3 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

3.1 Introduction

Chapter 3 summarizes the physical, biologic, social and economic environments of the affected project area and the potential changes to those environments due to implementation of the alternatives. It also presents the analytic basis for comparison of alternatives presented in Chapter 2.

This section summarizes the environmental effects of the alternatives relative to the factors used in determining significance. Addressing environmental effects this way focuses this assessment on pertinent effects necessary to make a decision, allowing for a concise document as directed by the Council of Environmental Quality's regulations for implementing NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508). BAs (Biological Assessments), BEs (Biological Evaluations), and other specialists' resource reports prepared for this project are briefly summarized and incorporated by reference. These reports are on file at the District office and available by request.

In Chapter 3 you will find:

- *A list of the past, present, and reasonably foreseeable activities in the Salmon River Recreational Sites Renovation project area*
- *The environmental effects of each alternative*
- *Required disclosures*

3.2 Scope of Analysis

The Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project area is described in Chapter 1, Section 1.2 (Map 2).

The issues analyzed in detail identified in Chapter 2, and the indicators associated with those issues (used to measure change) will be tracked throughout the discussions in this Chapter. Each issue analysis includes a summary of the effects of each alternative, and a section describing consistency with the Payette and Nez Perce Forest Plans and environmental law.

3.3 Cumulative Effects

This section displays a list and description of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable activities in and adjacent to the Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project area.

3.3.1 Scope of the Analysis

The cumulative effects analysis area (scope or spatial extent) varies for each resource issue. The resource specialists considered the past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions, when applicable, in determining cumulative effects to their resource (specialists' resource reports in project file). Past activities contributed to the existing conditions of each resource, including recreation, recreation site development and maintenance, road construction and maintenance, timber harvest, fire, small hydroelectric development, and noxious weed management.

Further description of past, present and reasonably foreseeable activities and analysis of their effects on various resources are provided in the individual resource analyses of this chapter and in the specialists' resource reports in the project record. The data presented here contributes to the cumulative effects analysis in specific resource sections.

3.3.2 Past, Present and Reasonably Foreseeable Activities

The following narratives summarize specific Nez Perce National Forest past, present, and reasonably foreseeable activities in the Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project area. A general history is provided, followed by brief discussions for recreation, recreation site development and maintenance, road construction and maintenance, timber harvest, fire, small hydroelectric development, livestock grazing, and noxious weed management. Reasonably foreseeable future actions within the project area include continued recreation, recreation site maintenance, road maintenance, fire, livestock grazing, and noxious weed management.

3.3.2.1 General History

The post-settlement development history of the Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project area dates to the mid-19th century. Gold discoveries provided the initial impetus for mining, road and trail development, grazing, homesteading and early timber harvest. In recent decades, recreation site maintenance and road improvement projects have been implemented.

3.3.2.2 Recreation

Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable

The Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project area has supported both commercial and non-commercial motorized and float boating use in the past, present, and is predicted to in the future.

Additionally, the project area provides opportunities for camping, hunting, fishing, hiking, horseback riding.

3.3.2.3 Recreation Site Development and Maintenance

Past and Present

Maintenance has and does occur at all of the recreation sites within the project area. In the 1990s, the day use facility at Carey Creek was updated. One double vault restroom with two changing rooms was installed in 1999 at Spring Bar. In 2000, the ramp and turnaround were widened at Carey Creek. In the early 2000s, ramp maintenance occurred at the Vinegar Creek Boat Ramp. In 2002, the water system and well at Spring Bar were upgraded.

Reasonably Foreseeable

The Vinegar Creek boat ramp extension is expected to occur in 2009. This project would replace six old, unusable, ramp extension panels. Changes include using a different connecting mechanism between the panels and composition of aggregate to form the panels.

3.3.2.4 Road Construction

Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable

The Salmon River road (Forest Road #1614) was constructed prior to 1980, and each of the recreation sites in the project area has short segments of road constructed in the past.

In the late 1980s, the Carey Creek Bridge was replaced. The Elkhorn Creek Bridge is proposed to be replaced with a similar 20 to 24 foot bridge, in the summer of 2009. This bridge is outside of the project area, and is three miles upriver from Spring Bar.

3.3.2.5 Road Maintenance

Past

Various levels of road maintenance have occurred within the project area and along the Salmon River road (Forest Road #1614). Maintenance activities consist of shaping and grading the road surface; removing vegetation from road shoulders, ditches and cut banks, reshaping ditches, and repairing or replacing damaged or inadequate drainage structures. Localized gravel placement also occurs where needed.

In the late 1980s, road improvements occurred on the Salmon River road from Carey Creek to Vinegar Creek. In the late 1990s, the County applied surface treatments to the Salmon River road from Highway 95 to Spring Bar, and in the early 2000s, the road was reconstructed from French Creek to Vinegar Creek.

Present

Present activities along the Salmon River road (Forest Road #1614) adjacent to the project area consist of road reconstruction to improve width and alignment and stabilize slopes, with some paving. The current reconstruction begins at Shorts Creek (Mile Post 2.2) and ends at Lake Creek (Mile Post 6.5).

Reasonably Foreseeable

Maintenance of the Salmon River road would continue adjacent to the project area. Reasonably foreseeable actions along the Salmon River road (Forest Road #1614) adjacent to the project area consist of road reconstruction to improve width and alignment and stabilize slopes, with some paving from Mile Post 6.5 to Mile Post 10.4.

3.3.2.6 VEGETATION MODIFICATION (TIMBER HARVEST AND FIRE)

Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable

Timber harvest has occurred in the past in and adjacent to the project area, of limited scope. Timber harvest operations and logging technology have changed over the past century, reducing the impacts to the environment. No timber harvest is anticipated within or adjacent to the project area in the future.

The most predominant vegetative modification throughout the surrounding area is natural wildfire activity. The Salmon River Canyon experiences frequent natural wildfire and this ecosystem has evolved with frequent fire. Natural vegetative regeneration typically occurs within six months of fire activity. The short vegetative regeneration timeframe following fires enhances the viewing experience and wildlife forage opportunities.

3.3.2.7 SMALL HYDROELECTRIC DEVELOPMENT

Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable

Small hydroelectric development has occurred outside of the project area in the past. No hydroelectric development is expected to occur within the project area in the future.

3.3.2.8 LIVESTOCK GRAZING

Past

Livestock grazing has occurred within and adjacent to the project area since approximately the turn of the 19th century. Early records of livestock use are limited.

Present

Currently, the Spring Bar Boat Ramp area is within the Allison-Berg Allotment, and is surrounded by a fence to exclude livestock grazing within the area. Sheep inhabit the allotment from October 28th to July 7th, cattle from May 1st to October 31st, and horses from October 29th to March 31st.

Reasonably Foreseeable

Changes in allotment management may take place based on results of monitoring.

3.3.2.9 NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT

Past

Eradication efforts on newly invading noxious weed species were recently initiated in and around the project area. Reduction actions on known infestations of Canada thistle along

roadsides, and containment actions on established infestations and eradication actions on satellite outbreaks of spotted knapweed and yellow star thistle have also occurred.

Present

The noxious weed program continues, with emphasis given to aggressive eradication efforts for existing and potential acres of new invaders consistent with the strategy outlined for the Salmon River Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA). The weed management on the landscape scale is adaptive in approach.

Reasonably Foreseeable

The on-going weed management program would continue, which may involve biological control agents, mechanical removal, or other methods.

3.3.3 Summary of Past, Present and Reasonably Foreseeable Actions within the Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation Project Area

Table 3-1 displays the types of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable activities within the Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project area.

Table 3-1. Types of Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Activities within the Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation Project Area.

Action	Past	Present	Reasonably Foreseeable
Recreation	X	X	X
Recreation Site Development	X	X	
Recreation Site Maintenance	X	X	X
Road Construction	X		
Road Decommissioning	X		
Road Maintenance	X	X	X
Timber Harvest	X		
Fire	X		X
Hydroelectric Development	X		
Livestock Grazing	X	X	X
Noxious Weed Management	X	X	X

Table 3-2 displays the specific past, present, and reasonably foreseeable activities within the Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation Project Area.

Table 3-2. Specific Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Activities within the Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation Project Area.

Project	Location	Activity Type	Time Period
Huntz Gulch Placer	Huntz Gulch by Spring Bar	Removal of log cabin on mining claim	Past: Early 1980s
Salmon River Road Improvements	Forest Road #1614 between Carey Creek and Vinegar Creek	Blading and reshaping existing road and two small parking areas along road	Past: Late 1980s
Carey Creek Bridge Replacement	Carey Creek	Replace old bridge on Salmon River road (Forest Road #1614)	Past: Late 1980s
Carey Creek Capital Investment Project	Carey Creek	Upgrade day use facility at Carey Creek	Past: 1990s
County Salmon River Road Surface Treatment	Forest Road #1614 from Highway 95 to Spring Bar	Surface treatment on road	Past: Late 1990s
Spring Bar Restroom	Spring Bar	Installation of one double vault restroom	Past: 1999
Carey Creek Ramp Improvements	Carey Creek	Widening of ramp and turnaround	Past: 2000
Salmon River Road Reconstruction	Forest Road #1614 from French Creek to Vinegar Creek	Road reconstruction	Past: Early 2000s
Vinegar Creek Boat Ramp Maintenance	Vinegar Creek Boat Ramp	Ramp maintenance	Past: Early 2000s
Salmon River Recreation Site Improvements	Spring Bar/Huntz Gulch/Wind River Trailhead	Improvement at developed recreation site: upgrade water system and well	Ongoing: 2002-Present
Improvements to Salmon River Road	Forest Road #1614 from Shorts Creek (Mile Post 2.2 to Lake Creek Bridge (Mile Post 6.5)	Road reconstruction to improve width and alignment and stabilize slopes, with some paving	On-going: 2008-2012
Road and Recreation Site Maintenance	Throughout project area	Various levels of maintenance of roads and recreation sites	On-going
Recreation	Throughout project area	Boating, camping, hunting, fishing, hiking, firewood cutting, etc.	On-going
Grazing	Surrounding Spring Bar	Allison-Berg Allotment	On-going
Noxious Weed Management	Throughout project area	May involve biological control agents, mechanical removal, or other methods	On-going
Elkhorn Bridge Replacement	Elkhorn Bridge (Outside project area-three miles downriver from French Creek)	Replace bridge with a similar 20 to 24 foot bridge	Reasonably Foreseeable: 2009
Vinegar Creek Boat Ramp Extension	Vinegar Creek Boat Ramp	Extend boat ramp at downstream ramp	Reasonably Foreseeable: 2009
Improvements to Salmon River Road	Forest Road #1614 from Lake Creek Bridge to Mile Post 10.4	Road reconstruction to improve width and alignment and stabilize slopes, with some paving	Reasonably Foreseeable: 2012

3.4 Recreation

ELEMENT: This section focuses on recreational elements within the project area. These are elements of the affected environment we propose to improve with the Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project.

Indicators:

- Vehicle Parking Capacity
- Persons at One Time* (PAOT) Capacity
- Toilet/Changing Areas
- Boat Ramp Access
- Water Availability
- Informational Board/Interpretive Panel
- Footpaths
- Site Improvements

3.4.1 Summary of Effects

The effects on recreation elements and users are documented in the *Recreation & Visuals Report for the Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation Project* (See *Recreation* section of the project record).

3.4.1.1 Direct and Indirect Effects

Table 3-3 depicts how the alternatives respond to the purpose and need objectives to decrease congestion at recreation sites along the Salmon River road by improving parking, traffic flow, and boat ramps, and developing changing areas.

Table 3-3. Comparison of the Alternatives for Accomplishing the Purpose and Need Objectives to Decrease Congestion at Recreation Sites Along the Salmon River Road by Improving Parking, Traffic Flow, and Boat Ramps, and Developing Changing Areas.

		Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
RECREATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS				
Vehicle Parking Capacity	Site Name	# Parking Spaces	# Parking Spaces	# Parking Spaces
	Spring Bar	10	18	18
	Carey Creek	26	35	52
	Wind River	5	11	17
	Vinegar Creek	41	62	62

		Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
Persons at One Time* (PAOT) Capacity	**Site Name**	**# People**	**# People**	**# People**
	Spring Bar	35	63	63
	Carey Creek	38	62	91
	Wind River	17.5	38.5	49
	Vinegar Creek	43	147.5	165
Toilet/Changing Areas	**Site Name**	**# Toilets/ # Changing Wings**	**# Toilets/ # Changing Wings**	**# Toilets/ # Changing Wings**
	Spring Bar	1/2	1/2	1/2
	Carey Creek	1/0	1/2	1/2
	Wind River	0/0	0/0	1/0
	Vinegar Creek	1/0	1/0	1/2
Boat Ramp Access	**Site Name**	**Ramp Description**	**Ramp Description**	**Ramp Description**
	Spring Bar	One 2 lane ramp	One 2 lane ramp with barriers and repairs	One 2 lane ramp with barriers and repairs, plus reconditioned entrance road and concrete turnaround
	Carey Creek	One 2 lane ramp	One 2 lane ramp with widened turn radius	One 2 lane ramp with widened turn radius
	Wind River	None	None	None
	Vinegar Creek	3 ramps	3 ramps: Ramp A-Widened Ramps B & C - Stabilized	3 ramps: Ramp A-Widened Ramp B-Removed Ramp C-Stabilized Ramp E-new
Water Availability	**Site Name**	**Water Available?**	**Water Available?**	**Water Available?**
	Spring Bar	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Carey Creek	No	No	No
	Wind River	No	No	Yes-Non-potable
	Vinegar Creek	No	No	No
Informational Board/Interpretive Panel	**Site Name**	**# Info Boards/ # Interpretive Panels**	**# Info Boards/ # Interpretive Panels**	**# Info Boards/ # Interpretive Panels**
	Spring Bar	1/0	1/0**	1/0**
	Carey Creek	1/0	1/0**	1/0**
	Wind River	0/0	1/0**	1/0**
	Vinegar Creek	2/0	2/0**	1/0**
Footpaths	**Site Name**	**# Footpaths**	**# Footpaths**	**# Footpaths**
	Spring Bar	0	1-Boat ramp path	1-Path from parking to restroom
	Carey Creek	0	1-Stairs from parking ramp	1-Stairs from parking ramp
	Wind River	0	0	0
	Vinegar Creek	0	1-Path to restroom	1-Path to restroom

		Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
	Site Name	**Existing Improvements**	**Improvements**	**Improvements**
Site Improvements	**Spring Bar**	None	Vegetate & landscape	Vegetate & landscape
	Carey Creek	2 picnic areas-tables, fire rings, old chimney	2 picnic areas-tables, fire rings, Vegetate & landscape Remove old chimney	2 picnic areas-tables, fire rings, Vegetate & landscape Remove old chimney
	Wind River	2 feed bunks 1 unloading ramp 1 hitch rail	2 feed bunks (new) 1 loading ramp (new) 2 hitch rails (new) Vegetate & landscape	2 feed bunks (new) 1 loading ramp (new) 2 hitch rails (new) Water line & tank (new) Vegetate & landscape
	Vinegar Creek	None	Vegetate & landscape	Vegetate & landscape

As shown in Table 3-3, Alternative 1 does not meet the purpose and need to decrease congestion at recreation sites along the Salmon River road because it does not increase parking areas, improve traffic flow, develop changing areas, or improve boat ramps.

Alternative 2 meets the purpose and need, but to a lesser degree than Alternative 3.

Table 3-3 shows that Alternative 3 best meets the purpose and need to decrease congestion and increase user safety at recreation sites along the Salmon River road by improving parking, traffic flow and boat ramps, and developing changing areas:

- By increasing vehicle parking capacity by 23 more spaces than Alternative 2, and 67 more than Alternative 1;
- By increasing PAOT capacity by 57 more than Alternative 2, and 234.5 more than Alternative 1;
- By increasing the number of toilets by one more than Alternatives 1 and 2, and increasing the changing areas by two more than Alternative 2, and by four more than Alternative 1;
- By improving boat ramp access more than Alternatives 1 and 2;
- By providing water at Wind River;
- By providing informational boards and potential interpretive panels;
- By construction of footpaths, similar to Alternative 2;
- By site improvements, which include additional elements at Wind River compared to Alternative 2.

3.4.1.2 Cumulative Effects

The cumulative effects analysis area (scope or spatial extent) for the recreation resource includes the project area as well as the recreation use tied to these sites. Recreation use occurs both upriver and downriver of the proposed project sites and each site supports recreational access to these areas, primarily the river.

The related past, present, and reasonably foreseeable recreation related actions include recreation, recreation site development and maintenance, as well as road construction and maintenance that supports recreation access.

Alternative 1

There are no expected cumulative effects for Alternative 1 for the existing array of recreation opportunities, as current or existing conditions would prevail into the future.

Alternatives 2 and 3

The action alternatives would not exclude any of the existing uses.

Recreation, recreation site development and maintenance, road construction, and road maintenance, would have a positive cumulative effect with activities proposed in Alternatives 2 and 3 on recreational opportunities by decreasing congestion at the recreation sites along the Salmon River road due to parking, traffic flow, and boat ramps improvements, and changing area developments, therefore providing for users' convenience and safety.

Recreation

The Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project, given past, present, and reasonably foreseeable recreation use, affects recreational use/users by improving future recreation experiences through thoughtfully planned improvements to footpaths, parking areas, restroom, and changing facilities that have been repeatedly requested by both commercial and non-commercial users. The proposed renovations would better define the parking and traffic flow to improve the current unorganized and unsafe parking that occurs along the sides of the Salmon River road. The existing parking along the sides of the Salmon River road sometimes just barely allows through-traffic to pass safely without damage to vehicles.

Vinegar Creek, Carey Creek, and Spring Bar Boat Ramps, and Wind River Trailhead provide access to both the designated "Wild" and eligible "Recreation" river segments and the surrounding area. Commercial and non-commercial use occurs at all sites.

Floatboat, motorboat, and general recreational use access at these sites has existed as far back as the 1970's. Use trends have changed over time as recreational equipment and the vehicles transporting such equipment have evolved to be smaller, light weight, more efficient and powerful. However, the Manning Crevice Bridge (approximately Mile Post 13.4) continues to limit access to Carey Creek, Vinegar, and Wind River due to the limited size vehicles and trailers able to negotiate the roadway and bridge in the narrow section of the canyon. Additionally, the road conditions naturally limit access above the Manning Crevice Bridge due to lack of winter season county road maintenance and frequent rock falls and sloughs. The proposed project renovations are occurring in already topographically limiting terrain and future expansion and use of sites would be difficult beyond what is currently proposed. Therefore, recreation use is not expected to cumulatively increase as a result of this project.

WILD SECTION OF THE RIVER

Commercial use levels and access to the "Wild" stretch of river are managed year-round via the USDA Forest Service's FCRONRW Management Plan. However, private use levels and access to the "Wild" stretch of river are only managed for part of the year during the control season via the USDA FCRONRW Management Plan.

Two use seasons are defined for the "Wild" segment of the Salmon River. Opportunities for float boating activities are emphasized during the control season (June 20 – September 7), whereas opportunities for power boating, fishing, and hunting recreation activities are emphasized outside of the control season. During the control season, both commercial and non-commercial float boaters can choose, under the variable trip length option, their party size with a corresponding length of stay. Non-commercial floatboat and motorboat use is managed for during the control season only.

Floatboat Use Levels

There are eight launches daily during the control season. Generally, during the control season, launches are split equally between commercial and non-commercial parties. Launches are unlimited during the non-control season. During the non-control season the maximum group size for both commercial and non-commercial float boaters is 30 and the maximum length of stay is 10 days.

The most recent and available actual use for four years of float boat launches at Corn Creek (2003 to 2008), demonstrates the variability in the actual use (Table 3-4). Two factors that affect use levels include wildfire closures (i.e. August 1 through Sept. 7, 2007) and low river levels.

Table 3-4. Number of People Launched at Corn Creek by Season and Year

Year*	Control Season (June 20 to September 7)		Pre and Post Season		Year Totals	
	People	Permits	People	Permits	People	Permits
2003	6292	488	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available
2005	7343	503	Not available	68	6352	627
2006	7138	522	859	125	7230	647
2007	3977	312	1223	139	5196	450
2008	6324	526	813	117	4839	629

*Data for 2004 is unavailable.

These use estimates are for commercial and non-commercial launches from Corn Creek ramp put-in only. There are no use estimates prior to 2003. This use data demonstrates the level of use on the designated "Wild" section only. Although many users may float all the way to Vinegar or Carey Creek, many opt to jetboat back to the Corn Creek put-in (typically from Mackey Bar). There are no data available specific to use received below Vinegar Creek.

The maximum potential number of floatboat users launching on any given day during the control season is 240. This number assumes a maximum group size of 30 for each group; 120 commercial and 120 non-commercial. The maximum potential number of floatboat users on the river on any given day during the control season is 1,440. This number assumes the maximum number of 30 people per group and the shortest stay length of six days, although groups less than 30 people in size can stay up to 8 days. The predicted

maximum amount of floatboat take-out use on any given day at Carey Creek Boat Ramp is 240 users.

Proposed activities in Alternative 3 provide for 91 persons at one time, and respond to existing levels of use and existing facilities that do not safely accommodate the use received. Although it would be rare to see the maximum amount of floatboat take-out use, the proposed renovations are addressing 40% of the potential allowed and would not significantly affect the recreation use received at Carey Creek Boat Ramp.

Although there are an unlimited number of launches during the non-control season, the maximum floatboat group size of 30 still applies.

Power Boat Use Levels

Power boating use is limited to a maximum of 30 people year-round. During the control season, 18 commercial jetboats operate under the terms specified in their special use permits. Up to six non-commercial and eight commercial powerboats are allowed on the river at one time.

During the control season, the maximum number of trailer parking spaces needed to accommodate Vinegar Creek powerboat use would be 14. Floatboat users also launch at this site during higher river flows and add to the number of parking spaces necessary to accommodate use. The maximum potential number of power boat users on any given day during the control season is difficult to determine due to the different size and capacity of powerboat crafts. It is difficult to estimate parking needs during the non-control season also, as the number of powerboat permits issued at one time or the number of powerboats within the Salmon River corridor is unlimited. Existing congestion during the non-control season has demonstrated a need for improved parking and boat ramp access. Proposed activities in Alternative 3 provide for 62 parking spaces (55 of which are counted as vehicle or trailer parking).

Control Season

Non-commercial recreational powerboats are limited to no more than six boats on the river at one time, with a maximum seven day length of stay. Use is allocated using a reservation system from June 1 to September 6.

Non-Control Season

Outside the control season, there is no limit on the number of powerboat permits issued at one time or on the number of powerboats within the Salmon River corridor. Group size is limited to 30 people, with no more than three boats traveling as a group.

Commercial Power Boating Use

There is no limit on the number of commercial powerboat trips allowed per day. No additional commercial powerboat permits will be approved in the future.

The year round maximum level of permitted activities for commercial powerboats that operate from the Nez Perce National Forest boat access sites during the control season could be eight. The year round maximum level of permitted activities for commercial powerboats that operate from the Nez Perce National Forest boat access sites during the non-control season could be nine. Due to no use limit during non-control season, a

predicted maximum amount of power boat use is difficult to predict. Proposed activities in Alternative 3 at Vinegar Creek provide for 62 parking spaces (55 of which are vehicle or trailer spaces). Road access to Vinegar Boat Ramp and local topography limits any significant change in recreational use that would incur because of renovations to the ramps.

Private Land Access Power Boating Use

Private property landowners eligible for powerboat access under the 1987 Policy Guidelines are provided a private land access powerboat permit. If powerboat use for private land access grows toward the maximum possible (70), other uses such as commercial powerboat operations, non-commercial powerboat use and float boat ramps may be reduced to meet Semi-Primitive Motorized ROS objectives.

RECREATION SECTION OF THE RIVER

On the eligible "Recreation" stretch of river, all commercial use in the project area is managed under a BLM special Recreation Permit. There currently are no limits on the number of clients or boats from Vinegar Creek to Hammer Creek for general commercial floating, however there are limits for commercial boat fishing for the different sections of river as well as seasonal restrictions on power boats that affect fishing outfitters and non fishing power boat operators.

The only available data for use received below Vinegar Creek is steelhead creel (angler harvest data) information taken by Idaho Fish and Game (IDFG) over a 15 year period (Table 3-5). The IDFG data were collected from anglers on River Section 12 from Vinegar Creek to the Little Salmon River. The data were collected during the steelhead season (Sept 1 to April 30). This data allows us to extrapolate recreational use levels on the eligible "recreation" stretch of river during the non-control season (Sept 7 to June 19). Variability in the IDFG data exists due to changing steelhead run numbers annually on the Salmon River as well as months when data was not taken during certain years.

Table 3-5. Total Number of Anglers in Eligible Recreation River Section

Year	Total Number of Anglers River Section 12
1993	15550
1994	10965
1995	15260
1996	12009
1997	10155
1998	9407
1999	9864
2000	7870
2001	18897
2002	24716
2003	18434
2004	26370
2005	13551
2006	10375
2007	9748

Recreation Site Development and Maintenance

The past recreation site maintenance has improved recreation users' experiences at each of the sites. The current recreation site maintenance in the project area occurs usually because of sand deposition during high river flow and hydraulic action on the boat ramps, and varies from year to year. The future Vinegar Creek Boat Ramp Extension (2009) would replace panels that have deteriorated over time. The future proposed activities for both Alternatives 2 and 3 of the Salmon River Recreation Sites Project would address the repetitive maintenance of the existing panel extension design by permanently affixing the panels to river substrate therefore cumulatively decreasing future maintenance needs at this recreation site, and together with past maintenance, would improve ramp access for users.

Road Construction and/or Road Maintenance

The Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project, given past, present, and reasonably foreseeable road construction and road maintenance, better defines the parking and traffic flow to improve the current unorganized and unsafe parking that occurs along the sides of the Salmon River road. The existing parking along the sides of the Salmon River road sometimes just barely allows through-traffic to pass safely without damage to vehicles. Together with the present and reasonably foreseeable Salmon River road reconstruction activity adjacent to the project area, the Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation Project improves user safety and decreases road maintenance needs.

3.4.2 Consistency with the Payette and Nez Perce Forest Plans and Environmental Law

Table 3-6 shows that the Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project is consistent with the Frank Church River of No Return Management Plan (USDA Forest Service 2003a). See Section 3-12 for additional information regarding consistency with the Nez Perce Forest Plan (USDA Forest Service 1987b) with respect to the Recreation Resource.

Table 3-6. Frank Church River of No Return Management Plan Consistency for the Recreation Resource.

Standard	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
Expansion of informational services at Vinegar Creek and Spring Bar to emphasize powerboat use safety and minimum impact camping techniques	No expansion	Each site has the capacity to have interpretive panel displays constructed in addition to informational boards at each site, providing expansion of informational services opportunities.	Each site has the capacity to have interpretive panel displays constructed in addition to informational boards at each site, providing expansion of informational services opportunities.
Management emphasis is placed on float boating opportunities during the summer season and power boating, fishing, and hunting during the spring, fall, and winter seasons. If conflicts arise between the use and the resource, conflicts will be resolved in favor of use until resource thresholds are reached.	No action.	The proposed boat ramp renovations would improve access and provide for both floatboat and powerboat safety.	The proposed boat ramp renovations would improve access and provide for both floatboat and powerboat safety.

Standard	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
Manage the ROS social setting (encounters) as Semi-Primitive Motorized. Number of encounters with other groups will have low to moderate contact frequency.	The number and type of existing encounters would not change.	The proposed boat ramp renovations would not increase the amount of use/number of encounters already occurring at these sites. The renovations would organize the existing use and traffic into manageable patterns by defining access, parking, and footpaths.	The proposed boat ramp renovations would not increase the amount of use/number of encounters already occurring at these sites. The renovations would organize the existing use and traffic into manageable patterns by defining access, parking, and footpaths.
The river will be managed as a main access route to both the FC-RONR and Gospel Hump Wildernesses.	Vinegar and Spring Bar ramps would continue to serve as a put-in for motorboat access to both the FC-RONRW and GHW. Carey Creek would continue to serve as the main float boat take out.		

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3.5 Visual Resources

ISSUE: The proposed activities have the potential to change the outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs) for the Wild and Scenic River "Recreational" eligible status of the Salmon River. The ORVs for the Salmon River "Wild" and "Recreational" stretches are scenery, recreation, fish, water quality, wildlife, vegetation/botany, pre-history, history, and traditional use/cultural.

Indicator: Change to current ORVs inventory status.

3.5.1 Summary of Effects

The potential for effects to visual resources is documented in the *Recreation & Visuals Report for the Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation Project* (See *Recreation* section of the project record).

3.5.1.1 Direct and Indirect Effects

As described in the following paragraphs, the outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs) for the portion of the Salmon River in the project area, an eligible "Recreational" river under the Wild and Scenic River Act, are: scenery, recreation, fish, water quality, wildlife, vegetation/botany, pre-history, history, and traditional use/cultural. Payette Forest Plan standard, WSST01, states, "When management actions are proposed that may compromise the outstandingly remarkable value, classification, or free-flowing character of an eligible Wild and Scenic River segment, a suitability study must be completed for that eligible river segment prior to initiating the actions."

Alternative 1

Because Alternative 1 proposes no actions, no changes to the Salmon River's Outstandingly Remarkable Values, classification, or free-flowing character are anticipated, thereby maintaining its eligible "Recreational" status for potential future inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system.

Alternatives 2 and 3

Proposed activities in Alternatives 2 and 3 would not negatively change the Salmon River's Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs), or classification. The Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project does not propose any impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip-rapping, or other modification of the waterway that would affect the free-flowing character of the river. Therefore, the portion of the Salmon River in the project area would maintain its eligible "Recreational" status for potential future inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system. Consequently, a suitability study would not be required. Each ORVs' criteria and effects of proposed actions for Alternatives 2 and 3 are described below.

SCENERY

The criteria for the Scenery Outstandingly Remarkable Value for the Salmon River include the landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color and related factors that result in notable or exemplary visual features and/or attractions.

The proposed activities would occur mostly within existing hardened footprints or areas of disturbance, with only small changes or additions outside these footprints. Some incidental vegetation may be taken as part of renovations, however, landscaping and planting are included in the completed renovations to achieve visual screening, traffic delineation, and prevent sediment delivery. Water color may temporarily change during construction activities, but the amount of sediment is well within the river's capacity to transport, causing only temporary changes to the visible water.

Opportunities for viewing seasonal variation in vegetation coloring would not be impaired, due to the small amount of vegetation being affected by the project activities.

The activities of the Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project would occur within the foreground distance zone, which is any seen area up to one-half mile away (USDA Forest Service 1995). The Wild and Scenic corridor is defined as an area extending the length of the river segment and ¼ mile in width from each bank of the river (USDA Forest Service 1988). The Nez Perce Forest Plan (USDA Forest Service 1987b) provides direction to achieve retention and partial retention visual quality objectives (VQOs) along the Salmon River (p.II-16). VQO's provide a degree of acceptable alteration to the landscape. Retention of existing vegetation would be achieved in the foreground area around the developed recreation sites, with partial retention achieved in the middle and background views. Retention and partial retention would also be achieved along these wilderness portals along the Salmon River.

From the river, there are distant views of forested peaks and ridges, while the foreground and middleground views are of forested slopes, interesting rock outcrops, high gradient rushing streams from side drainages and highly diverse riparian vegetation. Similar views are afforded from river side trails where they exist. The user's focus is usually on the river; its' fast moving water through rapids and still water pools in between.

The Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project proposes only small changes to the landscape in the foreground view at existing, developed recreation sites. Existing facilities are classified as easily-noticed to strongly dominant developments and proposed renovations would not be any more dominant. Proposed management activities, such as landscaping and planting would be part of all completed renovations to achieve visual screening, traffic delineation, and prevent sediment delivery to the river therefore meeting the adopted VQOs. Proposed management activities would preserve the Salmon River's Outstandingly Remarkable Scenic Value, thereby maintaining its eligible "Recreational" status for potential future inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system.

RECREATION

The criteria for the Recreation Outstandingly Remarkable Value for the Salmon River include the river-related opportunities such as sightseeing, wildlife observation, camping,

photography, hiking, fishing, hunting and boating/rafting. Recreational opportunities are, or have the potential to be, popular enough to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region of comparison, or are rare, unusual, or unique to the region. Visitors are willing to travel long distances to use the river resources for recreational purposes. Interpretive opportunities may be exceptional and attract or have the potential to attract visitors from outside the region of comparison. The river may provide or have the potential to provide settings for national or regional usage.

The proposed activities would improve river-related recreational opportunities by decreasing congestion at recreation sites along the Salmon River road with improved parking, developed changing areas, and improved boat ramps. The Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project would enhance recreation sites by providing for user convenience and safety.

The Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project proposes improvements to existing, developed recreation sites, enhancing the Wild and Scenic Recreation River Corridor's values for recreation, thereby maintaining its eligible "Recreational" status for potential future inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system.

GEOLOGY

Although not explicitly stated in the original Study Report as an outstanding value, due to the extensive rock exposures, the geologic time span represented, and the geologic features and processes exposed and preserved, geology will be analyzed as an outstandingly remarkable value.

The extent of the proposed projects for Alternatives 2 and 3 on the geological features is minimal, as all actions being considered take place on existing recreation sites. The proposed project may result in ground disturbance of approximately two acres in Alternative 2 and four acres in Alternative 3 located within the RHCA. A very small amount of riparian habitat would be impacted.

The Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project proposes only small changes to the landscape at existing, developed recreation sites. Proposed management activities would preserve the Salmon River's Outstandingly Remarkable Geologic Value, thereby maintaining its eligible "Recreational" status for potential future inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system.

FISH

The criteria for the Fish Outstandingly Remarkable Value for the Salmon River include fish populations or habitat, or a combination of these river-related conditions.

Although site disturbances may occur, proposed activities would not change the presence of wild stocks or federal or state listed (or candidate) threatened, endangered or sensitive species in the river. Diversity of species and habitat would be maintained.

Proposed actions from ***Alternatives 2 and 3*** of the Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project were given a *"May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect"* determination under the Endangered Species Act for Snake River fall and spring/summer Chinook salmon, and Snake River steelhead trout, due to the physical alteration of the substrates, the addition of concrete structures, the changing river flow patterns and fine deposition

patterns along the Salmon River's margins and low flow eddies, the altering of existing riparian vegetation and riverside vegetation establishment processes (even at a small scale) within designated critical habitat for these ESA listed species.

The localized scale and magnitude of proposed actions and changes in relation to the Salmon River environment as a whole are anticipated to be minute. Although no direct effect to an individual fish is expected, alteration of listed species' critical habitat would occur and thus the determination of likely to adversely affect is based on this habitat alteration. However, Alternatives 2 and 3 contain substantial design criteria and mitigation measures to minimize the risks of disturbance to the Salmon River and fish habitat.

The Level 1 Team consists of journey level biologists from the Forest Service and the regulatory agencies that analyze effects to species, and determine consistency of effects across projects. The Forest Service has informally consulted with the NOAA-Fisheries and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding fish species and habitat. We reached agreement regarding the proposed determinations of effect for subject species in June 2008. The Forest Service requested and received concurrence from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in July 2008 for bull trout, concluding the informal consultation with this agency under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. The Forest Service also requested formal consultation with NOAA-Fisheries for Snake River steelhead, and fall and spring/summer Chinook salmon fish species and habitat consistent with Section 7 of the Endangered Species, and Section 305 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and will comply with the terms and conditions provided in the NOAA-Fisheries' Biological Opinion once consultation is complete.

The Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project activities would not jeopardize the continued existence of these species, and the effects are small, and local in scale. Therefore, the Salmon River's Outstandingly Remarkable Fish Value would be preserved, thereby maintaining its eligible "Recreational" status for potential future inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system. (See *Fisheries* analysis below for further information.)

WATER QUALITY

The criteria for the Water Quality Outstandingly Remarkable Value for the Salmon River include exceptionally pure, clear and clean water. The river is known for its water quality nationally and regionally. The river provides exceptionally high water quality for a variety of beneficial uses including but not limited to fish, wildlife, recreationists and communities.

Proposed activities for Alternatives 2 and 3 would produce surface erosion, potentially affecting water quality. Soil disturbances are proposed within the channel, in the RHCAs and in the adjoining uplands. Some temporary increases in sediment are expected (up to three years), and long term increases (greater than 15 years) are possible in sites with larger disturbances, especially those within the floodplain. These sediment effects are nominal, considering the small size of the disturbance area, the location in the channel, the large size of the watershed, and the design criteria and mitigation measures that would be incorporated in the project.

The Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project proposes activities that may affect water quality in small, isolated areas, but overall effects are minimal due to the large size of the watershed in comparison to the proposed activities. The proposed management activities would preserve the Salmon River's Outstandingly Remarkable Water Quality Value, thereby maintaining its eligible "Recreational" status for potential future inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system. (See *Watershed* analysis below for further information.)

WILDLIFE

The criteria for the Wildlife Outstandingly Remarkable Value for the Salmon River include terrestrial or aquatic wildlife populations or habitat, or a combination of these conditions.

Although site disturbances may occur, the proposed activities would not change the presence of terrestrial or aquatic wildlife populations. Diversity of species and habitat would be maintained.

All determinations for threatened, endangered, and sensitive wildlife species showed no effects that would contribute to a trend toward federal listing or a loss of viability. For species with a "May Impact Individuals or Habitat, but not Likely to Contribute to a Trend Toward Federal Listing or Loss of Viability" determination (boreal toad, ringneck snake, bald eagle (October 1 through March 31), mountain quail, and Columbia spotted frog), project related effects are considered negligible to their habitats.

Alternatives 2 and 3 "May impact individuals or habitat, but would not likely result in a trend toward federal listing or reduced viability for the populations or species" for the bald eagle if activities occur between October 1 and March 31. Activities that occur between April 1 and September 30 would have "No Impact". Project related impacts are considered negligible for neotropical birds and their habitats.

Because the proposed management activities would have little effect on wildlife species or their habitat, the project will preserve the Salmon River's Outstandingly Remarkable Wildlife Value, thereby maintaining its eligible "Recreational" status for potential future inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system. (See *Wildlife* analysis below for further information.)

VEGETATION/BOTANY

The criteria for the Vegetation/Botany Outstandingly Remarkable Value for the Salmon River include species considered to be unique or populations of federally listed or candidate threatened or endangered species.

Due to the lack of potential suitable habitat within the project area, "no effect" would occur to threatened and endangered species as a result of Alternatives 2 and 3. Additionally, no new sensitive plant locations were found during field survey conducted in the spring of 2006 and 2007, therefore "No Impact" would occur to sensitive plant species or their habitat as a result of Alternatives 2 and 3.

Borsch's stonecrop (*Sedum borschii*), a Payette Forest Plan "watch species" is known to occur at Vinegar Creek. This species occupies a variety of rock types on cliffs and slopes from open habitats to forested communities. There are approximately 10 to 20

populations along the Salmon River (Hanson 2008, personal communication). Activities associated with increasing the parking on the south side of the road have the potential to disturb *Sedum borschii* and its habitat, therefore causing a "May Impact Individuals or Habitat But Not Likely to Contribute to a Trend Toward Federal Listing or Loss of Viability for the Population or Species" determination at Vinegar Creek. However, the mitigation measure to locate rare plant populations at Vinegar Creek by a qualified plant specialist prior to project activities minimizes the risks of disturbance to this species.

Because the proposed management activities would have little effect on rare plants or their habitat, the project would preserve the Salmon River's Outstandingly Remarkable Vegetation/Botany Value, thereby maintaining its eligible "Recreational" status for potential future inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system. (See *Rare Plants* analysis below for further information.)

PRE-HISTORY

The criteria for the Pre-History Outstandingly Remarkable Value for the Salmon River include conditions that the river corridor must contain one or more sites where there is evidence of occupation or use by Native Americans. Sites must have rare or unusual characteristics or exceptional human interest value. To meet this criteria sites have one or more of the following characteristics: Be of National or regional importance for interpreting prehistory; represent an area where a culture or cultural period was first identified and described; have been used concurrently by two or more cultural groups; or have been used by cultural groups for rare or sacred purposes.

Alternative 2 would not affect any pre-historic resources.

Implementation of ***Alternative 3*** would not impact known and potentially unknown heritage resources at Carey Creek given the adopted project design criteria and mitigation measures. During 2007, a prehistoric component (Native American) was discovered and documented at this site. The proposed ground disturbing activities at Carey Creek have the potential to impact this prehistoric component. However, potential effects to known and potentially unknown heritage resources would be minimized with the application of the mitigation measure whereby ground disturbing activities at Carey Creek would be monitored by a qualified archaeologist, and project activities would be stopped if previously unknown cultural properties are discovered. Additionally, the archaeologist would submit documentation of this monitoring to SHPO.

Because proposed mitigation measures and monitoring would prevent management activities from affecting prehistoric sites, the project would preserve the Salmon River's Outstandingly Remarkable Pre-History Value, thereby maintaining its eligible "Recreational" status for potential future inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system.

HISTORY

The criteria for the History Outstandingly Remarkable Value for the Salmon River include conditions that the river corridor must contain one or more sites associated with a significant event, an important person, a cultural activity of the past that was rare in the region, or that significantly illustrates the patterns of history described in the Idaho

Historic Preservation Plan. Many such sites are listed on the National Register for Historic Places, which is administered by the National Park Service. A historic site and/or feature in most cases is 50 years old or older.

Alternative 2 would not affect any historic resources.

Implementation of **Alternative 3** has the greatest potential to impact the known Heritage Resources within the proposed project area. However, through consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the ID team developed mitigation measures (monitoring of ground disturbing activities and stopping activities if previously unknown cultural properties are discovered) to achieve a no adverse effect determination upon project implementation.

Because management activities would have no adverse effects on historic sites, the project would preserve the Salmon River's Outstandingly Remarkable History Value, thereby maintaining its eligible "Recreational" status for potential future inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system.

TRADITIONAL USE, CULTURAL

The criteria for the Traditional Use/Cultural Outstandingly Remarkable Value for the Salmon River include conditions for the river or area within the river corridor to contain one or more regionally unique locations of importance to Indian tribes (religious activities, fishing, hunting, and gathering). Locations may have unusual characteristics or exceptional cultural value being integral to continued pursuit of such activities. Locations may have been associated with treaty rights on ceded lands or activities unprotected by treaty or ceded lands or in traditional territories outside ceded lands.

The proposed activities for Alternatives 2 and 3 decrease congestion at the recreation sites along the Salmon River road by improving parking, traffic flow, and boat ramps, and developing changing areas, therefore providing for local tribe's convenience and safety in accessing the unique locations of importance; enhancing the Salmon River's Outstandingly Remarkable Traditional Use/Cultural Value, and maintaining its eligible "Recreational" status for potential future inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system.

3.5.1.2 Cumulative Effects

Past and present activities associated with recreation site development and maintenance, road construction, road decommissioning, road maintenance, timber harvest, fire, livestock grazing, and noxious weed management may have influenced the current visual spectrum and the Salmon River ORVs, but are not expected to a have a cumulative effect.

Alternative 1

There are no expected cumulative effects for Alternative 1 for visual resources and the Salmon River ORVs, as current or existing conditions would prevail into the future.

Alternatives 2 and 3

The action alternatives would not exclude any of the existing uses. Past vegetative modifications throughout the project area are in varying stages of recovery. The most

predominant vegetative modification throughout the project area is natural wildfire activity. The Salmon River Canyon experiences frequent natural wildfire and this ecosystem has evolved with frequent fire. Natural vegetative regeneration typically occurs within six months of fire activity. The short vegetative regeneration timeframe following fires enhances the viewing experience and wildlife forage opportunities. This proposal would not diminish the visual objectives of the landscape or the Salmon River ORVs cumulatively with past, present, and future activities near the project area.

3.5.2 Consistency with the Payette and Nez Perce Forest Plans and Environmental Law

3.5.2.1 Payette and Nez Perce Forest Plans

See Section 3-12 below.

3.5.2.2 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act requires designated rivers and their immediate environment to be administered in such a manner as to protect and enhance the values that caused the river to be included in the Wild and Scenic Rivers system.

Initially, the Salmon River was designated a "study" river for potential classification as a Wild and Scenic River (WSR) in 1968. A concurrent study of the Idaho Primitive Area, Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area, and the Salmon River was completed in 1974. The outcome of this study proposed Wilderness designation and W&SR Designation for the Salmon River (USDA Forest Service 2003a).

However, the portion of the river in the project area of the Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project remains an eligible "Recreational" segment. To be eligible for inclusion for the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, a river must be free-flowing and, with its adjacent land area, possess one or more "outstandingly remarkable" values. The determination of eligibility is an assessment that does not require a decision or approval document, although the results need to be documented.

The Payette Forest Plan Goal for Wild and Scenic Rivers is to manage river segments that are eligible or suitable for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System to meet the requirements of the Wild and Scenic River Act (WSG001) (USDA Forest Service 2003c).

The outstandingly remarkable values of the Salmon River are stated in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness Management Plan (USDA Forest Service 1984) as scenery, recreation, fish, water quality, wildlife, vegetation/botany, prehistory, history, and traditional uses (cultural).

SECTION 7

The Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project does not propose any dam, water conduit, reservoir, powerhouse, transmission line, or other project works under the Federal Power Act.

SECTION 7 DETERMINATION

Based on the analysis in this document, Alternatives 2 and 3 would not negatively change the Salmon River's Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs), or classification. The Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project does not propose any impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip-rapping, or other modification of the waterway that would affect the free-flowing character of the river.

As designed and mitigated, the proposed project is expected to meet all Forest, Regional and National regulation and direction for soil, water quality, riparian, and aquatic. Compliance for water quality standards is assured by the design and location of the planned activities and the mitigation identified. Idaho Water Quality Standards provide for water quality protection of designated and existing beneficial uses of water. Idaho has designated the Salmon River below the project area for cold water communities, primary contact recreation, domestic water supply, and special resource water. The project is expected to maintain or improve conditions related to these beneficial uses.

Through the Clean Water Act, the State of Idaho identifies water quality concerns. No waters downstream of the activity area are identified on the 2002 Integrated 303(D)/305(B) report as impaired.

Therefore, the portion of the Salmon River in the project area would maintain its eligible "Recreational" status for potential future inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system, and the Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project is consistent with Section 7 of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

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3.6 Fisheries

3.6.1 Summary of Effects

The potential for effects to fisheries, including federally listed threatened and endangered species or designated critical habitat, species proposed for Federal listing or proposed critical habitat, or Forest Service sensitive species, is documented in the *Biological Assessment Of Salmon River Recreation Sites Project For Federally Listed And USFS Sensitive Species* (BA), and specialists' resource reports (see *Fisheries* section of the project record).

3.6.1.1 Direct and Indirect Effects

FISH SPECIES AND HABITAT

ISSUE 1: The proposed activities have the potential to affect threatened, endangered, and sensitive fish species.

Indicator: Effects on fish species and habitat.

ALTERNATIVE 1 (NO ACTION)

Alternative 1 would not change the existing condition in relation to fish species or their habitat.

ALTERNATIVE 2 (PROPOSED ACTION) AND ALTERNATIVE 3

The following determinations of effect for applicable threatened, endangered, and sensitive (TES) fish species in the project area are supported by analysis documented in this EA and the Fisheries Section of the project record:

- **"No Effect"** for the following listed species: Sockeye salmon.
- **"May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect"** for the following listed species: Snake River fall and spring/summer Chinook salmon, Snake River steelhead trout,
- **"May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect"** for the following listed species: bull trout.
- **"May Impact Individuals or Habitat, but not likely to Contribute to a Trend Toward Federal Listing or Loss of Viability"** for the following sensitive species: Interior redband trout, Westslope cutthroat trout, Pacific lamprey.

Threatened and Endangered Fish Species and Critical Habitat:

Endangered fish species in the project area include the Snake River sockeye salmon. Threatened fish species in the project area include Snake River (spring/summer/fall) Chinook salmon, steelhead trout, and bull trout, and the project area is included as designated critical habitat for Snake River sockeye salmon and spring/summer and fall Chinook salmon.

The Forest Service has informally consulted with the NOAA-Fisheries and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding fish species and habitat. We reached agreement regarding the proposed determinations of effect for subject species in June 2008. The Forest Service requested and received concurrence from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in July 2008 for bull trout, concluding the informal consultation with this agency under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. The Forest Service also requested formal consultation with NOAA-Fisheries for Snake River steelhead, and fall and spring/summer Chinook salmon fish species and habitat consistent with Section 7 of the Endangered Species, and Section 305 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and will comply with the terms and conditions provided in the NOAA-Fisheries' Biological Opinion once consultation is complete.

Snake River Sockeye Salmon

No spawning or early rearing of Snake River sockeye salmon occurs in the Salmon River subbasin at or near any recreation sites addressed in this analysis, or downstream of these sites. Sockeye salmon use the Salmon River as an adult and juvenile migration corridor. This fish species spawns in Redfish Lake, south of Stanley, Idaho (over 250 river miles upstream). The species is not known to spend any significant amount of time rearing in the main Salmon River in the vicinity of the project area, and the species are likely to pass the sites of these projects rather quickly.

Implementation of Alternatives 2 and 3 would result in no adverse effects to sockeye salmon, critical habitat, or their population viability and a determination of *"no effect*" was made for the species (*Fisheries Input to the Salmon River Recreation Sites Project Environmental Assessment* in project record).

Snake River Fall and Spring/Summer Chinook Salmon, Snake River Steelhead Trout

Fall Chinook salmon, spring/summer Chinook salmon, and steelhead trout use the mainstem Salmon River as a juvenile and adult migration corridor. Fall Chinook salmon also use the mainstem Salmon River for spawning and juvenile rearing.

During consultation, NOAA-Fisheries and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have agreed to a determination of "May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect" Snake River fall and spring/summer Chinook salmon, and Snake River steelhead trout, and designated critical habitat for these species, and "May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect" bull trout for Alternatives 2 and 3.

Designated critical habitat for spring/summer Chinook salmon includes the Salmon River. Critical habitat for Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon was designated on December 28, 1993 (Federal Register, Vol. 58, 68543), effective on January 27, 1994.

Designated critical habitat for fall Chinook salmon (NOAA 58 FR 68543) includes the Salmon River from its mouth, upstream to Fall creek (river mile 107). Critical habitat for Snake River fall chinook salmon was designated on December 28, 1993 (Federal Register, Vol. 58, 68543), effective on January 27, 1994.

A ***may adversely affect*** determination was made for **Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)**. Pursuant to section 305(b)(2) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, Federal agencies must consult with NOAA-Fisheries regarding any of their actions authorized, funded, or

undertaken, or proposed to be authorized, funded, or undertaken that may adversely affect EFH. The Magnuson-Stevens Act, Section 3, defines EFH as "those waters and substrate necessary for fish for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity". EFH effects are primarily associated with construction and improvement of the boat ramp and impacts to sub-yearling fall chinook salmon rearing habitat associated with loss of riverbank riparian vegetation (e.g., coyote willow), specifically at the Spring Bar boat ramp. Additionally, spring/summer Chinook salmon use the Salmon River for adult and juvenile migration, and also to a limited extent as juvenile rearing habitat, thus there are some EFH effects regarding these species and the alteration of habitat in the Salmon River.

The Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project includes one site at Spring Bar, approximately river mile 97. Designated critical habitat for fall Chinook salmon (NOAA 58 FR 68543) includes the Salmon River from its mouth, upstream to Fall creek (river mile 107). In 2003, aerial surveys documented a fall Chinook salmon redd in the Salmon River at river mile 100.7 (near the Howard Ranch at Elkhorn Creek). Fall Chinook salmon use the mainstem Salmon River as an adult and juvenile migration corridor, and for spawning and early juvenile rearing. Spring/summer Chinook salmon and steelhead trout will also use the mainstem Salmon River to a limited extent as juvenile rearing habitat. Numerous Salmon River tributary drainages provide spawning and rearing habitat for spring/summer Chinook salmon and steelhead trout.

The BLM and Nez Perce Tribe cooperatively conduct aerial fall Chinook salmon redd surveys of the Salmon River. Although to date, no fall Chinook salmon redds have been detected in the immediate vicinity of any of proposed activities for the Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project including the Spring Bar boat ramp facility, the potential for spawning there exists. Potential shallow water redds (less than 1.5 meters) may be subject to disturbance from recreational use (e.g., swimming, wading, jetboat launching/loading/operation disturbance). Additionally, since fall Chinook redds are known to have existed upstream of this facility in past years, there is the potential for juveniles to rear in the vicinity of the Spring Bar boat ramp.

Boat ramp work (including construction, removal, and reconditioning), some proposed parking areas (those lower in elevation than the annual average and 100,000 cfs Salmon River flow elevation) would occur within designated critical habitat (migration corridor of juvenile and adults) for spring/summer Chinook salmon, steelhead trout, and fall Chinook salmon (also includes potential spawning habitat at Spring bar). These actions would physically alter this habitat by placing fill materials within the flow channel, moving substrates (cobbles/rocks/fines), and altering water flow and fine deposition patterns and processes in these areas.

The specific results of these actions are unknown, but are expected to be localized due to the insignificant change in the feature's elevation. The activities may subtly change small pocketwater and back eddy areas along the margins of the River and behind rocks/cobbles within the Rivers flow, used while juveniles are migrating. However, the alterations that potentially could occur would not be expected to occur at a meaningful scale or magnitude to impair habitat conditions. The localized scale and magnitude of

these actions and changes in relation to the Salmon River environment as a whole are anticipated to be minute.

Physically altering the substrates, adding concrete structures, changing river flow patterns and fine deposition patterns along the river's margins and low flow eddies, altering existing riparian vegetation and riverside vegetation establishment processes (even at a small scale) within designated critical for these ESA listed species would occur under either action alternative.

The boat ramp site would also concentrate river based recreational use from launches and take-out in a small localized area of the river. Consequently, any spawning fish or redds occurring in close proximity to the Spring Bar boat ramp would be more susceptible to potential disturbance or harassment. Because fall chinook salmon use the Salmon River for spawning and subyearling rearing habitat, they are more susceptible to potential effects from site development and human use than other ESA listed fish.

Implementation of the proposed project is expected to adversely impact a small localized area of rearing habitat for fall chinook salmon at the Spring Bar boat ramp. Post project monitoring of recreational use and effects to riverbanks and riparian vegetation would be conducted. If this monitoring documents adverse effects to riparian vegetation or bank stability, then necessary actions would be taken to reduce adverse impacts.

It is not known how much change would actually occur, but it is anticipated that the alterations that potentially could occur would not be expected to occur at a meaningful scale or magnitude to impair habitat conditions or adversely affect fish. The localized scale and magnitude of these actions and changes in relation to the Salmon River environment as a whole are anticipated to be minute.

This risk should further be reduced because boat ramp reconditioning would occur within the existing footprint of the concrete already present. All finished boat ramp elevations (either existing or new) and parking facilities at or below the 100,000 cfs flow elevation are expected to be similar (+ 1 inch) to existing facility or existing natural features' elevations. Thus the anticipated changes are likely to be minimal due to the insignificant change in the feature's elevation.

Additionally, Alternatives 2 and 3 contain substantial design criteria and mitigation measures to minimize risks of disturbance to the Salmon River and fish habitat. See Tables 2-1 and 2-2 for detailed information on these measures.

Although no direct effect to an individual fish is expected, alteration of listed species' critical habitat would occur and thus the determination of likely to adversely affect is based on this habitat alteration.

Bull Trout

Bull trout utilize the Salmon River primarily for subadult/adult foraging, migration, and winter habitat. Alternatives 2 and 3 would provide adequate protection for the primary constituent elements of bull trout critical habitat, and would not likely result in the destruction or adverse modification (i.e., direct or indirect alteration that appreciably diminishes the value of critical habitat for both the survival and recovery of the species) of the primary constituent elements of bull trout habitat. Thus the nine primary

constituent elements (PCEs) listed in Federal Register Volume 67, Number 230 (November 29, 2002) of bull trout habitat for the Salmon River would not be adversely modified due to the proposed activities of Alternatives 2 and 3, and a "May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect" determination has been made.

Discountable effects might occur to bull trout forage species and no effect is anticipated to occur to migration and winter habitat areas. The proposed activities of Alternatives 2 and 3 may result in an increase in recreational fishing along the Salmon River, and could potentially increase the possibility of an incidental take. Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) is responsible for Section 7 consultation and establishment of fishing seasons for Idaho, and consequently, any incidental take associated with recreational fishing would be included in IDFG's incidental take permit.

Sensitive Fish Species and Habitat:

Westslope Cutthroat Trout, Interior Redband Trout, and Pacific Lamprey

Sensitive species in the project area include Pacific lamprey, Westslope cutthroat trout, and Interior redband trout. Implementation of Alternatives 2 and 3 "may impact individuals or habitat, but is not likely to contribute to a trend towards federal listing or loss of viability" for these species (*Fisheries Input to the Salmon River Recreation Sites Project Environmental Assessment* in project record)

***ISSUE 2*:** The proposed activities may adversely impact fisheries resources by directly impacting redds, or individuals.

Indicator: The potential for fish species, at which life stage, to be present during and after construction activities.

ALTERNATIVE 1 (NO ACTION)

Under the No Action alternative, there would be no planned construction activities and the existing sites (particularly the boat ramp facilities) would eventually deteriorate and subsequently receive repairs conducted under a programmatic BA for these activities (as determined and documented as appropriate and within the scope and intent of the developed recreation site maintenance programmatic BA) (USDA Forest Service 1999). Potential impacts to specific fish species and life stages would depend on which site(s) receive damage, when they receive damage, and the extent of any damage they experience. Any construction activities associated with repairs under the developed recreation site maintenance programmatic BA have been determined to "May Affect Not likely to Adversely Affect" threatened and endangered fish species and their habitat and would be expected to be either discountable or negligible.

Depending on the time of year and extent of a boat ramp becoming impaired due to Salmon River flows, the existing boat ramp(s) or debris materials from the ramp could flip, turnover, or partially roll within the channel potentially injuring or killing fish, displacing migrating adults or destroying redds (a potential for fall Chinook at Spring Bar boat ramp), or eliminating or altering juvenile rearing habitat by filling in this habitat.

ALTERNATIVE 2 (PROPOSED ACTION) AND ALTERNATIVE 3

Under Alternatives 2 and 3, proposed activities would occur during the period July 1 through August 15. The summer window period occurs prior to the spawning season for bull trout and spring chinook and follows the spawning season for westslope cutthroat and steelhead trout. However, during this time period the project area does provide habitat for rearing juvenile chinook, rearing steelhead, and subadult/adult rearing bull trout.

The direct and indirect effects for actions in Alternative 3 are the same as those described for Alternative 2, except that there are more disturbance activities at the sites. With more disturbances comes an increase in corresponding habitat alterations and potential risk.

Fall Chinook Salmon

Fall chinook salmon utilize the near shore coyote willow sites for subyearling rearing habitat below the Q2 flow elevation (60,000 cfs). These areas are critical because of the associated reduced velocity, security areas, and feeding sites for subyearling fall chinook salmon for two to four months prior to initiating downstream migration. Construction of the boat ramps and staging area pads would adversely impact approximately 0.08 acres in Alternative 2, and approximately 0.09 acres in Alternative 3 at or below the Q2 flow (60,000 cfs).

Spring/Summer Chinook Salmon And Steelhead Trout

Spring/summer chinook salmon and steelhead trout use the Salmon River for adult and juvenile migration, and also to a limited extent as juvenile rearing habitat. Spring/summer Chinook salmon and steelhead trout spawn and rear in numerous streams, tributaries of the Salmon River, along this area of the Salmon River (i.e. Allison Creek, French Creek, Wind River, & Sheep Creek). It is likely that these fish species are more prone to spend time rearing as juveniles in the Salmon River in the vicinity of the project area prior to emigrating, due to the proximity of their natal streams as compared to sockeye salmon that spawn and rear in Redfish Lake near Stanley Idaho (hundreds of miles away).

During the high water period (spring freshets/runoff) when coyote willows and other river side riparian vegetation sites are generally under water, spring/summer chinook salmon and steelhead smolts are using the Salmon River as a downriver migration corridor. Unlike fall Chinook salmon, which spawn in the main Salmon River, these fish species would not spend as much time rearing in the Salmon River as fall Chinook salmon. High summer water temperatures and lack of complex cover (e.g., large woody debris, channel morphology) reduces the value of the Salmon River for summer rearing habitat for juvenile spring/summer chinook and steelhead trout.

Mitigating Effects

Effects to fish species during and after construction activities would be minimized for both Alternatives 2 and 3 due to the mitigation measure which limits the timeframe for activities to July 1 through August 15, and requires adjustments dependent upon presence or absence of threatened or endangered fish species' redds and the development stage and mobility of any age fish in the vicinity at these redds at the instream construction sites,

including 20 yards upstream, or 50 yards downstream of each instream construction site.

ISSUE 3: The proposed activities may adversely impact fisheries habitat (i.e. spawning, migration, juvenile rearing).

Indicator: Acres of habitat (spawning, migration, juvenile rearing) disturbed.

ALTERNATIVE 1

Implementation of Alternative 1 would result in no impacts on fisheries habitat.

ALTERNATIVES 2 AND 3

Habitat Disturbance

The length of river habitat impacted at the ramp sites would range from 140 linear feet under the proposed action to 1,550 linear feet under Alternative 3. Riparian habitats immediately adjacent to the ramps (25 to 50 feet upriver/downriver from any of the launch areas) may be adversely impacted to varying levels from heavy use by recreationists.

Table 3-7 displays the estimated habitat disturbance for spawning, migration, and juvenile rearing below the mean annual peak flow elevation and also below 100,000 cubic feet per second elevation associated with each action alternative at each site.

Table 3-7. Estimated Habitat Disturbance For Spawning, Migration, And Juvenile Rearing Below the Mean Annual Peak Flow Elevation and also Below 100,000 Cubic Feet Per Second Elevation Associated with Each Action Alternative at Each Site.

	Impacted Area of Habitat Disturbance Below Mean Annual Peak Q2 Flow Elevation (60,000 cfs.) (square feet)		Impacted Area of Habitat Disturbance Below 100,000 cfs Flow Elevation (square feet)	
Location	**Alternative 2**	**Alternative 3**	**Alternative 2**	**Alternative 3**
Spring Bar	0	0	102	5,482
Carey Creek	3,160	3,160	22,398	22,398
Wind River	0	0	0	0
Vinegar Creek	258	1,493	6,232	8,267
Project Total	3,418 (0.08 acres)	4,653 (0.12 acre)	28,732 (0.7 acres)	36,147 (0.83 acre)

Area of New Concrete

Naturally occurring Salmon River substrate materials consisting of boulders, large and small rubble, and cobbles would be converted to new concrete, thereby eliminating the interstitial spacing amongst natural substrate materials and removing potential rearing habitat (particularly for fall Chinook salmon) in that location. Table 3-8 displays the area of new concrete for each action alternative.

Table 3-8. Area of New Concrete Below the Mean Annual Peak Flow Elevation and also Below 100,000 Cubic Feet Per Second Elevation Associated with Each Action Alternative at Each Site.

	New Concrete at or Below Mean Annual Peak Q2 Flow Elevation (60,000 cfs) (square feet)		New Concrete at or Below 100,000 cfs Flow Elevation (square feet)	
	Alternative 2	**Alternative 3**	**Alternative 2**	**Alternative 3**
Spring Bar	0	0	102	5,482
Carey Creek	3,160	3,160	13,398	13,398

	New Concrete at or Below Mean Annual Peak Q2 Flow Elevation (60,000 cfs) (square feet)		New Concrete at or Below 100,000 cfs Flow Elevation (square feet)	
	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
Wind River	0	0	0	0
Vinegar Creek	258	663	28,884	29,259
Project Total	3,418 (0.08 acres)	3,823 (0.09 acre)	42,384 (1 acre)	48,139 (1.11 acres)

ISSUE 4: The proposed activities may temporarily impact water quality or fisheries resources by displacing cobble and eroding sands thus creating short term pulses of turbidity.

Indicator: Linear feet of bank or channel disturbance below Q2 elevation (60,000 cfs flow).

ALTERNATIVE 1 (NO ACTION)

Under this alternative, there would be no immediate construction and therefore no bank or channel disturbance. In the future, when the boat ramps at the sites are damaged and need repairs, the portion of the bank supported by and adjacent to the ramps could potentially be reconfigured or reshaped along the Salmon River. This reconfiguration would most likely involve the rearranging of boulder sized deposited bedload materials. These materials usually are on the surface and do not generally involve fine sediments or sand materials of any large quantities.

ALTERNATIVE 2 (PROPOSED ACTION)

Under this alternative, there would be approximately 140 linear feet of bank or channel disturbance at an elevation equal to or below an elevation equivalent to the Q2 flow (60,000 cfs). At an elevation equivalent to 100,000 cfs flow, this alternative would have approximately 1,410 linear feet of bank/channel disturbance (Table 3-9).

ALTERNATIVE 3

Under this alternative, there would be approximately 200 linear feet of bank/channel disturbance at an elevation equal to or below an elevation equivalent to Q2 flow (60,000 cfs). At an elevation equivalent to 100,000 cfs flow, this alternative would have approximately 1,550 linear feet of bank/channel disturbance (Table 3-9).

Table 3-9. Linear Feet of Bank or Channel Disturbance Below the Mean Annual Peak Flow Elevation and also Below 100,000 Cubic Feet Per Second Elevation Associated with Each Action Alternative at Each Site.

	Linear Feet Of Bank or Channel Disturbance Below Mean Annual Peak Q2 Flow Elevation (60,000 cfs)		Linear Feet Of Bank or Channel Disturbance Below 100,000 cfs Elevation	
	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
Spring Bar	0	0	10	150
Carey Creek	50	50	500	500
Wind River	0	0	0	0
Vinegar Creek	90	150	900	900
Project Total	140	200	1,410	1,550

ISSUE 5: The proposed activities may adversely impact water quality or fisheries resources by increasing sedimentation to the river during and immediately following a precipitation event during and post construction activities.

Indicator: Acres of surface disturbance.

ALTERNATIVE 1 (NO ACTION)

Under this alternative, there would be no immediate construction related disturbance. However, poorly designed (or oriented) existing boat ramp facilities could continue to be prone to high river flow damage and deterioration causing localized changed flow conditions and streambed scouring. Associated boat ramp parking facilities may experience soil surface erosion, resulting in sediment delivery to live water. Future disturbance due to maintenance activities is likely.

ALTERNATIVE 2 (PROPOSED ACTION)

Under this alternative, there would be approximately 0.08 acres of disturbance at an elevation equal to or below an elevation equivalent to the Q2 flow (60,000 cfs). At an elevation equivalent to 100,000 cfs flow, this alternative would have approximately 0.7 acres of disturbance. Total new disturbance is approximately 1.82 acres. Future disturbance due to maintenance activities is likely. (See Table 3-10.)

ALTERNATIVE 3

Under this alternative, there would be approximately 0.12 acres of disturbance at an elevation equal to or below an elevation equivalent to Q2 flow (60,000 cfs). At an elevation equivalent to 100,000 cfs flow, this alternative would have approximately 0.88 acres of disturbance. Total new disturbance is approximately 3.7 acres. Future disturbance due to maintenance activities is likely. (See Table 3-10.)

Table 3-10. New Surface Disturbance Associated with Each Action Alternative at Each Site.

Site	New Surface Disturbance (acres)	
	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
Spring Bar	0.13	0.33
Carey Creek	1.19	1.71
Wind River	0.18	0.52
Vinegar Creek	0.32	1.11
Project Total	1.82	3.7

Disturbed areas would primarily consist of parking areas, access roads, the day-use area, and boat ramps. Construction, improvement, and reconditioning activities at the boat ramps would impact approximately 0.3 acres of riparian habitat under Alternative 2, and approximately 0.4 acres of riparian habitat under Alternative 3. With the exception of the boat ramps, site development and improvements occur on a river terrace area that has moderate to level slope. Negligible effects from erosion or sediment are expected from ground disturbing actions in these areas. It is expected that no measurable increases to deposited sediments in river bottom substrate or effects to water temperature from project implementation would occur.

RIPARIAN FUNCTION

ISSUE 1: The proposed activities may be inconsistent with Riparian Management Objectives (RMOs) and Standards and Guidelines described in the Nez Perce and Payette Forest Plans, including those described in the Nez Perce Forest Plan's Amendment 20 (USDA Forest Service 1995).

Indicator: Consistency of proposed activities with the Nez Perce and Payette Forest Plans [including RMOs and Standards and Guidelines described in the Nez Perce Forest Plan's Amendment 20 (USDA Forest Service 1995)].

ALTERNATIVE 1 (NO ACTION)

Direct Effects

Because no new activities would occur under Alternative 1, no direct effects on riparian function are anticipated. The RMO status and riparian function of sites addressed as part of the Salmon River Recreation sites project would not change.

Indirect Effects

Under the No Action Alternative, the RMO status and riparian function of Salmon River and Carey Creek would not change. Under this alternative, the existing recreational facilities, particularly boat ramps, would remain unchanged.

River hydrologic processes, sand and fines deposition, vegetation along the margins, streambank stability, bedload deposition, recruitment of large woody debris, shade, and fish habitat would also remain unchanged.

ALTERNATIVES 2 AND 3

Direct and Indirect Effects

The RMO status and function of sites addressed as part of the Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project could possibly improve slightly if the sites include parking areas that are shaped to direct surface water runoff away from direct delivery to live water stream courses. Design criteria, described below and incorporated into each action alternative, ensure consistency with the Payette and Nez Perce Forest Plans including RMOs, and Standards and Guidelines described in Nez Perce Forest Plan's Amendment 20 (USDA Forest Service 1995).

Design Criteria that Ensure Consistency with RMOs and Standard and Guidelines:

- Manage and maintain vegetation at sites to achieve objectives of providing facility management and aquatic resource needs consistent with Nez Perce Forest Plan's Amendment 20;
- Grade and shape parking facilities and roadways to avoid direct sediment runoff into streams;

- Stabilize and maintain integrity of river banks adjacent to any new boat ramp, boat ramp extension, boat ramp widening, and access road improvement or development by placing riprap, where needed to comply with Nez Perce Forest Plan's Amendment 20 (PACFISH). Consider opportunities in riprap design to create micro-habitat for riparian plantings; and
- Conduct final site grading of parking areas in such a fashion as to reduce soil surface erosion and the direct delivery to live water of any run-off suspended toxicants. Design improvements to prevent run-off drainage from reaching live water. The objective is to reduce delivery of site generated sediments and potential pollutants directly to live water courses by increasing opportunities for infiltration.

ISSUE 2: The existing riparian vegetation below Q2 (60,000 cfs) and 100,000 cfs, river flow, deposition of fines, and the establishment of future riparian vegetation at the sites may be altered.

Indicator: Area of riparian disturbance below 100,000 cfs (square feet).

ALTERNATIVE 1 (NO ACTION)

Implementation of Alternative 1 would result in no riparian disturbance.

ALTERNATIVE 2 (PROPOSED ACTION)

Direct Effects

General

Implementation of Alternative 2 would result in an immediate local change in flood prone terraces at each site. The Salmon River's ability to access flood plains at each site, or potential large woody debris density within the project area would not be significantly altered.

Additions of fill material and concrete and associated substrate alteration [by grading and shaping cobbles and rocks below the average annual peak Q2 flow elevation (60,000 cfs)] would result in localized changes in the Salmon River flow patterns and associated fines deposition and erosion for a short distance upstream and downstream of the ramps. These localized changes can affect riparian vegetation either by washing away soil the vegetation is currently rooted in, or depositing fines elsewhere where vegetation can become established. The magnitude of these potential changes is unknown, but they are expected to be localized within a couple hundred feet of each site.

All boat ramp reconditioning would occur within the footprint of the existing concrete. All finished boat ramp elevations and parking facilities at or below the 100,000 cfs flow elevation are expected to be similar to existing facilities or existing natural features elevations. Thus the anticipated changes are likely to be minimal due to the insignificant change in the features' elevation

In addition, under this alternative, the new ramps would be designed to accommodate 100,000 cfs flows and associated debris, and would thus be consistent with the RF-4 Standards and Guidelines in the Nez Perce Forest Plan.

The removal of a few trees and brush would not substantially alter current shade levels along the Salmon River. Removal of stream bank vegetation could affect stream bank stability. Implementation of the design criteria and mitigation measures (e.g., planting saplings, reseeding, and placement of riprap) and monitoring would minimize this potential impact.

There would not likely be an immediate or future change in pool frequency, water temperature, or LWD density within the project area.

Spring Bar and Wind River Trailhead

At Spring Bar and Wind River Trailhead, no alteration of riparian vegetation is anticipated as part of this alternative. Thus, no riparian function is anticipated to change from current conditions at these locations.

Carey Creek

At Carey Creek, approximately 41,200 total square feet of impacted area involving vegetation removal or alteration and soil surface disturbance is anticipated. Generally, the vegetation includes native grasses, forbs, brush and trees, and potentially non-native weeds species.

The upgrade of the two existing picnic sites at Carey Creek may alter riparian vegetation and have a small amount (approximately 200 square feet assuming 10'x10' sites) of disturbed soils from which soil erosion may occur. It is anticipated that no more than nine square feet per picnic site of grass would be replaced with compacted native surface materials. No brush or tree removal would occur. The picnic areas are well above the Salmon River's 100,000 cfs flow elevation.

Widening the entrance to the boat ramp at Carey Creek from the Salmon River road (Forest Road #1614) would involve removal of approximately 18,000 square feet of native grasses, forbs, brush, and trees, and potentially non-native weeds species. No more than 40 ponderosa pine, some only four feet tall would be cut and removed from the riparian area as part of this activity. This activity would also involve adding fill material and engineered structures within the 100,000 cfs floodplain of the Salmon River.

Constructing a staircase at Carey Creek would involve approximately 90 square feet of native grass, forb, and brush removal, and soil disturbance. This area would be converted to concrete and stone. This activity lies within the 100,000 cfs floodplain of the Salmon River.

Adding a new double vault restroom with attached changing areas at Carey Creek would involve approximately 470 square feet of soil disturbance and 1260 square feet of vegetation clearing (mostly brush with some ponderosa pine trees). This activity lies above the 100,000 cfs floodplain of the Salmon River.

Adding new parking to accommodate eight vehicles with trailers for day use parking and widening the existing concrete ramp at Carey Creek is projected to affect 21,650 square feet, mostly altering existing cobbles and fines by shaping, grading, compacting, and concrete paving. Some willows (~900 square feet) are likely to be altered or removed. The fines deposition and rooting medium for these willows and the stream flow dynamics associated with the site riparian vegetation processes would be altered. The extent of this

alteration is unknown, but it is expected to be localized. This activity lies well below the 100,000 cfs floodplain, and is lower in elevation than the usual annual peak flow of the Salmon River.

Vinegar Creek

At Vinegar Creek, soil disturbance and removal of native grasses, forbs, non-native weeds, brush, and trees would occur on about 9,098 square feet within the RHCA, associated with constructing new angled parking, optional wall or stacked rock buttress. It is likely that fill material would be occupying space lower in elevation than the 100,000 cfs elevation of the Salmon River.

Stabilizing the downstream and middle concrete boat ramps and widening the existing upstream boat ramp (particularly at the Salmon River's base flow wetted edge) at Vinegar Creek will cause approximately 8,595 square feet of impacted area which involves mostly river cobbles, deposited sands, some riparian vegetation (grasses, forbs, and brush, and non-native weeds). This part of the proposal is below the usual annual normal average peak flow elevation of the Salmon River.

Activities that occur lower in elevation than the usual average annual peak flow, or 100,000 cfs flow elevation of the Salmon River could result in a change in water flow and sediment deposition patterns and processes in these areas during these flow conditions. This change would likely alter the riparian vegetation either directly (through removal), or indirectly (by eroding soils around plants, or depositing fines elsewhere for potential plant establishment). It is expected these processes and anticipated changes and adjustments would be localized.

Indirect Effects

Implementation of Alternative 2 would not likely result in a future large scale change in the Salmon Rivers flood prone terraces or water flow and fines deposition processes within the project area, again due to elevations of features being similar to existing. As mentioned above, initially after project implementation the rate localized changes occur would increase in the immediate area of the ramps. Over time, balance and equilibrium of the processes would be reached.

The potential for future recruitment of large woody debris (LWD) as a result of a mass-wasting event or dead tree falling into the stream course would be relatively unchanged. Removal of a few trees within a tree height of the waterway would decrease future LWD recruitment. Implementation of the design criteria and mitigation measures (e.g., planting saplings) and monitoring would minimize this potential impact.

ALTERNATIVE 3

Direct and Indirect Effects

General

There would not likely be an immediate or future change in pool frequency, water temperature, or large woody debris (LWD) density within the project area.

Spring Bar

At Spring Bar, existing concrete, deposited river cobbles, fines, and boulders associated with reconditioning of the road and turnaround area by the ramp (6,820 square feet) would be altered. In addition to the items listed in Alternative 2, any armoring on the upstream and downstream edges of the ramp would remove a 900 square foot area of four to seven foot tall willows.

Carey Creek

At Carey Creek, in addition to the items listed in Alternative 2, the establishment of the new picnic areas may alter riparian vegetation (grasses, forbs, and non-native weeds; no trees or brush would be removed) and would have a small amount (~300 square feet assuming 10'x10' sites) of disturbed soils from which soil erosion may occur.

No more than nine square feet per existing picnic sites of grass would be replaced with compacted native surface materials. No brush or tree removal would occur. The picnic areas are well above the Salmon River 100,000 cfs flow elevation.

Additionally, construction of the parking area 10 to 40 feet along the west side of Carey Creek would alter riparian vegetation. This vegetation currently consists of tall brush, grass and forb species. No removal of trees is associated with this parking area construction. Tree and brush species could be planted as part of this action, and protected from user impacts by installing a post and rail fence to guide recreationists away from Carey Creek's streambanks and towards the intended travel route of Forest Road #1614. These activities improve riparian vegetation along Carey Creek.

Wind River Trailhead

At Wind River trailhead, all the planned action items are located south of Forest Road #1614. Although the majority of the proposed activities are within 300 feet of the Salmon River, no tree removal is expected. Approximately 25,000 square feet of brush would be removed along the toe of the slope, and at the new road alignment area. This brush does not contribute shade to any water body or stream course. All these activities would occur higher in elevation than the 100,000 cfs Salmon River flow elevation.

The ground on the immediate south side of the Salmon River road (Forest Road #1614) slopes slightly away from the Salmon River, thus the potential for soil surface erosion and sediment delivery offsite into the Salmon River is reduced. Depending on how the site is reshaped, revegetated, and managed, the construction could decrease the risk of sediment delivery to the Salmon River. Design criteria, such as grading and shaping parking facilities and roadways to avoid direct sediment runoff into streams, minimize this risk.

Vinegar Creek

At Vinegar Creek, in addition to the items listed in Alternative 2, the following activities may alter the riparian function locally at the site:

- Removal of the existing middle boat ramp (1,131 square feet disturbed area – concrete, river deposited cobbles, rocks, and sand);

- Construction of a new site for changing area and restroom involving 285 square feet of soil disturbance and 1260 square feet of vegetation clearing; and
- Widening of Boat Ramp A and installation of Boat Ramp E (4645 square feet of new disturbance).

Deposition of fines, including sand, and large trees (which may become lodged upon facilities or improvements) may occur and would subsequently be removed as part of on-going maintenance for this site.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AND WASTES

ISSUE: The proposed activities may adversely impact water quality or fisheries by the accidental/incidental introduction of hazardous materials (petroleum products; gas, oil, grease, anti-freeze and pesticides) to the aquatic system which could have adverse effects on the environment, listed fish species or habitat.

Indicator: Total area of parking [surfaced (paved, graveled) versus unsurfaced (native surface)] and ramp square footage.

ALTERNATIVE 1

Because no activities are proposed in Alternative 1, there would be no change to the parking area or the ramp square footage. Table 3-11 displays the existing condition for the total parking area and ramps at each location.

ALTERNATIVES 2 AND 3

Alternatives 2 and 3 both increase the total parking area and ramps. Table 3-11 displays the change from existing condition for the total parking area and ramps at each location for each alternative. Though Alternatives 2 and 3 propose the same amount of increase of paved areas, neither changes the native surface area and Alternative 3 has considerably more graveled and ramp area.

Concreting and graveling of sites could increase potential for runoff. As runoff flows over areas altered by development (e.g., parking areas), it has the potential to pick up potentially harmful sediment and chemicals such as gasoline, oil, grease, antifreeze, and pesticides. However, such amounts are expected to be negligible and would not likely result in lethal or sub-lethal effects to listed fish. These concreted and graveled developed areas are relatively small and localized, as sites range from 1.0 acre for Alternative 2 to 1.1 acres for Alternative 3 at an elevation equivalent to or below 100,000 cfs. Natural topography, drainage, retention basins, and vegetation buffers are anticipated to prevent direct runoff into Salmon River and other stream courses. Infiltration and vegetation Best Management Practices (BMPs) are designed to facilitate the percolation of runoff through the soil, and, thereby, result in reduced storm water quantity and reduced mobilization of pollutants.

Fuel, refueling, and maintenance of project construction and implementation machinery would occur 100 feet or greater from the Salmon River and other stream courses and in areas where topography would restrict any potential spill from flowing directly into the

Salmon River or other stream courses. Due to topography and the proximity of the Salmon River road (Forest Road #1614) to the Salmon River, limited sites suitable for these activities are located at a distance greater than 300 feet from live waters. For this reason, a Nez Perce National Forest representative would be required to show the construction contractor where these activities can occur prior to project implementation. Fuel hauled on site for refueling of equipment would not exceed 150 gallons.

Additionally, the mitigation measures controlling the storage and handling of toxic material, including fuel or equipment, and requiring planting and seeding of all disturbed areas promptly with approved native species would minimize potential introduction of pollutants and toxins to RHCAs.

Table 3-11. Change from Existing Parking Areas and Ramps for Each Alternative at Each Location.

Site	Change from Existing Parking Area (square feet)									Change from Existing Ramp Area (square feet)		
	Paved			Graveled			Native surface (unsurfaced)					
	Alt 1	Change		Alt 1	Change		Alt 1	Change		Alt 1	Change	
		Alt 2	Alt 3		Alt 2	Alt 3		Alt 2	Alt 3		Alt 2	Alt 3
Spring Bar	1,260	4,300	4,300	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,800	4,800	4,800
Carey Creek	0	8,500	8,500	0	0	16,020	2,760	0	0	5,200	8,360	8,360
Wind River	0	0	0	0	5,250	6,450	5,800	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Vinegar Creek	0	27,900	27,900	0	5,248	11,611	27,900	0	0	7,785	0	3,195
Existing Project Area Total	1,260	40,700	40,700	0	10,498	34,081	36,460	0	0	17,785	13,160	16,355

*Alternative 1 is the existing condition.
N/A = Not Applicable (no ramp at site).

3.6.1.2 Cumulative Effects

Cumulative effects are those impacts to the environment that result from the incremental impact of an action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (see 40 CFR 1508.7). Past actions in the cumulative effects analysis area contributing to this cumulative effects analysis include road development, timber harvest, fire, small hydroelectric development, and livestock grazing. Reasonably foreseeable future actions include continued recreation, recreation site maintenance, road maintenance, fire, livestock grazing, and noxious weed management. Potential impacts to the environment, when added to the impacts and potential impacts of these actions, as a result of implementing any of the alternatives described above, would be inconsequential.

Anticipated effects to the Salmon River riparian environment and its function under Alternative 3 would be similar to that of Alternative 2 in description and nature. The difference would be that under Alternative 3 there are more ground disturbing activities resulting in more permanent facilities located within the Q2 flow (60,000 cfs) of the Salmon River at each site. Other than this effect, the expected direct, indirect and

cumulative affect to this important riparian habitat function would be the same as under Alternative 2.

3.6.2 Consistency with the Nez Perce and Payette Forest Plans and Environmental Law

Nez Perce Forest Plan

All project activities comply with the Nez Perce Forest Plan (USDA Forest Service 1987b), specifically all applicable Forest Plan forest-wide standards (II-5 to II-27), and management area prescriptions (III-30 to III-33) are incorporated into the design of each action alternative for the fisheries resource. This includes direction contained in all Nez Perce Forest Plan amendments, including the Riparian Goals and Standards and Guidelines for Recreation Management, Road Management, and General Riparian Area Management described in Amendment 20 (PACFISH).

Nez Perce Forest Plan's Amendment 20 (PACFISH) requires a watershed analysis prior to construction of new recreational facilities in Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCAs). This document and the *Biological Assessment of Salmon River Recreation Sites Project for Federally Listed and USFS Sensitive Species* (BA) provide site specific analysis for the proposed project, which would occur within the Salmon River RHCA. The proposed action would result in a very small localized adverse modification of aquatic and riparian habitats (i.e., boat ramps and pads, construction and use). However, such effects are negligible and would not retard recovery and achievement of Riparian Management Objectives along a river reach or result in significant degradation of riparian/aquatic habitats. The proposed project addresses management issues and would implement recommendations identified as part of this project.

Payette Forest Plan

The Payette National Forest's Revised Land and Resource Management Plan fisheries' protocols were considered as they relate to the proposed Salmon River Recreation Sites project. Three of the proposed site renovations would occur within the Payette National Forest boundary (Carey Creek Boat Ramp, Wind River Trailhead, and Vinegar Creek Boat Ramp). The Nez Perce National Forest is delegated as the lead forest with primary management responsibilities for operations and maintenance, deferred maintenance and capital improvement for portal sites along the lower Main Salmon that support the Salmon River program and include these sites.

The proposed renovations would occur in the Payette National Forest Management Area 10 (USDA Forest Service 2003c, pp.III-19-24 and pp.III-214-247). The Payette Forest Plan's desired conditions and forest wide management direction for fisheries protocols, including Appendix B (Soil, Water, Riparian, and Aquatic Resource), and its pathways and watershed condition indicators (WCIs), and Appendix E (Wildlife and Fish) have been reviewed and considered.

The fisheries analyses included within this EA and the subsequent Fisheries' Biological Assessment and Evaluation identifies environmental elements and fish habitat parameters that may be potentially affected by the proposed project activities and are consistent with those elements and parameters identified as integral in the Payette Forest Plan.

See Section 3-12 for additional information.

3.7 Watershed

3.7.1 Summary of Effects

The potential for watershed effects is documented in the *Salmon River Recreation Site Renovation Project Watershed Analysis 12/31/2007* (see *Watershed* section of the project record).

3.7.1.1 Direct and Indirect Effects

SOIL EROSION AND UPLAND STABILITY

ISSUE 1: The proposed activities have the potential to increase surface erosion.

Indicator: Change in surface erosion

ALTERNATIVE 1 (NO ACTION)

The sites would be maintained and managed in their existing conditions.

The lack of sufficient available parking spaces would result in continued uncontrolled parking in undesignated areas and user-created footpaths would result as river users walk between the boat ramps and their vehicles. These actions would result in soil erosion and vegetation disturbances.

Sand deposits at Vinegar Creek would be disposed of routinely, at minimal cost. Repositioning disturbed ramp panels would occur when the river level recedes to low flow levels.

ALTERNATIVE 2

Spring Bar Boat Ramp

The proposed parking improvements are above the 100,000 cfs floodplain, but within the Riparian Habitat Conservation Area (RHCA). Temporary (less than three years) increased sediment production may result from construction disturbances, but with negligible effects (USDA Forest Service 1981).

Construction of additional parking would disturb some steep hill-slopes outside the RHCA, resulting in some increased temporary (up to three years) and long term (greater than 15 years) erosion. However, these increases are nominal, considering the small size of the disturbance area, the location in the channel, the large size of the watershed, and the design criteria and mitigation measures that would be incorporated in the project

Construction of the accessible pathway to the boat ramp would disturb about 100 square feet within the 100,000 cfs floodplain, but result in minimal sediment effects.

Carey Creek Boat Ramp and Campground

Most of the proposed improvements should reduce soil disturbance and sediment entering the waterways, resulting in a net improvement:

- Hardening of the designated parking sites on the boat ramp should reduce 'off-site' disturbance, resulting in a reduction of sediments mobilized during high water;
- The roadside parking area and Carey Creek Road (Forest Road #318) improvements should reduce ongoing disturbance of vegetation and subsequent soil erosion;
- Staircase construction would reduce bank damage and thus subsequent erosion and sediment entering the Salmon River;
- Hardening the picnic sites would minimize any future sediment delivery to Carey Creek.

Some of the proposed improvements may increase soil disturbance and sediment entering the waterways temporarily (up to 3 years) and in the long term (greater than 15 years):

- Excavated banks within the floodplain created by parking space construction may result in accelerated erosion during high flow events;
- Some vegetation may be removed during construction, reducing total sediment filtering capacity of the riparian area.

These sediment effects are nominal, considering the small size of the disturbance area, the location in the channel, and the large size of the watershed. Additionally, the mitigation measure requiring planting or seeding of all disturbed areas promptly with approved native species would minimize any long term increases in sediment.

Wind River Trailhead

The proposed improvements are above the 100,000 cfs floodplain, but within the RHCA. Temporary (up to three years) increased sediment production may result from construction disturbances, but with negligible effects.

Shifting of some long term parking away from Carey Creek could reduce sedimentation effects caused by ground disturbance.

Vinegar Creek Boat Ramp

Most of the proposed improvements should reduce soil disturbance and sediment entering the waterways:

- Using designated parking sites and hardening boat ramp areas should reduce sediments mobilized during high water;
- Boat ramp stabilization may reduce scouring and sedimentation;
- The buttressed parking area would result in a small loss of floodplain area and streamside vegetation.

ALTERNATIVE 3

Spring Bar Boat Ramp

Soil erosion and upland erosion effects at Spring Bar Boat Ramp resulting from Alternative 3 would be similar to Alternative 2, with the following additional effects:

- Construction of the accessible pathway to the boat ramp would disturb about 100 square feet within the 100,000 cfs floodplain, and result in minimal sedimentation.
- Excavation of the new path to the existing toilets may capture hillslope runoff during rain events and divert the water down the pathway, producing sediment and dewatering the hillslope below the new path. However, the mitigation measure requiring planting or seeding of all disturbed areas promptly with approved native species would minimize any long term increases in sediment.

Carey Creek Boat Ramp and Campground

- Construction of the additional parking area west of Carey Creek would disturb approximately an additional 22,500 square feet within the riparian area. With the removal of the existing vegetation, percolation into the soil would be reduced, and runoff would increase which could increase the amount of sediment reaching the Salmon River. However, the mitigation measure requiring planting or seeding of all disturbed areas promptly with approved native species would minimize any long term increases in sediment.

Wind River Trailhead

Soil erosion and upland erosion effects at Wind River Trailhead resulting from Alternative 3 are similar to Alternative 2, with the following additional effects:

- Construction of the new road (and obliteration of the existing road) to the outfitter site would reduce road-related erosion concerns due to improved design, grade and maintainability;
- Shifting additional long term parking away from Carey Creek could further reduce sedimentation.

Vinegar Creek Boat Ramp

Soil erosion and upland erosion effects at Vinegar Creek resulting from Alternative 3 are similar to Alternative 2, with the following additional effects:

- Construction of additional parking would disturb some steep slopes within the RHCA.
    - Above the existing toilet, slopes exceed 55% and the timber displays some evidence of a ‘jackstrawed’ condition, indicative of soil movement and a moderate risk of landslide.
    - With the removal of the existing vegetation, percolation into the soil would be reduced, and runoff would increase which could increase the amount of sediment reaching the Salmon River. However, the mitigation measure

requiring planting or seeding of all disturbed areas promptly with approved native species would minimize any long term increases in sediment.

- Boat ramp obliteration and construction should minimize the need for annual disposal of sand deposited during high water.

ISSUE: The proposed activities have the potential to decrease slope stability.

Indicator: Mass wasting risk

ALTERNATIVE 1 (NO ACTION)

The hydrologist surveyed the proposed activity areas and did not find areas of high landslide risk. No new activities would occur to affect mass wasting risk.

ALTERNATIVES 2 AND 3

All actions being considered in Alternatives 2 and 3 take place on existing recreation sites. New disturbance within or adjoining these sites is approximately two acres in Alternative 2 and four acres in Alternative 3.

The hydrologist surveyed the proposed activity areas and did not find areas of high landslide risk. Moderate concern exists at Vinegar Creek, above the existing toilet facility. However, the mitigation measure requiring a geotechnical review prior to excavation on slopes in excess of 55%, to evaluate the need for engineered stabilization of excavated slopes, would minimize any mass wasting risk.

WATER QUALITY

ISSUE 1: The proposed activities have the potential to increase sediment.

Indicators:

- In-channel disturbance
- Riparian Habitat Conservation Area (RHCA) disturbed
- Upland area disturbed

ALTERNATIVE 1 (NO ACTION)

No new activities would occur to increase sediment.

ALTERNATIVES 2 AND 3

Floodplains & Wetlands

Construction activities would take place within the active channel in Alternatives 2 and 3, requiring a 404 permit from the US Army Corps of Engineers and Stream Alteration permit from the State of Idaho.

All actions being considered in Alternatives 2 and 3 take place on existing recreation sites. The proposed project may result in ground disturbance of approximately two acres in Alternative 2 and four acres in Alternative 3 located within the RHCA. However, this disturbance would impact a very small amount of riparian habitat.

Construction of the access road, parking areas, and boat ramps would not adversely affect the function or adversely modify the floodplain. Overall, riparian and floodplain effects are considered low adverse because of the small amount of area involved. This project meets the requirements of Executive Orders 11988 and 11990, which apply to protection of wetlands and floodplains. These features are protected through implementation of BMP's and Payette and Nez Perce Forest Plans standards and guidelines.

Erosion, water quality and sediment

Surface erosion would be affected by the proposed activities. Soil disturbances are proposed within the channel, in the RHCAs and in the adjoining uplands. Some temporary (up to three years) increases in sediment are expected, and long term (greater than 15 years) increases are possible in sites with larger disturbances, especially those within the floodplain. These sediment effects are nominal, considering the small size of the disturbance area, the location in the channel, and the large size of the watershed.

Additionally, the mitigation measure requiring planting or seeding of all disturbed areas promptly with approved native species would minimize any long term increases in sediment.

ISSUE 2: The proposed activities have the potential to introduce pollutants and toxins to RHCAs.

Indicator: Mobilization of pollutants to affect water quality.

Developing and hardening the sites would slightly increase the potential for runoff. As runoff flows over areas altered by development (e.g., road, boat ramp preparation area) it has the potential to pick up harmful sediment and chemicals such as oil and grease, and pesticides. However, the amounts are expected to be negligible and would result in no known effect on water quality. Vegetation buffers would facilitate the percolation of runoff through the soil, and thereby result in reduced storm water quantity and reduced mobilization of pollutants.

Additionally, the mitigation measure requiring planting or seeding of all disturbed areas promptly with approved native species would minimize potential introduction of pollutants and toxins to RHCAs.

3.7.1.2 Cumulative Effects

Common land uses within the Salmon River subbasin that may contribute to cumulative effects on the watershed resource include agriculture, livestock grazing, timber harvest, fire, roads/highways, rural development, and recreation. The Salmon River is very popular for river based recreation, particularly steelhead and salmon fishing. Development and subdivisions occurring on private lands are expected to increase.

The scope of the analysis for water quality, quantity and channel morphology effects extends downstream from the analysis area to the mouth of the Salmon River. At the project sites, the activity area is less than 1% of the upstream drainage, and measurable effects are improbable. The predicted sediment effects from proposed activities are nominal, considering the small size of the disturbance area, the location in the channel, and the large size of the watershed. Additionally, any adverse effects would decrease following implementation of the proposed activities.

Due to the minimal effects on watershed resources expected from the proposed activities, and the scale of this project related to the Salmon River basin, cumulative effects are expected to be nonexistent.

3.7.2 Consistency with the Payette and Nez Perce Forest Plans and Environmental Law

As designed and mitigated, the proposed project is expected to meet all regulations and Forest, Regional and National direction for soil and water quality.

Idaho Water Quality Standards provide for water quality protection of designated and existing beneficial uses of water. Idaho has designated the Salmon River below the project area for cold water communities, primary contact recreation, domestic water supply, and special resource water. The project is expected to maintain or improve conditions related to these beneficial uses.

Through the Clean Water Act, the State of Idaho identifies water quality concerns. No waters downstream of the activity area are identified on the 2002 Integrated 303(D)/305(B) report as impaired.

The proposed actions for the Spring Bar Boat Ramp, located in Management Area 7 as identified in the Nez Perce Forest Plan, are consistent with the standards, goals, and objectives for soil and water resources set forth in the Nez Perce Forest Plan (USDA, 1987). Best Management Practices (BMPs) have been included to protect soil and water resources. BMPs include Soil and Water Conservation Practices to control non-point source pollution and protect soil and water resources from permanent damage. BMPs are identified in the Salmon River Recreation sites Environmental Analysis as Design Criteria and Mitigation measures.

The proposed actions for the Carey Creek and Vinegar Creek Boat Ramps and the Wind River Trailhead are located on the Payette National Forest, and would occur in Management Area 10 as identified in the Payette National Forest Land Resource Management Plan (USDA Forest Service 2003c, p.III-19-24, p.III-214-247). The Desired conditions and Forest wide management direction standards for soil, water, riparian and aquatic resources including Appendix B, the pathways, and the watershed condition indicators (WCIs) have been reviewed and considered. Due to the location of the project area on a major river, most of the WCI's have no change to their values when considering the proposed action, and the others do not apply. The watershed and fisheries analyses and subsequent Biological Assessment and Evaluation for this project found the actions proposed to be consistent with those elements and parameters identified as integral in the Payette National Forest Plan.

See Section 3-12 for additional information.

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3.8 Wildlife

ISSUE: The proposed activities have the potential to affect threatened, endangered, sensitive, and wildlife management indicator species.

Indicator: The effect on potentially suitable habitat and occurrence of wildlife species

3.8.1 Summary of Effects

The potential for effects on wildlife and habitat is documented in the *Salmon River Recreation Sites Wildlife Analysis and Biological Evaluation 10/27/2008* (see *Wildlife* section of the project record).

3.8.1.1 Direct and Indirect Effects

ALTERNATIVE 1 (NO ACTION)

Alternative 1 would not change the existing condition in relation to wildlife species or their habitat.

ALTERNATIVES 2 AND 3

The following determinations of effect for TES wildlife species are supported by analysis documented in this EA and the Wildlife Section of the project record:

- **"No Effect"** for the following listed species: Gray wolf, Canada lynx, and Northern Idaho ground squirrel.
- **"May Impact Individuals or Habitat, but not likely to Contribute to a Trend Towards Federal Listing or Loss of Viability"** for the following sensitive species: boreal toad, ringneck snake, bald eagle (October 1 through March 31), mountain quail, and Columbia spotted frog.
- **"No Impact"** for the following sensitive species: black swift, Townsend's big-eared bat, peregrine falcon, wolverine, harlequin duck, fisher, flammulated owl, fringed myotis, white-headed woodpecker, black-backed woodpecker, Coeur d'Alene salamander, pygmy nuthatch, boreal owl, great gray owl, three-toed woodpecker, Columbian sharp-tailed grouse, spotted bat, and bald eagle (April 1 through September 30).
- **"No Impacts Anticipated"** for the following management indicator species: Northern goshawk, elk, bighorn sheep, Shira's moose, pileated woodpecker, and pine marten.
- **"Reduction in riparian habitat"** for the following management indicator species: Neotropical migratory birds.

SPECIES' SPECIFIC ANALYSIS FOR SPECIES WITH A "MAY IMPACT" OR "REDUCTION IN HABITAT" DETERMINATION

Boreal Toads

Negligible to discountable effects may occur from human use of the area and causing harassment/disturbance during implementation activities at the four recreation sites.

Given that use of these areas by amphibians is minimal and no suitable breeding habitat would be affected, yet there is potential for individual mortality due to construction or reconstruction of existing sites and the reduction in non-breeding, moist microsite habitats, it is concluded this project "May impact individuals or habitat, but would not likely result in a trend toward federal listing or reduced viability for the populations or species".

Project related impacts are considered negligible for boreal toads and their habitats.

Ringneck Snake

Negligible to discountable effects may occur from human use of the area and harassment/disturbance during implementation activities at the four recreation sites.

Grassland, shrub, and rocky canyon habitats are abundant along the Salmon River. Even though some habitat may be reduced at several sites along the Salmon River, the activities associated with improvements at the four recreation sites would not have a measurable impact on the population as a whole. It is determined this project "May impact individuals or habitat, but would not likely result in a trend toward federal listing or reduced viability for the populations or species".

Project related impacts are considered negligible for ringneck snakes and their habitats.

Bald Eagle

No adverse impacts or negligible potential for adverse impacts are expected to occur on bald eagles, prey species, or habitat, from the proposed project. Bald eagles can readily move to suitable areas not affected by recreational use of the area, and they can move back to the area within the day when disturbance related actions cease. Improvements to boat ramp facilities associated with Alternatives 2 and 3 are expected to receive heavy use during the summer float season and during peak steelhead (fall) and salmon fishing (May – June) periods. Boat use is already common along this segment of the Salmon River. It can be expected that current river based recreational use trends for this segment of the Salmon River would continue, even if improvements are not implemented.

Alternatives 2 and 3 "May impact individuals or habitat, but would not likely result in a trend toward federal listing or reduced viability for the populations or species" for the bald eagle if activities occur between October 1 and March 31. Activities that occur between April 1 and September 30 would have "No Impact". Alternative 1 would have "No Impact".

Mountain Quail

Negligible to discountable effects may occur from human use of the area and harassment/disturbance during implementation activities at the four recreation sites.

Grassland, shrub, and timber/shrub habitats are abundant on the Salmon River District. Even though some habitat may be reduced due to activities associated with the improvements at the four recreation sites, there would not be a measurable impact on mountain quail populations as a whole. It is determined this project "May impact individuals or habitat, but would not likely result in a trend toward federal listing or reduced viability for the populations or species".

Project related impacts are considered negligible for mountain quail and their habitats.

Columbia Spotted Frog

Negligible to discountable effects may occur from human use of the area and causing harassment/disturbance during implementation activities at the four recreation sites.

Given that use of these areas by amphibians is possible and the potential for individual mortality due to construction or reconstruction of existing sites and the impacts to slow-moving water habitats, this project "May impact individuals or habitat, but will not likely contribute to a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability for the populations or species".

Project related impacts are considered negligible for Columbia spotted frogs and their habitats.

Neotropical Migratory Birds

Negligible to discountable effects may occur from human use of the area and harassment/disturbance during implementation activities at the four recreation sites.

Habitat for neotropical migrants is abundant along the Salmon River, its tributaries, and across the Salmon River District. Even though some habitat may be reduced due to activities associated with the improvements at the four recreation sites, there would not be a measurable impact on neotropical migratory bird populations as a whole.

Project related impacts are considered negligible for neotropical birds and their habitats.

3.8.1.2 Cumulative Effects

Past activities that may have contributed to cumulative effects to wildlife species and their habitat include recreation, such as fishing, hunting, and trapping, livestock grazing, weed encroachment, road and trail construction associated with motorized access, and recreation site development and maintenance.

Past and present disturbances combined with the proposed activities and other reasonably foreseeable actions would create a cumulative effect on wildlife species by the combination of disturbance and habitat changes. The degree of the cumulative effect would vary depending upon the number of entrances over time, the distribution of disturbances across the analysis area, and the amount of area disturbed. However, the potential for any measurable or observable cumulative effects on threatened, endangered, sensitive, and wildlife management indicator species in the Salmon River area are negligible due to the extremely small proportion of habitat for each species affected by this project.

3.8.2 Consistency with the Payette and Nez Perce Forest Plans and Environmental Law

Threatened and endangered species are designated under the Endangered Species Act. It is the policy of Congress that all Federal departments shall seek to conserve endangered and threatened species and shall utilize their authorities in furtherance of this purpose (ESA 1531.2b).

This analysis responds to the requirement that federal agencies address effects to listed threatened, endangered, and proposed species during project planning under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 as amended (P.L. 96-159 1531(c)).

Threatened and endangered species selected for this analysis are consistent with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Species Lists 14420-2008-SL-0523 dated August 18, 2008 (Nez Perce National Forest) and 14420-2008-SL-0528 dated August 18, 2008 (Payette National Forest). This update lists the gray wolf and the northern Idaho ground squirrel as federally listed species that may occur or whose habitat may occur on the Salmon River Ranger District and the gray wolf and the Canada lynx on the McCall Ranger District. No "proposed" or "candidate" wildlife species are known to occur or have habitat in the project area.

The bald eagle was officially delisted from the Endangered Species Act on June 28, 2007, but it remains a Northern Region sensitive species. Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is no longer required.

The Canada lynx was removed from the current Nez Perce National Forest list based on new criteria that require very specific evidence of recent lynx presence for making a determination of "occupied" or "unoccupied" habitat for each National Forest. Although the Clearwater and Lolo National Forests, adjacent to the Nez Perce, have been determined "occupied" based on survey results, DNA, or photos, the Nez Perce has not yet met the criteria and has been designated "unoccupied".

Although historic trapping records indicate lynx occupied the Forest in the past and incidental sightings of lynx have been documented in more recent years, these factors are not considered in the new determinations for lynx occupancy. Since "best available science" suggests that lynx do occupy the Nez Perce National Forest, the Forest is cooperating in lynx winter surveys to obtain the necessary information to address the criteria being used to establish occupancy. In the meantime, the Nez Perce will continue to evaluate the effects of our activities on lynx and USFWS will continue to consult on or review our lynx analyses, as appropriate for the determination. Due to the lack of potential suitable habitat within the project area, though, this species was not carried forward in this analysis.

The USFWS does not consider any portion of the Nez Perce National Forest to be occupied by grizzly bears at this time. As a result, the Nez Perce National Forest is not required to consult with USFWS regarding effects on grizzly bear. Therefore, further analysis regarding grizzly bear and potential effects of the proposed project activities was not carried forward in this analysis.

Habitat for the northern Idaho ground squirrel (*Spermophilus brunneus brunneus*) is limited to the most southwest portion of the District, south of Riggins, Idaho, in the Rapid River Drainage. Due to the lack of potential suitable habitat elsewhere on the district, this species was not carried forward in the analysis.

Sensitive species are defined in the Forest Service Manual (FSM 2670.5) as "those plant and animal species identified by the Regional Forester for which population viability is a concern, as evidenced by significant current or predicted downward trends in population numbers, density, or habitat capability that reduce a species/existing distribution." In FSM 2670.22, management direction for sensitive species is in part, to ensure that species do not become threatened or endangered because of Forest Service actions and to maintain viable populations of all native species. The most recent update to the Northern Region's sensitive species list for wildlife species was published on March 31, 2005 (latest update April 25, 2008). The Forest Service must evaluate impacts to sensitive species through a biological evaluation.

This document and the *Salmon River Recreation Sites Wildlife Analysis and Biological Evaluation 10/27/2008* (see *Wildlife* section of the project record) incorporates documentation of the effects on terrestrial sensitive species (i.e., constitutes the Biological Evaluation), per direction pertaining to streamlining (USDA Forest Service 1995). A species was selected for detailed analysis if the species was present within the affected area or when known habitats for that species had a likelihood of being affected by the proposed actions. Old growth and snag habitats were not analyzed because these components would not be impacted by the proposed activities.

See Section 3-12 for additional information.

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3.9 Rare Plants

ISSUE: The proposed activities have the potential to affect threatened, endangered, and sensitive plant species.

Indicator: The effect on potentially suitable habitat and occurrences of rare plant species.

3.9.1 Summary of Effects

The potential for effects on rare plants is documented in the *Salmon River Recreation Sites Rare Plant Analysis and Biological Evaluation November 17, 2008* (see *Rare Plants* section of the project record).

3.9.1.1 Direct and Indirect Effects

Threatened and endangered species selected for this analysis are consistent with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Species Lists 14420-2008-SL-0523 dated August 18, 2008 (Nez Perce National Forest) and 14420-2008-SL-0528 dated August 18, 2008 (Payette National Forest). This update lists Macfarlane's four-o'clock (*Mirabilis macfarlanei*) and Spalding's catchfly (*Silene spaldingii*) as federally listed species that may occur or whose habitat may occur on the Salmon River District. No "proposed" or "candidate" plant species are currently listed.

ALTERNATIVE 1

No new activities would occur to affect rare plants or their habitat.

ALTERNATIVES 2 AND 3

Due to the lack of potential suitable habitat within the project area, the determination of effect for listed Macfarlane's four-o'clock and Spalding's catchfly as a result of Alternatives 2 and 3 would be "No Effect".

No new sensitive plant locations were found during field survey conducted in the spring of 2006 and 2007, therefore the determination of effect for Region1 and 4 sensitive plant species or their habitat as a result of Alternatives 2 and 3 would be "No Impact".

Borsch's stonecrop (*Sedum borschii*), a Payette Forest Plan "watch species" is known to occur at Vinegar Creek. This species occupies a variety of rock types on cliffs and slopes from open habitats to forested communities. There are approximately 10 to 20 populations along the Salmon River (Hanson 2008, personal communication). Activities associated with increasing the parking on the south side of the road have the potential to disturb *Sedum borschii* and its habitat, therefore causing a "May impact individuals or habitat but will not likely contribute to a trend towards federal listing or loss of viability for the population or species" determination at Vinegar Creek. However, the mitigation measure to locate rare plant populations at Vinegar Creek by a qualified plant specialist prior to project activities minimizes the risks of disturbance to this species.

No other Payette Forest Plan rare species (sensitive or watch) are known or suspected to occur at any of the recreation sites on the south side of the Salmon River. Therefore, it is determined that this project would have "No Impact" to Payette National Forest Plan's rare plant species or their habitat.

3.9.1.2 Cumulative Effects

Cumulative effects for rare and sensitive plants are addressed through consideration of the proposed activities in addition to past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions. It is not possible to directly quantify effects of specific activities that are several years or decades old on species of concern today. The status and occurrence of sensitive and rare plants was completely unknown for much of the management history of the project area. Historically, the changes in condition and abundance of specific habitats important to these species are also unknown. Therefore, the effects of these past projects can only be qualified through general discussions. The results of past projects contribute to the current existing condition, however, and can be used to discuss and quantify effects of proposed activities on rare plant species.

All proposed and reasonably foreseeable actions on lands administered by the Forest Service would include protective measures to avoid negative effects to sensitive and rare plants. Therefore, there would be no adverse cumulative effects that would result in viability loss of any rare plant species.

3.9.2 Consistency with the Payette and Nez Perce Forest Plans and Environmental Law

This analysis responds to the requirement that federal agencies address effects to listed threatened, endangered, and proposed species during project planning under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 as amended (P.L. 96-159 1531(c)).

Threatened and endangered species selected for this analysis are consistent with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Species List 14420-2008-SL-0523 dated August 18, 2008 (Nez Perce National Forest) and 14420-2008-SL-0528 dated August 18, 2008 (Payette National Forest). This update lists Macfarlane's four-o'clock (*Mirabilis macfarlanei*) and Spalding's catchfly (*Silene spaldingii*) as federally listed species that may occur or whose habitat may occur on the Salmon River District. No "proposed" or "candidate" plant species are currently listed.

Sensitive species are defined in the Forest Service Manual (FSM 2670.5) as "those plant and animal species identified by the Regional Forester for which population viability is a concern, as evidenced by significant current or predicted downward trends in population numbers, density, or habitat capability that reduce a species/existing distribution." In FSM 2670.22, management direction for sensitive species is in part, to ensure that species do not become threatened or endangered, because of Forest Service actions and to maintain viable populations of all native species. The most recent update to the Northern Region's sensitive rare plants species list was published on October 28, 2004. The Forest Service must evaluate impacts to sensitive species through a biological evaluation. The *Salmon River Recreation Sites Rare Plant Analysis and Biological Evaluation November*

17, 2008 evaluated effects to sensitive species resulting from the Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project.

See Section 3-12 for additional information.

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3.10 Weeds and Non-Native Vegetation

ISSUE: The proposed activities may increase susceptibility to weed spread and infestation.

Indicator: Change in weed expansion risk

3.10.1 Summary of Effects

The potential for weeds and non-native vegetation spread or expansion is documented in the *Weeds Specialist Report* (2008) (see *Weeds and Non-Native Vegetation* section of the project record).

3.10.1.1 Direct and Indirect Effects

ALTERNATIVES 1, 2 AND 3

Most weed infestations on the Forest occur in disturbed habitats, transportation networks or dry grasslands. Given the inherent susceptibility of habitats and the type of work being proposed, the amount of seed availability and the amount of human caused disturbances, weed spread is likely to continue. Weed spread is likely under all alternatives, including no action.

Disturbance creates spatial and temporal openings suitable for plant establishment, where usable light, space, water and nutrients are available to meet the specific growing requirements of the plant. For the most part, each of the recreation sites in the project area is already in a disturbed state and indirect consequences of project activities could increase the extent of weeds already established and could contribute to the establishment of new invasive plant species. These non-native plant species and noxious weeds can out-compete native plant species and readily occupy disturbed sites.

However, the extent of noxious weed spread and establishment of new invasive plant species after implementation of activities would be limited due to two actions:

1. The control and eradication management emphasis found at several of the recreation sites, with guidance established under the Integrated Weed Management Strategy (IWM) (FSH 2080) and the Salmon River Cooperative Weed Management Area Strategy (CWMA); and
2. The implementation and effectiveness of design criteria and monitoring actions applied to minimize expansion and maximize detection of new invasive plant species.

3.10.1.2 Cumulative Effects

Activities proposed in the action alternatives, when combined with on going past and current disturbances associated with livestock grazing, timber harvest, fire, recreation use, and road maintenance as discussed in Section 3.3 have the potential to increase the rate of weed spread more so than the no action alternative. The cumulative effect of

these activities combined with on-going human and natural disturbances create the existing rate of weed spread.

Past and present disturbances associated with vegetative treatments added to reasonably foreseeable actions would create a cumulative effect on weed expansion by the combination of distribution of weed seed, ground disturbance, and creation of spread corridors. The degree of the cumulative effect would vary depending upon the number of entrances over time, the distribution of disturbance across the analysis area and the acres disturbed. The cumulative effects on the risk of weed expansion would be mitigated with the implementation of the project design criteria and mitigation measures.

3.10.2 Consistency with the Payette and Nez Perce Forest Plans and Environmental Law

Analysis and evaluation of invasive plants in this analysis is based on direction contained in The Federal Noxious Weed Law (1974) as amended (1975), Executive Order 13112 for Invasive Species, Forest Service policy (FSM 2080.5; 2000-95-5; USDA-FS 1995), Northern Region Supplement (FSM 2080; R1 2000-2001-1; USDA-FS 2001), Implementation of Integrated Weed Management on National Forest System lands in Region 1 (IWM; FSH 2080), the Nez Perce Forest Plan, and the Payette Forest Plan.

In general, the Forests are directed to implement an effective weed management program with the objectives of preventing the introduction and establishment of noxious weeds; containing and suppressing existing weed infestations; and cooperating with local, state, and other federal agencies in the management of noxious weeds.

Section 2 (a) (3) of Executive Order 13112 for Invasive Species directs federal agencies to "not authorize, fund, or carry out actions that it believes are likely to cause or promote the introduction or spread of invasive species in the United States or elsewhere unless, pursuant to guidelines that it has prescribed, the agency has determined and made public its determinations that the benefits of such actions clearly outweigh the potential harm caused by invasive species; and that all feasible and prudent measures to minimize risk of harm will be taken in conjunction with the actions".

Section 2081.03 of Forest Service policy 2081 Management of Noxious Weeds directs Forests to determine the risk of introducing or spreading noxious weeds as a result of any ground disturbing action or activity. For projects having moderate to high risk of spread, the project must identify noxious weed control measures that must be undertaken during project implementation.

Integrated Weed Management (IWM; FSH 2080) is defined as a system for the planning and implementation of a program, using an interdisciplinary approach, to select a method for containing or controlling an undesirable plant species or group of species using all available methods including education; prevention; physical or mechanical methods; biological control agents; herbicide methods; cultural methods; and general land management. It is a multidisciplinary, ecological approach to managing unwanted plant species – weeds.

Consistency with these regulations is achieved by the analysis contained in the *Weeds Specialist Report* (October 27, 2008) and through the implementation and effectiveness

of design criteria and monitoring actions applied to minimize expansion and maximize detection of new invasive plant species.

See Section 3-12 for additional information.

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3.11 Heritage Resources

ISSUE: The proposed activities have the potential to affect heritage resources and historic properties located within the proposed activity areas.

Indicator: Known heritage or historic sites adversely affected (number)

3.11.1 Summary of Effects

The potential for effects to heritage resources is documented in the *Salmon River Recreation Site Project Heritage Resources Report March 3, 2008* (see *Heritage Resources* section of the project record).

3.11.1.1 Direct and Indirect Effects

No heritage resources would be adversely affected by the proposed action. A heritage resource field survey and assessment was completed for this project. Historic properties are located within the area and one identified site would be monitored. The Forest Heritage Resource Specialist had made a determination that the project would have no adverse effect on these properties because the project has been designed to avoid significant effects to components/features associated with these properties. The Idaho State Historic Preservation Office agreed with the determination, and known sites would be monitored as agreed (Determination of Eligibility and Effect in the project record). The Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project is in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and consistent with state and federal archaeological statutes.

The continued use of recreation areas that possess known heritage resources has the potential for irreversible impacts to those known and as yet unknown heritage resource sites and/or artifacts. Through the analysis of the known types of heritage resources within the project area and the potential effects on those resources through project implementation, there are no foreseeable irreversible or irretrievable effects on the resources pending the implementation of recommended mitigation measures for significant sites on a case by case basis. For those significant heritage resources [National Register of Historic Places eligible (NRHP)] located within the proposed project area, mitigation measures were developed in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and a *no adverse effect* determination was achieved.

3.11.1.2 Alternative Specific Analysis by Location

SPRING BAR CAMPGROUND

With the implementation of ***Alternative 1***, the present use of these facilities and the areas of use would remain unchanged, therefore resulting in no change to heritage resources.

With the implementation of ***Alternative 2*** or ***Alternative 3***, there would be no adverse effects to heritage resources. The areas proposed for activities at Spring Bar were examined and the effects were reported in the Salmon River Recreation Site Improvement Project Heritage Report 05-NZ-12. Consultation with Idaho State Historic

Preservation Office (SHPO) is complete and clearance was granted for the proposed actions to occur at these locations.

CAREY CREEK

With the implementation of ***Alternative 1***, the present use of these facilities and the areas of use would remain unchanged, therefore resulting in no change to heritage resources.

Implementation of ***Alternative 2*** would have the potential to impact heritage resources at Carey Creek. However, the NRHP status of the historic heritage resource documented at this location has been reversed and determined to be NRHP not eligible. Previously, SHPO had concurred with a no adverse affect determination for portions of this alternative in Heritage Report #05-NZ-12 including possible removal of the chimney.

Implementation of ***Alternative 3*** could impact known and potentially unknown heritage resources at Carey Creek. During 2007, a prehistoric component (Native American) was discovered and documented at this site. The proposed ground disturbing activities have the potential to impact this prehistoric component. However, potential effects to known and potentially unknown heritage resources would be minimized with the application of the mitigation measure whereby ground disturbing activities at Carey Creek would be monitored by a qualified archaeologist, and project activities would be stopped if previously unknown cultural properties are discovered. Additionally, the archaeologist would submit documentation of this monitoring to SHPO.

WIND RIVER TRAILHEAD

With the implementation of ***Alternative 1***, the present use of these facilities and the areas of use would remain unchanged, therefore resulting in no change to heritage resources.

The implementation of ***Alternative 2*** may slightly increase the potential for additional impacts to heritage resources in this vicinity due to the proposed improvements that would encourage greater use of this location. This specific area where the additional parking area is proposed has been consulted on with SHPO. A “no effect on heritage resources” determination was made for this project (Hill 1995). This same area was also included in the Salmon River Recreation Sites Improvement Project (Armstrong 2004) and SHPO concurred with a no adverse effect determination upon heritage resources for this report.

The implementation of ***Alternative 3*** has the greatest potential to impact the known heritage resources at this location. A historic heritage resource has been documented at the location of the proposed new road realignment and road obliteration. However, the NRHP status of the historic heritage resource documented at this location has been reversed and determined to be NRHP not eligible. Previously, the area where the historic resource is located was excluded from the Huntz Gulch CIP Project area (Hill 1995) and SHPO concurred with a no effect determination upon heritage resources.

VINEGAR CREEK

The implementation of ***Alternatives 1, 2, and 3*** would result in no change to potential impacts upon heritage resources. A prehistoric Heritage Resource has been previously documented near this location. The resource has been determined to be NRHP not

eligible. Consultation with SHPO has taken place for previous proposed projects in this location and a no effect determination was concurred with in previous reports (Armstrong 2003 and 2004).

3.11.1.3 Cumulative Effects

Past, present, and reasonably foreseeable activities have the potential to affect heritage resource sites in various ways within the analysis area. The expansion and construction of new recreational facilities or areas have the potential to impact known and as yet, unknown heritage resources. Future road construction and routine maintenance, fire (wildfire or prescribed) and the use of recreation sites also have the potential to impact heritage resources. It should also be noted that changes in the use patterns or areas of use at recreation sites may change the affects on heritage resource sites in those areas.

When future proposed projects are archaeologically inventoried and found to have the potential to impact heritage resources, appropriate mitigation measures would be developed for those locations.

Several forms of mitigation for affected sites are possible. The following mitigation measures are provided as a guide to the type of management available for protecting the heritage resources (after Floodman 2000:76-77). This list is not comprehensive, and often, several different approaches may be combined to protect sites from adverse effects.

- Protection of sites by fencing. This recommendation may be made for significant heritage sites when no other means of protection are feasible. Examples of when to use this measure are for sites that are adjacent to streams or other highly used areas to allow sufficient surface vegetation to be established to protect the resource from concentrated use, or for historic features, such as a building, that needs protection from recreational use.
- Subsurface testing and evaluation. Testing to determine significance of prehistoric sites is a needed first step prior to implementing other forms of protection. Sites found to be insignificant (NRHP not eligible) require no further mitigation measures. Sites found to be significant (NRHP eligible) may require other mitigation measures such as salvage excavation or avoidance.
- Salvage excavation. This measure may be warranted for small sites with a limited area of impact that can be easily recovered by a small archaeological excavation process. Sites found to be eligible may require additional mitigation such as fencing or removal of the source of the effects upon the resource.
- Avoidance: Avoidance of specific heritage resources (no project activities performed here, with an adequate buffer zone around the site), where possible, would preserve and protect the heritage resource in its current state. The site type may dictate the type of avoidance required depending upon the proposed activity. Avoidance may be warranted where a large, significant site is located or where other forms of mitigation are not feasible.

Because all project activities would be conducted consistent with the NHPA, the Payette and Nez Perce Forest Plans, and recommended mitigation measures and monitoring would be implemented with SHPO consultation, there is little potential for project activities to produce or contribute to negative effects that would be cumulative with other actions.

3.11.2 Consistency with the Payette and Nez Perce Forest Plans and Environmental Law

The recommendations provided in this section regarding the preservation and protection of significant heritage resources, consultation with the Nez Perce Tribe, and consultation with the SHPO are consistent with the Nez Perce Forest Plan as amended and the Payette Forest Plan.

The Heritage related forest-wide management direction or standards of the Nez Perce and Payette Forest Plans, apply to this project and would be met as described in Section 3-12.

The following heritage resources Forest-wide Standards from those listed on page II-17 of the Nez Perce National Forest Plan do not apply to this project as explained in the table below.

Table 3-12. Non-Applicable Cultural Resources' Nez Perce Forest Plan Standards

Standard Number	Subject Summary	Explanation
6	Write a cultural resource overview…	This is an overall Heritage Resources' Program objective and not a project specific mandate.
7	Identify maintenance and/or stabilization needs of historic properties…	No NRHP eligible properties have been identified needing stabilization or maintenance.

3.12 Consistency with Nez Perce and Payette National Forest Plans.

The following two tables display resource standards from each forest and how the Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project addresses these standards, ensuring compliance with the Nez Perce and Payette Forest Plans. This section supplements the *Consistency with the Payette and Nez Perce Forest Plans and Environmental Law* sections found in each resource analysis.

Only those standards that are applicable to this project are listed. The proposed project is entirely consistent with the Goals and Standards of the Nez Perce and Payette Forest Plans.

Table 3-13. Nez Perce Forest Plan Consistency

Standard	Method Forest Plan Compliance Achieved
Forestwide Management Direction: Nez Perce Forest Plan Standards, as Amended	
RECREATION	
2. Provide for appropriate access based on an evaluation of user needs and a transportation analysis.	In response to the scoping letter sent in August of 2006, the Forest received overwhelming support for developing each of the four sites in the Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project, and for improving vehicle access at these sites. Implementation of Alternatives 2 or 3 would comply with this standard.
10. Promote a "pack it in, pack it out" policy through signing and public education.	Proposed signboard construction at Wind River Trailhead, and the capacity to also have interpretive panel displays constructed in addition to informational boards at each site provides opportunities to promote “pack it in, pack it out” policy.
13. Continue to develop, support, and improve private and public recreation and tourism programs.	The Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project proposed activities develop, support and improve public recreational opportunities along the Salmon River.
VISUAL RESOURCES (USDA FOREST SERVICE 1989; AMENDMENT #4)	
1. All landscape-altering activities will meet adopted Visual Quality Objectives (VQOs). Duration of visual impacts should meet the guidelines outlined for each VQO in Agriculture Handbook No. 462-Chapter 2.	The Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project proposes only small changes to the landscape in the foreground view at existing, developed recreation sites. Existing facilities are classified as easily-noticed to strongly dominant developments and proposed renovations would not be any more dominant. Proposed management activities, such as landscaping and planting would be part of all completed renovations to achieve visual screening, traffic delineation, and prevent sediment delivery to the river therefore meeting the adopted VQOs.

Standard	Method Forest Plan Compliance Achieved
2. Visual Quality Objectives will be adopted during Forest Plan implementation. Interim VQOs developed during the Forest planning process will be compared to inventoried VQOs by interdisciplinary teams during project analysis. Adopted VQOs will be determined for the project area by the responsible official. Rationale for adopting VQO's included will be included in environmental documents for proposed projects.	The activities of the Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project would occur within the foreground distance zone, which is any seen area up to one-half mile away (USDA, 1995). The Wild and Scenic corridor is defined as an area extending the length of the river segment and ¼ mile in width from each bank of the river (USDA Forest Service 1988). The Nez Perce Forest Plan (USDA Forest Service 1987b) provides direction to achieve retention and partial retention visual quality objectives (VQOs) along the Salmon River (p.II-16). VQO's provide a degree of acceptable alteration to the landscape. Retention of existing vegetation would be achieved in the foreground area around developed recreation sites, with partial retention in the middle and background views, and retention and partial retention would be achieved along selected trails and wilderness portals along the Salmon River, thereby meeting adopted VQOs.
CULTURAL RESOURCES	
1. Survey all areas of potential land disturbance for cultural resources.	Between 1982 and 2006, eight archaeological inventories have been performed within the boundaries of the proposed recreation site improvements. These survey's were performed in support of various proposed projects including road improvements, bridge replacement, building removal, and recreation site development. These inventories accounted for approximately 23 acres being archaeologically surveyed. The historic properties were located and documented as a part of these previous archaeological inventories for those proposed projects. Consultation with the Idaho SHPO has taken place on these previous Heritage Resource inventories.
2. Sites will be evaluated and protected on a site-by-site basis unless larger areas such as historic or prehistoric districts are involved.	The continued use of recreation areas that possess known heritage resources has the potential for irreversible impacts to those known and as yet unknown Heritage Resource sites and artifacts. Through the analysis of the known types of Heritage resources and the potential effects on those resources through project implementation, there are no foreseeable irreversible or irretrievable effects on the resources pending the implementation of recommended mitigation measures for significant sites on a case by case basis. For those significant (NRHP eligible) heritage resources located within the proposed project area, mitigation measures were developed in consultation with Idaho SHPO to achieve a no adverse effect determination for Alternatives 2 and 3, as documented in the *Salmon River Recreation Site Improvement Project, Heritage Report 05-NZ-12*.

Standard	Method Forest Plan Compliance Achieved
3. Ensure that Forest actions are not detrimental to the protection and preservation of significant Native American religious and cultural sites.	For those significant (NRHP eligible) heritage resources located within the proposed project area, mitigation measures were developed in consultation with the SHPO in order to achieve a no historic properties affected or a no adverse effect determination. No significant Native American religious or cultural sites are known and none were identified during the consultation process with the Nez Perce Tribe.
4. Protect and preserve National Register and National Register-eligible cultural resources.	For those significant (NRHP eligible) Heritage resources located within the proposed project area, mitigation measures were developed in consultation with the SHPO in order to achieve a no historic properties affected or a no adverse effect determination.
5. The Forest Service and the Tribe will undertake a process of consultation to protect cultural sites of prehistoric or present use. The Forest Service will notify the Tribe of all land disturbing activities. This notification will occur at a stage when the Forest Service's plans are sufficiently definite that the Tribe will be able to judge the possible location and extent of impacts to cultural sites. Notification will also include information of sufficient detail to allow the Tribe to determine if there may be potential adverse impacts to cultural sites. Notification will also be timed early enough in the decision making process so that the Forest Service will be able to alter its plans based on the Tribe's comments and suggestions. (Amendment #7, 1990)	Consultation with the Nez Perce Tribe on the Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project was initiated on April 8, 2006 at a Level 1 meeting and on August 18, 2006, when a scoping letter was sent to inform the tribe of the upcoming analysis, and to solicit comments related to proposed activities, and to determine if alternatives to the proposed action should be incorporated into the analysis. The Forest conferred with the Nez Perce Tribe most recently on October 10, 2008 to provide up to date information on the project.
WILDERNESS	
1. Emphasize public education by utilizing wilderness education techniques, providing useful interpretive materials on wilderness values and ethics, and developing and distributing materials on no-trace camping.	Proposed signboard construction at Wind River Trailhead, and the capacity to also have interpretive panel displays constructed in addition to informational boards at each site provides opportunities for displaying useful interpretive materials on wilderness values and ethics, and no-trace camping.

Standard	Method Forest Plan Compliance Achieved
WILDLIFE AND FISH	
1. Maintain viable populations of existing native and desirable non-native vertebrate wildlife species.	Proposed actions from Alternatives 2 and 3 of the Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project would have the following effects on Nez Perce Forest's wildlife species: • "No Effect" on the following listed species: Gray wolf, Canada lynx, and Northern Idaho ground squirrel. • "May Impact Individuals or Habitat, but will not likely Contribute to a Trend Towards Federal Listing or Loss of Viability" on the following sensitive species: boreal toad, ringneck snake, bald eagle (October 1 through March 31), mountain quail, and Columbia spotted frog. • "No Impact" on the following sensitive species: black swift, Townsend's big-eared bat, peregrine falcon, wolverine, harlequin duck, fisher, flammulated owl, fringed myotis, white-headed woodpecker, black-backed woodpecker, Coeur d'Alene salamander, pygmy nuthatch, and bald eagle (April 1 through September 30). • "No Impacts Anticipated" on the following management indicator species: Northern goshawk, elk, bighorn sheep, Shira's moose, pileated woodpecker, and pine marten. • "Reduction in riparian habitat" for the following management indicator species: Neotropical migratory birds. The direct, indirect, and cumulative effects on threatened, endangered, sensitive, and wildlife management indicator species are negligible due to the small proportion of habitat affected for each species.

Standard	Method Forest Plan Compliance Achieved
3. Monitor population levels of all Management Indicator Species on the Forest. These include bald eagle, grizzly bear, gray wolf, peregrine falcon, elk, moose, bighorn sheep, pileated woodpecker, goshawk, pine marten, fisher, westslope cutthroat trout, summer steelhead, and spring chinook. These species have been selected because (a) they are threatened and endangered; (b) they have special habitat needs that may be influenced significantly by planned management programs; (c) they are commonly hunted, fished, or trapped; (d) they are non-game species of special interest; or (e) their population changes are believed to indicate the effects of management activities on other species of selected major biological communities or on water quality. Population levels will be monitored and evaluated as described in the Nez Perce Forest Plan Monitoring Requirements (Chapter V of the Nez Perce Forest Plan).	Proposed actions from Alternatives 2 and 3 of the Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project would have the following effects on Management Indicator fish species: • "May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect" on the following listed species: Snake River spring/summer Chinook salmon, Snake River steelhead trout, • "May Impact Individuals or Habitat, but will not likely Contribute to a Trend Towards Federal Listing or Loss of Viability" on the following sensitive species: Westslope cutthroat trout. Proposed actions from Alternatives 2 and 3 of the Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project would have the following effects on Management Indicator wildlife species: "No Effect" on the following species: gray wolf. "May Impact Individuals or Habitat, but will not likely Contribute to a Trend Towards Federal Listing or Loss of Viability" for the following species: bald eagle (October 1 through March 31). "No Impacts" on the following species: peregrine falcon, fisher, and bald eagle (April 1 through September 30). "No Impacts Anticipated" on the following species: Northern goshawk, elk, bighorn sheep, Shira's moose, pileated woodpecker, and pine marten. "Reduction in riparian habitat" for the following species: neotropical migratory birds. The USFWS does not consider any portion of the Nez Perce National Forest to be occupied by grizzly bears at this time. As a result, the Nez Perce National Forest is not required to consult with USFWS regarding effects on grizzly bear. Therefore, further analysis regarding grizzly bear and potential effects of the proposed project activities was not carried forward in this analysis. The direct, indirect, and cumulative effects on wildlife management indicator species are negligible due to the small proportion of habitat that would be affected for each species.
5. Coordinate with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to achieve mutual goals for fish and wildlife resources.	Coordination with Idaho Department of Fish and Game on the Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project was initiated on August 18, 2006, when a scoping letter was sent to inform the agency of the upcoming analysis, and to solicit comments related to proposed activities. Idaho Department of Fish and Game staff responded with numerous questions and design suggestions, and requested they be involved in the design process. The District staff communicated with Idaho Department of Fish and Game staff most recently in November 2008 to provide up to date information on the project.

Standard	Method Forest Plan Compliance Achieved
21. Meet established fishery/water quality objectives for all prescription watersheds as shown in Appendix A.	As designed and mitigated, the proposed activities in Alternatives 2 and 3 are expected to meet all regulations and Forest, Regional and National direction for soil and water quality. Although the Nez Perce Forest Plan does not have established fishery/water quality objectives for the Salmon River, proposed activities for Alternatives 2 and 3 meet all applicable objectives. Compliance with water quality standards is assured by the design and location of the planned activities and the mitigation identified. Idaho Water Quality Standards provide for water quality protection of designated and existing beneficial uses of water. Idaho has designated the Salmon River below the project area for cold water communities, primary contact recreation, domestic water supply, and special resource water. The project is expected to maintain or improve conditions related to these beneficial uses. Through the Clean Water Act, the State of Idaho identifies water quality concerns. No waters downstream of the activity area are identified on the 2002 Integrated 303(D)/305(B) report as impaired.
WATER	
1. Apply State water quality standards and "Best Management Practices" to land-disturbing activities to ensure State water quality standards are met or exceeded. In Idaho, "Best Management Practices," as defined by State regulation or agreement between the State and Forest Service, include the "Idaho Forest Practices Rules," "Best Management Practices for Road Activities," and "Rules and Regulations and Minimum Standards For Stream Channel Alterations." These documents are appended to, and are part of, this Nez Perce Forest Plan and are available upon request (see Appendix L). In the absence of established "Best Management Practices," activities will be conducted in a manner that demonstrates a knowledgeable and reasonable effort to minimize adverse water quality impacts.	Best Management Practices (BMPs) are incorporated in this project. BMPs are the primary mechanism to ensure compliance with the Clean Water Act of 1972, as amended (1977 and 1987) and Idaho State Water Quality Standards. BMPs are practices that are preventative rather than enforcement based. They are tailor-made to account for the complexity and physical and biological variability of the natural environment. BMPs specifically tailored to this project are defined in the project design criteria and mitigation measures and would be included in contracts or other measures used to implement the project. Effectiveness of BMPs commonly used on the Nez Perce National Forest was described in Gerhardt et al (1991).
3. Evaluate site-specific water quality effects as part of project planning. Design control measures to ensure that projects will meet Forest water quality goals; projects that will not meet State water quality standards shall be redesigned, rescheduled, or dropped. 8. Meet established fishery/water quality objectives for all prescription watersheds as shown in Appendix A.	Site specific water quality effects are addressed in the Watershed analysis of Chapter 3, as well as in the *Salmon River Recreation Site Renovation Project Watershed Analysis 12/31/2007* (see *Watershed* section of the project record). Refer to Nez Perce Forest Standard #21 for Wildlife and Fish.

Standard	Method Forest Plan Compliance Achieved
SOILS	
1. Evaluate the potential for soil displacement, compaction, puddling, mass wasting, and surface soil erosion for all ground-disturbing activities.	The potential for soil displacement, compaction, puddling, mass wasting, and surface soil erosion was evaluated in the Watershed analysis of Chapter 3, as well as in the *Salmon River Recreation Site Renovation Project Watershed Analysis 12/31/2007* (see *Watershed* section of the project record).
2. A minimum of 80 percent of an activity area shall not be detrimentally compacted, displaced, or puddled upon completion of activities. This direction does not apply to permanent recreation facilities and other permanent facilities such as system roads.	Standard does not apply: All sites in the Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project are permanent recreation facilities.
3. Maintain sufficient ground cover to minimize rill erosion and sloughing on road cut and fill slopes and sheet erosion on other activity areas.	For Alternatives 2 and 3, some incidental vegetation may be taken as part of renovations, however, landscaping and planting would be part of all completed renovations to achieve visual screening, traffic delineation, and prevent erosion. The design criteria to develop vegetation management plans, and incorporate them into the project design, implementation, and monitoring, and the mitigation measure to develop a revegetation plan prior to construction, including consideration of season in all planting, seeding and monitoring to insure revegetation activities achieve the objective of site revegetation would ensure sufficient ground cover to minimize rill erosion and sloughing on road cut and fill slopes and sheet erosion on other activity areas from occurring. The mitigation measure requiring a geotechnical review prior to excavation on slopes in excess of 55% to evaluate the need for and/or specify engineered stabilization of excavated slopes would minimize mass wasting risk, and prevent rill erosion and sloughing on road cut and fill slopes and sheet erosion on other activity areas from occurring.
RIPARIAN (USDA FOREST SERVICE 1989; AMENDMENT #3)	
1. Allow no management practices in riparian areas that will cause detrimental changes in water temperature or chemical composition, blockages of water courses, or deposits of sediment that seriously and adversely affect water conditions and fish habitat. (See 36 CFR 219.27a)	Refer to Section 3.6 Fisheries, *Fish Species and Habitat Issue 1, Fish Species and Habitat Issue 5*, *Riparian Function Issue 2,* and Section 3.7 Watershed, *Hazardous Materials and Wastes Issue.* No water blockages are proposed in the Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project.
2. Give preferential consideration to riparian-area-dependent resources in cases of unresolvable conflict (resources such as fish, certain wildlife, certain water-dependent vegetation, and water are totally dependent upon riparian areas). (See FSM 2526.03--2) Actions within or affecting riparian areas will include protection and, where applicable, improvement of riparian-dependent resources.	The Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project includes many design criteria to protect and improve riparian dependent resources. See Tables 2-1 and 2-2 in the *Alternatives Considered in Detail* Section.

Standard	Method Forest Plan Compliance Achieved
3. Effects on wetlands and flood plains must be considered for all alternatives during the environmental analysis process. (See Executive Orders 11988 and 11990)	The Watershed analysis section of Chapter 3 considered effects on wetlands and flood plains. This project meets the requirements of Executive Orders 11988 and 11990, which apply to protection of wetlands and floodplains. These features are protected through implementation of BMP's and Payette and Nez Perce Forest Plans standards and guidelines.
4. Delineate and evaluate riparian areas in project areas prior to implementing any project activity (FSM 2526.03--3).	ID Team members delineated riparian areas during multiple site visits to the Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project area. Riparian areas were evaluated extensively in the Fisheries and Watershed analyses contained in Chapter 3, and also in the specialists' reports.
5. Manage riparian areas to maintain cover and security for riparian-dependent species with emphasis on habitats for threatened and endangered species. Use "Guidelines for Evaluating and Managing Summer Elk Habitat in Northern Idaho" to evaluate the need for and to provide adequate hiding cover and security areas for big game. Biological evaluations, during site-specific project analysis, shall identify needs and recommendations.	Biological evaluations and analyses conducted by the ID team identified required design criteria and mitigation measures to manage riparian areas to maintain cover and security for riparian dependent species.
WILD, SCENIC, AND RECREATIONAL RIVER (USDA FOREST SERVICE 1988; AMENDMENT #1)	
1. Maintain or enhance the recreation, visual, wildlife, fisheries, and water quality values of the existing and proposed "Wild," "Scenic," and "Recreation" Rivers.	Alternatives 2 and 3 would not negatively change the Salmon River's Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs), including scenery, recreation, fish, water quality, wildlife, vegetation/botany, pre-history, history, and traditional use/cultural or classification.
2. No management activities will be carried out that would alter the eligibility or potential classification of study waterways. NOTE: The statement about impoundments that was in this standard is now covered in #10.	Refer to Section 3.5 Visual Resources issue.
3. The Wild and Scenic corridor is defined as an area extending the length of the river segment and 1/4 mile in width from each bank of the river. Boundaries may include adjacent areas needed to protect the resources or facilitate management of the river corridor.	There is no proposal to change the definition of the corridor under Alternatives 2 and 3.
4. In eligible and existing "Recreational" river corridors, roads are allowed. Consideration will be given to the type of use and protection of resource values within the river corridor. Timber harvest can be allowed; however, the existing character and visual condition of the immediate river corridor shall be maintained.	The action alternatives' proposed activities in eligible "Recreational" river corridor are consistent with this standard. Type of use is recreational. Resource values are protected (see *Recreation* and *Visual Resources* analyses in Chapter 3).

Standard	Method Forest Plan Compliance Achieved
6. Manage for recreation experiences in context with the existing or proposed designation. "Wild" - primitive or semiprimitive nonmotorized. "Scenic" - semiprimitive motorized or semiprimitive nonmotorized. "Recreation" - semiprimitive motorized or roaded natural.	The eligible "Recreational" segment downriver from Vinegar Creek corresponds closely to a Roaded Natural (RN) area. Motorized and non-motorized recreation is expected in an RN area due to location within ½ mile of roads. Observers within a RN area may notice landscape modifications that range from easily-noticed to strongly-dominant (USDA Forest Service 1986). Proposed renovations occur at sites with existing extensive recreational facility developments. Existing facilities are classified as easily-noticed to strongly dominant developments and proposed renovations would not be any more dominant. Proposed actions in Alternatives 2 and 3 would improve the recreational experience provided within the context of the Roaded Natural area.
Management Area 7 Standards	
RECREATION	
1. Manage developed campgrounds at least to reduced service levels, except for fee campgrounds which will be managed at full service level. Emphasize health, safety, and resource problems.	No developed campgrounds in project area.
2. Make selected developed sites accessible to physically disadvantaged individuals during the first decade.	Proposed pathway construction in Alternatives 2 and 3 is consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
3. Adopted VQOs established during Plan implementation will recognize the high visual sensitivity of these use areas. This text reflects changes made by Amendment #4 (USDA Forest Service 1989).	Retention of existing vegetation would be achieved in the foreground area around developed recreation sites, with partial retention in the middle and background views, and retention and partial retention would be achieved along selected trails and wilderness portals along the Salmon River, thereby meeting adopted VQOs.
4. Analyze the need for species diversity and screening in developed and dispersed recreation sites. Plant where planning indicates need.	For Alternatives 2 and 3, some incidental vegetation may be taken as part of renovations, however, landscaping and planting would be part of all completed renovations to achieve visual screening, traffic delineation, and prevent sediment delivery to the river. The design criteria to develop vegetation management plans, and incorporate them into the project design, implementation, and monitoring, and the mitigation measure to develop a revegetation plan prior to construction, including consideration of season in all planting, seeding and monitoring to insure revegetation activities achieve the objective of site revegetation would determine need for species diversity, screening, and planting locations.

Standard	Method Forest Plan Compliance Achieved
RANGE RANGE MANAGEMENT	
1. Exclude grazing of domestic livestock during the use season.	The Spring Bar Boat Ramp is within the Allison-Berg Allotment. However, grazing is excluded from this recreation site by a fence surrounding the area. Vinegar Creek, Carey Creek, and Windriver Trailhead are not within an allotment.
TIMBER TIMBER HARVEST	
1. Lands are classified as "unsuitable" for timber management; do not schedule timber harvest.	No timber harvest is scheduled.
2. Remove hazard trees.	Hazard trees would be removed, as necessary.
WATER	
1. Meet established fishery/water quality objectives for all prescription watersheds as shown in Appendix A.	Refer to Nez Perce Forest Standard #21 for Wildlife and Fish.
FACILITIES ROADS TRAILS	
2. Maintain existing trails commensurate with use. Reconstruct to provide public safety and reduce environmental damage.	Trailhead improvements at Windriver Trailhead, including parking area improvements, culvert extension, stock facilities upgrades under both action alternatives, and the water tank and line installation, road realignment, roadway obliteration, and restroom and signboard construction under Alternative 3 improve public safety, reduce environmental damage, and provide for use.

Table 3-14. Payette Forest Plan Consistency

Standard	Method Forest Plan Compliance Achieved
Forestwide Management Direction: Payette Forest Plan Standards	
THREATENED, ENDANGERED, PROPOSED, AND CANDIDATE SPECIES	
TEST01 The Forest shall consult with the NMFS and Fish and Wildlife Service as needed, and appropriate, to comply with consultation requirements under the Endangered Species Act and Magnuson-Stevens Act.	See Section 4.3.3.

Standard	Method Forest Plan Compliance Achieved
TEST06 Management actions shall be designed to avoid or minimize adverse effects to listed species and their habitats. For listed fish species, use Appendix B for determining compliance with this standard.	Proposed actions from Alternatives 2 and 3 of the Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project would have the following effects on listed species: • "May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect"-Snake River spring/summer Chinook salmon, Snake River steelhead trout, • "May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect"-Bull trout • "No Effect"-Sockeye salmon, gray wolf, Canada lynx, and Northern Idaho ground squirrel, Macfarlane's four-o'clock and Spalding's catchfly Design criteria and mitigation measures included in Alternatives 2 and 3 minimize adverse effects to listed species and their habitats. Refer to Section 3.6 Fisheries, Section 3.8 Wildlife, and Section 3.9 Rare Plants for additional information.
TEST08 Avoid management actions within occupied TEPC plant species habitat that would adversely affect the long term persistence of those species	Due to the lack of potential suitable habitat within the project area, "No Effect" would occur to Macfarlane's four-o'clock and Spalding's catchfly as a result of Alternatives 2 and 3. "No Impact" would occur to Regional sensitive plant species or their habitat as a result of Alternatives 2 and 3. Borsch's stonecrop (*Sedum borschii*), a Payette Forest Plan "watch species" is known to occur at Vinegar Creek. Activities associated with increasing the parking on the south side of the road have the potential to disturb *Sedum borschii* and its habitat, therefore causing a "May impact individuals or habitat but will not likely contribute to a trend towards federal listing or loss of viability for the population or species" determination at Vinegar Creek. However, the mitigation measure to locate rare plant populations at Vinegar Creek by a qualified plant specialist prior to project activities minimizes the risks of disturbance to this species. No other Payette NF Forest Plan rare species (sensitive or watch) are known or suspected to occur at any of the recreation sites on the south side of the Salmon River. Therefore, it is determined that this project would have "No Impact" to the remaining Payette Forest Plan rare plant species or their habitat.

Standard	Method Forest Plan Compliance Achieved
TEST13 Mitigate, through avoidance or minimization, management actions within known winter roosting sites of TEPC species if those actions would adversely affect the survival of wintering or roosting populations. During project planning, determine sites, periods, and appropriate mitigation measures to avoid or minimize effects.	The proposed projects "May impact individuals or habitat, but would not likely result in a trend toward federal listing or reduced viability for the populations or species" for the bald eagle for Alternatives 2 and 3 if activities occur between October 1 and March 31. Activities that occur between April 1 and September 30 would have "No Impact". Alternative 1 would also have "No Impact". Negligible to discountable effects may occur from human use of the area and causing harassment/disturbance during implementation activities at the four recreation sites. Project related impacts are considered negligible for neotropical birds and their habitats.
TEST33 Where it is documented that float -boating activities may have an adverse effect on TEPC species, consult with USFWS and/or NOAA-Fisheries to determine what action is appropriate and necessary to minimize or avoid those effects.	Refer to Payette Forest Standard TEST01.
SOIL, WATER, RIPARIAN, AND AQUATIC RESOURCES	
SWST01 Management actions shall be designed in a manner that maintains or restores water quality to fully support beneficial uses and native and desired non-native fish species and their habitat, except as allowed under SWRA Standard #4 below. Use the MATRIX located in Appendix B to assist in determining compliance with this standard.	Refer Nez Perce Forest Standard #21 for Wildlife and Fish and Section 3.6 Fisheries.
SWSTO4 Management actions will neither degrade nor retard attainment of properly functioning soil, water, riparian, and aquatic desired conditions, except: a) Where outweighed by demonstrable short- or long term benefits to watershed resource conditions; or b) Where the Forest Service has limited authority (e.g., access roads, hydropower, etc.). In these cases, the Forest Service shall work with permittee(s) to minimize the degradation of watershed resource conditions. Use the MATRIX located in Appendix B to assist in determining compliance with this standard.	Refer to Nez Perce Forest Standard #21 for Wildlife and Fish.

Standard	Method Forest Plan Compliance Achieved
SWST1O Trees or snags that are felled within RCAs must be left unless determined not to be necessary for achieving soil, water, riparian, and aquatic desired conditions. Felled trees or snags left in RCAs shall be left intact unless resource protection (e.g., the risk of insect infestation is unacceptable) or public safety requires bucking them into smaller pieces.	For Alternatives 2 and 3, some incidental vegetation may be taken as part of renovations, however, landscaping and planting would be part of all completed renovations to achieve visual screening, traffic delineation, and prevent sediment delivery to the river. The design criteria to develop vegetation management plans, and incorporate them into the project design, implementation, and monitoring, and the mitigation measure to develop a revegetation plan prior to construction, including consideration of season in all planting, seeding and monitoring to insure revegetation activities achieve the objective of site revegetation would determine need for species diversity, screening, and planting locations.
SWST11 Do not authorize storage of fuels and other toxicants or refueling within RCAs unless there are no other alternatives. Storage of fuels and other toxicants or refueling sites within RCAs shall be approved by the responsible official and have an approved spill containment plan commensurate with the amount of fuel.	The Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project includes a design criterion that specifically mentions fuel storage within riparian areas. See Table 2-1 in the *Alternatives Considered in Detail* Section.
WILDLIFE	
WISTO2 Design and implement projects within occupied habitats of Sensitive species to help prevent them from becoming listed. Use Forest Service-approved portions of Conservation Strategies and Agreements, as appropriate, in the management of Sensitive species habitat to keep management actions from contributing to a trend toward listing for these species.	The Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project will not contribute to a trend toward listing for sensitive species. Effects analysis in the Wildlife section of Chapter 3 show that proposed actions from Alternatives 2 and 3 of the Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project would have the following effects on Payette Forest's sensitive wildlife species: "May Impact Individuals or Habitat, but will not likely Contribute to a Trend Towards Federal Listing or Loss of Viability" on the following species: bald eagle (October 1 through March 31), mountain quail and Columbia spotted frog. "No Impact" on Townsend's big-earred bat, wolverine, harlequin duck, fisher, flammulated owl, white-headed woodpecker, boreal owl, great gray owl, three-toed woodpecker, Columbian sharp-tailed grouse, spotted bat, and bald eagle (April 1 through September 30).
WISTO3 Mitigate management actions within known nesting or denning sites of MIS or Sensitive species if those actions would disrupt the reproductive success of those sites during the nesting or denning period. Sites, periods, and mitigation measures shall be determined during project planning.	No denning sites of MIS or Sensitive species occur in the project area. Nesting sites of MIS neotropical migratory birds may occur in the project area. However, habitat for neotropical migrants is abundant along the Salmon River, its tributaries, and across the Salmon River District. Even though some habitat may be reduced due to activities associated with improvements at four recreation sites, there would not be a measurable impact on neotropical migratory bird populations as a whole.

Standard	Method Forest Plan Compliance Achieved
BOTANICAL RESOURCES	
B15103 Design and implement projects to meet the Forest Service approved portions of Conservation Strategies and Agreements for Sensitive species.	The Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project is consistent with the approved portions of Conservation Strategies and Agreements for Sensitive species. No new sensitive plant locations were found during field survey conducted in the spring of 2006 and 2007, therefore "No Impact" would occur to Regional sensitive plant species or their habitat as a result of Alternatives 2 and 3. Refer to Payette Forest Plan Standard TEST08.
NON-NATIVE PLANTS	
NPST01 Only certified noxious weed-free hay, straw, or feed is allowed on National Forest System lands.	The Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project includes a design criterion that specifically addresses this standard. See Table 2-1 in the *Alternatives Considered in Detail* Section.
NPSTO2 All seed used on National Forest System lands will be certified to be free of seeds from noxious weeds listed on the current *All States Noxious Weeds List.*	The Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project includes a design criterion that specifically addresses this standard. See Table 2-1 in the *Alternatives Considered in Detail* Section.
NPSTO3 To prevent invasion/expansion of noxious weeds, the following provisions will be included in all special use authorizations, timber sale contracts, service contracts, or operating plans where land-disturbing activities are associated with the authorized land use (additional direction may be found in timber sale and service contract provisions and in Forest Service handbooks): a) Revegetate areas, as designated by the Forest Service, where the soil has been exposed by ground-disturbing activity. Implement other measures, as designated by the Forest Service, to supplement the influence of re-vegetation in preventing the invasion or expansion of noxious weeds. Potential areas would include: construction and development sites, underground utility corridors, skid trails, landings, firebreaks, slides, slumps, temporary roads, cut and fill slopes, and traveled ways of specified roads. b) Earth-disturbing equipment used on National Forest System lands--such as cats, graders, and front-loaders--shall be cleaned to remove all visible plant parts, dirt, and material that may carry noxious weed seeds. Cleaning shall occur prior to entry onto the project area and again upon leaving the project area, if the project area has noxious weed infestations. This also applies to fire suppression earth- disturbing equipment contracted after a WFSA/WFIP has been completed.	The Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project includes design criteria that specifically address this standard. See Table 2-1 in the *Alternatives Considered in Detail* Section.

Standard	Method Forest Plan Compliance Achieved
NPST04 Contractors, with the exception of fire suppression prior to completion of WFSA/WFIP, shall be required to clean earth-disturbing, construction, and road maintenance equipment, of all sizes, to remove all plant parts, dirt, and material that may carry noxious weed seeds, prior to entry onto the Forest, or movement from one Forest project area to another.	The Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project includes design criteria that specifically address this standard. See Table 2-1 in the *Alternatives Considered in Detail* Section.
NPST07 Source sites for gravel and borrow materials shall be inspected for noxious weeds before materials are processed, used, or transported from the source site into the project area or onto the National Forest.	The Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project includes design criteria that specifically address this standard. See Table 2-1 in the *Alternatives Considered in Detail* Section.
NPST08 Gravel or borrow material source sites with noxious weed species present shall not be used, unless effective treatment or other mitigation measures are implemented.	The Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project includes design criteria that specifically address this standard. See Table 2-1 in the *Alternatives Considered in Detail* Section.
NPST09 The Forest shall comply with the intent and direction established in the above provisions or clauses in a manner similar to that required of contractors or permittees.	The Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project includes design criteria that specifically address this standard. See Table 2-1 in the *Alternatives Considered in Detail* Section.
NPST10 Projects that may contribute to the spread or establishment of noxious weeds shall include measures to reduce the potential for spread and establishment of noxious weed infestations.	The Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project includes design criteria that specifically address this standard. See Table 2-1 in the *Alternatives Considered in Detail* Section.
NPST12 Implement the Forest Noxious Weed Management Plan upon completion.	Weed spread is likely under all alternatives, including the no action. However, the expansion of these weeds into new sites is limited due to the control and eradication management emphasis found at several of the recreation sites, with guidance established under the Salmon River Cooperative Weed Management Area Strategy, consistent with the Payette Forest Noxious Weed Management Plan.
RECREATION	
RESTO 1 Where Primitive, Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized, and Semi-Primitive Motorized ROS classes occur within designated wilderness areas, follow the wilderness management direction contained in the appropriate wilderness management plans.	The Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project area occurs outside the designated wilderness area, however, it serves as a portal to the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness. With respect to its location adjacent the Frank Church, the project is consistent with the Frank Church-River of No Return Management Plan (2003a).
RESTO2 When new recreation facilities and trails must be located in RCAs, they shall be developed such that degrading effects to RCAs are mitigated. Where reasonable and practical location alternatives exist, new recreation facilities and trails should be located outside of RCAs.	The Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project proposes improvements and upgrades to existing recreational facilities and trailheads.

Standard	Method Forest Plan Compliance Achieved
RESTO3 Access will be managed in accordance with the existing travel management maps and amendments, or as authorized by permit, contract, or special-use authorization.	The Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project is consistent with existing travel management maps and amendments.
SCENIC ENVIRONMENT	
SCST01 All projects shall be designed to meet the adopted Visual Quality Objectives (VQOs) as displayed on the Forest VQO map.	The activities of the Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project would occur within the foreground distance zone, which is any seen area up to one-half mile away (USDA 1995). The Wild and Scenic corridor is defined as an area extending the length of the river segment and ¼ mile in width from each bank of the river (USDA Forest Service 1988). VQO's provide a degree of acceptable alteration to the landscape. Retention of existing vegetation would be achieved in the foreground area around developed recreation sites, with partial retention in the middle and background views, and retention and partial retention would be achieved along selected trails and wilderness portals along the Salmon River, thereby meeting adopted VQOs.
HERITAGE PROGRAM	
HPST01 Review undertakings that may affect cultural resources to identify potential impacts. Compliance with Sections 106 and 110 of the NHPA shall be completed before the responsible agency official signs the project decision document.	The potential for effects to heritage resources is documented in the Salmon River Recreation Site Project Heritage Resources Report March 3, 2008 (see Heritage Resources section of the project record). The Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project is in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and consistent with state and federal archaeological statutes.
HPST02 Conduct cultural resource inventories in consultation with the appropriate Tribal and State Historic Preservation Offices and other individuals and organizations likely to have knowledge of historic properties in the area.	The Idaho State Historic Preservation Office has agreed with our determination, and known sites would be monitored as agreed (Determination of Eligibility and Effect in the project record). The Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project is in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and consistent with state and federal archaeological statutes. The Salmon River Ranger District initiated the Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project in 2006, and solicited comments from the public, interested groups, and representatives of federal, state, and local agencies, and Tribal representatives on August 15, 2006 (see Section 1.8 Public Involvement in Chapter 1 for more information).
TRIBAL RIGHTS AND INTERESTS	
TRST01 Affected tribes shall be consulted prior to or during initial scoping of site-specific project proposals in order to identify tribal interests	Refer to Nez Perce Forest Standard #5 for Cultural Resources.

Standard	Method Forest Plan Compliance Achieved
TRST05 Decisions for environmental documents shall demonstrate how tribal interests raised during consultation or scoping were considered.	The Nez Perce Tribal staff's concerns for tribal interests in the Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project centered on whether the proposed improvements would allow more users to access these areas, thus increasing both resource impacts and competition for resources with tribal members. The purpose and need of the Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project is to decrease congestion at recreation sites along the Salmon River road by improving parking, traffic flow, and boat ramps, and developing changing areas. This project addresses needs for improvement to facilities that serve as portals to the Frank Church Wilderness and to the eligible "Recreation" section of the Salmon River. The project does not propose increases in use. River use decisions are not a part of the Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project. River use for the "Wild" section of the Salmon River was addressed during FCRONRW planning, and is managed by the BLM for the eligible "Recreation" section of the Salmon River.
WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS	
WSST01 When management actions are proposed that may compromise the outstandingly remarkable value, classification, or free-flowing character of an eligible Wild and Scenic River segment, a suitability study must be completed for that eligible river segment prior to initiating the actions.	The Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project does not propose alteration or change to negatively affect ORV's
WSST02 Assign VQOs to the classifications of eligible, suitable, and designated Wild and Scenic River corridors as follows: a) Preservation to a Wild classification, b) Retention to a Scenic classification, c) Partial Retention to a Recreational classification.	The Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project meets the assigned VQOs.

3.13 Potential Conflicts with Plans and Policies of Other Jurisdictions

Air Quality – No impacts to air quality are expected. Proposed activities would comply with state and federal air quality regulations.

American Indian Treaty Rights - The proposed alternatives would not conflict with any treaty provisions.

Heritage Resources – No heritage resources would be adversely affected by the proposed action. A heritage resource field survey and assessment was completed for this project. Historic properties are located within the area and one identified site would be monitored. The Forest Heritage Resource Specialist had made a determination that the project would have no adverse effect to these properties because the project has been designed to avoid significant effects to components/features associated with these properties. The Idaho State Historic Preservation Office agreed with the determination, and known sites would be monitored as agreed (Determination of Eligibility and Effect in the project record). The Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project is in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and consistent with state and federal archaeological statutes (Chapter 3, *Heritage Resources* Section).

Endangered Species – Preliminary determinations disclosed and documented in biological assessments (project file) for threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species have concluded that:

Proposed actions from ***Alternatives 2 and 3*** of the Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project would have the following effects on fish species:

> **"No Effect"** on the following listed species: Sockeye salmon.
>
> **"May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect"** on the following listed species: Snake River fall and spring/summer Chinook salmon, Snake River steelhead trout,
>
> **"May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect"** on the following listed species: bull trout.
>
> **"May Impact Individuals or Habitat, but will not likely to Contribute to a Trend Towards Federal Listing or Loss of Viability"** on the following sensitive species: Interior redband trout, Westslope cutthroat trout, Pacific lamprey.

Proposed actions from ***Alternatives 2 and 3*** of the Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project would have the following effects on wildlife species:

> **"No Effect"** on the following listed species: Gray wolf, Canada lynx, and Northern Idaho ground squirrel.
>
> **"May Impact Individuals or Habitat, but will not likely Contribute to a Trend Towards Federal Listing or Loss of Viability"** on the following

sensitive species: boreal toad, ringneck snake, bald eagle (October 1 through March 31), mountain quail, and Columbia spotted frog.

"No Impact" on the following sensitive species: black swift, Townsend's big-eared bat, peregrine falcon, wolverine, harlequin duck, fisher, flammulated owl, fringed myotis, white-headed woodpecker, black-backed woodpecker, Coeur d'Alene salamander, pygmy nuthatch, boreal owl, great gray owl, three-toed woodpecker, Columbian sharp-tailed grouse, spotted bat, and bald eagle (April 1 through September 30).

Proposed actions from ***Alternatives 2 and 3*** of the Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project would have the following effects on rare plant species:

"No Effect" to Macfarlane's four-o'clock and Spalding's catchfly.

"May Impact Individuals or Habitat, but will not likely Contribute to a Trend Towards Federal Listing or Loss of Viability" to Borsch's stonecrop.

"No Impact" to Region 1 and 4 sensitive plant species or their habitat and Payette Forest Plan rare plant species.

The Forest Service has informally consulted with the NOAA-Fisheries regarding fish species and habitat and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding fish, wildlife and plant species and habitat. We reached agreement regarding the proposed determinations of effect for subject species in June 2008. The Forest is not required to formally consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding wildlife or rare plant species or habitat, because of the "no effect" determination to these threatened and endangered species and habitat. The Forest Service did, however, request and receive concurrence from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in July 2008 for bull trout, concluding the informal consultation with this agency under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. The Forest Service also requested formal consultation with NOAA-Fisheries for Snake River steelhead, and fall and spring/summer Chinook salmon fish species and habitat consistent with Section 7 of the Endangered Species, and Section 305 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and will comply with the terms and conditions provided in the NOAA-Fisheries' Biological Opinion once consultation is complete.

Minerals - The proposed alternatives would have no effect on the availability of lands for mining under Federal mining laws and regulations.

Watershed - The State of Idaho Forest Practices Act, State of Idaho Stream Channel Alteration Rules, Forest Service Soil and Water Conservation Practices, Nez Perce and Payette Forest Plan standards, and project design and mitigation measures (Chapter 2) would be implemented to meet State and Federal water quality regulations. All action alternatives would comply with management direction including Nez Perce Forest Plan (as amended) and Payette Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines, and the Clean Water Act.

Wildlife - Proposed activities would not conflict with current or proposed Idaho Department of Fish and Game management plans.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act – All action alternatives would comply with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Although some habitat may be reduced due to activities associated with improvements at four recreation sites, habitat for neotropical migrants is abundant along the Salmon River, its tributaries, and across the Salmon River District and there would not be a measurable impact on neotropical migratory bird populations as a whole.

The project complies with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director's Order #131 related to the applicability of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to federal agencies and requirements for permits for "take". In addition, this project complies with Executive Order 13186 because the analysis meets agency obligations as defined under the January 16, 2001 Memorandum of Understanding between the Forest Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service designed to complement Executive Order 13186.

Migratory bird species are analyzed and discussed in Chapter 3 (Wildlife Section) of this document. If new requirements or direction result from subsequent interagency memorandums of understanding pursuant to Executive Order 13186, this project would be evaluated to ensure that it is consistent.

3.14 Specifically Required Disclosures

Effects of Alternatives on Social Groups - The action alternatives do not differ in terms of effects on consumers, minority groups, Native American Indians, women, or civil rights of any American Citizen.

Effects of Alternatives on Prime Range Land, Farm Land, and Forest Land - All alternatives are in compliance with the Federal Regulations for prime land. The definition of "prime" forest land does not apply to lands within the National Forest System. The project area does not contain any prime range land or farm land. Under any action alternative, Federal lands would be managed with appropriate sensitivity to the effects on adjacent lands.

Effects of Alternatives on Floodplains and Wetlands – The action alternatives would not negatively change the functions or values of floodplains and wetlands as they relate to protection of human health, safety, and welfare; preventing the loss of property values, and; maintaining natural systems, as disclosed in Chapter 3. Direct and indirect effects would occur on wetland areas and within the Salmon River floodplains during implementation of proposed activities. However these effects, both undesirable and beneficial, are expected to be insignificant. This project meets the requirements of Executive Orders 11988 and 11990, which apply to protection of wetlands and floodplains. These features are protected through implementation of BMP's and Payette and Nez Perce Forest Plans standards and guidelines.

Effects of Alternatives on Threatened and Endangered Species – The ID team analyzed the effects of alternatives on threatened, endangered, proposed, candidate and sensitive species. In compliance with the Endangered Species Act, consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is complete and formal consultation with the NOAA-Fisheries and has been requested. The Forest Service will comply with the terms and conditions provided in the NOAA-Fisheries' Biological Opinion once consultation is complete. Potential effects are disclosed in Chapter 3.

Effects of Alternatives on Heritage Resources - The effects of alternatives on heritage resources have been analyzed. Potential effects are disclosed in Chapter 3. No heritage resources would be adversely affected by the proposed action. A heritage resource field survey and assessment was completed for this project. Historic properties are located within the area and one identified site would be monitored. The Forest Heritage Resource Specialist had made a determination that the project would have no adverse effect to these properties because the project has been designed to avoid significant effects to components/features associated with these properties. The Idaho State Historic Preservation Office agreed with the determination, and known sites would be monitored as agreed (Chapter 3, Heritage Resources Section, and *Determination of Eligibility and Effect* in the project record).

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