Summary of Management Emphasis:												
Developed												
Decade 1	0.5	0.5	0	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.3	0	0.5	0.2
Decade 5	0.5	1.3	0	0.5	1.1	0.5	1.2	1.7	1.2	0	2.0	0.2
Roadless[2/]												
Decade 1	6.3	9.1	0	8.1	8.3	8.1	8.3	8.1	8.3	0	8.1	8.4
Decade 5	6.3	8.3	0	8.1	7.5	8.1	7.4	6.9	7.4	0	6.6	8.4
Wilderness	0	0	8.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	8.6	0	0

1/ Alternative clarification -

1 - Regional Goals
2 - High Market
3 - High Nonmarket
4 - High Timber, Fish
5 - Moderate All Resources
6 - High Timber, Wildlife
7 - High Nonmarket, Stable Timber
8 - Current Program
9 - High Recreation
10 - High Wildlife, Moderate Timber
11 - Preferred Alternative
12 - Preferred w/Departure

2/ Roadless is defined as 5,000 acres or greater in size or any acreage if contiguous to existing wilderness.

B. Impacts

1. Designation: Wilderness

Management Emphasis: Wilderness

The entire area is designated wilderness in Alternatives 3 and 10. This emphasis will enhance wilderness attributes by removing the potential for minerals activities, although the probabilities or discovery are low.

About 5,500 acres of tentatively suitable timberland will not be available. Minerals, oil, and gas, if discovered, would not be available.

The non-priced benefits or costs would be:

-- These alternatives provide the highest degree of protection for grizzly and caribou. Road closures mitigation found in development alternatives are subject to violation, even if at a very low rate.

-- The area's wilderness values described in Section II are preserved.

-- Visual quality, water quality, and fisheries habitat are preserved.

-- The natural ecosystem is protected.

-- Semi-primitive recreation opportunities are preserved.

-- The National Wilderness System area is increased--grizzly bear and caribou habitat representatives are added.

-- Diversity would tend towards old growth.

-- Most wildlife species would be favorably or neutrally impacted. Species requiring disturbance may be adversely impacted, depending on the rate and degree of natural disturbance.

-- These alternatives provide the highest degree of protection while the status of the gray wolf is being determined.

Social and economic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. Since wilderness precludes timber harvest and mineral development, the related industries would not be supported by the emphasis. From a social aspect, the publics valuing wilderness would be supported as well as those people who desire to view the area in its unaltered state.

2. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: No Timber Harvest

From 40 to 50 percent of the area is designated for this emphasis in all alternatives except Alternatives 3 and 10. This emphasis would preserve existing old-growth stands and encourage progression toward old growth in younger stands. Recreational activities would be managed to permit only primitive and non-motorized opportunities.

Tentatively suitable timberlands within this area would not be available for timber management.

Mineral, oil, and gas resources would be available.

The non-priced benefits would be the same as described in the wilderness prescription. Flexibility in vegetation manipulation could provide a method of enhancing existing mountain caribou habitat.

The non-priced benefits or costs would be:

-- Visual quality would be preserved.

-- Water quality and fisheries would be left at their present natural level.

-- Threatened and endangered species habitat would be maintained while further studies take place.

-- Natural ecosystems would be protected.

-- Security for big game animals would be retained.

-- Diversity would tend toward old growth.

-- Opportunity for primitive recreation would remain the same.

Social and economic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. Mineral resources would be available, thus supporting the potential minerals industries. The change in recreation setting could be disruptive to those publics using the area for primitive or semi-primitive recreation.

3. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Timber/Wildlife

About 15 percent of the area is designated for this emphasis in all alternatives except Alternatives 3 and 10.

This emphasis would preclude future wilderness designation on areas where roads are extended or wood products removed. In the short term (10 years) and long term (50 years), the wilderness option would be foregone in all alternatives with this emphasis. Where the area is most usually sensitive, the natural landscape would be retained.

Minerals, oil, and gas, if discovered, would be available subject to protection of threatened and endangered species.

The non-priced benefits and costs are:

-- Habitat for threatened and endangered species such as caribou and grizzly bear (and potential wolf habitat) will be preserved.

-- The wilderness option is retained on most of the area until the next required wilderness review.

-- Visual quality, water quality, and fisheries habitat are preserved.

-- Natural ecosystems are protected.

-- Semi-primitive recreation opportunities are preserved.

Social and economic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. Timber and mineral resources would be available, thus supporting the wood products and minerals industries. The change in recreation setting could be disruptive to those publics using the area for primitive or semi-primitive recreation as well as publics viewing the area from the lake, homes, or highway.

4. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Minimum Level

Lands in this category have been defined as being unavailable for timber or within their other resource investment purposes because of either biophysical conditions or identified economic constraints. Acre variances between alternatives are created by other resource constraints imposed by alternative resource emphasis items. Management would be custodial, with no investments occurring.

Ten of the twelve alternatives would contain lands (35-44 percent) designated under this category.

Depending on their size and spatial relationship with other resource designations these areas could either support wilderness characteristics or mirror developed area characteristics. Overall, the wilderness resource would not be supported. Because of their definition, they would not impact timber production. Discovered minerals would be available.

Nonpriced resource impacts and socio-economic effects within these areas would mirror those of the resource allocations of surrounding areas.

PACKSADDLE ROADLESS AREA (X01155)

I. DESCRIPTION

Size	Gross Acres	Net Acres
Idaho - Idaho Panhandle NF	19,278	18,656

This roadless area is located approximately 14 miles southeast of Sandpoint, Idaho, and 7 miles southwest of Clark Fork, Idaho. It lies from 2 to 4 miles east of the southern end of Lake Pend Oreille. This area is within Bonner County and is on the Sandpoint Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests.

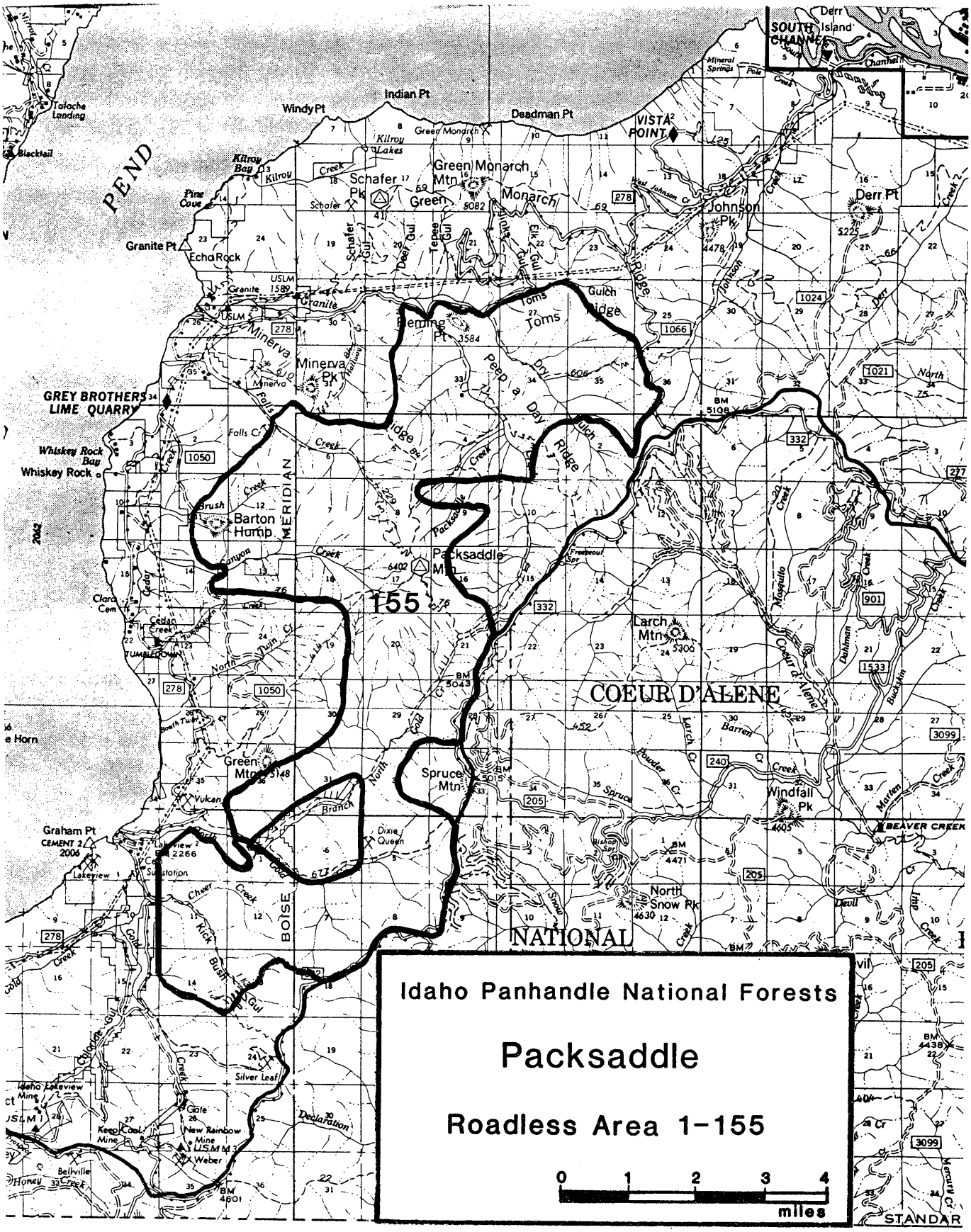
This area is approximately 11 miles long and averages no more than 2 miles wide. The boundaries are irregular, with fingers of roaded and logged areas protruding towards the interior of it. This area includes Packsaddle Mountain (6,402 feet), a prominent peak within the area. Alpine glaciation occurred on Packsaddle Mountain, but the remaining roadless area's landform was shaped by continental glaciation. Topography changes from 2,600 feet to 6,400 feet. Major drainages include Branch North Gold Creek, Falls Creek, and Granite Creek. Numerous other smaller drainages originate within this area and eventually drain into Lake Pend Oreille. No mountain lakes are found within this roadless area.

Forest types within this area included mixed conifer stands which are common in the lower elevations of northern Idaho. Only the highest elevations support alpine fir, lodgepole pine, and Englemann spruce. Dry southwest exposures on the lower elevations are winter range for deer and elk. Most of the timber stands average 70-90 years old. Boulder fields interspersed with subalpine fir forest, beargrass meadows, and huckleberry and menziesia openings form the landscape in the upper reaches of Packsaddle Mountain.

Roadless recreation use in a natural setting is the main value people associate with this area. Packsaddle, as well as many high ridges within the area, offer scenic views of Lake Pend Oreille. A number of foot trails can be found within this area. The diversity of terrain and vegetation also enhances the scenic quality of this area. Other recreational uses within this area include hunting, fishing, and berrypicking.

Wildlife species of most interest to visitors include elk, moose, black bear, whitetail deer, mule deer, and grouse. The larger streams do support catchable size fish populations. Granite Creek and Gold Creek are considered important fish spawning areas for Lake Pend Oreille.

R. 1 W. R. 1 E. R. 2 E.


Idaho Panhandle National Forests
Packsaddle
Roadless Area 1-155
0 1 2 3 4
miles
155
COEUR D'ALENE
NATIONAL
BOISE
MERIDIAN
GREY BROTHERS LIME QUARRY
Indian Pt
Windy Pt
Deadman Pt
VISTA POINT
SOUTH CHANNEL
Derr Island
Green Monarch Mtn
Schafer Pk
Johnson Pk
Derr Pt
Granite Pt
Echo Rock
Minerva Pk
Fleming Pt
Toms Gulch
Ridge
Peep a Day Ridge
Barton Hump
Packsaddle Mtn
Larch Mtn
Green Mtn
Spruce Mtn
Windfall Pk
North Snow Pk
Graham Pt
Whiskey Rock
Silver Leaf
BEAVER CREEK
STANDAR

II. CAPABILITY

A. Wilderness Characterisitcs

1. Natural Integrity. There has been considerable impact from human activity in this area. Evidence relating to mineral exploration can be found scattered throughout much of this area. Horse trails were constructed into and through the area in the early 1930s to provide access primarily for fire control. Approximately 160 acres of private land are located within the roadless area in the headwaters of Canyon Creek.

2. Natural Appearance. The irregular boundary with a number of developed area inclusions and the relatively gentle topography tend to make individuals visiting the area feel they are not in a natural area away from ordinary human activities and development. Lake Pend Oreille, with its many boating recreationists, is middle-ground viewing. Logging roads and timber harvesting areas are visible from most of the ridges within this roadless area.

3. Solitude. The Packsaddle Roadless Area possesses very little opportunity for solitude because of its narrow width and location with respect to logged over areas. The topography is not unique to northern Idaho. The southwest boundary is near the small town of Lakeview and adjoins private lands. Most of the timber harvesting areas seen from this roadless area are clearcuts larger than 40 acres. Sounds from logging and recreational activities have the potential of penetrating throughout most of this roadless area.

4. Primitive Recreation Opportunities. This area offers only limited challenge to the visitor because of its size and lack of rugged topography. It is known in northern Idaho as a popular elk hunting area. The trails within this area are used occasionally by hikers and horseback riders. Visitors can experience views of Lake Pend Oreille Lake from many of the ridgetops.

5. Other Features, It is a relatively long travel distance by dirt road to reach the borders of this roadless area. This factor contributes to this area receiving less use than other roadless areas on the Sandpoint District.

B. Wilderness Manageability and Boundaries. This area was inventoried as part of the Lakeview Unit Plan process; 5,300 acres have been developed for timber sales since the Unit Plan was approved. Boundaries are not well defined on major terrain or other recognized features. Relocation of boundaries to recognized features would substantially reduce the size of this roadless area.

Access to this area requires long travel on dirt road.

Conflicts with private land developments could be avoided by purchase of the private land at the headwaters of Canyon Creek. Boundary adjustments to exclude this tract of private land would substantially reduce the size of this roadless area.

Recreation and other resource uses not requiring surface disturbance can be managed in the Packsaddle area while protecting the wilderness character.

Mineral exploration can be controlled with present Federal regulations, although some impacts can be expected. Future hardrock mineral development is the main uncertainty in addressing manageability because the existing laws allow for the exploration and development of hardrock minerals.

III. WILDERNESS AVAILABILITY

Table 1

Selected Resource Values

Selected	Unit	X01155
Gross Acres	Acres	19,278
Net Acres	Acres	18,656
Range		
Existing Obligated		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Existing Vacant		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Proposed		
Suitable	Acres	0
AUMs	No.	0
Timber		
Tentative		
Suitable	Acres	11,437
Standing Volume	MMBF	120
Minerals Potential		
Very High	Acres	700
High	Acres	640
Moderate	Acres	10,916
Low	Acres	6,400
Mining Claims	No.	130
Oil and Gas Potential*		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	
Low	Acres	18,656
Oil and Gas Leases		
Leases	No.	0
Leased Area	Acres	0

Category	Unit	X01155
Corridors		
Existing and Potential	No.	0
Wildlife-Threatened and Endangered-Habitat		
Grizzly Bear		
Situation 1	Acres	0
Situation 2	Acres	0
Situation 3	Acres	0
Bald Eagle	Acres	0
Mountain Caribou	Acres	0
Gray Wolf	Acres	0
Wildlife-Big Game		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Elk		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	2,624
Specific-Deer		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Significant Fisheries		
Stream Miles	Miles	0
Stream Habitat	Acres	0
Lakes	No.	0
Lake Habitat	Acres	0
Water Developments		
Existing	No.	0
Recreation		
Primitive	RVDs	0
Semiprimitive		
Nonmotorized	RVDs	0
Motorized	RVDs	0
Roaded Natural	RVDs	0

*Rating also includes uranium, geothermal, and other energy resources.

A. Resource Values.

1. Recreation. Current recreation use in the area is primarily hiking along a number of trails within this area. Trails leading to Packsaddle Mountain allow viewing of Lake Pend Oreille and the surrounding hillsides. Other recreation uses within this area include berrypicking, fishing in the larger creeks, hunting, and primitive camping. Potential for additional developed recreation facilities is highly dependent on road access developed by timber harvest activities.

2. Wildlife. Wildlife inhabitants include elk, moose, black bear, whitetail deer, mule deer, and grouse. The larger streams do support catchable size fish populations. Granite Creek and Gold Creek are considered important fish spawning areas for Lake Pend Oreille. The area also includes portions of elk winter range habitat.

3. Timber. Approximately 11,500 acres of the timberlands within this area have high to medium timber production potential. About 50 percent of the timbered lands below 4,500 feet have evidence of root rot disease. Road access for timber harvest activity could occur throughout this roadless area except for the upper third of Packsaddle Mountain.

4. Minerals. Four percent and three percent of the area are rated very high and high mineral potential, respectively. The remaining 93 percent has a moderate rating. There are 130 mining claims within this roadless area. Exploration is always ongoing in this area. The geologic environment is the same as the Lakeview Mining District, which is immediately south of Packsaddle Mountain. The Lakeview Mining District is presently active, with a small open pit and underground silver mine and a float and cyanide leach mill. The gold Creek quartzite is being presently evaluated for the production of high grade silica for manufacturing plate glass. The Lakeview Limestone was once a producer of cement grade limestone. Oil and gas potential is low, but all of the unit is under lease application.

5. Range. Cattle and sheep have not used the Packsaddle area in recent years. This situation will probably not change.

B. Other Management Considerations.

1. Fire. Although large fires have occurred in the area, the number of fires occurring annually is low.

IV. NEED

A. Contribution to National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS). The main attribute and contribution of this area is the security it provides for the local elk herd. There is a small old-growth cedar grove in the bottom of North Gold Creek. The unusually large cedar trees make this scenic grove unique. The area would contribute to the protection of important Pend Oreille spawning streams.

B. Public Interest and Concerns. This roadless area is within the Lakeview Planning Unit, which had a final Environmental Impact Statement completed in 1976. Unit planning recommendations were to not road the northern half of this roadless area. The RARE II Environmental Impact Statement of 1979 recommended that this entire area be managed for non-wilderness uses. This recommendation considered public interest in wilderness as well s timber and mining interests in the area.

C. Proximity to Designated Wilderness and to Population Centers. Table 3, Parts A and B, displays wilderness opportunities and proximity to roadless areas on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The closest wilderness area is the Cabinet Wilderness in western Montana, approximately 100 miles to the northeast. There is access to 1.6 million acres of wilderness located within 200 miles of Coeur d'Alene, as well as an additional 5.8 million acres within 300 miles (northern Idaho, eastern Washington and Oregon, and western Montana).

V. ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

A. Management Emphasis Assignment by Alternatives. Management emphasis indicates which resource activity is highlighted. If the emphasis is timber, most of the activity on those acres would be for timber management. Resource activities which are compatible with the emphasis would continue, but with less intensity. Table 2 lists the acres of each management emphasis by alternative.

Table 2

Packsaddle Roadless Area (X01155)
Management Emphasis by Alternative

Management Emphasis	Alternatives[1/] (Thousand Acres) 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Wilderness	0	0	18.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non-wilderness												
No Tbr. Harvest	0.2	0.2	0	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.8	0.1	0.1
Timber/Wildlife	10.2	10.1	0	10.3	10.6	10.2	10.6	10.2	10.6	10.6	9.8	9.2
Wildlife/Visual	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Special Areas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minimum Level	8.3	8.4	0	8.2	8.0	8.3	8.0	8.3	8.0	7.3	8.8	9.4
Total	18.7	18.7	18.7	18.7	18.7	18.7	18.7	18.7	18.7	18.7	18.7	18.7
Summary of Management Emphasis:												
Developed												
Decade 1	2.4	1.6	0	3.4	3.4	2.4	4.1	1.9	2.7	3.0	4.0	3.8
Decade 5	18.7	18.7	0	18.7	18.7	18.7	18.7	18.7	18.7	18.7	18.7	18.7
Roadless[2/]												
Decade 1	16.3	17.1	0	15.3	15.3	16.3	14.6	16.8	16.0	15.7	14.7	14.9
Decade 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wilderness	0	0	18.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

1/ Alternative clarification -

1 - Regional Goals
2 - High Market
3 - High Nonmarket
4 - High Timber, Fish
5 - Moderate All Resources
6 - High Timber, Wildlife
7 - High Nonmarket, Stable Timber
8 - Current Program
9 - High Recreation
10 - High Wildlife, Moderate Timber
11 - Preferred Alternative
12 - Preferred w/Departure

2/ Roadless is defined as 5,000 acres or greater in size or any acreage if contiguous to existing wilderness.

B. Impacts

1. Designation: Wilderness

Management Emphasis: Wilderness

This area is designated as wilderness in Alternative 3. This designation would enhance the wilderness attributes if the privately-owned land were acquired. Mineral exploration, generally not associated with wilderness designations, could be curtailed. The 11,500 acres of land tentatively suitable for timber production would not be available.

The non-priced benefits and costs would be:

-- The natural ecosystem would be protected.

-- Water quality, many scenic views of Lake Pend Oreille, and the few opportunities for solitude would be unchanged.

-- Big game hunters would be afforded the opportunity to hunt in an undeveloped setting.

-- The National Wilderness System area would increase.

-- Diversity would tend toward old growth.

-- Opportunity for primitive recreation would remain the same.

Social and economic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. Since wilderness precludes timber harvest and mineral development, the related industries would not be supported by this emphasis. From a social aspect, the publics valuing wilderness would be supported as well as those people who desire to view the area in its unaltered state.

2. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: No Timber Harvest

This management emphasis provides for 100 to 200 acres (less than 1 percent of area) to be managed for No Timber Harvest in all of the alternatives except Alternatives 3 (wilderness) and 10 (high wildlife, moderate timber). Alternative 10 provides for 800 acres (4 percent) of the area to be managed for No Timber Harvest.

The area included in this management emphasis is so small that the impacts to the wilderness values would not be significantly different than those in the other management emphases considered for this roadless area.

3. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Timber Wildlife

This management emphasis calls for 49-57 percent of the area to managed for timber/wildlife.

A management emphasis of Timber/Wildlife would preclude wilderness designation for this area where forest products are removed. Such emphasis would remove approximately 8 to 21 percent of the area from a roadless condition in the first decade to the entire area at the end of the fifth decade, eliminating any consideration for wilderness designation.

Approximately 11,500 acres (61 percent) of this roadless area would be available for timber harvest. Minerals, oil, and gas resources would also be available. At the present time, there are two timber sales scheduled in this roadless area and mineral and oil and gas leasing is being considered. The community of Lakeview utilizes the waters from the North Gold Creek portion of this roadless area for their municipal water supply.

The non-priced benefits and costs would be:

-- The natural ecosystem would be altered to a managed state.

-- Water quality would be impacted by proposed management activity, primarily road development, which in turn would cause impacts to the fish resource as well as to public use of the water resources.

-- The scenic view from Lake Pend Oreille would change although critical views would be retained or partially retained by project design.

-- Opportunities for solitude would decline.

-- Elk security would decline although road closures would mostly mitigate these losses.

-- Hunters would lose the opportunity to hunt in an unroaded setting.

-- Winter range for elk and deer would improve if thermal cover and solitude could be retained.

-- Habitat would become more diverse, as vegetative age classes would vary from its present even-aged condition.

-- Opportunities for primitive and semi-primitive recreation would decline as development increased.

-- Local residents' lifestyles will become altered as development of various kinds would impact their essentially secluded setting.

The social and economic effects that would occur under this management emphasis will impact both the commodity- and amenity-oriented publics. The commodity-oriented publics would see more jobs available and revenue increased due to the timber, mineral, oil, and gas industries increasing work in the immediate locale and nearby areas. Such activity would also see some disruption in local lifestyles. Traffic would increase, road safety may decline, and human use of the area would increase, placing more impacts on wildlife, fish, and recreational resources. The recreational boaters and fishing public using Lake Pend Oreille would also be impacted by possibly more competition for available resources such as fish or boating and water based camping opportunities.

4. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Minimum Level

The alternatives for this management emphasis call for a range of 7,300 to 9,400 acres (39-50 percent of the roadless area) to be managed at a minimum level where economic considerations at the present time make timber harvest unfeasible.

The management emphasis of Minimum Level would allow for future wilderness designation on those acreages which will be reserved for future management when, for example, timber values may allow for timber management to occur. Timber management on the fringes of this roadless area may, however, require transportation systems which may need to be built in the areas being reserved during the first decade. One timber sale, presently scheduled for 1985, is located in the center portion of the roadless area. This sale would bisect the roadless area with roads and cutting units and may preclude future wilderness designation due to the size of the remaining unroaded area. The long-range emphasis would be for timber management on nearly the entire roadless area by the fifth decade, precluding wilderness considerations on the entire roadless area.

The market resources would not be impacted with this management emphasis, as the economic value is low in the areas designated for maintenance. Interest in the other marketable resources such as minerals and oil and gas is beginning to rise in this roadless area. Mineral potential is relatively high within this area, and oil and gas speculation has resulted in leases in the area. On-the-ground activity could begin at any time, depending on the value of precious metals and whether oil and gas test holes in other areas prove successful and economically feasible.

The non-priced would be impacted in the following ways:

-- The natural ecosystems would essentially be unaltered in these acreages planned for minimum level management.

-- Water quality would be maintained.

-- Scenic quality would be maintained.

-- Opportunities would slightly decline due to adjacent activity.

-- Hunting would be essentially of the roadless type.

-- Elk security would be maintained.

-- Winter range quality would slightly decline due to natural plant succession.

-- Habitat for wildlife would be unaltered in the short term and tend toward a lack of diversity over the long run.

-- Primitive type recreation would remain unaltered.

The social and economic impacts would not be significantly impacted under this management emphasis, as timber values are low and costs of management high. The maintenance areas would essentially be unaltered, thereby still allowing for use by publics using the area for amenity values such as primitive recreation. Scenic views from Lake Pend Oreille would remain unaltered in the maintenance areas although adjacent areas may see changes in the scene.

KATKA PEAK ROADLESS AREA (X01157)

I. DESCRIPTION

Size	Gross Acres	Net Acres
Idaho - Idaho Panhandle NF	12,571	12,369

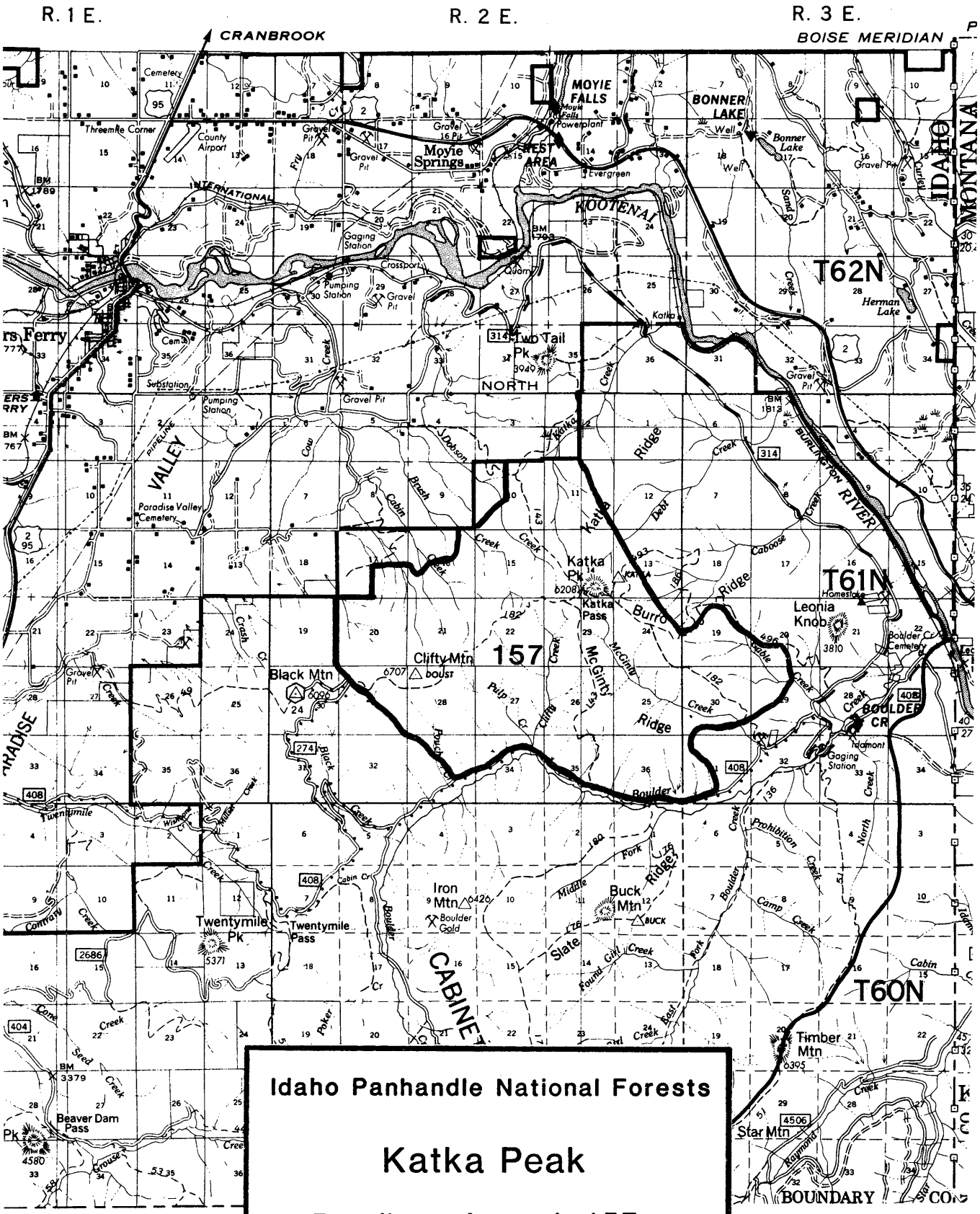
Katka Peak Roadless Area is located five miles southeast of Bonners Ferry. It is within Boundary County on the Bonners Ferry Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. Access can be gained from U.S. 95 via the Trail Creek Road, a maintained, unsurfaced road.

This roadless area is part of a northeast-southwest ridge and associated side drainages. Slopes to the northwest are very steep; southeast slopes are more moderate. Several southeast-bearing side ridges are also found. Most drainages are only partially within the roadless area.

Lower elevations support cedar/hemlock/white pine, with subalpine fir common at high elevations.

The Katka Peak Roadless Area is quite visible from Bonners Ferry. Current recreation use is light; hikers use the trail to Katka Peak and hunters use the area in the fall.

Wildlife includes deer, bear, and elk, as well as small mammals and birds. The area is also mapped grizzly bear habitat. The area is locally known for the elk herd which may use this locale for part of their habitat needs.


R. 1 E.
R. 2 E.
R. 3 E.
BOISE MERIDIAN
CRANBROOK
MOYIE FALLS
BONNER LAKE
Moyie Springs
WEST AREA
KOOTENAI
INTERNATIONAL
IDAHO
MONTANA
T62N
T61N
T60N
NORTH
Two Tail Pk
Katka Pk
Katka Pass
Leonia Knob
Clifty Mtn
157
Black Mtn
Iron Mtn
Buck Mtn
Twentymile Pk
Twentymile Pass
Timber Mtn
Star Mtn
Beaver Dam Pass
BOULDER CR
BURLINGTON RIVER
VALLEY
CABINET
BOUNDARY
Idaho Panhandle National Forests
Katka Peak
Roadless Area 1-157
0 1 2 3 4
miles

II. CAPABILITY

A. Wilderness Characteristics

1. Natural Integrity. Man's activities in this roadless area have been minor, limited primarily to pack trails constructed for fire control purposes.

2. Natural Appearance. Much of this area has adequate topographic and/or vegetative screening to keep human activities from outside the area from impinging on the natural feeling of the area. The upper slopes of Clifty Mountain are so steep, however, that the Kootenai Valley with all its developments seems to be right at hand.

3. Solitude. This area has moderate to high opportunities to find solitude. Approximately half of the boundary is formed by roads or timber harvest areas, and activities near here will generally be heard and seen. In other areas, though, the topography adequately screens out nearby activities.

4. Primitive Recreation Opportunities. This area offers hunting, hiking, horseback riding, and berrypicking. Clifty Mountain offers spectacular vistas, almost all of which include development and land use by man.

5. Other Features. Clifty Mountain is probably the single most prominent feature.

B. Wilderness Manageability and Boundaries. This area was inventoried as part of the Boulder Unit Plan process; approximately 5,400 acres have been developed since the Unit Plan was approved. Much of the boundary is mid-slope, defined only by where development has stopped. These boundaries would be hard to manage over time. In these cases, better defined and more manageable boundaries do not exist. Continued intensive management along these boundaries would interfere with the natural appearance and ability to find solitude in the area.

Recreation and other resource uses not requiring surface disturbance can be managed in this area while protecting the wilderness character. Mineral exploration can be controlled with present Federal regulations, although some impacts can be expected. Oil and gas leases applications are being processed. Future hardrock mineral development is the main uncertainty in addressing manageability because existing laws allow for the exploration and development of hardrock minerals.

III. WILDERNESS AVAILABILITY

Table 1

Selected Resource Values

Category	Unit	X01157
Gross Acres	Acres	12,571
Net Acres	Acres	12,369
Range		
Existing Obligated		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Existing Vacant		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Proposed		
Suitable	Acres	0
AUMs	No.	0
Timber		
Tentative		
Suitable	Acres	9,137
Standing Volume	MMBF	100
Minerals Potential		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	1,280
Moderate	Acres	11,089
Low	Acres	0
Mining Claims	No.	21
Oil and Gas Potential*		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	
Low	Acres	12,369
Oil and Gas Leases		
Leases	No.	0
Leased Area	Acres	0
Corridors		
Existing and Potential	No.	0
Wildlife-Threatened and Endangered-Habitat		
Grizzly Bear		
Situation 1	Acres	0
Situation 2	Acres	12,369
Situation 3	Acres	0
Bald Eagle	Acres	0
Mountain Caribou	Acres	0
Gray Wolf	Acres	0
Wildlife-Big Game		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Elk		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Deer		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Significant Fisheries		
Stream Miles	Miles	0
Stream Habitat	Acres	0
Lakes	No.	0
Lake Habitat	Acres	0
Water Developments		
Existing	No.	0
Recreation		
Primitive	RVDs	0
Semiprimitive		
Nonmotorized	RVDs	0
Motorized	RVDs	270
Roaded Natural	RVDs	0

*Rating also includes uranium, geothermal, and other energy resources.

A. Resource Values

1. Recreation. Big game hunting and day hikes along the Clifty Mountain vistas are the major uses of this area. Current use is light; the lack of major attractions indicates future use at about current levels.

2. Wildlife. Besides the normal complement of animals found in northern Idaho, this area contains identified grizzly bear habitat. Part of this area may be used by a locally known elk herd.

3. Timber. About 9,100 acres have been classed as tentatively suitable. The presence of mature timber increases the near term value of this area.

4. Minerals. Bedrock geology consists of quartzites and argillites of the Prichard formation.

Ten percent of the area has a high mineral potential and this is where most of the activity in the area is found. The remaining 90 percent has a moderate potential. There are 21 mining claims in the area. There has been a small amount of past production from veins associated with the sills to the north of the subject area, and mineral occurrences in the area appear to also be associated with these sills. The area is completely covered by oil and gas lease applications. The potential for oil and gas is rated low due to lack of information.

5. Range. None.

B. Other Management Considerations

1. Fire. Annual fire occurrence is low; however, northern Idaho ecosystems are subject to periodic large fires.

IV. NEED

A. Contribution to National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS). This area would provide additional acres of the cedar/hemlock, lodgepole pine, and larch/Douglas-fir ecosystems and roadless recreation near Bonners Ferry. The area would also contribute grizzly bear habitat.

B. Public Interest and Concerns. This roadless area is within the Boulder Planning Unit. A Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement were issued in 1979. The Plan designated much of the area as roadless recreation. During the planning process the Plan was the subject of controversy; the Plan was appealed, revised, appealed again, and subsequently upheld by the Chief. The controversy centered on the potential wilderness/roadless values of the area. Strong feelings, pro and con, were received from many people.

C. Proximity to Designated Wilderness and to Population Centers. Table 3, Parts A and B, displays wilderness opportunities and proximity to roadless areas on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The closest wilderness area is the Cabinet Wilderness in western Montana, approximately 100 miles to the northeast. There is access to 1.6 million acres of wilderness located within 200 miles of Coeur d'Alene, as well as an additional 5.8 million acres within 300 miles (northern Idaho, eastern Washington and Oregon, and western Montana).

V. ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

A. Management Emphasis Assignment by Alternatives. Management emphasis indicates which resource activity is highlighted. If the emphasis is timber, most of the activity on those acres would be for timber management. Resource activities which are compatible with the emphasis would continue, but with less intensity. Table 2 lists the acres of each management emphasis by alternative.

Table 2

Katka Peak Roadless Area (X01157)
Management Emphasis by Alternative

Management Emphasis	Alternatives[1/] (Thousand Acres) 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Wilderness	0	0	12.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non-wilderness												
No Tbr. Harvest	4.0	0.3	0	0.3	4.3	0.3	4.1	3.9	4.1	0.3	4.5	4.5
Timber/Wildlife	6.0	8.0	0	8.3	6.0	8.3	6.1	5.6	6.0	8.5	4.8	4.7
Wildlife/Visual	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Special Areas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minimum Level	2.4	4.1	0	3.8	2.1	3.8	2.2	2.9	2.3	3.6	3.2	3.2
Total	12.4	12.4	12.4	12.4	12.4	12.4	12.4	12.4	12.4	12.4	12.4	12.4
Summary of Management Emphasis:												
Developed												
Decade 1	3.7	2.1	0	3.0	3.6	3.4	4.4	1.7	4.0	4.1	1.2	1.2
Decade 5	12.4	12.4	0	12.4	12.4	12.4	12.4	12.4	12.4	12.4	12.4	12.4
Roadless[2/]												
Decade 1	8.7	10.3	0	9.4	8.8	9.0	8.0	10.7	8.4	8.3	11.2	11.2
Decade 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wilderness	0	0	12.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

1/ Alternative clarification -
1 - Regional Goals
2 - High Market
3 - High Nonmarket
4 - High Timber, Fish
5 - Moderate All Resources
6 - High Timber, Wildlife
7 - High Nonmarket, Stable Timber
8 - Current Program
9 - High Recreation
10 - High Wildlife, Moderate Timber
11 - Preferred Alternative
12 - Preferred w/Departure

2/ Roadless is defined as 5,000 acres or greater in size or any acreage if contiguous to existing wilderness.

B. Impacts

1. Designation: Wilderness

Management Emphasis: Wilderness

Katka Peak Roadless Area is designated as wilderness in Alternative 3. This emphasis would protect and preserve existing conditions such as its natural appearance, trails, and primitive camping opportunities, as well as lack of structures within the area.

The estimated 100 MMBF, on slightly over 9,000 acres of the area, would not be available for timber production under this prescription. Minerals, oil, and gas, if discovered, would not be available.

The non-priced benefits and costs would be:

-- The National Wilderness System area would be increased.

-- Water quality and fisheries would be maintained.

-- Grizzly bear habitat is protected, with the highest probability of success.

-- Natural ecosystem would be protected.

-- Visual quality would be retained.

-- Security for big game would be retained.

-- Diversity would tend toward old growth.

-- Opportunity for semi-primitive recreation would remain the same.

Social and economic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. Since wilderness precludes timber harvest and mineral development, the related industries would not be supported by this emphasis. From a social aspect, the publics valuing wilderness would be supported as well as those people who desire to view the area in its unaltered state.

2. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: No Timber Harvest

From 2 to 36 percent of the area is designated for this emphasis in all alternatives except Alternative 3. In both the short and long term, the wilderness and roadless character of the area would be foregone in all alternatives with this emphasis.

Timber volume under this emphasis would not be available to harvest.

Minerals, oil, and gas, if discovered, remain available.

The non-priced benefits and costs are:

-- Water quality and fisheries would be maintained.

-- Grizzly bear habitat is protected.

-- Visual quality would be retained.

-- Elk habitat remains unchanged.

-- Diversity would tend toward old growth.

-- Opportunity for semi-primitive recreation would be maintained.

Social and economic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. Mineral resources would be available, thus supporting a possible minerals industries. The change in recreation setting could be disruptive to those publics using the area for primitive recreation.

3. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Timber/Wildlife

From 37 to 68 percent of the area is designated for this emphasis in all alternatives except Alternative 3. In both the short and long term, the wilderness and roadless character of the area would be foregone in all alternatives with this emphasis. Where the area is most visually sensitive, the natural landscape would be managed to meet retention visual quality objectives.

The suitable timber is unavailable. Minerals, oil, and gas remain available.

The non-priced benefits and costs are:

-- The wilderness option is eventually foregone.

-- Water quality and fisheries are adversely impacted, but not significantly.

-- The mitigation of road impact on grizzly bear through road closures can be effective but always carries some risk of failure due to breaching of barriers, cycle use, etc.

-- Elk habitat remains unchanged except for a decline during sale contract periods.

-- Visual quality declines from preservation to modification/maximum modification in most areas.

-- Diversity tends towards even-aged stands less than 100 years of age.

-- Indicator species adversely impacted are cutthroat trout and pileated woodpecker.

Social and economic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. Timber and mineral resources would be available, thus supporting the wood products and minerals industries. The change in recreation setting could be disruptive to those publics using the area for primitive or semi-primitive recreation as well as publics viewing the area.

4. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Minimum Level

From 17 to 33 percent of the area is designated for this emphasis in all alternatives except Alternative 3.

Lands in this category have been defined as being unavailable for timber or within their other resource investment purposes because of either biophysical conditions or identified economic constraints. Acre variances between alternatives are created by other resource constraints imposed by alternative resource emphasis items. Management would be custodial, with no investments occurring.

Eleven of the twelve alternatives would contain lands designated under this category.

Depending on their size and spatial relationship with other resource designations, these areas could either support wilderness characteristics or mirror developed area characteristics. Overall, the wilderness resource would not be supported. Because of their definition, they would not impact timber production. Discovered minerals would be avilable. Tentatively suitable timberlands within this emphasis would not be available.

Non-priced resource impacts and socioeconomic effects within these areas would mirror those of the resource designations of surrounding areas.

SCHAFER PEAK ROADLESS AREA (X1160)

I. DESCRIPTION

Size	Gross Acres	Net Acres
Idaho - Idaho Panhandle NF	6,812	6,614

This roadless area is located 10 miles southeast of Sandpoint, Idaho, along the southern edge of Lake Pend Oreille. It is within Bonner County on the Sandpoint Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The area is accessible on the north and east boundaries by boat and by the Johnson Creek Road along the southern ridge boundary.

This long and narrow-shaped roadless area has about 10 miles of lakeshore. From the waterfront, slopes rise sharply above the lake. Schafer Peak and Green Monarch Mountain are the dominant geographic features. Topography changes from 2,100 feet at the lake surface to 5,000 feet at the top of Schafer Peak. The roadless boundary follows just south of the main ridge overlooking Pend Oreille Lake.

A dense timber canopy common to the lower elevations of northern Idaho covers almost all of the area. A few alpine fir and lodgepole pine can be found near the top of the highest mountains.

The area is known locally as the Green Monarchs and is considered a highly visually-sensitive area for the boating and fishing public using the lake. This area is also viewed from Highway 200 near Hope, Idaho. Activities within the area primarily revolve around the use of Schafer Peak Trail 69 which follows along the top of the main ridge. This trail is a popular hiking and horseback riding trail which offers outstanding views of Lake Pend Oreille. Most of the beach frontage is rocky and unsuitable for development of boat docking and camping facilities. Approximately 2 miles of this shoreline in the Kilroy Bay area is privately owned. Other private lands within the interior of this area are located near Kilroy Lakes.

Wildlife species of most interest to visitors include elk, moose, black bear, whitetail deer, mule deer, goats, and grouse. Osprey nest near the lake. Occasionally, a bald eagle can be seen along the lakeshore in this roadless area where they migrate during November and feed on spawned out kokanee salmon and waterfowl until February and March.

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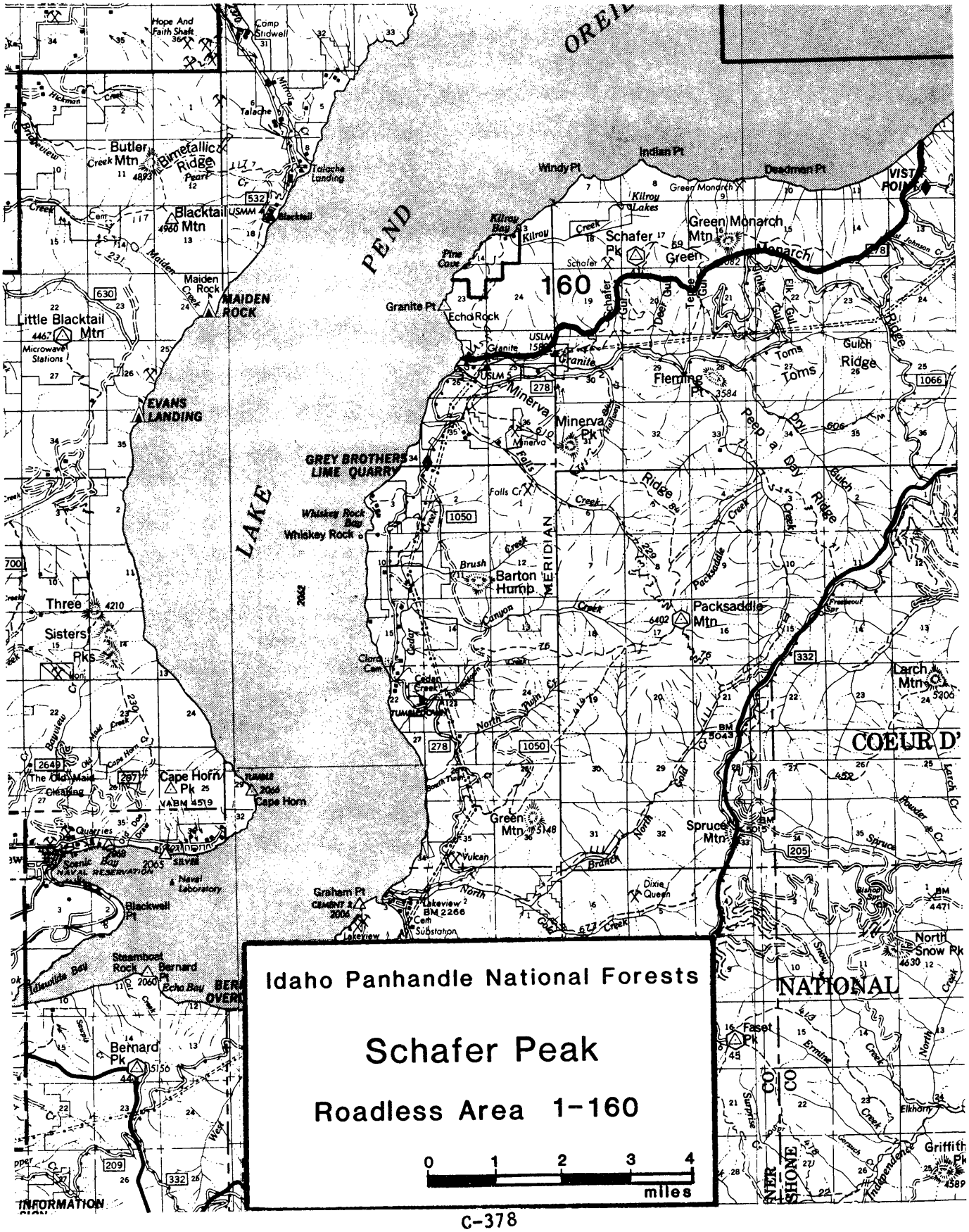

Idaho Panhandle National Forests
Schafer Peak
Roadless Area 1-160
0 1 2 3 4
miles
160
PEND
LAKE
OREIL
COEUR D'
NATIONAL
Indian Pt
Windy Pt
Deadman Pt
Green Monarch
Kilroy Lakes
Schafer Pk
Green Mtn
Monarch
Butler Mtn
Bimetallic Ridge
Blacktail Mtn
Blacktail
Maiden Rock
MAIDEN ROCK
Little Blacktail Mtn
Microwave Stations
EVANS LANDING
Granite Pt
Echo Rock
Granite
Fleming Pt
Toms Ridge
Minerva Pk
GREY BROTHERS LIME QUARRY
Whiskey Rock Bay
Whiskey Rock
Barton Hump
Packsaddle Mtn
Three Sisters Pks
Cedar Creek
Larch Mtn
Cape Horn Pk
Cape Horn
Green Mtn
Spruce Mtn
Vulcan
Graham Pt
Lakeview
Dixie Queen
Blackwell Pt
Steamboat Rock
Bernard Pk
Faset Pk
North Snow Pk
Griffith Pk
MERIDIAN
INFORMATION

II. CAPABILITY

A. Wilderness Characteristics.

1. Natural Integrity. The impact from human activity in most of this area has been very minor. Slopes from the top of the ridge down to the lake are generally very steep and support dense vegetation. Foot travel across these steep slopes without established trails is very difficult; therefore, evidence of man is quite limited. The Kilroy Bay area and the Kilroy Lakes area are on more gentle terrain and these areas possess evidence of man's activities. Some hardrock mining exploration occurred within this roadless area; evidence of these mining sites is found mostly on private lands. Some trails were constructed into and through the area in the 1930s to provide access primarily for fire control.

2. Natural Appearance. This area is narrow so that individuals visiting the area feel that they are not in a natural area away from the ordinary human activities and development. Pend Oreille Lake and the associated recreational activities are an integral part of this lakeshore roadless area. The communities of Hope and East Hope, Highway 200,and housing development around the lake are also within view from within much of this roadless area.

3. Solitude. The Schafer Peak Roadless Area provides very few opportunities for solitude because of its long, narrow shape and because of its integral part of a high-use recreational lake. Visitors to the area tend to be concentrated on the very few miles of foot trails. Topography is not highly dissected; therefore, people do not tend to be screened from one another in short distances. The heavily vegetated steep sideslopes over most of the area tend to congregate users along the flatter ridgetop near Kilroy Lakes and Kilroy Bay.

4. Primitive Recreation Opportunities. This area offers very little variety of topography to challenge a visitor. Kilroy Creek is the only drainage of any significant size. Kilroy Lakes do not support fish but do offer unique boggy areas which support unusual plant species. A few scattered camping and picnicking areas which have access only by boat are located along the lakeshore. Schafer Peak Trail 68 is used by hikers and horseback riders. This roadless area is known locally as a security area for elk during hunting season. The cliffs between Kilroy Bay and Indian Point are habitat for mountain goats which are often observed by boating recreationists. Osprey and bald eagles can also be seen along this lakeshore.

5. Other Features. The early 1900 fires burned over a vast majority of this area which now supports a dense stand of mixed conifer species approximately 70-80 years old. An occasional old-growth tree which escaped these major fires can be seen protruding above the otherwise uniform stand canopy. Some steep rock cliff formations can be observed adjacent to the lake. Many recreational boaters follow along the lakeshore to observe wildlife within the roadless area.

B. Wilderness Manageability and Boundaries. The Schafer Peak Roadless Area was first inventoried and evaluated for wilderness in the 1976 Lakeview Unit Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement. The boundaries have not been modified since the Plan.

This area is long and narrow, with its widest point being only 2-1/2 miles wide. The boundaries other than the lakeshore are not on well defined major terrain or other recognized features. The southern boundary could be placed along the main ridgetop, but this would make this roadless area even narrower.

There are private lands within this roadless area near Kilroy Lakes and along the lake in the Kilroy Bay area. The Kilroy Lakes are mostly privately owned. Conflicts with private land development could be avoided by purchase or trade for these private lands. Boundary adjustments to exclude the private land are not possible without making the roadless area substantially smaller.

There are 66 mining claims in the area. Future hardrock mineral development is the main uncertainty in addressing manageability because the existing laws allow for the exploration and development of hardrock minerals.

III. WILDERNESS AVAILABILITY

Table 1. Selected Resource Values

Category	Unit	X1160
Gross Acres	Acres	6812
Net Acres	Acres	6614
Range		
Existing Obligated		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Existing Vacant		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Proposed		
Suitable	Acres	0
AUMs	No.	0
Timber		
Tentative		
Suitable	Acres	3856
Standing Volume	MMBF	34
Mineral Potential		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	6614
Low	Acres	0
Mining Claims	No.	66
Oil and Gas Potential*		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	0
Low	Acres	6614
Oil and Gas Leases		
Leases	No.	0
Leased Area	Acres	0
Corridors		
Existing and Potential	No.	0
Wildlife-Threatened and Endangered-Habitat		
Grizzly Bear		
Situation 1	Acres	0
Situation 2	Acres	0
Situation 3	Acres	0
Bald Eagle	Acres	0
Mountain Caribou	Acres	0
Gray Wolf	Acres	0
Wildlife-Big Game		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Elk		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	1984
Specific-Deer		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Significant Fisheries		
Stream Miles	Miles	0
Stream Habitat	Acres	0
Lakes	No.	0
Lake Habitat	Acres	0
Water Developments		
Existing	No.	0
Recreation		
Primitive	RVDs	0
Semiprimitive		
Nonmotorized	RVDs	0
Motorized	RVDs	250
Roaded Natural	RVDs	0

*Rating also includes uranium, geothermal, and other energy resources.

A. Resource Values

1. Recreation. Current recreation use in the area is primarily hiking or horseback riding along the Schafer Peak trail on the ridge, viewing from Lake Pend Oreille, or hiking near the Kilroy Lakes. A few scattered camping and picnicking areas which have access only by boat are located along the lakeshore.

2. Wildlife. Wildlife inhabitants include elk, moose, black bear, whitetail deer, mule deer, mountain goats, and grouse. Osprey nest near the lake. Occasionally, a bald eagle can be seen along the lakeshore in the roadless area where they migrate to the area during November and feed on spawned out kokanee salmon and waterfowl until February and March. A portion of this roadless area may be habitat for the bald eagle. The area is a key security area for elk which are heavily hunted in the Lakeview area. The roadless area has no large streams with fisheries values.

3. Timber. About 3,900 acres of the area are estimated as tentatively suitable for timber production; however, the steep slopes facing directly into Lake Pend Oreille, the rugged nature of this terrain, and the visual constraints associated with viewing from the lake would make harvest costly and of concern to lake residents and recreationists.

4. Minerals. All of this area has a moderate hardrock mineral potential. There are presently 66 unpatented mining claims located in this unit and several vein-type copper occurrences. These copper occurrences are in the Revett Formation and may be an indication of Troy-type stratabound deposits. Oil and gas potential is low. Oil and gas lease applications are being processed.

5. Range. Cattle and sheep have not used the Schafer Peak area in recent years.

B. Other Management Considerations.

1. Fire. Although large fires have occurred in the area, the number of fires occurring annually is low.

IV. NEED

A. Contribution to National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS). The area is representative of cedar-hemlock ecosystems which are common in existing wildernesses. The Kilroy Lakes, mostly private land, offer unique boggy areas which support unusual plant species.

B. Public Interest and Concerns. This roadless area is within the Lakeview Planning Unit. Unit planning for this area was completed in 1976. The final Environmental Impact Statement recommended there would be no roads permitted within the area seen from Lake Pend Oreille. The Plan considered public interest in wilderness as well as timber and mining interests in the area.

C. Proximity to Designated Wilderness and to Population Centers. Table 3, Parts A and B, displays wilderness opportunities and proximity to roadless areas on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The closest wilderness area is the Cabinet Wilderness in western Montana, approximately 100 miles to the northeast. There is access to 1.6 million acres of wilderness located within 200 miles of Coeur d'Alene, as well as an additional 5.8 million acres within 300 miles (northern Idaho, eastern Washington and Oregon, and western Montana).

V. ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

A. Management Emphasis Assignment by Alternatives. Management emphasis indicates which resource activity is highlighted. If the emphasis is timber, most of the activity on those acres would be for timber management. Resource activities which are compatible with the emphasis would continue, but with less intensity. Table 2 lists the acres of each management emphasis by alternative.

Table 2

Schafer Peak Roadless Area (X01160)
Management Emphasis by Alternative

Management Emphasis	Alternatives[1/] (Thousand Acres) 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Wilderness	0	0	6.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non-wilderness												
Unroaded	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Timber/Wildlife	3.5	3.5	0	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.2	3.3	3.5	3.6	2.8	2.7
Wildlife/Visual	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Special Areas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minimum Level	3.1	3.1	0	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.4	3.3	3.1	3.0	3.8	3.9
Total	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6
Summary of Management Emphasis:												
Developed												
Decade 1	0.4	1.7	0	3.4	0.4	0.4	1.0	1.0	0.6	0.2	0.5	0.6
Decade 5	6.6	6.6	0	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	3.0	6.6
Roadless[2/]												
Decade 1	6.2	0	0	0	6.2	6.2	5.6	5.6	6.0	6.4	6.1	6.0
Decade 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wilderness	0	0	6.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

1/ Alternative clarification -
1 - Regional Goals
2 - High Market
3 - High Nonmarket
4 - High Timber, Fish
5 - Moderate All Resources
6 - High Timber, Wildlife
7 - High Nonmarket, Stable Timber
8 - Current Program
9 - High Recreation
10 - High Wildlife, Moderate Timber
11 - Preferred Alternative
12 - Preferred w/Departure

2/ Roadless is defined as 5,000 acres or greater in size or any acreage if contiguous to existing wilderness.

B. Impacts.

1. Designation: Wilderness

Management Emphasis: Wilderness

Management Prescription: Wilderness

The entire area is designated as wilderness in Alternative 3. This emphasis would enhance the wilderness attributes of the area if the privately-owned lakeshore as well as the area near Kilroy Lakes were acquired. The naturalness of the area would remain and the few opportunities for solitude would be available. This designation would guarantee the continued visual sensitivity of the area to boaters and other users of the lake area in addition to the community of Hope and Highway 200.

The 34 MMBF of standing timber volume on this roadless area would not be available under this prescription. Minerals, oil, and gas also would not be available since the area would be withdrawn from mineral entry.

The non-priced benefits or costs would be:

-- The area may contain critical habitat for the bald eagle. This designation would insure that the area would continue to be managed without outside influence.

-- The natural ecosystem would be protected.

-- Water quality, scenic views, and primitive recreation opportunities would be unchanged.

-- Big game hunting, and fishing in quality waters, Lake Pend Oreille, would remain the same.

-- The national wilderness system would increase.

-- Elk security would be maintained.

-- Diversity would tend toward old growth.

Social and economic effects center around the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. Since wilderness precludes timber harvest and mineral development, the related industries would not be supported by this emphasis. From a social aspect, the publics valuing wilderness would be supported as well as those people residing or recreating along the lake who desire to view the area in its unaltered state.

2. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Timber/Wildlife

Management Prescriptions: Timber Management, Wildlife (Elk/Mule Deer or Caribou), Visual Retention or Part Retention With Timber Management, or Fisheries Investment With Timber Management

About 50 percent of the area is designated for this emphasis in all alternatives except Alternative 3.

This emphasis would preclude future wilderness designation on areas where roads are extended or wood products are removed. In the short term, ten years, wilderness options would be foregone in Alternatives 2, 3, and 4. At the end of 50 years, the wilderness and roadless character of the area would be foregone in all alternatives with this emphasis. Where the area is most visually sensitive the natural landscape would be retained to the extent possible.

About 3,900 acres of tentatively suitable timber would be available for harvest. Minerals, oil, and gas also would be available.

The non-priced benefits or costs would be:

-- Visual quality would be affected by road access and timber harvest. The natural landscape in visually-sensitive portions would be retained or partially retained.

-- The semi-primitive recreation setting would change to roaded natural.

-- The bald eagle habitat would be maintained.

-- The natural ecosystem would be maintained.

-- Elk security would be impacted by timber harvest and road access. This would be partially mitigated by road closures.

Social and economic effects center around the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. Timber and mineral resources would be available thus supporting the wood products and minerals industries. The change in recreation setting could be disruptive to those publics using the area for primitive or semi-primtive recreation as well as publics viewing the area from the lake, homes, or highway.

3. Designation: Nonwilderness

Management Emphasis: Minimum level

Management Prescriptions: Minimum level

About 50 percent of the area is designated for minimum level management in all alternatives except Alternative 3. In this particular roadless area, the minimum level management emphasis would be impacted by road access for the timber/visual/wildlife management emphasis. Therefore, the indirect consequences would be similar to the timber/visual/wildlife management emphasis effects.

BLACKTAIL MOUNTAIN ROADLESS AREA (X01161)

I. DESCRIPTION

Size	Gross Acres	Net Acres
Idaho - Idaho Panhandle NF	5,465	4,719

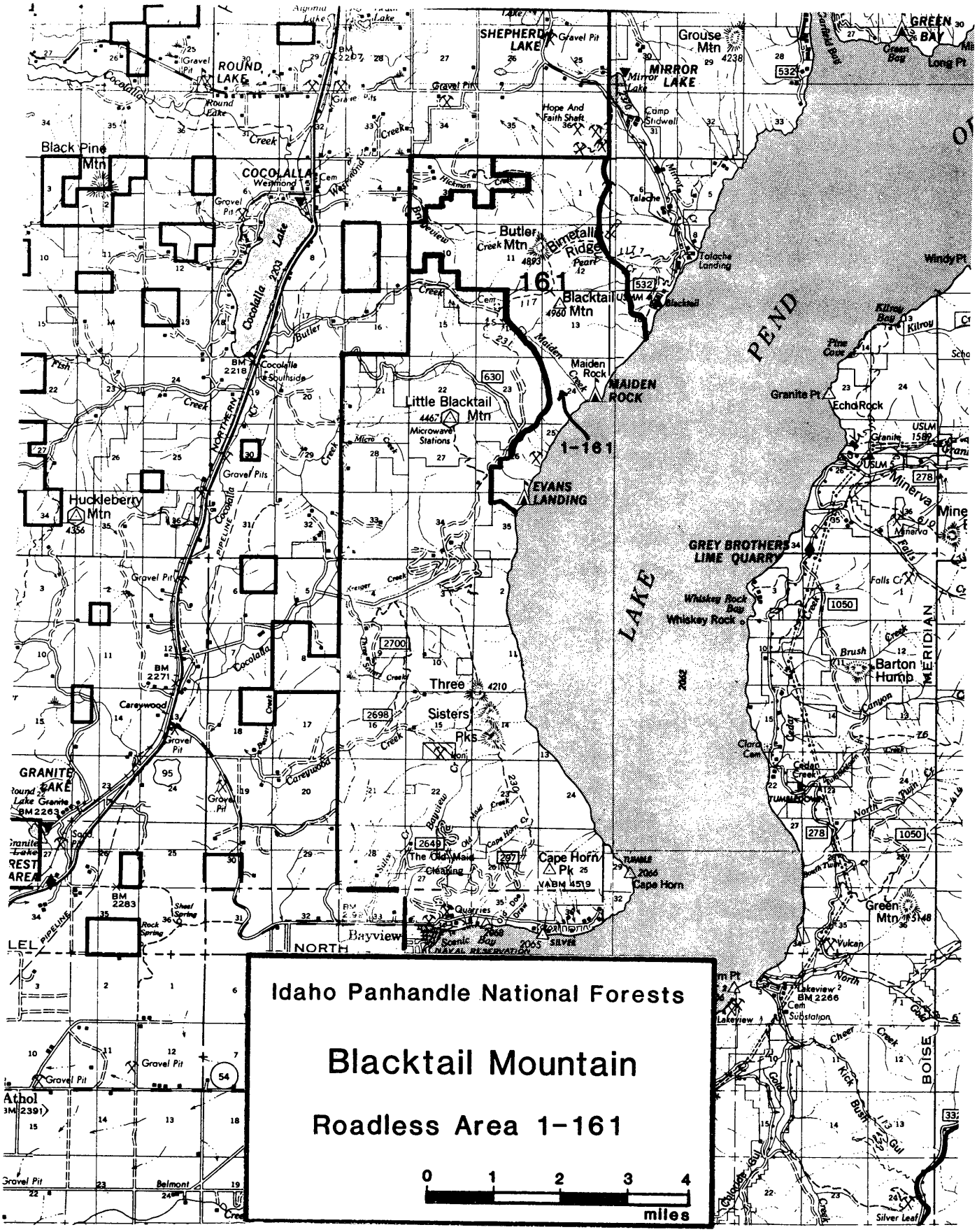
This roadless area is located 8 miles south of Sandpoint, Idaho, and two miles east of Cocolalla Lake. The area is adjacent to Lake Pend Oreille, within Bonner County, and on the Sandpoint Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The area is easily accessible from all sides away from the lake and is within reasonable walking distance of maintained County roads.

The area is approximately 3 miles long and 2 miles wide; 2-1/2 miles of the boundary follow along the Pend Oreille Lake shoreline. A small mountainous range is encompassed within this area. The two focal points of this small mountainous range is Butte Mountain and Blacktail Mountain. Steep cliffs face into the western shore of Lake Pend Oreille. A small wetland, Maiden Rock Lake, and Maiden Creek are the only aquatic habitats in this roadless area. Over 50 percent of the boundary of this area is bordered by private lands.

Almost the entire area is timbered, with stands averaging 70-80 years old. Forest types include mixed conifer stands common to the lower elevations in northern Idaho. Timber productivity is considered good to excellent. Natural openings occur on scattered areas with shallow soils and an occasional old-growth tree can be seen protruding above the primary forest canopy. Red alder, a remnant of ancient times, can be found along the lakeshore.

Forest Service Trail 117, the Bimetric Trail, is the only system trail within this roadless area. Scenic views of Lake Pend Oreille and rural settings to the north and west can be experienced along the trail. This trail is currently being used by backpackers, horseback riders, and motorbike riders. Because of the relatively open timber stands and low brush understory, cross-country travel is relatively easy throughout the area. Boat access, camping, and picknicking sites which are maintained by the Forest Service are located at Maiden Rock and Evans landing. This area is a popular hunting area for local residents.

Wildlife species of most interest to visitors include black bear, whitetail deer, mule deer, a few elk, and grouse. A unique raptor, the osprey, nests adjacent to Lake Pend Oreille. Habitat for the threatened bald eagle has also been identified adjacent to the Lake. Creeks within this area have no fishery values.


R. 2 W.
R. 1 W.
Idaho Panhandle National Forests
Blacktail Mountain
Roadless Area 1-161
0 1 2 3 4
miles
1-161
SHEPHERD LAKE
MIRROR LAKE
ROUND LAKE
COCOLALLA
Black Pine Mtn
Butler Mtn
Blacktail Mtn
Maiden Rock
MAIDEN ROCK
Little Blacktail Mtn
EVANS LANDING
Huckleberry Mtn
GREY BROTHERS LIME QUARRY
Three Sisters Pks
Cape Horn Pk
Barton Hump
Green Mtn
GRANITE LAKE
Bayview
PEND
LAKE
MERIDIAN
BOISE

II. CAPABILITY

A. Wilderness Characteristics

1. Natural Integrity. There is considerable impact from human activity in this area. Mineral potential for the area is very high; therefore, evidence of past exploration work is scattered throughout the roadless area. The area is easily accessible from all sides away from the lake and is relatively close to a rural population. It is within reasonable walking distance of maintained County roads; therefore, winter access is considered relatively easy. Foot trails, litter, mineral exploration holes, and tree stumps are evidence of the presence of man.

2. Natural Appearance. The area is small and the topography such that people visiting the area feel they are not in a natural area away from ordinary human activities and development. Evidence within this roadless area indicates man's presence can be found throughout most of the area. Boats on Pend Oreille Lake can be seen from much of the area. Evidence of timber harvesting is easily seen; also, the rural housing development within the flatter lands along Highway 95 is a common backdrop setting viewed from the northern half of this roadless area.

3. Solitude. The Talache area possesses very limited opportunities for solitude because of its size, shape, and location with respect to developed lands. It is less than 2 miles east of Highway 95. Over 50 percent of its current boundary is bordered by private lands. Many of these private lands are being subdivided for housing devleopments. This roadless area's location in relation to a rural setting and adjacent to a high-use recreational lake does not allow the visitor the opportunity to find areas which have solitude.

Sounds from logging, boating, and other domestic activities have the potential of penetrating throughout this roadless area.

4. Primitive Recreation Opportunities. This area offers only limited challenge to the visitor because of its small size and gentle topography. Main Creek is the largest stream and it has no fishery values. Bimetric Trail 117 is a popular hiking trail which provides opportunities to experience scenic views of Pend Oreille Lake and rural settings to the north and west. This trail is currently being used by backpackers, horseback riders, and motorbike riders. Because of the relatively open grown timber stands and low brush in the understory, cross-country travel off trails is relatively easy. This area is a popular hunting area for local residents.

5. Other Features. Almost the entire area was burned by fires in the early 1900s. The result of these burns was a uniform coniferous forest which is approximately 70-80 years old. An occasional old-growth tree which survived these fires can be seen protruding above the primary forest canopy.

The lakeshore beaches within this area are popular recreational sites for the boating public. The Maiden Rock Cliffs are known as a landmark along Pend Oreille Lake. Red alder, a remnant of ancient times, can be found along the lakeshore within this roadless area.

B. Wilderness Manageability and Boundaries. This area was inventoried as part of the Blacktail Unit Plan process; approximately 2,000 acres have been developed since the Unit Plan was approved. The boundaries are not well defined on major terrain or other recognized features. The location of the boundaries on recognizable features would further reduce the size of this roadless area.

There are no private landholdings within this roadless area boundary. Because of private landholdings immediately adjacent to much of this area it would be difficult to adjust boundaries for the purpose of improving wilderness characteristics. Adjustment of boundaries to increase size would require inclusion of lands which have been modified by man's activities.

Timber cutting areas, access roads, and other developed areas will always be visible from the ridges and openings within this roadless area. Conflicts with private lands most likely could not be avoided by purchase or trade for these lands.

Recreation and other resource uses not requiring surface disturbance can be managed in the Blacktail area while protecting the wilderness character.

Future hardrock mineral development is the main uncertainty in addressing manageability because the existing laws allow for the exploration and development of hardrock minerals.

III. WILDERNESS AVAILABILITY

Table 1

Selected Resource Values

Category	Unit	X01161
Gross Acres	Acres	5,465
Net Acres	Acres	4,719
Range		
Existing Obligated		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Existing Vacant		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Proposed		
Suitable	Acres	0
AUMs	No.	0
Timber		
Tentative		
Suitable	Acres	1,895
Standing Volume	MMBF	14
Minerals Potential		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	4,719
Low	Acres	0
Mining Claims	No.	87
Oil and Gas Potential*		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	0
Low	Acres	4,719
Oil and Gas Leases		
Leases	No.	0
Leased Area	Acres	0
Corridors		
Existing and Potential	No.	0
Wildlife-Threatened and Endangered-Habitat		
Grizzly Bear		
Situation 1	Acres	0
Situation 2	Acres	0
Situation 3	Acres	0
Bald Eagle	Acres	0
Mountain Caribou	Acres	0
Gray Wolf	Acres	0
Wildlife-Big Game		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	424
Specific-Elk		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Deer		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Significant Fisheries		
Stream Miles	Miles	0
Stream Habitat	Acres	0
Lakes	No.	0
Lake Habitat	Acres	0
Water Developments		
Existing	No.	0
Recreation		
Primitive	RVDs	0
Semiprimitive		
Nonmotorized	RVDs	100
Motorized	RVDs	1,100
Roaded Natural	RVDs	0

*Rating also includes uranium, geothermal, and other energy resources.

A. Resource Values

1. Recreation. Current recreation use in the area occurs along Bimetric Trail 117 and along the shoreline of Lake Pend Oreille. Bimetric Trail 117 offers scenic views of Lake Pend Oreille and is currently being used for hiking, horseback riding, and motorbiking. Open timber stands and low brush understory also make this area good for cross-country travel. Boat access, camping, and picknicking sites which are maintained by the Forest Service are located at Maiden Rock and Evans landing. Hunting by local residents is heavy during the fall.

2. Wildlife. Wildlife inhabitants include black bear, whitetail deer, mule deer, a few elk, and grouse. Osprey nest near the lake and a portion of this area may be habitat for the bald eagle. The roadless area has no large streams with fisheries value.

3. Timber. Almost all of the lands within this roadless area are considered suitable for timber production except for the steep face directly above the lake. Much of the area could be economically roaded to meet timber harvesting needs. Root rot diseases have been found throughout the stands in this roadless area. The visual resource as viewed from the lake would be significantly affected by intensive timber management.

4. Minerals. This entire unit is rated as having very high mineral potential. Active exploration is ongoing and many prospects are in evidence. The entire Revett section is exposed down the center of the unit. The Revett has good potential for stratabound copper-gold deposits as mined by Asarco at their Troy deposits. There are 87 mining claims in the area. Oil and gas potential is low and all of the area is under lease application.

5. Range. Cattle and sheep have not used the Talache area for many years. This situation will probably not change.

B. Other Management Considerations

1. Fire. Although large fires have occurred in the area, the number of fires occurring annually is now low.

IV. NEED

A. Contribution to National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS). The main attribute and contribution of this area would be the unique red alder found along the lakeshore; also, osprey nests are found adjacent to Lake Pend Oreille and habitat for the threatened bald eagle has been identified adjacent to the lake.

B. Public Interest and Concerns. This roadless area is within the Blacktail Planning Unit, which had a final Environmental Statement completed in 1976. This Environmental Impact Statement recommended that this roadless area be managed for non-wilderness uses. This area had a high amount of interest by local and regional persons during the planning phase. The recommendation considered public interest in wilderness as well as timber and mining interests in the area.

C. Proximity to Designated Wilderness and to Population Centers. Table 3, Parts A and B, displays wilderness opportunities and proximity to roadless areas on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The closest wilderness area is the Cabinet Wilderness in western Montana, approximately 100 miles to the northeast. There is access to 1.6 million acres of wilderness located within 200 miles of Coeur d'Alene, as well as an additional 5.8 million acres within 300 miles (northern Idaho, eastern Washington and Oregon, and western Montana).

V. ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

A. Management Emphasis Assignment by Alternatives. Management emphasis indicates which resource activity is highlighted. If the emphasis is timber, most of the activity on those acres would be for timber management. Resource activities which are compatible with the emphasis would continue, but with less intensity. Table 2 lists the acres of each management emphasis by alternative.

Table 2

Blacktail Mountain Roadless Area (X01161)
Management Emphasis by Alternative

Management Emphasis	Alternatives[1/] (Thousand Acres) 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Wilderness	0	0	4.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non-wilderness												
No Tbr. Harvest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Timber/Wildlife	1.8	1.7	0	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.8
Wildlife/Visual	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Special Areas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minimum Level	2.9	3.0	0	3.0	3.0	0	3.0	2.9	3.0	2.9	2.3	2.9
Total	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7
Summary of Management Emphasis:												
Developed												
Decade 1	1.1	0.5	0	2.0	0.1	0.6	0.4	1.3	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.4
Decade 5	4.7	4.7	0	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	1.5	4.7
Roadless[2/]												
Decade 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Decade 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wilderness	0	0	4.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

1/ Alternative clarification -

1 - Regional Goals
2 - High Market
3 - High Nonmarket
4 - High Timber, Fish
5 - Moderate All Resources
6 - High Timber, Wildlife
7 - High Nonmarket, Stable Timber
8 - Current Program
9 - High Recreation
10 - High Wildlife, Moderate Timber
11 - Preferred Alternative
12 - Preferred w/Departure

2/ Roadless is defined as 5,000 acres or greater in size or any acreage if contiguous to existing wilderness.

B. Impacts

1. Designation: Wilderness

Management Emphasis: Wilderness

This area is designated as wilderness in Alternative 3. This would enhance the wilderness attributes, since there are existing uses on the area that are not usually associated with wilderness. Evidence of past mineral exploration activities could be obliterated. Use by motorized recreational vehicles could be curtailed. Existing recreation sites could be rehabilitated. The 1,895 acres of tentatively suitable timber, containing an estimated 14 MMBF, would not be available under this alternative.

The non-priced benefits or costs would be:

-- Wilderness values would be preserved and enhanced.

-- The natural ecosystem would be protected.

-- Water quality, many scenic views of Lake Pend Oreille, and the few opportunities for solitude would be unchanged.

-- Big game hunters would be afforded the opportunity to hunt in an undeveloped setting.

-- The National Wilderness System area would increase.

-- Diversity would tend toward old growth.

-- Opportunity for primitive recreation would remain the same.

Social and economic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. Since wilderness precludes timber harvest and mineral development, the related industries would not be supported by this emphasis. From a social aspect, the publics valuing wilderness would be supported as well as those people who desire to view the area in its unaltered state.

2. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Timber/Wildlife

This management emphasis calls for 1,700 to 1,800 acres (36-38 percent) of the 4,700 acre roadless area to be managed for Timber/Wildlife in all alternatives except Alternative 3 (wilderness, 0 percent) and Alternative 11 (preferred, 2,400 acres, 51 percent).

Timber/Wildlife emphasis on even a minimal acreage of this area would essentially preclude wilderness designation on this roadless area. The area is presently 4,700 acres in size and is not adjacent to existing wilderness areas, which essentially rules out wilderness designation. The alternatives range from 0 acres (wilderness) to 2,000 acres (Alternative 4) to be managed under this emphasis for the first ten years. The long-range proposals call for the entire area (4,700 acres) to be under the Timber/Wildlife emphasis except for Alternatives 3 and 11 which identify 1,500 acres (32 percent) to be under management in the fifth decade.

Approximately 1,895 acres (40 percent of the area) are identified as tentatively suitable for timber harvest and contain, at the present time, 14 MMBF of timber. This management emphasis would propose the entire suitable acreage be available for harvest although only 100 to 1,100 acres, depending on alternative, would be available during the first decade. Mineral activity, which has occurred in the area in the past, may increase. Interest in this resource has increased in the vicinity of this roadless area as old mines in the area have reopened recently.

The non-priced benefits and costs would be:

-- Wilderness values would essentially be lost under this management emphasis.

-- The natural ecosystem would be changed on areas of timber harvest and road construction.

-- The visual resource would change although, due to high visual concerns, the area would be managed to retain or partially retain the visual scene as viewed from Lake Pend Oreille.

-- Water quality may be impacted and the users of the water resource may have higher treatment costs.

-- Opportunities for solitude would decline on areas having development.

-- Hunting would change from a roadless-type hunt to a roaded-type hunt although road closures would maintain security for big game species.

-- Opportunities for primitive recreation would decline.

-- Habitat for wildlife would change as vegetative manipulations would result in a variety of age classes and vegetative types.

The social and economic effects center primarily on timber, minerals, wildlife, and the visual resource as viewed from Lake Pend Oreille. Another issue which may be unique to this area is the use of the waters of Pearl, Talache, and Blacktail Creeks for small municipal water supplies. Local residents will be very concerned about resource management and the potential impacts to their water supplies.

3. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Minimum Level

The minimum level emphasis for this roadless area proposes from 2,300 to 3,000 acres (49-64 percent) to be managed in a maintenance condition with no investments.

Wilderness options would be precluded under this management emphasis, as the size of the area would be smaller than 5,000 acres.

Timber values are, at the present time, low in comparison to costs of management on those lands identified for this emphasis. The local economy would not be impacted significantly under this emphasis due to the costs of managing these lands. Minerals and oil and gas resources would not be as readily available under this emphasis.

The non-priced benefits and costs would be:

-- The natural ecosystem would be maintained on these lands proposed for maintenance.

-- Visual quality would remain unchanged.

-- Water quality would be maintained.

-- Opportunities for solitude, although limited, would be unchanged.

-- Roadless hunting would be maintained.

-- Solitude for wildlife would be protected.

-- Opportunities for primitive recreation would be provided.

-- Habitat for wildlife remain in an unaltered state.

The social and economic effects of this management emphasis would impact both the commodity-oriented publics and those interested in amenity values. The timber in the lands proposed for this emphasis would not be available for local markets on the short term but would definitely be available by the fifth decade. Publics desiring amenity values would have many of their values protected, such as the visual resource as seen from Lake Pend Oreille.

MT. WILLARD-LAKE ESTELLE (X01173)

I. DESCRIPTION

Size	Gross Acres	Net Acres
Kootenai NF	18,400	18,400
Idaho Panhandle NF	38,646	35,275
Total	57,046	53,675

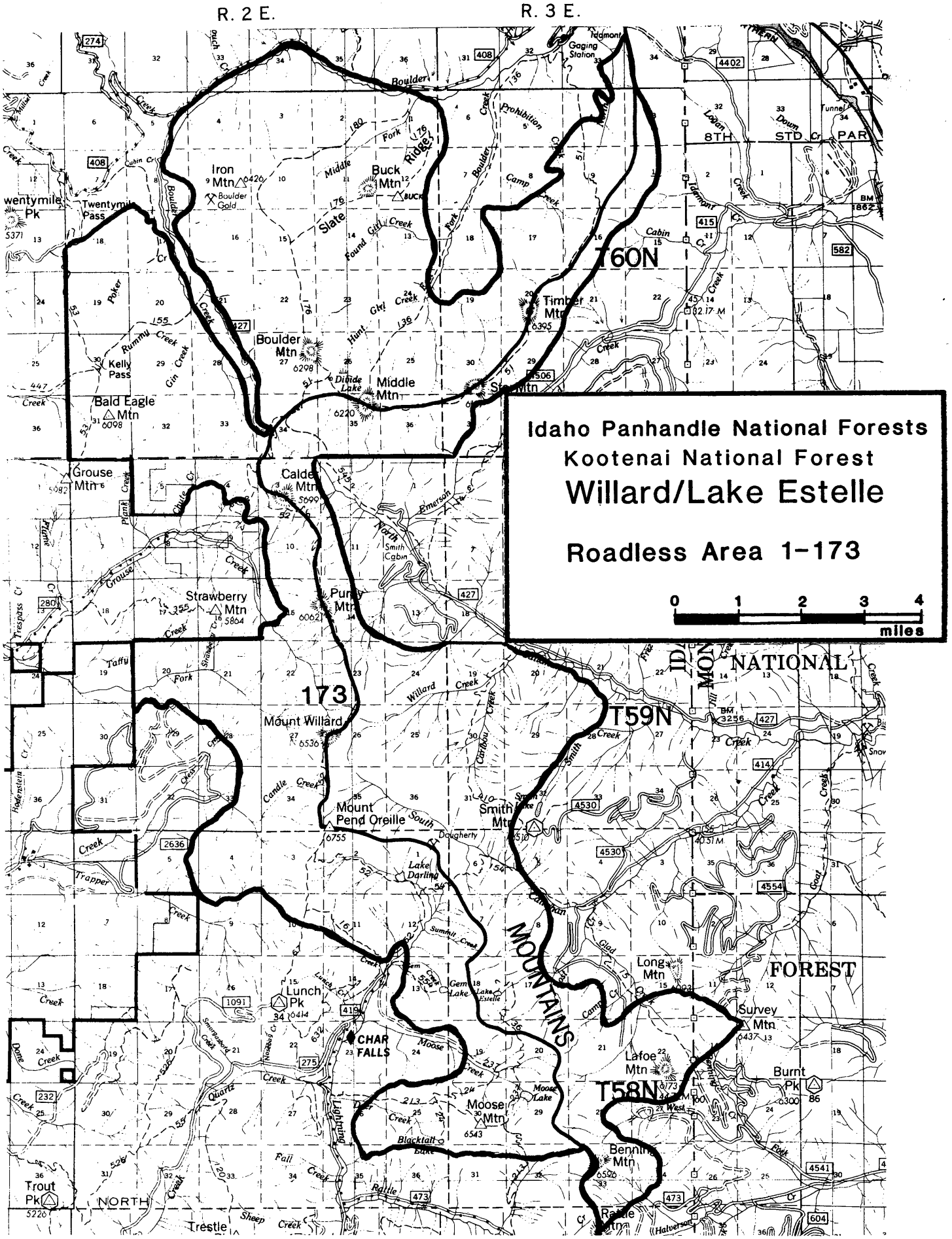
This area is located 13 miles northeast of Sandpoint, Idaho, and 9 miles southeast of Bonners Ferry, Idaho. The area is along the divide that separates the Kootenai and Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The majority of this roadless area lies in the Bonners Ferry and Sandpoint Ranger Districts of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The area runs north-south extending from North Creek in Boundary County to Benning Mountain in Bonner County. Only 300 acres, in the Survey Mountain area, are in Lincoln County, Montana. Access is provided by gravel roads in several drainages, particularly Raymond Creek, North Callahan Creek, Keeler Creek, Grouse Creek, and Boulder Creek, and high elevation access near Lunch Peak.

The roadless area is long and narrow. It follows a ridge which is a watershed divide between the Pend Oreille and Kootenai River watersheds. Average width is 4 miles and length is approximately 14 miles. The highest peak is Mt. Pend Oreille, with an elevation of 6,755 feet. The lowest elevation within this roadless area is approximately 3,500 feet. The landtype was shaped by both continental and alpine glaciation. Six mountain lakes are included within this area. The disintegrating granitic rock and soil types found in this area make this area particularly prone to erosion and stream channel damage. Development along the boundaries has created irregular boundaries.

Most of this area is high alpine forest type with interspersed rocky and grassy openings near the ridgetops. Diversity of vegetative types is most pronounced near the high elevation ridgetops. Forest types include mixed conifer stands common to northern Idaho in the lower elevations and alpine fir, lodgepole pine, and an occasional whitebark pine in the highest elevations.

Trail 67, a popular hiking trail, follows along much of the main ridgetop within this roadless area. Views along the trail include: Lake Pend Oreille, the Cabinet Mountains, the Selkirk Mountains, and the Purcell Trench. Numerous trails also allow easy access into the mountain lakes. Lake Darling, Gem Lake, Moose Lake, Lake Estelle, and Blacktail Lake provide recreational opportunities for camping, fishing, and hiking. The headwaters of numerous small creeks support catchable size trout. Current use is light to moderate and consists of hunting, hiking, and snowmobiling near Benning Mountain.

Wildlife species of most interest to visitors include elk, moose, black bear, whitetail deer, mule deer, and grouse. This roadless area has a significant amount of habitat for the threatened grizzly bear. A rare remnant population of pure strain native rainbow trout exists in the upper drainages of the Kootenai National Forest portion.


R. 2 E.
R. 3 E.
Idaho Panhandle National Forests
Kootenai National Forest
Willard/Lake Estelle
Roadless Area 1-173
0 1 2 3 4
miles
T60N
T59N
T58N
173
Iron Mtn
Buck Mtn
Twentymile Pk
Twentymile Pass
Kelly Pass
Bald Eagle Mtn
Boulder Mtn
Middle Mtn
Timber Mtn
Grouse Mtn
Calder Mtn
Strawberry Mtn
Mount Willard
Mount Pend Oreille
Smith Mtn
Lake Darling
Lunch Pk
CHAR FALLS
Long Mtn
Survey Mtn
Lafoe Mtn
Burnt Pk
Moose Mtn
Bennett Mtn
Rattle Mtn
Trout Pk
Trestle
NORTH
MOUNTAINS
NATIONAL
FOREST
Gaging Station
Idamont
Boulder Gold
Divide Lake
Moose Lake
Gem Lake
Lake Estelle
Blacktail Lake
Halverson

II. CAPABILITY

A. Wilderness Characteristics

1. Natural Integrity. Impacts from human activity in this area have been relatively minor. In the past, some hardrock mining exploration occurred, but evidence of these diggings has been reduced substantially by weathering processes. The Dougherty Mine is a well known mine located east of Mt. Pend Oreille and north of Lake Darling. The owner has inquired about road access. Trails that are not maintained quickly become overgrwon with trees and shrubs. The trails to existing lakes are maintained and receive heavy use by backpackers and fishermen. This heavy use has caused some vegetative resource damage around the mountain lakes.

2. Natural Appearance. Since the area is narrow and encompasses a high ridge, people visiting can frequently view human activities and development near the periphery of this roadless area. Roads, timber harvest areas, and activities along Lake Pend Oreille are some of the activities viewed from this area.

3. Solitude. This roadless area possesses high opportunity for solitude because of its large size and diversity of topography. Some areas, such as the ridgetop trail, do offer views of man's activities. It possesses diversity in vegetation because of substantial differences in elevations. With the diversity in elevations, people are not normally concentrated in one area. The divide which is near the Montana-Idaho border attracts people because of its relatively high mountain peaks and vistas. The mountain lakes concentrate people because of the water attraction and fishery values. The periphery of this area can be accessed by numerous roads. The sounds from logging activity and roads near the periphery of the area have the potential of penetrating upwards to one mile inside the roadless area.

4. Primitive Recreation Opportunities. This area offers an opportunity for recreational activities around high mountain lakes. Topography within this roadless area is not unique to northern Idaho. Since this area is quite narrow it offers only limited challenges to the more experienced backpacker. Much of the terrain below the main divide has poor trail access. Hunting, fishing, camping, scenic viewing, hiking, and horseback riding are some of the recreational activities occurring within this roadless area.

5. Other Features. The local population considers it as good bear country. The area contains grizzly bear habitat. There are patches of old-growth timber stands which have escaped the early 1900 forest fires.

The Hunt Girl Research Natural Area is located in the northwest quarter of this area.

The Idaho Panhandle National Forests have not been surveyed for cultural resources but surveys in similar areas on the Kootenai National Forest indicate low probabilities of discovery of cultural sites.

The hiking experience on a trail along a long, unbroken alpine ridge, with views of the Pend Oreille Lake region, is the area's special feature.

B. Wilderness Manageability and Boundaries. This area was inventoried as part of the Boulder and Callahan Unit Plan processes; approximately 13,400 acres have been developed since the Unit Plans were approved. This roadless area is a long, narrow unit. Boundaries are not well defined on major terrain or other recognized features. Boundaries generally contour along steep hillsides to avoid roads and logging activities which are on the lower slopes.

This roadless area has considerable variation in width along its long axis. The area becomes narrow at the headwaters of major drainages. Because most of these drainages have road development or private lands up close to the main divide, these intrusions would make it very difficult to establish a logical wilderness boundary. Private lands are also incorporated within this unit boundary. It would be very difficult to purchase or trade for many of these lands because of the number of owners involved. Boundary adjustments to exclude the private lands would only serve to make the area narrower than it already is.

Recreation and other resource uses not requiring surface disturbance can be managed in the Mt. Willard-Lake Estelle area while protecting the wilderness character. Mineral exploration can be controlled with present Federal regulations, although some impacts can be expected.

Future hardrock mineral development is the main uncertainty in addressing manageability because the exisiting laws allow for the exploration and development of hardrock minerals. The owner of the Dougherty Mine has requested road access to his claim.

III. WILDERNESS AVAILABILITY

Table 1

Selected Resource Values

Total Combined Idaho Panhandle and Kootenai Forests

Category	Unit	X01173
Gross Acres	Acres	57,046
Net Acres	Acres	53,675
Range		
Existing Obligated		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Existing Vacant		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Proposed		
Suitable	Acres	0
AUMs	No.	0
Timber		
Tentative		
Suitable	Acres	27,087
Standing Volume	MMBF	537
Minerals Potential		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	5,560
Moderate	Acres	30,155
Low	Acres	17,768
Mining Claims	No.	13
Oil and Gas Potential*		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	
Low	Acres	53,675
Oil and Gas Leases		
Leases	No.	0
Leased Area	Acres	0
Corridors		
Existing and Potential	No.	0
Wildlife-Threatened and Endangered-Habitat		
Grizzly Bear		
Situation 1	Acres	22,631
Situation 2	Acres	10,437
Situation 3	Acres	0
Bald Eagle	Acres	0
Mountain Caribou	Acres	0
Gray Wolf	Acres	0
Wildlife-Big Game		
Summer Habitat	Acres	17,400
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Elk		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Deer		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Significant Fisheries		
Stream Miles	Miles	3
Stream Habitat	Acres	1
Lakes	No.	5
Lake Habitat	Acres	50
Water Developments		
Existing	No.	0
Recreation		
Primitive	RVDs	5,500
Semiprimitive		
Nonmotorized	RVDs	4,800
Motorized	RVDs	0
Roaded Natural	RVDs	0

*Rating also includes uranium, geothermal, and other energy resources.

Idaho Panhandle Portion

Category	Unit	X01173
Gross Acres	Acres	38,646
Net Acres	Acres	35,275
Range		
Existing Obligated		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Existing Vacant		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Proposed		
Suitable	Acres	0
AUMs	No.	0
Timber		
Tentative		
Suitable	Acres	17,787
Standing Volume	MMBF	417
Minerals Potential		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	5,760
Moderate	Acres	29,515
Low	Acres	0
Mining Claims	No.	12
Oil and Gas Potential*		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	
Low	Acres	35,275
Oil and Gas Leases		
Leases	No.	0
Leased Area	Acres	0

Category	Unit	X01173
Corridors		
Existing and Potential	No.	0
Wildlife-Threatened and Endangered-Habitat		
Grizzly Bear		
Situation 1	Acres	8,831
Situation 2	Acres	7,237
Situation 3	Acres	0
Bald Eagle	Acres	0
Mountain Caribou	Acres	0
Gray Wolf	Acres	0
Wildlife-Big Game		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Elk		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Deer		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Significant Fisheries		
Stream Miles	Miles	1
Stream Habitat	Acres	1
Lakes	No.	5
Lake Habitat	Acres	50
Water Developments		
Existing	No.	0
Recreation		
Primitive	RVDs	0
Semiprimitive		
Nonmotorized	RVDs	2,800
Motorized	RVDs	0
Roaded Natural	RVDs	0

*Rating also includes uranium, geothermal, and other energy resources.

Kootenai Portion

Category	Unit	X01173
Gross Acres	Acres	18,400
Net Acres	Acres	18,400
Range		
Existing Obligated		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Existing Vacant		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Proposed		
Suitable	Acres	0
AUMs	No.	0
Timber		
Tentative		
Suitable	Acres	9,300
Standing Volume	MMBF	120
Minerals Potential		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	640
Low	Acres	17,768
Mining Claims	No.	1
Oil and Gas Potential*		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	0
Low	Acres	18,400
Oil and Gas Leases		
Leases	No.	0
Leased Area	Acres	0

Category	Unit	X01173
Corridors		
Existing and Potential	No.	0
Wildlife-Threatened and Endangered-Habitat		
Grizzly Bear		
Situation 1	Acres	13,800
Situation 2	Acres	3,200
Situation 3	Acres	0
Bald Eagle	Acres	0
Mountain Caribou	Acres	0
Gray Wolf	Acres	0
Wildlife-Big Game		
Summer Habitat	Acres	17,400
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Elk		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Deer		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Significant Fisheries		
Stream Miles	Miles	2
Stream Habitat	Acres	0
Lakes	No.	0
Lake Habitat	Acres	0
Water Developments		
Existing	No.	0
Recreation		
Primitive	RVDs	5,500
Semiprimitive		
Nonmotorized	RVDs	2,000
Motorized	RVDs	0
Roaded Natural	RVDs	0

*Rating also includes uranium, geothermal, and other energy resources.

A. Resource Values

1. Recreation. Current recreation use in the area includes hiking, fishing, camping, hunting, and some snowmobiling near Benning Mountain. Trail 67 follows along much of the main ridgetop within this roadless area and is a popular hiking trail. Views from this trail include Lake Pend Oreille, the Cabinet Mountains, the Selkirk Mountains, and the Purcell Trench. Numerous hiking trails also provide easy access into the mountain lake where recreationists enjoy fishing and camping opportunities.

2. Wildlife. Wildlife inhabitants include elk, moose, black bear, whitetail deer, mule deer, and grouse. This roadless area has a significant amount of habitat for the threatened grizzly bear. A rare remnant population of pure strain native rainbow trout exists in the upper drainages of the Kootenai National Forest portion. Much of this area is also good habitat for big game animals.

3. Timber. About 27,000 acres of this area is considered suitable for timber production. Suitable lands are along the lower elevations and in most cases, could be efficiently managed for timber. Portions of these suitable lands support old-growth, higher risk timber stands. Access to these stands can be gained by the extension of existing timber harvest roads in the immediate lower elevations. Road construction on the Kootenai National Forest portion will be difficult and costly. Logging would require cable and helicopter systems.

4. Minerals. All of the area has a medium mineral potential. there are several known mineral occurrences in the area, all of which are associated with the sills. Glacial deposits are fairly extensive in the area, making exploration difficult. There are presently 12 unpatented mining claims. All of the area is under application for oil and gas leases. The potential for oil and gas is low due to lack of information.

5. Range. Sheep grazed this area prior to the 1960s; however, there are no sheep or cattle allotments at this time.

B. Other Management Considerations

1. Fire. Although large fires occurred in the area in the early 1900s, the number of fires occurring annually is low.

IV. NEED

A. Contribution to National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS). This area would contribute high subalpine ecosystems with several scenic lakes, grizzly bear habitat, and habitat for a rare rainbow trout strain. Wilderness designation would preserve water quality in an area that is naturally susceptible to erosion.

B. Public Interest and Concerns. During the RARE I and Unit Plan process, concern was expressed for maintaining the primitive qualities of the area. Little support was voiced for a wilderness designation. No expressions have been made recently (1982). RARE II allocated the area to non-wilderness.

C. Proximity to Designated Wilderness and to Population Centers. Table 3, Parts A and B, display wilderness opportunities and proximity to roadless areas on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The closest wilderness area is the Cabinet Wilderness in western Montana, approximately 100 miles to the northeast. There is access to 1.6 million acres of wilderness located within 200 miles of Coeur d'Alene, as well as an additional 5.8 million acres within 300 miles (northern Idaho, eastern Washington and Oregon, and western Montana).

V. ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

A. Management Emphasis Assignment by Alternatives. Management emphasis indicates which resource activity is highlighted. If the emphasis is timber, most of the activity on those acres would be for timber management. Resource activities which are compatible with the emphasis would continue, but with less intensity. Table 2 lists the acres of each management emphasis by alternative.

Table 2

Mt. Willard-Lake Estelle Roadless Area (X01173)
Management Emphasis by Alternative

Management Emphasis	Alternatives 1/											
IPNF	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Kootenai	(D)	(A)	(H)	(B)	(E)	(C)	(E)	(I)	(C,O)	(G,H)	(J)	(K)
	(Thousand Acres)											
Wilderness	0	0	53.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	53.4	0	0
Nonwilderness												
No Tbr. Harvest	33.8	16.6	0	17.2	34.1	16.6	34.1	32.5	34.1	0	31.7	31.7
Timber/Wildlife	10.9	17.4	0	17.8	11.1	17.9	11.1	8.2	11.1	0	10.6	10.6
Wildlife/Visual	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Special Areas	0.7	0.7	0	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0	0.7	0.7
Minimum Level	8.0	18.7	0	18.3	7.5	18.2	7.5	12.0	7.5	0	10.4	10.4
Total	53.4	53.4	53.4	53.4	53.4	53.4	53.4	53.4	53.4	53.4	53.4	53.4
Summary of Management Emphasis:												
Developed												
Decade 1	8.3	8.8	0	10.8	10.3	11.9	9.5	5.8	9.2	0	6.0	6.0
Decade 5	19.9	33.4	0	23.4	19.9	23.4	19.9	19.9	19.9	0	19.9	19.9
Roadless 2/												
Decade 1	45.1	44.6	0	42.6	43.1	41.5	43.9	47.6	44.2	0	47.4	47.4
Decade 5	33.5	20.0	0	30.0	33.5	30.0	33.5	32.0	32.0	0	32.0	32.0
Wilderness	0	0	53.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	53.4	0	0

1/ Alternative clarification -

1 - Regional Goals
2 - High Market
3 - High Nonmarket
4 - High Timber, Fish
5 - Moderate All Resources
6 - High Timber, Wildlife
7 - High Nonmarket, Stable Timber
8 - Current Program
9 - High Recreation
10 - High Wildlife, Moderate Timber
11 - Preferred Alternative
12 - Preferred w/Departure

2/ Roadless is defined as 5,000 acres or greater in size or any acreage if contiguous to existing wilderness.

B. Impacts

1. Designation: Wilderness

Management Emphasis: Wilderness

This management emphasis occurs in Alternatives 3 and 10. This designation will preserve and enhance wilderness attributes. Current motorized uses (such as mining and trail maintenance) and other uses or facilities not compatible with wilderness management would be eliminated. Timber harvest on 27,800 acres would be foregone. The goal of this management emphasis would be to protect and preserve its natural condition.

The long, narrow ridge is generally bordered by developments where human activity, such as roads and timber sales, is evident. Other attributes generally associated with wilderness, such as solitude and semi-primitive recreation opportunities, are preserved.

The non-priced benefits or costs would be:

-- Minerals development owuld likely be prohibited.

-- Wilderness values are preserved and enhanced.

-- Wilderness area would be increased.

-- Visual quality would be retained.

-- Water quality and fisheries would remain at their present high level.

-- The Hunt Girl Research Natural Area would remain in its present isolated condition.

-- Threatened and endangered species habitat for grizzly bear would not be disturbed.

-- The remnant population of native rainbow trout would be assured of continued, undisturbed stream habitat.

-- Recreation opportunities would continue to be primitive or semi-primitive.

-- Security for all fish and game animals would be maintained.

-- Diversity would tend toward old growth.

Social and economic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. Since wilderness precludes timber harvest and mineral development, the related industries would not be supported by this emphasis. From a social aspect, the publics valuing wilderness would be supported as well as those people who desire to view the area in its unaltered state.

2. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: No Timber Harvest

This designation occurs in 31 to 63 percent of the area. This designation consists primarily of roadless recreation where the effects are similar to wilderness except: (1) motorized use is allowed and (2) the area remains open to minerals development. The suitable timberland is not available.

The non-priced benefits or costs would be:

-- Wilderness characteristics would be preserved with the exception of motorized use.

-- Visual quality will be preserved.

-- Primitive and semi-primitive recreation opportunities would be preserved.

-- Big game habitat and security would be preserved.

-- Water quality and fisheries habitat would be preserved.

-- Habitat for the rare rainbow trout strain is preserved.

-- Grizzly bear habitat would remain undisturbed.

Social and economic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. Timber and mineral resources would be available, thus supporting the wood products and minerals industries. The change in recreation setting could be disruptive to those publics using the area for primitive or semi-primitive recreation as well as publics viewing the area.

3. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Minimum Level

This designation is the Hunt Girl Research Natural Area (RNA) which occurs in all alternatives except Alternatives 3 and 10 where the wilderness designation overrides the authority for establishment. The area would remain an RNA under wilderness, subject to the wilderness requirements.

The effects are similar to wilderness except: (1) minerals development could occur until the area is withdrawn from mineral entry, and (2) recreation use which would alter natural process would be discouraged.

Minerals, oil, and gas, if discovered, remain available.

the non-priced benefits or costs would be:

-- Wilderness values would remain.

-- Visual quality would be preserved.

-- Semi-primitive recreation opportunities would be preserved.

-- Habitat for grizzly bear would be maintained.

-- Security for game animals would be retained.

-- Water quality and fisheries would be preserved.

-- Tendency would be toward old growth.

-- Lands in the minimum level category have been defined as being unavailable for timber or within other resource investment purposes because of either biophysical conditions or identified economic constraints imposed by alternative resource emphasis items. Management would be custodial, with no investments occurring.

Ten of the twelve alternativs would contain lands designated under this category.

Depending on their size and spatial relationship with other resource designations, these areas could either support wilderness characteristics or mirror developed area characteristics. Overall, the wilderness resource would not be supported. Because of their definition, they would not impact timber production. Discovered minerals would be available.

Non-priced resource impacts and socioeconomic effects within these areas would mirror those of the resource designations of surrounding areas.

MALLARD-LARKINS ROADLESS AREA (01300)

I. DESCRIPTION

Size	Gross Acres	Net Acres
Idaho-Clearwater NF	136,361	132,746
Idaho-Idaho Panhandle NF	142,068	126,532
Total	278,429	259,278

The Mallard-Larkins Roadless Area extends west from the Bitterroot Mountain Range generally along the divide between the St. Joe River and the Clearwater River drainages. It is situated approximately 36 miles southeast of Avery, Idaho; 60 miles mortheast of Orofino, Idaho; and 20 miles southwest of Superior, Montana. Mallard-Larkins is in Clearwater and Shoshone Counties on the Clearwater and Idaho Panhandle National Forests.

The area is generally accessible by moderate to low standard gravel and dirt roads. Access along the north side is provided from several dead-end roads extending south to and into the interior from the main St. Joe River Road and Road 320 from Red Ives work center east. Access to the east side is possible from the Pierce-Superior Road 250, the Fly Hill Road 720, and the Pot Mountain Ridge Road 715. Access to the south side is from numerous logging roads in the Cold Springs, Quartz, and Skull Creek drainages, and the North Fork Clearwater River Road 249. The southwest corner is accessed by the Dog Ridge Road 700.

Interior access, with some exceptions, is provided over a network of approximately 280 miles of low standard, fire control and administrative trails. Several trails into the more popular areas, such as the original Mallard-Larkins Pioneer Area and along the upper St. Joe River, have been improved to some extent in recent years.

The unit is large and complex, composed of generally steep, rocky ridges, and deep canyons. The taller major peaks include Mallard Peak (6,870 feet), Larkins Peak (6,661 feet), Crag Peak (6,879 feet), Heart Peak (6,870 feet), Black Mountain (7,077 feet), East Sister (7,043 feet), The Nub (6,924 feet), Cold Springs Peak (6,731 feet), and Five Lakes Butte (6,713 feet).

Flowing through the area are parts of three river systems and numerous large and small, fast moving but mostly crystal-clear streams. The three river systems include most of the headwaters of the St. Joe River, a large section of the Little North Fork of the Clearwater River, and the main North Fork of the Clearwater River. The North Fork passes through a small section above Dworshak Reservoir and borders several stretches of the area along the east and south sides. A major divide separates the Little North Fork and St. Joe Rivers from the land draining into the main North Fork of the Clearwater. Major streams draining into the Little North Fork include Sawtooth Creek, Canyon Creek, and Foehl Creek. Major streams draining into the main North Fork of the Clearwater include Isabella Creek, Collins Creek, Skull Creek, and Quartz Creek. There are 38 mountain lakes large enough to be named. Heart Lake, containing 35 acres, is the largest one.

Geologically, most of the area is underlain by metamorphosed rocks of the Precambrian Belt supergroup consisting of rocks from the Wallace Formation, Ravalli Group, and Prichard Formation. These units contain interbedded layers of quartzite, schists, and gneiss. The extreme southeastern portion contains some rocks of the Idaho batholith consisting mainly of granite. Much of the granite is rapidly decomposing (in geologic terms), resulting in very unstable landscapes with sensitive soil mantles. Exposed in the northwest one-third of the area are anthracites, gneisses, and schists which are older than the Belt supergroups.

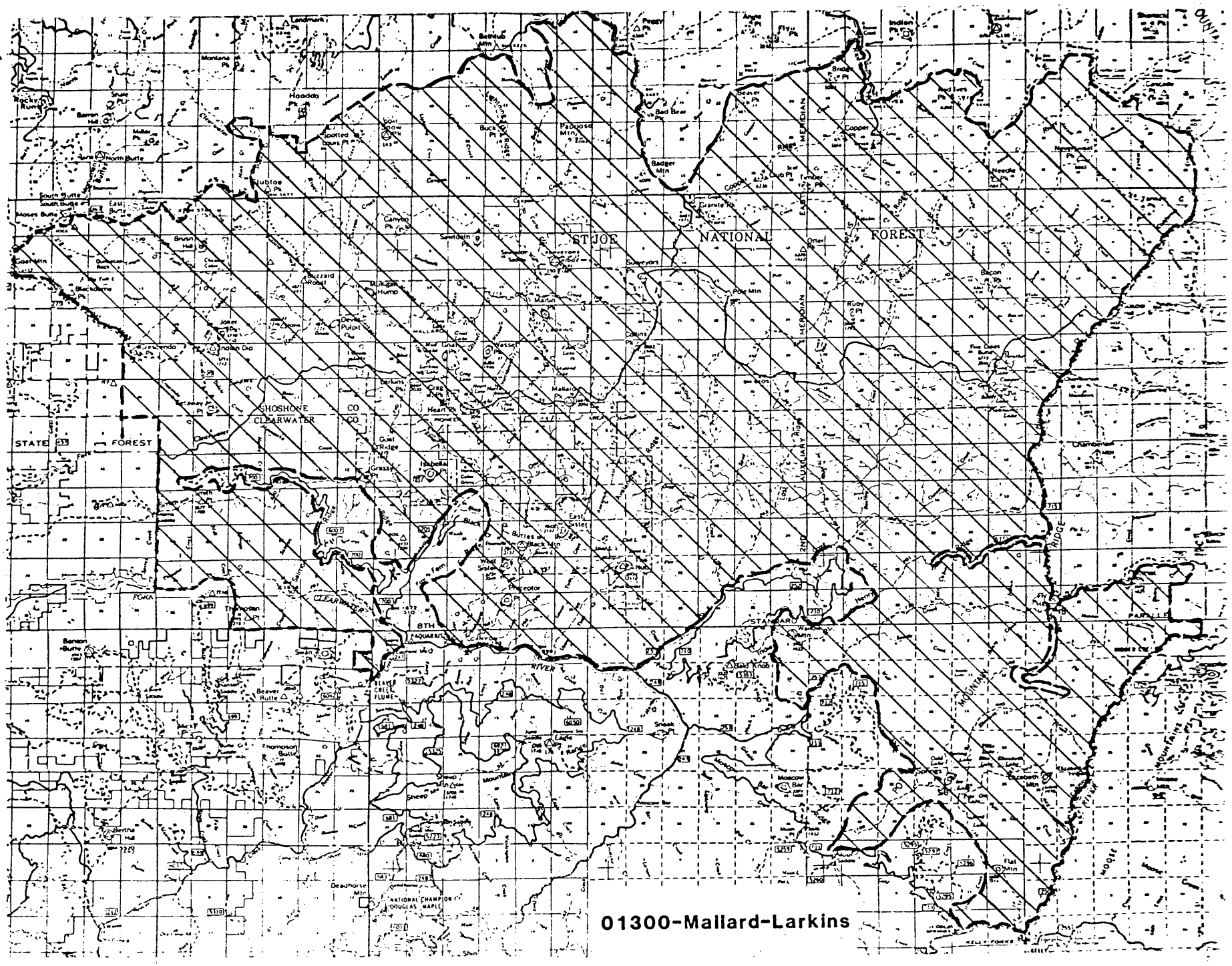
Although there are numerous rock outcropings, talus slopes, and barren areas, a large proportion is heavily vegetated, ranging from mountain grasslands and meadows to dense mixtures of large varieties of trees and shrubs. Two vegetative ecosystems are present: a cedar-hemlock-pine forest at elevations generally below 6,000 feet and a western spruce-fir forest above 6,000 feet.

Approximately 80 percent of the land was burned over in 1910 and much of it again in 1919, 1920, and 1924. Where conditions are favorable, vast stands of lodgepole pine, Douglas fir, grand fir, Engelman spruce, larch, western redcedar, western white pine, and mountain hemlock exist, some escaping the fires but most regenerating afterwards. Where the soils are thin and conditions severe, such as on the higher ridges and steep south facing slopes, shrubs still dominate the sites. The lands above 6,000 feet are subalpine in character, supporting mountain hemlock, subalpine fir, and lodgepole pine.

From a recreationist's point of view, there are three major attractions: (1) The original Mallard-Larkins Pioneer Area, which is a highly scenic area along the major divide between the Little North Fork and the main North Fork River systems. It contains a large concentration of high peaks and mountain lakes and is relatively accessible by a good trail system. (2) The Five Lakes Butte area along the upper northeast side of the roadless area bounded by the Fly Hill-Gospel Hill road. Its main attraction is the open mountain grasslands, barren ground, and a cluster of lakes within easy walking distance of each other. (3) Elizabeth Lakes area in the southeast corner above the main North Fork of the Clearwater River. It also is composed of several mountain peaks and a cluster of eight small lakes, all within two miles of each other.

In addition to the above, fishing opportunities in the Little North Fork and Upper St.Joe Rivers are a major attraction. The St. Joe River is managed as a wild river under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Wildlife, especially elk, deer, and mountain goats, attract numerous hunters each year. Miners are attracted to the area, especially in the St. Joe River drainage, as attested to by numerous current claims and past activity.

Historic uses included mining, logging, and Forest Service administrative activities.



01300-Mallard-Larkins

II. CAPABILITY

A. Natural Integrity and Appearance

Visitors to the Mallard-Larkins area will probably not be aware of any improvements or alterations by man. Areas ranging from 5,000 to 20,000 acres exist which are undisturbed except by trails. However, the entire acreage of the area examined during RARE II does include a number of trails, roads, recreational facilities, special uses, historical sites, and mineral developments.

While there are large areas of undisturbed country, approximately 20 miles of road intrude into the area from six different locations. Except for a new timber sale road in the Hidden-Fix Creek area, these roads are relatively primitive, accessing lookouts (some of which have since been removed) and mining claims.

Timber harvesting activities past and present are found in many drainages adjacent to the area along the south and north boundaries.

Several developed recreational facilities and Forest Service lookouts can be found. A campground is maintained at Spruce Tree which has five campsites, a well, two outhouses, an information sign, and trailhead parking. Sawtooth Saddle has trailhead parking and an outhouse. Five lookouts which are still in usable condition sit on top of Snow Peak, Mallard Peak, Surveyor's Ridge, Black Mountain, and Wallow Mountain. The Mallard Peak Lookout has been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. The other lookouts are used by the Forest Service for fire suppression and communication purposes. In addition, abandoned lookout sites or evidence in the form of debris or concrete footings remain at many of these sites.

Two base camps and several historical cabins can also be found. St. Joe Lodge and Resort is operated seasonally by an outfitter-guide under a special use permit. The lodge is on the St. Joe River, five miles above the end of the road. Facilities include a cookhouse, bunkhouse, barn, outhouses, corrals, fences, and tent pads. Use occurs from July to November. Another outfitter-guide operation has a camp at Elk Prairie near Granite Peak. The only permanent improvements are a water tank and outhouse. The camp is in operation during the hunting season. Cabins and cabin-remains have been identified during archaeological examinations at Yankee Bar Creek, Neversweat Creek, California Creek, Broken Leg Creek, and Canyon Creek.

In the past, mining and mineral exploration have had some impact on the area's natural integrity. The most significant development is the garnet mine at Scat Creek Flat on the St. Joe River. Rusted mining equipment, a dredge pond, and old cabins have significantly altered the natural quality of the area. Hydraulic mining scars are found in the Mallard-Larkins area at California Creek, Yankee Bar Creek, and the North Fork of Bean Creek. A small, old sawmill with some associated logging was located near Bean Creek. Mill operations were incidental to the mining activities early in the century. Almost all the evidence of the mill's existence is gone.

A claim in Marquette Creek was worked a number of years ago, with very little evidence remaining now. The open pit hardrock mining on Indian Henry Ridge is still very evident although it covers only a small area.

In the past, grazing has taken place at many locations. Very little evidence of their use is noticeable. At present, a small number of stock are grazed by outfitters under special use permits.

Screening, both by vegetation and topographic features, is very high. Overuse by visitors at some of the more popular lakes is evident.

B. Opportunities for Experiences Often Unique to Wilderness Areas

Except for light traffic on the intruding roads and moderate to heavy traffic over the major adjacent roads, the area has a high degree of solitude. The varied terrain and the vastness of it enables the visitor to experience complete solitude in many areas. Concentrations of people around the lakes and along the major trails may tend to disrupt the solitude at certain times.

Viewing of activities outside the area, such as logging and roads, is possible from numerous high ridges along the northern and southern boundaries. Large scale logging activity is especially evident in the middle-ground-viewing area from the Black Mountain-Nub area and the Flat Mountain area. Most views, however, are background views and not overly distractive except at isolated points.

Noise may penetrate short distances in the vicinity of the two major roads bordering parts of the area: the Pierce-Superior Road (FS Road 250) and the Cedars-Red Ives Road (FS Roads 715 and 720). Noise from road building and logging activity will also be evident near many fringe areas along all borders.

Opportunities for solitude also vary by season. The access roads are blocked by snow from November to May, so use is extremely low. Hunting season brings many individuals to the area for a quality roadless hunt.

The Black Mountain Lookout is currently manned and serviced via helicopter, which detracts from the solitude in a small portion of the area. The lookout is approximately eight miles from the nearest road over a very steep trail.

Hiking, primitive camping, outdoor photography, lake and stream fishing, horseback riding, and to a very limited extent, mountain climbing opportunities are available. Except for the Five Lakes Butte area, cross-country travel is a definite challenge involving a certain degree of risk over the rugged terrain, steep narrow canyons, and densely vegetated slopes. There are no facilities to enhance comfort or convenience.

During high water runoff in May or June, there may be limited opportunities for rafting and kayaking on the Little North Fork, although access to the river is by trail and cross-country up to several miles. Also, once on the river, the user is committed for 12-15 miles until reaching the upper end of the Dworshak pool.

C. Special Features

The Mallard-Larkins area supports one of the largest Rocky Mountain goat populations in northern Idaho. Mallard, Heart, Snow, and Isabella Peaks and Black Mountain offer unique viewing and photographing opportunities of these animals during the spring and summer months. The creatures will shy away at first but their curious nature brings them to inspect one's camp at close quarters once activities have ceased. The Snow Peak herd is used extensively for transplanting game by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. A limited number of goat-hunting permits are issued each year in several areas.

The historic past of this area is interesting. While little physical evidence remains, history buffs can retrace the steps of Indians, trappers, and early Forest Service employees over Pot Mountain Trail 169, along the North Fork of the Clearwater River, along the present Indian Henry Ridge Trail, and along the divide between the St. Joe and Clearwater River drainages. The overgrown scars of the early mining era are a tribute to the many hours of hand labor put in by the early settlers.

Current known cultural resource sites includes 16 USFS lookout site locations, eight cabins or cabin remains, one hollowed-out cedar tree used for shelter, Pole Mountain Ranger Station location, six historic hunting/outfitter camps, two prehistoric usage areas, one mining site, and one trapping related site.

The Heritage Cedar Grove, which is a large stand of very large and old western cedar located near the junction of Elmer Creek and Jug Creek, is another attraction for visitors. Access is by trail two miles up Isabella Creek.

Unconfirmed reports of threatened and endangered species, principaly grizzly bears, gray wolves, and bald eagles, are recorded.

A 17 mile stretch of the St. Joe River was designated as a Wild River in 1972 under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1969.

Research Natural Areas have been proposed for the Five Lakes Butte area and the Aquarius area on the North Fork of the Clearwater River.

D. Effects of Size and Shape on Wilderness Attributes

Although there are numerous intrusions mostly from dead-end logging, lookouts, and mining roads, the large size of the area effecively negates most of these effects. Present and expected future use over these roads is very low, further reducing potential effects.

E. Manageability and Boundaries

The roadless area boundary of Mallard-Larkins varies from major Forest roads to cross-county, undefinable lines. In general, it is bounded on the north and east sides by dirt roads, the west side by Forest boundaries, parts of the south and southeast side by relatively high use graveled roads and the rest by timber cutting boundaries and logging roads.

Of major consideration is the 14,460 acres of land belonging to Burlington Northern which lays in a checkerboard pattern running in a band diagonally northwest-southeast from the north boundary into the head of Collins Creek. The Forest Service has entered into a cooperative agreement with the land owners to coordinate and streamline all road building activity that crosses both Forest Service and private land.

Existing special management areas have had a major influence on the protection and enhancement of this area. The Mallard-Larkins Pioneer Area, which covers 30,500 acres and encompasses the Mallard-Larkins and Black Mountain-Nub Peak group of lakes and peaks, was designated by the Regional Forester in 1969 as a special administrative unit. The special area was set aside for its outstanding scenic, roadless, and primitive recreational qualities.

Current management of this special area is essentially wilderness in practice, in accordance with the management plan which was completed in the early 1970s. Overall, this special area receives the highest proportion of use in the entire area.

The St. Joe River is part of the National Wild and Scenic River system. The approximately 6,800 acres of river corridor within the Mallard-Larkins Area is designated as a wild river. Management of this area is directed by the St. Joe Wild and Scenic River Management Plan.

The 1979 RARE II evaluation resulted in a wilderness recommendation for 67,910 acres. This recommendation eliminates all private land and the majority of the roads and external intrusions into the area. It includes in its entirety the original Mallard-Larkins Pioneer Area. The boundaries vary from roads and trails to property boundaries and general cross-county lines, which in the latter situations are difficult to locate on the ground.

III. AVAILABILITY

A. Other Resources

1. Recreation. Although there are numerous potential developed recreational sites, the actual construction of such sites is dependent on road access, funding, and need. Current and anticipated near future funding outlooks are very low in this respect. Primitive and semi-primitive recreation have been discussed previously. Dispersed types of recreation have been discussed under previous sections.

2. Wildlife and Fish. Elk and deer, primarily mule deer, are the most abundant big game animals. Other large animals include mountain goats (discussed previously), moose, black bears, and mountain lions.

Approximately 41,300 acres of key big game (primarily elk) winter range have been identified. Many of these acres are in need of rehabilitation, i.e., timber cutting and/or brouse burning to stimulate growth of existing brouse species and provide opportunities for regeneration of new shrubs.

Although no verified sightings or other confirmed evidence of the endangered gray wolf exists in the roadless area, habitat conditions conducive to the wolf have resulted in designation of 90,000 acres as essential habitat. The management of an adequate prey base, which in this case is primarily elk, and restrictions on motorized use on roads are two major components for protection and enhancement of this endangered species.

Many of the 38 lakes contain fish, mostly cutthroat and rainbow trout. The rivers and larger streams support excellent trout fisheries. The Upper St. Joe River has been designated as a three-limit fishery, with a minimum length of 13 inches. This has tended to increase the size of the fish and provide a higher quality fishery. The lack of easy access has tended to perpetuate this type of quality fishery.

3. Livestock Operations. With only about 3,600 acres of suitable livestock range, grazing is not a significant use. Most use is by outfitters and guides for horse and mule grazing during the summer and early fall.

4. Timber. Approximately 69 percent or 179,000 acres of the Mallard-Larkins area is capable of producing timber. The potential yield of the area varies from low to high, considering the wide variety of ecological factors that affect an area this large. The standing volume of sawtimber is estimated at 2,499,000 million board feet.

5. Minerals. The mineral potential of the area ranges from low to moderate, with approximately 95 percent at the low end. Although portions of the area were proposed for wilderness as a result of RARE II, no studies have been done by the U.S. Geological survey or U.S. Bureau of Mines.

The upper St. Joe River Valley was promising enough to attract many turn-of-the-century miners but no major developments resulted. Limited activity on the Clearwater side has likewise resulted in no current development.

There are several copper occurrences near Granite Peak, and there is a potential aluminum deposit near Goat Mountain.

Potential for oil and gas is low except for an estimated 69,000 acres of moderate potential in the St. Joe drainage. Several oil and gas lease applications on both Forests are pending.

The larger lakes within the original Mallard-Larkins Pioneer Area and the St. Joe Wild and Scenic River Corridor are withdrawn from mineral entry.

6. Land Uses. The area currently supports four separate outfitter and guide businesses. Most of the use is for big game hunters in the fall. While there may be additional potential, it is limited under present Idaho outfitter and guide licensing practices.

B. Important Management Considerations

1. Non-Federal Lands. The Burlington Northern Railroad Company owns 19,151 acres of intermingled land within the boundaries of this roadless area. Most of it occurs in a checkerboard pattern in the Canyon and Buck Creek drainages on the Idaho Panhandle Forests, with only 3,600 acres in the head of Collins Creek in the Clearwater Forest.

2. Fire. Although there were a number of large fires in the early 1900s, current fire occurrence and size are low.

C. Resource Summary

Table 1

Selected Resource Values

Description		Clwtr	IPNF	Total
Gross Acres	Acres	136,361	142,068	278,429
Net Acres	Acres	132,746	126,532	259,278
Recreation				
Primitive	RVD's	4,082	4,915	8,997
SPNM	RVD's	6,850	4,043	10,893
SPM	RVD's	8,107	2,429	10,536
Roaded Natural	RVD's	12,632	1,070	13,702
Range				
Existing Obligated				
Suitable	Acres	2,877	720	3,597
Allotments	No.	2	1	3
AUM's	AUM's	140	171	311
Existing Vacant				
Suitable	Acres	6,065	0	6,065
Allotments	No.	2	0	2
AUM's	AUM's	238	0	238
Proposed				
Suitable	Acres	0	0	0
AUM's	AUM's	0	0	0
Timber				
Tentative Suitable	Acres	9,513	79,035	88,548
Standing Volume	MBF	1,849,000	651,000	2,500,000
Corridors				
Exist. & Potential	No.	0	0	0
Wildlife - T&E				
Grizzly Bear				
Habitat - Sit. 1	Acres	0	0	0
Habitat - Sit. 2	Acres	0	0	0
Habitat - Sit. 3	Acres	0	0	0
Bald Eagle Hab.	Acres	0	0	0

Table 1, continued

Description		Clwtr	IPNF	Total
Gray Wolf Hab.	Acres	89,000	89,000	89,000
Peregrine Fal. Hab.	Acres	0	0	0
Wildlife-Big Game				
Big Game				
Summer Habitat	Acres	0	0	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0	0	0
Elk				
Summer Habitat-Key	Acres	5,650	0	5,650
Winter Habitat-Key	Acres	27,394	13,184	41,320
Significant Fisheries				
Stream Miles	Miles	533	85	618
Stream Habitat	Acres	898	190	1,088
Lakes	No.	5	12	17
Lakes - Habitat	Acres	88	315	403
Water Developments				
Existing	No.	0	0	0
Minerals				
Hardrock Potential				
Very High	Acres	0	0	0
High	Acres	0	0	0
Moderate	Acres	8,520	5,120	13,640
Low	Acres	124,226	121,412	245,638
Claims	No.	3	14	17
Oil and Gas Potential				
Very High	Acres	0	0	0
High	Acres	0	0	0
Moderate	Acres	0	69,120	69,120
Low	Acres	132,746	57,412	190,158
Oil and Gas Leases				
Leases	No.	0	0	0
Leased Area	Acres	0	0	0

IV. NEED

The Mallard-Larkins is characterized by stark, rugged subalpine country dotted with numerous glacial lakes. Scenic views are considered to be extraordinary to spectacular. Wildfire burns in 1910 and subsequent years have left the Mallard-Larkins with a mix of plant life in various stages that are ecologically diverse. The nation's largest mountain hemlock was recently identified within the Mallard-Larkins boundaries.

It also supports a large variety of wildlife, including mountain goats, and is considered key big game summer range for elk and deer. Its high quality, free-flowing waters support a cutthroat fishery. Primitive and creative recreational opportunities abound within this isolated country. Other attributes of the Mallard-Larkins include varied geology as well as cultural and historical values.

The area has had and continues to have a high degree of interest by local, regional, and even national conservation and wilderness groups. The area became of concern to local Wilderness Society and Sierra Club groups and other individuals in the mid 1960s. During that time the Forest Service, specifically personnel from the Clearwater and St. Joe National Forests, initiated a public study of about 163,000 acres, much of it covering the same area as the current roadless area. As a result of this study, the 30,500-acre Mallard-Larkins Pioneer Area was designated by the Regional Forester in 1969.

Interest was renewed again during RARE I and become especially intensified during RARE II, with a significant number of people and individuals favoring some type of wilderness. As a result of this interest, 67,910 acres, which includes all of the original pioneer area, was recommended for wilderness in the RARE II Environmental Impact Statement. The intent of this recommendation was to preserve all of the highly scenic and usable roadless area and still exclude the most productive timber stands.

The most recent public focus has been on the Buck Creek Area, where the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and Burlington Northern Railroad Company proposed a land exchange. The issue was primarily of local and regional importance, and public opinion was evenly divided for and against the exchange.

Other studies by individuals and universities that have covered the Mallard-Larkins area include the Bean-Bacon Roadless Area Study, the St. Joe Wild and Scenic River Study, and the Mallard Peak Lookout Restoration Project.

Table 3, Parts A and B, displays the location and proximity of the Mallard-Larkins roadless area to other wilderness areas and population centers in Idaho, western Montana, and eastern Wahington.

V. ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

A. Management Emphasis by Alternative

The management emphasis for the Mallard-Larkins roadless area is a combination of management prescriptions and alternatives from two National Forests: the Clearwater and Idaho Panhandle. Because resources, uses, and land conditions are somewhat different on each forest, neither the alternatives nor the management emphasis area fully integrated. Because the Clearwater Forest is the lead Forest for this roadless area, for purposes of this evaluation, the alternatives and management emphasis from the Idaho Panhandle Forests have been integrated into those of the Clearwater Forest as closely as possible on the basis of goals and objectives common to each Forest's alternatives and management emphasis.

Further information on the specific alternatives and management emphasis for the Idaho Panhandle National Forests for this area can be found in the Idaho Panhandle National Forests Environmental Impact Statement.

The proposed wilderness/non-wilderness designation for the Mallard-Larkins Roadless Area is made and documented in this Environmental Impact Statement. This proposed designation has priority over all other land designations and neither Forest can undertake any management activity other than current direction until such time that a Record of Decision is issued in conjunction with this document.

Table 2

Mallard-Larkins Roadless Area
Management Emphasis by Alternative (01300)

Clearwater Idaho Panhandle	A (8)	B (2)	C (4)	D (5)	E (11)	El (12)	F (1)	G (6)	H (10)	I (3,7,9)	J (5)
	Alternatives[1/] (Thousand Acres)										
Management Emphasis											
WILDERNESS	67.9	0	21.6	16.5	63.0	63.0	65.3	109.3	109.3	132.7	63.0
	(72.0)	(0)	(22.2)	(70.9)	(76.3)	(76.3)	(73.2)	(103.4)	(103.5)	(119.9)	(70.9)
NON-WILDERNESS											
Unroaded	9.8	0	9.8	57.8	11.4	11.4	9.8	0	0	0	11.4
	(3.0)	(14.0)	(0.6)	(25.3)	(5.8)	(5.8)	(21.7)	(0.2)	(0.2)	(0)	(25.3)
Elk Winter	0.6	2.4	0.6	4.0	3.8	4.1	0.6	0	0	0	4.0
	(1.9)	(1.0)	(2.9)	(0.4)	(0)	(0)	(1.0)	(0.6)	(0.3)	(0)	(0.4)
Timber/Wldlf-Wtshd	44.1	74.0	62.0	30.1	28.0	30.5	21.7	19.2	7.6	0	30.2
	(29.1)	(69.2)	(64.8)	(14.9)	(26.1)	(26.1)	(14.7)	(10.2)	(11.5)	(0)	(14.9)
Timber/Visual-Rip	7.8	5.3	5.0	8.1	8.1	7.7	18.5	4.0	3.8	0	8.1
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Timber/Special	0	0	10.3	6.5	6.5	6.5	10.7	0	8.1	0	6.5
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Special	0	0	0.2	0.9	0.9	0.9	3.9	0.2	3.9	0	0.9
	(6.6)	(6.6)	(6.6)	(6.6)	(6.6)	(6.6)	(6.6)	(6.6)	(6.6)	(6.6)	(6.6)
Min Level	2.5	51.0	23.2	8.8	11.0	8.6	2.2	0	0	0	8.6
	(13.9)	(35.4)	(29.4)	(8.4)	(11.7)	(11.7)	(9.3)	(5.5)	(4.4)	(0)	(8.4)
TOTAL	132.7	132.7	132.7	132.7	132.7	132.7	132.7	132.7	132.7	132.7	132.7
	(126.5)	(126.5)	(126.5)	(126.5)	(126.5)	(126.5)	(126.5)	(126.5)	(126.5)	(126.5)	(126.5)
Summary of Management Emphasis											
Wilderness	67.9	0	21.6	16.5	63.0	63.0	65.3	109.3	109.3	132.7	63.0
	(72.0)	(0)	(22.2)	(70.9)	(76.3)	(76.3)	(73.2)	(103.4)	(103.5)	(119.9)	(70.9)
Non-wilderness											
Developed-Clearwater											
Decade 1	39.4	47.2	46.0	41.4	41.4	41.4	42.4	23.1	23.1	0	41.4
Decade 5	48.0	75.0	63.9	48.8	48.8	48.8	49.8	25.5	25.8	0	48.8
Developed-IPNF											
Decade 1	(23.4)	(40.8)	(42.0)	(7.3)	(0)	(0)	(3.0)	(10.6)	(5.1)	(0)	(7.3)
Decade 5	(42.1)	(119.9)	(97.7)	(37.4)	(35.0)	(50.2)	(46.7)	(16.5)	(27.4)	(0)	(37.4)

Roadless-Clearwater											
Decade 1	93.3	85.5	86.7	91.3	91.3	91.3	90.3	109.6	109.6	132.7	91.3
Decade 5	84.7	57.7	68.8	83.9	83.9	83.9	82.9	107.2	106.9	132.7	83.9
Roadless-IPNF											
Decade 1	(31.1)	(85.7)	(62.3)	(48.3)	(50.2)	(50.2)	(50.3)	(12.5)	(17.9)	(0)	(48.3)
Decade 5	(12.4)	(14.0)	(0)	(18.2)	(15.2)	(15.2)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(18.2)

Total Acres-Clearwater = 132.7
-Idaho Panhandle = 126.5
Total Roadless Area = 259.2

1/ This roadless area is contiguous with the Idaho Panhandle National Forests.
Numbers in parentheses represent the alternatives and acres on the Idaho Panhandle Forest.

B. Impacts

1. Designation: Wilderness

Management Emphasis: Wilderness

All alternatives except Alternative B would designate some portion of the Mallard Larkin Roadless Area 01300 to wilderness.

Ninety-seven percent of the area would be designated wilderness under Alternative I. The 6,600 acres within the St. Joe corridor would be excluded from wilderness in this alternative. Approximately 80 percent of the area would be designated wilderness under Alternatives G and H. Under alternatives A, E, El, F, and J, 50 to 53 percent of the area would be designated wilderness. Approximately 34 percent of the area would receive wilderness designation under Alternative D; with only 7 percent of the area being designated as wilderness under Alternative C.

All alternatives except Alternative B would enlarge the wilderness system by creating new wilderness. The minimum wilderness, Alternative C, would designate the existing Mallard-Larkins Pioneer Area located on both the Clearwater and Idaho Panhandle National Forests; the Bean Peak/Bacon Creek area of the Idaho Panhandle; and the Five Lakes Butte area of the Clearwater as wilderness.

In Alternative D, the Mallard-Larkins Pioneer area plus a large portion of the area in the Bucks/Foehl Creek drainages on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests would be designated as wilderness.

Alternatives A, E, El, F, and J would add the lands in the Collins Creek and Skull Creek drainages on the Clearwater National Forest and lands within Ruby, Timber, and Pole Creek drainages on the Clearwater to the areas described under the previously discussed alternatives to wilderness designation.

Alternatives G and H would add those lands on both Forests between the Mallard-Larkins Pioneer area around the North Fork of the Clearwater River to those lands previously discussed under wilderness designation.

All alternatives except Alternative B would provide wilderness enhancement. They would maintain the solitude and naturalness that is characteristic of the area now.

The wilderness designations of the various alternatives (except Alternatives B, C, and D) would impact timber production and mining. Lands suited to timber harvest and management would be included in the designations. Lands suited to mineral exploration and development would be included in the designations. Timber harvest is precluded in classified wilderness. Under Alternative I, approximately 2,500 MMBF of standing timber volume would not be available for harvest. Mineral exploration and development are at best constrained and may be excluded.

Other than Alternative B, which has no wilderness, Alternatives D and C would create the least impact. Alternatives A, E, E1, F, and J would designate about 40-50 percent of the lands within the Mallard-Larkins Roadless Area suited to timber management to wilderness. Mineral exploration and development would also be constrained on these same lands.

Alternatives G and H would designate about 75 percent of the lands suited to timber management and mineral exploration to wilderness. Alternative I would preclude timber management. Mineral exploration and development would be constrained on the entire area. In contrast to the limitations of Alternatives A, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, and J in regard to the market resources of timber and minerals, Alternative B would designate all the lands to the potential development of timber and minerals.

Non-priced resource costs and benefits would be:

-- The natural visual quality of the affected areas would be maintained.

-- The opportunities for establishing/maintaining habitat for the gray wolf and grizzly bear would be enhanced in the short run. After maybe 50 years, however, the habitat would begin to deteriorate.

-- Security habitat for big game would be maintained.

-- The high water quality of the streams would be maintained.

-- Vegetative diversity would trend towards old growth.

-- An outstanding mountain goat population and associated habitat would be maintained.

-- A high quality primitive backcountry recreational setting would remain intact.

Alternative I would maximize the non-priced resource values opportunity by designating 100 percent of the area as wilderness. Alternatives C and D would minimize these values, with the least designated area.

Alternatives E, E1, F, G, H, and J would provide moderate to high levels of the non-priced resource values. These alternatives and Alternative I would provide the optimum wildlife habitat security conditions for both threatened and endangered and big game species by virtue of their large contiguous areas.

The social and economic effects of the wilderness designations of Alternatives B, C, and D would be minor. The lands designated are largely unsuitable for market resource development (i.e., timber). Alternatives A, E, E1, F, G, H, I and J would have substantial social and economic impact proportional to the acres designated. On the negative, lands suited to economic development would remain undeveloped. On the positive, those individuals desiring areas of solitude, scenic quality, etc., would be supported. Overall, the local timber industry would not be supported.

2. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Unroaded

All of the alternatives except Alternative I (wilderness) would designate portions of the area for this emphasis. In Alternative D, approximately 30 percent of the area would be designated for this emphasis. Approximately 7 percent of the area would be managed under this emphasis in Alternatives E and E1. Twelve to fourteen percent of the area would be designated for this emphasis under Alternatives F and J. Alternatives A, B, and C would designate approximately 5 percent of the area to such emphasis. Alternatives D and G would designate less than 1 percent of the area to unroaded management.

This emphasis would, in practice, augment the wilderness resource. The lands would remain roadless and vegetatively unaltered. They would often buffer and fill in between lands designated as wilderness. The lands would remain natural.

The unroaded management emphasis would preclude or severely limit market resource development.

This emphasis would highlight the non-priced resources. It would:

-- Maintain the natural visual quality.

-- Maintain the existing semiprivitive recreational setting.

-- Maintain the inherent potential for threatened and endangered species.

-- Maintain the inherent potential for other wildlife species, especially those dependent on old growth.

-- Maintain water quality.

-- Retain the security for the mountain goats.

The unroaded management emphasis areas of Alternatives A, C, E, E1, F, and J would have a positive social effect in the form of recreation. It would have minor economic effect because the designated lands are unsuited to development.

The emphasis of Alternative D would have a positive social effect because it would satisfy a segment of the public desiring to have roadless areas. It would have a moderately significant economic effect because the designation would include roughly 15 percent of the lands determined to be suitable for development. The local timber industry would not be supported. Wilderness advocates would be largely supported, while recreationists seeking roaded natural recreation experiences would not be served.

3. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Elk Winter Range

All alternatives except G, H, and I would designate a small portion of the area for a primary management goal of big game winter range production. Alternatives A, B, C, D, E, E1, F, and J would each designate less than 3 percent of the Mallard-Larkin Roadless Area to elk winter range.

The elk winter range management emphasis would have no major impact on the areas viewed as high quality wilderness resource areas. However, prescribed fire and/or mechanical treatments would interrupt natural successional forces operating within the affected areas. All elk winter range designations would be within areas of very little wilderness value controversy; that is, the Lower Salmon and North Canyon Face areas on the Clearwater National Forest.

Market resource management would be enhanced in the short run. Timber harvest would be encouraged, to develop big game forage. No major effort would be expended, however, to insure reforestation within five years on the harsher slopes. These harsher areas would be allowed to reforest naturally or remain in forage indefinitely. Timber management in the long run would be constrained by this approach for the benefit of elk winter range management. However, the areas would be reasonably accessible to facilitate day-to-day management. Access for mineral development could be facilitated.

Non-priced costs and benefits would be:

-- The natural visual quality would be altered by permitting timber harvest and roads, but would satisfy pre-established visual quality objectives, usually partial retention. Prescribed fire would have extremely short-term visual impacts.

-- Threatened and endangered wildlife species would generally not be impacted because the elk winter range lies outside the lands best suited as threatened and endangered habitat.

-- Ample big-game security habitat would be maintained.

-- A high standard of water quality would be maintained through appropriate riparian protection measures.

-- A shift from a semi-primitive to a roaded natural recreational setting would occur.

-- Mountain goat populations and habitat would not be impacted.

Social and economic effects relate to timber, wildlife, and wilderness values. The social and economic effects of the elk winter range designation would include the short-term positive and long-term negative benefits to the local timber industry. Elk numbers would be anticipated to increase as winter range is better able to sustain populations. Improved hunting would be an indirect benefit. However, the overall effect would be viewed as insignificant in the context of the roadless area because it represents less than 3 percent of the available acreage. Wilderness advocates would not be supported.

4. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Timber/Wildlife/Watershed

The lands designated under this management emphasis would be managed for timber production at varying investment levels. Minimum constraints relating to protection of big game habitat and water quality would also be met.

All alternatives except I would contain portions of the area designated for this emphasis. In alternative B, approximately 50 percent of the area would be designated for timber production. Alternative A would designate 28 percent of the area for such emphasis; Alternatives D, E, El, F, and J would designate 21 to 22 percent of the area for such use. In Alternative H only 7 percent of the area would be designated for timber production.

The lands on which the Timber/Wildlife-Watershed management emphasis is placed would be disqualified for wilderness consideration. The natural landscape would be changed to a landscape with roads and artificial openings. The solitude of the existing large roadless area would be lost.

In the higher market output alternatives approximately 40 percent of the area could be roaded by the end of the first decade. However, under the same alternatives at least 50 percent of the area would remain unroaded by the end of the fifth decade, largely maintaining the affected areas' wilderness characteristics.

Specifically, Alternatives A, B, C, D, E, El, F, and J would disqualify Upper Quartz Creek for wilderness classification. Alternatives B and C would also disqualify most of the Skull Creek drainage.

This management emphasis is in support of market resource development. Alternatives B and C would offer the maximum opportunity.

Alternatives F, G, H, and I would cause the greatest impact on the market resources because less than one-fifth of the suitable timber lands would be developed.

Alternatives G and H would have a major impact because they preclude long-term development of Upper Quartz Creek, an area clearly recognized as having timber management potential.

The Timber/Wildlife-Watershed management emphasis would generally degrade the non-priced resources. As a result, non-priced resource costs and benefits would be:

-- The natural visual quality of the area would be modified to a visual quality objective of Modification on the affected area.

-- Vegetative diversity would tend toward seral successional stages and species.

-- The quality of the habitat for the gray wolf and grizzly bear would be significantly impacted during development.

-- Big game habitat would be maintained at a minimum of 25 percent of potential elk use.

-- The primitive elk hunting opportunities in Foehl, Buck, and Canyon Creeks would be foregone in Alternatives E and E1 (after the first decade).

-- Water quality could be reduced to MMR levels in some cases.

-- Elk security areas in Foehl, Buck, and Canyon Creeks would be disturbed after the second decade in Alternatives E and E1.

-- Impacts to mountain goat populations would not be significant.

-- The roadless character of the Little North Fork Clearwater River is retained in Alternatives E and E1.

-- All the lands along the North Fork Clearwater River in the vicinity of Aquarius would be precluded from consideration as a RNA (Research Natural Area).

-- The existing semi-primitive/primitive recreational setting would be modified to a roaded natural setting. More motorized recreational activities would occur.

The Timber/Wildlife-Watershed management emphasis would have mixed social and economic effects. Generally, it would have positive social and economic effects in terms of timber industry employment. It would also have negative social effects in terms of amenity values.

Specifically, Alternatives G and H would have the greatest economic impact because they would develop only a fraction of the lands known to have timber management potential.

Alternatives A, B, and C would have relatively minor economic impact because most of the lands known to have market resource potential would ultimately be developed. Those individuals favoring wilderness would not be supported.

5. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Timber/Visual-Riparian

All alternatives except Alternative I would contain areas with this management emphasis, which has a goal of timber production and protection of usually sensitive areas that fall into the Retention/Partial Retention visual categories and areas of ecologically important riparian vegetation and features located along streamcourses.

In Alternative F, approximately 7 percent of the area would be managed under this emphasis. Alternatives A, B, C, D, E, E1, and J would designate 2 to 3 percent of the area for such management. Less than 1 percent of the area would be designated for this management in Alternatives G and H.

The lands on which the Timber/Visual-Riparian management emphasis is placed would be disqualified for wilderness consideration. The natural landscape would be changed to a landscape with roads and artificial openings. The adverse impact on visual quality, however, would be minor because of the emphasis. The reduction in potential wilderness resource would be as much as 14 percent in Alternative F to as little as 3 percent in Alternative H (reference Table 2).

This management emphasis would support market resource development, although at considerably less intensity than the Timber/Wildlife-Watershed management emphasis. Because of extended rotations and visual quality management and riparian management constraints, the "flow" of timber from designated lands would significantly be reduced. However, the overall effects on market resources on the area would be insignificant because of the small amount of area affected.

The Timber/Visual-Riparian management emphasis would cause a minor adverse impact on the non-priced resources. It would:

-- Change slightly but fully protect the visual quality so that management activities would be fully subordinate to the landscape.

-- Not affect threatened and endangered species.

-- Provide for good big game and other wildlife habitat, particularly riparian habitat.

-- Protect water quality.

-- Have no impact on the mountain goats.

The Timber/Visual-Riparian management emphasis would have counter-balancing social and economic effects. The management emphasis would provide for the economic benefits of timber harvest and management while simultaneously maintaining high social values in terms of visual and riparian quality. Wilderness advocates would not be supported.

6. Designation: Nonwilderness
Management: Timber/Special

Seven of the 11 alternatives would designate portions of the area for this management emphasis.

In Alternatives C, F, and H, approximately 4 percent of the area in the Bear and Minnesaka Creek drainages would be designated for a primary management goal of protection of key big game summer range values with a secondary goal of timber production.

In Alternatives D, E, El, and J, approximately 2 percent of the area in the Minnesaka Creek, Goat Creek, and Smith Point area would be managed for the same big game/timber emphasis.

The lands on which the Timber/Special management emphasis is placed would be disqualified for wilderness consideration. The natural landscape would be changed to a landscape with roads and artificial openings. The solitude of the existing large roadless area would be lost. The potential wilderness resource would be reduced in proportion to the designation, i.e., as little as 5 percent in alternatives D, E, El, and J to as much as 8 percent in Alternatives C and F. However, for the Mallard-Larkin Roadless Area this emphasis would really have little impact on the wilderness resource except in Alternatives C and F. With the exception of Bear Creek (a tributary of the Little North Fork of the Clearwater River) in Alternatives C and F, the areas designated with this emphasis are non-controversial. There is generally minor interest in incorporating the Timber/Special prescription lands in wilderness.

The Timber/Special management emphasis would affect the scheduling of management activities but not the quantities of the market resources over the long run. These lands would generally be roaded. The use of the roads would usually be limited to administrative use so that big game habitat security could be optimized. Mineral development costs would be reduced because of improved access.

Non-priced resource costs and benefits would be:

-- The natural visual quality of the area would be reduced. It would satisfy a visual quality objective of modification or better.

-- Threatened and endangered wildlife species would be protected.

-- Seventy-five percent or better of the big game habitat's inherent potential would be maintained.

-- Water quality would be maintained to achieve 80 percent or better of the fish habitat's inherent potential.

-- The existing primitive recreation opportunity setting would be modified to roaded natural - roaded natural activities would increase significantly.

-- The mountain goat population would not be impacted.

The Timber/Special management emphasis would be socially and economically positive. It would support employment and recreation (hunting) through timber harvest and a stable or improved big game population. It would have comparatively smaller economic returns than some of the less constrained timber prescriptions (e.g.,Timber/Wildlife-Watershed management emphasis). However, individuals supporting wilderness would not be supported.

7. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Special

Eight of the eleven alternatives contain lands in this category. Approximately 3 percent of the area would be managed in all alternatives to protect the unique scenic, wildlife, recreational, and fishery values of the St. Joe Wild and Scenic River Corridor.

Under alternatives F and H, approximately 2 percent of the area would be designated for the Acquarius Research Natural Area (RNA). Under alternatives D, E, E1, and J, approximately 0.5 percent of the area would be designated for RNA status. Under the high market output Alternatives C and G, only 0.1 percent of the area would be managed in RNA status. The lands designated for this emphasis would have no impact on the wilderness resource. The lands would be managed as roadless. They would not be developed, but would instead be permitted to run their natural course for research purposes. They would not in any case be contiguous to a wilderness but would, in effect, mirror wilderness characteristics within a very small area.

The Special management emphasis would preclude market resource development in the RNA area, timber could be harvested on a nonregulated basis from the Wild and Scenic River corridor.

The emphasis would protect the non-priced resources. Generally, it would:

-- Not alter the natural visual quality.

-- Fully protect threatened and endangered species.

-- Not change big game habitat condition trends. The lands that would be affected are big game winter range. They provide good cover conditions, but are generally low in forage production.

-- Maintain water quality.

-- Maintain the existing recreation opportunity settings of the areas.

-- Have no effect on the mountain goat population.

More specifically:

-- Alternatives C and G would designate a minimum area that has high quality characteristics to serve as a Research Natural Area.

-- Alternatives D, E, E1, and J would add a contiguous area to provide nearly a full hydrologic unit and a separate unit characterized as a pure stand of West Coast Red Alder.

-- Alternatives F and H would designate the acreage recommended by Idaho's State Research Natural Area Committee.

-- Alternative I would not designate any land to this emphasis, but its wilderness designation would have the same result as the Special prescription.

The Special management emphasis would withdraw the designated lands from economic development. This effect in Alternatives C, D, E, E1, G, and J would be minor because only 0.2 to 0.7 percent of the area would be affected. The impact of Alternatives F and H would be greater, where 3 percent of the area would be affected.

Socially, the Research Natural Area emphasis would provide long-term research potential. Wilderness advocates would be partially supported. Recreationists supporting roaded natural recreational activities would not be served.

8. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Minimum Level Custodial

Lands in this category have been defined as being unavailable for timber or within their other resource investment purposes because of either biophysical conditions or indentified economic constraints. Acre variances between alternatives are created by other resource constraints imposed by alternative resource emphasis items. Management would be custodial, with no investments occurring.

Ten of the eleven alternatives would contain lands designated under this category.

Under Alternative B, 33 percent of the area would be designated for custodial management. Alternative C would designate 20 percent of the area for this category. Under Alternatives A, D, E, E1, F and J, approximately 4-7 percent of the area would be designated for minimum level management. Only 2 percent of the area would be designated for such management in Alternatives G and H.

Depending on their size and spatial relationship with other resource designations, these areas could either support wilderness characteristics or mirror developed area characteristics. Overall, the wilderness resource would not be supported. Because of their definition, they would not impact timber production. Discovered minerals would be available.

Non-priced resource impacts and socioeconomic effects within these areas would mirror those of the resource designations of surrounding areas.

MEADOW CREEK-UPPER NORTH FORK ROADLESS AREA (01302)

I. DESCRIPTION

Size	Gross Acres	Net Acres
Idaho - Clearwater NF	45,440	40,702
Idaho Panhandle NF	6,100	6,100
Montana - Lolo NF	7,200	7,200
Total	58,740	54,002

The Meadow Creek-Upper North Fork Roadless Area is situated on the Idaho-Montana border, approximately 40 air miles west of Missoula, Montana. The Idaho portion is located in parts of Clearwater and Shoshone Counties within the Clearwater and Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The Montana portion is in Mineral County within the Lolo National Forest.

Accessibility is provided from several directions. From the east, it is 16 miles from Superior, Montana, via Cedar Creek Road 320 or 24 miles via Pierce-Superior Road 250. From the northwest, it is 35 miles from Avery, Idaho, via St. Joe River Road 320. From the south, it is 100 miles from Orofino, Idaho, via Fly Hill Road 715 and Pot Mountain Ridge Road 720.

Interior access is provided over 54 miles of relatively low standard fire control and administrative trails. Because of funding and need, many trails are maintained intermittently and then just to keep them open. Cross-country travel is very difficult over most of the area because of rugged terrain and dense low vegetation. Access along the state line divide is easier over barren and sparse vegetation areas.

Topography changes from narrow, flat valley bottoms to very narrow, flat and U-shaped valleys at higher elevations. Sharp, rugged relief above 7,000 feet occurs along the Bitterroot Divide, which separates Idaho from Montana. Several cirque basins containing four small lakes are also found near the divide. Two other small lakes are found at lower elevations. Topography becomes less steep in the North Fork of the Clearwater River drainage, dropping down to 3,800 feet in elevation where the river exits the area.

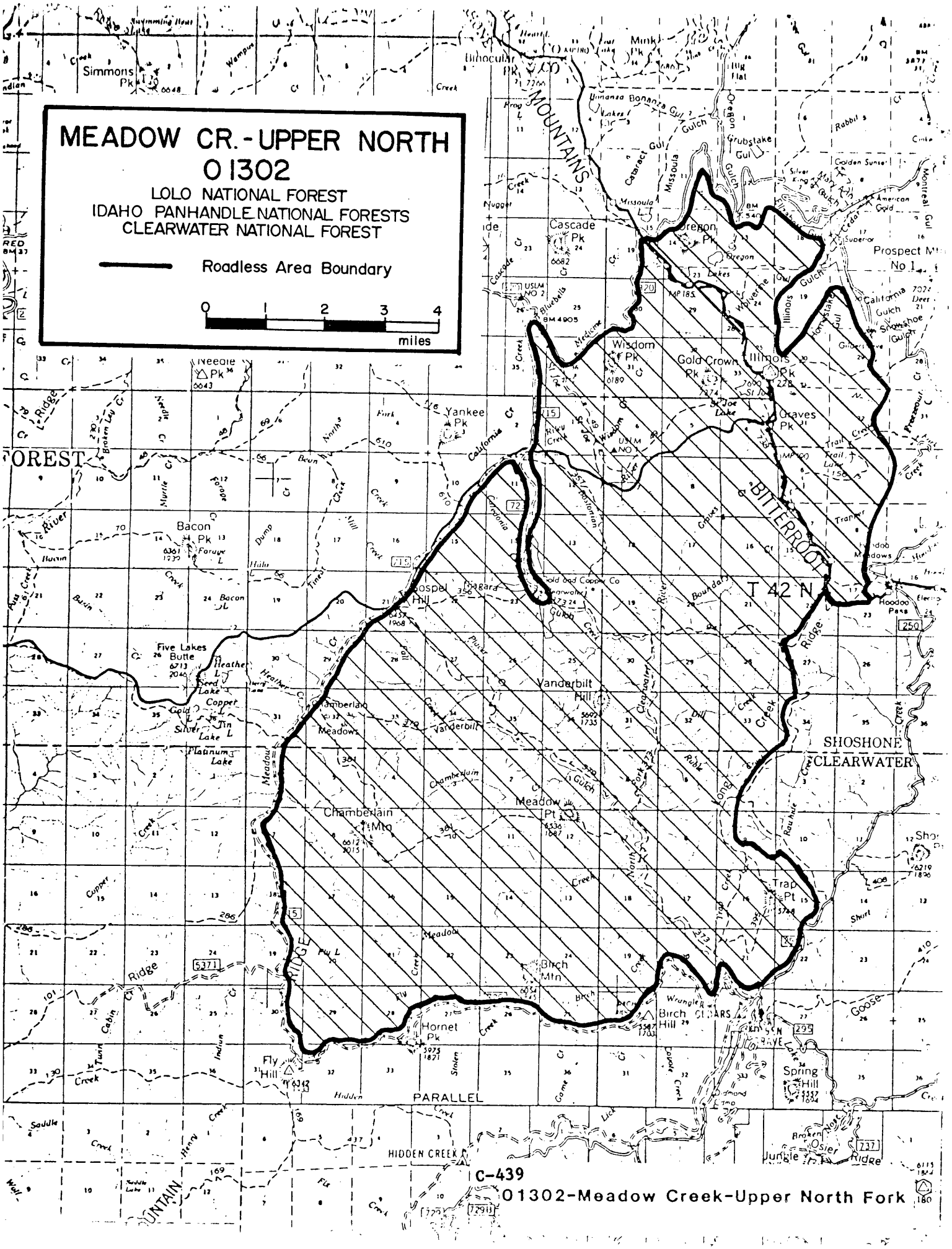
Geologically, the area is composed of Belt Series bedrock which is made up of schists and gneiss. These rocks are generally more stable and less erosive than those within the batholith.

Two major river systems, the St. Joe and the North Fork of the Clearwater, start within the area. The streams in the Montana side drain into the Clark Fork River. Six lakes are found and all but one are within relatively short distance of the Bitterroot Divide.

The area contains three major vegetative ecosystems: (a) cedar-hemlock-pine forest encompassing the lower elevations in the North Fork of the Clearwater River and Meadow and Chamberlain Creeks, (b) western spruce-fir forest at the higher elevations up to 6,000 feet, and (c) alpine meadows and barren land in a band along the Bitterroot Divide above 6,000 feet.

Vegetation varies from carex and beargrass on high elevation south slopes to grand fir and western redcedar types at lower elevations. Large forest fires in the late 1800s and early 1900s had a major influence on the present vegetation, with much of the area being coverd with even-aged stands of lodgepole pine averaging six to ten inches in diameter. Most of the area is reforested, with exception of south slopes having thin soils. Other species present include subalpine fir, western larch, mountain hemlock, grand fir, and some white bark pine.

Big game hunting, stream and lake fishing, hiking, backpacking, photography, scenic viewing, camping, prospecting, and horseback riding, all in primitive or undeveloped settings, are the primary attractions. Except in places along the Bitterroot Divide, cross-country travel is difficult because of dense vegetation.


MEADOW CR.-UPPER NORTH
01302
LOLO NATIONAL FOREST
IDAHO PANHANDLE NATIONAL FORESTS
CLEARWATER NATIONAL FOREST
Roadless Area Boundary
0 1 2 3 4
miles
BITTERROOT
MOUNTAINS
SHOSHONE
CLEARWATER
T 42 N
Cascade Pk
Wisdom Pk
Gold Crown Pk
Illinois Pk
Graves Pk
Yankee Pk
Bacon Pk
Gospel Hill
Vanderbilt Hill
Chamberlain Mtn
Meadow Pt
Birch Mtn
Birch Hill
Hornet Pk
Fly Hill
Spring Hill
Trap Pt
Five Lakes Butte
Simmons Pk
Prospect Mt No 1
PARALLEL
HIDDEN CREEK
C-439
01302-Meadow Creek-Upper North Fork

II. CAPABILITY

A. Natural Integrity and Appearance

Human activities have had a moderate impact, primarily in the St. Joe drainage, Upper Cedar Creek, and the head of the North Fork of the Clearwater River. Evidence remains of turn-of-the-century gold and silver placer and dredge mining activities. Rock tailing piles along streams, diversion ditches, cabins and remains of cabins, and access roads are the principal detractions, even though much of it has softened over the years through natural vegetation and erosion. Present day mining activites are more localized.

A metal lookout tower is located on Illinois Peak.

The majority of the rest of the area is relatively free of human impacts; even the trails appear natural and some minor grazing up to 1970 may still by evident in the meadows around Chamberlain Basin.

B. Opportunities for Experiences Often Unique to Wilderness Areas

The Meadow Creek-Upper North Fork provides a high opportunity for solitude because of its rectangular shape and large size encompassing over 54,000 acres. The area runs 14 miles north-south and 7 miles east-west. Screening because of broken and varied topogtaphy and dense vegetation is a big factor in reducing visual contact with others as well as minimizing noise levels and possibilities of observing discordant features outside the area. Encounters with visitors are most likely at the several larger accessible fishing lakes, the National Recreation Trail along the Bitterroot Divide, and within the St. Joe Wild River Corridor.

The boundary is nine miles from a major highway on the east side and is adjacent to the Pierce-Superior road on the south side. Sounds from logging activity near the periphery of the area have the potential of penetrating upwards to a mile into the roadless area. Sounds from mining activity inside the area also have the potential to be heard for a mile or so. Some very distant roads and timber harvest areas are visible in Montana and Idaho from the highest points along the Idaho-Montana Divide.

The opportunity for solitude also varies by season. Except for lower elevations in the North Fork, most land is inaccessible due to snow from November until July. Moderate to high use is experienced during elk hunting season in October.

Because of the high degree of solitude, dispersed recreation occurring in primitive and semi-primitive settings are excellent. The only improvements are the access trails which provide opportunities for hiking and horseback riding.

The major lakes, the St. Joe River, the North Fork of the Clearwater River, and other larger streams provide excellent fishing opportunities. Big game hunting, scenic viewing, and photography are other major uses.

C. Special Features

The evidence of early day mining activities and Native American use is a highlight in portions of the area.

Approximately four miles of the headwaters of the St. Joe River have been classified a Wild River under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers act of 1968. Management of this corridor is directed by the St. Joe Wild and Scenic River Management Plan.

Stateline Trail 730, which extends north from Hoodoo Pass along the Bitterroot Divide, has been designated as a National Recreational Trail. Because of the publicity these types of trails receive, visitors are increasing.

D. Effects of Size and Shape on Wilderness Attributes

Because of the relatively uniform rectangular shape of the area, external adverse effects are minimal. The isolated nature, as well as the relatively low standard roads and short season, also contribute to very low use, resulting in even less effect on the wilderness attributes.

E. Manageability and Boundaries

Existing roadless area boundaries follow low standard roads along the southern, western and northwestern sides and well defined ridges and creeks along most of the east side. Most of the boundary along the northeast boundary in Montana is poorly defined, following timber sale and other managment activities.

Along the southern edge, a checkerboard pattern of Diamond International land occurs. Other ownerships are the result of patented mining claims in Caledonia and Niagra Creeks. In terms of maintaining a well defined wilderness boundary, land exchange or purchase of most of the private lands would be desirable. To exclude the private land from a proposed wilderness and still retain identifiable boundaries would result in a reduction of approximately 20,000 acres. Although the boundaries on the Montana side are irregular, it would be important to retain them as is, if possible, so as to keep the high divide country intact.

The Rawhide Roadless Area (RARE II 01313), an area of 4,400 acres, is for all practical purposes contiguous to this area. The boundary between these two areas was established on the basis of the abandoned Rawhide Road, which provided the first road access to the Clearwater Forest over Hoodoo Pass. This road was replaced with the Pierce-Superior Road 250 in the early 1950s. Although evidence of the road remains in places, it is unusable except for a short stretch near the pass.

III. AVAILABILITY

A. Other Resources

1. Recreation. The potential for developed recreational sites is generally dependent upon road access, demand, and funding. Current and near future outlooks for funding, as well as a perceived low demand in this area, severely limits the likelihood of developing additional sites.

2. Wildlife and Fish. Wildlife species include elk, moose, black bear, white-tail and mule deer, grouse, and numerous species of non-game birds and animals indigenous to conifer-covered mountains in north-central Idaho. Most of the streams and lakes have a catchable size fish population, predominantly cutthroat and rainbow trout, with some mountain whitefish and brook trout.

Because of the elevations and heavy snowpacks over much of the area during the winter, only a small percentage of the area is suitable in big game winter range.

Although no verified sightings or other confirmed evidence of the endangered gray wolf exists in the Meadow Creek-Upper North Fork Roadless Area, habitat conditions conducive to the wolf have resulted in designation of the area as essential habitat. The management of an adequate prey base, which in this case is primarily elk, and restrictions on motorized road use are two major components for protection and enhancement of the species.

Although sightings of the threatened grizzly bear have been reported a number of times over the years, no confirmed evidence has been presented.

3. Livestock Operations. Livestock grazing potential is moderate, but limited primarily to small, open, mountain grasslands and meadows along some of the major creeks. Cattle were last grazed commercially in the early 1970s. Some commercial horse and mule grazing is permitted in conjunction with the one outfitter and guide operating in the area.

4. Timber. About 36,000 acres, or 67 percent of the total net acreage, is considered suitable for the production of timber. The standing volume of sawtimber has been estimated at 579,900 MMBF. Much of the timber is immature, although there are pockets of larger old growth, especially in the North Fork Clearwater drainage.

5. Minerals. Mining (placer and hardrock) has been an important use in the past and still continues to attract a lot of prospecting. The mineral potential, especially for silver and gold, is moderate in a large area encompassing Niagara, Vanderbilt, Chamberlain, and Meadow Creeks in the North Fork drainage and extending north into the upper St. Joe River basin and the Cedar Creek drainage in Montana. The remainder of the area has low potential. Oil and gas potential is considered low.

6. Cultural Resources. Known cultural resources include three USFS lookout sites, five cabins or cabin remains, one USFS Ranger Station site, eight historic hunter or outfitter camps, one prehistoric camp and fishing site, three mining sites, and one Euro-American grave site. Indian trails existed along the present Pot Mountain Trail and several other areas.

As noted previously, considerable early day mining has resulted in numerous sites and evidence of these activities.

Historic evidence also indicates early Native Americans used selected sites along the Bitterroot Divide for killing game that crossed or were driven from one side to the other.

B. Important Management Considerations

1. Nonfederal Lands. With the exception of about 400 acres of patented mining claims in Niagara and Caledonia Creeks, approximately 4,300 acres of land in the lower North Fork is owned by Burlington Northern Company. Some logging has taken place within two of the sections within recent years and plans are to access and harvest timber in other sections.

There is currently very little mining activity within the mining claims.

2. Fire. Fire history includes the large burns of 1889 and 1910. Advanced fire suppression has contributed to low numbers and acres of annual fires in recent years. Correspondingly, the volume of fire fuels is increasing especially in areas where insect and disease-killed timber is found.

C. Resource Summary

Table 1

Selected Resource Values

Description		Clwtr	IPNF	Lolo	Total
Gross Acres	Acres	45,440	6,100	7,200	58,740
Net Acres	Acres	40,702	6,100	7,200	54,002
Recreation					
Primitive	RVD's	1,721	0	0	1,721
SPNM	RVD's	1,188	0	6,840	7,668
SPM	RVD's	8,996	365	0	9,361
Roaded Natural	RVD's	4,159	140	7,200	11,499
Range					
Existing Obligated					
Suitable	Acres	1,000	0	0	1,000
Allotments	No.	1	0	0	1
AUM's	AUM's	118	0	0	118
Existing Vacant					
Suitable	Acres	1,628	0	0	1,628
Allotments	No.	1	0	0	1
AUM's	AUM's	150	0	0	150
Proposed					
Suitable	Acres	0	0	0	0
AUM's	AUM's	0	0	0	0
Timber					
Tentative Suitable	Acres	33,089	1,615	1,513	36,217
Standing Volume	MBF	545,000	23,000	11,900	579,900
Corridors					
Exist. and Potential	No.	0	0	0	0
Wildlife - T&E					
Grizzly Bear					
Habitat - Sit. 1	Acres	0	0	0	0
Habitat - Sit. 2	Acres	0	0	0	0
Habitat - Sit. 3	Acres	0	0	0	0
Bald Eagle Hab.	Acres	0	0	0	0

Description		Clwtr	IPNF	Lolo	Total
Gray Wolf Hab.	Acres	40,702	0	0	40,702
Peregrine Fal. Hab.	Acres	0	0	0	0
Wildlife - Big Game					
Big Game					
Summer Habitat	Acres	0	0	0	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0	0	0	0
Elk					
Summer Habitat-Key	Acres	0	179	0	179
Winter Habitat-Key	Acres	0	0	0	0
Significant Fisheries					
Stream Miles	Miles	179	0	0	179
Stream Habitat	Acres	215	0	0	215
Lakes	No.	4	0	0	4
Lakes - Habitat	Acres	68	0	0	68
Water Developments					
Existing	No.	0	0	0	0
Minerals					
Hardrock Potential					
Very High	Acres	0	0	0	0
High	Acres	0	0	0	0
Moderate	Acres	27,520	0	7,200	34,720
Low	Acres	13,182	0	0	13,182
Claims	No.	25	16	11	52
Oil and Gas Potential					
Very High	Acres	0	0	0	0
High	Acres	0	0	0	0
Moderate	Acres	0	0	0	0
Low	Acres	40,702	0	7,200	47,902
Oil and Gas Leases					
Leases	No.	0	0	0	0
Leased Area	Acres	0	0	0	0

IV. NEED

An important attribute of this roadless area is that it is representative of high alpine country, vegetation, and lakes in a largely unaltered natural condition. Management of St. Joe Lake and the surrounding area as wilderness would be more consistent with the Wild River designation of the upper St. Joe River and would aid in maintaining the integrity of the entire system.

Another main attribute is the display of successful vegetative changes resulting from the 1910 fires.

Considerable interest locally and regionally for wilderness classification has been shown. Before and during the RARE I and II process, the idea was promoted of having a continuous wilderness starting with the Mallard-Larkins, continuing across Meadow Creek-Upper North Fork, and connecting up with the Hoodoo area extending south all the way to near Lolo Pass. These efforts were promoted primarily by interests in the Lewiston-Moscow area.

The results of public input received on the RARE II Draft Environmental Statement recorded 1,787 favorable responses for wilderness and 2,981 responses (or 63 percent of the responses) for development. Interest since that time (1979) has been minimal, with some exceptions.

In 1974, public input and concerns were solicited on the closure of St. Joe River Trail 49 to use by motorized vehicles. Interest in this area was considerable and overwhelmingly in favor of closure.

Table 3, Parts A and B shows the location and proximity to other wilderness areas and population centers in Idaho, western Montana, and eastern Washington.

V. ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

A. Management Emphasis by Alternative

The management emphasis for the Meadow Creek-Upper North Fork Roadless Area is a combination of management prescriptions and alternatives from three National Forests, the Clearwater, Lolo, and Idaho Panhandle. Because resources, uses, and land conditions are somewhat different on each Forest, neither the alternatives nor the management emphasis are fully integrated. Because the Clearwater Forest is the lead Forest for this roadless area, for purposes of this evaluation, the alternatives and management emphasis from the other two Forests have been integrated into those of the Clearwater Forest as closely as possible on the basis of goals and objectives common to each Forest's alternatives and management emphasis.

Further information on the specific alternatives and management emphasis for the Idaho Panhandle and Lolo National Forests' areas can be found in these Forests' Draft Environmental Impact Statements for the Forest Plans.

The proposed wilderness/non-wilderness designation for the Meadow Creek-Upper North Fork Roadless Area is made and documented in this Environmental Impact Statement. This proposed designation has priority over all other land designations and none of the three Forests can undertake any management activity other than current direction until such time that a Record of Decision is issued in conjunction with this document.

Table 2

Meadow Creek-Upper North Fork Roadless Area (01302)
Management Emphasis by Alternative

	Alternatives[1/] (Thousand Acres)										
Clearwater NF	A	B	C	D	E	E1	F	G	H	I	J
Idaho Panhandle NF	(8)	(2)	(4)	(5,7)	(11)	(12)	(7)	(1)	(10)	(3,7,9)	(5)
Lolo NF	(A)	(C)	(C)	(D,E,F)	(D,E,F)	(D,E,F)	(B)	(A)	(D,E,F)	(G)	(D)
Management Emphasis											
WILDERNESS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40.7	0
	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(7.2)	(6.1)	(13.3)	(0)
NON-WILDERNESS											
Unroaded	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	(0.7)	(4.8)	(4.8)	(8.9)	(8.9)	(9.2)	(10.2)	(4.0)	(5.0)	(0)	(8.9)
Elk Winter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Timber/Wldlf-Wtshd	29.4	27.0	28.5	22.7	22.4	21.3	2.9	29.4	0	0	20.3
	(1.7)	(3.4)	(3.4)	(1.2)	(1.5)	(1.2)	(0.7)	(0.1)	(0.7)	(0)	(1.2)
Timber/Visual-Rip	6.5	2.5	2.7	16.4	15.7	16.7	14.9	10.2	9.4	0	19.4
	(1.3)	(0)	(0)	(0.7)	(0.7)	(0.7)	(0.8)	(0)	(0.7)	(0)	(0.7)
Timber/Special	0	0	0	0	0	0	20.6	0	30.4	0	0
	(0.3)	(0.3)	(0.3)	(0.2)	(0.2)	(0.2)	(0)	(0)	(0.2)	(0)	(0.2)
Special	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	(1.3)	(1.3)	(1.3)	(1.3)	(1.3)	(1.3)	(1.3)	(1.3)	(0)	(0)	(1.3)
Minimum Level	4.8	11.2	9.5	1.6	2.6	2.7	2.3	1.1	0.9	0	1.0
	(8.0)	(3.5)	(3.5)	(1.0)	(0.7)	(0.7)	(0.3)	(0.7)	(0.6)	(0)	(1.0)
TOTAL	40.7	40.7	40.7	40.7	40.7	40.7	40.7	40.7	40.7	40.7	40.7
	(13.3)	(13.3)	(13.3)	(13.3)	(13.3)	(13.3)	(13.3)	(13.3)	(13.3)	(13.3)	(13.3)
Summary of Management Emphasis											
Wilderness											
Clearwater	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40.7	0
Idaho Panhandle	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(6.1)	(6.1)	(0)
Lolo	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(7.2)	(0)	(7.2)	(0)
Non-wilderness											
Developed-Clearwater											
Decade 1	36.7	36.7	36.7	36.7	36.7	36.7	36.7	36.7	36.7	0	36.7
Decade 5	40.7	40.7	40.7	40.7	40.7	40.7	40.7	40.7	40.7	0	40.7

Table 2, continued

	Alternatives[1/] (Thousand Acres)										
	A	B	C	D	E	E1	F	G	H	I	J
Clearwater NF	(8)	(2)	(4)	(5,7)	(11)	(12)	(7)	(1)	(10)	(3,7,9)	(5)
Idaho Panhandle NF	(A)	(C)	(C)	(D,E,F)	(D,E,F)	(D,E,F)	(B)	(A)	(D,E,F)	(G)	(D)
Lolo NF											
Developed-Lolo											
Decade 1	(1.8)	(1.9)	(1.9)	(1.4)	(1.4)	(1.4)	(1.0)	(1.9)	(1.4)	(0)	(1.4)
Decade 5	(7.2)	(2.4)	(2.4)	(2.2)	(2.2)	(2.2)	(1.0)	(2.4)	(2.2)	(0)	(2.2)
Developed-IPNF											
Decade 1	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)
Decade 5	(1.8)	(1.8)	(1.8)	(0)	(1.0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)
Roadless-Clearwater											
Decade 1	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	40.7	4.0
Decade 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40.7	0
Roadless-Lolo											
Decade 1	(5.4)	(5.3)	(5.3)	(5.8)	(5.8)	(5.8)	(6.2)	(5.3)	(5.8)	(0)	(5.8)
Decade 5	(0)	(4.8)	(4.8)	(5.0)	(5.0)	(5.0)	(6.2)	(4.8)	(5.0)	(0)	(5.0)
Roadless-IPNF											
Decade 1	(6.1)	(6.1)	(6.1)	(6.1)	(6.1)	(6.1)	(6.1)	(6.1)	(0)	(0)	(6.1)
Decade 5	(0)	(0)	(0)	(6.1)	(5.1)	(6.1)	(6.1)	(6.1)	(0)	(0)	(6.1)

Total Acres

Clearwater -	40.7
Idaho Panhandle -	6.1
Lolo -	7.2

Total Acres Roadless Area: 54.0

1/This roadless area is contiguous with the Lolo and Idaho Panhandle National Forests. Numbers in parenthesis represent the alternatives and acres on the Lolo and Idaho Panhandle Forests.

B. Impacts

1. Designation: Wilderness

Management Emphasis: Wilderness

The entire area is designated for this management emphasis in Alternative I. Alternative G would designate approximately 13 percent of the area for wilderness, with Alternative H designating 11 percent of the area for wilderness use.

This emphasis will enhance the wilderness attributes of the area. The acquisition of the private lands around Birch Mountain and in Niagara Gulch, 4,738 acres, would maintain the entire area as essentially roadless.

Approximately 550 MMBF of standing timber on the 36,000 acres of tentatively suitable timberland located within the area would not be available for timber harvest.

Mineral, gas, and oil exploration and development could continue. However, exploration and development costs would be extremely high because of access and other operational constraints needed to protect the area's wilderness characteristics.

Existing livestock grazing would be compatible with current wilderness policy.

Non-priced benefits and costs would be:

-- The visual quality would be maintained in a natural setting.

-- The National Wilderness System area would increase.

-- The gray wolf habitat would be maintained. The solitude of the area would be maintained and the prey base, elk, should be sufficient. The habitat would eventually decline as the timber stands encroach on the existing openings and the elk habitat declines.

-- The elk habitat could eventually decline due to the natural succession of the forest and the inability to modify it by prescribed burning. Openings in the forest stands will occur through fire or insect and disease. The lodgepole pine stands will become increasing subject to attack by the mountain pine beetle within 20 to 40 years.

-- The water quality of the area will be maintained to the highest fishable level.

-- The present primitive and semi-primitive recreation setting would remain; big game hunting, hiking, camping, photography, fishing, and horseback riding activities would continue.

-- Vegetative diversity would trend towards old growth. Old growth-dependent wildlife species would be favored.

The social and economic effects center around timber, minerals, wildlife, and recreation. The local timber industry would not be supported. The mineral industry would not be supported. Individuals favoring wilderness designation would be supported. Recreationists favoring roaded natural recreation activities would not be served.

2. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Unroaded

Portions of the Idaho Panhandle and Lolo National Forests would be designated for this emphasis in 10 of the 11 alternatives. Under Alternatives D, E, E1, F, and J, approximately 16-18 percent of the area would be designated for this emphasis. Alternatives B, C, G, and H would designate approximately 8 percent of the area to this emphasis, with only 1 percent of the area being managed with this emphasis under alternative A. The wilderness attributes of the affected portions of the area would be maintained.

The suitable timberland within the affected portions of the area would not be available for harvest or other investment purposes.

Mineral, oil, and gas exploration and development could occur. However, extraction costs would be extremely high because of access and other operational constraints required to maintain roadless values.

This emphasis would have no impact on the existing livestock grazing activities within the area.

Non-priced Resource costs and benefits would be:

-- The natural appearing, unroaded visual setting would be maintained.

-- Gray wolf security habitat would remain undisturbed, with the elk prey base declining over time because of successional trends.

-- Vegetative diversity would tend to move towards climax successional stages and species. Old growth-dependent wildlife species would be favored.

-- The lodgepole pine stands in the area would become more susceptible to insect and disease attack over time.

-- Elk habitat would be modified by natural forces, including fire. Elk populations could fluctuate, depending on naturally evolving cover:forage ratios.

-- Water quality would remain high.

-- The existing primitive/semi-primitive recreation opportunity setting would remain. Hunting, fishing, hiking, photography, ski-touring, and horseback riding would remain the dominant recreational activities.

Social and economic effects would relate to timber, recreation, and wilderness resource values. The local timber products industry would not be supported. Those individuals advocating wilderness values would be largely supported. Those individuals favoring primitive/semi-primtive recreation experiences would be served. Recreationists desiring roaded natural recreation experiences would not be supported.

3. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Timber/Wildlife/Waterhsed

Under this management emphasis, timber production at varying investment levels would be the primary management goal. Minimum management constraints relating to elk security needs and water quality would also be met.

Ten of the eleven alternatives would designate portions of the area for this management emphasis. Approximately 55 to 60 percent of the area would be designated for timber production in Alternatives A, B, C, and G. Under Alternatives D, E, El, and J, approximately 40 to 45 percent of the area would be managed for such emphasis. Alternative F would designate 7 percent of the area for such use, with only 1 percent of the area in Alternative H.

Under all alternatives except Alternative I (high wilderness), approximately 70 percent of the area could be roaded by the end of the first decade, significantly altering the affected areas' wilderness characteristics. Under the same alternatives, 20 to 30 percent of the area would still remain unroaded by the end of the fifth decade.

Timber on suitable lands within the affected areas would be available for harvest and other long-term investments under this emphasis. Lodgepole pine is the major species on a third of the suitable timberland.

Development of any discovered mineral, oil, or gas resources would be facilitated because of improved access.

This emphasis would not significantly impact the livestock grazing resource of the area. Timber harvest would provide transitory range.

Non-priced benefits or costs would be:

-- Visual quality would be affected by road access and timber harvest. The natural landscape in visual sensitive portions would be retained or partially retained.

-- The gray wolf habitat could be maintained by controlling road access and providing an adequate prey base.

-- A minimum of 25 percent of the elk habitat potential would be maintained by controlling road access and scheduling of timber harvesting. Harvesting in the widespread, continuous lodgepole pine stands would improve elk cover:forage ratios in the area.

-- The water quality of area would be maintained at a high fishable level by controlling road access and scheduling road construction and timber harvesting.

-- Existing vegetative diversity would tend towards seral successional stages and species.

-- The semiprimtive recreation setting would be changed to roaded natural as development progresses. Hunting, fishing, camping, and motorized recreational opportunities would dominate the setting.

Social and economic effects center around the resource values of timber, wildlife, wilderness, and recreation. Timber and mineral resources would be available, supporting the local wood products and mineral industries. The change in recreation settings could be disruptive to those individuals using the area for primitive or semi-primitive recreation, as well as the public viewing the area from the lakes, streams, and roads. Individuals supporting wilderness would not be served. Those recreationists desiring roaded natural recreational activites would be supported.

4. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Timber/Visual-Riparian

All alternatives except Alternative J would contain areas with this management emphasis, which has a goal of timber production on areas that fall into the Retention/Partial Retention visual categories and areas of ecologically important riparian vegetation and features located along streamcources.

Ten of the eleven alternatives would contain lands with this emphasis. Under Alternative D approximately 40 percent of the area would be designated for this management emphasis. Alternatives E, E1, and F would designate approximately 30 percent of the area for it; Alternatives A, G, H, and I would designate 15-20 percent of the area for visual/riparian emphasis. Under Alternatives B and C, only 5 percent of the area would be managed for this purpose.

Because these largely narrow and linear-shaped areas would be directly spatially related to larger areas with timber production emphasis, the effects would essentially mirror those of the Timber/Wildlife/Watershed management emphasis.

Wilderness characteristics would be adversely modified. Timber harvest would occur on an extended rotation basis.

Mineral Development would be costly because of constraints needed to protect key riparian/visual values.

Some transitory range for livestock would be created.

The primary effects on non-priced resources would mirror those of the Timber/Wildlife/Watershed management emphasis areas. However, vegetative diversity would trend towards climax successional stages because of extended timber rotations. This would favor old growth-dependent wildlife species.

Social and economic effects would relate to watershed, timber recreation, and wilderness values. Water quality values would be supported. Hunting, fishing, driving, and/or hiking would be the predominant recreation activities. Individuals advocating roaded natural recreational activities would be supported. Wilderness advocates would not be supported.

5. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Timber Special

Ten of the eleven alternatives contain lands designated for this management category.

Alternative H would designate 57 percent of the area located in the Meadow Creek and Upper North Fork of the Clearwater drainages on the Clearwater National Forest to a primary management goal of maintaining existing resident cutthroat, Dolly Varden, and rainbow trout fishery values, with a secondary management goal of timber production. Under Alternative F, approximately 38 percent of the area located in the Meadow Creek drainages would be managed for the same emphasis. In the 8 other alternatives, less than 1 percent of the area on the Lolo National Forest would be designated for this category of management. The remaining alternatives do not have this emphasis. This emphasis would preclude future wilderness designation on areas where roads are constructed.

There would not be any change in the suitable timberland available for harvest over those discussed under the Timber/Wildlife/Watershed emphais. The greatest change for timber harvesting activities would be in the scheduling of road construction and timber harvest to be compatible with the fish habitat productivity and water quality objectives. There will be a greater cost for mitigation measures in timber management activities in the form of road closures and smaller harvest unit size.

Mineral, grazing, and oil and gas resources would remain available. Grazing would not be encouraged in the elk calving areas in the spring.

Non-priced benefits or costs would be:

-- Visual quality would be affected by road access and timber harvest. There would be a higher visual quality from the Timber/Wildlife/Watershed management emphasis due to the smaller size and irregularly-shaped timber harvest units. The roads could be constructed to minimize long sight targets and to take advantage of natural screening.

-- The gray wolf habitat would be maintained or increased over levels in the Timber/Wildlife/Watershed emphasis. The gray wolf's food base will be greater since the elk habitat will be maintained at least 75 percent of potential elk use.

-- The summer range productivity would be maintained at a minimum of 75 percent of maximum potential elk use. An increase in the elk population over E-1 could be expected.

-- The water quality of the area will be maintained at a high fishable level. The main river and its tributaries are a major spawning water for the Dolly Varden.

-- The scenic primitive recreation setting would change to the rounded nature. The increase use of road closures would maintain more of a semi-primitive environment than management emphasis E1.

Social and economic effects center around resource values of wildlife, recreation, wilderness, and timber. Timber and mineral resources would be available, thus it would support the wood products and mineral industries. The recreation experience provided by commercial outfitters would be reduced from the present unroaded condition. The public would have limited motorized access on the new roads constructed in the area. Individuals advocating wilderness would not be supported.

6. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Special

Under all alternatives except I and H (wilderness), approximately 1,300 acres of the area would be managed to protect the outstanding scenic, wildlife, fisheries, and ecological values of the St. Joe Wild and Scenic River corridor. Under Alternatives H and I, those portions of the river corridor within the area would be designated for wilderness.

A road currently parallels much of the river corridor, impacting the wilderness characteristics of the corridor. Under all alternatives, the wilderness character of the corridor would remain essentially at existing levels. Timber on suitable timberland within the corridor would not be available for harvest other than on an opportunity basis to enhance or protect corridor values.

Non-priced resource costs and benefits would be:

-- The visual setting in the corridor would be managed to meet Retention/Partial Retention goals.

-- Gray wolf habitat and elk prey base values would remain essentially unchanged.

-- Water quality levels would remain high.

-- Existing roaded natural and semi-primitive recreational opportunity settings and activities would remain essentially unchanged.

Economic and social effects would relate to timber, recreation, and wilderness values. Overall, the emphasis would not support the local timber products or minerals industries. Recreationists favoring roaded natural and semi-primitive settings and activities would be supported. Wilderness advocates would not be wholly supported.

7. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Minimum Level Custodial

Lands in this category have been defined as being unavailable for timber or within their other resource investment purposes because of either biophysical conditions or indentified economic constraints. Acre variances between alternatives are created by other resource constraints imposed by alternative resource emphasis items. Management would be custodial, with no investments occurring.

All of the alternatives with the exception of I (wilderness) contain lands in this emphasis. Approximately 20 to 25 percent of the area would be designated for this emphasis under Alternatives A, B, and C. Four to five percent of the area would be managed under such emphasis under the remaining alternatives.

Effects on resources would reflect those resulting from management of surrounding lands.

Buckhorn Ridge 01661 State: Montana & Idaho

Total Gross Acres:	31,600	Total Net Acres:	31,600
Kootenai ----------	22,000	Kootenai ----------	22,000
Idaho Panhandle -------	9,600	Idaho Panhandle ---	9,600

I. Description

The Buckhorn Ridge roadless area is located along the Idaho-Montana border, along the divide between the Moyie and Yaak Rivers, in the northwest corner of the Forest. Part of the area (about 9,600 acres), extends into the Idaho Panhandle National Forest (see map). The southern section is formed by Newton Ridge while the northern section is formed by the Spread Creek Road, which divides the area from the Northwest Peaks roadless area to the north. Access is available from several roads ending in trails off of the Yaak Road (No. 508), particularly Pine Crek, Fourth of July Creek, Meadow Creek, Hellroaring Creek, and Spread Creek.

The geography and topography are characterized by a high elevation ridgeline (6,500 feet elevation) with broad, open, grassy sideslopes and timbered basins divided by spur ridges. The area includes headwater areas for Pine, Meadow, Hellroaring, Red Top and Spread Creeks of the Kootenai, and Deer Creek of the Idaho Panhandle.

The area is surrounded by some developments, especially roads and clearcuts.

The area contains representatives of the Cedar Hemlock Pine forest and Western Spruce Fir forest ecosystems.

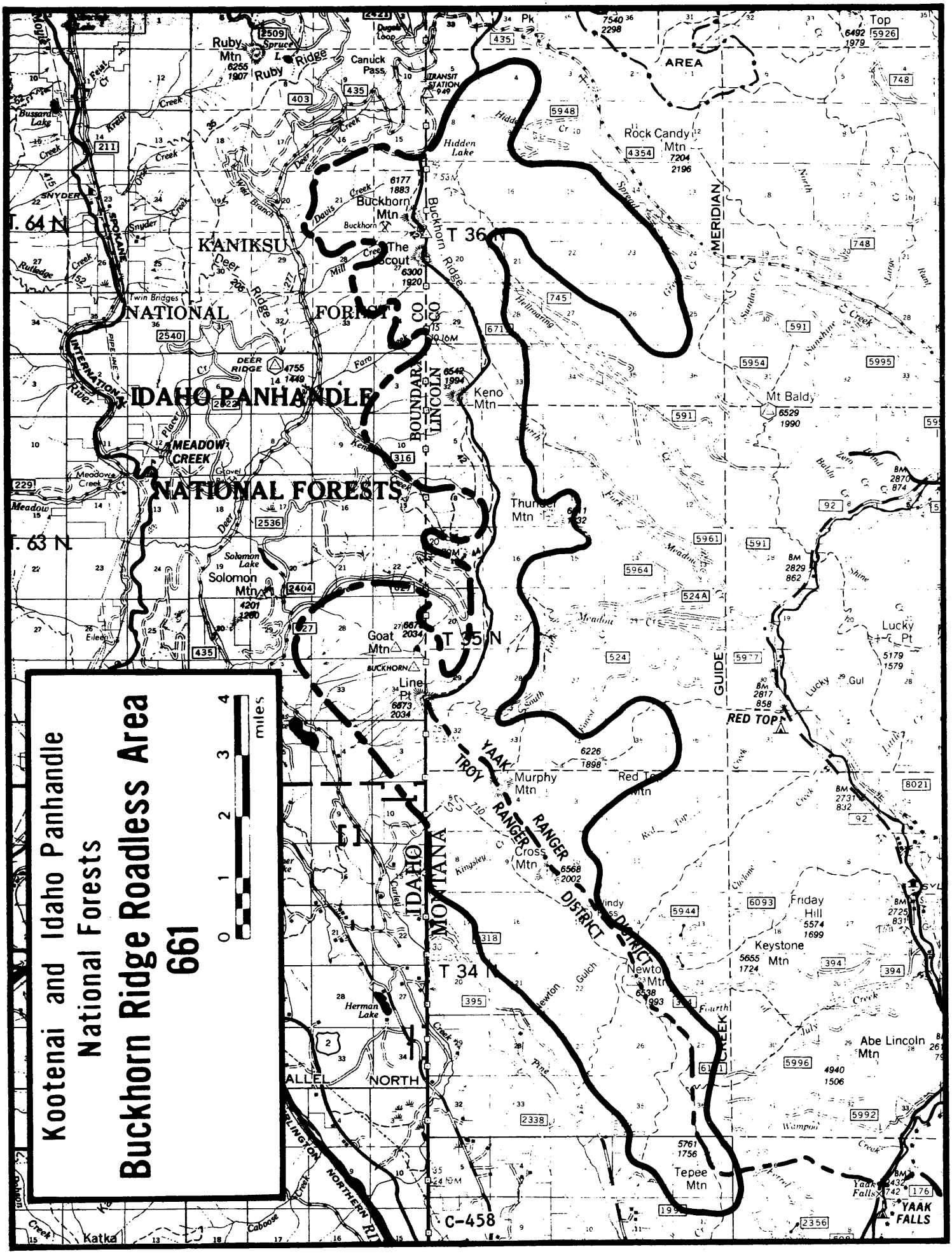
The area contains grizzly habitat, though the extent and use is not known. The ridgetop hiking experience is another of the area's attractions.

The area presently receives recreation use in the form of hunting, cross country skiing, hiking, snowmobiling and nature photography. Approximately 600 RVD's annually are associated with the area.

II. Capability

A. Natural Integrity and Appearance

There are many miles of recreation trails within the Kootenai portion of the area which constitutes the only significant manmade feature affecting the natural integrity and appearance. On the Idaho Panhandle side, however, signs of past fire and subsequent grazing and salvage harvest are visible. Numerous mining remains, tailings, adits, and cabins are also present.


Kootenai and Idaho Panhandle
National Forests
Buckhorn Ridge Roadless Area
661
0 1 2 3 4
miles
IDAHO PANHANDLE
NATIONAL FORESTS
KANIKSU
NATIONAL
FOREST
IDAHO
MONTANA
BOUNDARY CO
LINCOLN CO
T. 64 N
T. 63 N
T 36 N
T 35 N
T 34 N
BOISE MERIDIAN
Ruby Mtn
Ruby Ridge
Canuck Pass
Buckhorn Mtn
The Scout
Buckhorn Ridge
Rock Candy Mtn
Hidden Lake
Keno Mtn
Mt Baldy
Thunder Mtn
Solomon Mtn
Goat Mtn
Line Pt
Murphy Mtn
Cross Mtn
Newton Mtn
Keystone Mtn
Friday Hill
Abe Lincoln Mtn
Tepee Mtn
Lucky Pt
RED TOP
YAAK FALLS
TROY RANGER DISTRICT
YAAK RANGER DISTRICT
GUIDE CREEK
DEER RIDGE
MEADOW CREEK
Herman Lake
Solomon Lake
Twin Bridges
Bussard Lake
Katka
C-458

B. Opportunities for Solitude

Opportunities for solitude vary throughout the area. There are many places along the trails and within the ridgetop meadows where roads and clearcuts are highly visible just outside the area boundary. These developed areas receive very little use however, so the loss of solitude is primarily just the visual impacts themselves. Most of the side draws and upper spruce basins remaining in the area are well-timbered, producing good solitude. Sounds along the Deer Creek road on the Idaho Panhandle side can be heard from the ridgetops.

C. Primitive Recreation Opportunities

As one of the longer stretches of open grassy ridges on the Forests, the Buckhorn Ridge area provides many opportunities for primitive recreation. It now receives use from archery and rifle hunters, hikers, skiers, and photographers.

The most unique challenge Buckhorn Ridge offers is its relatively great length in terms of hiking or skiing. Hunting big game animals including bear, is also considered a challenge by many.

D. Other Features

Special features include grizzly bears and associated subalpine habitats.

There is some historical evidence of old lookout stations on Newton and Red Top Mountains.

2. Manageability and Boundaries

The Buckhorn Ridge area was inventoried during RARE II. The area was recommended for a nonwilderness designation but essentially managed as roadless in the Unit Plan designations. As such, the area has been maintained and, in fact, enlarged with the inclusion of additional roadless acres.

	Gross Acres	Net Acres	
Total Acres	8500	8500	1979 RARE II EIS
Kootenai Acres	3000	3000	
Idaho Panhandle Acres	5500	5500	
Total Acres	31600	31600	1983 Roadless Inventory
Kootenai Acres	22000	22000	
Idaho Panhandle Acres	9600	9600	

There are no nonconforming uses that would conflict with a wilderness designation.

The Buckhorn Ridge roadless area has a long boundary relative to its size, due to a long serpentine configuration. The manageability of its boundary is, therefore, less than ideal, although for the most part, the boundary consists of clearcuts and road edges which are identifiable and recognizable on the ground. There is little that could be done to improve this boundary that would not also appreciably affect the size of the roadless area.

II. Availability

A. Significant Resource Potentials

1. Recreation

About 9,450 RVD's of wilderness recreation per year could be provided. The area around Hidden Lake, in the northern part of the area, receives some snowmobile use. Current use is estimated to be 600 RVD's per year.

2. Wildlife and Fish

The area contains grizzly habitat, mule deer and elk summer range, and some moose habitat. The area around Newton Ridge contains winter range.

The fish resource is supported by the headwaters of Hellroaring, Spread, North Fork Meadow, South Fork Meadow, and Red Top Creeks and are all tributaries to the Yaak River which supports rainbow, cutthroat, and brook trout. Pine Creek, a brook trout stream, has numerous tributaries within the area boundary. Hidden Lake, a cutthroat fishery, is also in this roadless area.

3. Minerals

Mining claims are present on both the Kootenai and Idaho Panhandle portions of the area although the potential is rated as moderate to low. There are seven oil and gas lease applications pending. The oil and gas potential is considered moderate.

B. Other Resources

1. Cultural Resource

Cultural resource potential for prehistoric sites is considered low, based on surveys done in similar areas. Known historic sites include four former lookouts, a Forst Service work campsite, a guard station on Pine Creek, and several mining adits.

2. Water

Mean annual precipitation for the area varies between 65 and 80 inches, depending on elevation. Runoff varies between 45-65 inches, varying by elevation, with most of this amount appearing as streamflow in April-June. The water quality is rated high, even during the peak runoff periods.

C. Resource Situation

Table 1

Category	Unit	Kootenai	Idaho Panhandle	Total
Gross Acres	Acres	22000	9627	31600
Net Acres	Acres	22000	9595	**31600**
Recreation				
Semiprim. Nonmotor.	RVDs	600	4	**604**
Roaded Natural			37	**37**
Range				
Suitable Acres	Acres	0	0	**0**
AUMs	AUMs	0	0	**0**
Timber				
Tentative Suitable	Acres	11600	4400	**16000**
Standing Volume	MMBF	69	11	**80**
Corridors				
Existing & Potential	No.	0	0	**0**
Wildlife - T&E				
Grizzly Bear Habitat				
Situation 1	Acres	22000	5700	**27700**
Situation 2	Acres		3800	**3800**
Situation 3	Acres			
Wildlife - Big Game (Elk, Deer)				
Summer Range Total	Acres	14000	-	**14000**
Winter Range Total	Acres	1300	-	**1300**
Special Uses Existing	No.	0	0	**0**
Existing Facilities	No.	0	0	**0**
Significant Fisheries				
Stream Miles	Miles	0	0	**0**
Stream Habitat	Acres	0	0	**0**
Lakes	No.	0	0	**0**
Lake Habitat	Acres	0	0	**0**
Water Developments				
Existing	No.	0	0	**0**
Minerals				
Hardrock Potential				
Very High	Acres			
High	Acres			
Moderate	Acres	300		300
Low	Acres	21700	9600	**31300**
Mining Claims	No.	10	45	**55**
Oil & Gas Potential				
Very High	Acres			
High	Acres			
Moderate	Acres	22000	9600	31600
Low	Acres			
Unknown	Acres			
Oil & Gas Leases				
Leases	No.	7		**7**
Leased Acres	Acres	22000		**22000**

D. Management Considerations

1. Land Use Authorizations

There are no special uses.

2. Fire

The area has had moderate fire occurrences. The fuels situation is predominately dense conifer with downed woody materials as ground fuels on the lower slopes and light ground fuels on the upper slopes and barren ridges.

3. Insect and Disease

Except for some patches of mature lodgepole in the upper reaches of Meadow Creek and Red Top Creek, the insect and disease situation is stable with no activity presently occurring.

4. Non-Federal Lands

There are no private lands.

IV. Need

A. Proximity to Other Wilderness and to Population Centers

The Buckhorn Ridge roadless area is approximately 25 air miles from the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness which is receiving increasingly heavy use in addition to minerals exploration.

Buckhorn Ridge is one of the closest Kootenai roadless areas to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho and Spokane, Washington metropolitan areas.

B. Contribution to National Wilderness Preservation System

This area is representative of the Cabinet-Yaak grizzly bear ecosystem which is uncommon in the existing wilderness system. In existing wilderness within the immediate area, there is very little representation of the gentle, grassy, and extensive ridges found in the Buckhorn area. Most terrain in existing wilderness is steep, rocky, barren ridges or heavily covered with tree growth.

C. Public Interest

Previous public input on the Buckhorn area was obtained from the RARE II study and the Rock Candy-Lick Mountain Unit Plan during the Unit Planning process. Over 2100 respondents addressed the Buckhorn area during the RARE II public review period with about 89% opposed to wilderness for the area.

There has not been any concerted effort by any major proponent of wilderness towards the Buckhorn Ridge area specifically.

The area is presently used for roadless forms of recreation, hunting, nature photography, hiking, skiing, etc.

V. Alternatives and Environmental Consequences

A. Management Prescription Assignment by Alternative

Multiple use management prescriptions were grouped into categories (management emphases) which have similar impacts on the wilderness and roadless resources. The following table displays how the roadless area acreage was designated in each alternative. In addition, the summary of management emphasis further defines the rate of development that is expected to occur in some alternatives as well as the future disposition of the inventoried roadless area.

Table 2
Alternatives

Management Emphasis

Kootenai Alternative	Alt. A	Alt. B	Alt. C	Alt. D	Alt. E	Alt. F	Alt. G	Alt. H	Alt. I	Alt. J	Alt. K	Alt. L	Alt. M	Alt. N	Alt. O
Idaho Panhandle Alternative	**2**	**4**	**6**	**1**	**5**	**2**	**10**	**3**	**8**	**11**	**12**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**9**
Nonwilderness															
Primitive/Semiprimitive Recreation, Viewing, Minimum Use Areas															
Kootenai:	14.5	14.6	14.3	14.1	14.7	14.9	0	0	15.1	18.2	18.2	11.4	14.3	14.2	22.0
Idaho Panhandle NF:	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.5	5.9	0	0	6.8	6.6	6.6	5.9	5.9	5.9	8.6
Big Game Winter Range															
Kootenai:	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Idaho Panhandle NF:	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Timber Harvest With Wildlife and/or Viewing Management, Minimum Use Areas due to Steep Slopes or Regeneration Problems															
Kootenai:	7.5	7.4	7.8	7.9	7.3	7.1	0	0	6.8	3.8	3.8	10.6	7.8	7.5	0
Idaho Panhandle NF:	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.8	4.1	3.7	0	0	2.8	3.0	2.9	3.7	3.7	3.7	1.0
Special Interest Areas															
Kootenai:	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Idaho Panhandle NF:	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wilderness															
Recommended Wilderness															
Kootenai	0	0	0	0	0	0	22.0	22.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Idaho Panhandle	0	0	0	0	0	0	9.6	9.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Summary of Management Emphasis:															
Nonwilderness															
Developed - Decade 1:															
Kootenai:	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Idaho Panhandle NF:	2.9	3.9	3.2	3.5	2.2	2.9	0	0	1.0	.1	.2	2.9	2.9	2.9	.9
Decade 5:															
Kootenai:	7.5	7.4	7.8	7.9	7.3	0	0	0	6.8	3.8	3.8	10.6	7.8	7.5	0
Idaho Panhandle NF:	6.8	7.1	7.4	7.0	7.3	6.8	0	0	3.4	2.6	3.5	6.8	6.8	6.8	3.6
Roadless - Decade 1:															
Kootenai:	22.0	22.0	22.0	22.0	22.0	22.0	0	0	22.0	22.0	22.0	22.0	22.0	22.0	22.0
Idaho Panhandle NF:	6.7	5.7	6.4	6.1	7.4	6.7	0	0	8.6	9.5	9.4	6.7	6.7	6.7	8.7
Decade 5:															
Kootenai:	14.5	14.6	14.3	14.1	14.7	22.0	0	0	15.1	18.2	18.2	11.4	14.3	14.5	22.0
Idaho Panhandle NF:	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6.2	7.0	6.1	0	0	0	6.0
Recommended Wilderness															
Kootenai	0	0	0	0	0	0	22.0	22.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Idaho Panhandle NF	0	0	0	0	0	0	9.6	9.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Acres - Kootenai	22.0	22.0	22.0	22.0	22.0	22.0	22.0	22.0	22.0	22.0	22.0	22.0	22.0	22.0	22.0
Total Acres - Idaho Panhandle	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6
Total Acres	31.6	31.6	31.6	31.6	31.6	31.6	31.6	31.6	31.6	31.6	31.6	31.6	31.6	31.6	31.6

B. Impacts

1. Designation: Wilderness
3 Management Emphasis: Wilderness

The Buckhorn Ridge area is designated wilderness in its entirety in Alternatives G and H (both Kootenai and Idaho portions). No other alternative recommends wilderness for the area. There are no specific ground-disturbing management activities associated with wilderness areas although the establishment of these areas may, in itself, have effects on other resources and uses.

Wilderness classification will preserve the primitive characteristics of the area. The naturalness of the area will be maintained along with the opportunities for solitude in the upper draws and spruce basins. Primitive recreation opportunities would be maximized as well as protection of old growth timber and associated wildlife habitat.

There are about 12,500 acres of suitable timberland within the area. The following chart displays the suitable acres that would be included in proposed wilderness.

Acres of Suitable Timberland in Wilderness

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
0	0	0	0	0	0	12.5	12.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Opportunities to manage the timber resource would be foregone in Alternatives G and H, as would opportunites to manage big game summer range habitat through tree removal.

Grizzly bear habitat (Cabinet-Yaak Ecosystem; Situation 1 - critical to the recovery of the species) covers the entire roadless area. Wilderness management would provide security to the bear from roading and related increases in human activity. However, increases in forage through timber harvest or burning would not occur.

Wilderness restricts the exploration for, and removal of, mineral resources. The hardrock minerals potential, however, is low and the oil and gas potential is moderate. Restrictions placed on the exploration for these resources are not considered significant.

Activities permissable in wilderness, when authorized by the 1964 Wilderness Act or wilderness management plans, cost more than activities in areas without the restrictions. Restrictions apply primarily to mode of transportation, use of chainsaws in the wilderness, and removing signs of the intrusion after project completion. When permitted, activities such as mineral exploration, disease and pest control, and fire suppression, would be conducted while protecting the wilderness values which, in turn, requires more time, adherence to more stringent requirements, and more money being spent on the project.

Social and economic effects would center around the resource values of primitive recreation, wildlife, wilderness, and timber. Semiprimitive recreation activities such as hunting in a roadless setting would continue. Timberland would not be available in Alternatives G and H, thus not supporting the wood products industry. Those publics valuing wilderness would be supportive of this management emphasis.

2. Designation: Nonwilderness
   Management Emphases: Primitive Recreation, Semiprimitive Nonmotorized Recreation, Viewing, and Limited Use Areas

The amount of nonwilderness/roadless management in the Buckhorn Ridge roadless area is dependent on the goals and objectives for a particular alternative. The following chart shows the percent designated roadless management in each alternative.

Percent of Roadless Area Designated Roadless Management By Alternative

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
64	64	63	62	63	65	0	0	69	78	78	54	63	64	96

There are few, if any, ground-disturbing management activities specifically associated with roadlessness. Activities are associated primarily with dispersed recreation, hiking, and hunting, along the ridgeline.

The roadless character within this emphasis will be maintained as well as the semiprimitive recreation opportunities. Old growth habitat will also be maintained and grizzly habitat will be protected. Security for big game would be maintained.

Like wilderness, roadless designations require stiffer requirements for conducting activities, requirements that are designed to protect the qualities inherent in a roadless allocation. Restrictions on access and mode of travel are major limitations for conducting activities, often making the activity too expensive to accomplish. Such activities can include wildlife and fish habitat improvements, mineral, oil and gas exploration/development, insect and disese control, and wildfire suppression.

The social and economic effects are primarily the benefits of semiprimitive recreation opportunities.

3. Designation: Nonwilderness
Management Emphases: Big Game Winter Range Timber, Big Game Summer Range Timber, Wildlife Timber, Grizzly Timber, Timber Optimization, Timber Viewing, Viewing Timber, Minimum Use Due to Steep Slopes or Regeneration Problems.

The following chart displays the percent of the Buckhorn Ridge area allocated to this emphasis in each alternative.

Percent of Area Designated to Developmental Activities
By Alternative

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
35	35	36	37	36	34	0	0	30	21	21	45	36	35	4

Timber harvest and associated activities, such as road building, have more affect on the physical and biological environment than and of the other forest management activities. The extent of the effects are dependent on management regimes selected.

Timber harvest during the first decade would occur primarily on the Idaho Panhandle portion of the area at the rate of about 1 MMBF per year. About 15 miles of road would be constructed during the first decade. No harvest would occur on the Kootenai portion until the fifth decade. At that time, combined timber production would reach about 1.5 MMBF per year in most alternatives, with a road system totalling about 20 miles. Most harvest would occur in big game summer range habitat which requires coordination with wildlife needs.

The naturalness of the area will be impacted by harvest cutting units, roads, and other evidence of human modifications. Roading forgoes the opportunity to consider the area for wilderness in the long term and reduces the opportunity for primitive recreation and experiences of solitude.

Timber harvest and roads could result in a short term reduction in big game cover and security. Activities conducted in big game habitat are coordinated with wildlife needs and include the closure of roads upon completion of the activity and insuring that adequate cover is left. Long term benefits to wildlife include maintaining and improving wildlife forage.

Timber management activities can directly affect the grizzly population in the short term by logging activities and the long term by road access into a roadless area. Access into the area could displace the bear and increase the opportunity for human/bear encounters. Timber management activities, if well coordinated, can produce benefits by producing more desirable forage for grizzlies through certain timber harvest and site preparation practices such as small clearcuts and broadcast burning instead of tractor piling. Roads would be closed in a timely manner to minimize human/bear encounters and displacement.

Social and economic effects are related primarily to the resource values of timber, wildlife, wilderness, and recreation. The harvest of timber is important to the economic base of communities in the Forests. Timber from the Buckhorn Ridge roadless area would contribute to the economic base. Hunting experiences could be altered because of the change in the roadless setting to a roaded natural setting. Road closures would retain the area closer to its existing character. Those publics desiring wilderness or roadless mangement for the area would not be supported by this emphasis. Concerns about impacts on grizzly bear, big game, and other species could be raised by the activities scheduled in this emphasis, but would be addressed by efforts to mitigate the impacts.

Scotchman Peaks - 01662 State: Montana and Idaho

	Gross Acres			Net Acres		
	Total	Montana	Idaho	Total	Montana	Idaho
Total Area	86,449	64,780	21,669	83,992	64,280	19,712
Kootenai ---------	52,600	52,100	500	52,100	51,600	500
Idaho Panhandle --	33,849	12,680	21,169	31,842	12,680	19,212

I. Description

The Scotchman Peaks roadless area is located in the southwest corner of the Kootenai National Forest in western Lincoln and Sanders Counties, Montana, and northeast Bonner County, Idaho, situated on the Idaho-Montana border between the Kootenai and Clark Fork Rivers. The area extends into the Idaho Panhandle National Forest (33,849 acres). Access to the area is provided by State Highways 200 and 56 leading to several trails, particularly the Ross Creek Trail in the mid-portion and onto Pellick Ridge in the in the southeast corner. Trails are also present in Star and Napolean Gulches, leading to Squaw Peak on Pellick Ridge and in Spar and Cub Creeks on the northern tip. On the Idaho side, a few trails provide access into the area.

The area is surrounded by Forest developments such as roads and clearcuts, particularly in the northern portion and by private lands along State Highways 56 and 200.

Discussions of geography, topography, and vegetation invariably include descriptions of the area's rugged alpine scenery left by glaciers. Perhaps some of the most classic examples of glacial cirques found in the region dominate the upper reaches of Ross Creek. Other displays of the deep glaciation are particularly striking in the Savage Creek area. Major streams draining the Scotchman area are Ross, Spar and Blue Creeks. Spar Creek forms a deep canyon from Little Spar Lake to Spar Lake. Little Spar Lake is the only named water body in the area although several alpine potholes or ponds are scattered throughout the rocks along the main divide. (Lightning Creek drains much of the west side, in the Idaho Panhandle N.F., including the north face of Scotchman Peak. Steep, timbered breaks characterize this stretch of Lightning Creek, where the elevation changes a dramatic 4,500 feet in less than two miles on the slopes of Scotchman Peak.) Just over the headwalls of the deep cirques in Ross Creek, hillsides of alpine vegetation slope into the West Fork Blue Creek while the backsides of distinctive Sawtooth and Billiard Table Mountains drain through side hill parks and waterfalls to the East Fork of Blue Creek. The U-shaped valley of South Fork Ross Creek curves through green meadows and rock slides to meet the main Ross Creek. The scoured headlands of Ross Creek are soon lost in stands of large cedar, hemlock and white pine, as the creek tumbles through what is often a tangle of moss-covered boulders and devil's club on its way to the scenic Ross Creek Cedar grove below. Pellick Ridge, with its summit of Squaw Peak, tips rocky south slopes nearly 4,000 feet into the Clark Fork and lower Bull River valleys. In contrast, an almost continuous canopy of trees cover the cooler north aspects of Pellick Ridge in Napoleon and Lower Star Gulches. Upper Star Gulch, like neighboring Hamilton Gulch, shows much of its bedrock at the surface.

The area supports numerous wildlife including elk, deer, bighorn sheep, and grizzly bear. Most of Scotchman Peaks is grizzly habitat. Scenic attractions include Sawtooth and Billiard Table Mountains and Scotchman Peaks. Views from Pellick Ridge include Lake Pend Oreille to the west, the Bitterroot Mountains to the south, the Cabinet Mountain Wilderness to the east, and excellent views of the Bull River and Clark Fork Valleys.

Use of the area consists of hiking, cross country skiing, and roadless hunting, and is characterized as light to moderate in intensity. Some snowmobile use has been occurring in the Drift Peak area, on the northern portion of the roadless area boundary.

II. Capability

A. Natural Integrity and Appearance

Within the present roadless area boundary, the natural integrity and appearance is very high. Other than a few remnants of old, log trapper huts, the only manmade structure in the area is the Squaw Peak Lookout. Evidence of past mining activities has been reduced significantly by weathering and vegetation.

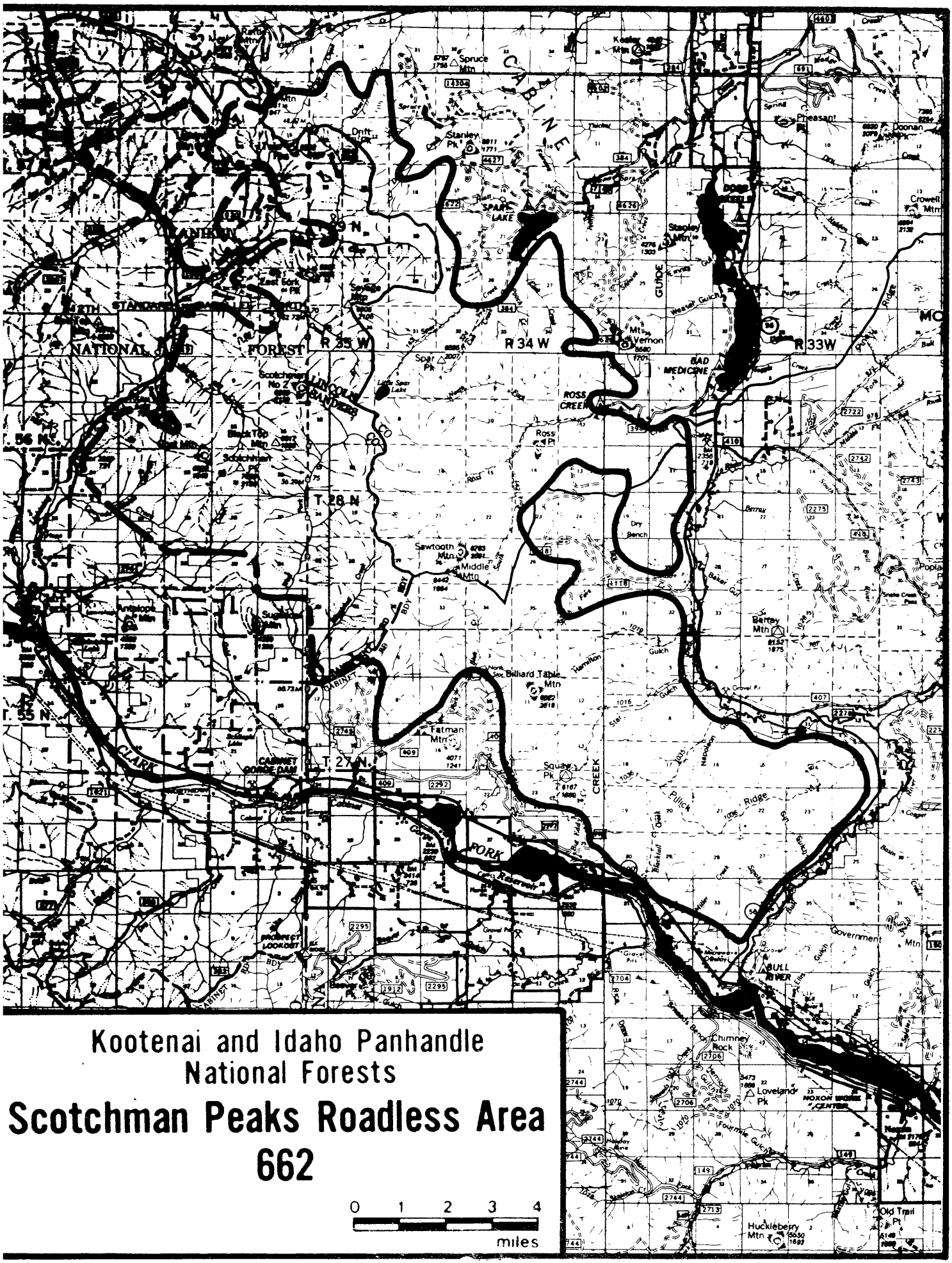
There are relatively few miles of constructed trail in the area, considering the large size, and no constructed recreation sites. Little Spar Lake is the only area having enough concentrated recreation use to visibly show the signs of wear.

B. Opportunities for Solitude

Through much of the area, opportunities for solitude are numerous. The north central sections of Ross and Blue Creeks in particular have deep valleys covered with large old growth cedar, hemlock and white pine, sharply defined cirque basins, and heavily vegetated riparian zones. These screening factors coupled with a distinct lack of concentrated recreation use provide opportunites for a very primitive recreation experience. In existing western wilderness the shorelines of alpine lakes with fish and mainline access trails concentrate users, making a primitive experience difficult. Recreation use is well dispersed in the Scotchman area, as there are no mainline access trails and only one lake with fish. The Pellick Ridge trail is over 10 miles long, but does not have a destination of concentrated use. Much of the travel in the area is crosscountry both summer and winter, with quality backcountry hunting for elk, deer, and goats in the fall.

C. Primitive Recreation Opportunities

The rugged country and lack of recreation access provides a challenge for the visitor for a true wilderness experience. Bow hunting for elk and deer and ski mountaineering are also challenges people now experience in the area.


CABINET
GORGE
R 35 W
R 34 W
R 33 W
T 29 N
T 28 N
T 27 N
T 56 N
T 55 N
NATIONAL FOREST
SPAR LAKE
BAD MEDICINE
ROSS CREEK
Spruce Mtn
Stanley Pk
Stapley Mtn
Mt Vernon
Spar Pk
Sawtooth Mtn
Middle Mtn
Dry Bench
Barney Mtn
Billiard Table Mtn
Fatman Mtn
Squaw Pk
Government Mtn
BULL RIVER
Chimney Rock
Loveland Pk
Huckleberry Mtn
Old Trail Pt
Crowell Mtn
Pheasant Pt
Doonan
CABINET GORGE DAM
CABINET LOOKOUT
CLARK FORK
Reservoir
CREEK
Ross Pt
Weaver Gulch
Pullick Ridge
Blacktail Creek
Napoleon Gulch
Hamilton Gulch
Star Gulch
Baker Gulch
Fourmile Gulch
Hemlock Gulch
Dry Gulch
Bull River
Sprint Creek
Thicket Creek
Sawmill Creek
Spring Creek
Little Spar Lake
Black Top Mtn
Scotchman Pk
Scotchman No 2
Sugarloaf Mtn
Pilgrim Mtn
Beaver Pk
Kootenai and Idaho Panhandle
National Forests
Scotchman Peaks Roadless Area
662
0 1 2 3 4
miles

D. Other Features

There are several special features in the Scotchman Peaks area. One important one is its wide range of wildlife species; from the bighorn sheep in the Pellick ridge area to goats, grizzly bears and significant elk herds in the Ross Creek-Blue Creek areas. Ross Creek contains some of the largest western red cedar, western white pine, western hemlock and mountain hemlock remaining on the Forest. The strongly glaciated topography of the upper basins is another special feature.

E. Manageability and Boundaries

The Scotchman Peaks roadless area was evaluated for wilderness in the 1979 RARE II Final EIS. The EIS recommended wilderness for 24,553 acres on the Kootenai Forest (24,047 in Montana and 506 acres in Idaho) and for 22,338 acres on the Idaho Panhandle Forest (12,680 in Montana and 9,658 acres in Idaho). Since 1979, the boundaries of the area have remained unchanged. The acres have changed slightly because of recalculation.

	Gross Acres	Net Gross	
Total Area	86000	84190	1979 RARE II EIS
Kootenai Forest	52600	52100	
Idaho Panhandle	33400	32090	
Total Area	86449	83992	1983 roadless inventory
Kootenai Forest	52600	52100	
Idaho Panhandle	33849	31842	

The Squaw Peak lookout is the only manmade structure that constitutes a nonconforming use but its present does not detract from the wilderness quality of the area. There are about 1,800 acres of private lands that could cause potential conflicts with a wilderness classification.

A considerable portion of the Kootenai National Forest portion of the Scotchman Peaks area has remained roadless to the very perimeter if its landform, making much of the area ideal in terms of boundary management. This boundary could be enhanced further with the inclusion of some older spruce loggng areas such as those in Dry Creek. The roadless area in its entirety is of a size and configuration which, should it become wilderness, should be relatively easy to manage.

The Idaho portion of the area has boundaries which are fairly well defined on major terrain or other recognized features. Exceptions to this occur along Lightning Creek and along the southern boundary which borders private lands. Two sections of private land lie within the roadless area boundary along the southern edge. The private lands are within one mile of Scotchman Peak, the highest peak in the roadless area. Recommendations made during the RARE II study included excluding the "fingers" of wildernessd that protruded into the developed areas which would enhance the solitude opportunities but reduce the wilderness acres. Conflicts with the private land inside the proposed boundary along the southern edge could be avoided by purchase or trade for these private lands. Boundary adjustments to exclude the private lands would be very difficult if the integrity of the proposed wilderness area were to be maintained.

III. Availability

A. Significant Resource Potentials

1. Recreation

The area has the potential to provide 15,600 RVD's of wilderness recreation. Snowmobile use is occurring around the Drift Peak area. Current recreation use is estimated to be 6,000 RVD's per year.

2. Wildlife and Fish

Habitat in the area supports elk, mule and whitetail deer, bighorn sheep, goats and grizzly and black bear. Most of the area is important grizzly habitat. Wildlife management in the form of burning, is considered most desirable in the big game winter range along the south face of Pellick Ridge.

Little Spar Lake, a brook trout lake, is in this area as are numerous tributaries that flow into either Bull Lake, Bull River, or Noxon Reservoir. Some of the more important streams are Ross Creek, a cutthroat-brook trout creek, and Blue Creek, a poor to fair cutthroat trout stream. Stream bottoms are generally quite brushy which results in very little fishing pressure.

3. Timber

There are 28,600 acres of tentatively suitable timberland capable of producing at least 20 cubic feet per acre per year of timber growth. (The majority of this timberland is located on the Pellick Ridge portion of the roadless area.) Approximately 90% of the tentatively suitable timberland is located on slopes greater than 55%. Road construction will be difficult and costly and logging will require the use of cable and helicopter yarding methods.

4. Minerals

Minerals investigations by the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Bureau of Mines indicate that the potential for the discovery of economic copper/silver deposits within the Star Gulch of Pellick Ridge and Ross Point is very high, similar to the Troy Mine (ASARCO) on Mt. Vernon immediately to the north. In the remainder of the roadless area, the mineral potential is considered medium to low. The oil and gas potential is moderate.

5. Cultural Resources

Cultural resources in the area include several historic sites including the Squaw Peak Lookout, the remains of a tent camp at Ross Point, 6 mining adits and pits, and 2 other mining remains. There are no known prehistoric sites in the area but the probability of sites occurring is considered low, except in the Ross Creek drainage bottom where the probability is moderate to high. This is based on surveys done in similar areas.

6. Special Considerations

The Scotchman Peaks area contains a Western Red Cedar potential Research Natural Area in Ross Creek, and at a small lake near Scotchman Peak No. 2.

B. Other Resources

1. Range

There are no grazing allotments in the area and grazing potential is all transitory.

2. Water

Average annual precipitation is very high, varying from 33 to 105 inches depending on the elevation and proximity to the watershed divide. Average annual runoff for the area varies from 12 to 60 inches, varying again with elevation and with aspect. The only deviation in the pristine water quality to be found in this area would be sediment levels during high runoff events.

C. Resource Situation

Table 1

Category	Unit	Total Area	Kootenai NF	Idaho Panhandle NF
Gross Acres	Acres	85719	52370	33849
Net Acres	Acres	83262	51870	31842
Recreation				
Semiprim. Nonmotor.	RVDs	6500	6000	500
Range				
Suitable Acres	Acres	0	0	0
AUMs	AUMs	0	0	0
Timber				
Tentative Suitable	Acres	38765	28600	10165
Standing Volume	MMBF	602	384	218
Corridors				
Existing & Potential	No.	0	0	0
Wildlife - T&E				
Grizzly Bear Habitat				
Situation 1	Acres	69800	41100	28700
Situation 2	Acres	13100	9900	3162
Situation 3	Acres	0	0	0
Wildlife - Big Game				
Summer Range Total	Acres	25100	25100	-
Winter Range Total	Acres	2450	2100	350
Significant Fisheries				
Stream Miles	Miles	9	4	5
Stream Habitat	Acres	5	-	5
Lakes	No.	1	1	0
Lake Habitat	Acres	51	51	0
Water Developments				
Existing	No.	1	0	1
Minerals				
Hardrock Potential				
Very High		4500	4500	
High		7100	700	6400
Moderate		54700	38900	15800
Low		18100	9600	8500
Mining Claims		816	800	16
Oil & Gas Potential				
Very High				
High				
Moderate		84400	52600	31800
Low				
Oil & Gas Leases				
Leases		20	20	
Leased Acres		52600	52600	

D. Management Considerations

1. Land Use Authorizations

There are no special uses.

2. Fire

The area has had low fire occurrance (8 fires in the last 20 years). The fuels situation is considered predominately dense conifers with downed, woody materials as ground fuels.

3. Insect and Disease

Except for some mature lodgepole pine stands in the area of Dry Bench, there are no high risk stands nor is there insect or disease activity in the area.

4. Non-Federal Lands

There are about 500 acres of private lands located adjacent to State Highway 56.

IV. Need

A. Proximity to Other Wilderness and to Population Centers

Although the proposed Scotchman area is just across the Bull River valley from the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness, it would serve a different purpose were it to become wilderness. In recent years the Cabinets are receiving rapidly increasing numbers of visitors. These visitors tend to concentrate in the numerous lake basins. This, coupled with mineral exploration activity, is putting tremendous pressure on the Cabinet Mountains wilderness qualities. As a rugged area with less spectacular recreation features, Scotchman would make a significant contribution to the wilderness system simply by being wild and less used, available to those visitors looking for a truly wild experience, which is becoming difficult during the popular summer months in the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness.

The Scotchman Peaks proposed wilderness is less than 100 miles from Coeur d'Alene, Idaho and Spokane, Washington on the west, 25 miles from Libby, Montana on the east, and 150 miles from Missoula, Montana to the south.

B. Contribution to National Wilderness Preservation System

This area is representative of the Cabinet-Yaak grizzly bear ecosystem which is uncommon in the existing wilderness system.

C. Public Interest

Much interest has been expressed about Scotchman Peaks throughout the last decade, generating altogether more support for wilderness than any other area on the Kootenai National Forest. During RARE II public review, over 6100 comments were received, 75 percent of which expressed support for wilderness in Scotchman Peaks. Opposition to a wilderness classification stemmed from concern for the timber and mineral values in the area. The Montana Wilderness Association's Alternative "W" (1978) recommended that Scotchmans be wilderness. About 41,000 acres of the Scotchman Peaks roadless area have been recommended for wilderness as part of the Montana Wilderness Bill proposal.

The area is currently used for hiking, hunting, and cross country skiing. Some snowmobile use is occurring on the northern boundary in the vicinity of Drift Peak.

Alternatives and Environmental Consequences

A. Management Prescription Assignment by Alternative

Multiple use management prescriptions were grouped into categories (management emphases) which have similar impacts on the wilderness and roadless resources. The following table displays how the roadless area acreage was designated in each alternative. In addition, the summary of management emphasis further defines the rate of development that is expected to occur in some alternatives as well as the future disposition of the inventoried roadless area.

Scotchman Peaks

Management Emphasis

Table 2
Alternatives

Kootenai Alternatives Idaho Panhandle Alternatives	Alt. A 2	Alt. B 4	Alt. C 6	Alt. D 1	Alt. E 5	Alt. F 2	Alt. G 10	Alt. H 3	Alt. I 8	Alt. J 11	Alt. K 12	Alt. L 2	Alt. M 2	Alt. N 2	Alt. O 9
Nonwilderness															
Primitive/Semiprimitive Recreation, Viewing, Minimum Use Areas															
Kootenai:	33.2	.7	7.5	3.6	.8	30.4	0	0	3.5	19.6	19.6	28.4	32.5	33.3	23.3
Idaho Panhandle NF:	22.7	4.1	4.1	5.6	9.3	22.7	0	0	5.3	6.9	6.9	22.7	22.7	22.7	7.7
Big Game Winter Range															
Kootenai:	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4.0	4.0	0	0	0	0
Idaho Panhandle NF:	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Timber Harvest With Wildlife and/or Viewing Management, Minimum Use Areas due to Steep Slopes or Regeneration Problems															
Kootenai:	18.8	2.2	15.6	0	2.0	21.7	0	0	.8	4.3	4.3	23.7	19.7	18.8	0
Idaho Panhandle NF:	9.1	5.2	5.2	3.7	0	9.1	0	0	4.0	2.3	2.3	9.1	9.1	9.1	1.6
Wilderness															
Recommended Wilderness															
Kootenai	0	48.3	28.9	48.3	49.2	0	51.9	51.9	47.6	24.2	24.2	0	0	0	28.9
Idaho Panhandle	0	22.5	22.5	22.5	22.5	0	31.8	31.8	22.5	22.5	22.5	0	0	0	22.5
Summary of Management Emphasis:															
Nonwilderness															
Developed - Decade 1:															
Kootenai:	.3	0	0	0	0	.9	0	0	0	0	0	.8	.3	.3	0
Idaho Panhandle NF:	3.7	2.3	1.8	1.3	1.0	3.7	0	0	.5	2.0	.4	3.7	3.7	3.7	2.0
Decade 5:															
Kootenai:	18.8	2.2	15.6	0	2.0	21.7	0	0	0	4.3	4.3	23.7	19.7	18.8	0
Idaho Panhandle NF:	31.8	9.3	9.3	11.8	6.8	31.8	0	0	9.3	6.8	6.4	31.8	31.8	31.8	9.8
Roadless - Decade 1:															
Kootenai:	51.6	2.8	23.2	23.2	2.8	51.0	0	0	4.3	27.9	27.9	51.1	51.6	51.6	23.3
Idaho Panhandle NF:	28.1	1.0	7.5	7.0	8.3	28.1	0	0	8.8	7.3	8.9	28.1	28.1	28.1	7.3
Decade 5:															
Kootenai:	33.3	0	7.5	0	0	30.4	0	0	0	19.6	19.6	28.4	32.5	33.3	23.3
Idaho Panhandle NF:	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Recommended Wilderness															
Kootenai	0	48.3	28.9	48.3	49.3	0	51.9	51.9	47.6	24.2	24.2	0	0	0	28.9
Idaho Panhandle NF	0	22.5	22.5	22.5	22.5	0	31.8	31.8	22.5	22.5	22.5	0	0	0	22.5
Total Acres - Kootenai	51.9	51.9	51.9	51.9	51.9	51.9	51.9	51.9	51.9	51.9	51.9	51.9	51.9	51.9	51.9
Total Acres - Idaho Panhandle	31.8	31.8	31.8	31.8	31.8	31.8	31.8	31.8	31.8	31.8	31.8	31.8	31.8	31.8	31.8
Total Acres	83.7	83.7	83.7	83.7	83.7	83.7	83.7	83.7	83.7	83.7	83.7	83.7	83.7	83.7	83.7

B. Impacts

1. Designation: Wilderness
Management Emphasis: Wilderness

The amount of wilderness (established and proposed) for the Scotchman Peaks roadless area, is dependent on the goals and objectives for a particular alternative. All alternatives, except A, F, L, M, and N propose some amount of wilderness in the Scotchman Peaks area. (In the Current Direction, Scotchman Peaks is a wilderness study area). Alternatives G and H designate wilderness on all available acres on both the Kootenai and Idaho Panhandle National Forests. There are no specific ground-disturbing management activities associated with wilderness areas although the establishment of these areas may, in itself, have effects on other resources and uses.

Wilderness classification will preserve the existing wilderness characteristics of the area. The naturalness of the area will be maintained along with the solitude opportunities available in the area. Primitive recreation opportunities would be maximized as well as protection of old growth timber and associated wildlife habitat.

About 39,000 acres of commercial land are in the Scotchman Peaks roadless area. The opportunity to harvest timber would be foregone to some extent in all Alternatives except Alternative A. All suitable timberlands would be included in wilderness in Alternatives G and H. Most of the productive timber lands are located on Pellick Ridge. Alternatives J, K, and C exclude the productive portions of Pellick Ridge from proposed wilderness designation. The following chart displays the acres of suitable timberland that would lie within proposed wilderness in each alternative.

Acres of Suitable Timberland in Wilderness
By Alternative (M Acres)

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
0	21.9	6.7	21.9	21.2	0	24.1	24.1	21.9	4.4	4.4	0	0	0	6.7

Grizzly bear habitat (Situations 1 and 2 - see Glossary) covers the entire area. Wilderness management would provide security to the bear from roading and related increases in human activity in the area. However, opportunities to increase forage through timber harvest and prescribed burning would not occur.

Opportunities to manage big game winter range on the south facing slopes of Pellick Ridge by prescribed burning would not be present unless specified in a wilderness management plan. Opportunities to manage the 25,000 acres of big game summer range through timber harvest would also be precluded. The inability to produce long term forage through timber harvest would be offset by the security afforded to big game in a wilderness designation.

Wilderness restricts the exploration for, and removal of, mineral resources. The 11,600 acres of very high to high minerals potential would be restricted by a wilderness designation in most alternatives. Under the Wilderness Act, the area would be withdrawn from mineral entry since no validated mining claims exist. Alternative A would have no restrictions on about 700 acres of very high-high mineral potential; the remaining 10,900 acres lie within semiprimitve nonmotorized recreation designations or other designations carrying restrictions on mineral exploration. This restriction is not considered significant to oil and gas because the oil and gas potential is moderate. The existing oil and gas leases would be honored, however. If there is no discovery when a lease expires, then the land will be withdrawn from mineral entry for leasing.

Activities permissable in wilderness, when authorized by the 1964 Wilderness Act or wilderness management plans, cost more than activities in areas without the restrictions. Restrictions apply primarily to mode of transportation, use of chainsaws in the wilderness, and removing signs of the intrusion after project completion. When permitted, activities such as mineral exploration, disease and pest control, and fire suppression, would be conducted while protecting the wilderness values which, in turn, requires more time, adherence to more stringent requirements, and more money being spent.

Social and economic effects would center around the resource values of recreation, wildlife, wilderness, and timber. Semiprimitive recreation activities, such as hunting in a roadless setting, would continue. Timber would not be available in Alternatives G and H, thus not supporting the timber industry. Those publics valuing widerness would be supportive of this management emphasis.

2. Designation: Nonwilderness
Management Emphases: Primitive Recreation, Semiprimitive Nonmotorized Recreation, Viewing, Minimum Use Areas

The amount of nonwilderness/roadless management in the Scotchman Peaks roadless area is dependent on the goals and objectives for a particular alternative. Alternatives A and N designate the most roadless acres (but no wilderness), followed by Alternatives M, F, L, O, J, and K. All alternatives designate some portions of the area to roadless management, primarily to semiprimitive, nonmotorized recreation. There are few, if any, ground-disturbing management activities specifically associated with roadlessness. Activities are primarily associated with dispersed recreation including hunting and fishing. The following chart displays the percentage of the area designated to roadless management under each alternative.

Percent Designated to Roadless Management
By Alternative

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
66	5	13	10	12	63	0	0	10	31	31	61	63	66	37

Designations to roadless management will maintain the primitive character of the area and provide primitive recreation opportunities. Old growth habitat will also be maintained and grizzly habitat will be protected. Security for big game will be maintained. The landscape would remain as natural appearing but the buildup of natural fuels could increase risks of wildfire.

Like wilderness, roadless designations require stiffer requirements for conducting activities, requirements that are designed to protect the qualities inherent in a roadless allocation. Restrictions on access and motorized travel are major limitations for conducting activities, often making the activity too expensive to accomplish. Such activities can include wildlife and fish habitat improvements, mineral, oil and gas exploration/development, insect and disese control, and wildfire suppression.

The social and economic effects are primarily the benefits of semiprimitive recreation opportunities. Timber would not be available for harvest in this emphasis.

3. Designation: Nonwilderness
Management Emphasis: Big Game Winter Range

Alternatives J and K designate about 4% of the area (4,000 acres) to this management emphasis. This emphasis is located primarily along the south facing slopes of Pellick Ridge, facing into the Clark Fork valley. The intent is to management winter range habitat for the benefit of elk and deer. Prescribed burning is the primary management activity.

The impact on the wilderness and roadless character caused by this emphasis is short term in nature. The naturalness of the area would be altered shortly after burning but vegetative recovery would make this activity less apparent later on.

Impacts on the timber and mineral resources would be insignificant in this emphasis.

Social and economic effects would be primarily one of support of those publics valuing wildlife in the area.

3. Designation: Nonwilderness
Management Emphases: Big Game Winter Range Timber, Big Game Summer Range Timber, Wildlife Timber, Grizzly Timber, Timber Optimization, Timber Viewing, Viewing Timber, Minimum Use Due to Steep Slopes or Regeneration Problems.

The following chart displays the amount of the roadless area designated to this emphasis in each alternative.

Percent of Roadless Area Designated for Developmental Activities By Alternative

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
33	8	21	4	2	36	0	0	5	7	7	39	34	33	1

Timber harvest and associated activities, such as road building, have more affect on the physical and biological environment than and of the other forest management activities. The extent of the effects are dependent on management regimes selected.

Except in Alternatives A, F, L, M, and N, no development is scheduled to occur during the first decade. (On the Idaho portion of the area, development begins in the first decade in all alternatives except G and H). Most timber harvest activities would occur in the Pellick Ridge area where the majority of the productive timberland is located. As harvest and road building take place, the naturalness of the area will be impacted. Roading forgoes the opportunity to consider the area for wilderness in the long term and reduces the opportunity for primitive recreation and experiences of solitude.

Timber harvest and roads could result in a short term reduction in big game cover and security. Activities conducted in big game habitat are coordinated with wildlife needs and include the closure of roads upon completion of the activity and insuring that adequate cover is left. Long term benefits to wildlife include maintaining and improving wildlife forage.

Timber management activities can directly affect the grizzly population in the short term by logging activities and the long term by road access into a roadless area. Access into the area could displace the bear and increase the opportunity for human/bear encounters. Timber management activities, if well coordinated, can produce benefits by producing more desirable forage for grizzlies through certain timber harvest and site preparation practices such as small clearcuts and broadcast burning instead of tractor piling. Roads would be closed in a timely manner to minimize human/bear encounters and displacement.

Social and economic effects are related primarily to the resource values of timber, wildlife, wilderness, and recreation. The harvest of timber is important to the economic base of communities in the Forests. Timber from the Scotchman Peaks roadless area would contribute to the economic base. Hunting experiences could be altered because of the change in the roadless setting to a roaded natural setting. Road closures would retain the area closer to its existing character. Those publics desiring wilderness or roadless mangement for the area would not be supported by this emphasis. Concerns about impacts on grizzly bear, big game, and other species could be raised by the activities scheduled in this emphasis, but would be addressed by efforts to mitigate the impacts.

Northwest Peaks - 01663

State: Montana and Idaho

Total Gross Acres:	19,270	Total Net Acres:	19,270
Kootenai ----------	13,600	Kootenai ----------	13,600
Idaho Panhandle -------	5,670	Idaho Panhandle --------	5,670

I. Description

This roadless area is located in the extreme northwest corner of the Kootenai National Forest, bordered by Canada to the north and Idaho to the west. Part of the area extends into the Idaho Panhandle.

Access to the area is provided via the Yaak River Road leading in from U.S. Highway 2. Destination points via trails from the Pete Creek Road include Hawkins Lake and Northwest Peak, and the ridgeline running along Rock Candy Mountain and Black Top Mountain.

The area is characterized as a high ridgeline setting with a generally rough topography. The highest points are Northwest Peak (7700 feet), Davis Mountain (7500 feet), and Ewing Mountain (7500 feet), all of which are in the existing Northwest Peaks Scenic Area. The lowest elevation is around 6000 feet. Subalpine and alpine in character, timber is generally stunted and scattered. There is some suitable timber land on the southern edge. Species include Engelmann spruce, alpine fir, whitebark pine, and alpine larch. Headwater sections for Spread and Hawkins Creek and found in this area, as are Seven Lakes. Named lakes include Hawkins and Burke.

Timber harvest and road building are most noticeable on the Idaho side, but can be seen from all high points of the area.

The ecosystems represented in this area are Western Spruce Fir forest and Cedar Hemlock Pine forest.

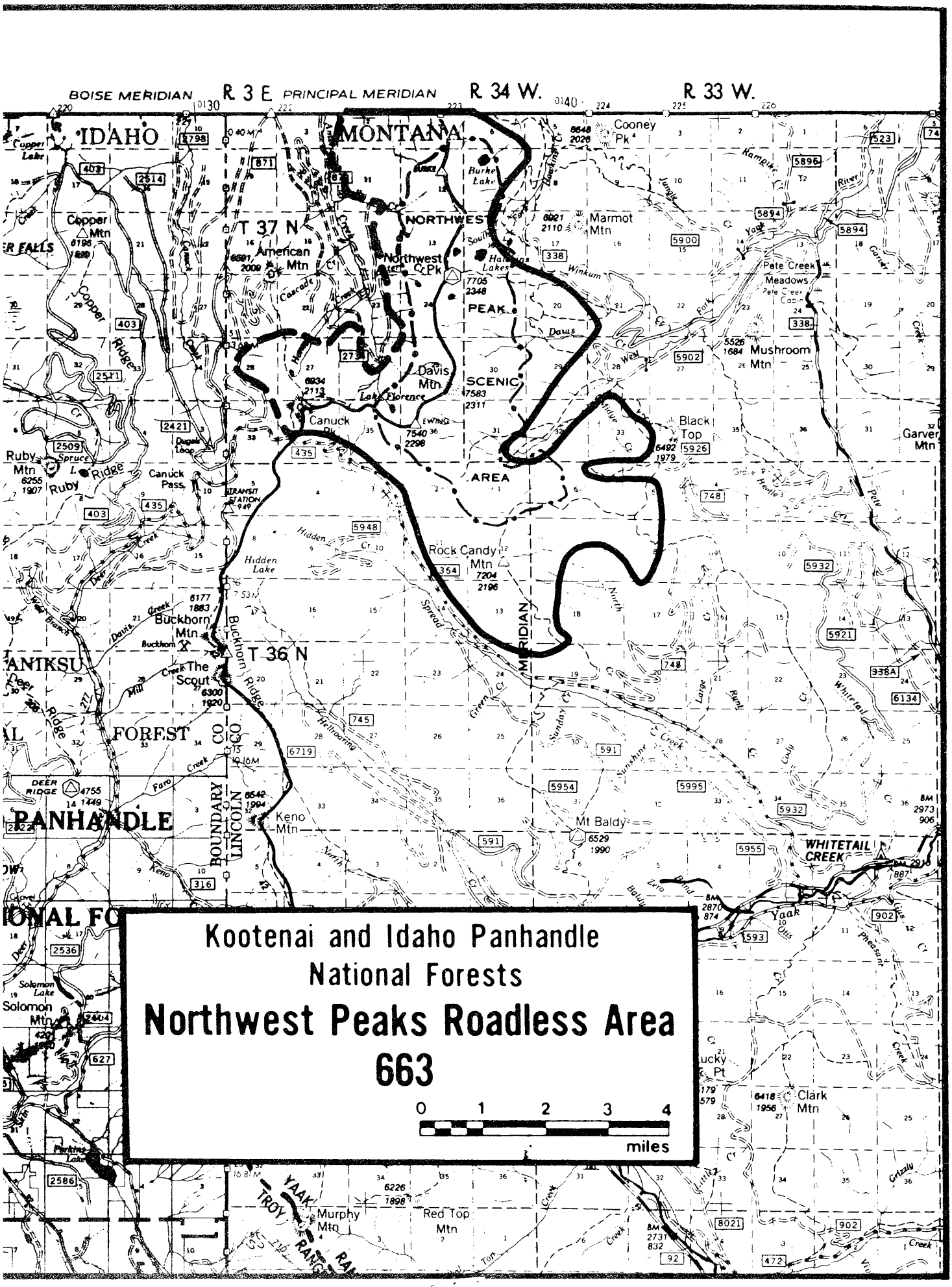
A variety of wildlife inhabit the area including grizzly bear, whitetail and mule deer, elk, and moose. Views from Northwest Peak, Davis and Ewing Mountains are another special attraction.

Use is primarily considered light with hiking, hunting and snowmobiling the primary activities (1,000 RVDs).

II. Capability

A. Natural Integrity and Appearance

Outside of a few miles of trail and the remains of the old (1930's) Northwest Peak lookout, the roadless area rates high in natural integrity and appearance.


BOISE MERIDIAN
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R. 33 W.
IDAHO
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NORTHWEST
PEAK
SCENIC
AREA
Cooney Pk
Marmot Mtn
Pete Creek Meadows
Mushroom Mtn
Black Top
Garver Mtn
Copper Mtn
American Mtn
Northwest Pk
Davis Mtn
Canuck Pass
Ruby Mtn
Ruby Ridge
Rock Candy Mtn
Buckhorn Mtn
The Scout
Keno Mtn
Mt Baldy
WHITETAIL CREEK
Yaak
Clark Mtn
Murphy Mtn
Red Top Mtn
Solomon Mtn
DEER RIDGE
BOUNDARY CO
LINCOLN CO
PANHANDLE
FOREST
Kootenai and Idaho Panhandle
National Forests
Northwest Peaks Roadless Area
663
0 1 2 3 4
miles

B. Opportunities for Solitude

Opportunities for solitude rate high in the upper West Fork Yaak basins, and relatively high throughout the area because nonwilderness use outside the area is very light. However, like many places on the Forest, as one climbs to higher elevations such as one of the high peaks, solitude lessens with views of surrounding developed forest lands.

C. Primitive Recreation Opportunities

Hiking, fishing in one of three alpine lakes, and hunting elk, deer and bear in a wild setting are some of the opportunities for primitive recreation.

Rugged cross country travel, rock climbing and ski mountaineering are challenging experiences offered.

D. Other Features

One special feature is the extensive stand of alpine larch in the Northwest Peak area. The area is also recognized as grizzly habitat.

E. Manageability and Boundaries

The Northwest Peak roadless area was identified during the RARE II inventory. The recommendation was a nonwilderness classification and the area was allocated primarily to nondevelopmental uses.

	Gross Acres	Net Acres	
Total Acres	14450	14450	1979 RARE II EIS
Kootenai Acres	8750	8750	
Idaho Panhandle Acres	5670	5670	
Total Acres	19300	19300	1983 Roadless Inventory
Kootenai Acres	13600	13600	
Idaho Panhandle Acres	5700	5700	

Outside of the remains of the old Northwest Peak lookout, there are no nonconforming uses that would conflict with a wilderness classification for the area.

The manageability of boundaries surrounding a Northwest Peak wilderness would vary from good to poor. Due to rugged terrain and vegetation, there would be little problem with motorized use, but in terms of solitude within the area, the boundary and development outside it could have some negative impact. Use of roads and cutting units along the outside of the roadless area is presently very light so the impacts are negligible.

II. Availability

A. Significant Resource Potentials

1. Recreation

The area has the potential of providing 3,900 RVD's of wilderness recreation per year. Snowmobilers currently use the area. Current use is estimated to be 1,000 RVD's per year.

2. Wildlife and Fish

The area contains big game summer range and some big game winter range. However, the amount in question is not considered significant by Forest biologists.

Burke Lake, which supports up to three pound rainbow and the two Hawkins Lakes (excellent cutthroat fisheries) are in this roadless aea. Also numerous streams that form the headwaters of the West Fork of Yaak River begin within this area.

3. Timber

The area contains 3,000 acres of tentatively suitable timberland capable of producing at east 20 cubic feet/acre/year of timber growth. The majority of this timber land is located on slopes steeper than 40%. Road construction will be difficult and costly and logging will require the use of cable and helicopter yarding methods.

B. Other Resources

1. Range

There are no livestock grazing allotments in the area and little in the way of grazing potential is present.

2. Minerals

The mineral potential in the area is considered low and the oil and gas potential is moderate. There is one oil and gas lease application.

3. Cultural Resources

Cultural resources include one historic site, the Northwest Peak Lookout. Prehistoric sites have not been identified but based on previous surveys in similar situations, it is estimated that the probability of prehistoric sites being located in the area is low.

4. Water

Average annual precipitation in the area varies from 50 to 80 inches, depending on elevation, with about 22 to 45 inches running off to show up as streamflow. Water quality is high with cold temperatures and a general lack of nutrients or pollutants.

C. Resource Situation

Table 1

Category	Unit	Kootenai	Idaho Panhandle	Total
Gross Acres	Acres	13600	5670	**19270**
Net Acres	Acres	13600	5670	**19270**
Recreation				
Semiprim. Nonmotor.	RVDs	40	1000	**1040**
Range				
Suitable Acres	Acres	0	0	**0**
AUMs	AUMs	0	0	**0**
Timber				
Tentative Suitable	Acres	3000	1954	**4954**
Standing Volume	MMBF	39	110	**149**
Corridors				
Existing & Potential	No.	0	1	**1**
Wildlife - T&E				
Grizzly Bear Habitat				
Situation 1	Acres	13600	5670	**19270**
Situation 2	Acres			
Situation 3	Acres			
Wildlife - Big Game (Elk, Deer)				
Summer Range Total	Acres	9000	-	**9000**
Winter Range Total	Acres			
Special Uses Existing	No.	1	0	**1**
Existing Facilities	No.	0	0	**0**
Significant Fisheries				
Stream Miles	Miles	0	0	**0**
Stream Habitat	Acres	0	0	**0**
Lakes	No.	2	0	**2**
Lake Habitat	Acres	53	0	**53**
Water Developments				
Existing	No.	0	0	**0**
Minerals				
Hardrock Potential				
Very High	Acres			
High	Acres			
Moderate	Acres			
Low	Acres	13600	5670	**19270**
Mining Claims	No.	0	0	**0**
Oil & Gas Potential				
Very High	Acres			
High	Acres			
Moderate	Acres	13600	5670	**19270**
Low	Acres			
Unknown	Acres			
Oil & Gas Leases				
Leases	No.	1	0	**1**
Leased Acres	Acres	13600		**13600**

D. Management Considerations

1. Land Use Authorizations

Special uses in the area include the Hawkins Lake snow course.

2. Fire

The area has had low fire occurrence (1 fire in the last 20 years). The fuels situation is considered both dense conifer stands with accumulations of downed, woody material on the lower slopes and thin layers of ground fuels on the upper slopes.

3. Insect and Disease

The insect and disease situation is stable with no high risk lodgepole pine stands or current insect activity in the area.

4. Non-Federal Lands

There are no private lands.

, Need

A. Proximity to Other Wilderness and to Population Centers

There are no other wilderness areas in close proximity to Northwest Peak. Sixty-five road miles away, the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness receives increasingly heavy use (presently over 40,000 RVDs).

Northwest Peak is reached via the Yaak River Valley, an area of growing interest to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho and Spokane, Washington areas, 150 miles to the southwest.

B. Contribution to National Wilderness Preservation System

This area is representative of the Cabinet-Yaak grizzly bear ecosystem which is common in the existing wilderness system.

C. Public Interest

During the RARE II public review period, over 1,900 people commented on Northwest Peak, most of whom (88%) were opposed to wilderness for the area. There have been no recent expressions favoring wilderness in Northwest Peaks but public support has always been strong for maintaining the Scenic Area designation for the area.

The area is a popular hiking spot and is also used by hunters in the Fall.

Alternatives and Environmental Consequences

A. Management Prescription Assignment by Alternative

Multiple use management prescriptions were grouped into categories (management emphases) which have similar impacts on the wilderness and roadless resources. The following table displays how the roadless area acreage was designated in each alternative. In addition, the summary of management emphasis further defines the rate of development that is expected to occur in some alternatives as well as the future disposition of the inventoried roadless area.

Northwest Peaks
Management Emphasis

Alternatives

Kootenai Alternatives	Alt. A	Alt. B	Alt. C	Alt. D	Alt. E	Alt. F	Alt. G	Alt. H	Alt. I	Alt. J	Alt. K	Alt. L	Alt. M	Alt. N	Alt. O
Idaho Panhandle Alternatives	**2**	**4**	**6**	**1**	**5**	**2**	**10**	**3**	**8**	**11**	**12**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**9**
Nonwilderness															
Primitive/Semiprimitive Recreation, Viewing, Minimum Use Areas															
Kootenai:	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	.4	0	13.0	13.6	13.6	9.8	9.5	9.5	13.6
Idaho Panhandle NF:	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.8	4.2	4.1	0	0	4.2	4.4	4.4	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.9
Big Game Winter Range															
Kootenai:	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Idaho Panhandle NF:	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Timber Harvest With Wildlife and/or Viewing Management, Minimum Use Areas due to Steep Slopes or Regeneration Problems															
Kootenai:	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	0	0	.6	0	0	3.3	3.7	3.7	0
Idaho Panhandle NF:	1.6	1.5	1.5	.9	.8	1.6	0	0	1.5	1.3	1.1	1.6	1.6	1.6	.8
Special Interest Areas															
Kootenai:	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Idaho Panhandle NF:	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wilderness															
Recommended Wilderness															
Kootenai	0	0	0	0	0	0	13.2	13.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Idaho Panhandle	0	0	0	0	0	0	5.7	5.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Summary of Management Emphasis:															
Nonwilderness															
Developed - Decade 1:															
Kootenai:	.3	0	.3	.4	0	.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.3	0
Idaho Panhandle NF:	1.0	.7	.7	.8	.7	1.0	0	0	.7	.3	0	1.0	1.0	1.0	.7
Decade 5:															
Kootenai:	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	0	0	.6	0	0	3.3	3.7	3.7	0
Idaho Panhandle NF:	3.5	3.3	3.4	2.8	2.7	3.5	0	0	2.7	3.7	1.9	3.5	3.5	3.5	2.7
Roadless - Decade 1:															
Kootenai:	13.3	13.6	13.3	13.3	13.6	13.2	.4	0	13.6	13.6	13.6	13.6	13.6	13.3	13.6
Idaho Panhandle NF:	6.7	5.0	5.0	0	5.0	6.7	0	0	5.0	5.4	5.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	0
Decade 5:															
Kootenai:	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	.4	0	13.0	13.6	13.6	9.8	9.5	9.5	13.6
Idaho Panhandle NF:	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Recommended Wilderness															
Kootenai	0	0	0	0	0	0	13.2	13.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Idaho Panhandle NF	0	0	0	0	0	0	5.7	5.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Acres - Kootenai	13.6	13.6	13.6	13.6	13.6	13.6	13.6	13.6	13.6	13.6	13.6	13.6	13.6	13.6	13.6
Total Acres - Idaho Panhandle	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7

B. Impacts

1. Designation: Wilderness
Management Prescription: Wilderness

The Northwest Peaks roadless area is recommended for wilderness in its entirety in Alternatives G and H. No other alternative recommends wilderness for the area. There are no specific ground-disturbing management activities associated with wilderness areas although the establishment of these areas may, in itself, have effects on other resources and uses.

Wilderness classification will preserve the existing wilderness characteristics of the area. The naturalness of the area will be maintained as will the opportunities for solitude, especially in the upper West Fork Yaak basins. Primitive recreation opportunities would be maximized as well as protection of old growth timber and associated wildlife habitat.

There are about 5,000 acres of suitable timberland in the area. The following chart shows the acres of suitable timberland that would be contained in proposed wilderness, by alternative.

Acres of Suitable Timberland in Wilderness

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
0	0	0	0	0	0	5.0	5.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Opportunities to manage the timber resource would be foregone in Alternatives G and H.

Grizzly bear habitat (situation 1 - critical to the recovery of the species) covers the entire roadless area. Wilderness management would provide security to the bear from roading and related increases in human activity in the area. However, increases in forage through management activities such as burning and timber harvest would not occur.

Wilderness management would not permit the management of big game summer range, about 9,000 acres, to improve forage through timber harvest. However, wilderness management would provide security by limiting access into the area.

Wilderness will restrict the exploration for, and removal of, mineral resources. Under the Wilderness Act, the land would be withdrawn from mineral entry for hard rock since no valid mining claims exist. The existing oil and gas leases would be honored, however. This restriction is not considered significant in that the mineral potential is low and the oil and gas potential is moderate. If there is no discovery when a lease expires, then the land will be withdrawn from mineral entry for leasing.

Activities permissable in wilderness, when authorized by the 1964 Wilderness Act or wilderness management plans, cost more than activities in areas without the restrictions. Restrictions apply primarily to mode of transportation, use of chainsaws in the wilderness, and removing signs of the intrusion after project completion. When permitted, activities such as mineral exploration, disease and pest control, and fire suppression, would be conducted while protecting the wilderness values which, in turn, requires more time, adherence to more stringent requirements, and more money being spent.

Social and economic effects would center around the resource values of recreation, wildlife, wilderness, and timber. Semiprimitive recreation activities such as hunting in a roadless setting, would continue. Timberland would not be available in Alternatives G and H, thus not supporting the wood products industry. Those publics valuing wilderness would be supported by this management emphasis.

2. Designation: Nonwilderness
   Management Emphases: Primitive Recreation, Semiprimitive Nonmotorized Recreation, Viewing, and Limited Use Areas

The following chart shows the percent of the roadless area designated to roadless management, in each alternative.

Percent of the Roadless Area Designated Roadless Management By Alternative

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
70	70	70	74	70	70	2	0	89	93	93	72	70	70	95

There are few, if any, ground-disturbing management activities specifically associated with unroaded management. Activities are associated primarily with dispersed recreation, including hiking, hunting, and fishing.

The roadless character within the area would be maintained under this emphasis, as well as the primitive recreation opportunities. Old growth habitat will also be maintained and grizzly habitat will be protected. Security for big game would be provided.

Like wilderness, roadless designations require stiffer requirements for conducting activities, requirements that are designed to protect the qualities inherent in a roadless allocation. Restrictions on access and mode of travel are major limitations for conducting activities, often making the activity too expensive to accomplish. Such activities can include wildlife and fish habitat improvements, mineral, oil and gas exploration and development, insect and disese control, and wildfire suppression.

The social and economic effects are primarily the benefits of semiprimitive recreation opportunities. Timber would not be available for harvest in this emphasis.

3. Designation: Nonwilderness
Management Emphases: Big Game Winter Range Timber, Big Game Summer Range Timber, Wildlife Timber, Grizzly Timber, Timber Optimization, Timber Viewing, Viewing Timber, Minimum Use due to Steep Slopes or Regeneration Problems.

The following chart shows the percent of the area designated to activities where timber harvesting and road building would occur.

Percent of the Roadless Area Designated to Developmental Activities By Alternative

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
27	27	27	23	23	27	0	0	10	6	5	25	25	25	4

Timber harvest and associated activities, such as road building, have more affect on the physical and biological environment than any of the other forest management activities. The extent of the effects are dependent on management regimes selected.

In most alternatives, little development is scheduled to occur during the first decade, at least on the Kootenai portion of the area. (See Table 3 at the end of this discussion). Total road miles expected to be constructed range from 0 in Alternatives G and H, to 35 miles in Alternative N.

The naturalness of the area will be impacted by harvest cutting units, roads and other evidence of human modifications. Roading foregoes the opportunity to consider the area for wilderness in the long term and reduces the opportunity for primitive recreation and solitude.

Timber harvest and roads could result in a short term reduction in big game cover and security. Activities conducted in big game habitat are coordinated with wildlife needs and include the closure of roads upon completion of the activity and insuring that adequate cover is left. Long term benefits to wildlife include maintaining and improving wildlife forage.

Timber management activities can directly affect the grizzly population in the short term by logging activities and the long term by road access into a roadless area. Access into the area could displace the bear and increase the opportunity for human/bear encounters. Timber management activities, if well coordinated, can produce benefits by producing more desirable forage for grizzlies through certain timber harvest and site preparation practices such as small clearcuts and broadcast burning instead of tractor piling. Roads would be closed in a timely manner to minimize human/bear encounters and displacement.

Social and economic effects are related primarily to the resource values of timber, wildlife, wilderness, and recreation. The harvest of timber is important to the economic base of communities in the Forests. Timber from the Northwest Peaks roadless area would contribute to the economic base. Hunting experiences could be altered because of the change in the roadless setting to a roaded natural setting. Road closures would retain the area closer to its existing character. Those publics desiring wilderness or roadless mangement for the area would not be supported by this emphasis. Concerns about impacts on grizzly bear, big game, and other species could be raised by the activities scheduled in this emphasis, but would be addressed by efforts to mitigate the impacts.

Trout Creek - 01664		State: Montana and Idaho	
Total Gross Acres:	39,760	Total Net Acres:	39,700
Kootenai ----------	31,400	Kootenai ----------	31,400
Idaho Panhandle ------	8,360	Idaho Panhandle ---	8,300

I. Description

The area is located on the southern border of the Forest, in western Sanders County and is bordered on the west by Idaho, into which part of the area extends. It is readily accessible from the Clark Fork Valley. Roads up Trout Creek, White Pine Creek, Minton Peak, and to the Lost Peak - Bloom Peak Ridgeline provides easy access via several trail heads.

From the Idaho Panhandle side of the area, access is available from the Casper Creek Trail and Idaho-Montana Divide Trail.

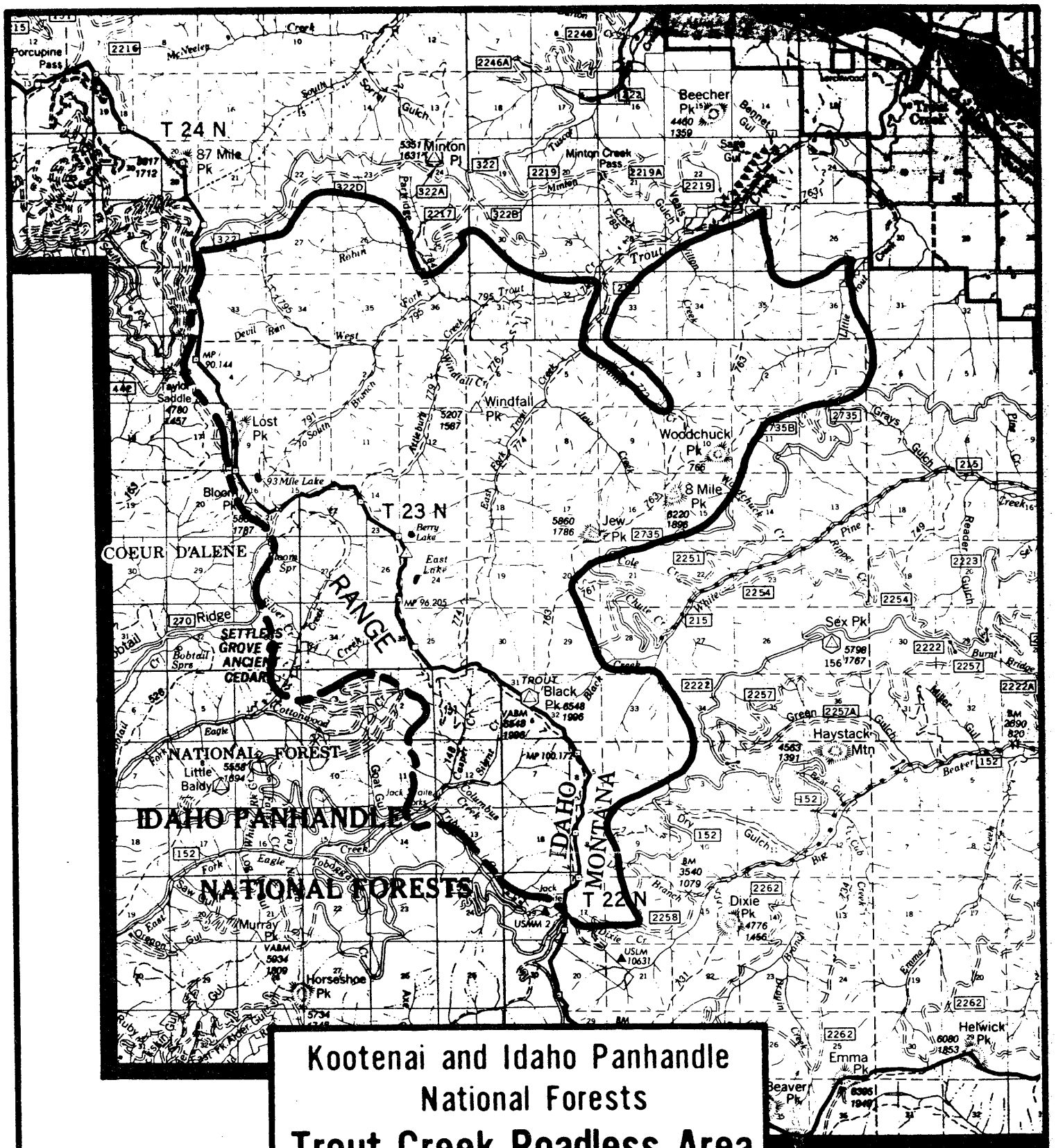
The area is rugged, steep and mountainous with some very productive timberlands. The high ridgeline setting and timbered drainages make it unique among roadless areas on the Kootenai. Black Peak, at 6500 feet, is the highest point. The area was mostly burned over during the 1910 fire, but some old growth remains in a few areas untouched by the fires. Most of the productive timberland contains 70-80 year old stands. The fire also left many of the southern slopes bare or brush covered. This area includes numerous named triburaries of Trout Creek plus some headwater areas of both Whitepine and Beaver Creeks on the Kootenai portion. On the Idaho Panhandle portion, major drainages include Casper, West Fork Eagle, and Tributary Creeks.

Clearcut blocks and roads are most noticeable on the Idaho side of the roadless area. However, because of the concaveness of the roadless area, once off the ridgetop, surrounding developments are not an intrusion.

Three ecosystem types are represented. Douglas-Fir Forest, Cedar Hemlock Pine Forest, and Western Spruce Fir Forest.

Elk hunting is the predominate recreational use of the area. The Settler's Grove of Ancient Cedars Botanical Area also attracts many visitors. Recreational visitor use is estimated at 10,000 RVD's annually.

Wildlife present on the Idaho Panhandle portion include elk, whitetail and mule deer, black bear, cougar, bobcat, moose, coyote, wolverine, marten, owls, pileated woodpecker, hawks, and beaver. Numerous non-game species inhabit the area.


T 24 N
T 23 N
T 22 N
COEUR D'ALENE
RANGE
IDAHO PANHANDLE
NATIONAL FORESTS
NATIONAL FOREST
IDAHO
MONTANA
Porcupine Pass
87 Mile Pk
Minton Pl
Minton Creek Pass
Beecher Pk
Windfall Pk
Lost Pk
Bloom Pk
93 Mile Lake
Berry Lake
East Lake
Ridge
Bobtail Sprs
SETTLERS GROVE OF ANCIENT CEDARS
Black Pk
Woodchuck Pk
8 Mile Pk
Jew Pk
Sex Pk
Haystack Mtn
Little Baldy
Murray Pk
Horseshoe Pk
Dixie Pk
Helwick Pk
Emma Pk
Beaver Pk
Taylor Saddle
Trout Creek
Kootenai and Idaho Panhandle
National Forests
Trout Creek Roadless Area
664
0 1 2 3 4
miles

II. Capability

A. Natural Integrity and Appearance

Outside of two low-standard roads, the natural integrity and appearance of the area is quite high. There are several miles of trail throughout the area, including a National Recreation Trail, which are generally in good shape and lay relatively lightly on the land.

B. Opportunities for Solitude

Opportunities for solitude vary from moderate, along the ridgetop of the State line divide, to very high in the upper basins of the various forks of Trout Creek and White Pine Creek and, of course, down in the valleys and canyons of Trout Creek itself.

Visitor use tends to be dispersed throughout the area, which also enhances the solitude for any particular part of the area.

C. Primitive Recreation Opportunities

The size and configuration of the Trout Creek area lends itself to opportunities for primitive recreation. There are several miles of very scenic streamside trails leading to shallow subalpine basins above with a wide variety of flowers and berries, in addition to the regionally known elk herd, plus other quality hunting oportunities for bear and deer. There is also a high quality fisheries in the forks of Trout Creek. Prospective primitive campsites abound throughout the area, both in the canyon bottoms and the basins above, which have small alpine lakes.

The potential for challenging experiences in the Trout Creek area would include elk hunting with bow and rifle, crosscountry hiking in the rugged canyons, and ski mountaineering along the main divide in the winter.

D. Other Features

The special feature the Trout Creek area is most known for is the elk that inhabit the area in relatively large numbers.

E. Manageability and Boundaries

The Trout Creek roadless area was identified in the RARE II inventory. The recommendation made was for a nonwilderness designation and subsequent designations were primarily roadless management.

	Gross Acres	Net Acres	
Total Acres	41140	41040	1979 RARE II EIS
Kootenai Acres	32640	32640	
Idaho Panhandle Acres	8500	8400	
Total Acres	39760	39700	1983 Roadless Inventory
Kootenai Acres	31400	31400	
Idaho Panhandle Acres	8360	8300	

Nonconforming uses include two low standard mining access roads and about 60 acres of private land within the area boundary.

The bulk of this roadless area consists of drainages and tributaries which are entirely roadless. The main "state line" divide to the west form the headwaters of these streams, and is roadless on the Trout Creek (Montana) side. These factors add up to a readily manageable boundary. The boundary could perhaps best be improved by either including the corridor presently excluded along the Granite Creek mining access road, or using it as a boundary and excluding the lands to the east of the road. The road itself is of very low standard and would have the same impact on a wilderness experience whether inside or out.

There is a similar situation in the Robin Run drainage, where an old low standard road extends about a mile into what would be the best topographic boundary for the area.

III. Availability

A. Significant Rersource Potentials

1. Recreation

The area has the potential of providing 9,500 RVD's of wilderness recreation per year. The 22 mile Trout Creek Loop National Recreation Trail is located in this area.

2. Wildlife and Fish

The area's wildlife is one of its biggest attractions, and a wilderness classification would preclude wildlife management opportunities particularly along Robin Run, Windfall, and other finger ridges in the area where elk winter range exists. However, a wilderness classification would not significantly affect the elk population in the area according to wildlife biologists.

Upper Trout Creek and its headwaters are in this roadless area. Trout Creek provides popular fishing for cutthroat trout, bull trout, and whitefish.

3. Timber

Approximately 31,000 acres are tentatively suitable timber lands capable of producing at least 20 cubic feet per acre per year of timber growth. Over 90% of this timber land is located on slopes in excess of 55 %. Road construction will be difficult and costly and logging will require the use of cable and helicopter yarding methods.

4. Minerals

The mineral potential is considered high along the South Branch of Trout Creek and Attlebury Creek and very high in the area of the Jack Waite mine. Total acres are approximately 7,920 acres of high and very high potential. Mineral activity is occuring in the Tributary, Casper, Eagle, and Silent Creek drainages. The oil and gas potential is moderate.

5. Cultural Resource

There are two identified historic cultural sites (mining adits) on the Kootenai portion. Two historic trails pass through the Trout Creek area. Gold seekers followed these trails in the 1880's to the gold rush towns of Eagle and Murray from the Montana side. The Jack Waite mine and most of its workings are located within the Idaho Panhandle poriton of the area. The mine was developed in the 1890's, which included the mine and mill complex and the Duthie townsite. The town remained active until the 1960's but is now a ghost town.

The area has not been surveyed for prehistoric sites so no sites have been identified. However, based on surveys in similar locales, the probability of sites occurring is considered low, except within the Trout Creek drainage bottom itself where the probability is moderate to high.

B. Other Resources

1. Range

There are no active grazing allotments in the area. Grazing potential for the area is considered transitory.

2. Water

Mean annual precipitation varies from 30-85 inches in the area, depending on elevation. Average annual runoff for the area in general varies from 8-45 inches, with most of this amount running off as streamflow in May and June. Overall existing water quality is very high, except during high runnoff events.

C. Resource Situation

Table 1

Category	Unit	Kootenai	Idaho Panhandle	Total
Gross Acres	Acres	31450	8300	**39750**
Net Acres	Acres	31450	8300	**39750**
Recreation				
Semiprim. Nonmotor.	RVDs	12100	-	**12100**
Roaded Natural/Rural	RVDs	0	200	**200**
Range				
Suitable Acres	Acres	0	0	**0**
AUMs	AUMs	0	0	**0**
Timber				
Tentative Suitable	Acres	25300	5700	31000
Standing Volume	MMBF	219	40	**259**
Corridors				
Existing & Potential	No.	0	0	**0**
Wildlife - T&E				
Grizzly Bear Habitat				
Situation 1	Acres	0	0	**0**
Situation 2	Acres	0	0	**0**
Situation 3	Acres	0	0	**0**
Wildlife - Big Game (Elk, Deer)				
Summer Range Total	Acres	24000	-	**24000**
Winter Range Total	Acres	1900	-	**1900**
Special Uses Existing	No.	0	0	**0**
Existing Facilities	No.	0	0	**0**
Significant Fisheries				
Stream Miles	Miles	10	-	**10**
Stream Habitat	Acres			
Lakes	No.			
Lake Habitat	Acres			
Water Developments				
Existing	No.	0	0	**0**
Minerals				
Hardrock Potential				
Very High	Acres		640	**640**
High	Acres	4080	3200	**7280**
Moderate	Acres	3800	1300	**5100**
Low	Acres	25000	3300	**28300**
Mining Claims	No.	345	300	**645**
Oil & Gas Potential				
Very High	Acres			
High	Acres			
Moderate	Acres	31450	8300	**39750**
Low	Acres			
Unknown	Acres			
Oil & Gas Leases				
Leases	No.	9	-	**9**
Leased Acres	Acres	31450	-	**31450**

D. Management Considerations

1. Land Use Authorizations

There are no special use permits.

2. Fire

The area has had an active fire history, with the 1910 fires burning over 80 percent of the area. Recently, there has been low fire occurrence (1 fire in the last 10 years). The fuels situation is considered predominately dense conifer stands with thick downed woody materials as ground fuels.

3. Insect and Disease

The insect and disease situation is stable with no high risk lodgepole pine stands or insect activity in the area.

4. Non-Federal Lands

There are about 60 acres of private land in the area.

IV. Need

A. Proximity to Other Wilderness and to Populations Centers

The existing wilderness closest to the Trout Creek area is the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness - some 20 miles to the north. The Cabinets receive over 40,000 RVD's per year, and this number is beginning to increase rapidly.

The Trout Creek area is about 125 miles from Missoula, Montana and a similar distance from the Coeur d'Alene, Idaho and Spokane, Washington, areas.

B. Contribution to National Wilderness Preservation System

This area is representative of the Douglas-fir, Cedar Hemlock Pine, and Western Spruce Fir forest ecosystems which are common in the existing wilderness system.

2. Public Interest

During the Unit Plan public review period (Beaver-Marten-Vermilion, August 1979), concern was expressed for protecting the primitive qualities of Trout Creek area. During the RARE II public review period, over 6,300 responses specifically addressed the area, the most received on any area on the Kootenai. Most of the responses (67%) favored wilderness in Trout Creek. Opposition to wilderness focused on the timber values present. The Montana Wilderness Association's Alternative "W" (1978) recommended that the Trout Creek area be wilderness.
About 33,000 acres of the Trout Creek area have been recommended for wilderness in the Montana Wilderness Bill proposal.

Elk hunting is the predominate recreation use in the area.

V. Alternatives and Environmental Consequences

A. Management Prescription Assignment by Alternative

Multiple use management prescriptions were grouped into categories (management emphases) which have similar impacts on the wilderness and roadless resources. The following table displays how the roadless area acreage was designated in each alternative. In addition, the summary of management emphasis further defines the rate of development that is expected to occur in some alternatives as well as the future disposition of the inventoried roadless area.

Management Emphasis

Table 2
Alternatives

Kootenai Alternatives	Alt. A	Alt. B	Alt. C	Alt. D	Alt. E	Alt. F	Alt. G	Alt. H	Alt. I	Alt. J	Alt. K	Alt. L	Alt. M	Alt. N	Alt. O
Idaho Panhandle Alternatives	**2**	**4**	**6**	**1**	**5**	**2**	**10**	**3**	**8**	**11**	**12**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**9**
Nonwilderness															
Primitive/Semiprimitive Recreation, Viewing, Minimum Use Areas															
Kootenai:	15.4	15.0	6.6	9.4	2.7	12.8	1.1	0	22.4	22.5	22.5	6.9	12.9	15.4	18.3
Idaho Panhandle NF:	2.7	2.7	0	5.4	5.4	2.7	0	0	2.7	5.6	5.6	2.7	2.7	2.7	0
Big Game Winter Range															
Kootenai:	.04	.04	.04	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.04	0
Idaho Panhandle NF:	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Timber Harvest With Wildlife and/or Viewing Management, Minimum Use Areas due to Steep Slopes or Regeneration Problems															
Kootenai:	16.0	16.4	12.5	22.0	4.7	18.7	0	0	8.6	8.9	8.9	24.6	18.5	16.0	0
Idaho Panhandle NF:	5.6	5.6	0	2.9	2.9	5.6	0	0	6.6	2.7	2.7	5.6	5.6	5.6	0
Wilderness															
Recommended Wilderness															
Kootenai	0	0	13.1	0	24.1	0	30.3	31.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	13.1
Idaho Panhandle	0	0	8.3	0	0	0	8.3	8.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	8.3
Summary of Management Emphasis:															
Nonwilderness															
Developed - Decade 1:															
Kootenai:	1.2	1.6	1.6	1.9	.3	2.1	0	0	2.5	1.0	1.0	3.4	2.5	1.6	0
Idaho Panhandle NF:	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3.5	3.5	0	0	0	0
Decade 5:															
Kootenai:	16.0	16.4	12.5	22.0	4.7	18.7	0	0	8.6	8.9	8.9	24.6	18.5	16.0	0
Idaho Panhandle NF:	8.3	8.3	0	4.6	4.6	8.3	0	0	4.0	3.5	3.5	8.3	8.3	8.3	0
Roadless - Decade 1:															
Kootenai:	30.2	29.8	16.7	29.5	7.1	29.3	1.1	0	28.9	30.4	30.4	28.0	28.9	29.8	18.3
Idaho Panhandle NF:	8.3	8.3	0	8.3	8.3	8.3	0	0	8.3	0	0	8.3	8.3	8.3	0
Decade 5:															
Kootenai:	15.4	15.0	6.6	9.4	0	12.8	0	0	22.4	22.5	22.5	6.9	12.9	15.4	18.3
Idaho Panhandle NF:	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Recommended Wilderness															
Kootenai	0	0	13.1	0	24.1	0	30.3	31.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	13.1
Idaho Panhandle NF	0	0	8.3	0	0	0	8.3	8.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	8.3
Total Acres - Kootenai	31.4	31.4	31.4	31.4	31.4	31.4	31.4	31.4	31.4	31.4	31.4	31.4	31.4	31.4	31.4
Total Acres - Idaho Panhandle	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3
Total Acres	39.7	39.7	39.7	39.7	39.7	39.7	39.7	39.7	39.7	39.7	39.7	39.7	39.7	39.7	39.7

B. Impacts

1. Designation: Wilderness
Management Prescription: Wilderness

The Trout Creek roadless area is recommended for wilderness in its entirety in Alternatives G and H, while Alternatives C, E,and O recommend 53%, 60%, and 53% respectively. There are no specific ground-disturbing management activities associated with wilderness although the establishment of these areas may, in itself, have effects on other resources and uses.

Wilderness classification will preserve the existing wilderness characteristics of the area. The naturalness will be maintained along with the high solitude opportunities available in the upper basins on the various forks of Trout Creek and White Pine Creek and in the valleys and canyons of Trout Creek itself. Roadless elk hunting opportunites would also be maintained.

There are about 31,000 acres of suitable timberland located within the area (both Kootenai and Idaho Panhandle portions). The following chart displays the acres of suitable timberland that would be located within recommended wilderness.

Acres of Suitable Timberland in Wilderness
By Alternative (M Acres)

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
0	0	8	0	18.6	0	23	24.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	8

Opportunities to manage the timber resource would be foregone entirely in Alternatives G and H and to lesser extents in Alternatives C, E, and O.

Opportunities to manage summer range through timber harvest would be foregone in wilderness. This affects about 24,000 acres on the Kootenai. Wilderness, however, would provide security by affording cover and by limiting access thereby reducing human activity. Efforts to improve bg game winter range would be prohibited. This affects about 1,900 acres.

Wilderness restricts the exploration for, and removal of, mineral resources. About 7,920 acres are rated as having high to very high mineral potential. Table 3 at the end of this discussion, displays the acres of mineral access in each alternative. Under the provisions of the Wilderness Act, these lands would be withdrawn form mineral entry because no valid mining claims exist. This restriction is not considered significant to oil and gas because the potential is moderate. The existing oil and gas leases would be honored, however. If there is no discovery when a lease expires, then the land will be withdrawn from mineral entry for leasing.

Activities permissable in wilderness, when authorized by the 1964 Wilderness Act or wilderness management plans, cost more than activities in areas without the restrictions. Restrictions apply primarily to mode of transportation, use of chainsaws in the wilderness, and removing signs of the intrusion after project completion. When permitted, activities such as mineral exploration, disease and pest control, and fire suppression, would be conducted while protecting the wilderness values which, in turn, requires more time, adherence to more stringent requirements, and more money being spent.

Social and economic effects would center around the resource values of recreation, wildlife, wilderness, and timber. Semiprimitive recreation activities such as hunting in a roadless setting, would continue. Timberland would not be available in Alternatives G and H, thus not supporting the wood products industry. Those publics valuing wilderness would be supported by this management emphasis.

2. Designation: Nonwilderness
Management Prescriptions: Primitive Recreation, Semiprimitive Nonmotorized Recreation, Viewing, and Limited Use Areas

The following chart displays the percent of the area designated for roadless management, by alternative.

Percent Designated for Roadless Management
By Alternative

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
38	38	16	23	6	32	2	0	63	70	70	17	32	38	47

There are few, if any, ground-disturbing management activities specifically associated with roadless management. Activities are associated primarily with dispersed recreation including hunting and fishing.

The roadless character within this emphasis will be maintained as well as the semiprimitive recreation opportunities. Old growth habitat and security for big game will be provided.

Like wilderness, roadless designations require stiffer requirements for conducting activities, requirements that are designed to protect the qualities inherent in a roadless allocation. Restrictions on access and mode of travel are major limitations for conducting activities, often making the activity too expensive to accomplish. Such activities can include wildlife and fish habitat improvements, mineral, oil and gas exploration/development, insect and disese control, and wildfire suppression.

The social and economic effects area primarily the benefits of semiprimitive recreation opportunities. Timber would not be available for harvest in this emphasis.

3. Designation: Nonwilderness
Management Emphasis: Big Game Winter Range

Alternatives A, B, C, I, and N designate about 40 acres to this management emphasis. This emphasis is located primarily along Robin Run and Windfall Creek. The intent is to management winter range habitat for the benefit of elk and deer. Prescribed burning is the primary management activity.

The impact on the wilderness and roadless character caused by this emphasis is short term in nature. The naturalness of the area would be altered shortly after burning but vegetative recovery would make this activity less apparent later on.

Impacts on the timber and mineral resources would be insignificant in this emphasis.

Social and economic effects would be primarily one of support of those publics valuing wildlife in the area.

4. Designation: Nonwilderness
Management Emphasis: Big Game Winter Range Timber, Big Game Summer Range Timber, Wildlife Timber, Grizzly Timber, Timber Optimization, Timber Viewing, Viewing Timber, Minimum Use due to Steep Slopes or Regeneration Problems.

The following chart displays the percent of the area designated for developmental management emphases, by alternative.

Percent of Roadless Area Designated for Developmental Activities By Alternative

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
54	55	31	62	18	61	0	0	38	29	29	76	61	54	0

Timber harvest and associated activities, such as road building, have more affect on the physical and biological environment than and of the other forest management activities. The extent of the effects are dependent on management regimes selected.

Activity is scheduled to occur in all alternatives except G and H in the first decade. (See Table 3). Estimated road miles expected in the first decade by alternative range from 1 mile (Alternative E) to 25 miles (Alternative L).

The naturalness of the area will be impacted by harvest cutting units, roads, and other evidence of human modifications. Roading forgoes the opportunity to consider the area for wilderness in the long term and reduces the opportunity for primitive recreation and experiences of solitude.

Timber harvest and roads could result in a short term reduction in big game cover and security. Activities conducted in big game habitat are coordinated with wildlife needs and include the closure of roads upon completion of the activity and insuring that adequate cover is left. Long term benefits to wildlife include maintaining and improving wildlife forage.

Social and economic effects are related primarily to the resource values of timber, wildlife, wilderness, and recreation. The harvest of timber is important to the economic base of communities in the Forests. Timber from the Trout Creek roadless area would contribute to the economic base. Hunting experiences could be altered because of the change in the roadless setting to a roaded natural setting. Road closures would retain the area closer to its existing character. Those publics desiring wilderness or roadless mangement for the area would not be supported by this emphasis. Concerns about impacts on grizzly bear, big game, and other species could be raised by the activities scheduled in this emphasis, but would be addressed by efforts to mitigate the impacts.

GILT EDGE-SILVER CREEK (01792)

I. DESCRIPTION

Size	Gross Acres	Net Acres
Idaho Panhandle NF	300	300
Lolo NF	11,200	11,200
Total	11,500	11,500

A. Location and Access

This roadless study area lies 6 miles west of DeBorgia, Montana, and 20 miles west of St. Regis, Montana. It is an elongated unit extending between Interstate 90 and the Idaho border, a distance of 6 miles. It is about 4 miles wide. The Stateline Road (Road 391) provides southern and western access points. Forest System roads along the West and Middle Forks of Big Creek extend into and form part of the eastern boundary. Access to the north comes from Interstate 90 and the Saltese Beacon Road. Portions of two system trails totaling 6 miles cross the area.

B. General Description

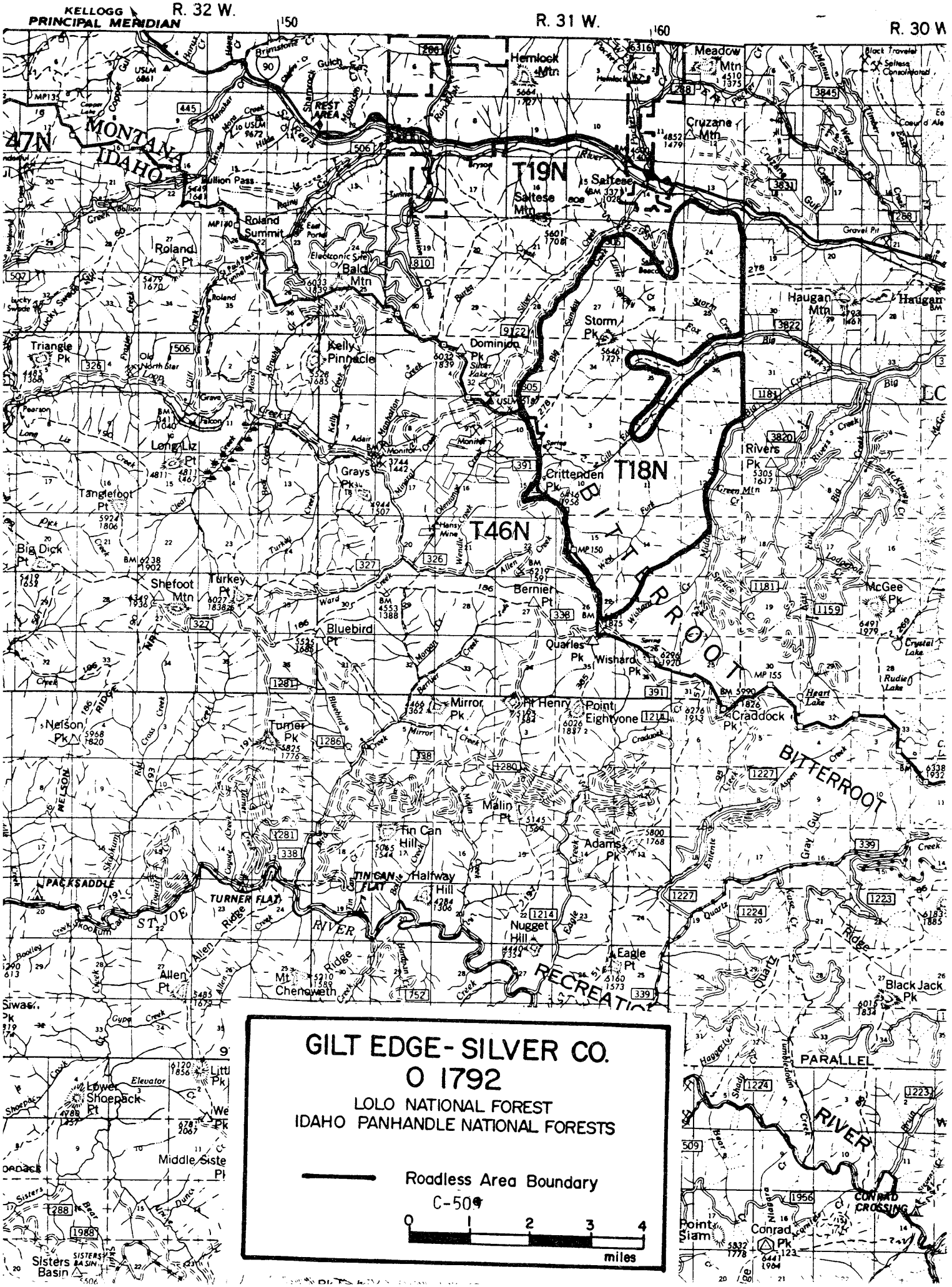
The lower slopes support a mixed stand of western larch, Douglas-fir, spruce and lodgepole pine. Some areas in the vicinity of the Stateline are sparsely timbered. These are primarily rockland and/or talus slopes or high elevation meadows dominated by beargrass, bunchgrass, and forbs. Nearly all of the Gilt Edge-Silver Creek Roadless Area is classified as commercial timberland.

A series of streams tributary to Big Creek head along the Stateline Divide and flow to the northeast. Consequently, several ridgelines extend off of the Divide and parallel the streams. On the western edge, tributaries of Silver Creek drain off to the north. Glacial cirques occur along the Stateline Divide and several contain small lakes.

Rocks of the Precambrian Age Wallace Formation and Ravalli Group are exposed in this roadless unit. They are broken and sheared by the complex Silver Creek fault system which is oriented generally east to west. The Wishard Sill, a gabbroic intrusive, cuts through the Wallace and Ravalli strata and is in turn offset by the faults.

The Gilt Edge-Silver Creek Roadless Area provides habitat for a variety of game and nongame wildlife species common to Western Montana including cougar and moose. The lakes provide no fisheries because they are generally too small or too shallow to sustain fish.

Currently, the most popular activity in the area is big game hunting. The edges of the area are used by sightseers, hikers, berrypickers, and stream-fishing recreationists.


KELLOGG
PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN
R. 32 W.
R. 31 W.
R. 30 W
47N
T19N
T18N
T46N
MONTANA
IDAHO
Hemlock Mtn
Meadow Mtn
Cruzane Mtn
Saltese Mtn
Bullion Pass
Roland Summit
Roland Pt
Bald Mtn
Triangle Pk
Kelly Pinnacle
Dominion Pk
Storm Pk
Haugan Mtn
Long Liz Pt
Grays Pk
Crittenden Pk
Rivers Pk
Tangleloot Pt
Big Dick Pt
Shefoot Mtn
Turkey Pt
Bernier Pt
McGee Pk
Bluebird Pt
Quarles Pk
Wishard Pk
Nelson Pk
Turner Pk
Mirror Pk
Pt Henry
Point Eightyone
Craddock Pk
Malin Pt
Tin Can Hill
Adams Pk
Halfway Hill
Nugget Hill
Eagle Pt
Allen Pt
Mt Chenoweth
Black Jack Pk
Point Siam
Conrad Pk
Lower Shoepack Pt
Middle Siste
Sisters Basin
BITTERROOT
RIVER
ST JOE
RIVER
PACKSADDLE
TURNER FLAT
TIN CAN FLAT
CONRAD CROSSING
PARALLEL
RECREATION
GILT EDGE - SILVER CO.
O 1792
LOLO NATIONAL FOREST
IDAHO PANHANDLE NATIONAL FORESTS
Roadless Area Boundary
C-509
0 1 2 3 4
miles

II. ANALYSIS OF WILDERNESS SUITABILITY

A. Capability

1. Wilderness Attributes

a. Naturalness. Ecological processes and the natural landscape in parts of the area have been disrupted to a certain extent by past domestic grazing. Basically, vegetative communities in the unit are similar to those found in surrounding areas outside the roadless boundary. Major fires that occurred in the area in the 1920s are considered part of the natural process.

About 20 percent of the area is grand fir/beargrass and 20 percent is subalpine fir/beadlily. These occur in elevations of 3,200 to 5,500 feet. Major species are Douglas-fir, larch, lodgepole pine, subalpine fir, and white pine with understories of beargrass, huckleberry, pinegrass, beadlily, goldthread, bunchberry, and bedstraw. Forty-five percent of the area is evenly divided between grand fir/beadlily, western red cedar/beadlily, and subalpine fir/beargrass. The remaining habitat types are subalpine fir/smooth woodrush and subalpine fir/menziesia, Douglas-fir/ snowberry, Douglas-fir/blue huckleberry, Douglas-fir/ninebark, and Douglas-fir/dwarf huckleberry, scree, and mountain grasslands.

While most of the animal species native to the area are found in the Gilt Edge-Silver Creek Roadless Area, none are dependent on wilderness management for viability or survival.

Air and water quality are considered excellent in the area.

The area includes a helispot, mineral development in the form of dozer trenches, mines and tunnels, spoil piles, tree plantations from the 1920 burn, and two unimproved roads.

b. Inspirational Values. The physical properties of the area do not contrast appreciably with the surrounding geography and consequently may not be awe-inspiring except in the general sense.

c. Recreational Values. There is remarkable scenery, severe topography, and abundant vegetative screening which provide medium to high opportunities for solitude even though there are many permanent off-site intrusions and perimeter roads. The area itself is intact with no major impacts. Interstate 90 is adjacent to the northern boundary.

Opportunities for primitive recreation are considered moderate because of the short distance from the perimeter to the core of the area; however, diverse opportunities do exist. Vegetation and steep side slopes reduce access to the area.

d. Cultural/Historical Values. The area contains three old cabins and log flumes in Storm Creek and Gilt Edge Creek from turn-of-the-century logging activities. No prehistoric sites have been identified within the area.

e. Educational/Scientific or Unique Values. Some evidence of mining and logging activities can be considered historical, representative of Western Montana.

There are no known threatened or endangered species of animals or plants in the area. Nor is the area recognized as having unique vegetative communities to be used as benchmarks or unusual or scarce ecosystem representatives. Gene pools in the unit do not differ appreciably from the surrounding area.

2. Manageability and Boundaries. For the most part, the boundaries of this unit follow topographic and man-made features; they would not be difficult to locate or monument on the ground. A road along Gilt Edge Creek (one quarter mile is improved and the balance is considered a trail) extends several miles into the interior of this area requiring that the eastern border be drawn around it. There are no private lands which would have to be excluded. Nonconforming activities include timber sales proposed along Big Sunday, Gilt Edge, and Big Middle Creeks.

B. Other Resources Found in the Area

The area provides habitat for a wide variety of game and nongame wildlife species commonly found in Western Montana (see Appendix B-2, proposed Lolo Forest Plan, RDEIS) The unit has about 510 riparian acres.

Four oil and gas leases have been issued which encompass 100 percent of the study area. The unit also contains 43 mining claims. A northwest to southeast trending aeromagnetic high (areas of dense rock often containing base metals) lie in this region, and a number of prospects and small mining ventures dot the countryside. The minerals being sought include copper, lead, zinc, and silver. The Lolo National Forest had identified 11,200 acres of high to very high mineral potential.

The Gilt Edge-Silver Creek Roadless Area contains 55 acres classed as nonstocked, 762 acres of seedlings and saplings, 1,208 acres of poles, 3,644 acres of immature sawtimber, and 4,598 acres of mature sawtimber. Of this, 9,386 acres are classified as commercial timberland. The suitable lands presently support as standing timber inventory of 79.8 MMBF with a long-term sustained yield in the area of 2.05 MMBF annually.

About 8,500 of the 20,700 acres of the Big Creek Range allotment are included in the area. The last permitted use was in 1983 for 29 cows for 75 AM's. About 267 acres within the area are considered suitable range.

On the current Recreation Opportunity System map, the area is shown as 100 percent roaded-natural. Recreational use in the area is seasonal, generally limited to hunting seasons. No developed sites exist within or adjacent to the area.

2. Resource Summary

Table 1

Selected Resource Values

Category		
Gross acres		
Lolo Forest	Acres	11200
Idaho Panhandle For.	Acres	300
Total	Acres	11500
Net Acres		
Lolo Forest	Acres	11200
Idaho Panhandle For.	Acres	300
Total	Acres	11500
Recreation		
Primitive	RVD's	0
Semiprim. Nonmot.	RVD's	0
Semiprim. Motor.	RVD's	0
Roaded Natural		
Lolo Forest	RVD's	11200
Idaho Panhandle	RVD's	300
Total	RVD's	11500
Range		
Existing Obligated		
Suitable (Lolo only)	Acres	267
Allotments	No.	1
AUMs	AUMs	75
Existing Vacant		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	AUMs	0
Proposed		
Suitable	Acres	0
AUMs	AUMs	0
Timber (Lolo only)		
Tenative Suitable	Acres	9386
Standing Volume	MBF	79.8
Corridors		
Exist. & Pot.	No.	0
Wildlife - T&E		
Grizzly Bear		
Habitat Sit. 1	Acres	0
Habitat Sit. 2	Acres	0
Habitat Sit. 3	Acres	0
Bald Eagle Hab.	Acres	0
Gray Wolf Hab.	Acres	0
Peregrin Fal. Hab.	Acres	0
Wildlife - Big Game		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Significant Fisheries (Lolo only)		
Stream Miles	Miles	6.0
Stream Habitat	Hab. Ac	5.8
Lakes	No.	0
Lake Habitat	Hab. Ac	0
Water Develop.		
Existing	No.	0
Hardrock Potential		
Very High	Acres	0
High		
Lolo Forest	Acres	11200
Idaho Pan. For.	Acres	300
Total	Acres	11500
Moderate	Acres	0
Low	Acres	0
Mining Claims (Lolo only)	No.	43
Oil & Gas Potential		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	0
Low		
Lolo Forest	Acres	11200
Idaho Pan. For.	Acres	300
Total	Acres	11500
Oil & Gas Leases	No.	4
Leased Area (Lolo only)	Acres	11200

Table 2

GILT EDGE-SILVER CREEK (01792)

ACRES OF AREA UNDER MANAGEMENT FOR EACH EMPHASIS BY ALTERNATIVE
(refer to Appendix C introduction for Management Areas under each emphasis)

Management Emphasis	Alternatives a	b	c	d	e	f	g
NONWILDERNESS[1/]							
Timber/Range	3114	3752	9430	7368	7368	7368	-
Wild life							
Grizzly bear	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	952	224	90	177	177	177	-
Visual	3527	3472	-	1007	1007	1007	-
Miscellaneous	3506	3752	1680	1014	1014	1014	-
Riparian	*	*	*	510	510	510	-
Roadless	101	-	-	1124	1124	1124	-
WILDERNESS							
Wilderness	-	-	-	-	-	-	11200
Total	11200	11200	11200	11200	11200	11200	11200

* Small inclusions occur in other management emphasis items.

SUMMARY OF MANAGEMENT EMPHASIS (acres managed by decade)

Developed							
decade 1	7593	7448	8320	8320	8320	8320	-
decade 5	11099	11200	11200	10076	10076	10076	-
Roadless							
decade 1	3607	3752	2880	2880	2880	2880	-
decade 5	101	-	-	1124	1124	1124	-
Wilderness							
decade 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	11200
decade 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	11200

1/ Lolo NF only. The 300 acres on the Idaho Panhandle NF is always minimum level except in wilderness alternatives.

3. Management Considerations. There is no private land within this area. There are no management considerations.

4. Impacts

a. Designation: Wilderness

Management Emphasis: Wilderness

Gilt Edge-Silver Creek Roadless Area is designated for wilderness in Alternative G but this is the only alternative that the total area or any portion is designated for wilderness.

Wilderness designation can enhance the area's wilderness attributes since there are some uses and facilities not usually associated with wilderness designation. Any existing motorized activities could be eliminated.

The approximately 9,400 acres of land tentatively suitable for timber production would not be available. This would remove about 80 MMBF from the Forest timber base.

Big game or elk management would not change much since the area does not contain significant summer or winter habitat. Cover/forage relationships should not change much over time except as influenced by wildfire control.

Under wilderness designation, recreation use would continue to be dominated by hunting.

The non-priced effects are:

-- Visual quality would be preserved.

-- Wilderness area would increase.

-- Diversity would tend toward old growth without wildfire but could be improved, depending on the control policy.

-- Water quality and fisheries would be maintained at their natural levels.

-- Local employment may decrease slightly due to the unavailability of timber.

Economic effects would be slight since the are represents less than 1 percent of the land base suitable for timber, and other resource values would be retained. The loss in timber volume can be mitigated by practicing intensive forestry in other areas.

a. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Timber/Range

All alternatives except `g' designate some of this area to timber prescriptions. Alternatives `a' through `f' designate from 28 to 66 percent to this emphasis.

Desigation for the timber prescription will forego the possibility of wilderness designation by the end of the first decade. The area would be accessed with roads and harvest would be scheduled up to the limit of constraints for these prescriptions.

The non-priced effects are:

-- Visual quality would be at its lowest level, maximum modification.

-- Semi-primitive recreation potential would be foregone by the end of the first decade.

-- Wilderness characteristics would be compromised in a short time.

-- Water quality and fisheries effects would be mitigated.

-- Diversity would tend toward younger age classes with minimum old growth.

-- The greatest number of jobs, mainly in the wood products industry, would be provided.

Economic and social effects would not be particularly significant due to the size of the area.

c. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Wildlife

The main emphasis in this prescription is old growth. Alternative `a' designates 9 percent, Alternatives `b' through `f' designate from a trace to 2 percent for this emphasis.

The area does not contain any identified summer range, winter range, or threatened or endangered species habitat.

d. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Visual

Alternatives `a' and `b' designate 31 percent; `d,' `e,' and `f' designate 9 percent. Visuals are retained in the roadless management emphasis. Visual quality resource will be managed according to the management area classification.

e. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Riparian

All alternatives contain inclusions of riparian zones and recognize the need to manage these areas according to policy and guidelines. Alternative `g' is the wilderness alternative and would not impact the riparian areas.

f. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Roadless

Alternative `a' designates a trace for roadless management. Alternatives `d,' `e,' and `f' designate 10 percent. No other alternatives include roadless management.

The non-priced effects are:

-- Visual quality will be maintained at a very high level, retention.

-- Semi-primitive and wilderness attributes can be retained for a long period.

-- Age class distribution and diversity would be dominated by old growth; young age classes would be minimal.

-- Water quality and fisheries would not be affected.

Few wood products related-jobs would be added to the industry.

The economic effects of this emphasis would be slight since the area represents less than 1 percent of the land base suitable for timber, and other resources would be retained.

g. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Miscellaneous

Miscellaneous management emphases include non-forest land, administrative centers, historical or cultural sites, mineral extraction sites, transportation and utility corridors, Research Natural Areas, campgrounds, picnic areas, ski areas, and areas with concentrated public use.

Alternatives `a' and `b' manage nearly 34 percent of the area for these sites. Alternative `c' designates 15 percent and Alternatives `d,' `e,' and `f' designate 9 percent.

SHEEP MOUNTAIN-STATE LINE ROADLESS AREA (1799)

I. DESCRIPTION

Size	Gross Acres	Net Acres
Idaho - Idaho Panhandle NF	26,979	26,979
Montana - Lolo NF	40,700	40,500

A. Location and Access

The Sheep Mountain-State Line Roadless Area lies along the Montana-Idaho State Line south and east of the Dry Creek Road. It is located 12 miles southwest of St. Regis, Montana; 5 miles west of Superior, Montana; and 30 miles east of Avery, Idaho.

The access to the area is by either the Dry Creek Road or the Cedar Creek Road system. There are 10 trails in the area totaling about 40 miles. Included within the unit are 4 miles of improved road and 3 short, unimproved roads. The Stateline area is accessed by the Stateline National Recreation Trail.

B. General Description

About 4,400 acres on the Idaho Panhandle Forest have been deleted since RARE II because of road construction for a timber sale.

The geography of the area is characterized by high alpine terrain with vegetation of the grassy-bald or subalpine habitat groups. Elevations range from approximately 3,500 feet near Dry Creek to 7,543 feet at the top of Eagle Cliff.

Prominant peaks or landmarks include Binocular Peak (elevation 7,266 feet), Sheep Mountain (elevation 6,723 feet), Mount Baldy (elevation 7,543 feet), Black Tail Mountain (elevation 6,167 feet), and Eagle Cliff. Some of these landmarks are seen from the Clark Fork Valley, which contains Interstate 90.

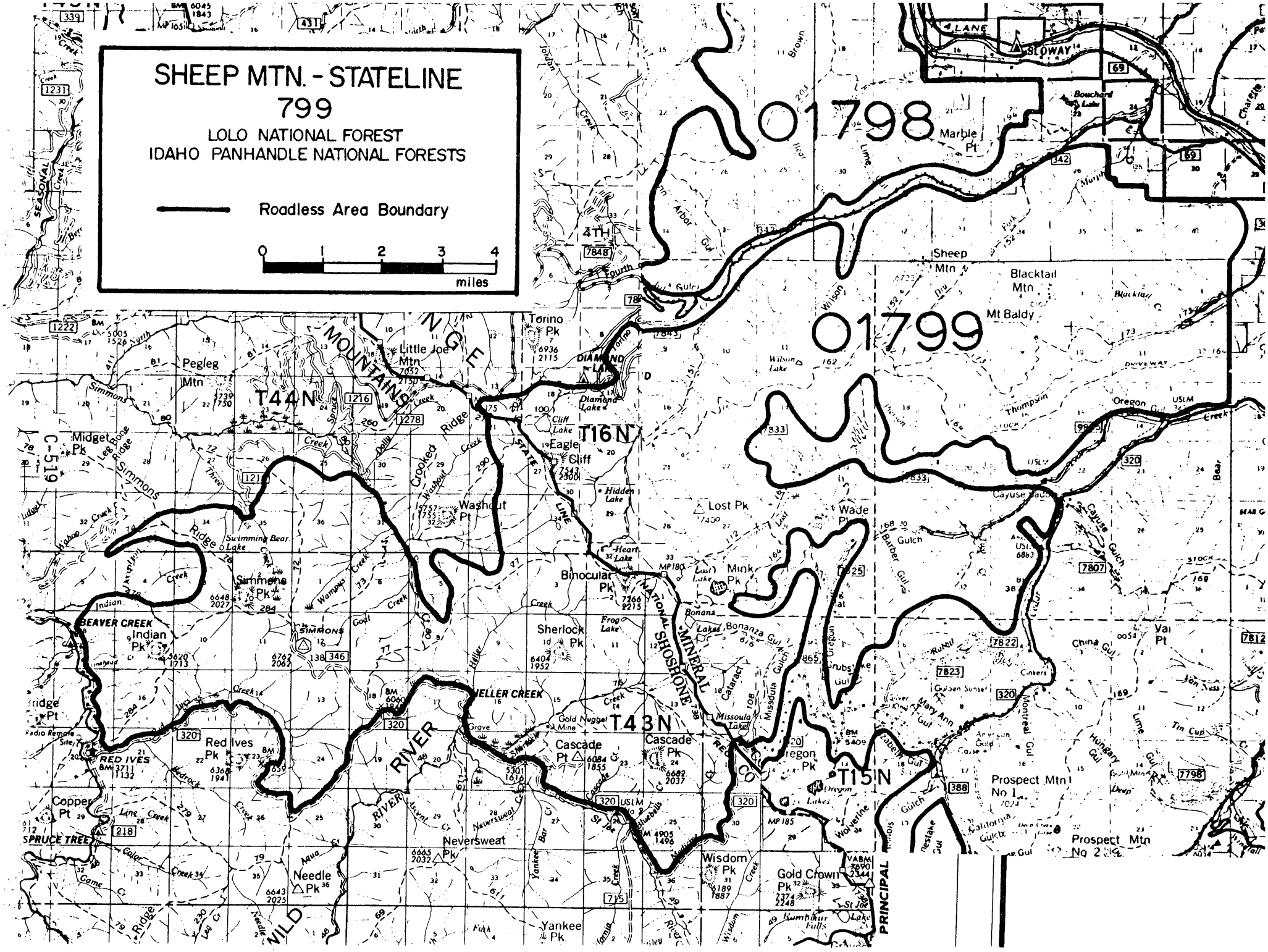
Geology of the area is characterized by northwest to southeast trending faults extending the length of the area and bringing the various formations into contact with one another. These formations include limestones, calcareous argillites, and quartzites of the Precambrian Age Wallace Formation which crop out in the western two-thirds of the area. Missoula Group rocks cover the balance of the area.

Vegetation varies from the lower elevation habitat types (Douglas-fir climax) to the subalpine types intermixed with high elevation grassy balds. Between the extremes, the forested types are present containing lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir, and western larch. The understory vegetation is typified by the ninebark type in the northwest corner to the clintonia group on the north and and east aspects of higher elevations. The upper ridges and peaks contain scree mixed with subalpine vegetation. Also included is menziesia and dry beargrass. The area has been burned over several times creating a mosaic of successional stages.

Several key attractions are located within or immediately adjacent to the area. Missoula Lake, an attractive recreational area, lies at the northeastern edge adjacent to the Stateline. Diamond Lake lies just outside to the west and provides access into the roadless area. Cliff Lake, a cirque lake, is a popular spot which lies southwest of Diamond Lake near the southwest edge of the Lolo National Forest portion of the area. The upper elevations near the Stateline are very scenic, with several cirque basins which contain Lost Lake and Bonanza Lake.

One corner of this area lies on the St. Joe Wild and Scenic River which receives moderate to heavy roaded recreation use. Red Ives Ranger Station is also located on the corner of this area and the possibility of encountering recreationists in the vicinity is very high.

The current use of the area includes scattered mineral exploration, hiking, fishing, hunting, and viewing. There is one outfitter and guide permit for this unit. Area hunters pack in for extended stays. Missoula, Cliff, and Bonanza Lakes have varying amounts of fishing use. The Stateline National Recreation Trail is used for hiking and viewing.


SHEEP MTN. - STATELINE
799
LOLO NATIONAL FOREST
IDAHO PANHANDLE NATIONAL FORESTS
Roadless Area Boundary
0 1 2 3 4
miles
01798
01799
T44N
T43N
T16N
T15N
C-519
BEAVER CREEK
SPRUCE TREE
RED IVES
SIMMONS
HELLER CREEK
MINERAL
SHOSHONE
NATIONAL
PRINCIPAL
RIVER
WILD
Pegleg Mtn
Midget Pk
Little Joe Mtn
Torino Pk
Diamond Lake
Eagle Cliff
Washout Pt
Simmons Pk
Indian Pk
Red Ives Pk
Copper Pt
Needle Pk
Neversweat Pk
Yankee Pk
Cascade Pt
Cascade Pk
Sherlock Pk
Binocular Pk
Mink Pk
Lost Pk
Wade Pt
Wisdom Pk
Gold Crown Pk
Oregon Pk
Prospect Mtn No 1
Prospect Mtn No 2
Sheep Mtn
Blacktail Mtn
Mt Baldy
Marble Pt
SLOWAY
LANE

II. ANALYSIS OF WILDERNESS SUITABILITY

A. Capability

1. Wilderness Attributes

a. Naturalness. The natural integrity of the area is only marred by an outhouse near Missoula Lake and old cabins previously used by miners or trappers which are in severe states of disrepair. There is also the remnant of an old lookout on Sheep Mountain consisting of some rearranged rocks and some number 9 wire and the Cordilleran mine with an access road. There are several mine spoil areas along Oregon Gulch, one of the historic mining districts of Montana. Mineral exploration excavations are spotted throughout the area, with a heavier concentration in the vicinity of Oregon Gulch and Mink Peak. Sheep grazing was a significant use until 1964 when it was discontinued. The edges of the area have several inclusions of timber harvest, mostly in Lost Creek. Also included near the lower edge is a fence on private inholdings and a game enclosure. There are three dwellings on the private land jutting up Thompson Creek.

The remains of a Forest Service fire lookout are located at Simmons Ridge. The lookout burned in 1984. An outhouse and storage shed associated with the lookout remain.

The area appears quite natural, especially the upper reaches which contain only limited mineral exploration activities. The exceptions are on the portions of the land adjacent to presently accessed areas in Dry Creek and along Oregon Gulch. The upper elevations provide a natural and rugged appearance expected in a wilderness. The lower segment along Dry Creek is typical of much of Western Montana forests.

b. Inspirational Values. The appearance of the area varies significantly depending on the viewer orientation. The extremes of the elevations with the peaks, cirque basins, and lakes provide scenic landmarks for viewing within the area and from outside.

c. Recreational Values. Due to this unit's proximity to Interstate 90 and the towns of St.Regis and Superior, opportunities for solitude and serenity are limited. However, from within the area there are places where a visitor can experience the feeling of being alone due to topographic or vegetative screening. It is not particularly easy to reach or traverse the entire area in a relatively short time. Much of the unit is relatively remote and challenging to cross, providing for a rigorous adventure to test an individual's woodland survival skills. The recreational opportunity best fits a description of semi-primitive.

This area contains one of the few remaining stretches of gentle, sloping riparian land which is still timbered and free of man-induced disturbance.

d. Cultural/Historical Values. The special features of the area are described above.

e. Educational/Scientific or Unique Values. Opportunities exist to observe and study big game animals in their natural habitat, but there are no known endangered species of animals or plants in the area. The unit contains significant amounts of area common to snow slides and represents a community with a great deal of diversity in composition and structure. These areas have been designated alder glades, and the sites are commonly wet and at higher elevations.

2. Manageability and Boundaries. The size of the area is relatively small. Several fingers or appendages of land along the boundary encompass different parts of the area. The major and most significant part is that portion adjacent to the stateline which joins a small area on the St. Joe National Forest of northern Idaho. This area of the stateline has good capability of providing some wilderness opportunities. The area as a whole provides a long management boundary. Removal of several parts would increase the desirability of the area for wilderness management. A few significant boundary adjustments would enhance the management opportunities for wilderness and for adjacent lands. Two significant areas of concern are the lower Dry Creek area and the Oregon Gulch area. If these inclusions were removed, Forest management would be enhanced.

B. Other Resources Found in the Area

1. Potential. Recreation in the area includes hunting, fishing, viewing, camping, and hiking. Big game hunting constitutes the major visitor use. Often, parties have their own packstock. There is also an outfitter who provides 10-day hunts or overnight trips into the center of the area. The edges of the unit are hunted by day-use hunters. It is a popular area for elk hunting and for mule deer, especially in lower Dry Creek in the later part of the season.

Fishing is popular in the readily accessible lakes such as Cliff Lake and Missoula Lake. Diamond Lake, located at the very edge of the Roadless Area, can be reached by a road which provides quick access to Cliff Lake. Missoula Lake, although in the roadless area, is only 1/4 mile from the Upper Cedar Creek road. It is a popular spot in the summer, and the area is well used during the fall for camping during the two hunting seasons: Idaho in early fall and Montana later.

Hiking is popoular along the stateline into Bonanza Lakes and along the divide. The major divide along the Idaho-Montana border contains the Stateline National Recreation Trail. Trails to several lakes join the National Trail along the Divide, allowing relatively easy access for parts of the area.

Wildlife use is fairly high throughout portions of the area. The high elevations provide summer range for elk and mule deer, while the lower elevations of Dry Creek provide critical winter habitat for the three big game species found in the area. Mountain Goats are visitors to the area from a herd located in Trout Creek to the east. There may be a portion of that population which uses this area more frequently. Perhaps a moose or two will wander in and use portions of the area from time to time, but evidence is scarce as to much use of the unit by this species.

The area has a resident population of small mammals, and the many bird species inhabit the area yearlong or during the migration periods. There are no known threatened or endangered species within the area. Unconfirmed grizzly bear sightings along the Montana-Idaho line are reported sporadically throughout a larger area, of which this roadless area is a small part.

The Sheep Mountain-Stateline area is important for water storage in the form of snow accumulation in the high country for later release into the Clark Fork River. There are few local uses of water from the drainages encompassed within the area. This unit receives abundant moisture, especially near the Divide, and, therefore, is important as a watershed. The several lakes located within this area are important for water-related recreation and serve to collect and disperse water to both tributaries of Dry Creek and Cedar Creek. This area collects water for Thompson Creek and contributes to Oregon Creek and on to Cedar Creek.

Livestock use is limited to the amount associated with outfitting and local horse use for pack trips into and through the area. The State Line area used to contribute a significant amount of forage to the sheep operations of the past.

The Sheep Mountain-State Line Area contains 1558 acres classed as non-stocked, 968 acres of seedlings and saplings, 2,161 acres of poles, 7,485 acres of immature sawtimber, and 19,237 acres of mature sawtimber. Of this, 27,321 acres are classified as commercial timberland. The suitable lands presently support a standing timber inventory of 211.5 MMBF, with a long-term sustained yield in the area of 5.35 MMBF annually.

There are 51 unpatented mining claims in the unit and it is 100 percent under application for oil and gas leases. This area and the surrounding land to the south and east has produced placer gold and the potential still exists. About 40 lode and placer claims along Sherlock Creek are presently in litigation. New placer locations are prohibited but those existing before November 10, 1978, are subject to valid existing rights.

Oregon Gulch once had a large mining community with several thousand people working the mines. Later, in the 1930s, a dredging company reworked the diggings and employed 30-50 workers for several years. The reasons for the abandonment of this operation are unclear. Other mines include one on Wilson Gulch in Dry Creek and one on Lost Creek at the edge of the unit. There are numerous diggings throughout portions of the area, with heaviest concentrations in Oregon Gulch up to Mink Peak.

A site along Oregon Gulch at Big Flat is a potential historic site resulting from the past mining activities. There are several old buildings still standing from an old mining camp used during the last dredging operation. Although this area is not quite within the Sheep Mountain-State Line Roadless Area, it is located within a finger of land surrounded by the boundary. There are other scattered remnants of mining activity in the roadless area.

There are no Special Uses in the area other than the outfitter/ guide permit previously discussed.

2. Resource Summary

Table 1

Selected Resource Values

Category	IPNF	LOLO
Gross Acres	26979	40700
Net Acres	26979	40500
Recreation		
Primitive RVD's	-0-	-0-
Semiprim. Nonmot.RVD's	855	32400
Semiprim. Motor.RVD's	405	-0-
Roaded Natural	-0-	81000
Range		
Existing Obligated		
Suitable	-0-	-0-
Allotments	-0-	-0-
AUMs	-0-	-0-
Existing Vacant		
Suitable acres	-0-	410
Allotments No.	-0-	1
AUMs	-0-	18
Proposed		
Suitable acres	-0-	-0-
AUMs	-0-	-0-
Timber		
Tenative Suitable acre	14438	27321
Standing Volume MMBF	112.0	211.5
Corridors		
Exist. & Pot. No.	-0-	-0-
Wildlife - T&E		
Grizzly Bear		
Habitat Sit. 1 acres	-0-	-0-
Habitat Sit. 2 acres	-0-	-0-
Habitat Sit. 3 acres	-0-	-0-

	IPNF	LOLO
Bald Eagle Hab.	-0-	400
Gray Wolf Hab.	-0-	-0-
Peregrin Fal. Hab.	-0-	-0-
Wildlife - Big Game		
Summer Habitat	400	123
Winter Habitat	-0-	1884
Significant Fisheries		
Stream Miles	15	9.0
Stream Habitat	40	8.7
Lakes	-0-	7
Lake Habitat acres	-0-	137
Water Develop.		
Existing	-0-	-0-
Hardrock Potential		
Very High acres	-0-	-0-
High acres	-0-	21614
Moderate acres	26979	17781
Low acres	-0-	1105
Mining Claims .	51	46
Oil & Gas Potential		
Very High acres	-0-	-0-
High acres	-0-	-0-
Moderate acres	-0-	-0-
Low acres	26979	40500
Oil & Gas Leases No.	-0-	4
Leased Area acres	-0-	16200

3. Management Considerations. There are non-Federal lands located within the area along Oregon Creek. These are widely scattered parcels located on the edge of the area and total less than 200 acres. They could be avoided in any management designation for the area.

The winter range in Dry Creek has required and will continue to need prescribed fire to improve the quality of range. Much of the area was over-used during periods of high big game populations. The shrubs are old and decadent and areas have responded well to burning. The results of the big game exclosure show a wide difference in vigor when compared to the outside vegetation.

Insects and disease are not much of a problem because much of the forest is relatively young and vigorous. The next 20 to 30 years will have more damage due to insects because the susceptability will increase with age and maturity of the forest.

Table 2

SHEEP MOUNTAIN-STATE LINE ROADLESS AREA (01799)

ACRES OF AREA UNDER MANAGEMENT FOR EACH EMPHASIS BY ALTERNATIVE - LOLO N F
(Refer to Appendix C Introduction for Management Areas under each emphasis.)

Management Emphasis	Alternatives a	b	c	d	e	f	g
Timber/Range	8100	162	12834	10509	10509	1860	-
Wild life							
Grizzly bear	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	2472	1215	1422	2549	2549	417	-
Visual	22720	162	770	2202	2202	119	-
Miscellaneous	7208	770	3200	2826	2826	348	-
Riparian	*	*	*	1526	1526	*	-
Roadless	-	38191	22274	20888	20888	636	-
Wilderness	-	-	-	-	-	37120	40500
Total	40500	40500	40500	40500	40500	40500	40500

* Small inclusions occur in other management emphasis items

SUMMARY OF MANAGEMENT EMPHASIS (acres managed by decade)

Roaded								
	decade 1	7200	1539	7200	7200	7200	2396	-
	decade 5	40500	2309	18226	19612	19612	2744	-
Roadless								
	decade 1	33300	38961	33300	33300	33300	984	-
	decade 5	-	38961	22274	20888	20888	636	-
Wilderness								
	decade 1	-	-	-	-	-	37120	40500
	decade 5	-	-	-	-	-	37120	40500

Table 2, continued

ACRES OF AREA UNDER MANAGEMENT FOR EACH EMPHASIS BY ALTERNATIVE - IDAHO PNF

Management Emphasis	Alternatives[1/] (Thousand Acres) 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Wilderness	0	0	25.7	0	0	25.7	0	0	25.7	25.7	0	0
Nonwilderness												
No TbrHrvst	12.8	0.4	0	0.4	0.1	0	15.8	4.5	0	0	13.6	13.2
Tmbr/Wlife	6.3	10.4	0	11.0	6.5	0	4.2	8.4	0	0	2.5	3.3
Wlife/VQO	2.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Spcl Areas	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3
Min Lvl	4.4	14.9	0	14.3	19.1	0	5.7	12.8	0	0	8.7	9.2
Total	27.0	27.0	27.0	27.0	27.0	27.0	27.0	27.0	27.0	27.0	27.0	27.0
Summary of Management Emphasis:												
Developed												
Decade 1	1.2	0.7	0	3.5	0	0	0	0.3	0	0	3.5	3.5
Decade 5	15.2	14.3	0	15.4	6.6	0	6.0	11.1	0	0	3.5	3.5
Roadless[2/]												
Decade 1	25.8	26.3	0	23.5	27.0	0	27.0	26.7	0	0	18.8	18.8
Decade 5	11.8	12.7	0	11.6	20.4	0	21.0	15.9	0	0	18.8	18.8
Wilderness	0	0	27.0	0	0	25.7	0	0	25.7	25.7	0	0

1/ Alternative clarification -

1 - Regional Goals
2 - High Market
3 - High Nonmarket
4 - High Timber, Fish
5 - Mod.All Resources
6 - High Timber, Wildlife
7 - High Nonmarket, Stable Timber
8 - Current Program
9 - High Recreation
10 - High Wildlife, Moderate Timber
11 - Preferred Alter.
12 - Preferred w/Depture.

2/ Roadless is defined as 5,000 acres or greater in size or any acreage if contiguous to existing wilderness.

4. Impacts

a. Designation: Wilderness

Management Emphasis: Wilderness

Alternative f designates 91 percent of the area and Alternative g designates the entire area to wilderness management.

Wilderness designation can enhance the area's wilderness attributes since there are existing uses and facilities not usually associated with wilderness allocation. Any existing motorized activities could be eliminated.

The approximately 27,300 acres of land tentatively suitable for timber production would not be available. This would remove about 211.5 MMBF of timber from the Forest land base.

Big game or elk management would not change much. The area contains some summer habitat and nearly 2,000 acres of winter habitat. Cover/forage relationships should not change much over time except as influenced by wildfire control.

Under wilderness designation recreation use would continue to be dominated by a variety of outdoor activities.

The non-priced effects are:

-- Visual quality would be preserved.

-- Wilderness area would increase.

-- Diversity would tend toward old growth without wildfire but could be improved, depending on the control policy.

-- Water quality and fisheries would be maintained at their present natural levels. Spawning habitat for St. Joe River would be preserved.

-- Quality elk habitat would be preserved, dependent on future fire policies.

-- Local employment may decrease slightly due to the unavailability of timber.

Economic effects would not be particularly significant; the area represents nearly 3 percent of the available timber on the forest. Other resources would be retained. The loss in timber volume can be mitigated by practicing intensive forestry.

b. Designation: Non,wilderness

Management Emphasis: Timber/Range

For the Lolo National Forest, all alternatives except g designate some of this area for timber prescriptions. Alternatives a through f designate from a trace to 32 percent for timber management.

For the Idaho Panhandle National Forest, 11,000 acres timber, 14,000 acres minimum level, 1,300 acres St. Joe Wild and Scenic River.

Designation for the timber prescription will forego the possibility of wilderness designation by the end of the first decade. The area will be accessed with roads and harvest will be scheduled up to the limit of constraints for these prescriptions.

The non-priced effects are:

-- Visual quality would be at its lowest level, maximum modification.

-- Semi-primitive recreation potential would be foregone by the end of the first decade.

-- Wilderness characteristics would be compromised in a short time.

-- Diversity would tend toward younger age classes with minimum old growth.

-- Water quality and fisheries affects would be mitigated.

The greatest number of jobs, mainly in the wood products industry, would be provided.

c. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Wildlife

The main emphasis in this prescription is big game winter habitat and summer habitat. Alternatives a through f designate from a trace to 6 percent of the area for wildlife management. Alternative g is the wilderness alternative.

The area contains about 400 acres of bald eagle habitat. This would be identified along the faces of the Clark Fork Drainage. Management activities will be compatible with the habitat needs of the bald eagle.

Wildlife security and cover requirements include restrictions on human activities and development. Although habitat management activities result in some reductions in wilderness attributes, they are ususally short term and limited in scope. Opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would remain high.

In areas with commercial timber stands, timber may be a byproduct of achieving or maintaining habitat objectives. Timber harvest would occur if enough timber is available and could be used to achieve habitat objectives. Other management activities may include prescribed burning for wildlife.

d. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Visual

Alternative a provides 56 percent of the area to be managed for visuals. Alternatives b through f designate from a trace to 5 percent.

Visuals are retained in the roadless management emphasis. The visual quality resource will be managed according to the management area classification.

e. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Riparian

All alternatives contain inclusions of riparian zones and recognize the need to manage these areas according to policy and guidelines. Alternative g is the wilderness alternative and would not impact the riparian areas.

f. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Roadless

For the Lolo National Forest, Alternative b designates 94 percent of the area for roadess management. Alternative c designates 55 percent, alternatives d, e and f provide 2 to 5 percent and the other alternatives do not manage for this emphasis.

For the Idaho Panhandle Forests, approximately 13,000 acres roadless recreation, 7,000 acres minimum level, 1,300 acres St. Joe Wild and Scenic River, 4,000 acres timber. The emphasis is overall a low intensity prescription where over 50 percent remains unroaded.

The non-priced effects are:

-- Visual quality will be maintained at a very high level, retention.

-- Semi-primitive and wilderness attributes can be retained for a long period.

-- Age class distribution and diversity would be dominated by old growth; young age classes would be minimal.

-- Water quality and fisheries would not be affected.

Few wood products-related jobs would be added to the industry.

The economic effects of this emphasis would be slight since the area represents less than 1 percent of the land base suitable for timber, and other resources would be retained.

g. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Miscellaneous

Miscellaneous management emphases include non-forest land, administrative centers, historical or cultural sites, mineral extraction sites, transportation and utility corridors, Research Natural Areas, campgrounds, picnic areas, ski areas, and areas with concentrated public use.

Alternative a designates 18 percent of the area for management of these sites, Alternatives b through f designate from a trace to 8 percent; Alternative g does not manage for this emphasis.

SALMO/PRIEST ROADLESS AREA (01981)

I. DESCRIPTION

Size	Gross Acres	Net Acres
Idaho - Idaho Panhandle	20,543	20,543

The Salmo/Priest Roadless area is located entirely within Boundary County, Idaho, in the immediate far northwest corner of the County and State. The area is approximately 45 miles north of Priest River, Idaho. Primary access is gained by traveling State Highway 57 north from Priest River until the pavement ends at Nordman. Travel continues on Forest Road 1013 which leads to a number of trailheads. The interior is accessed via a number of well maintained trails.

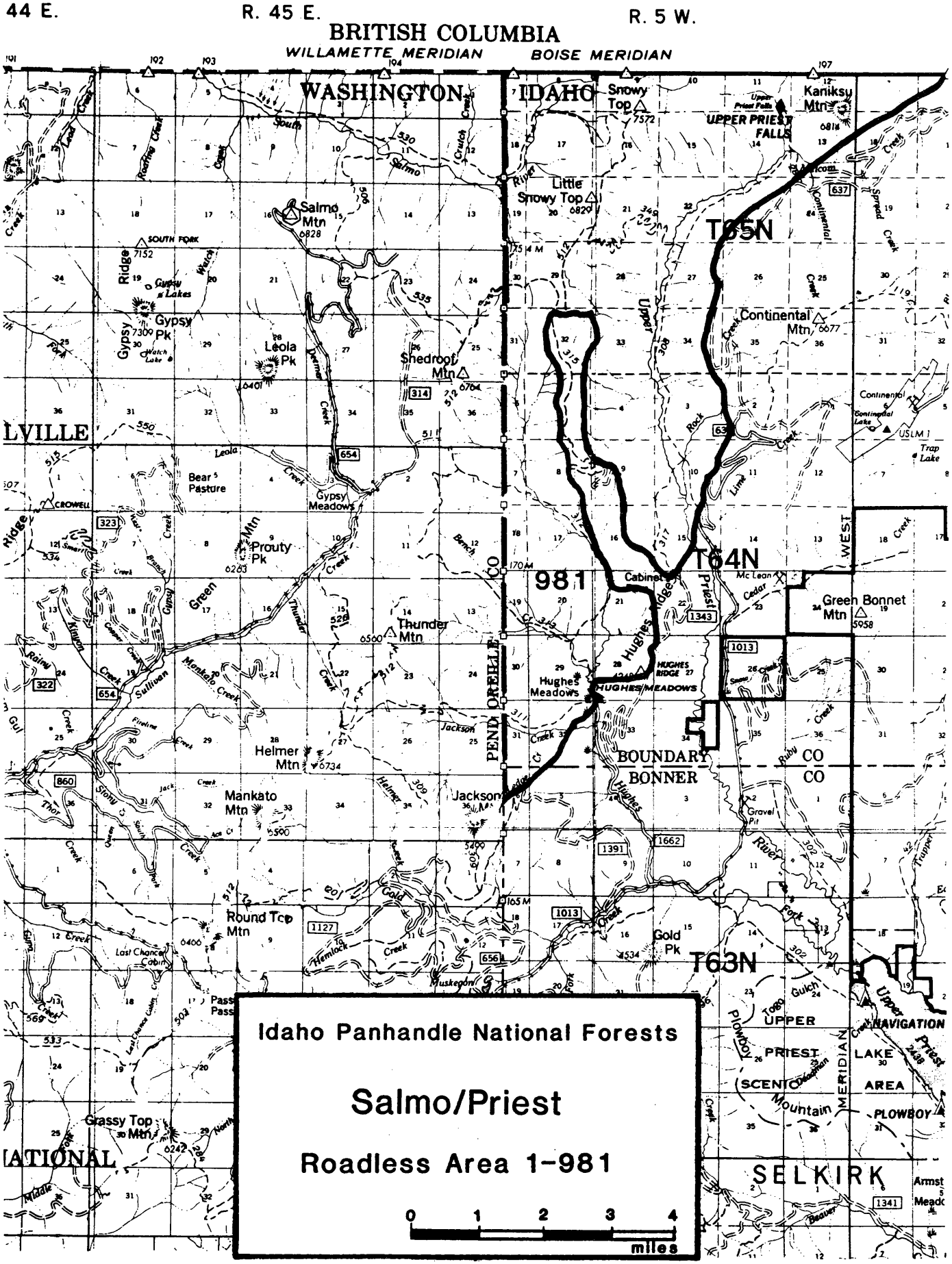
The Salmo/Priest Roadless Area consists of significant portions of the west slope of the Upper Priest River drainage. Terrain, for the most part, is very steep and faces east-southeast. Continental glaciation has shaped most of this area. The Upper Priest River and the upper portions of several tributaries are within the area. A small portion of the Salmo River is also included.

The area contains a wide variety of vegetation, ranging from near alpine on Snowy Top to lush old-growth cedar/hemlock along the river. Portions near Kaniksu Mountain were burned in 1967. A large mid-elevation meadow, Hughes Meadow, is also part of this variety. Avalanche activity maintains significant brushfields as well.

Habitat for just about every animal found in northern Idaho is also found in this roadless area. Occupied grizzly and caribou habitat exists. The gray wolf may also be present.

The river is considered significant spawning and rearing habitat for large cutthroat and Dolly Varden trout from the Priest Lakes; the river is closed to fishing to protect this habitat.

Current recreation use is light to moderate and consists of summer hiking along the ridge trail or the river trail.


44 E.
R. 45 E.
R. 5 W.
BRITISH COLUMBIA
WILLAMETTE MERIDIAN
BOISE MERIDIAN
WASHINGTON
IDAHO
Snowy Top
Kaniksu Mtn
UPPER PRIEST FALLS
Little Snowy Top
Salmo Mtn
T65N
Gypsy Pk
Leola Pk
Shedroof Mtn
Continental Mtn
Bear Pasture
Gypsy Meadows
Prouty Pk
T64N
981
Cabinet
Green Bonnet Mtn
Thunder Mtn
Hughes Meadows
HUGHES MEADOWS
BOUNDARY
BONNER
Helmer Mtn
Mankato Mtn
Jackson
Round Top Mtn
Gold Pk
T63N
UPPER PRIEST LAKE AREA
PLOWBOY
SELKIRK
Grassy Top Mtn
Idaho Panhandle National Forests
Salmo/Priest
Roadless Area 1-981
0 1 2 3 4
miles

II. CAPABILITY

A. Wilderness Characteristics

1. Natural Integrity. The impact of human activity in this area has been light and consists of trails, a lookout on Little Snowy Top, and off-site views into the surrounding area which has been roaded and logged. Most of the viewing is background and should not disturb most visitors. Noises from outside the area may be heard occasionally.

2. Natural Appearance. The Salmo/Priest Roadless Area has had little internal disturbance and is large enough that outside disturbances do not detract from a natural appearance.

3. Solitude. The area offers a moderate to high degree of solitude.

4. Primitive Recreation Opportunities. Primitive recreation opportunities are available due to the large size of this area. In addition to size, the heavy vegetation and the river valley screen the noises and sights of civilization. Opportunities exist for extended trips over rugged terrain with moderate challenge.

5. Other Features. This area contains a number of unique features. This is the only area within the continental U.S. where caribou are current residents. Grizzly bear also currently use this area. Hughes Meadow has long been noted as grizzly bear spring range.

The Upper Priest River has been proposed by the U. S. Forest Service for Wild River designation. Upper Priest Falls are found within this area.

A Research Natural Area to represent alpine types has been proposed for Snowy Top.

Many streams provide habitat for adfluvial trout from the Priest Lakes.

III. WILDERNESS AVAILABILITY

Table 1

Selected Resource Values

Category	Unit	01981
Gross Acres	Acres	20,543
Net Acres	Acres	20,543
Range		
Existing Obligated		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Existing Vacant		
Suitable	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0
AUMs	No.	0
Proposed		
Suitable	Acres	0
AUMs	No.	0
Timber		
Tentative		
Suitable	Acres	14,400
Standing Volume	MMBF	190
Minerals Potential		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	160
Moderate	Acres	2,500
Low	Acres	17,883
Mining Claims	No.	14
Oil and Gas Potential*		
Very High	Acres	0
High	Acres	0
Moderate	Acres	0
Low	Acres	20,543
Oil and Gas Leases		
Leases	No.	0
Leased Area	Acres	0
Corridors		
Existing and Potential	No.	0
Wildlife-Threatened and Endangered-Habitat		
Grizzly Bear		
Situation 1	Acres	20,543
Situation 2	Acres	0
Situation 3	Acres	0
Bald Eagle	Acres	0
Mountain Caribou	Acres	20,000
Gray Wolf	Acres	0
Wildlife-Big Game		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Elk		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Specific-Deer		
Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Significant Fisheries		
Stream Miles	Miles	16
Stream Habitat	Acres	34
Lakes	No.	0
Lake Habitat	Acres	0
Water Developments		
Existing	No.	0
Recreation		
Primitive	RVDs	500
Semiprimitive		
Nonmotorized	RVDs	400
Motorized	RVDs	200
Roaded Natural	RVDs	200

*Rating also includes uranium, geothermal, and other energy resources.

A. Resource Values

1. Recreation. The primary current recreation use is hiking and backpacking in the summer. Capacity for more use exists but increasing use may be limited in order to limit disturbance to caribou and grizzly bear.

2. Wildlife. Caribou and grizzly are residents. The gray wolf may also be present. In addition to many other species, bobcat, lynx, and wolverine are also likely to be present. Important trout rearing habitat is also present. Considerable old-growth habitat is available.

3. Timber. The area contains a significant existing volume of mature sawtimber. Site productivity is moderate to high on moist, well drained, productive soils. The suitable timberland of 14,400 acres has an estimated standing volume of 190 MMBF.

4. Minerals. The mineral potential is low; oil and gas lease applications do not exist.

5. Range. None.

B. Other Considerations

1. Fire. Annual fire occurrence is low; periods between catastrophic fire are long.

V. ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

A. Management Emphasis Assignment by Alternatives. Management emphasis indicates which resource activity is highlighted. If the emphasis is timber, most of the activity on those acres would be for timber management. Resource activities which are compatible with the emphasis would continue, but with less intensity. Table 2 lists the acres of each management emphasis by alternative.

Table 2

Salmo Priest Roadless Area (01981)
Management Emphasis by Alternative

Management Emphasis	Alternatives[1/] (Thousand Acres) 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Wilderness	14.7	0	18.3	0	14.7	14.7	18.3	14.7	14.7	18.3	18.3	18.3
Nonwilderness												
No Tbr. Harvest	1.5	0.3	0	0.3	1.2	0	0	0	3.2	0	0	0
Timber/Wildlife	1.6	9.0	0	9.0	1.8	2.0	0	2.1	0.2	0	0	0
Wildlife/Visual	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Special Areas	0	3.8	0	3.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minimum Level	0.5	5.2	0	5.2	0.6	1.6	0	1.5	0.2	0	0	0
Total	18.3	18.3	18.3	18.3	18.3	18.3	18.3	18.3	18.3	18.3	18.3	18.3
Summary of Management Emphasis:												
Developed												
Decade 1	2.0	9.0	0	9.0	2.0	3.0	0	3.0	0.5	0	0	0
Decade 5	2.0	9.0	0	9.0	2.0	3.0	0	3.0	0.5	0	0	0
Roadless[2/]												
Decade 1	1.6	9.3	0	9.3	1.6	0.6	0	0.6	3.1	0	0	0
Decade 5	1.6	9.3	0	9.3	1.6	0.6	0	0.6	3.1	0	0	0
Wilderness	14.6	0	18.3	0	14.7	14.7	18.3	14.7	14.7	18.3	18.3	18.3

1/ Alternative clarification -

1 - Regional Goals
2 - High Market
3 - High Nonmarket
4 - High Timber, Fish
5 - Moderate All Resources
6 - High Timber, Wildlife
7 - High Nonmarket, Stable Timber
8 - Current Program
9 - High Recreation
10 - High Wildlife, Moderate Timber
11 - Preferred Alternative
12 - Preferred w/Departure

2/ Roadless is defined as 5,000 acres or greater in size or any acreage if contiguous to existing wilderness.

B. Impacts

1. Designation: Wilderness

Management Emphasis: Wilderness

This management emphasis appears in all alternatives, with the exception of Alternatives 2 and 4. This emphasis is assigned to 100 percent of the roadless area in Alternatives 3, 7, 10, 11, and 12; approximately 71 percent of the area is designated wilderness under Alternatives 1, 5, 6, 8, and 9.

This management emphasis would preserve wilderness values such as natural integrity, solitude, primitive recreation opportunities, etc. This emphasis would also complement the recent Congressional Wilderness Bill for the State of Washington because boundaries would more closely follow natural boundaries rather than the state line.

Under this management emphasis approximately 14,400 acres of tentatively suitable timberland would be unavailable in Alternatives 3, 7, 11, and 12, representing 190 MMBF of standing timber. The remaining alternatives would eliminate approximately 10,000 to 11,000 acres of suitable timberland from harvest, or 132 to 145 MMBF. Minerals, oil, and gas, if discovered, would not be available on the lands managed under this emphasis.

The following list of non-priced benefits and costs relates the impacts of this management emphasis on the land area to which the emphasis is assigned. The relative values of these impacts to the total roadless area would be directly related to the acreage under this emphasis and would be dependent upon surrounding management activities.

-- Wilderness values would be preserved and enhanced on lands managed under this emphasis.

-- Visual quality would be preserved.

-- There would be no impact on the currently high levels of water quality and fisheries from lands managed under this emphasis.

-- Significant old-growth habitat would be retained.

-- Caribou, grizzly bear, and wolf (if present) habitat would be protected to the highest degree.

-- Most wildlife species would be favorably or neutrally impacted.

-- The natural ecosystem would be maintained.

-- The Research Natural Area would be maintained.

This management emphasis does not socially or economically support either the wood products or minerals industries. Segments of the public desiring primitive and semi-primitive recreation opportunities would be supported, as would those desiring habitat for threatened and endangered species. This emphasis supports those desiring additions to the National Wilderness System. Those individuals and groups involved in research opportunities, such as universities and Forest Service research units, are supported by this management emphasis.

2. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: No Timber Harvest

This management emphasis is assigned to 1 percent of the area in Alternatives 2 and 4, representing prescriptions geared toward caribou and old-growth habitat retention. Alternatives 1 and 5 assign 11 percent of the area to this emphasis, reflecting a prescription of roadless recreation. Alternative 9, also emphasizing roadless recreation, designates 27 percent of the roadless area to this management emphasis.

This management emphasis would enhance the wilderness values of the lands to which it is assigned under Alternatives 1, 5, and 9. This management emphasis would complement the wilderness qualities of the areas designated as wilderness under these alternatives. Alternatives 2 and 4 do not provide for any wilderness designation; there is no opportunity for the small acreage of this management emphasis to enhance wilderness and the acreage is small enough to have little impact on wilderness values even though it would remain unroaded.

Under this emphsis, 4 MMBF on 300 acres would be unavailable under Alternatives 2 and 4; approximately 31 MMBF of standing timber on 2,200 to 2,500 suitable timberland acres would be unavailable under Alternatives 1 and 5; and about 73 MMBF would be unavailable on the 5,500 acres designated for this emphasis under Alternative 9. Mineral, oil, and gas developments would be available under this management emphasis, though subject to other resource constraints, such as endangered species habitat.

Non-priced benefits and costs would be as follows:

-- Wilderness values of surrounding wilderness areas would be enhanced.

-- Visual quality on lands managed under this emphasis would be preserved.

-- There would be no impact on water quality and fisheries from lands managed under this emphasis.

-- Areas under this emphasis in old growth would be retained.

-- Caribou, grizzly bear, and wolf (if present) habitat would be protected under this emphasis.

-- Other wildlife species would mostly be favorably or neutrally impacted.

-- There would be no impact on the Research Natural Area.

This management emphasis does not socially or economically support the wood products industry. Since minerals, oil, and gas developments would continue to be available, related industries are supported. This emphasis supports those desiring habitat for threatened and endangered species.

3. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Timber/Wildlife

This management emphasis is assigned to 1 percent of the roadless area in Alternative 9, 15 percent in Alternatives 1 and 5, 21 percent in Alternatives 6 and 8, and 55 percent in Alternatives 2 and 4. Timber harvest would be available under this emphasis, but subject to the goal of recovered populations of grizzly bear and caribou.

Wilderness characteristics would not be retained on lands managed under this emphasis. Activities on these lands could have a possible adverse imapct on adjacent wilderness areas, such as an impact on visual quality or solitude, in Alternatvies 1, 5, 6, 8, and 9. This management emphasis in Alternatives 2 and 4 would result in a long-term impact on and (to some people) a total loss of wilderness values.

Under this management emphasis, approximately 200 acres of suitable timberland would be available in Alternative 9, representing 2.6 MMBF of standing timber. Alternatives 1 and 5 would have 3,000 acres available for 39.6 MMBF, while Alternatives 6 and 8 would call for 4,300 acres and 56.7 MMBF. The highest amount of available timberland would be realized under Alternatives 2 and 4, with 11,200 acres and 147.8 MMBF. All timber harvest and road construction activities in every alternative would be subject to extensive mitigation and probable reduced harvest due to the need for maintaining and enhancing grizzly and caribou habitat. Also under restrictions for endangered species would be minerals, oil, and gas developments, all of which would continue to be available on lands managed under this emphasis.

Non-priced benefits and costs would be as follows:

-- There would be a reduction in visual quality due to timber harvest and road construction activity. The impact would be greatest in Alternatives 2 and 4 due to the high acreage of this management emphasis. The visual impact may be mitigated somewhat in areas where timber management and caribou habitat objectives coexist, in that silvicultural prescriptions may call for more partial cutting to protect or enhance caribou habitat.

-- There would be a decline in water quality and fisheries due to sedimentation resulting from harvest and road construction activities. As with visual quality, the impact would be in proportion to the acreage assigned to this emphasis, i.e., Alternative 9 would have the least, almost negligible impact, while Alternatives 2 and 4 would impact water quality and fisheries to a higher degree. Although there would be imapcts, such impacts could not be significant since State law prohibits serious injury to fisheries. Management activities would be required to meet that law.

-- Old-growth habitat on lands managed under this emphasis would tend to decline except where such old growth is determined to best meet the needs of caribou and/or grizzly. Caribou prescriptions call for retention of some old growth on lands where caribou habitat and timber management objectives coexist.

-- Although threatened and endangered species would be impacted, such impacts would be limited, by law, so as not to inhibit the maintenance or recovery of threatened and endangered species. The need to enforce road closures and game laws may require significantly increased law enforcement in order to mitigate impacts to an acceptable level.

-- There would be a shift of wildlife populations to favor those whose habitat requirements call for early successional stages of vegetation. This shift would probably be negligible since enough old-growth stands would be maintained to keep a balance of the different species.

-- Although this emphasis would not affect the Research Natural Area designation, the activities surrounding that area could have a potential impact, such as increased sedimentation. Such potential impacts would require project level environmental analysis to determine effects.

-- Recreational opportunities would change from a primitive and semi-primitive setting to roading activities.

This management emphasis supports the wood products and mineral, oil, and gas industries since such developments would continue to be available on lands managed under this emphasis. Other social and economic effects include the loss of these lands for wilderness classification. Lands managed under this emphasis would not support those favoring additions to the wilderness system or those favoring primitive and semi-primitive recreation opportunities. Those groups and individuals desiring roaded-type recreational activities would be supported, though such activities would be under constraints due to threatened and endangered species habitat.

4. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Special Areas

This management emphasis reflects the proposed Research Natural Area and the Priest Wild and Scenic River Area. Due to the higher nature of the wilderness classification, this management emphasis is not reflected in Table 2, where wilderness emphasis overlaps with the special area emphasis. Although the 19 percent of the area is reflected only for Alternatives 2 and 4, the Research Natural Area and the Wild and Scenic River are included in each of the other alternatives.

This management emphasis enhances the values of adjacent wilderness areas in Alternatives 2 and 4. Qualities associated with the wilderness experience, such as solitude, visual quality, and natural integrity, would be preserved on these lands.

Approximately 45 MMBF of standing timber would be unavailable under this emphasis. The Wild and Scenic River is withdrawn from mineral entry; such would be the case of the Research Natural Area as well. Minerals, oil, and gas would be unavailable on all lands managed under this emphasis.

Non-priced benefits and costs would be as follows:

-- Visual quality would be maintained at a high level on lands managed under this emphasis.

-- Water quality and fisheries would be maintained at current levels.

-- Old-growth habitat on lands with this emphasis would be preserved.

-- Threatened and endangered species habitat would be maintained.

-- Most wildlife species would be favorably or neutrally impacted.

-- The natural ecosystem would be maintained.

-- Opportunities for nonmanipulative research would be retained.

This management emphasis does not socially or economically support either the wood products or minerals industries since related products would not be available. The emphasis does support those segments of the public desiring primitive and semi-primitive recreation opportunities, maintenance of visual quality and natural conditions, and maintenance of threatened and endangered species habitat. Those indiviudals and groups involved in research activities, i.e., universities and Forest Service research units, are supported by this emphasis.

5. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Minimum Level

Approximately 1 to 3 percent of the area is assigned this emphasis in lternatives 1, 5, and 9. About 7 percent is assigned in Alternatives 6 and 8, while Alternatives 2 and 4 assign 25 percent of the area to this management emphasis.

The minimum level management emphasis implies that no developments would be made on such lands, though roads may be built to access developments on surrounding lands. The minimum level emphasis by itself would have no impacts but could be strongly influenced by adjacent management activities. Impacts from Alternatives 1, 5, 6, 8, and 9 would be slight and would reflect the impacts of the timber/wildlife prescription. Impacts from Alternatives 2 and 4 could be greater due to the larger acreage of this management emphasis and the fact that most of the roadless area in those alternatives woudl be developed. Again, impacts would be the same as those listed under the timber/wildlife management emphasis.